

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

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The Republic of Latvia and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Bearing in mind their commitment to the ideals of peace and *convinced* of the importance of the collaboration among nations through education, science, culture, communication in order to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Having regard to UNESCO's efforts aimed at shaping the culture of peace and strengthening mutual understanding between nations, groups of people and individuals and its role in the celebration of International Year for the Culture of Peace;

Acknowledging the contribution of the Republic of Latvia as an active member of UNESCO to the programmes of the Organization;

Greatly appreciating the results achieved by the Republic of Latvia towards integrating European structures and *fully sharing* the conviction that increased attention should be given to strengthening cooperation with intergovernmental organizations in Europe such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the OECD and the European Union;

Stressing the importance of regional strategies in UNESCO programme activities responding to the priority needs of the Baltic countries and *emphasizing* the importance of promoting - through the National Commissions - collaborative research, academic, educational and cultural programmes in partnership with regional organizations, such as the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Baltic Assembly, and other partners in the countries of the Baltic Sea region;

Noting the coordinating role of the Latvian Commission for UNESCO in formulating and stimulating inputs from the intellectual community into the work of UNESCO, as well as in mobilizing partnerships in society, in particular with members of government, mayors, parliamentarians, etc.

Considering the growing role played by civil society and the need to reinforce cooperation, in particular with non-governmental organizations;

Reconfirm their willingness to continue and increase the efforts jointly undertaken in accordance with the objectives, strategies and priorities set forth in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (1996-2001) and their implementation under the Programme and Budget for 1998-1999 and *agree* on the following:

Education

1. Latvia will strengthen its cooperation within the framework of the Associated Schools Project (ASP), in particular within the Baltic Sea Project aiming to increase students' awareness of environmental problems and within the project "Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion". With a view to raising the awareness of the world heritage and ecological problems among young people in Latvia, every effort will be made to develop school curricula and introduce innovative teaching materials in these subjects. Special attention will be given to the strengthening of cooperation between the ASP schools in the Baltic Sea region. UNESCO will support the organization of an international conference on inter-ethnic dialogue "Promoting Tolerance and Human Rights" which will be organized in Riga in January 1999.
2. Through its International Project on Technical and Vocational Education (UNEVOC), UNESCO will assist the relevant national institutions in the reform of technical and vocational educational structures and curriculum development. Latvia will participate in the second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education to be held in Seoul in 1999 and will contribute to its preparation.
3. UNESCO will assist Latvia in fostering preventive education against AIDS and drug abuse in the context of comprehensive health education.
4. Latvia will seek to contribute further to the preparation of the World Conference on Higher Education to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in October 1998, by delegating experts and specialists.
5. In order to contribute to the rapid transfer and sharing of knowledge via inter-university links and exchanges, UNESCO will provide assistance through its UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme. A UNESCO Chair in Civic Education will be established in one of Latvia's higher educational institutions in 1999.
6. The Parties will cooperate in the developing international normative instruments. Special attention will be given to the implementation of the Joint Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in the Higher Education in the European Region and the International Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel.
7. Latvia will enhance its cooperation with UNESCO's European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES), the International Bureau of Education (IBE), the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and the UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE), in particular in the fields of lifelong education, training of teacher trainers, higher education policy and management of higher education institutions.

Science

1. The Parties will develop their cooperation in the field of natural and social sciences on the basis of the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between UNESCO and the Latvian Academy of Science, signed in December 1997.
2. With the support of UNESCO, Latvia will continue to strengthen further its contribution to the work of the international scientific programmes, through its participation in the governing bodies and the activities of the national committees as follows:
 - (a) Latvia will enhance national and regional cooperation in interdisciplinary ecological research through national and regional Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme activities and implement the 1995 Seville Strategy by promoting the judicious use of natural resources and ecosystems. UNESCO will support the further collaboration of the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve with the World Network. In addition, UNESCO will ensure that the appropriate authorities concerned with MAB and the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve are encouraged to participate in the EuroMAB Network;
 - (b) Under its International Hydrological Programme (IHP), UNESCO will contribute to the development of national capacities in water resources management and the promotion of public awareness of water-related issues, in particular in the Baltic Sea area;
 - (c) Under the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, UNESCO will assist Latvia in the implementation of projects and activities aimed at the management of multicultural and multi-ethnic societies, the governance of cities and coping with global-local issues. UNESCO will contribute to enhancement of national capacity for disseminating the MOST scientific information to policy-makers and the public at large through a project prepared by sociologists from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Latvia;
3. Latvia will participate actively in UNESCO's efforts to implement the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, as well as in the work of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology.
4. The Latvian Academy of Science and Latvian higher educational institutions will cooperate in the preparation of the World Science Conference (scheduled for 1999).
5. Within the framework of the World Solar Programme (1996-2005), UNESCO will assist Latvia in the implementation of a pilot project on solar village development in Mazirbe, aiming to demonstrate possibilities for improving living conditions of the target population in a coastal zone of the Baltic Sea through the promotion and wide utilization of renewable energies.

