MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY

ON COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS

OF THE STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM PROGRAMME

FOR THE YEARS 2023–2025

Driven by the desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries and to promote cooperation in the field of higher education, and in pursuance of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Hungary on Cultural Cooperation signed in Budapest on 19 April 1995, the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (hereinafter referred to together as the "Participants" or individually as the "Participant") have agreed to implement the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum") for the years 2023–2025.

Article 1

Objective of the Memorandum

The objective of the present Memorandum is to facilitate, in the long term, the extension of cooperation between the Participants, thus contributing, in the interest of developing a knowledge-based society, to mutually beneficial collaboration in the field of higher education.

Article 2

Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova

1. Within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Scholarship Programme"), the Hungarian Participant offers at most 40 scholarships annually to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova for pursuing studies in Hungary either in Hungarian or in a foreign language, according to the following terms:

- at most 20 scholarships annually for undergraduate (BA/BSc) studies in the fields of *Agricultural Science, Arts and Humanities, Social Science, Computer Science and Information Technology, Legal Science, Economic Science, Engineering Science, Political Science and Public Governance, Sport Science, Natural Science, Arts and Art Education* agreed upon by the Participants in accordance with the relevant Hungarian legal regulations,
- at most 10 scholarships annually for graduate (MA/MSc) studies in the fields of *Agricultural Science, Arts and Humanities, Social Science, Computer Science and Information Technology, Legal Science, Economic Science, Engineering Science, Sport Science, Natural Science, Arts, Art Education, Political Science and Public Governance* agreed upon by the Participants in accordance with the relevant Hungarian legal regulations,
- at most 5 scholarships annually for one-tier Master's (OTM) studies in the fields of *Agricultural Science, Engineering Science, Medical and Health Science, Teacher Training and Arts* agreed upon by the Participants in accordance with the relevant Hungarian legal regulations,
- at most 5 scholarships annually for full doctoral (PhD/DLA) studies in any field of interest.

2. The list of the available study programmes at the different study levels will be published by the Tempus Public Foundation (www.tpf.hu) in the given year's call for application.

3. Scholarships may be used for three (3) to ten (10) months' training programmes, as well.

Article 3

Commitments of the Hungarian Participant

1. Regarding scholarships offered in Article 2 of the present Memorandum, the Hungarian Participant undertakes to provide the following to the scholarship holders of the Republic of Moldova:

- tuition-free courses,
- dormitory places on the campus of the receiving higher-education institution or contribution to the accommodation costs as stipulated by the relevant legal regulations in effect at the time of the present Memorandum's signing,
- entitlement to health services and the option for additional health insurance covering services in a foreign language,
- use of free library services,
- monthly allowance in accordance with the prevailing legal regulations defining the amount of the scholarships for foreign students, in effect at the time of the signing of the scholarship contract.

2. The Scholarship Programme is operated by the Tempus Public Foundation on behalf of the Hungarian Participant. Further information as regards the application and the scholarship (actual monthly allowance, accommodation, entitlement to health services) will be published in the given year's call for application.

Article 4

Commitments of the Moldovan Participant

1. The Moldovan Participant undertakes to call attention to and promote the call for application and to select and rank the applicants to be nominated for the scholarships based on the applications submitted to Tempus Public Foundation. In addition to the primary list of nominees, the Moldovan Participant will also compile a secondary, standby list of applicants.

2. Every year, the Moldovan Participant undertakes to inform the Hungarian Participant, within the timeframe specified in the call for application, about the primary and secondary list of persons selected and to be nominated.

3. International travel expenses shall be covered by the recipients of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship.

Article 5

Requirements for participation in the Scholarship Programme

1. Students applying for undergraduate (BA/BSc) and undivided, one-tier master's (OTM) studies have to possess certifiable secondary education; students applying for graduate (MA/MSc) studies have to be in possession of an adequate and appropriate Bachelor's (BA/BSc) degree; students applying for full doctoral (PhD/DLA) studies have to be in possession of an adequate and appropriate graduate (MA/MSc) degree.

2. Prior to commencing studies in the Hungarian language, students without at least an intermediate-level command of Hungarian shall take part in a one-year preparatory course organized by the Hungarian Participant. The terms and scholarship conditions for students enrolled in the preparatory year will be identical to those applying to undergraduate students.

3. Students applying for studies in a language other than Hungarian shall have a relevant knowledge of that language at the level prescribed by the host institution.

4. Applicants must comply with the admission requirements of the Hungarian higher-education institution they applied to.

5. Based on the successful applications in a given application period, the Participants reserve the right to reset, in the case of mutual consent, the number of scholarships at various levels of education within the quota provided by the Hungarian Participant.

Thus, in a given year, the most outstanding students will receive the opportunity to start their scholarship studies in Hungarian higher-education institutions.

6. Scholarship holders must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of beginning their studies.

7. Any other conditions of the scholarship will be published in the given year's call for application.

Article 6

Alumni Programmes

1. In order to facilitate the development of bilateral relations, the Participants will encourage graduates of the Scholarship Programme to participate in various alumni programmes and, upon return to their home country, to maintain contact with their compatriots who have also graduated in Hungary, as well as with the Hungarian higher-education institution they have graduated from.

2. To this end, the Hungarian Participant undertakes to organize regular alumni meetings in Hungary inviting all citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have graduated from a Hungarian higher-education institution within the frameworks of the Scholarship Programme and registered in the alumni database operated by the Hungarian Participant.

3. Expenses for participating in regular meetings with students will be covered by the graduates.

Article 7

Amendment of the Memorandum

The present Memorandum may be amended by the mutual consent of the Participants in writing, through the conclusion of additional protocols, which will constitute an integral part of the Memorandum and will enter into force according to the provisions of art. 9. of the Memorandum.

Article 8

Resolution of differences

Any disputes that may arise concerning the interpretation, application or implementation of this Memorandum will be resolved in a friendly manner, through consultations or negotiations.

Article 9

Entry into effect, duration, termination

1. The present Memorandum will take effect on the day of its signing and will remain in effect until 31 December 2025.

2. Articles 2 through 5 are to be implemented from the application period starting after the present Memorandum has taken effect.

3. The present Memorandum may be terminated by either of the Participants in writing, through diplomatic channels. In this case, the termination of the Memorandum will take effect after the expiry of a six (6) months' period after receiving the notification about its termination. In the event of this Memorandum's expiry or termination, its provisions will continue to be implemented with respect to all ongoing programmes and projects until they are completed.

Done in Łódź, on 1 December 2022, in two (2) originals in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

NICOLAE POPESCU

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY

PÉTER SZIJJÁRTÓ

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY