

**Agreement**  
**on cooperation within the project**  
**"Common archival heritage"**

**General Director of the State Archives of Poland, State Archival Service of Ukraine, Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, National Archives of Latvia, National Archives of Estonia**

hereinafter referred to as "Parties",

with the aim of further developing professional, scientific and cultural relations between Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia,

taking into account the aspirations of each of the Parties to comprehensive cooperation between the archival institutions of the countries mentioned,

being aware of the obligation to protect and preserve for future generations the archival heritage of Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which is an integral part of the common pan-European cultural heritage, enriched by the diversity of national cultures;

referring to the concept of a common archival heritage formulated in the recommendations of the UNESCO Director-General as a model for shaping archival relations in a united Europe

have agreed as follows:

**Article I**

The Parties shall develop cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, taking into account the relevant legal provisions of the countries implementing the project and generally accepted principles and standards of international law.

## **Article 2**

1. The Parties shall undertake to carry out research works in their national resources aimed at recognizing and determining the size, value and state of preservation of archival materials constituting the common documentary heritage of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which includes the documentary heritage of the Polish Crown, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and province of Livonia.

2. The Parties will conduct works aimed at developing full lists of archives of interest to them.

## **Article 3**

The Parties shall inform each other about the results of these works and found archival materials showing the common past and documenting mutual relations at meetings organized according to the needs.

## **Article 4**

The Parties shall ensure, in accordance with the relevant legal provisions of the countries implementing the project, free access to all archival aids, both published and unpublished, and to archival documents for archivists and researchers pursuing the objectives of the "Common archival heritage" project.

## **Article 5**

1. The Parties shall undertake joint actions to protect archival resources by:
- a) exchange of knowledge, specialist literature and information on how to act in emergency situations;
  - b) exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of appropriate archival infrastructure and archival construction guaranteeing the safety of human resources and collections;
  - c) mutual assistance in preparing professional archival staff by organizing specialist exchanges and joint training, including internships for archival conservators;
  - d) preparing joint speeches and appeals to international archival organizations on matters concerning the protection of archival resources;
  - e) popularizing knowledge about the common archival heritage.

2. The dates and financial conditions of the aforementioned activities will be agreed between the Parties through further working contacts.

## **Article 6**

1. In order to supplement national archival resources, the Parties may conduct an equivalent exchange of digital copies of archival documents free of charge held in the state archives of the other Party.

2. The Parties may supplement their own national resources by purchasing scans of archival documents of interest to them.

3. The number of copies made, their technical standard and related financial issues will be agreed by the Parties in writing by way of further working arrangements.

## **Article 7**

1. Representatives of the Parties have the right, as part of the project implementation, to copy selected archival materials from the national resources with their own digital equipment free of charge.

2. The transfer of digital copies of documents, their parts or fragments to third parties for commercial purposes is prohibited.

3. Digital copies made of documents as part of the project may be posted on national websites and portals maintained by the State Archives of each of the countries participating in the project.

## **Article 8**

The Parties shall support the publication of joint collections of documents concerning the history of mutual relations, the organization of joint exhibitions of archival documents, and the organization of conferences and seminars on topics of interest to the Parties. Detailed conditions for the implementation of these projects, depending on the financial capabilities of the Parties, will be agreed between the Parties each time in writing.

## **Article 9**

The Parties may, upon mutual agreement, invite other memory institutions collecting archival materials of significant importance for the implementation of the "Common archival heritage" project to cooperate.

## **Article 10**

This agreement enters into force on the date of its signing by all Parties and is valid for a period of 5 years with the possibility of automatic extension for subsequent 5-year periods, unless one of the Parties notifies the other Parties in writing of its intention

to terminate the agreement no later than 6 months before the expiry of the term of its validity.

### **Article 11**

Any changes and additions to the provisions of the agreement may be made by mutual agreement of the Parties in the form of an annex, which is an integral part of this agreement. Additions to provisions come into effect on the date of its signing by all Parties.

### **Article 12**

The agreement has been drawn up in two copies for each Party: one copy in the national language of a given Party and additionally in English. All copies have the same legal force. In case of disputes, the English version shall prevail and decisions on disputes will be made by a simple majority vote of the Parties.

Lublin, April 18, 2024

Signatures of the Parties:

**PAWEL PIETRZYK**

General Director of State Archives of Poland

**ANATOLII KHROMOV**

Head of State Archival Service of Ukraine

**PRIIT PIRSKO**

General Director of National Archives of Estonia

**INGŪNA SLAIDIŅA**

Deputy Director of National Archives of Latvia

**RAMUTIS KURPĒ**

Director of Lithuanian State Historical Archives