



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF TECHNICAL AND HIGHER**

**EDUCATION**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**IN THE FIELDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

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The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education of the Republic of Sierra Leone (hereinafter referred to individually as the “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”),

**RECOGNISING** the need to expand and intensify their cooperation in the fields of higher education and research;

**DESIRING** to further enhance the close and friendly relations between their States;

**CONSIDERING** their common interest in promoting and encouraging their cooperation in the fields of higher education and research for the mutual benefit of both States, by strengthening partnerships and strategic collaboration that supports higher education, open and distance education and life-long learning, as well as exchanges that promote excellence and creativity in teaching, student education and research; and

**SHARING** the conviction that these activities will also enhance the economic and social development of both States;

Have reached the following understanding:

## PARAGRAPH 1

The Participants encourage the direct cooperation between the Institutions of Higher Education (including open and distance education Institutions of Higher Education) and other research Institutions established in both States in the fields of higher education and research, making optimal use of existing multilateral, bilateral and unilateral funding schemes and/or promoting the establishment of new ones.

Cooperation may, inter alia, include:

- I. Design and offering of joint or dual degree programmes;
- II. Conduct of joint research activities;
- III. Exchange of information, scientific material and academic publications teaching tools, demonstration materials, and research resources;
- IV. Exchange of academic staff members, researchers and administrative personnel;
- V. Exchange of graduate and undergraduate students for study, research and student placements;
- VI. Co-organisation of and participation in lectures, seminars and conferences and other scientific events in face to face, hybrid or online modes;
- VII. Exchange of know-how and expertise on e-learning platforms, technologies and methodologies that support distance education;
- VIII. Encourage of joint work towards the implementation of UN 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs);
- IX. Co-organisation of summer/winter schools for higher education students; and
- X. Co-operation in administrative issues related to Higher Education.

The implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”) will be carried out, subject to the respective laws and regulations of each State.

## **PARAGRAPH 2**

This MoU is signed with the object of strengthening and developing cooperation between the Participants and does not constitute a binding agreement under international law.

No provision of this MoU may be construed and implemented as creating legal rights or obligations under international law.

The cooperation in the framework of this MoU will not prejudice the rights and obligations of the Participants as these derive from international agreements to which they are Parties. The implementation of this MoU and all related activities must be in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations, rules, procedures and mechanisms of the two States.

## **PARAGRAPH 3**

The Participants encourage accredited Institutions of Higher Education established in each State, to organise double degrees and joint programmes, especially at the Master and PhD level, through direct institutional agreements.

## **PARAGRAPH 4**

The Participants encourage accredited Institutions of Higher Education established in each State, to accept applications by students, scholars and researchers for enrolment in programmes of study and/or participation in research projects.

## **PARAGRAPH 5**

The Participants encourage their scientific community, their respective Institutions of Higher Education and research institutions to cooperate in the framework of EU-funded and State funded programmes on higher education and research.

#### **PARAGRAPH 6**

The Participants encourage the exchange of scholarship students. Details of the scholarships and application procedures will comply with the regulations of both States respectively and the internal regulation of the partner Institutions of Higher Education.

#### **PARAGRAPH 7**

The Participants encourage and support their Institutions of Higher Education institutions to offer language and cultural related courses and to conduct research of the other Participant's language and culture.

#### **PARAGRAPH 8**

The Participants encourage the cooperation and support strong linkages between Institutions of Higher Education and research promotion/ funding agencies in order to create concrete frameworks of cooperation for their higher education and research institutions and to enable them to fully make use of existing instruments of funding for bilateral and international cooperation.

#### **PARAGRAPH 9**

The Participants will exchange information regarding the establishment and operation of their respective Institutions of Higher Education.

#### **PARAGRAPH 10**

The Participants will initiate negotiations for signing an agreement on the mutual recognition of higher education qualifications issued by institutions of higher education by both States, for the access and continuation of studies to institutions of higher education of the two States.

#### **PARAGRAPH 11**

The Participants will establish a joint expert commission for scientific and technological cooperation in order to evaluate the landscape and state of cooperation. The modalities of the operation of this commission will be decided by the Participants.

#### **PARAGRAPH 12**

This MoU may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Participants.

#### **PARAGRAPH 13**

The Participants commit not to use the information and documents exchanged between them except for the assigned purposes, and not to share it with a third party without the prior written consent of the Participant providing that information. Everything related to confidentiality is subject to the applicable laws, regulations, rules and policies of the Participants.

#### **PARAGRAPH 14**

The Participants decide that funding of the activities under this MoU will be subject to the availability of funds of both Participants. Each Participant will cover the costs of its participation unless it is decided that other means of appropriate financing to fund certain activities are available, by written mutual approval of the competent authorities in both States. The expenses for international travel, accommodation, food, internal transportation and health/accident insurance of the partakers of exchange under this MoU will be covered by the sending Participant, unless the Participants decide otherwise, in writing, through diplomatic channels.

#### **PARAGRAPH 15**

Either Participant may terminate this MoU by giving six months' notice in writing, through diplomatic channels, to the other Participant. The termination of this MoU will not affect the existing or ongoing programmes and projects, unless the Participants decide otherwise.

#### **PARAGRAPH 16**

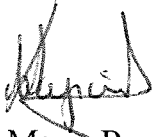
The Participants will amicably settle any disputes arising out of the implementation or interpretation of provisions of this MoU by consultation through diplomatic channels.

## PARAGRAPH 17

This MoU will enter into operation on the date of signature by the Participants, and will remain into operation for an indefinite period of time.

Signed in duplicate in Nicosia on this thirteenth day of November 2025 in the English language.

For the Ministry of Education, Sport  
and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus



Dr Maria Panayiotou  
Minister of Agriculture, Rural  
Development and Environment

For the Ministry of Technical and  
Higher Education of the Republic of  
Sierra Leone



Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation