

PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
FOR THE YEARS 2009-2011

The Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

Expressing their mutual intention to implement the Agreement between the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Government of the State of Israel pertaining to Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science, signed in Prague on 29 April 1991;

Led by a common interest in strengthening and developing their mutual cooperation in the field of culture, education, research and development;

Convinced that this cooperation shall contribute to the development of their mutual relations, scientific and research relations and also to raising awareness, particularly among the youth in both countries, about the history and culture of the Czech Republic, the Jewish people and the State of Israel:

Have agreed as follows:

SCIENCE

Article 1

The Parties shall encourage the establishment and development of direct cooperation between universities and research institutes in the Czech Republic and in the State of Israel and the implementation of research projects of joint interest. A specification of the content and focus of this cooperation falls within the terms of reference of the respective universities and cooperating research institutes.

Article 2

The Parties shall encourage participation of scientists and researchers in bilateral conferences. The conditions of such exchanges shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Article 3

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of scientific information and publications.

EDUCATION

Article 4

The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of education and professional training at primary schools, secondary schools, conservatoires, tertiary professional schools and higher education institutions.

Article 5

The Parties shall exchange up to three specialists in all levels of education and one inclusive education expert for a study visit during the validity of this Programme. The length of each stay shall not exceed five working days.

Article 6

The Parties shall encourage cooperation between their higher education institutions based on direct agreements.

Article 7

The Parties shall promote exchanges of teachers, researchers and specialists from universities and other higher education institutions for study and lecturing visits for a total length of four weeks annually.

Article 8

1. The Parties shall promote the exchange of information, experience and documentation in the following areas: education system of both countries, relation of the education systems of both countries towards international organisations and institutions (UNESCO, OECD, European Commission, European Parliament), further education of teachers, education of children, pupils and students with special educational needs (e.g. disabled, mentally or physically handicapped persons or socially disadvantaged persons, persons with learning disabilities), education of gifted children, new trends in the area of decentralisation and school autonomy, integration of children at risk and integration of children of immigrants; the Czech Republic in its capacity as an EU Member State shall offer information, experience and source materials pertaining to innovation in education on EU level.
2. The Parties shall encourage cooperation among schools on various projects, using information and communication technologies (ICT).
3. The Parties shall encourage organisation of seminars for further education of teachers, aimed at enhancing knowledge about the other state.
4. The Parties shall also encourage cooperation between teacher training institutions.

Article 9

By request, the competent authorities of the Parties shall do their utmost to provide the other Party with textbooks required for instruction at elementary and secondary schools in order to familiarize themselves with their contents, mainly in the field of history, geography and arts.

Article 10

1. The Israeli Party shall annually offer up to four scholarships to students of higher education institutions holding B.A. or M.A. degrees or their equivalents who are nominated by the Czech Party, each for a period of eight months.
2. The Czech Party shall annually offer up to four scholarships to students of higher education institutions holding B.A. or M.A. degrees or their equivalents, who are nominated by the Israeli Party, each for a period of eight months.
3. Scholarships shall be granted within the limits of the budget of the Parties.

Article 11

1. The Israeli Party shall annually offer to the Czech Party up to four scholarships for the study of Modern Hebrew on the "ULPAN" summer course within the limit of its respective budget.
2. The Czech Party shall annually offer to the Israeli Party up to four scholarships for the study of the Czech language on the "Summer School of Slavonic Studies" within the limit of its respective budget.

Article 12

1. The Parties shall strive to pursue the Stockholm Declaration adopted within the framework of the International Conference on the Holocaust held in January 2000 and shall attempt to implement it in practice.
2. In this context, the Parties shall support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and anti-Semitism.

Article 13

Both Parties shall take measures to prevent the publication of textbooks that incite racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes.

Article 14

The Parties shall encourage participation of teachers, in particular history teachers, in courses devoted to the history of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, which are organized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. A three-week course for English speaking participants will be conducted each year in January and July.

Article 15

The Parties shall encourage participation of Czech social science teachers in courses aimed at the history of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism organised by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem.

Article 16

The Parties shall consider steps facilitating the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other documents proving a completed level of education, which are issued by educational establishments in the state of the other Party in accordance with valid legal regulations of the state of the respective Party.

The Parties shall exchange information regarding the recognition of diplomas, certificates and other documents proving a completed level of education.

S P O R T S

Article 17

The Parties shall encourage mutual exchanges of sports teams, coaches, specialists and materials relating to physical training and sports. With view to the principles of sports autonomy and subsidiarity (both Parties) offer to identify suitable sports partners (in their respective countries), mediation of contacts and recommendation of entities interested in direct cooperation with sports partners in the state of the other Party.

Y O U T H

Article 18

1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of youth (e.g. exchange of experts and information).
2. The Parties agree that the exchange of youth and young adults shall constitute a major contribution to relations between the two countries. They shall therefore encourage such exchange Programmes.
3. The parties shall encourage cooperation concerning the inclusion of excluded youth and Programmes dealing with transition to the working life (preparation to work).
4. Details about the exchange Programmes shall be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Council and the Department for Youth of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

C U L T U R E

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Article 19

The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage of their countries.

Article 20

The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They will also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity materials as well as information on seminars that may be of interest to the other Party.

Article 21

The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between the National Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Prague and Israel Antiquities Authority in Israel. For this purpose they shall exchange up to 3 experts, each for a period of up to 5 days, during the validity of this Programme.

COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 22

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sport, youth and communications in the framework of UNESCO, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

LIBRARIES

Article 23

The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation and international exchange of publications between national libraries of both countries or between other cultural and information institutions and they will further develop cooperation in the area of new technologies, with the aim to make the cultural heritage accessible to the public. For this purpose they shall exchange up to 2 experts, each for a period up to 5 days, during the validity of this Programme.

EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

Article 24

General review: The Parties welcome the continuing level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the countries. The Parties reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in the two countries.

The Parties shall endeavour to support initiatives designed to assist organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in the Czech Republic and cultural activities of Czech origin in Israel.

The Parties shall support the exchange of artistic groups or individuals participating in tours and festivals, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures as well as meetings involving the exchange of information and experience in the fields of music, theatre, dance, visual and plastic arts, design and so on.

For that purpose, up to 20 man-days will be allotted annually subject to budget limitations of each Party.

Article 25

Festivals: Both Parties shall encourage exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of folklore, music, dance and theatre. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on principles of reciprocity. The Parties shall exchange 1-3 experts in the spheres of festivals, for a period of up to 5 days, in order to share information and promote the cooperation in this field.

Both Parties will inform each other in advance about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation.

Article 26

The Parties shall inform each other about major exhibition projects in the area of visual arts and design that may be of interest to the other Party. Within their budgetary possibilities, the Parties shall encourage and support the exchange of exhibitions between galleries, museums and other exhibition venues. The support shall be provided on the principles of reciprocity, concrete projects and the extent of their support shall be agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 27

Both Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between architects and their institutions. The parties shall promote exchange of architects as well as information and exhibitions. For this purpose both Parties shall exchange 1 expert for up to 5 days, during the validity of this Programme.

Article 28

The Parties shall support direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions, such as the cooperation between the Terezin Memorial and the Jewish Museum in Prague on one side and museum institutions in the State of Israel, Yad Vashem, Beit Theresienstadt and the Diaspora Museum on the other side.

Article 29

Music: The Parties shall support the presentation of the work of composers from their states in the other state. They shall also support direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions and associations and orchestras in the area of classical and contemporary music.

The Parties shall strive to facilitate the participation of musicians from their states as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

Article 30

The Parties welcome the existence of an annual musical seminar organised by Beit Theresienstadt in Israel, on music that was played in Terezin during the Holocaust, in which young Czech and Israeli musicians participate among others.

Article 31

Dance and Theatre: Both Parties shall encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts and producers of dance festivals as well as actors, directors, playwrights, critics and others. The Parties shall also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

The Parties shall support the project of Czech-Israeli and Israeli- Czech Season in 2009. On the Czech side the project is organized by the Arts Institute-Theatre Institute in Prague. Within the frame of this project a few theatre performances will take place in both countries as well as exchange of artists and experts. These will be accompanied by for instance exhibitions in Tel Aviv, lectures on Czech respectively Israeli drama in both countries. The anthology of Czech drama in Hebrew and Israeli drama in Czech is being prepared for publication.

Article 32

The Czech Party invites the Israeli Party to participate in the international exhibition of scenography and theatre stage design, the Prague Quadrennial, in 2011.

