PROGRAM ON EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, YOUTH AND SPORTS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL FOR THE YEARS 2026-2030

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides");

Guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the spheres of culture, education and science;

Based on the Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Science and Education between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the State of Israel signed in Ljubljana on 16 June 1993;

Convinced that this cooperation will contribute to the development of their relations and to raising awareness, particularly among youth, of the history and culture of the people of both countries and agreeing to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries;

Have agreed on the following Program on Educational, Scientific, Cultural, Youth and Sports Cooperation for the years 2026-2030:

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

1. EDUCATION

1.1. The Sides will promote exchange of information and constructive contacts between the two countries, in various aspects of education.

1.2. The Sides will encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutes of both countries.

1.3. The Sides will, in accordance with their budgetary means, promote the exchanges of information, experience, documentation and experts in the following areas:

- The education system of both countries,
- Initial and in-service teacher training,
- School organization and management,
- Presenting the Information systems for managing schools,
- Regulations on education,
- Education for students with disabilities and special needs,
- School decentralization and self-management,
- Civic education, human rights and education for gender equality,

- Education for gifted children,
- Cultural integration of minority groups (including joint projects),
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects),
- Foreign language teaching,
- Formal and informal education,
- Inter-disciplinary learning (i.e. literature, cinema and more),
- Inclusive education,
- Culture and heritage,
- Adult education (lifelong learning),
- Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education,
- Youth contribution to the community,
- Development of life skills,
- Arts education,
- Vocational training and technical education,
- Technologies and innovation industry for schools, teachers and students,
- Holocaust education and research.

1.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

1.5. Both Sides agree to cooperate in the field of e-learning, including design, development, and implementation of software, hardware and professional practice such as: digital books, learning management software, long distance learning environments, teacher training, etc. The Sides will also encourage the exchange of experience and good practices concerning the digital transformation of education, including digital competences and the responsible use of AI and other technologies.

1.6. The Sides will encourage development of school partnerships in all fields of education. Partnerships can be designed through different means, such as virtual joint projects, school twinning programs, exchange of delegations and mutual visits of teachers and pupils from the respective schools.

1.7. Both Sides will encourage the exchanges and cooperation in the field of creativity and innovation, to cultivate the sense of innovation and creativity among teachers and students.

In Israel, information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: www.education.gov.il.

In Slovenia information on the educational system can be obtained from the website of www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-izobrazevanje-znanost-in-mladino/.

1.8. The Sides will act to promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at their respective primary, secondary and higher education institutions. For this purpose, the corresponding experts from the partner country will be invited to deliver lectures, hold seminars and conduct other educational activities. The conditions under which the experts will perform their respective activities in the receiving country will be negotiated between the respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channel.

1.9. The Sides are committed to preventing the publication of text books which encourage racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes. Each Side will bring to the attention of the other if such publications are detected.

1.10. The Sides will put special emphasis on research and educational work related to the history and heritage of Jews in Slovenia and to the tragic fate of the Jewish community of Slovenia during the Second World War under the Nazi occupation as well as its aftermath. The Slovenian Side will continue to include the subject of Slovenian Jewish heritage and of the Holocaust in the school curriculum.

1.11. The Sides stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the Holocaust during their schooling, with reference also to the contents of the Stockholm Declaration of January 2000, the IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust and the United Nations resolution 60/7, of November 1st 2005, designating 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, which emphasizes the unique historical character of the Holocaust and denounces the still lingering dangers of genocide, racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia. In this context, the Sides will support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels that aim at combating racism and antisemitism.

1.12. The Sides will encourage participation of teachers and particularly, history teachers, in courses dealing with the history of the Holocaust and antisemitism which are organized by Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem as outlined in a Joint Declaration between the Slovenian Ministry of Education and Science and Yad Vashem signed in June 2017. Both Sides share a joint commitment to continuing education about the Holocaust in the Slovenian public system, encouraging Slovenian teachers to attend professional development programs and designing didactic resources and materials that focus on the Holocaust and human rights education. The Sides will encourage participation of teachers and particularly, history teachers, in courses given by Slovene Instititute dr. Jože Pučnik and Study Centre for National Reconciliation, dealing with the history of the second world war on Slovenian territory, and in courses dealing with post-war mass killings of Slovene people, Italian minority and Jewish population living in Slovenia, perpetrated by the communists.

