

AGREEMENT

between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on exchange of students, researchers and teaching staff

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, hereafter "the Contracting Parties",

on the basis of friendly relations between the three countries;

observing the provisions of the Agreement among the Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Creation of a Common Educational Space in Higher Education within the Baltic States signed in Kretinga on 8 December, 2000;

seeking to give students, researchers and teaching staff of the Baltic States more opportunities to study and carry out research at state-recognised and state-financed higher education and research institutions in the Baltic States;

desiring to facilitate the mobility of people of the Baltic States;

have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall support development of direct contacts and co-operation between higher education and research institutions of the Baltic States.

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the exchange of researchers and teaching staff as well as exchange of information between higher education and research institutions of the Baltic States within agreements of these institutions.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall exchange students on the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate level, giving preference to postgraduate studies; and the study programmes of language and culture studies of the Contracting Parties for undergraduate and graduate studies.

The Contracting Parties shall receive and nominate students assigning for up to 50 scholarship-months in/per an academic year for each Contracting Party.

Article 3

The students nominated for studies in higher education institutions in another Baltic State under this Agreement shall meet the following requirements:

- 1) enrolment in a higher education institution;
- 2) good academic results;
- 3) sufficient knowledge of the language(s) of instruction.

Article 4

The receiving Contracting Party shall cover tuition fees and provide and cover accommodation expenses in a student hostel for students nominated for study in a higher education institution in another Baltic State under this Agreement.

The sending Contracting Party shall make available a study loan for the student and/or pay a monthly scholarship sufficient to cover the student's living expenses.

The sending Contracting Party may cover travel expenses to the receiving Contracting Party and back for the scholarship holder once during an academic year.

Article 5

Every academic year the Contracting Parties shall receive and nominate teaching staff and researchers for research work for a total period of up to 9 months for each Contracting Party.

The sending Contracting Party shall grant a scholarship according to existing regulations of the sending Contracting Party and may cover travel expenses to the receiving Contracting Party and back for the teaching staff and researchers.

The receiving Contracting Party shall provide and cover accommodation expenses for the teaching staff and researchers.

Article 6

Every application of a candidate received under Articles 3 and 4 of this Agreement shall contain:

- 1) an official letter of acceptance from the host institution;
- 2) certified copies of diplomas with supplements (for graduate students and postgraduate students) and/or transcripts of academic records (for undergraduate students) with certified translation in English, in case they are not in English;
- 3) a copy of a research degree and academic title (for teaching staff and researchers) with certified translation in English, in case they are not in English;
- 4) *Curriculum Vitae*;
- 5) 2 recommendations (upon the request of the Sending Party);
- 6) a completed application form;
- 7) a detailed program of planned studies or research;
- 8) a list of publications or scientific works (for teaching staff and researchers).

The documents shall be prepared in English or the official language of the receiving Contracting Party in two identical sets (original and a copy). Incomplete applications shall not be considered.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall support the participation of representatives of higher education and research institutions in summer language and culture courses.

The Contracting Parties shall receive and nominate participants for summer language and culture courses assigning for up to 3 scholarships for each Contracting Party in/per an academic year.

Every application of a candidate for summer language courses shall contain documents required by the receiving Contracting Party. The required documents shall be listed in application forms for summer language and culture courses or included in the calls for nominations.

The scholarship provided by the receiving Contracting Party shall:

- 1) cover tuition and/or registration fees;
- 2) cover the participant's board and lodging in a hostel.

The sending Contracting Party may cover travel expenses to the receiving Contracting Party and back of a scholarship holder.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall exchange calls for nominations for periods of studies and research work in the fourth quarter of each calendar year and calls for summer language and culture courses in the first quarter of each calendar year. These calls shall contain application forms, updated information as to the amount of scholarships or per diem for participants of summer language courses, web-sites on internet where the possibility for applicants of the other state is advertised, links to eligible higher education and research institutions and other relevant information.

