

**PROGRAM ON EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, YOUTH
AND SPORTS COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
FOR THE YEARS 2023-2026**

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants");

Guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the spheres of culture, education and science;

Based on the Agreement on Cultural, Education and Scientific Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Israel signed in Nicosia on the 22nd of July 1994.

Convinced that this cooperation will contribute to the development of their relations and to raising awareness, particularly among youth, of the history and culture of the people of both countries and decide to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

Have decided the following Program of Cooperation **for the years 2023 - 2026**.

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

1. EDUCATION

1.1. The Participants will promote exchange of information and constructive contacts between the two countries, in various aspects of education.

1.2. The Participants will encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutes of both countries.

1.3. The Participants will, in accordance with their budgetary means, promote the exchanges of information, experience, documentation and experts in the following areas:

- The education system of both countries
- Initial and in-service teacher training
- School organization and management
- Regulations on education
- Education for students with disabilities and special needs
- School decentralization and self-management
- Civic education and education for gender equality
- Education for gifted children
- Cultural integration of minority groups (including joint projects)
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects)
- Foreign languages teaching
- Formal and informal education
- Education for Sustainable Development, green transition and climate action
- Inter-disciplinary learning (i.e. literature, cinema and more)
- Inclusive education
- Culture and heritage
- Adult education (lifelong learning)

- STEM education
- Youth contribution to the community
- Development of life skills
- Arts education
- Vocational training and technical education
- Technologies and innovation industry for schools, teachers and students
- Holocaust education and research

1.4. The Participants will encourage cooperation between schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

1.5. Both Participants decide to cooperate in the field of e-learning, including design, development, and implementation of software, hardware and professional practice such as: digital books, learning management software, long distance learning environments, teacher training, etc.

1.6. The Participants will encourage development of school partnerships in all fields of education. Partnerships can be designed through different means, such as virtual joint projects, school twinning programs, exchange of delegations and mutual visits of teachers and pupils from the respective schools.

1.7. Both Participants will work together in the fields of Education for Sustainable Development, green transition and climate action through joint projects of mutual interest, sharing good experiences, exchanging of experts, students and teachers and developing synergies in the framework of various international and regional mechanisms such as UNECE ESD SC etc.

1.8. Both Participants will encourage the exchanges and cooperation in the field of creativity and innovation, to cultivate the sense of innovation and creativity among teachers and students.

In Israel, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: www.education.gov.il

In Cyprus information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth: www.moec.gov.cy

1.9. The Participants will act to promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at their respective primary and secondary schools. For this purpose, the corresponding experts from the partner country will be invited to deliver lectures, hold seminars and conduct other educational activities. The conditions under which the experts will perform their respective activities in the receiving country will be negotiated between their respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channel.

1.10. The Participants are committed to preventing the publication of text books which encourage racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes. Each Participants will bring to the attention of the other if such publications are detected.

1.11. The Participants will put special emphasis on research and educational work related to the tragic fate of the Jewish community of Europe during the Second World War under the Nazi occupation as well as its aftermath.

The Cypriot Participant will continue to include the topic of the Holocaust in the school curriculum.

1.12. The Participants stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the Holocaust during their schooling, with reference also to the contents of the Stockholm Declaration of January 2000 and the United Nations resolution 60/7, of November 1st 2005, designating 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, which emphasizes the unique historical character of the Holocaust and denounces the still lingering dangers of genocide, racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia. In this context, the Participants will support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and antisemitism, including virtual remembrance programs.

1.13. The Participants will encourage participation of teachers and particularly, history teachers, in courses dealing with the history of the Holocaust and antisemitism which are organized by Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem. The terms of these biennial teacher-training seminars in Jerusalem have been outlined in a separate, non-binding agreement between the Cypriot Ministry of Education and Yad Vashem signed in June 2016. Online professional development programming options will also be encouraged by the Participants.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION

2.1. Without prejudice to the authority of the Israel Council for Higher Education (CHE) in the field of higher education and the autonomy of higher education institutions in both countries, the Participants will cooperate as follows:

2.2. The Participants will encourage the following:

- the exchange of publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education,
- the exchange of information, knowledge, expertise, practices on e-learning platforms and distance education tools in order to offer distance learning opportunities for learners, academics and researchers of both countries,
- the promotion of academic, student and staff mobility between them,
- the organization of informational workshops on issues related to higher education in Cyprus and Israel,
- the cooperation in the technological and scientific fields through their participation in programs of study and/or research projects for students, scholars and researchers of the two countries.