1.13. The Sides will promote reciprocal cooperation between the Yad Vashem document archive and Slovenian state and public institutions, in accordance with their respective regulations, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, books, digital information, documents copies, databases and regulations. The Sides will encourage scholars to undertake unfettered Holocaust-related research and publish archival sources.

1.14. The Sides will put special emphasis on research and educational work related to the experience of Slovenia under totalitarian regimes in the twentieth century and to the preservation of the memory of their victims. This will highlight political persecution, repression and other grave violations of human rights committed under communism.

1.15. The Sides recognize the importance of preserving the memory of the victims of mass killings committed during and in the aftermath of the Second World War. In this context, particular attention will be given to the post-war mass killings in Slovenia, the fate of their victims and the numerous concealed and unmarked mass graves resulting from these events.

1.16. The Israeli Side will encourage educational, academic and research institutions in Israel to promote knowledge and awareness of the historical experience of Slovenia under totalitarian regimes, including the post-war mass killings, political persecution and other forms of repression under the communist regime.

1.17. The Sides will encourage cooperation between relevant Slovenian and Israeli academic, educational, archival and research institutions in studying totalitarianism, political violence, mass atrocities and systematic violations of human rights. Such cooperation may include exchanges of scholars and experts, scientific publications, conferences, educational activities, digital information, copies of documents and archival materials, in accordance with their respective regulations.

1.18. The Sides stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the consequences of totalitarianism, political persecution and systematic violations of human rights. In this context, the Sides will support educational activities that contribute to the preservation of the memory of victims and promote human dignity, democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms, and respect for the rule of law.

1.19. The Sides will encourage scholars to undertake independent and unrestricted research into totalitarian regimes and their crimes, including the post-war mass killings and political repression in Slovenia, and to publish relevant archival sources. The Sides will promote access to relevant archival materials in accordance with their respective legislation and regulations.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, subject to available resources, will offer annual one (1) Modern Hebrew summer language course and five (5) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months) each, for Slovenian post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli higher education institution.

Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mfa.gov.il and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.2. The Slovenian Side will offer up to twenty-seven (27) scholarship months annually to Israeli post-graduates and doctoral candidates for study and/or research stays at Slovenian higher education institutions. The duration of individual stays will normally range from three (3) to ten (10) months. Scholarships shall not be awarded for a complete course of study leading to a degree.

2.3. The Slovenian side shall publish annually a public call for applications for bilateral scholarships, containing all relevant information for applicants.

2.4. These scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

3. COOPERATION BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

3.1. Without prejudice to respective national legislation, the competences of the relevant authorities and the autonomy of higher education institutions, the Sides will encourage and facilitate direct cooperation between higher education institutions of both countries.

3.2. The Sides will encourage the mobility of students and academic and administrative staff, as well as cooperation between higher education institutions, including within Erasmus+ and other European and international programs and initiatives for which institutions from both countries are eligible.

3.3. The Sides will enable, subject to available resources, the reciprocal participation of up to three (3) academics in national and international conferences/seminars, workshops and other academic events to be held in both countries for a period of up to five (5) days each, while this program is in effect.

3.4. The Sides will encourage the exchange of information, publications, literature and good practices concerning national higher education systems, quality assurance and the recognition of qualifications and study periods abroad, in accordance with their respective national legislation.

3.5. The Sides will encourage studies relating to the cultures, languages and modern history of each other's country in the respective higher education institutions.

3.6. Cooperation under this Chapter shall respect institutional autonomy, academic freedom, academic integrity, equal opportunities and the principles of non-discrimination.

3.7. The Sides will encourage cooperation between higher education institutions in the development of innovative and flexible forms of learning and teaching, including LLL, micro-credentials and other forms of short learning programs, and will promote the exchange of experience and good practices.

4. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

4.1. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions, universities, academies of sciences, research infrastructures, technology centers and other relevant organizations. The content, priorities, modalities and conditions of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent institutions of both countries. Such cooperation may include institutional partnerships, joint research activities, research networks and consortia, as well as cooperation within European and international programs.

