

P R O G R A M M E

for cooperation between

the Government of the Republic of Finland

and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria

in the fields of education, science and culture

for the period 2003 - 2007

The Finnish-Bulgarian Cultural Consultations were held in Helsinki 20-21 March 2003 in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on cooperation in matters relating to education, science, culture, social policy and certain other fields between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria signed in Helsinki on 19 April 1973.

The Parties drew up the Programme of cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture for the period 2003 - 2007.

A list of the members of both delegations is attached in the Annex 1.

The general and financial provisions set out in the Annex 2 and 3 shall form an integral part of this Programme.

OPENING REMARKS

The Parties noted with satisfaction bilateral cooperation and in particular direct contacts that are increasingly taking place between different institutions and organizations, and stressed the importance of this form of cooperation.

The Parties noted that there is active and effective multilateral cooperation within the framework of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international organizations, and recognized the growing possibilities for cooperation within the framework of the European Union (EU).

The Parties stressed the possibilities and support of the modern information and communication technologies to further develop and strengthen cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture.

Reports, offers and wishes concerning the different areas of cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture were discussed and considered, and concrete forms of cooperation were agreed upon, as far as they belong to the competence of the State.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Education

1. The Parties will encourage direct cooperation and networking between the competent institutions at all levels of education and training in both countries. The scope, form and content of cooperation will be decided directly between the institutions concerned.

2. The Parties will encourage educational cooperation in the framework of the EU-programmes, in particular the Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes.
3. The Parties will encourage the direct exchange of teaching staff and specialists as well as administrators at all levels in the field of education.
4. The Parties agreed to exchange, upon request, materials and documentations about the structures, contents and organizations of education in their countries. The competent authorities in both countries will carry out the exchanges of this material. The modern information and communication technologies will be utilized as far as possible.

Research

5. The Parties will encourage the fruitful continuation of direct cooperation between the Academy of Finland and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, based on the bilateral Agreement for Scientific Cooperation signed 1982 and renewed in 1999.
6. The Parties noted with satisfaction that research and technological development cooperation has comprised several fields, such as media and communication, mathematics, physics, chemistry, sociology, folk music, study of literature and philosophy, informatics and zoology.
7. The Parties will encourage direct cooperation and contacts between their relevant institutions dealing with scientific research and technological development. A priority may be the cooperation between the Centres of Excellence in both countries. The details of this cooperation will be agreed upon directly by the institutions concerned as well as the financial terms according to the internal regulations of both countries.
8. The development of research cooperation will be encouraged in particular by means of joint research projects and programmes, seminars, exchange of scientists and researchers, exchange of scientific publications and information. The modern information and communication technologies will be utilized as far as possible.
9. The Parties will support the practice of extending invitations to visiting lecturers from the other country for delivering lectures or participating in scientific seminars and conferences. All details concerning such invitations will be specified directly between the institutions concerned.

10. The Parties noted with satisfaction the increased possibilities for scientific cooperation in the framework of the EU programmes for research and technological development.
11. The Parties will encourage the organisation of colloquia, seminars and symposia on current topics of mutual interest.

Language studies and translation

12. The Parties will encourage teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country e.g. by sending, within the limits of the budgetary possibilities, lecturers and visiting teachers. Direct contacts between the institutions of higher education will be supported.
13. The Parties will encourage and annually inform each other about the summer courses for students and researchers to be organised in both countries. In Finland the summer courses are administered by UKAN (Ulkomaisten yliopistojen Suomen kielen ja kulttuurin opinnot) and in Bulgaria by the Ministry for Education and Science.
14. Both Parties will encourage direct contacts between the Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters and the Bulgarian 'Translators' Union. During the validity of this Programme both Parties will encourage the plans to organize seminars and other events for translators and interpreters with the aim to develop professional skills. The details will be agreed upon directly by the institutions concerned.

