

**PROGRAM
OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE, SCIENCE,
EDUCATION, YOUTH,
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND SPORTS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF
AUSTRIA AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR THE YEARS 2015 - 2019**

The Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter referred as the "two Sides"),

in accordance with Article 20 of the Agreement on Cultural, Scientific and Educational Cooperation between the Republic of Austria and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed in 1972 and

in order to promote and enhance the bilateral cooperation and to strengthen European integration processes,

has adopted the following Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Science, Education, Youth, Women's Affairs and Sports between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia for the years 2015 – 2019. This Programme includes such fields as science and higher education, sport, youth cooperation and culture including general and financing provisions.

I SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

1. Scientific Cooperation

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between, scientists, researchers as well as scientific and research institutions in the two countries and emphasize the importance of international cooperation for the further development of the scientific and technological systems.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries is based on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, which entered into force 1 May 2011. The two Sides are convinced that collaboration in the frame of this Agreement will contribute to the development of strong relations between scientists, researchers as well as scientific and research institutions.

The two Sides agree to pay attention to an enhanced cooperation in multilateral and/or regional programmes e.g. in the EU framework programmes for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration and other initiatives.

2. Cooperation in Higher Education

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between their institutions of higher education through participation in joint projects and the exchange of professors, experience, professional documentation as well as information based on the agreements directly concluded between the interested institutions. These agreements define the concrete scope and forms of cooperation.

3. Lecturers

The Austrian Side welcomes the exchange of lecturers and informs that according to the University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002; UG 2002) the overall responsibility for lecturers lies within the competence of the universities themselves.

4. Recognition of Diplomas

Mutual recognition of diplomas, scientific degrees and qualifications will be implemented in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention of 1997 and national legislation of the two Sides.

5. Scholarships

The two Sides will inform each other about the programmes of studies for foreigners and possibilities of scholarships being exchanged in accordance with their legislation.

The two Sides will also inform each other about scholarship programmes for specialization and advanced training of students, post graduates and young scholars offered by their countries.

The Austrian Side informs that the offers of Austrian scholarships can be found via internet on www.grants.at.

The Serbian Side informs that the offers of Serbian scholarships can be found via internet on www.mpn.gov.rs.

The Serbian Side offers Austrian students three (3) one-semester-scholarships for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 for the studying of the Serbian language and invites one (1) group of up to six (6) students for a three-week specialization course of Serbian language, organized by the Department for Serbian as Foreign Language at the Faculty of Philology of the University in Belgrade.

Starting from the school year 2016/2017 the Serbian Side will offer two (2) nine-month-scholarships and three (3) one-semester-scholarships for the studying of the Serbian language.

6. Summer Courses

To the extent of their possibilities the two Sides will organize summer courses of language, literature and culture.

7. EU – Educational Programmes

The two Sides welcome further cooperation among the universities especially with regard to the European Higher Education Area.

8. Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)

The two Sides welcome the cooperation in the framework of the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS) as well as the further intensification of the cooperation between Serbian and Austrian universities.

II PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION, WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND GENDER EQUALITY

9. Cooperation in Primary and Secondary Education, Women's Affairs and Gender Equality

The two Sides continue to share experience related to all levels of education as well as to women's affairs and gender equality. During the validity of the Programme they agree to put a special focus on:

- the development of primary and secondary education,
- the development of curricula,
- the publication of text books and educational material,
- the evaluation of educational processes and results as well as
- the use of Information and Communication Technology within the educational system.

In this regard they encourage an exchange of experts between specific educational institutions.

10. Mother Tongue Classes in Austria

The Austrian Side informs that, in accordance with its legislation, "mother tongue classes" are held in the Republic of Austria, in order to improve the mother tongue of pupils speaking German as their second language.

Selection, appointment and payment of native language teachers in the Republic of Austria lie within the responsibility of the Austrian educational authorities.

Instruction material for mother tongue classes is partially produced in the Republic of Austria and partly bought in the Republic of Serbia provided that its contents are adjusted to meet the regulations of the Austrian curriculum.

The Serbian Side expresses its high interest in the optimal implementation of the "mother tongue classes" for children from the Republic of Serbia living in the Republic of Austria.

11. School Partnerships

The two Sides welcome the intensification of contacts between Serbian and Austrian schools through school partnerships and the participation in multilateral school networks (e.g. in the Academy of Central European Schools ACES).

12. Special Needs and Inclusive Education

The two Sides will continue cooperation in the field of inclusion of children with special educational needs by exchanging information, experience and scientific documentation as well as by encouraging the development of school partnerships (e.g. by internet, pen friends or other). Furthermore, the two Sides agree, according to their budgetary means, to set up an exchange of experts in order to cooperate in developing national curricula and to realize common projects and in-service training for teachers.

