

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on establishing the

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL PLATFORM ON

SCIENCE,

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EVALUATION

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to express the availability and the commitment of each of the signing parties (called hereinafter collectively "the parties") to participate in joint activities which aim to create a regional Eastern Partnership platform on science, technology, and innovation evaluation, including the enhancement of review procedures for scientific research proposals (hereinafter "platform").

II. Objectives

The main goal of the platform is to facilitate the exchange among the participating organisations exploring the potential of evaluation in the STI domain and to set concrete actions that facilitate learning from current practice and improved utilisation of the potential of STI evaluation. This concerns all levels of evaluation and puts specific emphasis on joint (peer) review processes supporting national funding and grant schemes or potential joint funding activities. The core objective is to allow the sharing of experiences in the Eastern Partnership countries and learning from existing practice in EU Member States or in/with other relevant world regions.

III. Joint activities

In this context, the parties have agreed on the following:

- The parties will perform concerted actions aimed on building a permanent joint platform on review of scientific research proposals.
- The signatories will provide access to their pool of experts contributing in such a way to establishing a common evaluation experts database. In a pilot phase, bilateral procedures will be defined that facilitate the case-by-case sharing of databases or facilitate the exchange of potential evaluators (reviewers) for upcoming national calls.
- The parties will promote the internationalisation of review and procedures as a tool both to avoid conflicts of interests in the case of small research communities and to enhance the quality of research proposals.
- The parties will establish similar transparent evaluation procedures by aligning the existing procedures to the ones applied by the European Commission and to best practices of EU member states.

- To define a set of activities that will be attached to this MoU identifying concrete actions in response to existing challenges in the STI evaluation domain.
- To identify necessary national funding sources and to complement sources from existing international funding bodies such as the EC in order to implement the identified activities.

The Annex describes the planned activities at the time of signature of the MoU. Additional activities can be agreed between the parties to this MoU.

Financial agreements are not subject to the MoU and need to be defined in Implementation Agreements. At the time of signature no financial commitments are stated. Whenever activities require financial operations or payments (to involved parties or external parties), agreements between the parties must be defined in writing.

IV. Duration and entering into force

This MoU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials of the organisations representing at least three out of the six Eastern Partnership countries and will remain in effect for the signatories until terminated by mutual consent. This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials, this MoU shall end.

This MoU and the attached annex comprising the activity descriptions constitute the complete agreement between the parties and may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties involved.

V. Institutional framework

After signing this MoU, each Party will appoint a representative for the implementation of this MoU. The representative will promote the implementation of the cooperation and facilitate exchange of information between the Parties on matters of common interest.

VI. Final remarks

The signed MoU document will be collected by the current host of the activities and will be handed over to the next hosting organisation (originals in paper). Each signatory receives a copy of the signed documents of all MoU signatories from the host once the MoU signing process is completed.

EU Member state authorities are invited to join the activities and can formally join the agreement by signing the MoU. Other countries are invited to cooperate.

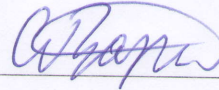
VII. Signatures

Armenia

Signing organisation: **State Committee of Science**
The Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Armenia

Authorized official: Mr. Vardan Sahakyan
Deputy Chairman

Signature



Address: 22 Orbeli Brothers Street,
Yerevan, 0028, Armenia

Phone number(s): Telephone: (374 10) 21 01 40
109

E-mail: info@scs.am

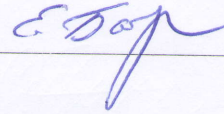
Date: 27/06/2016
Place: Tbilisi, Georgia

Azerbaijan

Signing organisation: **Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Authorized official: Dr. Elchin Safaraly-
oglu Babayev
Executive Director

Signature



Address: Yusif Safarov Street, 27,
floor 9 Baku, Azerbaijan

Date: 27/06/2016
Place: Tbilisi, Georgia

Phone number(s): (+994 12) 489 08 94

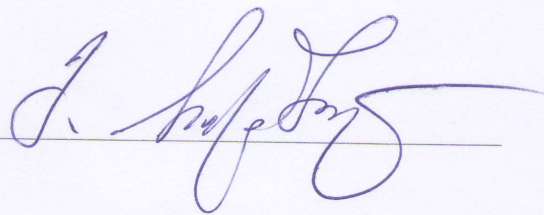
E-mail: info@elmfondu.az

Georgia

Signing organisation: **LEPL Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSF)**

Authorized official: Dr. Marine Chitashvili
Director General

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Chitashvili', is written over a horizontal line.

Address: #1 Aleksidze street,
Tbilisi, 0179 Georgia

Date: 27/06/2016
Place: Tbilisi, Georgia

Phone number(s): +995 32 2 200 220

E-mail: info@rustaveli.org.ge

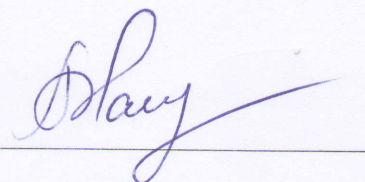
Moldova

Signing organisation: **Academy of Sciences of Moldova**

Authorized official: Ms. Aurelia HANGANU

General Secretary Scientific

Signature



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Chisinau, MD-2001,
Republic of Moldova

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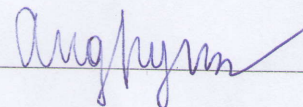
The Ukraine

Signing organisation: **State Fund for Fundamental Research of Ukraine**

Authorized official: Ms. Valentyna
ANDRUSHCHENKO

Signature

Head of The
Organization of
Fundamental Research
in Engineering and
Natural Sciences
Department



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