AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY ON THE MUTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL CENTRES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

The Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

Based on existing traditional cultural relations between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Turkey,

Considering the importance of mutually developing bilateral relations between the Parties in the scientific, cultural and educational issues,

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Turkish Party shall establish a Cultural Centre in Chisinau and in Comrat and the Moldovan Party shall establish a Cultural Centre in Ankara (hereinafter referred to as the "Cultural Centres").

Article 2

The terms and procedures regarding the opening and functioning of the branches of the Cultural Centres shall be regulated through the Exchange of Notes.

Article 3

1. The Cultural Centre of the Turkish Party shall be named as "Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centre."

Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centre shall be founded and operated by the "Yunus Emre Foundation", which has foundation status under the legislation of the Turkish Party and administrative headquarters of which are located in Ankara.

2. The Moldovan Cultural Centre shall be founded and operated by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 4

Cultural Centres, for the fulfillment of their purposes and in compliance with the national laws and regulations of the State of the Receiving Party, shall be able to conclude contracts and establish contacts with all natural and legal persons, either public or

private, either residing or registered in the country of the Receiving Party or in another country.

Article 5

The tasks of the Cultural Centres shall be as follows:

a) Developing and implementing cooperation programs between youth and sports organizations of the two countries in the fields of culture, science, technology and education;
b) Contributing to the establishment and development of contacts between public authorities and non-governmental organizations;
c) Supporting the development of international contacts between local governments of both States in cultural, human, scientific, technical and professional fields;
d) Providing information and promotional materials in the fields of culture, science, technology, youth activities and sports.

Article 6

1. The Cultural Centres, for the fulfillment of their purposes and in compliance with the national laws and regulations of the State of the Receiving Party, may perform the following activities:

a) Providing information, reference and other databases in the cultural, scientific, technological and economic development areas of the two countries by using various modern information tools and providing access to databases;
b) Organizing conferences, symposiums, seminars and workshops in the fields of international scientific, humanitarian and cultural cooperation;
c) Providing information and advisory services to the relevant organizations and the community of the Receiving Party in order to establish contacts with the organizations of the Sending Party in the fields of culture, education, sports, science and technology;
d) Organizing concerts and exhibitions by art groups and individual artists;
e) Organizing screening of films and other audio-visual materials;
f) Organizing exhibitions of works of art, artistic photography, folklore material and other objects of art except for cultural heritage works;
g) Ensuring the participation of local public organizations, associations and clubs in the various activities of the Cultural Centres, as well as involving prominent statesmen, artists and scientists, members of the mass media and other representatives of the Receiving Party in the cultural activities of the Sending Party;
h) Organizing language and training courses in the Receiving Party, and also providing professional assistance to researchers and teachers of language and literature from the Sending Party who are temporarily working in scientific and educational institutions of the Receiving Party;
i) Assisting in the implementation of programs in the field of teaching foreign students and schoolchildren;
j) Providing necessary assistance and convenience for student exchange programs;

k) Assisting in the selection of candidates for training courses and recommending the appropriate educational institutions, assisting university graduate clubs and societies in maintaining contacts with these institutions, organizing training seminars for the graduates in the Receiving Party;
l) Providing library and other information services for interested organizations and private individuals of the Receiving Party, supplying them with books, newspapers, magazines, films, records, slides and other written, audio-visual or electronically transmitted material;
m) Publishing and distributing news, programs, catalogues, bulletins and other materials of educational and scientific nature;
n) Cooperating with friendship societies and associations, scientific, cultural and educational institutions in the Receiving Party and with culture and information centres of the third states for the purpose of holding joint events and projects;
o) Holding performances and implementing projects for children and youth.

2. Content, program and duration of the abovementioned educational activities of the Cultural Centres as well as the educational material to be used for such activities and the professional qualifications of the teaching personnel to be employed shall not be subject to the national laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article 7

Each Cultural Centre shall be registered as a legal entity in compliance with the legislation of the State of the Receiving Party. The Receiving Party shall facilitate the completion of this procedure. During their activities, the Cultural Centres shall be governed by the legislation of the State of the Receiving Party and by the provisions of this Agreement. Cultural Centres shall be subject to the legislation of the State of the Receiving Party in terms of administrative matters except for those regarding internal control administration.

Article 8

The Parties shall provide free public access to the activities of the Cultural Centres. Cultural Centres shall use all necessary means to inform the public for this purpose.

Article 9

1. The activities of the Cultural Centres shall not be carried out for the purpose of financial profit. The Cultural Centres shall be considered as non-profit organization in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the State of the Receiving Party.

2. In compliance with this Agreement and the national laws of the State of the Receiving Party, Cultural Centres may:
a) Charge fees for attendance at events and, registration for courses organized by the Cultural Centres,
b) Sell catalogues, posters, booklets, books, magazines, discs, didactic and audio-visual materials and other items directly connected with their activities, provided that the sale of activity items is not for any commercial reason.

