

**PROTOCOL**  
**on Co-operation in Science and Technology**  
**between**

**The National Agency for Research and Development  
of the Republic of Moldova (NARD)**

**and**

**Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG)**

*On the basis of the Collaboration agreement in the field of education and science between the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education of Georgia, signed on 29.03.1991, in Chisinau, the National Agency for Research and Development of the Republic of Moldova (NARD) and the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG) (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),*

Recognising the importance of science and technology in the development of their national economies,

Wishing to strengthen and develop scientific and technological co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Preamble**

The Parties shall encourage and support co-operation in the field of science and technology between research entities, universities and research institutes of the Republic of Moldova and Georgia according to the provisions of this Protocol and the existing national legislation and regulations of each Party.

**Article 2**  
**Forms of Co-operation**

The co-operation will have the following forms in particular:

- 2.1. Joint research and development projects, including exchange of research results and exchange of scientists, specialists and researchers;
- 2.2. Organising and participating in joint scientific meetings, conferences, symposia, courses, workshops, exhibitions, etc.;
- 2.3. Exchange of scientific and technical research results, information and documentations arising from the bilateral scientific and technological cooperation;
- 2.4. Joint use of research and development facilities and scientific equipment;
- 2.5. Other forms of scientific and technological co-operation which may be mutually agreed upon.

**Article 3**  
**Other forms of cooperation**

- 3.1. Parties will collaborate within the context of participation in the European Union

Framework Programmes (EU FPs) for research and innovation.

- 3.2. The executive details concerning the cooperation in the EU FPs will be elaborated by the Joint Committee.

#### **Article 4** **Areas of Mutual Interest**

- 4.1. Considering priority objectives for their respective countries, the Parties will develop cooperation in the following fields of common interest:
  - a. Natural Sciences
  - b. Engineering and Technology
  - c. Medical and Health Sciences
  - d. Agricultural Sciences
  - e. Social Sciences and Humanities
- 4.2. Other areas of interest may be included by mutual written consent.

#### **Article 5** **Joint Committee**

- 5.1. For the purpose of implementing this Protocol, a Joint Committee, composed of equal number of representatives designated by the two Parties, shall be established. The tasks of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:
  - a. Identifying the fields of co-operation on the basis of information delivered by institutions of each country and the national policies in science and technology;
  - b. Creating favourable conditions for the implementation of this Protocol;
  - c. Facilitating the implementation of joint programmes and projects;
  - d. Encouraging exchange of experience arising from the bilateral scientific and technological co-operation and evaluating proposals for its further development.
- 5.2. The Joint Committee meetings are arranged by mutual agreement when matters requiring detailed discussion arise. However, the Joint Committee may also operate by correspondence.
- 5.3. The Joint Committee may elaborate its own rules of procedure.

#### **Article 6** **Joint Research and Development Projects**

In accordance of the provisions of the Article 2.1. of the present Protocol, the joint research and development projects will be implemented as follows:

- 6.1. The Parties will publish simultaneously a Call for Proposals every two years.
- 6.2. Project proposals have to provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.



- 6.3. Project proposals prepared in the English language should be submitted for evaluation and approval simultaneously to NARD and SRNSFG Unless both sides agree otherwise in writing, proposals will be independently evaluated and approved by each of the two Parties, following their own rules and regulations, and only those proposals which are approved by both Parties will be supported.
- 6.4. The execution period of a joint research project should not exceed 3 (three) years.
- 6.5. Each scientific visit has to be reported by the Moldovan scientists to NARD and by the Georgian scientists to SRNSFG one month in advance. The application must include a brief description of the work to be performed during the planned visit.
- 6.6. Within two months after completion of the execution period, a final report, presenting the work carried out and the results obtained, will be prepared in the English language jointly by the two research teams and submitted to NARD and SRNSFG.
- 6.7. Besides the financial support towards the exchange of project researchers mentioned above, the Parties may provide additional research funds to their respective project teams whenever they consider it appropriate. It is desirable but not essential to fund the two sides equally.

#### **Article 7 Expenses**

The costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists, resulting from this Protocol, unless mutually agreed otherwise in writing, will be covered on the following basis:

- 7.1 The sending Party will meet all related costs connected with travel, lodging and allowances according to their own regulations and allowances.
- 7.2 The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists, including medical care.

#### **Article 8 Dissemination of Resulting Information**

8.1 Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this Protocol, will be shared, announced, published or commercially exploited with the written consent of both cooperating partners and according to the international agreements concerning intellectual property rights to which states of the both Parties are signatories.

8.2 An agreement about ownership of intellectual property rights has to be signed between cooperating partners before execution of a joint research and development project. The said agreement shall be concluded in compliance with national legislation and regulations of the Parties.

8.3 Scientists, technical experts and institutions of the third countries or international organisations may be invited, upon written consent of the both co-operating partners, to participate in projects and programmes being carried out under this Protocol. The cost of

such participation shall normally be borne by third countries, unless both sides agree otherwise in writing.

## **Article 9**

### **Implementation and Legal Aspects**

9.1 This Protocol is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an international agreement binding upon the States of the Parties under international law. No provision of this Protocol shall be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments for the States of the Parties.

9.2 Any dispute related to the interpretation or implementation of this Protocol shall be settled through consultations within the Joint Committee or between the Parties.

9.3 With respect to the co-operation activities established under this Protocol, each Party shall take, in accordance with the respective national legislations of their States, all necessary measures to ensure the best possible conditions for their implementation.

9.4 This Protocol shall not affect the validity or execution of any obligation arising from other international treaties or agreements concluded by the States of the Parties.

9.5 This Protocol may be amended at any time through mutual written consent of the Parties, in writing.

## **Article 10**

### **Initiation and Termination**

10.1 This Protocol shall enter into force on the date when it is signed by both Parties.

10.2 This Protocol shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall automatically be renewed for further periods of five years, unless either Party notifies in writing the other Party about its intentions to terminate this Protocol.

10.3 The termination of this Protocol will come into effect in six months from the receiving date of the written notification. The termination of this Protocol shall not affect the projects or programmes undertaken under this Protocol and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this Protocol.

Signed in Chisinau, Moldova on 23 May 2023 in two original copies, each in English language.

For the National Agency for Research and  
Development of the Republic of Moldova  
Vadim IATCHEVICI



For the Shota Rustaveli National Science  
Foundation of Georgia  
Prof. Erekle ASTAKHISHVILI