4.2. The Sides will encourage mutual exchange of scientific and research workers, researchers, experts, doctoral candidates and other research personnel with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines, training, knowledge exchange and the preparation and implementation of joint projects. Particular attention may be given to early-career researchers and to the development of long-term institutional partnerships. The terms and conditions of such exchanges will be agreed upon by the relevant institutions and/or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

4.3. The Sides will encourage joint scientific and technological research, research and development, innovation, pilot and demonstration projects in areas of mutual interest, projects in areas of mutual interest, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical information, research data, research results, methodologies, good practices and publications. The Sides may also encourage the establishment of joint research teams, networks and consortia and their participation in European and international research and innovation programs.

4.4. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between universities, academies of sciences, and other scientific research institutions, including research infrastructures, technology and innovation centers and other relevant public and private organizations. Such cooperation may include the joint organization of scientific conferences, workshops, expert meetings, training activities and other forms of scientific, technological and innovation cooperation.

4.5. The Sides will encourage cooperation in strategic and emerging fields of science and technology of mutual interest. The Sides express their readiness to further develop and, where appropriate, update the framework for bilateral scientific and technological cooperation through new work programs, implementing arrangements, joint or coordinated calls for proposals and other mutually agreed instruments.

4.6. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of research infrastructures, including the exchange of experience and good practices and access to research infrastructures in accordance with applicable rules and available resources. The Sides will encourage scientific, research, technological and innovation cooperation in areas of mutual and strategic interest, including advanced and emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, digitalization and digital transformation, cybersecurity, data technologies, biotechnology, advanced materials and space technologies.

4.7. The Sides will encourage cooperation in research-based innovation, knowledge and technology transfer and cooperation between research institutions, higher education institutions and the business sector. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the planning, development, upgrading, access to and joint use of research and technological infrastructures, including laboratories, research facilities, data infrastructures, testing and demonstration environments and advanced scientific equipment. The competent authorities and institutions of both countries may identify areas of mutual interest and establish joint or coordinated calls for proposals for research and technological infrastructure projects, subject to their respective national legislation and the availability of financial resources.

4.8. The Sides will encourage cooperation and partnerships within European and international research and innovation programs and initiatives for which institutions are eligible.

4.9. The Sides will encourage cooperation in research, development and innovation related to dual-use technologies in areas of mutual interest. Such cooperation will be carried out in accordance with the respective national legislation, international obligations and applicable security and export-control requirements.

4.10. The Sides note with satisfaction the Work Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia signed in Tel-Aviv on the 6th of June, 2017.

5. EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

General review
The Sides welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the two countries. The Sides reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

The Sides will encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in Slovenia and cultural activities of Slovenian origin in Israel.

5.1. The Sides will encourage the exchange of music, theatre, visual and plastic arts, design, dance and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Sides will encourage visits of art critics, science writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

5.2. Performing Arts festivals
The Sides will encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on principles of reciprocity, and will be agreed upon by the Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.
The Sides will inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

5.3. Visual Arts, photography and design
The Sides will cooperate in the field of fine arts, handcraft fairs, photography and design. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, folk craftsmen, art experts and specialists in traditional folk works.

5.4. Architecture
The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions and the exchange of architects, as well as information sharing and the promotion of exhibitions.

5.5. Museums and Exhibitions
The Sides will encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information.

The Sides will encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions including works of art from museums, official and alternative exhibition spaces, private galleries, artist training schools and galleries, and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects.

5.6. Music

The Sides will encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They will also support direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions, associations, orchestras and conservatories in the areas of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recordings and personal visits on a commercial and non-commercial basis.

The Sides will strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

5.7. Dance

The Sides will encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers and producers of dance festivals. The Sides will also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.8. Theatre

The Sides will encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc. The Sides will also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.9. The Sides will enable, subject to available resources, annual visits of experts/artists/producers/curators in the above mentioned various fields of arts, for a total period of not exceeding five (5) days each year. Projects will be agreed upon by the Sides through diplomatic channels.

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, exchanging information about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition, they will encourage activities aimed at preserving sites of mutual interest.

6.2. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They will also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

6.3. The Sides will encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national laws.

6.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architecture research. Details of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

6.5. The Sides will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content. They will also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (IPCHS).

6.6. During the course of this Program, the Sides will exchange experts from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (IPCHS).

7. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

7.1. The Sides will work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. The Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

7.2. The Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities.

7.3. The Sides will encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

7.4. Each Side will extend invitations to the other for participation in their respective International Book fairs on a commercial basis and non-commercial basis, while this Program is in effect.

