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**LATVIAN – ISRAELI
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM
ON EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, YOUTH
AND SPORTS COOPERATION
FOR THE YEARS OF 2023 – 2026**

The Republic of Latvia and the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”);

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 between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the State of Israel in the Fields of Education, Culture and Science, signed in Jerusalem on 27 February 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 agree to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

Have agreed on the following Program of Cooperation for the years 2023-2026.

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

1. EDUCATION

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

1.2. The Sides will encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutions of both countries at all levels.

1.3. The Sides 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
- Intercultural dialogue and cultural integration of ethnic minority groups (including joint projects)
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects)
- Foreign language teaching
- Formal and informal education
- Inter-disciplinary learning (i.e. literature, cinema and more)
- Inclusive education
- Culture and heritage
- Adult education (lifelong learning)
- Science and technology 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
- Democracy, human rights and equal opportunities

1.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between schools and various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including cooperation and exchange of best practices on cybersecurity culture and cyber hygiene.

1.5. Both Sides agree 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 Sides 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 Sides 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 Latvia, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education and Science: www.izm.gov.lv .

1.8. The Sides will promote the teaching of the language, literature, history, culture and any other subject of interest of the other country at their respective primary, secondary and higher education institutions mutually agreed by the involved partners. 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 channels, as appropriate.

1.9. The Sides will promote cooperation regarding the Holocaust research and documentation between their State/National Archives and research institutions, and libraries through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, books, digital information, document copies, databases, and regulations. These exchanges as well as obtaining the copies of the archival documents will take place in accordance with the legislation of the Sides and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

1.10. The Sides will continue to research and educate about the tragic fate of the Jewish community of Latvia during the Second World War and the commemoration of the Jewish sites and events. The Latvian Side will cooperate with local Jewish organizations and other governmental and non-governmental institutions and

organizations in the development and implementation of state policy to reduce racism and antisemitism.

1.11. The Sides stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the Holocaust during their schooling, with reference to the annual observance of the Holocaust Remembrance Day in Latvia on 4 July as well as to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7, of 1 November 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 Sides will support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels to promote Holocaust commemoration and education, and to combat racism and antisemitism.

1.12. The Sides will encourage participation of teachers and particularly, history teachers, in seminars focusing on Holocaust education and antisemitism conducted by the European Department of the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem. Both Sides acknowledge with satisfaction the fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia and Yad Vashem since 2010 on an annual basis. Seminars at Yad Vashem are officially accredited by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia as outlined in the letter of the Acting State Secretary of the Ministry, dated 1 April 2015.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. The Israeli Side, subject to available resources, will consider the possibility to offer annually two (2) Modern Hebrew summer language course and two (2) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight (8) months) each, for post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli higher education institution.

Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits, etc.) will be available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.il> and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.2. The Latvian Side will consider the possibility to offer annual scholarships to students and researchers for studies and research work, as well as for participation in summer schools organized by the Latvian higher education and research institutions. Information about the offered scholarships and application procedures will be available on the website of the State Education Development Agency: www.viaa.gov.lv.

2.3. These scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

3. COOPERATION BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

3.1. 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, the Sides will cooperate as follows:

3.2. The Sides will promote the exchange of publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education.

3.3. The Sides will enable, subject to available resources, participation of three (3) academics in national and international conferences/seminars and other similar events to be held in both countries for a period of up to five (5) days each, while this Program is in effect.

3.4. The Sides will cooperate in the promotion of studies relating to the culture, languages and modern history, and other subject of interest of each other's country in the respective higher education institutions mutually agreed by involved partners.

4. SCIENCE

4.1. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions. The content of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent institutions of both countries.

4.2. The Sides will encourage mutual exchange of scientific and research personnel with the objective of research, studies, consultations, and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms and conditions of such exchanges will be agreed upon by the relevant institutions and/or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

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

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

5. EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

General review

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

The Sides will encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations, and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in Latvia and cultural activities of Latvian origin in Israel, as well as joint projects of the Sides.

5.1. The Sides 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, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Sides will encourage visits of art critics, scientific 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.

5.2. Performing arts festivals:

The Sides 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 stay, will be based on principles of reciprocity, and will be agreed upon by the Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

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

5.3. Visual arts, photography, and design:

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

5.4. Architecture:

The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions, and the exchange of architects, as well as the promotion of architecture exhibitions. The Sides 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.

5.5. Museums and exhibitions:

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

5.5.1. The Sides will encourage the exchange of 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 art projects.

5.6. Music:

The Sides will encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They will also foster 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 commercial and non-commercial basis.

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

5.7. Dance:

The Sides will encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers, and producers of dance festivals. The Sides will also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation, including dance performance co-productions.

5.8. Theatre:

The Sides will encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics, etc. The Sides will also jointly participate in developing mutual theatre cooperation.

5.8.1. The Sides will encourage tours and guest performance exchange, including, when necessary and technically possible, the provision of subtitles/audio interpretation for guest performances.

5.8.2. The Sides will encourage mobility of directors, actors, etc., and their participation in the other Side's productions.

5.8.3. The Sides will encourage all forms of education and training in the theatre field in both the creative/artistic and technical aspect, including workshops, summer schools, webinars, etc.

5.9 The Sides 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 agreed upon by the Sides through diplomatic channels.

5.10. The Sides will encourage relevant exchange of knowledge and information of advancing technologies.

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1. The Sides 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 cultural heritage sites of mutual interest.

