

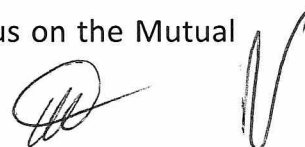
**EXECUTIVE PROGRAM OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
ON EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION
FOR THE YEARS 2024-2028**

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”, wishing to further develop educational cooperation and thus help strengthening friendly relations between their States and peoples, in accordance with the Cultural, Scientific, Technological and Educational Agreement signed in Nicosia on the 6th of June 2005, have reached the following understanding:

**Paragraph 1
Higher Education**

The Participants will encourage accredited Universities and accredited Higher Education Institutions to:

- exchange information, knowledge, expertise, practices on e-learning platforms and distance education tools in order to offer distance learning opportunities for learners, academics and researchers of both States.
- promote academic, student and staff mobility between them through EU-funded programs (e.g. ERASMUS+), related to each side’s educational and training sectors of higher education institutions.
- favor co-operation in the framework of EU-funded programs in higher education and research, with particular reference to cooperation between Mediterranean States.
- organize informational workshops on issues related to higher education in Cyprus and Italy.
- cooperate in the technological and scientific fields through their participation in programs of study and/or research projects for students, scholars and researchers of the two States.
- encourage the establishment of bilateral academic cooperation with the aim of developing university programs that will lead to double degrees, joint degrees and joint doctoral activities.
- The Participants recognize the existing Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on the Mutual



Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications for the continuation of studies to Higher Education Institutions of the two States, signed in Rome on the 9th of January 2009 (hereinafter referred to as “Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications”), as a facilitating tool for bilateral academic mobility.

Paragraph 2

School Education and Language Teaching

The Participants will closely cooperate in the fields of:

- (a) school education;
- (b) language teaching.

With regard to point (a), the collaboration will be aimed at promoting:

- the strengthening of students', teachers' and inspectors' exchanges and mobility between schools of primary, lower and upper secondary education, also through the participation in European mobility and cooperation projects (e.g. ERASMUS+, Horizon Europe, eTwinning program etc.).
- the awareness of the respective languages and cultures through, inter alia, the exchange of books, publications, educational and audiovisual material.
- joint participation and implementation of EU-funded programs, by forming strategic partnerships (e.g. ERASMUS+).
- the exchange of teaching material and information on curricula, including books, publications, schools' development plans, school text-books, digital resources and, where possible, openly sharing educational resources, to facilitate the mutual understanding of school systems, programs and teaching methods.
- the establishment of direct contacts, co-operation and exchanges of methodological and teaching experiences/practices between schools, also with a view to carrying out exchanges of groups of students.
- the exchange of teachers and trainers to become acquainted with the pre-service and in-service training and continuing professional development programs offered for Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education Teachers of the other State. Special emphasis could be given to intercultural education and migrant/refugee reception, differentiation of teaching and learning, digital competences.
- the exchange of views, good practices, and experiences on common educational national policies/reforms/programs/challenges (e.g. integration of students from migrant backgrounds in schools, STEM education, students' and teachers' assessment, digital transformation of schools, development of horizontal/transversal skills etc.), teaching and learning of classical Greek and the peer learning between the two States.

- the development of comparative studies between both States on the basis of data from international studies and assessment programs (i.e. PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS etc.). The results would shed more light on curricular and teaching matters of the school education.

With regard to point b), the collaboration will be aimed at promoting:

- the teaching of the Italian language in Cyprus, with priority given to the last three years of the upper secondary education, and of the Greek language in Italy, mainly in the areas where its local variations are recognized as minority languages. The concrete steps to be taken for this purpose will be defined through diplomatic channels between the competent Ministries of the two States.
- learning Italian in the last three years of the upper secondary education in Cyprus in order to facilitate access to university studies in Italy, according to specific provisions which will be issued annually by the Ministry of University and Research.
- the development of schools specializing in the teaching of Italian in Cyprus, the strengthening of the existing posts and the support of actions for a gradual extension to the various school levels. Also, the possibility of implementing a pilot program for the certification of the Italian language in upper secondary schools can be examined. On the Italian side, possible forms of support will be evaluated within the framework of the current budget available.
- the strengthening of the study of Italian in vocational schools.
- the strengthening of the study of Italian at University level, by supporting language courses and by including Italian among the European Studies degree's subjects.

