

Draft!

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO
ON THE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of Montenegro (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties“),

Driven by the desire to successfully implement bilateral cooperation in the field of education appropriate to political, state and social relations in Europe;

Bearing in mind the importance of further developing and deepening of the existing bilateral cooperation and being aware of the importance of improved coordination in the field of education;

Convinced that this cooperation will contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations, trust and understanding between the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall encourage, within the framework of their respective legislation and on the basis of reciprocity, the development of cooperation in the field of education.

Article 2

The Parties shall inform each other regarding legislation in the field of preschool, primary, secondary education, adult and higher education.

Article 3

The Parties shall encourage active cooperation in the framework of European Union educational programmes, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organizations in the field of education.

Article 4

The Parties shall encourage direct contacts between state and educational institutions of the two countries.

Article 5

The Parties shall encourage:

- exchange of teaching staff on the basis of a direct agreement between the institutions of the two countries;
- exchange of experiences in the field of education system reform and evaluation of educational processes by organizing joint conferences and working meetings;
- exchange of information and publications on all aspects of educational activities;
- other forms of cooperation aimed at improving exchanges in the field of education.

Article 6

The Parties shall directly exchange their experience in the fields of preschool, primary and secondary education, with special emphasis on:

- reform of the education system;
- reform of curricula;
- publishing textbooks and teaching aids;
- evaluation of educational processes, learning outcomes, training and professional development of teaching staff; and
- development of information system in the field of education.

Article 7

The Parties shall encourage the intensification of contacts between primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Bulgaria and in Montenegro, through school partnerships and multilateral school networks.

Article 8

The Parties shall establish cooperation in the field of inclusion of children with special educational needs through the exchange of information, experiences and reference books.

Article 9

Aiming at the improvement of cooperation in the field of education and vocational training of adults, the Parties shall support exchange of information and shall examine the possibility of exchanging experts.

Article 10

Each year, the Parties may, on the basis of reciprocity and in accordance with the available financial resources, offer a certain number of scholarships for acquiring higher education at the bachelor's degree and for postgraduate education, on the basis of a previously published announcement. Candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.

Article 11

Each year, the Parties may, on the basis of reciprocity and in accordance with the available financial resources, offer a number of scholarships for doctoral studies. Preference will be given to candidates who have established contacts with the universities and scientific institutions of the host country.

Article 12

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of university lecturers, academic experts, visiting professors and the organization of conferences and seminars, as well as the exchange of students between higher educational institutions.

Article 13

The Parties shall cooperate on issues of mutual recognition of educational and scientific degree "doctor" and a Doctorate.

The Parties shall encourage cooperation between ENIC/NARIC centers and enable working meetings with the aim to develop compatible procedures and criteria for recognition of diplomas.

The Parties shall cooperate in the recognition of primary certificates and certificates, i.e. diplomas of secondary education or part of primary or secondary education acquired in publicly recognized schools, in accordance with national legislation, for the purpose of continuing education.

Article 14

In order to implement this Agreement, the Parties shall conclude periodical programmes of cooperation in the field of education, by which specific activities, as well as organizational and financial requirements of its implementation shall be determined.

Article 15

The responsible authorities for the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement are: for the Republic of Bulgaria - the Ministry of Education and Science and for Montenegro - the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

Article 16

For the purpose of the implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Joint Committee for cooperation in the field of education (hereinafter: "The Joint Committee"), composed of members nominated by each Party.

Tasks of the Joint Committee shall be the following:

- planning and coordination of the joint cooperation, in accordance with this Agreement;
- negotiating and determining new areas of mutual cooperation, in accordance with this Agreement;
- making periodical programmes of cooperation in accordance with this Agreement.

The Joint Committee shall meet, as a rule, at least once in three years, alternately in one of the two countries or at the request of one of the Parties. Each Party shall bear the expenses of travel and stay for its members during the meetings of the Joint Committee.

Article 17

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled through consultations between the Parties.

Article 18

This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from any other international treaties or agreements concluded thereby.

Article 19

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification sent through diplomatic channels by which the Parties confirm the completion of the internal procedures necessary for its entry into force.

This Agreement may be amended and supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties, through signing a separate Protocol. The Protocol shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedures defined in Paragraph 1 of this Article.

This Agreement is concluded for indefinite period of time. Each Party may notify the other Party six (6) months in advance, through diplomatic channels in writing, of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

Done in _____, on _____ 2021 in two (2) original copies in Bulgarian, Montenegrin, and English language, each of these texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence on interpretation or implementation of the provision of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
MONTENEGRO**
