

PROTOCOL
on Co-operation in Science and Technology

between

**The National Agency for Research and Development
of the Republic of Moldova**

and

**The Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science,
Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia**

The National Agency for Research and Development of the Republic of Moldova and the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

On the basis of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the cooperation in the field of education and science, signed on 16 November 2016,

Recognising the importance of science and technology in the development of their national economies,

Wishing to strengthen and develop scientific and technological co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Preamble

The Parties shall encourage and support co-operation in the field of science and technology between research entities, universities and research institutes of the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Armenia according to the provisions of this Protocol and the existing national legislation and regulations of each Party.

Article 2
Forms of Co-operation

The co-operation will have the following forms in particular:

- 2.1. Joint research, innovation and development projects, including exchange of scientists, specialists and researchers;
- 2.2. Organising and participating in joint scientific meetings, conferences, symposia, courses, workshops, exhibitions, etc.;
- 2.3. Exchange of scientific and technical research results in all domains, information and documentations arising from the bilateral scientific and technological cooperation;
- 2.4. Joint use of research and development facilities and scientific equipment;
- 2.5. Other forms of scientific and technological co-operation which may be mutually agreed upon.

Article 3
Other forms of cooperation

- 3.1. Parties will collaborate within the context of participation in the European Union Framework Programmes (EU FPs) for research and innovation.
- 3.2. The executive details concerning the cooperation in the EU FPs will be elaborated by the Joint Committee.

Article 4
Areas of Mutual Interest

- 4.1. Considering priority objectives for their respective countries, the Parties will develop cooperation in the following fields of common interest:
 - a. Natural Sciences
 - b. Engineering and Technology
 - c. Medical and Health Sciences
 - d. Agricultural Sciences
 - e. Social Sciences and Humanities
- 4.2. Other areas of interest may be included by mutual written consent.

Article 5
Joint Committee

- 5.1. For the purpose of implementing this Protocol, a Joint Committee, composed of equal number of representatives designated by the two Parties, shall be established. The tasks of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:
 - a. Identifying the fields of co-operation on the basis of information delivered by institutions of each country and the national policies in science and technology;
 - b. Creating favourable conditions for the implementation of this Protocol;
 - c. Facilitating the implementation of joint programmes and projects;
 - d. Encouraging exchange of experience arising from the bilateral scientific and technological co-operation and evaluating proposals for its further development.
- 5.2. The Joint Committee meetings are arranged by mutual agreement when matters requiring detailed discussion arise. However, the Joint Committee may also operate by correspondence.
- 5.3. The Joint Committee may elaborate its own rules of procedure.

Article 6
Joint Research and Development Projects

In accordance of the provisions of the Article 2.1. of the present Protocol, the launch of joint research, innovation and development calls for project proposals will be implemented as follows:

- 6.1. The Parties will publish simultaneously a Call for Proposals every two years.
- 6.2. Project proposals have to provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.

- 6.3. Project proposals prepared in the English language should be submitted for evaluation and approval simultaneously to the National Agency for Research and Development of the Republic of Moldova and the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. Unless both Parties agree otherwise in writing, proposals will be independently evaluated and approved by each of the two Parties, following their own rules and regulations, and only those proposals which are approved by both Parties will be supported.
- 6.4. The execution period of a joint research project should not exceed 2 (two) years.
- 6.5. Reporting on scientific visits shall be made in compliance with internal rules and regulations of the Parties. Within two months after completion of the execution period, Final Report presenting the work carried out and the results obtained, will be prepared in English jointly by the two research teams and submitted to the National Agency for Research and Development of the Republic of Moldova and the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia.
- 6.6. Besides the financial support towards the exchange of project researchers mentioned above, the Parties may provide additional research funds to their respective project teams whenever they consider it appropriate. It is desirable but not essential to fund the teams of both Parties equally.

Article 7 Expenses

The costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists, resulting from this Protocol, unless mutually agreed otherwise in writing, will be covered on the following basis:

- 7.1 The sending Party will meet all related costs connected with travel, lodging and allowances according to their own regulations and allowances.
- 7.2 The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists, including medical care.

Article 8 Dissemination of Resulting Information

8.1 Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this Protocol, will be shared, announced, published or commercially exploited with the written consent of both cooperating partners and according to the international agreements concerning intellectual property rights to which states of the both Parties are signatories.

8.2 An agreement about ownership of intellectual property rights has to be signed between cooperating partners before execution of a joint research, innovation and development project. The said agreement shall be concluded in compliance with national legislation and regulations of the Parties.

8.3 Scientists, technical experts and institutions of the third countries or international organisations may be invited, upon written consent of the both co-operating partners, to participate in projects and programmes being carried out under this Protocol. The cost of

such participation shall normally be borne by third countries, unless both sides Parties agree otherwise in writing.

**Article 9
Implementation and Legal Aspects**

9.1 This Protocol is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an international agreement binding upon the States of the Parties under international law. No provision of this Protocol shall be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments for the States of the Parties.

9.2 Any dispute related to the interpretation or implementation of this Protocol shall be settled through consultations within the Joint Committee or between the Parties.

9.3 With respect to the co-operation activities established under this Protocol, each Party shall take, in accordance with the respective national legislations of their States, all necessary measures to ensure the best possible conditions for their implementation.

9.4 This Protocol shall not affect the validity or execution of any obligation arising from other international treaties or agreements concluded by the States of the Parties.

9.5 This Protocol may be amended at any time through mutual written consent of the Parties.

**Article 10
Initiation and Termination**

10.1 This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of signing and is valid for a period of five (5) years and shall automatically be renewed each time for further periods of five (5) years, unless either Party notifies the other Party in writing of its intention to terminate it no later than 6 (six) months before the end of the respective period.

10.2 The termination of this Protocol will come into effect in six months from the receiving date of the written notification. The termination of this Protocol shall not affect the projects or programmes undertaken under it and not fully executed at the time of the termination of it.

Signed on 7 Oct 2024, in two originals, each in the English language.

For the National Agency for Research and
Development of the Republic of Moldova
Ms. Aurelia HANGANU, Dr. hab.



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For the Higher Education and Science
Committee of the Ministry of Education,
Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of
Armenia

Mr. Sargis HAYOTSYAN, Dr



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