Article 10

1. The Parties shall mutually assist in allocation of plots of land or buildings (offices) to be used by Cultural Centres.

2. Following obtaining of the building permit, planning and construction work of the Cultural Centres' premises shall be undertaken by the Sending Party in accordance with the local building regulations.

3. If the plots of land or buildings for the Centres' use are not initially determined, the Receiving Party shall assist in renting temporary premises.

4. Within the framework of the its national laws and regulations, the Receiving Party shall assist the Cultural Centre and its branches in obtaining the necessary permits and in completing the necessary legal requirements as soon as possible, for the construction, purchase, rent or allocation and renovation or rearrangement of the premises to be used by the Cultural Centre and its branches.

Article 11

Taxation procedures for the Cultural Centres and their personnel shall be determined by the legislation of the State of the Receiving Party, taking into account relevant international agreements in force.

Article 12

1. On the basis of reciprocity, the imported goods necessary for carrying out the activities of the Cultural Centres shall be exempt from customs duties and other import duties. These shall include the following:

a) Equipment and materials necessary for their ongoing functions;
b) Catalogues, posters, booklets, books, magazines, discs, educational, teaching and audio-visual materials related to the activities of the Cultural Centres in accordance with Article 6 of this Agreement.

2. The above-mentioned goods shall not be sold, hired, lent for free, transferred for free and collateralised, except under conditions established by the competent authorities of the Receiving Party.

Article 13

1. Each Party shall appoint the personnel of its Cultural Centres. These personnel may be the citizens of the State of the Sending Party as well as the citizens of the State of the Receiving Party.

2. The Parties shall inform each other the recruitment of the Cultural Centres' personnel, as well as of the beginning and termination of their activities.

3. The Cultural Centres and their branches shall be each administered by a Director. In the absence of the Director a Deputy Director may be appointed to provisionally administer the Cultural Centre / branch of the Cultural Centre.

4. The status of the Director of the Cultural Centre / branch of the Cultural Centre and the number of Personnel to be employed in each Cultural Centre / branch of Cultural Centre shall be determined through diplomatic correspondence.

5. The Receiving Party, within the framework of its national laws and regulations, will provide the necessary convenience to the appointed personnel who are nationals of the State of the Sending Party and to their dependent family members, for obtaining multiple entry/exit visas, as well as the provisional residence permits for work and provisional residence permits for their dependent family members, for the period of the appointment.

6. Dependent family members of the Personnel shall comprise their spouse, unmarried children who have not completed the age of 18, unmarried children pursuing secondary or vocational level studies/programmes who have not completed the age of 20, unmarried children pursuing higher education studies who have not completed the age of 25, unmarried disabled children of any age.

Article 14

1. The current labour and social security legislation of the State of the Sending Party shall apply to the Cultural Centres' personnel who are citizens of the State of the Sending Party and do not have the right of permanent residence in the State of the Receiving Party.

2. The remuneration of the employees of the Centre shall be carried out in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the Sending Party.

Article 15

1. The Receiving Party shall allow each member of the appointed personnel, who is a national of the State of the Sending Party, to import her/his household and personal goods within six months from the date of first arrival in the country, being exempt from customs duties, as well as from other taxes and financial burdens with equivalent effect and export the said goods in the same way at the end of her/his tenure and temporarily import one motor vehicle during her/his tenure, provided that she/he does not possess the nationality of the State of the Receiving Party, at the same time, and has not been residing on a permanent basis in the country of the Receiving Party prior to employment in the Cultural Centre.

2. The above-mentioned goods shall not be sold, hired, lent for free, transferred for free and collateralised, except under conditions established by the competent authorities of the Receiving Party.

Article 16

Any disputes that may arise from the interpretation and application of this Agreement shall be resolved through diplomatic channels.

Article 17

This Agreement may be amended or supplemented with the written consent of the Parties. Any amendments and additions shall be made in the form of separate Protocols, which shall be an integral part of this Agreement and enter into force in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 1 of the present Agreement.

Article 18

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification through diplomatic channels, regarding the fulfillment by the Parties of necessary domestic procedures for its ratification.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years. This Agreement shall be renewed automatically for successive periods of five years until one of the Parties notifies the other Party in writing through the diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate the Agreement at least six (6) months before its expiration date.

3. Provisions of this Agreement shall continue to be valid for the projects and activities not yet completed on the date of its termination.

Done on December 30, 2019, in Ankara, in two original copies in the Romanian, Turkish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

On behalf of
the Government of the
Republic of Moldova

Aureliu CIOCOI
Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

On behalf of
the Government of the
Republic of Turkey

Mehmet Nuri ERSOY
Minister of Culture and Tourism