13. German as a Foreign Language

The two Sides will continue to support cooperation in specialized courses in the field of teaching German as a foreign language. According to its financial possibilities the Austrian Side will continue to grant scholarships to German language teachers from the Republic of Serbia to participate in seminars on the improvement of skills related to language, civilization and culture to be held in the Republic of Austria. More information is to be found at www.kulturundsprache.at.

14. Austrian Language Diploma for German

The Austrian Side offers a certification system on German language, the "Austrian Language Diploma for German" (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch/ÖSD), which is already involved in four licenced partnerships in the Republic of Serbia. On certain conditions Serbian institutions (universities, language schools etc.) can apply for a partnership licence. More information is to be found at www.osd.at.

15. European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

Austria as host country of the European Centre for Modern Languages welcomes the cooperation with Serbia within the ECML in the field of language policy issues at a European level.

16. Adult Education

With a view to improve education and specialization of adults and to encourage cooperation in this field, the two Sides will exchange experts and share information.

17. EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport “Erasmus+”

The two Sides will optimise the use of the facilities of the “Erasmus+” programme to enforce the cooperation at all levels of the education system and to intensify the exchange of practical experience in the fields of education, training, youth and sport.

18. Austrian Educational Coordinator

The two Sides welcome and support the activities of the Austrian Educational Coordinator located in Sarajevo (acting on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs and KulturKontakt Austria) in the field of educational cooperation between the two countries as well as on a regional level, e.g.:

increasing the labor market relevance of vocational education and training through

enhanced co-operation between schools and companies,

strengthening of new teaching and learning approaches in Vocational Education

and Training (VET) such as virtual companies,

teacher training for the introduction of new approaches to teaching and learning,

support to inclusive education, e.g. through strengthening networks and peer

learning.

19. KulturKontakt Austria

The two Sides appreciate and support the activities of the association KulturKontakt Austria acting on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs in the field of educational cooperation between the two countries.

III CULTURE AND ARTS

20. Contemporary Arts

The two Sides emphasize the importance of cooperation between their countries in contemporary arts and culture.

21. Contemporary Visual Arts and Multimedia

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation in contemporary visual arts and multimedia with a view to the exchange of exhibitions and the participation of artists and experts at international events held in both countries.

22. Cooperation of Museums and Galleries

The two Sides welcome and encourage the establishment and development of direct cooperation between museums, art galleries, artist-associations and other organizations from the two countries by an exchange of exhibitions, experts and information material. They also encourage the realization of other activities agreed upon directly by the interested organizations.

23. Cultural Heritage

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between the Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Belgrade and other similar institutions in the Republic of Serbia (the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Novi Sad and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the City of Belgrade, other Institutes for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Central Institute for the Conservation in Belgrade) and the Federal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Vienna and other similar institutions in the Republic of Austria.

Interested institutions will exchange experts, books, exhibitions and publications and, in accordance with their interests and possibilities, will form joint expert teams with a view to cooperate in the field of research and protection of cultural heritage. A particular focus will be dedicated to the projects related to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

24. Performing Arts

The two Sides welcome the direct exchange of renowned troupes and soloists in the fields of music, theatre and other performing arts, with a view to realize guest tours and participate in international festivals in both countries.

The two Sides welcome direct cooperation between the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Theatre in Belgrade and the University of Music and

Performing Arts in Vienna as well as the State Opera in Vienna and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra with a view to exchange soloists.

25. Film and Audiovisual Sector

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation in film production as well as the participation of their respective artists in international film festivals.

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between their Film centres through the exchange of experts and information.

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between their Film Archives, the Yugoslav Film Archives in Belgrade and the Film Archive Austria in Vienna, as well as the Austrian Film Museum, with the aim to exchange information, publications, films and experts.

Concrete forms of cooperation and the range of exchanges will be agreed upon directly between the respective institutions.

26. Cooperation between Archives

The two Sides express their interest in cooperation between the Yugoslav Archives in Belgrade and the Archives of Serbia in Belgrade on the one hand and the Austrian State Archives in Vienna on the other hand in fields such as bilateral archival exhibitions, research, microfilming and copying.

The two Sides also welcome direct cooperation between other archives in the Republic of Serbia and archives in the Republic of Austria on the research of archival materials important for the history of the two countries.

Any cooperation is to be arranged between the respective archives in both countries.

27. Exchange of Writers

The two Sides encourage the exchange of writers and their participation in literature meetings and lecture evenings as well as direct contacts between writers' associations in the two countries.

The two Sides underline the importance of translating and publishing literary works in the other country and encourage direct contacts and cooperation between their respective translators' associations and publishers.

The Serbian Side informs that the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia is announcing each year a contest for subsidising translations of the Serbian literature in foreign languages for foreign publishers. More information is to be found at www.kultura.gov.rs.

28. Libraries

The two Sides welcome and encourage direct cooperation of libraries, particularly of the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade and the Library "Matica Srpska" in Novi Sad with the Austrian National Library in Vienna, the Styria Regional Library in Graz as well as the University Libraries in Vienna and Graz.

29. Austrian Cultural Forum in Belgrade and Austria Libraries

The two Sides support the activities of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Belgrade and the Austria Libraries in Belgrade and Novi Sad aimed at fostering and promoting the cultural and scientific cooperation between both countries.

30. KulturKontakt Austria

The two Sides appreciate the Vienna-based association Kulturkontakt Austria in the field of cultural support, stress its importance for cultural cooperation between the two countries and encourage it to continue its activities.

IV OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

31. Sports

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

32. Youth

The two Sides welcome the cooperation between youth institutions on both sides and the exchange of young people, youth experts and multipliers. In this regard, they refer to the possibilities given by the new EU program on Education, Training, Youth and Sports, ERASMUS+, as well as, available European Youth Programs.

33. Festivals for Young Artists

Austrian young artists shall be invited to participate in international young artists' festivals held in the Republic of Serbia.

34. Jeunesse Musicale

The two Sides appreciate the direct cooperation between the institutions of "Jeunesse Musicale" in both countries.

V OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION

35. Regional Cooperation in Education and Training

The two Sides will further strengthen and welcome their regional cooperation in education and training, in particular in the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe, in the framework of the Regional Cooperation Council and within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region as well as where appropriate in other relevant transnational networks and projects.

36. Regional Cooperation in Culture

The two Sides will cooperate within the cultural programs of the European Union, in particular the program Creative Europe (2014-2020), and propose common projects. Austria will offer co-financing for the projects within the limits of the budgetary resources.

The two Sides welcome the successful cooperation in the framework of the EU-Structural Funds in the field of European Territorial Cooperation.

37. International Organizations

The two Sides welcome the cooperation between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia in international organizations concerned with culture, science and education in accordance with the conditions set out.

38. Intensified Cooperation in Culture, Science and Education

The two Sides believe that citizens of the Republic of Serbia living in the Republic of Austria and Austrian citizens living in the Republic of Serbia should benefit from an intensified cooperation in culture, science and education.

39. Serbian-speaking and German-speaking Residents

The two Sides welcome the activities of members of the Serbian-speaking population in the Republic of Austria as well as of members of the German-speaking population in the Republic of Serbia in the fields of language and culture.

The two Sides appreciate the implementation of cultural projects and of other activities aiming at the preservation and promotion of the historically grown linguistic and cultural diversity as a manifestation of an intercultural dialogue and as a possibility to further contribute to a reciprocal respect and a mutual understanding.

VI GENERAL AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

40. Scholarships and Short Courses in the Republic of Serbia

The Serbian Side shall bear the following costs:

- tuition fees,
- accommodation and food,
- pocket money,
- health care,
- city transportation.

The candidates will have to bear the travel expenses themselves.

41. Exchange of Experts

The sending Side shall provide all required information about the experts to be sent in due time. The receiving Side shall confirm its acceptance as soon as possible.

The sending Side shall bear the international travel expenses. The receiving Side shall bear all other travelling costs arising from the activity of the experts on its territory.

The Austrian Side offers the Serbian experts free accommodation and a daily allowance fixed in advance.

The Serbian Side offers the Austrian experts free accommodation and a daily allowance in accordance with the national regulations.

The two Sides assume that all persons sent within the scope of this working programme are sufficiently health and accident insured. If, in an exceptional case, this insurance cover should be insufficient, the receiving Side shall provide all urgently required medical care services (except dental care and treatment of chronic illnesses) free of charge. The extent of the medical care to be provided in either country shall correspond to the liability of the statutory general health insurance. In both countries, the scope of hospital care is limited to that of the general contribution category.

42. Provisions for Exhibition Exchange

Exhibitions shall be held in accordance with the standard international rules. Any other necessary arrangements shall be made through diplomatic channels.

VII FINAL PROVISIONS

This Program takes effect from the date of its signing and will remain effective until December 31st, 2019.

Done in Belgrade, on May 12th, 2015 in two originals written in English.

Teresa Indjein, for the Republic of Austria

Goran Aleksić, for the Republic of Serbia