

PROGRAM ON COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
FOR THE YEARS 2017 - 2019
IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE, YOUTH
AND SPORT

The Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides"), guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the spheres of culture, education and science, based on the Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Government of the State of Israel signed in Prague on 29 April 1991.

Both Sides are convinced that this cooperation shall contribute to the development of their relations and to raising awareness, particularly among youth, of the history and culture of the people of both countries and agree to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

Both Sides have agreed on the following Program on Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the State of Israel for the years 2017-2019 in the fields of education, science, culture, youth and sport (hereinafter referred to as "the Program"):

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

EDUCATION

Article 1

1.1 The Sides shall promote exchange of information and constructive contacts between the two countries, in various aspects of education.

1.2 The Sides shall encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutes of both countries.

1.3 The Sides shall, in accordance with their budgetary means, promote the exchanges of information, experience, documentation and experts in the following areas:

- The education system of both countries
- Teacher training and lifelong training for teachers
- School organization and management
- Education regulations (such as service regulations for teachers etc.)
- Education for students with disabilities and special needs
- Decentralization and school autonomy
- Civic Education and Education for Gender Equality
- Gifted children education
- Cultural and religious integration of minority groups (including joint projects)
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects)
- Foreign language teaching
- Formal and informal education
- Collaborative learning (i.e. literature, cinema and more)
- Inclusive education
- Culture and Heritage

- Adult education (lifelong learning)
- Science and technology education
- Youth contribution to the community
- Development of life skills
- Arts education
- Vocational education and training and technical education
- Technologies and innovative industry for schools, teachers and students

1.4 The Sides shall encourage direct cooperation between schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

1.5 The Sides agree to cooperate in the field of e-learning, including design, development, and implementation of software, hardware and professional practice such as: digital books, learning management software, long distance learning environments, teacher training, etc.

In Slovakia information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic: www.minedu.sk.

In Israel, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: www.education.gov.il.

1.6 The Sides are committed to preventing the publication of text books which encourage racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes. Each Side will bring to the attention of the other if such publications are detected.

1.7 The Sides shall put special emphasis on research and educational work related to the tragic fate of the Jewish community in the Slovak Republic during the Second World War under the Nazi occupation.

The Slovak Side shall continue to include the issue of the Holocaust in the school curriculum.

1.8 The Sides stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the Holocaust during their schooling, with reference also to the contents of the Stockholm Declaration of January 2000 and the United Nations resolution 60/7, of November 1st 2005, designating 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, which emphasizes the unique historical character of the Holocaust and denounces the still lingering dangers of genocide, racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia. In this context, the Sides shall support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and anti-Semitism.

1.9 The Sides shall encourage participation of teachers, particularly history teachers, in courses dealing with the history of the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism which are organized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. The three-week courses for English speaking participants are conducted every year in July. The Israeli Side shall annually offer to the Slovak Side one scholarship for one participant from the Slovak Republic.

1.10 The Sides shall encourage direct mutual exchange and cooperation between Yad Vashem and Slovakian research institutions in the field of the Holocaust in general and of the Holocaust in Slovakia in particular.

1.11 The Sides shall encourage the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at their respective primary, secondary and higher education institutions. For this purpose, the corresponding experts from the partner country will be invited by respective institution at its own expense to deliver lectures, hold seminars and conduct other educational activities. The conditions under which the experts shall perform their respective activities in the receiving country shall be negotiated directly between the respective institutions of both countries.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Article 2

2.1 The Israeli Side shall provide annually:

2.1.1 one (1) scholarship for Modern Hebrew summer language course ULPAN

2.1.2 one (1) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months) for doctoral (PhD.) students or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli university.

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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel: www.mfa.gov.il and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.2 The Slovak Side shall provide annually:

2.2.1 one (1) scholarship for Summer School for Slovak Language and Culture “Studia Academica Slovaca” SAS

2.2.2 one (1) scholarship for one (1) academic year (eight months) for Israeli doctoral (PhD.) students.

2.3 These scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

DIRECT COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES

Article 3

3.1 The Sides shall promote the exchange of publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education.

3.2 The Sides shall encourage participation of academics in national and international conferences/seminars and other similar events to be held in both countries while this program is in force.

3.3 The Sides shall cooperate together in the promotion of studies relating to the cultures, languages and modern history of each other’s country in the respective universities.

SCIENCE

Article 4

4.1 The Sides shall encourage direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions. The content of this cooperation shall be agreed upon by the competent institutions of both countries.

4.2 The Sides shall encourage mutual exchange of scientific and research workers with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms and conditions of such exchanges shall be agreed upon by the relevant institutions or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

4.3 The Sides shall encourage joint scientific and technological research, research and development projects in areas of mutual interest, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical information and publications. Content and conditions of this cooperation shall be specified by the relevant institutions of both countries.

EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

Article 5

The Sides welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the two countries. The Sides reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

The Sides shall encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in Slovakia and cultural activities of Slovak origin in Israel.

