

PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, YOUTH

AND SPORTS COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

FOR THE YEARS 2022 - 2025

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of 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 Bulgaria and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education and Science, signed in Jerusalem, on July 4, 1991, have agreed on the following Program of Cooperation for the years 2022 – 2025.

Both Sides are convinced that this cooperation shall 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.

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

1. EDUCATION

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

1.2. The Sides shall encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutions of both countries.

1.3. The Sides shall, 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
- Teacher training and lifelong training for teachers
- School organization and management
- Education regulations (such as service regulations for teachers etc.)
- Education for students with disabilities and special needs
- Decentralization and school autonomy

- Civic Education and Gender Equality Education
- Gifted children education
- Cultural and religious integration of minority groups (including joint projects)
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects)
- Foreign language teaching
- Formal and informal education
- Collaborative 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

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

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 shall act to promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at their respective primary, secondary and higher education institutions. 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 shall perform their

respective activities in the receiving country shall be negotiated between their respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channels.

1.7. The Sides note with satisfaction the signing of an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria and Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, signed in Jerusalem, in November 2018.

1.8. The Sides are committed to preventing the publication of text books which encourage racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes.

1.9. The Sides shall put special emphasis on Holocaust-related research, documentation, education and commemoration. Subject to be studied in this context would include the Bulgarian Jewish community before World War II and its ties with its surroundings during the pre-war period; aspects of antisemitism, the outstanding Bulgarian rescue and the deportation of the Jews from Northern Greece and parts of Former Yugoslavia which were under Bulgarian administration at that time.

The Bulgarian Side, as a member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance shall continue to train teachers about the education of the Holocaust and include the topic in its national educational curriculum. Moreover, it will also buttress its efforts to promote Holocaust research in its higher education institutions and provide access to Holocaust-related primary source documents, in accordance with the agreement signed in March 2013, and the Annex signed on May 16, 2018, between the Archives State Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria and Yad Vashem.

1.10. The Sides 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 Sides shall support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and antisemitism.

1.11 The Bulgarian side shall encourage the study of Holocaust as part of the students' curriculum in History and Civilization and Civic Education in the state and municipal public schools.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. Subject to available resources, the Bulgarian Side shall offer one (1) scholarship for summer course in Bulgarian language and culture in the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and another (1) scholarship for summer course in Bulgarian language and culture in the Veliko Tarnovo University St. Cyril and St. Methodius as well as three (3) scholarships for postgraduate specializations and research for ten (10) months each.

Information about scholarship candidates for the summer course in Bulgarian language and culture (application deadlines, forms and other necessary information) shall be annually sent through diplomatic channels to the Israeli Side.

2.2. Subject to available resources, the Israeli Side shall offer each year two (2) annual Modern Hebrew summer language courses and three (3) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (up to eight months) each, for post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli university.

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:

https://www.gov.il/en/service/scholarships_application_for_academic_studies_in_israel?trigger=sugg and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

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 shall encourage direct cooperation between higher education institutions from both countries.

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

3.4. The Sides shall 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.

3.5. The Sides shall cooperate in the promotion of studies relating to the cultures, languages and modern history of each other's country in the respective higher education institutions.

4. SCIENCE

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

4.2. The Sides shall 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 shall be agreed upon by the relevant institutions and/or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

4.3. The Sides shall 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.

4.4. The Sides shall encourage direct cooperation between higher education institutions, 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 shall encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Bulgarian origin in Israel and cultural activities of Israeli origin in Bulgaria.

5.1. The Sides shall 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 shall 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.

5.2. Performing arts festivals:

The Sides shall 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 agreed upon by the Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

The Sides shall 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.

5.3. Visual Arts, photography and design:

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

5.4. Architecture:

The Sides shall encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions and the exchange of architects, as well as information sharing and the promotion of exhibitions.

5.5. Museums and Exhibitions:

The Sides shall encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, movable cultural valuables and information. Cooperation shall be carried out on the basis of bilateral cooperation arrangements between cultural institutes.

The Sides shall 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.

