

**Memorandum of Understanding between
the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania,
the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia,
and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia
on
Closer Co-operation in Higher Education, Research and Innovation**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, hereinafter jointly referred to as “Parties”,

NOTING the continuing successful cooperation in the areas of research and higher education;

CONSIDERING the purposes set forth by the National Reform Programmes to foster implementation of the goals of Europe 2020 Strategy and the Guidelines of the European Commission for Programming of the Cohesion policy for the financial planning period 2014–2020;

SEEKING to strengthen cooperation between universities, research institutions, innovative industries and investors for mutual benefit of the development of research and innovation;

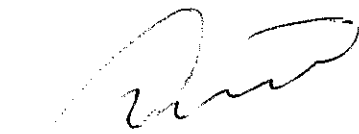
REFERRING to the statements made by the Prime Ministers and Ministers responsible for Education and Research;

TAKING into account the agreements reached in the meetings of the leaders of the national universities, research institutions and Academies of Science, have reached the following understanding:

1. The purpose of this Memorandum is to strengthen the cooperation of the Parties in developing coordinated research and development policy and fostering innovation, in particular to meet the conditionality recommendations of the European Union for the next financial planning period for EU structural funds in 2014 – 2020.
2. In execution of this Memorandum the Parties:
 - 2.1. shall exchange information on setting national priorities and elaborating the National Development Plans, National Reform Programs and programming activities for EU structural funds;
 - 2.2. shall exchange information about participation of each country’s research and higher education institutions in the activities of national and EU funded R&D development activities;

- 2.3. shall exchange information on external and national evaluation of R&D systems;
- 2.4. shall coordinate R&D infrastructure development plans, national RI roadmaps and national ICT network developments;
- 2.5. shall support actions aiming to coordinate and create a basis for constant exchange of information on research, technology transfer and innovative industries in areas of smart specialization of each country as well as identifying common priorities and areas of synergetic cooperation;
- 2.6. shall promote the mobility of researchers, doctoral and postgraduate students between the countries in order to increase the efficiency of the use of the unique R&D infrastructure objects and relevant specialized study programmes or life-long-learning courses.
3. In carrying out of this Memorandum the Parties:
- 3.1. shall nominate the coordinators;
- 3.2. shall establish joint ministerial working group (or groups) to execute the tasks mentioned in the point 2 of this Memorandum;
- 3.3. shall produce comprehensive analytical report on the state of art of the R&D infrastructure and human resource in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
4. This Memorandum does not create to the Parties any rights or obligations under international law.
5. This Memorandum is intended to commence upon its signing by all three Parties and remain valid till December 31, 2020.
6. This Memorandum may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.
7. This Memorandum may, at any time, be terminated by any Party upon informing other Parties in writing. The Party wanting to terminate its participation should provide the other Parties with a written notice at least six (6) months in advance.

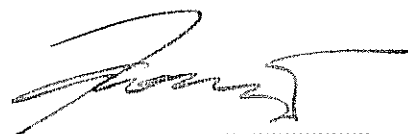
For the Ministry
of Education and Science
of the Republic of Lithuania



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Minister

In Vilnius on 29.11, 2012

For the Ministry
of Education and Research
of the Republic of Estonia



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Minister

In Tartu on 13.11, 2012

For the Ministry
of Education and Science
of the Republic of Latvia



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Minister

In Riga on 12-11-2012, 2012