

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
FOR THE YEARS 2015 - 2018**

The Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of Austria (Hereinafter referred to as the „Sides“), wishing to further develop their cooperation in the fields of culture, science, education, sports, women's affairs and youth thus contributing to strengthen the ties of sincere friendship existing between their two countries and peoples, have established this Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural, Scientific and Educational Cooperation for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Both Sides are 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 peoples of both countries.

**1. EDUCATION, WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND GENDER EQUALITY**

Both Sides will promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship:

**1.1.** Both Sides will promote good and constructive contacts between the two countries, in various aspects of education as well as in Women's Affairs and Gender Equality.

**1.2.** Both Sides will encourage the development of cooperation between their educational institutes.

**1.3.** Both Sides, in accordance with their budgetary means, will undertake to promote the exchanges of information, experience, documentation and experts in the following areas:

- The education systems of both countries
- Initial and in-service teacher training
- School organization and management
- Education regulations
- Special needs education
- Decentralization and school autonomy
- Civic education
- Social skills and competences
- Gifted children education
- Migrant education
- Cultural integration of minority groups (including joint projects)
- Anti-drugs programs

- Foreign language teaching
- Adult education
- Educational Technology
- Vocational Education

In Israel information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: [www.education.gov.il](http://www.education.gov.il) .

In Austria information on the educational system is available from the website of the Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs: [www.bmbf.gv.at](http://www.bmbf.gv.at).

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

**1.5.** Both Sides will put special emphasis on research and educational work related to the destruction of the Jewish community of Austria during the Shoah.

**1.6.** Both Sides will support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and antisemitism.

**1.7.** Both Sides will continue to encourage participation of Austrian teachers and, in particular, history teachers, in courses dealing with the history of the Holocaust and antisemitism which are coordinated by Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Austrian Holocaust Education Organization [\\_erinnern.at\\_](http://erinnern.at) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs.

**1.8.** With regard to articles 1.4., 1.5., 1.6 and 1.7 the Israeli Side acknowledges the Austrian educational organization [\\_erinnern.at\\_](http://erinnern.at) („National Socialism and the Holocaust: Memory and Present“) initiated and conducted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs.

**1.9.** Both Sides appreciate their excellent working relations in the field of Holocaust Education and Remembrance within the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and other international organizations.

**1.10.** Both Sides will act to promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at the respective 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 teachers will perform their respective activities in the receiving country will be negotiated between the respective institutions of both countries.

According to its financial possibilities the Austrian Side will continue to grant scholarships to German language teachers from Israel to participate in seminars providing improvement of skills related to language, civilization and culture to be held in Austria. Find the relevant programme on [www.kulturundsprache.at](http://www.kulturundsprache.at).

In this context the Austrian Side informs that it also supports successful courses for German language and Austrian culture at the survivor organization Central Committee for Jews from Austria in Israel.

**1.11.** For the certification of proficiency in German based on the Common European Framework as well as the pluricentric approach, the Austrian German Language Diploma is offered internationally. Interested universities, schools and other providers of language courses are invited to apply for a license to implement the OSD-tests, if they meet the relevant criteria. Further information can be found on [www.osd.at](http://www.osd.at) .

**1.12.** Both Sides will encourage cooperation among schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

**1.13.** Both Sides welcome an intensive exchange of experience in the area of Vocational Education and Training (VET), including the tourism sector. This cooperation will also take place in the framework of the EU-instrument "European Neighborhood Policy" (ENP).

## **2. SCIENCE**

**2.1.** Both Sides note with satisfaction the scientific cooperation between the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities based on the Agreement between the Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria and The Government of the State of Israel on scientific-technological cooperation of 2 February 1994. Both Sides appreciate the close collaboration of the academies in various fields of common research interests and envisage the fostering and support of this cooperation.

**2.2.** Both Sides will encourage mutual exchange appointments of scientific and research workers with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms of these exchanges will be determined directly by the respective institutions.

**2.3.** Both Sides will encourage joint scientific and technological research projects in areas of mutual interest, as well as exchange of scientific and technical information and publications.