5.1 The Sides shall encourage the exchange in the fields of traditional folk culture, music, theatre, visual and plastic arts, design, dance and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Sides shall encourage visits of art critics, writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

5.2 Performing arts festivals:

The Sides shall encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on principles of reciprocity, and will be agreed upon by the Sides or relevant institutions.

The Sides shall inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

5.3 Visual Arts, photography and design:

The Sides shall cooperate in the field of fine arts, handicraft fairs, photography and design. They shall encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, folk craftsmen, art experts and specialists in traditional folk works.

5.4 Architecture:

The Sides shall encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions and the exchange of architects, as well as information sharing and the promotion of exhibitions.

5.5 Museums and Exhibitions:

The Sides shall encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information.

5.6 Music:

The Sides shall encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They shall also support direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions, associations, orchestras and conservatories in the areas of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recordings and personal visits on a commercial and non-commercial basis.

The Sides shall strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

5.7 Dance:

The Sides shall encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers and producers of dance festivals. The Sides shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.8 Theatre:

The Sides shall encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc. The Sides shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.9 The Sides shall enable visits of experts/artists/producers/curators in the above mentioned various fields of arts, for five (5) days each year. Projects shall be agreed upon by the Sides through diplomatic channels.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Article 6

6.1 The Sides shall encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They shall also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

6.2 The Sides shall encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions regarding the prevention of illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with international law and their respective national Law.

6.3 The Sides shall encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architecture research. Details of this cooperation shall be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

6.4 The Sides shall encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content. They shall also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard shall be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic.

6.5 During the course of this Program, the Sides shall exchange one (1) expert each year from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture, for a period of up to five (5) days. Details in this regard shall be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic.

6.6 The Sides shall encourage cooperation aimed on improving the protection and management of sites entered in and under preparation for entry in the List of World Cultural Heritage and allow for mutual contact and exchange of experts in his field.

LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

Article 7

7.1 The Sides shall work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. For this purpose the Sides shall annually exchange three (3) persons (writers, poets or translators) each for a stay of up to five (5) days, while this program is in force.

7.2 The Sides shall encourage the participation of writers and editors in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities. The Sides shall support participation of poets and writers in festivals and literary events for up to five (5) days annually.

7.3 The Sides shall encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

7.4 Each Side shall extend invitations to the other for participation in their respective International Book fairs on a commercial basis and non-commercial basis, while this Program is in force.

The Slovak Side invites the Israeli Side to participate in the Bibliotéka International Book Fair. Information regarding this fair can be found at www.incheba.sk/biblioteka.

The Israeli Side invites the Slovak Side to participate in the Jerusalem International Book Fair that takes place every two years in Jerusalem. Details regarding this book fair can be found at: www.jerusalembookfair.com.

CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

Article 8

8.1 The Sides shall encourage the participation of films and film-makers at international film festivals of the other country. The Sides shall promote special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their country. Information regarding major film festivals shall be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

8.2 The Sides shall encourage organizing film weeks of the other Side in their countries. Films that are screened in this framework shall have English subtitles, if the language of the film is not English.

8.3 Each Side shall encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose the Sides shall exchange annually two (2) experts each in the fields of cinema and audiovisual for a period of up to five (5) days to participate in festivals, conferences, reviews, meetings, retrospectives and other prestigious international events.

8.4 The Sides shall encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

The Sides welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools and Faculties as well as between their national cinematheques and the exchange of students and teachers in this field.

8.5 The Sides express their interest in promoting co-productions between Slovak and Israeli film producers. The Sides shall discuss and conclude a co-production (of films and video) agreement, with the aim to facilitate future film co-productions.

8.6 The Sides shall encourage cooperation between the television authorities in the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts in this area, on a commercial and non-commercial basis. In addition, the Sides shall encourage holding workshops on the topic of educational television, staff training and background material aimed at enhancing each country's knowledge and understanding of the other country.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Article 9

9.1 The Sides shall promote reciprocal cooperation between their respective archives and libraries, including with the Yad Vashem Archives, in accordance with their respective legislation, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, databases and regulations, as well as exchanging and obtaining of copies and scans of archival documents. The exchanges shall be carried out in accordance with domestic laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides. Based on the cooperation conferences and seminars for the archivists of the Sides will be held.

9.2 The Sides shall consider the exchange of one (1) archivist or librarian for up to five (5) days during period of this program in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives/libraries as well as study and research missions.

COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 10

The Sides shall cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of UNESCO and other international organizations, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of common programs of action.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Article 11

11.1 The Sides agree that the exchange of youth and young adults constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They shall therefore support such programs.

Emphasis shall be placed on the active participation of young people in the community and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through the specific youth activities.

11.2 The Sides shall encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard shall be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and Slovak Youth Institute – IUVENTA.

SPORTS

Article 12

The Sides shall encourage cooperation in sports, mainly by exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines. Details shall be worked out through mutual consultations between interested organizations of both countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges shall be agreed upon between interested organizations of both countries.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Article 13

13.1 Each Side shall ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights of all materials obtained in the framework of this Program, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in its country.

