

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
(UNESCO)**

The Republic of Lithuania and UNESCO,

affirming their commitment to the ideals of co-operation among nations through education, science, culture, communication, information and informatics, and through a trans-disciplinary approach;

recognizing the exceptional role played by UNESCO in promoting a culture of peace among and within nations in their own interests and in those of the international community;

acknowledging the contribution of the Republic of Lithuania as an active member of UNESCO to the programme of the Organization;

emphasizing the importance of strengthening the regional co-operation in the Baltic Sea region;

hereby express their intention to strengthen their co-operation in UNESCO's fields of competence, thus consolidating their efforts for future endeavours, and following the priorities expressed by Lithuania within the framework of the programme adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO's Member States, in accordance with the Medium-Term Strategy for 1996-2001:

Education

UNESCO will pursue its co-operation with the appropriate and institutions to further lifelong education for all. Special attention will be paid to:

1. new strategies and trends in the education system; the elaboration of national curricula; human resources development, management and training activities;

2. the Associated Schools Project (ASP), in which Lithuania will play a special role in extending the network in the sub-region by: organizing in autumn 1996 a sub-regional workshop in order to plan ASP pilot projects relating to a culture of peace and democratic citizenship; world heritage education as a follow-up to the Dubrovnik Youth Forum (25-31 May 1996) and the Baltic Sea Project; seeking effective ways and means to enhance closer ASP co-operation in the sub-region and with Nordic neighbours, including the use of new technologies; and producing and disseminating innovative educational resource materials on these topics;

3. higher education reform through enhanced, quality and internationalization to achieve wider access; improving education systems and strengthening their links with the world of work; the recognition of diplomas and degrees; quality assessment and accreditation and effective membership of the UNICOM network; this will be done in close co-operation with UNESCO's European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES);

4. the establishment of a UNESCO Chair in European Studies in one of Lithuania's higher education institutions during 1996-1997, with particular emphasis on the social sciences, in close co-operation with the other European Chairs in this field;

5. assisting the University of Vilnius in its efforts to establish an International Centre for Distance Education, which will apply new communication and information technologies with a view to improving education and training activities, especially the training of trainers;

6. technical and vocational education through renovation, reforms and diversification of education, aiming notably at an enhanced linkage between general and technical/vocational education;

7. the provision of advisory services and assistance towards preventive education (against HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including health education, in particular for girls and women.

Science

UNESCO will assist Lithuanian research institutions, centers and universities in their participation in national, regional and international science projects, in particular through:

1. collaboration with the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania and other research and educational institutions, in developing activities in the field of basic sciences and research (physics, applied mathematics, biology and biotechnology), hydrology and geological studies;

2. participation in the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, for the purpose of ascertaining the soundness of Lithuania's environmental policy and using the national and regional biodiversity assets for sustainable development, further promoting ecological research of ecosystems, and, primarily, further assessing and fostering Lithuania's initiative to create an International Network on Species Studies in the Baltic Area, including methods for the regulation of biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems;

3. within the framework of the Baltic Floating University Project, the participation of the University of Klaipeda in the *training-through-research* cruise, which will take place in the summer of 1996 in the Baltic Sea to study its coastal areas;

4. in the context of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the provision of technical and intellectual assistance for priority issues for international social science research, notably in the fields of socio-economic and political change, social exclusion and cohesion, multi-ethnicity and urban problems;

5. fostering closer collaboration and promoting greater synergy between the natural and social sciences in the search for appropriate solutions to urgent development problems;

6. the innovation of youth policies and programmes designed with the active participation of young people of Lithuania. In this connection, an international workshop for young people of the Baltic region will be organized in Lithuania in 1996 to analyse common problems and design strategies for co-operation.

Culture

Fully aware that memory plays a vital part in creativity, UNESCO will continue to protect the cultural heritage, promote cultures and encourage creativity with the appropriate Lithuanian institutions, in particular through:

1. the Baltic Cultural Days celebrations, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in June 1996 within the framework of UNESCO's 50th anniversary, with the active participation of Lithuanian representatives and in particular that of three Lithuanian artists for Tolerance;
2. the commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the publication of the first book in Lithuanian, *The Common Words in Catechism* by Martinas Mazvydas, in accordance with Resolution 14.1 adopted by UNESCO's General Conference its twenty-eight session;
3. assistance and technical support for the international conference on *Cultural Pluralism and Inter-Cultural Dialogue in Central and Eastern Europe*, to be held in Vilnius during 1996-1997;
4. the integration and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage within the widest range of aspects of the social and economic life of the community, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage;
5. joint preparation of the International Investors' and Donors' Conference for the Rehabilitation of Vilnius Old Town, to be held as soon as possible, towards the launching of a comprehensive urban rehabilitation programme for the Old Town, a site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and one of six priority projects to benefit from UNESCO/World Bank collaboration;
6. support for the newly-established UNESCO Information Centre for World Heritage, and assistance towards an exhibition on Old Vilnius, to be organized at UNESCO's Headquarters;
7. assistance towards the organization of a training seminar for Lithuanian restorers in 1996-1997;
8. assistance in the drafting of the necessary protective legislation for the protection of cultural property; identifying means of combating illicit traffic in cultural property; training legal experts and experts in copyright and neighbouring rights, particularly through the organization of practical courses or seminars and the supply of information;
9. assistance in the organization of a fund-raising campaign for special cultural projects, such as cultural tourism;
10. assistance in the organization of a symposium on the art critic and art historian *Jurgi Baltrusaitis*, to be held in 1996-1997.

Communication, Information and Informatics

UNESCO will assist Lithuania in playing an active role in international communication and information development, and to further encourage the free flow of ideas by word and image, by:

1. facilitating international professional networking and exchanges in particular through the ORBICOM system of UNESCO chairs, bringing together professional from communication and information, as well as professionals from industry and the academic world;
2. assisting Lithuanian media practitioners in participating in relevant international events, such as the Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralist European Media, to take place in 1997, and the

Eastern European INPUT Workshops, which aim at promoting professional exchanges among broadcasters in the field of the production of television programmes;

3. providing advisory services in research, legislation, training and technology in the field of media, communication and information;

4. assisting in the formulation of the national information and communication policies and supporting further development of such information networks as BALTBONE;

5. assisting Lithuanian libraries to participate fully in the overall network of world libraries;

6. calling on Lithuanian expertise for UNESCO's projects in informatics.

7. assisting Lithuanian media professionals in the organization of a sub-regional Baltic training seminar on the ethical aspects of journalism and media.

8. fostering Lithuanian participation in the *Memory of the World* programme.

UNESCO will carry out the commitments listed in the present Memorandum in close collaboration with the Lithuanian Commission for UNESCO, which expected to play an active role in the implementation of the activities mentioned above.

Done in Vilnius on 21 May 1996, in two original copies, each in Lithuanian and in English; in any case of divergency, the English text prevailing.

For the Republic of Lithuania

For the United Nations, Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Algirdas Brazauskas
President of the Republic

Federico Mayor
Director-General