Scholarships

15. A brief description and details of the scholarships offered by the Parties to each other, are given in Annex 2, which forms an integral part of this Programme. The Parties will annually inform the other Party of the general and financial provisions of the scholarships through diplomatic or other suitable channels.
16. In Finland, the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) is in charge of the administration of the scholarships and exchanges. For the Bulgarian Party, will be carried out by the Ministry of Education and Science. The administration of scholarships and exchanges are specified in Annex 2

CULTURE

17. The Parties will encourage direct contacts and networking between their respective institutions - both governmental and private - in the fields of arts and culture.
18. The Parties will promote the exchange of information about arts and culture in general, and in particular aspects concerning the legislation of culture and state support to culture, as well as good practices concerning the economic and social dimension of culture.
19. The Parties will encourage the participation of artists and artistic groups (professional and amateur) in cultural events organized in the other country, and will promote the exchange of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector.
20. The Parties will pay special attention to the overall European cultural cooperation and will promote cooperation in the fields of culture and audiovisual policy in the framework of the EU programmes, in particular the Culture 2000 and MEDIA programmes, as well as in the framework of the programmes of the Council of Europe.
21. The Parties will exchange information about international festivals, exhibitions, symposia and competitions, and shall extend invitations for participation in them, in correspondence with the regulations of each event.

Fine arts and exhibitions

22. The Parties recognized the importance of presenting cultural, art and documentary exhibitions in the other country. During the validity of this programme, both Parties will encourage the exchange of exhibitions of high level. Details, including the financial conditions, shall be defined through diplomatic or other suitable channels. The general provisions of the exchange of exhibitions are specified in Annex 3.
23. Both Parties express the wish that at least one exhibition could be shown in Finland and in Bulgaria during the validity of this Programme.

Libraries and literature

24. The Parties will continue to encourage direct contacts and networking between their national, public and institutional libraries.

25. The Parties recognized the importance of exchanging specialists and information regarding the organisation, functioning and legislation of libraries in their countries. The Parties will also encourage the organisation of seminars and symposia on actual topics of mutual interest such as libraries for information and information society.
26. The Parties take note of cooperation in the framework of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Association (EBLIDA) as well as other international library organisations.
27. The Parties will promote the literature of each other's country and encourage the translation of literary works. The Parties will also exchange information about international book fairs and exhibitions to be organized in their respective countries. The modern information and communication technologies will be utilized as far as possible.

Museums and archives

28. Both Parties shall favour the exchange of experience and knowledge of modern methods of protection, conservation and restoration of cultural and artistic heritage. Direct contacts and networking and exhibition exchange between their museums and conservation authorities will be promoted. To this end they will encourage exchanges of experts, information and publications concerning preservation and restoration of monuments, historical buildings and sites. The terms shall be directly negotiated between the museums concerned. The National Centre for Museums, Galleries and Fine arts at the Ministry of Culture in Bulgaria will assist in the arranging of exhibitions in the Republic of Bulgaria and the interested institutions in Finland.
29. The State Archives and Provincial Archives in Finland and the Public Records Office in Bulgaria will facilitate, on a reciprocal basis, the exchange of experience in the field of theory and practical training, and the exchange of publications as well as specialists.
30. The Parties will cooperate and exchange information on the prevention of illicit imports, exports and transfers of cultural valuables, and note with satisfaction the possibility of cooperation based on international agreements in preventing illegal import, export or transfer of works of art.

Film and theatre

31. The Parties will encourage direct contacts between the Finnish Film Foundation and the Bulgarian National Film Centre as well as between the Finnish Film Archives and the Bulgarian National Film Archives. The exchange of information and specialists in the field of cinema will be promoted. Both Parties will favour cooperation in the framework of the EU programmes and the programmes of the Council of Europe.
32. During the validity of this programme, both Parties will encourage the plans to organize film weeks in each other's country. The Parties will also reciprocally extend invitations to international film festivals organized in their countries.
33. The Parties will encourage direct contacts between the Finnish Theatre Information Centre and the Bulgarian National Theatre Centre, in order to exchange information, repertoire plans, drama groups and specialists in the theatrical profession.

Music and dance

34. In the fields of music and dance the Parties agreed to continue the exchange of individual artists, composers and small professional as well as amateur artistic ensembles, and to promote their productions. The Parties will also encourage direct contacts between organisations and institutions in the fields of music and dance and the exchange of scores, recordings and records. Participation in music, dance and theatre events in the other country should be based on direct agreements, specifying the financial and other terms between the organizations and artists concerned. Government support should be considered as supplementary.

