

Joint Declaration of Intent

on cooperation in the field of

Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning

between

the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia

and

the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany

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and
the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany

hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”, recognize the importance of education as a key topic for their bilateral relations and in particular Vocational Education and Training (VET) and lifelong learning as a key factor for socio-economic development and social progress in general. The Sides therefore wish to endorse their interest in promoting VET and lifelong learning in order to enhance the knowledge of policies, systems and measures of both countries and promote the exchange of models, methods and best practices.

The Sides jointly declare their intention to cooperate as follows:

I. Fields of cooperation

(1) The Sides intend to continuously work together in the following fields of cooperation in the area of VET and lifelong learning:

1. Promotion of measures as part of European programmes and other programmes to facilitate exchange between policy makers, vocational education and quality experts, VET institutions’ personnel and students, apprentices and representatives of social partners.
2. Cooperation on a comparative analysis of the VET and lifelong learning systems and structures in both countries.
3. Cooperation and exchange of information on tried and approved procedures, including quality assurance measures, in particular in the following fields:

- a) Involvement of social partners in VET and lifelong learning;
- b) Attractiveness of VET and lifelong learning;
- c) Promotion of apprenticeships;
- d) Vocational counselling and career guidance;
- e) Promotion of permeability of education and training systems;
- f) Requirements and qualifications of teaching and training personnel in VET institutions, companies/employers engaged in providing work-based learning opportunities (both public and private) and lifelong learning centres, as far as both their field of expertise and their pedagogical training is concerned;
- g) Recognition of informally and non-formally acquired competences.

II. Forms of cooperation

(1) With the aim of mutual learning in the fields quoted in Section I., the Sides envisage the following forms of cooperation:

1. Overall exchange of information, experiences and good practices on VET issues.
2. Exchange of information/expertise on issues and events related to the competences and activities of the Sides.
3. Information visits and expert meetings.
4. Implementation of Latvian-German social partner dialogues.

5. Measures and projects of common interest.
6. Encouragement of teacher, trainer, other educational personnel and learner mobility within the Erasmus+ Programme.

(2) The Sides understand that any expenses arising in connection with the activities under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be borne by each Side individually in accordance with their national legislation and subject to the availability of relevant budget funds and, as the case may be, by other public and private legal persons who may participate in the activities. Priority will be given to the possibility of using EU funded programmes and instruments.

III. Coordination and implementation

(1) The Sides intend to provide Latvian and German general public, where appropriate and relevant stakeholders with information on the contents of this Joint Declaration of Intent and to disseminate the results of the cooperation activities in both countries and at the European level.

(2) The bodies responsible for the coordination and the implementation of the activities envisaged in this Joint Declaration of Intent will be:

1. For the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia - Department for Vocational and Adult Education.
2. For the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany - Directorate-General for European and International Cooperation in Education and Research.

(3) This Joint Declaration of Intent will come into effect on the date of its signature and will be applied for a period of four years.

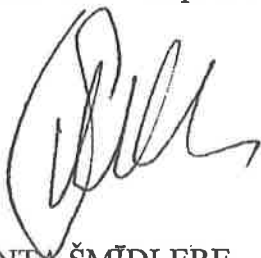
(4) Each Side may end cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent at any time. Any such amendment should be done in writing.

(5) Any dispute between the Sides arising from this Joint Declaration of Intent will be settled through consultations.

(6) This Joint Declaration of Intent is not meant to constitute an international treaty or to create any rights or obligations under international law.

Signed in Riga and Berlin on 1st of August 2023 in duplicate in the English language.

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



SANTA ŠMĪDLERE
State Secretary

For the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research of the
Federal Republic of Germany



PROF. DR. SABINE DÖRING
State Secretary