6.2. The Sides 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.

6.3. The Sides will encourage cooperation between the relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing illicit trafficking of cultural goods in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations.

6.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation, and architecture research. Details of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

6.5. The Sides 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 National Heritage Board of Latvia.

6.6. During the course of this Program, the Sides 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 National Heritage Board of Latvia.

6.7. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of conservation of objects of Jewish cultural heritage. Details of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

6.8. The Sides 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 other relevant authorities.

6.9. The Sides will encourage cooperation and will facilitate the preservation of cultural heritage, language, and identity of both countries' diaspora.

7. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

7.1. The Sides will work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry, and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side.

7.1.1. The Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works. For this purpose, the Sides 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.

7.2. The Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities. The Sides will stimulate participation of poets and writers in the festivals and literary events held by other Side for up to five (5) days annually.

7.3. The Latvian Side during the course of this Program invites the Israeli Side to use the residency program offered to writers, poets and translators by the International Writers' and Translators' House in Ventspils (the Ventspils House) for a stay for up to twenty eight (28) days. The Ventspils House will cover the accommodation and scholarship expenses. Additionally, the Ventspils House offers a possibility for one (1) translator, who translates from Latvian language, to participate in an intensive Latvian language course (all expenses covered).

7.4. The Sides will encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

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

8. CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

8.1. The Sides will encourage the presentation of films and participation of film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Sides 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.

8.2. The Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side in their own country. Films that are screened in this framework will have English subtitles if the language of the film is not English.

8.3. Each Side will encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema.

8.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between experts of audio-visual sector, including cinema and television, as well as cooperation between film and television institutions.

8.4.1. The Sides welcome direct cooperation between institutions offering film and television educational programs and exchange of students and teachers in this field.

8.5. The Sides express their interest in promoting co-productions between Latvian and Israeli film producers. The Sides will discuss the possibility of concluding a co-production agreement, with the aim to facilitate future film co-productions.

8.6. The Sides will encourage cooperation between television authorities of the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts of the field, on a commercial and non-commercial basis. In addition, the Sides 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.

8.7. Each Side will encourage mutual cooperation and expert visits in promoting media literacy.

9. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

9.1. The Sides will promote reciprocal cooperation between the state and public institution archive departments and libraries, in accordance with their respective legislation, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, 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 Sides.

9.2. The Sides 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 operation of the respective archives/libraries, as well as with the purpose of study and research missions.

10. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

10.1. The Sides will cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports and youth 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 common programs of action.

10.2. The Sides will aim at strengthening cooperation within the European Union initiatives, particularly through Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ programs, and will explore the opportunities of joint projects within Twinning and Taixex instruments.

10.3. The Sides will promote the exchange of information and cooperation with the aim of achieving the objectives of the European Union Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030).

11. YOUTH

11.1. The Sides will facilitate the development of ties between the youth of the two countries, in particular by means of holding meetings, organizing exchange visits and increasing cooperation in the field of youth policy. The Sides will encourage the cooperation between both the central executive authorities and non-governmental organizations in the field of youth policy.

11.2. The Sides will encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth policy. Details in this regard will be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia.

12. SPORTS

The Sides will encourage cooperation in sports, mainly by exchanging 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 agreed upon between interested organizations of both countries.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

13.1. Each Side 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.

13.2. 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 arrangements prior to commencing the joint activity.

13.3. No Side will transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuance of this Program to any third Side without prior written consent of the Side from which such information originated.

14. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

14.1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedules of the events, will be agreed upon 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 Side will cover the international travel expenses of their delegations and representatives.
- The receiving Side will cover the costs of accommodation in its country.

14.2. Exchange of individuals (artists, experts, etc.):

The exchange will be regulated as follows:

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

14.3. Scholarships:

The terms and conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Side for one academic year will be published yearly through governmental channels as well as on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.il>.

The Israeli Side will provide participants of the Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School/beneficiaries of the scholarships accepted within this Program, with the following:

- a. free tuition;
- b. allowance to cover the living expenses in accordance with the conditions of the language school/academic institutions;
- c. health insurance, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

The terms and conditions of the scholarships granted by the Latvian Side will be published annually on the website of the State Education Development Agency: www.viaa.gov.lv.

The Latvian Side will provide Israeli students who are the beneficiaries of academic scholarships in accordance with this Program, with the following:

- a. for students a monthly scholarship, which can be used to cover the tuition fee or accommodation and living expenses;
- b. for researchers a scholarship as per national regulations to cover living expenses and accommodation;
- c. for participants of international summer schools tuition fee for the international summer school (includes registration, accommodation and local transport expenses in accordance with the international summer school's program).

14.4. Exchange of exhibitions:

The financial provisions for each exhibition exchange project will be separately agreed upon between the Sides.

15. FINAL PROVISIONS

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

15.2. The Sides agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Program will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

15.3. Any actions for implementation of this Program will be carried out by the Sides 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 Sides under International Law.

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

15.5. The Sides entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

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

15.7. 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 three (3) years, unless either Side notifies the other Side through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate it, at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of this Program's intended termination.

15.8. The termination of this Program will not affect ongoing activities agreed upon prior to its termination.

Signed in Riga on 30th of May, 2023, which corresponds to the 10th day of Sivan, 5783, in the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.



For the Latvian Side



For the Israeli Side