MEDIA

35. The Parties welcomed the direct cooperation between their radio and TV organizations and other media. The form and substance of this cooperation shall be agreed upon directly between the organizations concerned.

YOUTH AND SPORTS

36. The Parties will encourage exchanges of young people as well as reciprocal exchanges of information and good practices through direct cooperation between the relevant institutions in both countries. The Parties noted with satisfaction that the EU programmes and actions, especially the Youth Community Action Programme provides new opportunities for cooperation between young people, youth researchers and youth workers.

37. The Parties will encourage the development of the relations and exchanges between the sport organizations and other institutions in the field of physical education and sports. Such activities shall be directly agreed between the institutions concerned, as well as the financial conditions.

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES

38. The Parties note with satisfaction the activity of the friendship associations in both countries. The Parties will encourage and facilitate various events organized by the friendship associations in both countries (e.g. performances, exhibitions, colloquia, seminars).

The Parties acknowledge the 50 years' work carried out by the Finnish-Bulgarian Friendship Society in Helsinki.

FINAL CLAUSES

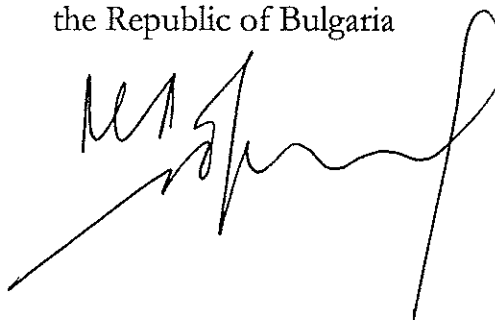
39. The next meeting of the competent representatives of the Parties will be held in Bulgaria in 2007. If for any reason this meeting has to be postponed, the present Programme will be valid until a new one is signed. This Programme shall enter into force on the day of signature.

Done and signed in Helsinki on 21 March 2003, in two original copies in the English language, both being equal in force.

For the Government of
the Republic of Finland

Christian Sævi

For the Government of
the Republic of Bulgaria



Annex 1

THE FINNISH DELEGATION

Mr Kristian SLOTTE	Director General for International Relations Ministry of Education Head of Delegation
Ms Anne PÄKKILÄ	Special Government Adviser International Relations Ministry of Education
Ms Pirkko RAINESALO	Counsellor for Cultural Affairs Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy Ministry of Education
Ms Helena LALU-TOIVIO	Secretary for International Relations International Relations Ministry of Education
Ms Eila LEHTIPURO	First Secretary Press and Culture Department Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ms Kirsti MERIKANTO	Exchange Coordinator Centre for International Mobility, CIMO
Ms Tiina VIHMA-PUROVAARA	Senior Advisor Academy of Finland

THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION

Ms Maya DOBREVA

Director
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Head of Delegation

Mr Kiril DIMITROV

Charge d'Affairs
Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr Vitali LEVI

Senior Expert
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms Daryana KOTZEVA

Chief Expert
Ministry of Education and Science

Ms Tomina LAZOVA

Programme Manager
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SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Finnish Scholarships

1.1. General information

In Finland the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) operates, on the basis of bilateral cultural agreements, the Finnish government scholarships programmes aimed at promoting international university level cooperation on education and research.

The quota to be reserved for the Bulgarian postgraduate students and researchers (no older than 35 years) amounts to 17-18 months annually, which may be divided into several scholarships of varying length, however, not less than three (3) months each. Out of the quota mentioned two-four short visits to Finnish cultural and educational institutions are reserved for Bulgarian specialists. The length of a visit should not exceed one week.

CIMO will annually inform the Bulgarian authorities about quota, financial terms, applications periods etc.

Candidates for these scholarships may be proposed by the Bulgarian authorities. A list of prospective candidates with applications should reach CIMO by 1 March of each year. The financial approval of the recipients is made by CIMO.

