PROGRAMME FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties,

with reference to the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Ukraine on Co-operation in the Fields of Education, Science and Culture, signed in Kiev on 4 August 1993,

with reference to the provisions of the Agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on Co-operation in the Fields of Education and Science, signed in Vilnius on 19 May 2002,

seeking to develop and promote co-operation in the field of science and technology,

have agreed to sign a Programme for Bilateral Co-operation in the Field of Science and Technology (hereinafter – the ST Programme).

1. The ST Programme shall be organised and coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania from the Lithuanian side and by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (hereinafter – the MESU) from the Ukrainian side. The ST Programme shall be implemented by the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – the RCL) in the Republic of Lithuania and by the MESU in Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as the Institutions implementing the ST Programme.

2. The Contracting Parties shall form a bilateral Commission for Co-operation in the Field of Science and Technology (hereinafter – the Commission) in order to coordinate the ST Programme:

2.1. The Commission shall consist of representatives of both Contracting Parties. The team of the relevant Contracting Party in the Commission shall be formed pursuant to the legislation of the country of that Contracting Party. Each of the Contracting Parties shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary from its representatives to its team of the Commission. During periods between meetings, information shall be exchanged via the chairpersons or secretaries of the Commission. Decisions of the Commission may be coordinated and taken using electronic means of communication or by exchanging the decisions between both Commission teams of the Contracting Parties by post or e-mail. The chairpersons shall organise the work of their teams of the Commission. The secretaries shall ensure current works of their teams of the Commission and shall prepare the material necessary for meetings of the Commission. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus.

2.2. The Commission shall approve:

2.2.1. priority directions for bilateral co-operation in the field of science and technology;

2.2.2. criteria for the selection and assessment of bilateral research projects (hereinafter – projects);

2.2.3. dates of competitions;

2.2.4. procedure for the financing of projects;

2.2.5. list of projects and activity types eligible for financing.

2.3. The Commission shall, according to its competence:

2.3.1. facilitate the implementation of the ST Programme;

2.3.2. discuss the results of the ST Programme and projects implemented.

2.4. Meetings of the Commission shall be organised on a rotational basis by each Contracting Party. The costs of organising Commission meetings, exchange of experts, translation/interpretation services (if needed) shall be covered by the host Contracting Party. The sending Contracting Party shall pay the costs of travel, insurance and accommodation of its members in the Commission in the country of the other Contracting Party. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least once in two years. If necessary, meetings may be held using electronic means of communication.

2.5. Decisions of the meetings of the Commission shall be documented by a Protocol. The Protocol shall be drawn up in Lithuanian, Ukrainian and English; all the texts shall have the same legal power. The Protocol shall be signed by the chairpersons of the Commission or by their deputies if the former are not present. Decisions of the Commission shall come into effect on the date the relevant Protocol is signed, unless the Protocol specifies otherwise.

3. The projects carried out under the ST Programme shall be selected by a competition. Competitions for project funding shall be announced in the Republic of Lithuania and in Ukraine at the same time.

4. Scientists, other researchers, and their groups from any institutions of research and studies of the Republic of Lithuania and of Ukraine may take part in a competition. A precondition for participation is a partner from the country of the other Contracting Party. The Contracting Parties may set additional conditions for the applicants from their respective countries.

5. The following activity types may be financed in the framework of the ST Programme projects:

5.1. costs of visits of scientists and other researchers involved in the project to the Republic of Lithuania/Ukraine;

5.2. organisation of joint seminars, conferences, and meetings in the Republic of Lithuania/Ukraine;

5.3. costs of preparation and publication of joint articles (publications) and materials for joint events;

5.4. other types of research-related activities may be financed in accordance with the legislation of the countries of each of the Contracting Parties.