5.6. Music:

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

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

5.7. Dance:

The Sides shall encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers and producers of dance festivals. The Sides shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.8. Theatre:

The Sides shall encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc. The Sides shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

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

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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

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

6.3. The Sides shall 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.

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

6.5. The Sides shall encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content. They shall 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 shall be determined by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

6.6. During the course of this Program, the Sides shall exchange, subject to available resources, 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 shall be determined by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

6.7. The schedule of cultural exchange visits by experts, museum specialists and archaeologists shall be discussed at least three (3) months prior the departure of delegations to the country concerned.

7. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

7.1. The Sides shall work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. The Sides shall also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

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

7.3. The Sides shall encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

7.4. Each Side shall 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.

The Bulgarian Side invites the Israeli Side to participate in the Sofia International Book Fair. Information regarding this fair can be found at <https://www.abk.bg>.

8. CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

8.1. The Sides shall encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Sides shall promote special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their country.

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

8.3. Each Side shall encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose, the Sides shall 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.

8.4. The Sides shall encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

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

8.5. The Sides reaffirm their interest in promoting co-productions between Bulgarian and Israeli film producers on the basis of the Agreement on Film Co-Production between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the State of Israel signed in Jerusalem on March 27, 2012.

8.6. The Sides shall 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 Sides shall 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.

9. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

9.1. The Sides shall 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 shall 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 shall consider, subject to available resources, 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.

10. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Sides shall cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of international organizations, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of common programs of action.

11. YOUTH EXCHANGE

11.1. The Sides agree that the youth exchange constitutes a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They shall 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.

11.2. The Sides shall encourage mutual projects in the field of youth. Details in this regard shall be determined between the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Israel Youth Exchange Authority.

12. SPORTS

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

GENERAL PROVISIONS

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

13.1. Each Side shall 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 shall 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, shall be agreed upon by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both countries. Failing any special arrangements, the financial provisions will be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

- The sending Side shall cover the international travel expenses of their delegations and representatives.
- The receiving Side shall cover the costs of accommodation in its country.

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

The exchange shall 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 shall be responsible for their own medical insurance.

14.3. Scholarships:

14.3.1 The Bulgarian Side shall provide annually on a reciprocal basis to the Israeli students, who are the beneficiaries of academic scholarships and admitted to the state higher education institutions in a master, doctoral or post-doctoral programme (with the exception of the majors from the higher education fields Health and Sports and Arts), in accordance with this program, with the following:

- a. partial tuition fees – 50 % of the fess for partial or full tuition (for a period of one academic year);
- b. scholarship for one academic year (10 months), in accordance with the national legislation in force;
- c. accommodation against payment in a student dormitory;
- d. nutrition in a student canteen against payment;
- e. health insurance, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

14.3.2. The Israeli Side shall provide Bulgarian students, who are the beneficiaries of one academic year scholarships in accordance with this program, with the following:

- a. Partial tuition for a full academic year (8 months from October to June) for the following programs: MA/PhD/Post Doctorate, with the exception of veterinary and medical studies;
- b. Partial tuition fees - 50% of the tuition fees or up to a maximum of \$6,000;
- c. A monthly allowance for one academic year (8 months);
- d. Basic health insurance.

More terms and conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Side for one academic year shall be published yearly through governmental channels as well as on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

https://www.gov.il/en/service/scholarships_application_for_academic_studies_in_israel?trigger=sugg

14.3.3. The Israeli Side shall provide participants in 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.

14.4 Exchange of exhibitions: The financial provisions for each 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 cultural, scientific and educational fields.

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

15.3. Any activities carried out pursuant to this Program, by any of the Sides, shall be done in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures of that Side and within the limits of their available resources.

15.4. All differences that might arise in the course of this Program shall be settled 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 shall be made in writing.

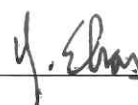
15.7. This Program will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 31 December 2025.

It will be automatically extended for an additional period of three (3) years, unless either Side 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.

Signed in Sofia on 13 of June, 2022, which corresponds to the 14 day of SIVAN, 5782, in the Hebrew Calendar, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.



For the Government of the Republic of
Bulgaria



For the Government of the State of
Israel