Prior to application, the candidates should have established a contact with the Finnish host, since no scholarship can be granted without invitation/admission by the receiving institute. When granting the scholarships, special emphasis is laid on active participation and interaction with research and/or teaching at the educational institution of the host department.

1.2. Scholarships

The scholarship period is usually 3-9 months and the grant is intended to cover the living expenses in Finland for a single person. In 2003 the monthly scholarship is 725 euros. Upon arrival of the scholarship holder a lump sum of 85 euros or 170 euros is paid to study/research period of one term or a whole academic year respectively.

1.3. Short visits

A visitor scholarship (up to 7 days) consists of free accommodation in a guest room or a hotel and a daily allowance, the amount of which is determined annually (28 euros in 2003).

1.4. Travel

Expenses due to international travel to or from Finland are not covered by CIMO. The scholarship recipient will pay his/her local transportation.

1.5. Insurance

Students intending to study in a Finnish university should pay the student union fee of the university in order to benefit from the student health services. All recipients of scholarships are recommended to make arrangements for insurance coverage for their stay in Finland.

The Centre for International Mobility may also grant travel allowances for Finns who receive a scholarship from the Bulgarian authorities on the basis of the bilateral exchange.

2. Bulgarian scholarships

2.1. General information

Annually the Bulgarian side grants scholarships for a period of 3 to 9 months within the framework of a general quota of 18 months for education, specialization or scientific research of Finnish students, doctoral students, university professors and researchers.

The candidates approved will be exempt from paying education fees, will receive a monthly allowance as a scholarship, according to the legislation acting in the country and will receive the opportunity to use student cafeterias and hostels - against payment, at the conditions valid for Bulgarian citizens.

2.2. Short visits

The scholarships for short visits up to 7 days consist of free hotel accommodation and daily allowance in correspondence with Bulgarian legislation.

2.3. Travel and long term stay

The sending Party shall cover the international transport costs. The scholarship recipient will pay for his/her local transportation.

The holders of scholarships, visiting professors, lecturers, experts and researchers and scholars are exempt from paying fees for extension of their residence permits.

2.4. Insurance

People entering Bulgaria for the purpose of this programme for a stay up to 3 months are obliged to present a medical insurance for their stay upon entering the country.

GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed:

- a) The activities and exchanges envisaged in this Programme shall be carried out within the limits of the financial means at the disposal of the two Parties;
- b) The activities and exchanges envisaged in this Programme shall not exclude other initiatives which might be proposed through diplomatic or other suitable channels;
- c) The organization of music, dance and theatre performances should á priori be based on a direct agreement covering financial and other terms between the organizations and artists involved in such events. State subsidies should be considered as supplementary.

EXCHANGE OF EXHIBITIONS

2. The Parties have agreed that the expenses related to the arrangement of the exhibitions, unless agreed otherwise by the institutions concerned, shall be covered as follows:

Responsibilities of the sending Party:

- a) Detailed proposals for exhibitions, including all technical data, should be submitted not later than 12 months prior to the planned opening of the exhibition;
- b) The international transport of the exhibition to its first destination in the receiving country and the international transport from its last location to the country of origin or to another country;
- c) The insurance from door to door, nail to nail, transport included;
- d) The submission of the materials for the issue of a catalogue in the language of the receiving country, English or German (texts, photos, transparencies etc.), shall be done at least 6 (six) months prior to the opening of the exhibition;
- e) The travel expenses for 1 (one) expert accompanying the exhibition to supervise the mounting and/or dismantling as well as packing and/or unpacking of the works.

Responsibilities of the receiving Party:

- a) To provide suitable exhibition halls with the necessary security infrastructure (climatic conditions, guards, etc.);

- b) To provide the necessary staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling of the exhibition;
- c) Printing of the catalogue, if necessary, and the posters and invitations;
- d) To provide the country of origin with copies of all material published in connection with the exhibition (catalogue, posters, invitations, reviews etc.).
- e) In case of damage, the host Party will not proceed with the restoration of the works without the prior approval of the sending Party, and will supply all relevant documentation and assistance to enable the sending Party to pursue any claim for compensation from the relevant insurance company.

All other conditions shall be agreed on a case-by-case basis.