6. UNESCO will provide support for Latvia's activities in the field of biotechnology, including the establishment of the International Centre of Biomedicine and Biotechnology in Riga.

7. In cooperation with the relevant institutions and bodies in the region, UNESCO will support Latvia in its efforts to develop a cross-sectorial pilot project on sustainable coastal development. In this connection, UNESCO is prepared to support the establishment of a UNESCO Chair at the University of Latvia.

Culture

1. In its efforts to enhance cultural policy-making Latvia will take into account the Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development as outlined by the International Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, held in Stockholm, 30 March - 2 April, 1998.

2. Latvia will make efforts to strengthen the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. UNESCO will continue to assist Latvia in safeguarding and revitalizing its tangible and intangible heritage, particularly the Historic Centre of Riga, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997. In this context, UNESCO will continue to support Latvia in the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds for the preservation of its heritage. In addition, the World Heritage Centre will collaborate with the Latvian authorities in order to raise public awareness of World Heritage values.

3. UNESCO is prepared to support the celebration of the 800th Anniversary of Riga in 2001.

4. On the basis of existing environmental, cultural, social and infrastructural conditions, projects seeking to establish a combined tourism development and conservation strategy in Latvia will be developed.

5. The Parties will collaborate in the field of legislation concerning the protection of the rights of artists.

6. In order to encourage cultural exchanges, UNESCO will continue to support the participation of Latvian artists in training seminars, workshops and international conferences. Within the framework of a network of cultural centres in the Baltic Sea area, Latvia will participate in the UNESCO-supported activities of the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby.

Communications, Information and Informatics

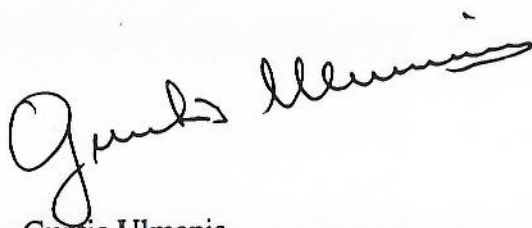
1. The Parties will cooperate in promoting the free flow of information and the development of independent and pluralistic media. Latvia will participate in international communication and information networks.
2. UNESCO will provide advisory services in legislation and support the training of Latvian specialists in the field of media, communication and information. In order to provide opportunities for training and professional exchanges for Latvian TV programme-makers, UNESCO will continue to support their participation in Eastern European INPUT Workshops.
3. Through access to UNESCO's General Information Programme (PGI), the Parties will cooperate with a view to promoting the development of library networks and archive services and ensuring the implementation of the "Memory of the World" Programme.
4. Under the Participation Programme, UNESCO will support the organization of an international conference "Freedom of Expression, Censorship, Libraries", to be held in Riga in 1998.

UNESCO will cooperate closely with the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO in the implementation of above-mentioned activities and projects.

The provisions of this Memorandum of Cooperation shall be applied provisionally upon its signature. It shall enter into force on the date when the Government of the Republic of Latvia will notify UNESCO that the national procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Memorandum of Cooperation have been completed.

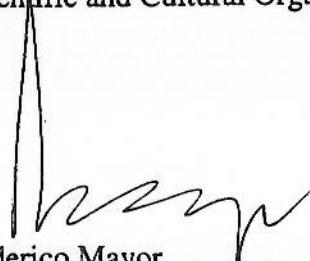
Done in Riga on 29 June 1998, in two copies, in Latvian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Republic of Latvia



Guntis Ulmanis
President

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization



Federico Mayor
Director-General