



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION**

between

**EPOKA UNIVERSITY
Tirana, Republic of Albania**

and

**INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY
Tbilisi, Georgia**

In order to establish and further promote the bilateral cultural and educational collaboration, International Black Sea University (IBSU) and Epoka University (EU) join in the following Memorandum of Understanding on educational and scientific cooperation.

The two universities will endeavor to cooperate in education and research in areas of mutual interest. To the extent feasible, both universities will encourage direct contact and cooperation between faculty members, departments, research institutions and students.

I. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Specific areas of cooperation between the two universities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exchange of faculty;
2. Exchange of students;
3. Joint research activities, lectures and lectures via-e-learning;
4. Participation in seminars and academic meetings;
5. Co-organization of short-term training programs;
6. Exchange of published academic materials and other information;
7. Special short-term academic programs;
8. Participation in sports and cultural activities.

II. EXCHANGE OF FACULTY

1. Although travel expenses and living costs of exchange faculty and research scholars are not compensated by the host institution, in case additional financial support is needed it will be evaluated on an individual basis.
2. The host institution shall provide office space and give access to libraries and other facilities

to exchange faculty and research scholars.

3. Unless otherwise agreed upon, all exchanges are on the basis of reciprocity within the same academic year.
4. Faculty/scholar exchanges will normally be for a duration of one or two semesters, shorter stays are possible, subject to mutual agreement.
5. Faculty/Scholar exchanges remain subject to the approval of the host institution.
6. Each professor remains on salary with the home institution during the exchange, and remuneration for special projects is subject to special negotiation.
7. Visiting professor/scholars must carry medical health insurance in accordance with the rules and regulations of the host institutions and/or the host government.
8. Teaching course loads and working hours and conditions shall normally be in accordance with established rules and practices of the host institution, subject to prior negotiation and agreement.
9. The Memorandum of Understanding between IBSU and EU may be in any appropriate academic field at either institution, subject to the prior approval of the administration of the host institution.

III. EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS

1. Such applications are honored by IBSU and EU on the principle of reciprocity during the same academic year.
2. Exchange students shall be admitted as non-degree students for a period of one or two semesters (fall or spring), or for both semesters, and for a maximum of one academic year.
3. Exchange students may take courses for credit, and the host institution shall issue a transcript and grades for exchange students under the same rules and regulations as for its degree-seeking students.
4. So long as the principle of reciprocity is maintained, tuition and fees shall be waived for exchange students by the host institution.
5. Exchange students shall be recommended by the sending institution and follow established rules and procedures set forth by the host institution.
6. Travel and living expenses for exchange students are borne by the students themselves, by a sponsor, or by the sending institution.
7. An affidavit of Financial Support (AFS) for living expenses must be submitted in advance to the host institution by the exchange student(s).

IV. COLLABORATION ON RESEARCH AND ON OTHER SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. The Universities will make every effort towards the development, materialization and application of research projects in fields which are of mutual interest.
2. In the fields of mutual interest, the Universities will attempt to organize conferences, seminars, and courses and will exchange literature, publications and information.

V. SUPPORT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN SPORTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS:

On the occasion of extra-curricular activities in sports and cultural affairs taking place in the Universities, efforts will be made for the exchange of student teams, especially in sports.


VI. RENEWAL, TERMINATION, AND AMENDMENT


1. These regulations are to be authorized by the official representative of both universities in two copies, and each party will retain one.
2. Except where specified and agreed upon, this Memorandum of Understanding will impose no financial obligations on the host institution.
3. The two institutions will evaluate each application in accordance with items pertaining to the implementation of the exchange programs based on this Memorandum of Understanding.
4. The period of validity of this Memorandum of Understanding is ten (10) years. Thereafter, it may be renewed, unless either side provides a six-month notice of intent to terminate. This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective at the time it is signed by the authorized representatives of both institutions.
5. Items not covered by the Memorandum of Understanding may be determined and negotiated separately by both institutions without abrogating this Memorandum of Understanding; the Memorandum of Understanding may be amended with the consent of both parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in two originals in English, respectively in the cities of Tirana, Albania and Tbilisi, Georgia. Each party holds one original copy of the signed Memorandum of Understanding.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Çetin CAN
Rector
International Black Sea University
Tbilisi, Georgia

Prof. Dr. Hasan KAPLAN
Rector
Epoka University
Tirana, Albania


Date: 09.09.2009
Location: ASHKABAT


Date: 09.09.2009
Location: ASHKABAT