6. Financing conditions for the exchange of scientists and other researchers:

6.1. costs of short-term visits (up to 14 days) of scientists and other researchers;

6.2. the Institution implementing the ST Programme of the sending Contracting Party shall pay:

6.2.1. costs of travel of scientists and other researchers to the country of the other Contracting Party until the location where the partner institution implementing the project is located, and the health insurance costs under the legislation of the countries of each of the Contracting Parties;

6.2.2. costs of subsistence in the country of the other Contracting Party (accommodation, meals, and urban transport) under the legislation of the countries of the Contracting Parties;

6.3. the host party shall cover the costs for holding joint seminars, conferences, and meetings in its country as provided for in the project, and the domestic travel costs of guest scientists and other researchers.

7. Scientists and other researchers of the Republic of Lithuania shall submit their projects in Lithuanian to the Institution implementing the ST Programme (the RCL) in the Republic of Lithuania; scientists and other researchers of Ukraine shall submit their projects in Ukrainian to the Institution implementing the ST Programme (the MESU) in Ukraine.

8. The Institutions implementing the ST Programme shall forward the projects received by the set deadline for expert assessment.

9. Experts shall assess the projects submitted according to the following criteria:

9.1. scientific quality and innovative nature of the project;

9.2. ability of temporary scientific groups to implement the project and their competence;

9.3. quality of the infrastructure of organisations participating in the project;

9.4. participation of doctoral study students and young researchers in the project;

9.5. opportunities to use project results in practice;

9.6. justification of the funding amount requested.

10. The Institutions implementing the ST Programme shall submit expert assessment results to the Commission, which shall approve a general list of funded projects during a regular joint meeting.

11. The Institutions implementing the ST Programme shall allocate funds for the implementation of the ST Programme according to their capabilities on a parity basis.

12. Project implementation period: up to two years.

13. Funding shall be allocated for the first year. After the first year of project implementation, the project coordinators shall present an annual project progress report to the Institution implementing the ST Programme of their respective countries. On completion of the assessment of the annual report, the Institutions implementing the ST Programme shall take a decision concerning the allocation of funding of the project(s) for the second year of the implementation, or, if necessary, shall recommend the bilateral Commission to discontinue the funding of the project(s).

The general decision of the Commission concerning the termination of funding (if necessary) of the project(s) or on other issues may be agreed by the co-chairs of the Commission using electronic means of communication and included in the Protocol of the e-meeting of the Commission.

14. Participants of the project shall conclude a joint project management agreement where they shall state:

14.1. the reason why joint research is expedient;
14.2. the stages carried out by each partner;
14.3. the planned scope and sources of financing;
14.4. the regulation of protection of the rights to intellectual activity results created in the project implementation that would not be contrary to the legislation regulating the issues of protection of intellectual property rights in force in the territories of the countries of both Contracting Parties.

15. On completion of a project, its coordinators shall submit a final report to the Institutions implementing the ST Programme in their countries where they shall report the results of the completed project, potential fields and prospects for the use of such results and further co-operation.

16. Each Institution implementing the ST Programme shall prepare information about project implementation results in their respective countries, proposals on the prospects of use of project results, and shall submit this information to the Commission for consideration.

ST Programme shall have the same legal power. In the case of disagreements concerning interpretation of the texts, the text in English shall prevail. Each Contracting Party shall get one counterpart of the ST Programme in the Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and English languages.

The validity of the ST Programme shall be automatically renewed for further five-year periods if none of the Contracting Parties notifies the other Contracting Party by diplomatic channels about its intention to terminate the ST Programme not later than six months until expiry of the validity period of the ST Programme.

Amendments to the ST Programme, its termination or the expiry of its validity period shall have no impact on the joint projects or other agreements commenced after the entry into force of the ST Programme, unless the Contracting Parties agree otherwise.

After the ST programme is signed by both Contracting Parties, it shall come into force on 1 January 2022 and shall stay in effect until 31 December 2026.

For the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania

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Minister of Education, Science and Sport

Signed in Vilnius

13 December 2021

For the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

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Deputy Minister for European Integration

Signed in Kyiv

13 December 2021