**2.4.** Both Sides encourage further direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions. The content of this cooperation will be determined by the respective institutions (universities, academies of sciences and other scientific research institutions).

## **3. HIGHER EDUCATION**

**3.1.** The Austrian Side welcomes the cooperation with Israel within the framework of the EU educational programme ERASMUS+, in the field of higher education as well as the participation of Israel in Horizon 2020, the European Union Framework programme for Innovation and Research, and both Sides envisage working together to increase the number of successful Austrian-Israeli project partnerships within this MoU

**3.2.** Both Sides will cooperate in the promotion of studies relating to the cultures, languages and modern history of each other's country in the respective universities.

**3.3.** Both Sides underline the importance of the "Dr. Kardinal-König Chair" established at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Austrian Library, which has been incorporated into the Centre for Austrian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a gift of the Austrian government on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of Israel. Both Sides welcome the positive development of the cooperation between Austria and Israel within the framework of this Centre and strive to further increase it.

**3.4.** Both Sides welcome the establishment of the "Kollek Jerusalem Vienna Chair for the Study of the Cultural Aspects of Vienna and Jerusalem" at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and point out the importance of the cooperation between the chair and the Centre for Austrian Studies.

**3.5.** Both Sides will exchange publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education.

#### **4. SCHOLARSHIPS**

**4.1.** The Israeli Side will offer annual one (1) Modern Hebrew or Arabic summer language course and two (2) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months) each for post graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli University.

**4.2.** The Austrian Side will offer grants for Israeli students, graduates and young scientists in the framework of the unilateral Austrian „Ernst Mach“, „Franz Werfel“ and „Richard Plaschka“ scholarship programmes.

**4.3.** The scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of both Sides.

**4.4.** The terms and financial conditions of the scholarships granted by the Israeli Side will be published yearly through diplomatic channels as well as on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.il> .

**4.5.** Information for applicants of Austrian scholarships (deadlines, application and selection process, grant benefits etc.) can be found on the Austrian database for Scholarships and Research Grants at [www.grants.at](http://www.grants.at) .

#### **5. YOUTH EXCHANGE**

**5.1.** Both Sides will invite public-sector youth institutions and non-governmental organizations to intensify contacts. Both Sides share the view that the exchange of youth and young adults constitutes a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They will therefore support these projects.

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

**5.2.** Both Sides encourage the development of youth exchanges especially by using the Euro-Med Youth Program, and Erasmus+ program.

**5.3.** Both Sides note that projects such as "Spurensuche/Back to the roots" are to be continued.

**5.4.** Both Sides 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 relevant association in Austria.

## **6. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Both Sides will cooperate in the fields of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications. This will be done in the framework of UNESCO, the European Union, the Council of Europe, and other international organizations and foundations, such as the Anna-Lindh-Foundation (including the Euro Mediterranean School Forum coordinated by the Intercultural Centre, Vienna (IZ) with the purpose of exchanging information, sharing good practices, and implementing common programmes of action.

## **7. COOPERATION IN CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

### **7. 1 General review**

Both 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.

Both Sides will encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in Austria and cultural activities of Austrian origin in Israel.

### **7.2. Exchanges, conferences and visits**

Both 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, both Sides 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.

### **7.3. Performing arts festivals**

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

Both 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 such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

#### **7.4. Visual Arts, photography and design**

Both Sides will cooperate in the field of fine arts, photography and design. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, art experts and specialists.

#### **7.5. Architecture**

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

#### **7.6. Museums and Exhibitions**

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

Both Sides will encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions between the Austrian Federal Museums and the respective Israeli museums and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects.

#### **7.7. Music**

Both Sides will encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country as well as 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.

Both Sides 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.

#### **7.8. Dance**

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

#### **7.9. Theatre**

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

#### **7.10 Mobility of experts/artists/producers/curators**

Both Sides will enable 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 competent authorities of the Sides.

## **8. LITERATURE**

**8.1.** Both Sides will work jointly to encourage the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. Both Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

**8.2.** Both Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry reading, festivals and literary events aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities.

