

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAM
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ON CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FOR THE PERIOD
2017-2020**

The Government of the Italian Republic,

and

The Government of the Republic of Armenia,

hereinafter referred as the “Parties”,

taking into consideration the Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed in Yerevan on the 15th of April 2003,

having the intention to develop cultural, educational and scientific exchanges and to contribute the deepening of the friendly relationships between the two countries,

have agreed on the following:

1. EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE TEACHING

University Education

- 1.1 The Parties will encourage direct cooperation between universities and other institutes of higher education and research in both countries thanks to agreements and conventions, exchange of professors, lecturers and/or researchers, data and information and through the realization of joint research projects, seminars and conferences. Parties will inform each other about signed university agreements.
- 1.2 The Parties will exchange annually, compatibly with financial resources, for a period of eight days, university's two professors and/or researchers in such a way to establish contacts designed to identify research areas of mutual interest and to initiate collaborations between universities and educational institutions (in the spheres of art, music and dance) of both countries (See N 1 Annex of the I A Section).

- 1.3 The Parties will also encourage inter-university collaborations within the EU “Erasmus Plus” Program.

Language Spreading

- 1.4 The Parties note that there is an active lecturer in Italian at the State University of Yerevan.
- 1.5 In order to facilitate the teaching of the respective language, the Parties will exchange annually language specialists according to the conditions that will be agreed from time to time between the Parties.

In particular, the Italian Party based on financial existence:

- will consider to provide the scientific, educational and cultural institutions with Italian manuals, multimedia, and educational materials, as well as part-time format training opportunities for teachers and assistants. These requests must be sent through diplomatic channels;
- will discuss the opportunities for investment in higher educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia in purpose of the collection of Italian culture and language tutors;
- will discuss the possibility of providing grants for training and updating courses for teachers and lectures of those educational and cultural institutions that will address such request, to be put in through diplomatic channels.

School Education

- 1.6 The Parties will work to promote scholastic and educational initiatives, which will be determined through diplomatic channels between the relevant ministries of the Parties.
- 1.7 The Parties will encourage closer collaboration between the higher educational institutions and school authorities in order to improve mutual knowledge of education systems, *curricula* and teaching methods and also will encourage the exchange of books and other teaching materials.
- 1.8 The Italian Party, compatibly with financial resources, expresses its availability to observe teaching of Italian culture and language in primary and secondary schools. Italian side, based on the available resources, will take into account the possibility of subsidizing for that kind of schools.

Scholarships

- 2.1 Each Academic Year, the Italian Party will offer – in accordance with the financial resources available - scholarships to University students, citizens of Republic of Armenia, for the attendance of Italian language courses, master's degree, Higher Education Arts and Music specialization courses, PhD Programs, post - degree specializations (with exception of medical courses), Postgraduate Specialization and Advanced Professional Training Courses.
- 2.2 During the implementation period of this Program, the Armenian Party will provide annually 3 scholarships to citizens of the Italian Republic:
 - for Bachelor degree program;
 - for Master's degree program;
 - for Postgraduate education.
- 2.3 The exchange of participants will be carried out in accordance with agreements between the institutions of the Parties, in whose articles the rights, duties and responsibilities of the host partner will be set.
- 2.4 The Parties will annually share information through diplomatic channels about the scholarship members and amount for the next Academic Year (according to N 1 appendix of B section).

3. CULTURAL EVENTS

- 3.1 The Parties will encourage the development of the cooperation in the field of arts, film, theatre and music through the exchange of exhibitions and artists and reciprocal participation in festivals and other important events. As for live performances, in accordance with regulations in force, available funding and events aimed at promoting cultural and artistic exchange between the two countries, the Italian Party reconfirms its availability to be engaged into this process. Financial terms of these initiatives will be determined in individual cases through diplomatic channels.

4. CULTURAL HERITAGE

- 4.1 The Parties will encourage collaboration in the fields of archeology, restoration, protection and conservation of cultural heritage between respective institutions including sound and audiovisual books.
- 4.2 The Parties will encourage collaboration between the respective archives, libraries and museums of both countries through the exchange of experts and equipment, taking into account the financial resources.
- 4.3 The Parties will encourage cooperation between the archives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, under the principle of reciprocity and in accordance with regulations in both countries in order to exchange information and publications.
- 4.4 The Parties will promote collaboration between respective museums, libraries, archives and also sound and audiovisual books central institute, in particular, through the exchange of experts, publications, information and seminars, as well as within their respective legislation through the loan of books, sound and audiovisual materials.
- 4.5 The Italian Party informs of the following awards and investments:
- The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism (Directorate General of Libraries and Cultural Institutions) awards “National Awards for Translations”, established under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic, for non-Italian translators and publishers for their work.
 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Directorate General for Country System Promotion) awards prizes and promotes the Italian and foreign publishers and translators, who develop proposals aimed at the proliferation of Italian culture and the diffusion of Italian books, for translation of literary and scientific works, as well as for translations of dubbing and subtitling at short and feature films, television shows, intended for mass media.

Above mentioned prizes will be delivered through diplomatic channels.

5. PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

- 5.1. The Parties undertake to cooperate in challenging illegal trafficking of cultural goods, through preventive, repressive measures, in accordance with respective national laws, taking into account the principles of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on “The Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property”, and taking into account the principles of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on “Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects”. The Parties also undertake the preservation of underwater cultural heritage in accordance with the 2001 UNESCO International Convention on “The Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage”.
- 5.2. The Parties will cooperate actively to carry out obligations in accordance with UNESCO International Conventions on “The Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage”, 1972 and on” Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage”, 2003. The Parties will also implement obligations according to the 2005 UNESCO International Convention on “The Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions”.

6. COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Parties will encourage scientific and technological cooperation which will promote joint activities between two countries' universities, research centers, governmental and private institutions:

- a) realization of joint studies, research projects, courses, conferences and seminars,
- b) exchange of documents and scientific information,
- c) reciprocal visits of experts funded within the framework of the scientific programs' realization,
- d) participation in scientific and technological cooperation of European projects particularly in the EU research and Horizon -2020 innovative program.

For the implementation of cooperative activities, the universities and research organizations of the two Parties will sign cooperative agreements and programs for the purpose of the clarification of terms and conditions of joint activities.

7. COOPERATION IN THE RADIO-TELEVISION SPHERE

Through practical programs Parties mutually will promote exchanges between interested organizations in radio-television sphere.

8. COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

The Parties will encourage the necessary legal protection of copyrights and related rights, through the respective governmental authorities' responsibilities;

For the Italian Republic:

- the Department for Information and Publishing of the Presidency of the Cabinet of the Italian Republic.
- the General Directorate for Libraries, Cultural Institutes and Copyright of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

For the Republic of Armenia:

- the Intellectual Property Agency of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investment.

9. YOUTH EXCHANGE

In order to encourage visits in the field of youth exchanges, the Parties will encourage contacts between the organizations responsible for programs of social-cultural youth exchanges.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS

- 10.1 The Parties will encourage cultural activities against racism, intolerance and protection of human rights.
- 10.2 The Parties associated with this program covered fields will promote cultural activity to encourage equality between men and women and the protection of children, as well as to increase artistic activities and cultural self-expression of socially vulnerable groups of the society.

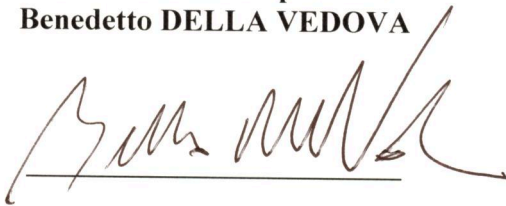
11. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 This Executive Program does not exclude the possibility of agreeing, through other initiative not provided within the text, if approved in advance by the competent administrations concerning the coordination of the Program itself.
- 11.2 The Parties agree that all the initiatives mentioned in this Programme would be carried out within the limits of the financial resources yearly established by their budgets and in accordance with applicable international law obligations and in full compliance with the national legislation of both Parties, as well as any other obligations arising from Italy's membership within the European Union.
- 11.3 This Executive Program will remain valid until conclusion of the next Executive Program, but no longer than 2021 December 31.

Signed in ROME.....date 7.6.2017 in two originals in the English language.


**For the Government
of the Italian Republic**

**Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation
Benedetto DELLA VEDOVA**



**For the Government
of the Republic of Armenia**

**Deputy Minister of Culture
Arev SAMUELYAN**



ANNEX 1

1. A) GENERAL FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND PROVISIONS

For the purpose of joint projects realization, exchanges between academic and cultural world representatives and experts will be implemented.

1. The exchange (between academic and cultural world representatives) will be regulated by the following way:

The sending Party through diplomatic channels, confirms about the departure date and also about the other arrangements at least 90 days before

- Name-surname
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Aim of the visit
 - Nationality (Nationality of the candidate has to be Italian or of a European Union for those who travel to the Republic of Armenia and Armenian for those who travel to the Italian Republic)
 - Program proposal for the visit
 - The academic name and position of the professor and its respective department / university faculty or host institution
 - Dates of the arrival and departure
 - Any other details
 - The receiving Party must confirm its acceptance of the visit, through diplomatic channels, usually a month in advance before the departure date.
2. In case of exchange regarding items 1.2. and 4.2. (archivists, librarians, museum experts) the sending Party will sustain the round-trip travel expenses regarding the international route.
 3. The receiving Party will sustain travel expenses in its territory from the point of arrival to the destination point within its territory.
The Italian sending Party, only for Italian teachers, (1.2) will also sustain the charges stemming from internal transfers.
 4. The Italian Party will provide Armenian teachers/researchers (items 1.2) a daily allowance of 120 EURO all-comprehensive for visits six (6) days long and will provide a daily allowance of 93 EURO for the last two days of their eight-days visits.
 5. The Italian Party will provide Armenian archivists, librarians, museum experts (items 4.2) a daily allowance of 93 EURO all-comprehensive for their eight-days visits.
 6. The Armenian Party will provide Italian Scholarship holders:travel expenses in its territory from the point of arrival to the destination point within its territory.

After the end of the visit during one month the receiving person should present short report about examination and work.

1. B) SCHOLARSHIP

The selection of candidates for scholarships will be carried out yearly in each country by a joint Committee including at least one representative of the Embassy of the host country.

Scholarship holders cannot depart to the host country before having received from the Embassy of the offering country an official communication regarding the date from which the departure may take place.

The Italian Party will grant to Armenian scholarship holders for each academic year:

- 1) a monthly amount that will be yearly established;
- 2) health and accident insurance, except for pre-existing diseases and dental prostheses;
- 3) partial exemption from tuition fees only if provided by universities within the autonomy they have in the field.

Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation <http://www.esteri.it> and will be published on the Embassy of Italy in Yerevan website.

The Armenian Party will provide Italian Scholarship holders:

- 1) Free education in the State Universities of Armenia;
- 2) an amount not inferior than 40 Euros per month;
- 3) education program according to national legislation of the receiving Party;
- 4) free student dormitory;
- 5) free medical services according to national legislation of the receiving Party;
- 6) permission for libraries, achieves, laboratories and other places.

The sending Party or candidate will provide the round-trip travel expenses. Other transport expenses within the country will be implemented monthly according to the scholarship.