3. SCIENCE

3.1. The Participants note with satisfaction, the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on a Scientific Cooperation Program between the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of the State of Israel, signed in Jerusalem on December 7th 2021. The Participants will encourage direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions inter alia, within the framework of the said Memorandum. The content of this cooperation will be decided by the competent institutions of both countries.

3.2. The Participants will encourage mutual exchange of scientific and research workers with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms and conditions of such exchanges will be decided by the relevant institutions and/or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

3.3. The Participants will encourage joint scientific and technological research, research and development projects in areas of mutual interest, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical information and publications.

3.4. The Participants will encourage direct cooperation between universities, academies of sciences, and other scientific research institutions.

4. EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

General review

The Participants welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the two countries. The Participants reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

The Participants will encourage initiatives designed to assist research and innovation in creative and cultural sectors by public and private organizations and individuals engaged in developing and supporting cultural activities of Israeli origin in Cyprus and cultural activities of Cypriot origin in Israel.

4.1. The Participants will encourage the exchange of music, theatre, visual and plastic arts, design, dance and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, joint performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Participants will encourage visits of art critics, science writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

4.2. Performing arts festivals:

The Participants will encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on principles of reciprocity, and will be decided by the Participants and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

The Participants will inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

4.3. Visual Arts, photography and design:

The Participants will cooperate in the field of fine arts, handcraft fairs, photography and design and visual installations. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, folk craftsmen, art experts and specialists in traditional folk works.

4.4. Architecture:

The Participants will encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions, and the exchange of architects, as well as the promotion of architecture exhibitions. The Participants will share information and best practice on the use of sustainable principles in architectural design and planning strategies, reduce the negative climate and environmental impact from a built environment and the role of architecture in concerns and needs for society.

4.5. Museums and Exhibitions:

The Participants will encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information.

The Participants will encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions including works of art from museums, official and alternative exhibition spaces, private galleries, artist training schools and galleries, and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects.

The Participants, together with Yad Vashem – The World Holocaust Remembrance Center will cooperate in the development of appropriate commemorative facilities and displays in Cyprus related to the annals and heritage of Jewish Holocaust refugees who were interned forcibly by British Mandate authorities in displaced person camps in Cyprus between 1946 and 1949.

4.6. Music:

The Participants will encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They will also support direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions, associations, orchestras and conservatories in the areas of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recordings and personal visits on a non-commercial basis.

The Participants will strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

4.7. Dance:

The Participants will encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers and producers of dance festivals. The Participants will also encourage co-operation and exchanges in the area of contemporary dance. The Participants will also jointly participate in developing of multilateral cultural cooperation, including co-production.

4.8. Theatre:

The Participants will encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc and performances of theatre plays in festivals. The Participants will also jointly participate in developing of multilateral cultural cooperation.

4.9. The Participants will enable, subject to available resources, annual visits of experts/artists/producers/curators in the above-mentioned various fields of arts, for a total period of not exceeding five (5) days each year. Projects will be decided by the Participants through diplomatic channels.

5. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

5.1. The Participants will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, exchanging information about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition, they will encourage activities aimed at preserving sites of mutual interest.

5.2. The Participants will encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They will also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

5.3. The Participants will encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations.

5.4. The Participants will encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architecture research. Details of this cooperation will be decided by the competent authorities of both Participants.

5.5. The Participants will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content. They will also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Deputy Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

5.6. During the course of this Program, the Participants will exchange one (1) expert each year from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture, for a period of up to five (5) days. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Deputy Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

5.7. The Participants will encourage cooperation in the field of conservation of objects of Jewish cultural heritage. Details of this cooperation will be decided by the competent authorities of both Participants.

5.8. The Participants will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications concerning Jewish cultural heritage. They will also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Deputy Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

6. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

6.1. The Participants will work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Participant. The Participants will also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

For this purpose, the Participants will annually exchange three (3) persons (writers, poets or translators) each for a stay of up to five (5) days, while this program is in effect.

6.2. The Participants will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities. The Participants will support participation of poets and writers in festivals and literary events for up to five (5) days annually.

6.3. The Participants will encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

6.4. Each Participant will extend invitations to the other for participation in their respective International Book fairs on a commercial basis and non-commercial basis, while this Program is in effect.

7. CINEMA and AUDIO-VISUAL

7.1. The Participants will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Participants will promote special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their country. Information regarding major film festivals will be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

7.2. The Participants will encourage holding film weeks of the other Participant 's country in their own country. Films that are screened in this framework will have English subtitles, if the language of the film is not English.