Paragraph 3

Vocational Education and Training, Lifelong Learning and Adult Education

The Participants will encourage cooperation in the form of exchange of information, expertise and good practices and the implementation of joint programs in the fields of initial and continuing Vocational Education and Training, Apprenticeship, Higher Vocational Education and Training, and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Participants will encourage cooperation and will exchange experience, good practices and information about:

- reform procedures and the structure of vocational education and training in both States.



- the modernization and renovation of curricula in line with the respective national regulations.
- the design and development of in-service training programs for teachers and trainers.
- the developments and current policy priorities in relation to adult education and lifelong learning in the two States.
- the design and development of training programs to increase participation in adult education and training.

Paragraph 4 Scholarships

Cypriot citizens will be able to compete for a number of scholarship awards that are annually granted by the relevant Italian authority, according to its own budgetary framework, to university students and researchers.

The Italian Participant will offer each Cypriot scholarship recipient:

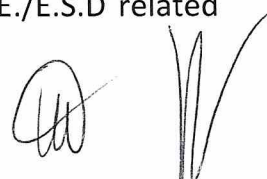
- a monthly allowance;
- injury and health insurance, with the exclusion of pre-existing conditions and dental care.

Institutions of Higher Education operating in the Republic of Cyprus offer a variety of scholarship programs addressed to foreign students, including Italian nationals. Details of the scholarships and application procedures will comply with the regulations of the Cypriot Participant.

Paragraph 5 Environmental Education/Education for Sustainable Development

The Participants will cooperate, (for the Italian side also in the light of the recent Law NO.92/2019), 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 the respective budgetary resources, by:

- supporting common initiatives in the framework of the European Union regarding E.E./E.S.D. in the two States.
- developing common initiatives and programs between relevant educational centers (e.g. Environmental Education Centers of Cyprus)
- exchanging good practices, experience and expertise; also through the exchange of specialists, experts, and teachers in all educational levels on E.E./E.S.D related issues;



- encouraging training of teachers of primary and secondary education and other education stakeholders on issues related to E.E./E.S.D.
- Strengthening collaboration in the context of regional and international processes (such as the new implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy on ESD 2021-2030, the UNESCO ESD#2030 Roadmap and the revised E.S.D. Mediterranean Action Plan 2030) and sharing best practices for integrating quality education (e.g. Whole School/Institution Approach, Digital Education and Innovation) in the respective national educational systems.
- activating collaboration in the field of education and training with the aim of strengthening the implementation of the SDGs global agenda 2030 and especially SDG 4 (4.7) as well as European Green Deal.

Paragraph 6

Final Provisions

This Executive Program does not rule out the possibility of deciding on further cooperation between the two Participants that will be decided through diplomatic channels.

This Executive Program may be amended, at any time, by the mutual written consent of the Participants through diplomatic channels. Any amendment will not affect any of the commitments and/or benefits arising from this Program before the amendment becomes effective, unless the Participants decide otherwise, in writing, through diplomatic channels.

The Participants will coordinate and decide, through diplomatic channels, on the financial costs referred to this Executive Program. All cooperative activities under this Program will be subject to the availability of funds of each Participant.

The expenses for travel, accommodation, food and medical insurance of partakers of exchange under this Program will be borne by the sending Participant, unless the Participants decide otherwise, in writing, through diplomatic channels.

The activities of the present Program will be implemented within the framework of international agreements in force for both States, in accordance with national legislation and the obligations arising from the membership of Italy and Cyprus in the European Union.

This Executive Program does not create any legally binding obligations and rights under international law or the respective national legislation of the State of each Participant.



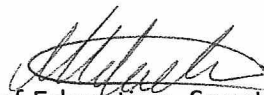
This Executive Program will come into effect upon signature and will remain in effect until 31st December 2028. The expiry of this Program does not affect the implementation of the projects and programs in progress.

Either Participant may terminate this Executive Program by notifying the other, in writing, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate it. The termination will become effective six (6) months after the date of receipt of the last written notification by the other Participant, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification. The termination of this Program will not affect the implementation of the programs and projects that the Participants have decided upon, prior to the termination of this Program.

Signed in duplicate, in Rome on the Seventeenth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, in the English Language.



Minister of Education and Merit
Prof. Giuseppe Valditara
for
the Government
of the
Italian Republic



Minister of Education, Sport and Youth
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for
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