



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

## **BETWEEN**

## LEPL SHOTA RUSTAVELI NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA

### AND

# THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

LEPL Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia and the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

Willing to develop strong cooperation links in the field of research and technology under the Agreement of Cooperation in the fields of Education and Science between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia signed on May 3 1997.

Wishing to promote the implementation of bilateral cooperative programs in the areas of mutual interest,

Wishing to contribute to the success of the Georgian and Armenian joint initiatives in the frames of the EU Horizon Europe framework program for research and innovation and on other international platforms,

have agreed upon the following:

### Article I

## **Purpose**

Within the framework of the present Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will foster the cooperation between the scientific communities of their Countries.

The present Memorandum of Understanding is aimed at developing and strengthening scientific cooperation between scientists and research groups, enabling the mutual use of infrastructures.

The Parties will encourage the exchange of scientific data and information and will mutually foster basic and applied research.

The Parties will encourage the exchange of scientific personnel giving priority to young researchers.

#### Article II

## Forms of Cooperation

The cooperation between the Parties will be conducted by the following means:

- a) Joint research projects,
- b) Joint projects aimed at promoting mobility of researchers,
- c) Joint workshops, seminars, conferences,

Further activities of cooperation may be included upon approval by the Parties.

The Parties will coordinate the bilateral funding of joint research projects of mutual interest on a case-to-case basis building on their respective funding schemes.

The details and the Cooperation Programme for each form of cooperation will be decided by the Parties. The Parties will revise each Cooperation Programme at least every two years.

The Parties will elaborate joint proposals for participation in the Horizon Europe, the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

#### Article III

## Financial Aspects

The activities foreseen under this Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented by the Parties according to their budget availability without any additional cost for the state budgets of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia.

Each Party will cover the costs of the participating researchers from its own country. The number of projects, mobility schemes and workshops and any other cooperative activity will be established every two years in the renewed Cooperation Programme which will be contingent upon each Party's budget availability.

#### Article IV

## Observance of Regulations

Participating scientists agree to respect the laws of the receiving Country and the regulations of the host institutions.

#### Article V

## **Intellectual Properties**

According to the national legislations of their respective Countries, the Parties will make the scientific and technical information, obtained during the cooperation period, available to the worldwide scientific community by using the accepted dissemination ways.

The treatment of intellectual property created in the course of cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be provided for in the Cooperation Programme, unless decided otherwise by the Parties in writing.

#### Article VI

#### Other Matters

Administrative procedures and implementation details not dealt with in this Memorandum of Understanding will be provided separately in the Cooperation Programmes or established via correspondence between the Parties.

Any difference in the interpretation and implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably by means of direct consultation and negotiation between the Parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in accordance with the Georgian and Armenian legislations, as well as applicable international laws.

### Article VII

## Entry into Force, Amendments, Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding takes effect on the date of signature and remains valid for a period of four years. Either Party may notify the other of its intention to terminate it at least six months before the expiration date, in which case any existing program will be brought to an orderly conclusion. This Memorandum of Understanding will be automatically renewed for further periods of four years in the absence of a termination notice by either Party.

The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing by mutual consent between the Parties.

Any dispute arising out of the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be amicably settled by means of direct consultation and negotiation between the Parties.

Done in Tbilisi, on October 20, 2022, in two originals, each in the Georgian, Armenian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text will prevail.

For

LEPL Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia For

The Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia

JABA SAMUSHIA

SARGIS HAYOTSYAN

DIRECTOR GENERAL

CHAIRMAN