**8.3.** Both Sides will encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

**8.4.** The Israeli Side invites the Austrian Side to participate in the Jerusalem International Book Fair that takes place every two years in Jerusalem.

## **9. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

**9.1** Both Sides will encourage the reciprocal cooperation between the archive departments of state and public institutions and between libraries, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information and document copies, databases and regulations. The exchanges will take place in accordance with the domestic laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of both Sides.

**9.2** Both Sides will encourage the direct exchange of archivists and librarians in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives / libraries as well as study and research missions. Details will be determined between the competent authorities of both Sides.

**9.3.** In order to facilitate research and educational work regarding the destruction of the Jewish community of Austria during the Holocaust, Austrian archives and Yad Vashem will cooperate in locating and copying Holocaust-related archival materials. The cooperation will be in accordance with the national laws and regulation of each Side.

## **10. FILM**

**10.1.** Both Sides will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. Both Sides will encourage special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of the international film festivals being held in their country.

**10.2.** Both Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side in their own country. Each Side will encourage mutual visits of experts or figures in the field of cinema.

**10.3.** Both Sides welcome direct cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

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

**10.4.** The Sides wish to continue the fruitful cooperation between them in the field of co-production of films, following the signature of the Agreement on film co-production between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of Austria, in Vienna on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

**10.5.** Both Sides 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, and the holding of 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.

## **11. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

**11.1.** Both Sides will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, keeping each other informed about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition they will encourage activities targeted at preserving locations of mutual interest.

**11.2.** Both Sides will encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the fields of the protection of cultural heritage, exchange of professionals and academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

**11.3.** Both Sides will encourage cooperation with a view to preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national laws.

**11.4.** Both Sides will encourage cooperation in the fields of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architecture research.

**11.5.** Both Sides will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content.

**11.6.** Both Sides will encourage the exchange of experts from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture in order to exchange information on matters of their speciality within the limits of their budgetary resources.

Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Austrian Federal Chancellery.

## **12. SPORTS**

Both Sides will encourage cooperation in sports with a view to ensuring direct contacts between the competent institutions and organizations in their countries.

## **13. MISCELLANEOUS**

**13.1.** The implementaion of this MoU will be carried out through the relevant authorities of each Side.

**13.2.** The Annex „General and Financial Terms will form an integral part of this MoU.

**13.3.** This MoU does not exclude the possibility of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.

**13.4.** Both Sides share the view that all initiatives mentioned in this MoU will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

**13.5.** Any activities carried out pursuant to this Agreement, by any of the Parties, shall be done in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures of that Party.

**13.6.** All differences that might arise in the course of this MoU will be settled through diplomatic channels.

**13.7.** This MoU will become effective on the date of signature and will remain so until 31 December 2018.

**13.8.** This MoU can be extended for additional periods of 3 years each, by mutual consent of both Sides. Each extension will be made in writing.

**13.9.** This MoU can be changed or modified by mutual understanding of both Sides. The changes or modifications will be made in writing.

Done in Jerusalem on 16 May 2016, which corresponds to 8<sup>th</sup> day of Iyyar 5776 in the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies in the English language.

**Benjamin Netanjahu**

**Sebastian Kurz**

**For the Government of the  
State of Israel**

**For the Government of the  
Republic of Austria**

**GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

**1.** Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedule of the events, will be determined by mutual consultation between the relevant authorities of both Sides.

**2.** The financial provisions, failing any special understandings, are 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.

**3. Exchange of individuals** (artists/experts etc.)

The exchange of experts will be regulated as follows:

- Each Side will send to the other Side the bio-data (curriculum vitae, objectives of the visit, languages spoken, proposed itinerary and scheduled arrival and departure dates) in English at least two (2) months in advance of the expected date of visit of the delegation or individuals.
- The receiving Side will confirm its acceptance within one (1) month of the proposal.
- Invited persons or delegations should know either the language of the receiving Side or English.
- Medical insurance will be under the responsibility of each traveller.