

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

FACULTY OF ARTS OF DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

AND

FACULTY OF ARTS OF CONSTANTINE THE PHILOSOPHER UNIVERSITY IN NITRA, SLOVAKIA

PREAMBLE

Based on the mutual wish of the two faculties to further and develop scientific cooperation and academic exchange relations between them, the contracting parties sign the cooperation agreement.

A scientific cooperation and academic exchange agreement is held between the **Faculty of Arts in Damascus University** represented by its Dean Professor Doctor Samir Hassan and the **Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra** represented by its Dean Doc. PaedDr. Zdenka Gadušová, PhD.

The contracting parties agree to cooperate in the scientific and educational area, to fulfil the agreement for the benefit of both contracting parties and in this way to deepen the cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Slovakia.

ARTICLE I

FIELDS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT

The contracting parties may add fields not included in the agreement to be agreed upon through formal correspondence between both contracting parties.

## ARTICLE II

### VISITS

1. Short-term visits for representatives of both contracting parties and members of the Teaching and Scientific Staff (up to three months):
  - 1.1 The contracting parties will exchange visits for members in charge of scientific administration in the presidency of each Faculty with the aim of exchanging information and expertise in the field of higher education and scientific research, and to agree upon the conditions of conducting joint scientific research.
  - 1.2 The contracting parties will exchange visits of teaching staff members to share expertise and research results as well as lecturing and participating in conferences, symposiums, seminars and other scientific activities.
  
2. Long-term visits for the teaching and scientific staff members (minimum of four months)
  - 2.1 The contracting parties will exchange visits for teaching and scientific staff members to conduct joint scientific research in subjects of common interest. The expenses will be distributed upon the consent of the two contracting parties in accordance with the conditions stated in the research project.
  - 2.2 The contracting parties will exchange delegated teaching and scientific staff members in order to carry out scientific research and teaching missions. All the expenses connected with the stay will be covered by the home institution.
  
3. Exchange of students:
  - 3.1 The contracting parties will exchange students of all different academic levels to receive training and scientific qualification and will be allowed to take in sport and cultural activities.

ARTICLE III  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

1. The contracting parties will implement and develop joint research projects to be agreed upon by the two parties, they will exchange project-related information through direct contact between faculties and departments involved.
2. Each of the contracting parties will express willingness – upon a request from the other University to contribute to joint supervision of some of the research theses of PhD. students within the fields covered by the agreement. The decision of nominating the co-supervisor will be done in accordance with the present higher education act.
3. The contracting parties will express readiness to participate in the examining boards for the defence of some PhD. theses. The decision of nominating the co-examiners will be taken in accordance with the present higher education act.
4. The contracting parties in cooperation with the governmental authorities concerned will ensure mutual recognition of study courses and qualifications to enable students and graduates of contracting parties to pursue their studies in the other University. The contracting parties will take into consideration the provisions of existing laws in force.
5. Each contracting party will provide health and social care for the delegates.
6. The home organization may decide to provide its delegates with health insurance, especially during the transportation to the destination.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF LITERATURE AND SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

1. The contracting parties will exchange:
  - 1.1 Selected publications and periodicals issued by each contracting party as well as Master dissertations and Doctorate theses.
  - 1.2 syllabi, curricula and scientific administration regulations especially in the fields included in this agreement.
  - 1.3 information and scientific data about on different subjects of common interest in order to establish a databank.
2. The two contracting parties will encourage the publishing of research and scientific papers issued by either of contracting parts in periodicals and scientific reviews published by the other contracting party.

#### ARTICLE V

##### EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

1. Upon signing the present agreement, both contracting parties will sign a two year executive program which includes exact specifications of all details required to execute the agreement such as duration, number and character of exchange visits and joint research rules and conditions for the selection of candidate-students, post-graduates, teaching and scientific staff members to be exchanged by the two contracting parties.
2. Required executive programs are to be organized consecutively during the enforcement of the agreement.

ARTICLE VI  
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

A joint committee from both contracting parties will be formed with the main task of drawing up executive programs and supervising the implementation of the present agreement as well as suggesting prospects, methods and means for developing of cooperation between the two contracting parties.

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. No financial commitment is undertaken by the two contracting parties signing this agreement.
2. Financial coverage of each activity agreed will be discussed separately except of the following:
  - 2.1 Short-term visits
    - a) Home organization undertakes to cover travel expenses of its delegates (return ticket),
    - b) Host organization covers accommodation expenses of the delegates received,
    - c) Ways of covering costs any of activities organized by receiving institution are to be agreed upon by formal correspondence.
  - 2.2 Long-term visits:
    - a) Home organization covers travel expenses of its delegates (return ticket),
    - b) Host organization covers the accommodation expenses of the delegates received,
    - c) Ways of covering costs any of activities organized by receiving institution are to be agreed upon by formal correspondence.
3. The contracting parties will seek additional funds to execute the joint cooperation.

ARTICLE VIII  
EXCHANGE SUPPORT

The contracting parties will offer support to participants in the exchange programme in the form of information and facilities required.

ARTICLE IX  
RECOGNITION AND VALIDATION

1. This agreement will last for four years to be renewed automatically unless one of the two contracting parties expressed a wish to cancel the agreement through a formal request submitted in writing within at least six months notice.
2. New articles can be added upon the consent of the contracting parties – to the present agreement while it is still valid.
3. This agreement is enforced from the date of its signing by the representatives of both contracting parties.
4. Upon cancellation, terms of the present agreement remain valid in case of delegates already dispatched in accordance with the agreement until the end of their designated term. The same applies for research projects and activities till their completion.
5. This agreement is written in NITRA on 14-04-2003 in two original copies in Slovak and English with equal validity for each of them.



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