

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ARTS, CULTURE, THE CIVIL SERVICE AND
SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE AND ARTS

The Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport of the Republic of Austria, on the one part, and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, on the other part, hereinafter referred to as 'the Sides',

desiring to strengthen the co-operation of both countries in the fields of arts and culture in order to experience the cultures of the states of both Sides and explore them together,

have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1
General Review

1. The Sides emphasise the importance of cooperation between their countries in the direct co-operation between cultural institutions, organisations and individuals in both countries.

2. The Sides approve and support the increased visibility of diversity in arts and culture, including the recognition of the achievements of women and people of diverse sexual orientations.

Paragraph 2
Visual Arts, Architecture, Design, Fashion, Photography and Media Art

The Sides will co-operate in the field of visual arts, architecture, design, fashion, photography and media art. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, experts and institutions.

Paragraph 3
Museums and Galleries

The Sides welcome direct co-operation between museums, galleries, artists' associations and other organisations from the two countries, including exchanges of experts, curators, exhibitions and information. They also encourage the realisation of other activities agreed upon directly by the interested organisations.

Paragraph 4
Performing Arts

The Sides will encourage the direct exchange of ensembles, artists and experts in the fields of music, theatre, dance and performance, with a view to realise guest tours and participate in international festivals in both countries.

Paragraph 5
Film

1. The Sides encourage direct co-operation in film production as well as the participation of their respective artists in international film festivals, and the direct co-operation between their film funding bodies through the exchange of experts and information.

2. The Sides jointly decide to co-operate at the European level, in particular within the framework of the "Creative Europe" Programme of the European Commission and within the framework of EURIMAGES, the European Cinema Support Fund of the Council of Europe.

3. The Sides encourage direct co-operation between their Film Archives, between the Film Archive Austria in Vienna and the Lithuanian Central State Archives, as well as Austrian Film Museum and the Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Film Museum, with the aim to exchange – among others – information, publications and experts.

4. Concrete forms of co-operation and the range of exchanges will be agreed upon directly between the respective institutions.

Paragraph 6

Literature and Libraries

1. The Sides encourage the exchange of as well as direct contacts between writers' associations in the two countries.

2. The Sides underline the importance of translating and publishing literary works in the other country and encourage direct contacts and co-operation between their respective translators' associations and publishers.

3. The Austrian Side informs that the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport of the Republic of Austria gives grants for the translation of Austrian authors in the field of fiction into a foreign language. More information is to be found at <https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/kunst-und-kultur>

4. The Lithuanian Side informs that the Lithuanian Culture Institute is running a programme to promote translations of Lithuanian literature abroad. More information is to be found at <https://english.lithuanianculture.lt/translation-grant-programme/>

5. The Sides welcome and encourage direct co-operation of libraries, library associations and other organisations, including the exchange of experts, information resources and information.

Paragraph 7

Archives

1. The Sides express their interest in co-operation between the Austrian State Archives in Vienna on the one hand and the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania on the other hand in fields such as bilateral archival exhibitions, research and digital copies.

2. The Sides also welcome direct cooperation between other archives in the Republic of Austria and archives in the Republic of Lithuania on the research of archival materials important for the history of the two countries.

3. Any co-operation will be arranged between the respective archives in both countries.

Paragraph 8

Cultural Heritage

1. The Sides encourage co-operation in protecting cultural heritage, keeping each other informed about relevant laws applicable in the territory of the Sides' States.

2. The Sides jointly decide to co-operate in the field of cultural heritage preservation on the basis of international legal documents from UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

3. The Sides encourage the direct co-operation between institutions in the fields of the safeguarding and protection of cultural heritage, exchange of professionals and academic experts, information and publications.

4. The Sides encourage co-operation with a view to preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their laws applicable in the territory of State as well as exchange of knowledge about provenance research and restitution.

5. The Sides take measures to protect cultural heritage objects relevant to the other Side in their State territory according to the laws applicable in the territory of their State and aim to take measures to locate, determine the place of storage and return cultural values that have been removed from the territory of another Side's State in violation of laws applicable in the territory of that Side's State according to the official request of the other Side.

6. The Sides welcome the direct co-operation between the Federal Monuments Authority and other similar institutions in the Republic of Austria and the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania and other similar institutions in the Republic of Lithuania.

7. Interested institutions will exchange experts, exhibitions and publications and, in accordance with their interests and possibilities, will form joint expert teams with a view to co-operate in the field of research and protection of cultural heritage.

8. The Sides encourage co-operation in the management of transnational sites on the World Heritage List and co-operation in the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention concerning the Nomination and Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

9. The Sides encourage co-operation in the implementation of the UNESCO "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" as well as the "Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions".

Paragraph 9

Baukultur

1. The Sides approve and support the importance of the concept of Baukultur, which is defined in the Davos Declaration 2018, as a sustainable and holistic approach to improve the quality of our living environment.

2. The Sides encourage a holistic approach in shaping our living environment, considering social, economic, ecological, and cultural perspectives.

3. The Sides encourage co-operation in improving the quality of our built and living environment, keeping each other informed about relevant regulations and initiatives.

4. The Sides jointly decide to apply holistic systems of quality criteria to set up a living environment and public spaces of high quality Baukultur for everyone (Austrian Federal Guidelines for Building Culture, the criteria for architectural quality in the Law on Architecture of the Republic of Lithuania, Davos Baukultur Quality System, New European Bauhaus Criteria).

Paragraph 10

Exchange

1. While this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect, the Sides, without exceeding their budgetary resources, will exchange visits of artists and experts in the fields of literature, visual arts, architecture, design, fashion, media art, photography, film, music, theatre, dance, performance, memory institutions (libraries, museums, archives) and cultural heritage.

2. The financial and organizational conditions of all exchanges under this Memorandum of Understanding will be decided directly by the involved institutions on a case-by-case basis.

Paragraph 11

Final provisions

1. Any disputes arising from the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably by the consultations between the Sides.

2. The Memorandum of Understanding is not an international treaty within the meaning of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 and will not affect the rights and obligations of the Sides undertaken in accordance with the legislation and international obligations applicable on the territories of their States.

3. Any modification to this Memorandum of Understanding will be effected by mutual understanding of both Sides and require written form. Such modifications will come into effect on the date of signature.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signature and will remain in effect until cancelled by a written notification by either Side. The cancellation will become effective six months after the day of receipt of the written notification by the other Side or such later date as may be specified in the notification.

5. The cancellation of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the implementation of the programmes and projects that the Sides jointly decided.

Signed in Salzburg on 20 August 2024, in duplicate in the English language.



For the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture,
the Civil Service and Sport of the
Republic of Austria .



For the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Lithuania