

**Programme of Cooperation between
the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the
Slovak Republic
and
the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China
in the Field of Education for the Years 2016– 2019**

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "Contracting Parties") of efforts toward deepening and widening the cooperation and exchange in the field of education between both States, on the basis of the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on 7th October 1999 in Bratislava, while abiding by the principles of equality, mutual advantageousness and friendship, agreed on the following programme:

Article I

1. The Contracting Parties shall exchange scholarship holders including undergraduate students, postgraduate students and PhD. candidates as well as scientific and pedagogic workers of universities. The total number of scholarship holders annually studying on the territory of the other State should not exceed 15 persons.

2. The Contracting Parties may increase the number of scholarships on the basis of consultations and mutual consent. Specific conditions shall be agreed through diplomatic channels.

3. The Sending Party shall present the list of scholarship candidates and their relevant documents by 30th April of each year at the latest. The Receiving Party shall inform the Sending Party about its decision relating to the acceptance of candidates by 15th July of each year at the latest.

4. The duration of stay of undergraduate students, postgraduate students and PhD. candidates shall be determined in accordance with the university education system in force on the territory of the Receiving Party. The duration of fellowship research stays shall not exceed two years. Approved extensions of stay shall be included into the number of scholarships annually provided by the Contracting Parties.

5. Undergraduate students, postgraduate students and PhD. candidates must, before commencing studies in the State of the Receiving Party, demonstrate an excellent knowledge of the language of that State. The Receiving Party shall provide the necessary language courses to scholarship holders who fail to reach the required level of language skills. The duration of such language courses for the bachelor/Bc., master/Mgr. or doctoral/PhD. students shall not be included in the duration of studies.

6. Scholarship researchers may, with consent of the Receiving Party, use the English language as their working language.

7. The Sending Party shall cover international travel expenses for the scholarship holders. The Receiving Party shall not request payment of tuition fees, accommodation and

essential study material charges from the scholarship holders, and shall provide financial funding to each scholarship holder in the form of scholarships and health care in accordance with national legal regulations.

8. The Slovak Contracting Party shall, in unavoidable cases, provide an allowance to supplement the scholarships provided by the Chinese Contracting Party to Slovak students in order to compensate the cost of living. The sum of the allowance shall be determined on the basis of information provided by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the competent diplomatic mission of the Slovak Republic.

Article 2

1. The Contracting Parties shall support the higher education institutions in the tuition of the Chinese language and literature and of the Slovak language and literature on the territory of their respective States. To ensure this objective, they shall invite language and literature lecturers from the State of the other Party in accordance with their actual needs and financial options.

2. The Sending Party shall provide the Receiving Party with all the necessary information about the new lecturers or confirm the extension of the stay of the previous year's lecturer by 31st May of the respective calendar year, and the Receiving Party shall confirm acceptance of the new lecturer or extension of stay of the previous year's lecturer no later than 30th June of the respective calendar year.

3. The Receiving Party shall, upon termination of the academic year, provide the Sending Party with a written evaluation of the lecturer's activities.

4. The lecturer is under obligation to respect the number of teaching hours and the pedagogic and scientific duties determined by the receiving institution for university education in accordance with national legal regulations.

5. The Sending Party shall cover international travel expenses to the capital city of the Receiving Party and back, and:

- Up to 50 kg excess baggage costs of the Slovak language and culture lecturer,
- Excess baggage costs of the Chinese lecturer in accordance with the national legal regulations of China.

The Receiving Party shall cover the expenses of travel between the capital city and the location of work of the lecturer and provide free of charge, furnished, accommodation and health care in accordance with national legal regulations, except for the costs of treatment of chronic diseases and dental treatments.

6. The lecturer shall be delegated for the period of one to two years. When an extension is necessary, delegation may be prolonged with the agreement of the Contracting Parties, to a maximum of four years. Whether the lecturer can be delegated with accompanying family members will be decided in accordance with the Sending Party's national regulation.

7. The Receiving Party shall provide the lecturer with a salary according to its domestic regulations. If the salary provided by the Receiving Party does not reach the standard of the Sending Party, it is the Sending Party's responsibility to make up the remaining part.

Article 3

1. The Contracting Parties shall, during the validity of this Programme, exchange delegations of workers in the field of education. The number of delegation members shall not exceed five persons, and the duration of stay shall be one week at most.

2. The Sending Party shall cover international travel expenses to the capital city of the State of the other Party and back. The Receiving Party shall cover the costs of board and accommodation and internal travel expenses.

3. The Sending Party shall, at least two months before the visit, notify the Receiving Party of the names of the delegation members and programme requirements for the stay. The Receiving Party shall respond within one month from receiving this information.

4. Upon receiving the consenting statement of the Receiving Party, the Sending Party shall provide information about the exact arrival and departure dates of the delegation and about the means of transportation one month before the visit.

Article 4

1. The Contracting Parties shall initiate and support the exchange of university experts or scholars in their higher education institutions or educational institutions.

2. The Contracting Parties shall exchange information and education study materials, mainly information and study materials about schools offering university education.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall support the process of establishing direct contacts between universities of both States and developing mutual cooperation. The content, form and method of financing of such cooperation shall be directly agreed by the individual universities according to their respective needs and possibilities.

Article 6

1. The Contracting Parties shall provide each other with two scholarships for summer courses for teachers of Chinese and Slovak language every year as follows:

- A. The Slovak Contracting Party shall fully fund study costs, full board accommodation, travel within Slovakia relating to the programme of the summer language course, EUR 20 for small purchases and costs relating to events during the summer course organised by Studia Academica Slovaca – the Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language at Comenius University in Bratislava.

Information on the course programme and application procedures will be sent by diplomatic channels no later than the end of February of the calendar year.

Candidate's applications should be sent by electronic means no later than 15 May of the relevant calendar year. The recipients of scholarships will be chosen by assessment of the submitted applications by the specialised institution, SAS – the Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language in the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava.

- B. The Chinese Contracting Party shall provide a financial grant from the Confucius Institute covering tuition and accommodation costs during study in the Chinese

course for foreign teachers of Chinese language based on the programme of Hanban – the Office of Chinese Language Council International in the headquarters of the Confucius Institute.

The study programme is intended for teachers of Chinese language up to 55 years of age with at least one year's experience in teaching Chinese. The Slovak Contracting Party shall submit the applications of the candidates for scholarships for the following calendar year to the Confucius Institute through the Embassy of the PRC in Slovakia in the period from November to December. The recipients of scholarships will be selected by assessment of the applications in the Confucius Institute and announced by Hanban – the Office of Chinese Language Council International and the headquarters of the Confucius Institute.

2. The Sending Party shall cover travel costs for international transport of their scholarship recipients to the place of study and back.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall establish conditions for the support of Slovak experts doing research on education in the People's Republic of China, and of Chinese experts doing research on education in the Slovak Republic.

Article 8

This Programme shall enter into force on the day of signature, and shall remain valid until 31st December, 2019. A new proposal for the Programme shall be negotiated in the year 2019. The validity of this document may be prolonged, in the interests of maintaining cooperation, until the signature of the new document.

Signed at *Beijing*....., on *26th November 2015* in two originals, each in the Slovak, Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence interpretation, the text in English language shall prevail.



**For the Ministry of Education,
Science, Research and Sport
of the Slovak Republic**



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