7.3. Each Participant will encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose, the Participant will exchange annually two (2) experts each in the fields of cinema and audiovisual for a period of up to five (5) days to participate in festivals, conferences, reviews, meetings, retrospectives and other prestigious international events.

7.4. The Participants will encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

The Participants welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools as well as between their national cinematheques and the exchange of university students and teachers in this field.

7.5. The Participants express their interest in promoting co-productions between Cypriot and Israeli film producers in the framework of the Film Co-production Agreement that was signed between the two countries on May 8th 2018. For this purpose, the Participants will act to conclude the ratification of the Agreement.

7.6. The Participants will encourage cooperation between the television authorities in the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts in this area, on a commercial and non-commercial basis. In addition, the Participants will encourage holding workshops on the topic of educational television, staff training and background material aimed at enhancing each country's knowledge and understanding of the other country.

8. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

8.1. The Participants will promote reciprocal cooperation between the archive departments of state and public institutions and libraries, in accordance with their respective legislation, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, document copies, databases and regulations. The exchanges will take place in accordance with domestic laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Participants.

8.2. The Participants will consider the exchange of one (1) archivist or librarian for up to five (5) days during period of this program in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives / libraries as well as study and research missions.

9. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Participants will cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of international organizations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of joint programs.

10. YOUTH EXCHANGE

10.1. The Participants decide that the exchange of youth and young adults constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They will therefore support such programs.

Emphasis will be placed on the active participation of young people in the community and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through the specific youth activities.

10.2. The Participants will encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard will be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and the Youth Board of Cyprus

11. SPORTS

11.1. The Participants will encourage cooperation in sports, mainly by exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines. Details will be worked out through mutual consultations between interested organizations of both countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges will be decided between interested organizations of both countries.

11.2. The Participants note with satisfaction the signing of the Declaration between the Cyprus Sport Organization of the Republic of Cyprus and the Sport Authority in the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the State of Israel on cooperation in the Field of Sports signed in Nazareth, on February 27TH 2018.

11.3. The Participants express their willingness to enhance the existing cooperation with a renewed Declaration between the Cyprus Sport Organization of the Republic of Cyprus and the Sport Authority in the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the State of Israel on cooperation in the Field of Sports, which is expected to be signed in the State of Israel during 2023.

11.4. The Participants note with satisfaction the Paralympic Sports Cooperation Agreement between the Israeli Paralympic Committee and the Cyprus Paralympic Committee for the years 2021 up to 2024, signed on April 23th, 2021.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

12.1. Each Participant will ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights of all materials obtained in the framework of this Program, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in its country.

12.2. Intellectual property rights acquired or created as a result of joint activity in accordance with this program will be allocated by mutually agreed conditions set out in separate agreement prior to commencing the joint activity.

12.3. Neither Participant will transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuance of this Program to any third Side without prior written consent of the Participant from which such information originated.

13. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13.1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedules of the events, will be decided by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both countries. In general, the financial provisions will be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

- The sending Participant will cover the international travel expenses of their delegations and representatives.
- The receiving Participant will cover the costs of accommodation in its country, provided that the number of persons in the delegations and their period of stay is agreed beforehand between the Participants.

13.2 Exchange of individuals (artists, experts etc.): The exchange will be regulated as follows:

- Invited persons or delegations will be able to communicate in either the language of the receiving country or institution, or English or any other language mutually decided.
- Each individual and delegation will be responsible for their own medical insurance.

13.3 Exchange of exhibitions: The financial provisions for each project will be separately decided between the Participants.

14. FINAL PROVISIONS

14.1. This Program does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.

14.2. The Participants decide that all initiatives mentioned in this Program will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

14.3. Any actions for implementation of this Program will be carried out by the Participants in accordance with their legislation and within the limits of their available resources. This Program is not legally binding and does not create any rights or obligations for the Participants under International Law and/or the respective national legislation of each country.

14.4. All differences that might arise in the course of this Program will be settled amicably through diplomatic channels.

14.5. The Participants entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

14.6. This Program may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants. The modifications will be made in writing.

14.7. This Program will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 31 December 2026. It will be automatically extended for an additional period of one (1) year, unless either Participant notifies the other by a Diplomatic Note of its intention to terminate it, at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of its intended termination.

14.8. The termination of this Program will not affect ongoing activities decided prior to its termination.

Signed in **Nicosia** on the **15th of June 2023**, which corresponds to the 26 day of Sivan, 5783, in the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally valid.

For the Government of the Republic of
Cyprus

For the Government of the State of
Israel



Athena Michaelidou



Nurit Tinari

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