The Israeli Party invites the Czech Party to participate in major festivals held in Israel such as:

- The Israel Festival, Jerusalem (in May/June, Annual)
- Artur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition (Triennial, dates variable)
- Carmiel International Dance Festival (Annual, in July)
- International Exposure at the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance Tel-Aviv (Annual, in December)
- International conference, Isra- Drama and international exposure for theatre (annual, in December).
- Jerusalem International Book Fair (Biennial, in February)
- Red Sea International Jazz Festival (Annual, in August)
- Haifa International Theatre Festival for Children and Youth (Annual, in April)
- Safed International Klezmer Festival (Annual, in July or August)
- Dance-Europa at the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theatre (Annual, Oct-Nov)
- Felicja Blumental International Music Festival (Annual, in May)

The International Festival for Puppet Theater in Jerusalem (Annual, in August)

The Keshet Eilon International Violin Master courses in western Galilee (Annual, in September)

The kfar Blum Chamber Music Festival (Annual, in July)

Article 33

The Parties shall support cooperation in the area of non-professional artistic activities and traditional folk culture, i.e. cooperation between professional institutions, national centers of the international non-governmental organizations, exchange of artistic groups and artists at the international festivals in both countries, participation of lecturers, judges and observers at the events.

Czech side proposes participation at following festivals:

Jiráskův Hronov

International folklore festival in Strážnice

Festival of scenic dance for youth and adults

Festival of Choirs in Jihlava

European Championship of Brass Bands / 2009 /

LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

Article 34

The Parties shall exchange documents and information concerning international book fairs and shall support the national exposition as well as accompanying Programmes.

Article 35

The Parties shall support participation of poets in festivals of poetry in the other state. Invitation of participants to festivals could be arranged by the organizers of the festivals.

Article 36

The Parties shall, on the occasion of literary events, exchange 2 experts in the area of literature, each for a period of stay up to 5 days, during the validity of this Programme. Proposals and details shall be agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 37

The Parties shall support publication of translations of contemporary prose and poetry in the other state. The respective bodies of the Parties shall exchange 3 persons (writers, poets or translators), each for a stay of up to 5 days, during the validity of this Programme.

CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

Article 38

The Parties shall encourage reciprocal participation of Czech and Israeli artists and experts in the audiovisual and film cultural events and international film festivals.

Following events are offered in the Czech Republic:

International Film Festival Karlovy Vary
International Festival of Documentary Film on Human Rights One
World
International Festival of Animated Films AniFest Třeboň
International Festival of Film for Children and Youth in Zlín
International Festival of Documentary Films Jihlava
International Festival of Students' Film FRESH FILM FEST

The Israeli Party notifies the Czech Party of the following major film festivals that are held in Israel:

Jerusalem International Film Festival (Annual, in July)
Haifa International Film Festival (Annual, in October)
International Student Film Festival, Tel-Aviv (Biennial, in June)
International Women's Film Festival, Rehovot (Annual, in September)
The Doc-Aviv International Documentary Film Festival in Tel-Aviv (Annual, in April)
World Jewish Film Festival, in Ashkelon (Annual, in November)
The Tel-Aviv International Film Festival for Children and Youth Film (Annual, in May)
Eilat International Film Festival
Ashdod International Film Festival
Israel's International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Film Festival

Article 39

The Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between Czech and Israeli institutions, organizations and professional associations dealing with audiovision. They will as well support direct cooperation between film archives.

Article 40

The Parties shall encourage reciprocal visits of experts in the field of audiovision. For this purpose they shall exchange annually up to 2 experts for a period of up to 5 days.

MISCELLANEOUS

Article 41

Each Party shall ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights of all materials obtained on the basis of this Programme, in accordance with the valid legal laws and regulations in its state.

Article 42

General and Financial Terms and Conditions stated in the Annex shall form an integral part of the Programme.

Article 43

This Programme shall not preclude the implementation of other activities agreed upon by both Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 44

Individuals sent out under this Programme shall have a good command of the language of the state of the Receiving Party or the English language.

Article 45

Both Parties agree that all initiatives stated in this Programme shall be carried out within the limits of funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

Article 46

All activities and exchanges implemented under this Programme shall be implemented in accordance with valid national law of the Parties.

Article 47

The Parties shall entrust their pertinent authorities with the implementation of this Programme.

Article 48

This Programme may be amended or modified upon mutual agreement of the Parties. Amendments or modifications shall be executed in writing.

Article 49

Any disputes between the Parties regarding the interpretation or application of this Programme shall be settled by negotiation between them.

Article 50

This Programme shall come into force on the date of signature and shall be in force until 31 December 2011.

Article 51

The validity of this Programme may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties always for a period of another 3 years. Each extension of the validity of this Programme shall be executed in writing.

Done in Prague on 8 September 2009, which corresponds to 19th Elul 5769, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

On behalf of the Government
of the Czech Republic

Eva Bartoňová
State Secretary and First Deputy Minister
of Education, Youth and Sports
of the Czech Republic

On Behalf of the Government
of the State of Israel

Arye Mekel
Acting Director General
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article

Unless any special terms and conditions are agreed, financial provisions shall be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

1) the Sending Party shall cover round trip travel expenses of its delegations, individuals and representatives, including transportation of professional equipment and exhibits;

2) the Receiving Party shall cover travel expenses within the territory of its state in accordance with previously approved study Programmes;

3) the Receiving Party shall cover the costs of stay in the country (accommodation, per diem allowances and local transport);

4) information about the arrival of individuals accepted under this Programme (the exact date of arrival, means of transport) shall be communicated to the Receiving Party three weeks prior to their arrival at the latest.

5) The Receiving Party shall not accept individuals sent within this Programme without medical treatment insurance.

Science

The costs of Science cooperation according the "Agreement Between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the State of Israel on Bilateral Cooperation in Private Sector, Industrial Research and Development", signed on March 30th, 2009.

Exchange of individuals according the chapters "EDUCATION", "SPORTS", "YOUTH", "CULTURE "(teachers, specialists, artists, etc.)

Article II

1. The Sending Party shall submit proposals for exchange of specialists pursuant to the relevant Articles of this Programme to the Receiving Party at least two months before the commencement of the proposed stay, or as soon as the circumstances allow it.

2. The Receiving Party shall confirm its acceptance within one month from the submission of the proposal, or as soon as the circumstances allow it.

3. The proposals for stays in accordance with the relevant Articles shall contain: The name of the candidate, his/her curriculum vitae, study and research plan, which shall state preferred institutions and specialists that the candidate intends to visit, and other necessary information, as applicable. All information shall be given in English.

4. The Czech Party as the Receiving Party shall provide individuals received under the relevant Articles with accommodation in at least a three-star hotel.

The Israeli Party as the Receiving Party shall provide individuals received under the relevant Articles an amount of USD 80 per day designated for accommodation or accommodation in at least a three-star hotel.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Article III

The Parties shall provide candidates for scholarships under Articles 10 and 11 with application forms.

The Sending Party shall forward completed applications for scholarships submitted by candidates under Article 10 to the Receiving Party by 15 January of each year at the latest. Applications of candidates for participation in the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies in the Czech Republic and the ULPAN course in the State of Israel under Article 11 shall be forwarded by 15 April. The Receiving Party shall inform the Sending Party by 1 June whether the proposed candidates have been accepted.

Article IV

1. The Czech Party shall provide scholarship holders received under Article 10(2) with the following:

study under the same conditions that are granted to citizens of the Czech Republic;

monthly scholarship pursuant to legal regulations valid on the territory of the Czech Republic, the minimum amount being:

a) CZK 9,000 for students of masters study Programmes;

b) CZK 9,500 for students of doctoral study Programmes;

- possibility of accommodation in halls of residence of higher education institutions;
- possibility of board in dining halls of higher education institutions;

- necessary and urgent medical care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered during the stay (with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases).

Information about scholarships granted by the Czech Party is available on the website of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Israel at:
www.mzv.cz/telaviv

2. The Israeli Party shall provide scholarship holders received under Article 10(1) with the following:

- monthly scholarship amounting to USD 600;
- medical insurance with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

Information about scholarships granted by the Israeli Party (age limit, necessary documents, application forms, etc.) is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel at:
http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/2000_2009/2003/8/Scholarships+Offered+by+the+Israeli+Government+to.htm

Article V

1. The Czech Party shall provide participants in the Summer School accepted under Article 11(2) of this Programme with free tuition, free board and accommodation, excursions within the summer school Programme, and shall provide them with necessary and urgent medical care in the case of a sudden illness or injury, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

2. The Israeli Party shall provide participants in the Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School accepted under Article 11(1) of this Programme with free tuition, allowance to cover the costs of living in accordance with the conditions of the language school and medical insurance with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.