8. CINEMA AND AUDIO-VISUAL

8.1. The Sides will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Sides will foster to present the film of the other country through cinema retrospectives in their respective country, also as part of international film festivals being held in their country. Information regarding major film festivals will be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

8.2. The Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side's country in their own country and encourage mutual visits of expert or public figure in the field of cinema.

8.3. The Sides will encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.
The Sides welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools as well as between their national cinematheques and the exchange of students and teachers in this field.

8.4. The Sides express their interest in promoting co-productions between Slovenian and Israeli film producers. The Sides will discuss and conclude a co-production (of films and video) agreement, with the aim to facilitate future film co-productions.

8.5. The Sides will encourage cooperation and exchange of knowledge between the television authorities in the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts in this area, on a commercial and non-commercial basis.

9. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

9.1. The Sides will promote reciprocal cooperation between the archive departments of state, public institutions and libraries, in accordance with their respective legislation, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, document copies, databases and regulations. The exchanges will take place in accordance with domestic laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

10. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Sides will cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of international organizations, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of common programs of action.

11. YOUTH EXCHANGE

11.1. The Sides agree that the exchange of youth and young adults constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They will therefore support such programs.
Emphasis will be placed on the active participation of young people in the community and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through the specific youth activities.

11.2. The Sides will encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard will be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and CMEPIUS - National Agency for European Community Programmes and International Mobility Programmes.

12. SPORTS

The Sides will encourage cooperation in sports, mainly by exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines. Details will be worked out through mutual consultations between interested organizations of both countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges will be agreed upon between interested organizations of both countries.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

13.1. Each Side shall protect intellectual property rights of all materials obtained in the framework of this Program, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in its country.

13.2. Intellectual property rights acquired or created as a result of joint activity in accordance with this program will be allocated by mutually agreed conditions set out in separate arrangements prior to commencing the joint activity.

13.3. No Side will transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuance of this Program to any third Side without prior written consent of the Side from which such information originated.

14. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

14.1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedules of the events, will be agreed upon by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both countries. In general, the financial provisions will be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

- The sending Side will cover the international travel expenses of their delegations and representatives.
- The receiving Side will cover the costs of accommodation in its country.

14.2. Exchange of individuals (artists, experts, etc.)

The exchange will be regulated as follows:

- Invited persons or delegations should be able to communicate in either language of the receiving country or institution, or English or any other language mutually agreed upon.
- Each individual and delegation will be responsible for their own medical insurance.

14.3. Scholarships

The terms and conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Side for one academic year will be published yearly through governmental channels as well as on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mfa.gov.il.

The Israeli Side will provide participants in the "Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School" beneficiaries of the scholarships accepted within this Program, with the following:

a. free tuition;
b. allowance to cover the living expenses in accordance with the conditions of the language school/academic institutions;
c. health insurance, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

The Slovenian Side will provide Israeli students who are the beneficiaries of academic scholarships in accordance with this program, with the following:

a. monthly scholarship allowance in the amount applicable under the Slovenian bilateral scholarship scheme;
b. free accommodation in student dormitory facilities, subject to availability and in accordance with the applicable rules;
c. subsidized student meals in accordance with the applicable regulations;
d. health insurance in accordance with the rules governing the Slovenian bilateral scholarship scheme.

The scholarships do not cover tuition fees. Detailed conditions shall be published annually by the competent Slovenian authority.

14.4. Exchange of exhibitions
The financial provisions for each project will be separately agreed upon between the Sides.

15. FINAL PROVISIONS

15.1. This Program does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.

15.2. The Sides agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Program will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

15.3. Any actions for implementation of this Program will be carried out by the Sides in accordance with their legislation and within the limits of their available resources. This Program is not legally binding and does not create any additional rights or obligations for the Sides under International Law.

15.4. All differences that might arise in the course of this Program will be settled amicably through diplomatic channels.

15.5. The Sides entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

15.6. This Program may be modified by mutual consent of the Sides. The modifications will be made in writing.

15.7. This Program will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 31 December 2030.

15.8. The termination of this Program will not affect ongoing activities agreed upon prior to its termination.

Signed in Ljubljana on this 9th day of September, 2026, which corresponds to the 27th day of Elul, 5786, in the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Slovenia

For the Government of the State of Israel