The Contracting Parties shall nominate their candidates for periods of studies, research work and summer language and culture courses and send all the required documents to the receiving Contracting Party by 1 May at the latest.

The receiving Contracting Party shall inform the sending Contracting Party in writing whether the nominees have been accepted by 1 June at the latest.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall annually update information as to institutions and/or persons directly in charge of the implementation of the Agreement. This information shall be exchanged by the Contracting Parties together with the calls for nominations.

The Contracting Parties shall, if necessary, meet in each country in succession to discuss the problems arising in the implementation of the Agreement. The receiving Contracting Party shall cover costs related to attending such a meeting for up to 2 representatives of each Contracting Party.

The sending Contracting Party shall cover travel expenses of its representatives to the meetings.

Article 10

The Contracting Parties shall monitor the implementation of the Agreement and, if necessary, make changes and/or amendments.

Any changes and/or amendments to this Agreement shall be made on the proposal of at least one of the Contracting Parties and upon the consent of all the others. These changes and/or amendments shall be confirmed by signatures of authorised representatives of the Contracting Parties and shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

Article 11

This Agreement shall enter into force on the day of signature and remain valid until 31 December, 2010, unless one of the Contracting Parties notifies the other Contracting Parties about its intention to terminate the Agreement before the mentioned date. Such notification shall be made at least three months prior to the proposed date of the termination.

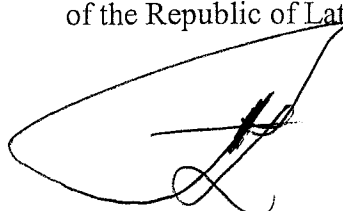
Article 12

The students and researchers studying or doing research under this Agreement at the time of the termination of the Agreement shall be entitled to complete their studies or research work at the same institution and under the same conditions as during the validity of the Agreement.

The Agreement is made in triplicate, each in the official language of the Contracting Parties and English language. All texts are authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

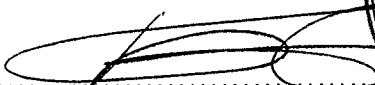
Signed in *January 30, 2007.*

For the Ministry
of Education and Science
of the Republic of Latvia



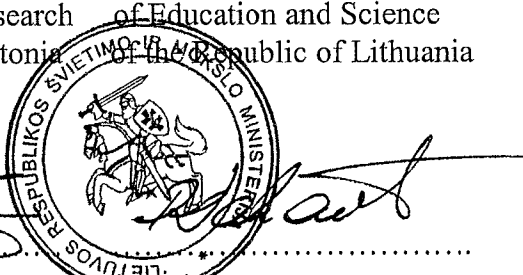
.....
minister
Baiba Rivža

For the Ministry
of Education and Research
of the Republic of Estonia



.....
minister
Mailis Reps

For the Ministry
of Education and Science
of the Republic of Lithuania



.....
minister
Roma Žakaitienė

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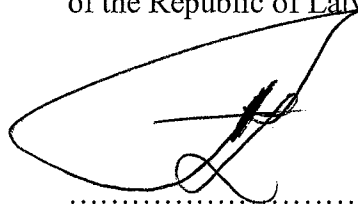
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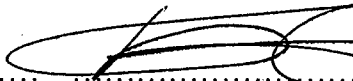
Signed in ... *January 30, 2007.*

For the Ministry
of Education and Science
of the Republic of Latvia



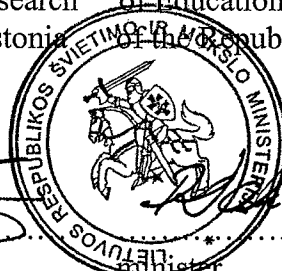
.....
minister
Baiba Rivža

For the Ministry
of Education and Research
of the Republic of Estonia



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minister
Mailis Reps

For the Ministry
of Education and Science
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.....
minister
Roma Žakaitienė