

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR THE YEARS  
2015-2019  
ON EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION**

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, hereinafter referred as the “Parties”, wishing to further develop educational cooperation and thus help strengthening friendly relations between their countries and peoples, in accordance with Art. 5 of the Cultural Agreement signed in Nicosia on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1973 and in the spirit of the Agreement of Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation and in the field of Education, signed in Nicosia on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2005, agreed upon the following Programme for the years 2015-2019.

**Art. 1  
Higher Education**

The Parties will encourage Universities and other Higher Education Institutions:

- To exchange information, knowledge, expertise, practices on e-learning platforms to offer distance learning opportunities to students of both countries.
- To promote academic, student and staff mobility between them through EU-funded programs (e.g. ERASMUS+), related to each institution’s educational and training sectors.
- To favor co-operation in the framework of EU-funded programs in higher education and research.
- To organise informative workshops with issues related to higher education in Italy.

- To cooperate in the technological and scientific field with the participation of students, scholars and researchers of the two countries in programs of study and/or research projects.

## **Art. 2**

### **School education and language teaching**

The Parties will cooperate closely to promote:

- the teaching of the Italian language in Cyprus and of the Greek language in Italy. The practical steps to be taken in this respect will be defined through diplomatic channels between the competent Ministries of the two countries.
- the awareness of their respective languages and cultures through inter alia the exchange of books, educational material and audiovisuals.
- the enhancement of exchange programs for high school students and teachers.
- joint participation in EU-funded programs (e.g. ERASMUS+).

The Parties will encourage the exchange of teaching material and information on curricula, including books, publications, school textbooks and audiovisuals, to facilitate the mutual understanding of school systems, programs and teaching methods.

The Parties will endeavor to establish direct contacts and favor cooperation and exchanges of methodological and teaching experiences between schools, also with a view to carrying out exchanges of groups of students.

The Parties will encourage the exchange of teaching trainers to become acquainted with the pre-service and in-service training programs of Elementary and Secondary Education Teachers of the other country.

**Art. 3**  
**Vocational Education and Training**

The Parties will encourage cooperation in the form of exchange of information, expertise and good practices and the implementation of joint programmes in the fields of Vocational Education and Training, Apprenticeship, Post-Secondary Vocational Education and Training, and Lifelong Learning.

The Parties will encourage cooperation in the field of vocational education and training, subject to their budgetary resources, and will exchange experience and information about:

- reform procedures and the structure of vocational education and training in both countries;
- the modernization and upgrading of curricula;
- design and development of in-service training programmes for educators.

**Art. 4**  
**Scholarships**

Cypriot citizens will be able to compete in the awards of scholarships that the Italian Party, according to its own budgetary framework, will grant each year to European students and researchers, as part of the European countries group. The amount of monthly payment of each scholarship will be assigned according to the terms specified each year by a call published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The Italian Party will offer each Cypriot scholarship holder potentially selected as part of the European countries group:

- a monthly payment delivered by study grants;
- accident and health insurance, except for previous diseases and dentures.

## **Art. 5**

### **Environmental Education/Education for Sustainable Development**

The Parties will cooperate in the field of the Environmental Education (hereinafter referred to as "E.E.") and Education for Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as "E.S.D."), subject to their budgetary resources, by:

- Developing common initiatives in the framework of the European Union and programs aimed at enhancing E.E./E.S.D. in the two countries;
- Developing common initiatives and programs through the Environmental Education Centers;
- Exchanging good practices, experience and expertise;
- Exchanging specialists, experts, scientists and teachers in all educational levels on E.E./E.S.D related issues;
- Training teachers of primary and secondary education and other education stakeholders on issues related to E.E./E.S.D.

## **Art.6**

### **Final Provisions**

This Executive Programme does not rule out the possibility of agreeing on further cooperation between the two Parties that will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

This Executive Programme may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Parties.

Both Parties agree that all the initiatives mentioned in this Programme would be carried out within the limits of their financial resources.

This Executive Programme will come into effect upon signature and will remain in effect until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

Done in Nicosia on November 26, 2015, in two original copies, in the English Language, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

**Minister of Education,  
University and Research  
Sen. Prof. Stefania Giannini**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**Minister of Education and  
Culture  
Prof. Costas Kadis**