13.2 Intellectual property rights acquired or created as a result of joint activity in accordance with this program of cooperation shall be allocated by mutually agreed conditions set out in

separate agreements prior to commencing the joint activity in compliance with the national law of each Side.

13.3 Neither of the Sides shall transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuance of this Program to any third Side without prior written consent of the Side from which such information originated.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 14

Participants of exchanges under this Program of cooperation must speak language of the state of other Side or English language or another language, agreed mutually by the Sides.

Article 15

Participants of exchanges under this Program of cooperation are responsible, before travelling to the receiving country, to arrange health insurance during their stay in the country of the other Side.

Article 16

Scholarships according to Article 2:

16.1 The terms and conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Side for one academic year shall be published yearly through governmental channels as well as on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.gov.il.

16.2 The Israeli Side shall submit to the Slovak Side the names and completed application forms of its scholarship candidates pursuant to Article 2.2.2 of this Program not later than January 15th of each year and for the SAS summer language school (Article 2.2.1) not later than May 15th of the relevant year.

16.3 Applications regarding scholarships candidates must include:

- a) CV
- b) Notarized copies of documents of education in English translation
- c) Certification of health status
- d) Document regarding competence in the required language
- e) Detailed program of study or research (with presenting institution and experts whom he/she plans to visit)
- f) Recommendation for at least one university teacher
- g) Letter of acceptance/invitation from a foreign university

Article 17

The Exchange of individuals lectures, artists, experts etc. shall be regulated as follows:

- Each Side shall send to the other relevant information (curriculum vitae, objectives of the visit, languages spoken, proposed itinerary and scheduled arrival and departure dates) in English, at least sixty (60) days prior to the expected date of visit of the delegation or individuals.
- The receiving Side shall confirm the acceptance of the proposal within thirty (30) days.
- Invited persons or delegations should be able to communicate in either the language of the receiving country or institution, or English or any other language mutually agreed upon.
- Each individual and delegation shall be responsible for their own medical insurance.
- Agreed through diplomatic channels, unless they will not be agreed in separate agreements of relevant institutions

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

CULTURE

Article 18

Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedules of the events, shall be agreed upon by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both countries. Failing any special agreements, the financial provisions will be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

The costs for sending and accepting delegations within the framework of this program shall be covered as follows:

The sending Side shall:

- cover the international travel expenses up to the first destination and upon return from the final location of the stay of accepting Side
- shall ensure the covering of transportation of special equipment
- ensure that persons sent within the frame work of this program shall be covered by health insurance pursuant to the valid regulations of sending Side

The receiving Side shall:

- cover the costs of accommodation in its country
- ensure the program of the visit

Exchange of exhibitions:

While this program of cooperation in force, the Sides may exchange exhibitions. The organizational and financial rules of these exhibitions shall be agreed upon directly by the Sides or through diplomatic channels.

EDUCATION

Article 19

Sending Side shall cover travel expenses to the destination and back for participants of exchanges under this Program of cooperation.

Article 20

Israeli Side shall provide Slovak participants in course in Yad Vashem under Article 1.9 scholarship, which includes tuition fees, accommodation and pocket money.

Article 21

21.1 The Israeli Side shall provide participants in the Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School / beneficiaries of the scholarships accepted within this Program, with the following:

- a) free tuition;
- b) allowance to cover the living expenses in accordance with the conditions of the language school / academic institutions;
- c) health insurance, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

The Slovak Side shall provide Israeli students:

21.2 participants of summer language course SAS:

- a) free tuition;
- b) appropriate accommodation and board;
- c) free participation in excursions, arising out of the approved program

21.3 scholarship holders pursuant Article 2.2.2 (doctoral (PhD.) students):

- a) free tuition;
- b) appropriate accommodation in dormitories;
- c) monthly scholarship for covering expenditure for accommodation, board and local transport, according to internal legal regulations in force.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

22.1 The implementation of this program of cooperation shall be ensured by the competent authorities of Sides. The competent authorities in the Slovak Republic are the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The competent authorities in the State of Israel are the Division for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

22.2 This Program does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.

22.3 The Sides agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Program shall be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

22.4 Any activities carried out pursuant to this Program, by any of the Sides, shall be done in accordance with the laws, regulations and procedures of that Side.

22.5 All differences that might arise in the course of this Program shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

22.6 The Sides entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

22.7 This Program can be amended or modified by mutual consent of the Sides. The amendments or modifications will be made in writing.

22.8 This Program is subject to national approval by each of the Sides and shall come into effect on the thirtieth day following the receipt of the later note confirming date of its approval. The Program shall remain in effect until 31 December 2019. It will be automatically extended for an additional period of three (3) years, unless one of the Sides notifies the other Side, in writing form, about its desire to terminate it ninety (90) days prior to its expiration date.

Done and Signed in _____ on _____ 2016, which corresponds to the _____, 5776, in the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies in the English language, both being equally authentic.

Marek Maďarič, v. r.
Minister of Culture

Miri Regev, v. r.
Minister of Culture and Sport

For the Government of the Slovak
Republic

For the Government of the State of Israel