

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

VILNIUS BUSINESS COLLEGE, Lithuania

and

**COMMUNAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION "KREMENCHUK
HUMANITARIAN AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACADEMY", POLTAVA REGIONAL
COUNCIL**, Ukraine

Vilnius Business College (VBC), Lithuania, represented by its Director, **Deimantė Žebrauskaitė**, and Communal Institution of Higher Education "Kremenchuk Humanitarian and Technological Academy" (Academy), Poltava Regional Council, Ukraine, represented by its Director, **Dr. Lesia Krupina**, hereinafter individually referred to as a "**Party**" and collectively as the "**Parties**",

recognising the importance of international cooperation in higher education, academic mobility, research, innovation and institutional development;

wishing to strengthen cooperation between Lithuanian and Ukrainian higher education institutions;

acknowledging the mutual benefits of the exchange of knowledge, academic experience and good practices;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1. Purpose and Strategic Objectives

- 1.1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a framework for long-term academic, scientific, educational, innovation and institutional cooperation between the Parties.
- 1.2. The Parties intend to develop cooperation that contributes to:
 - the internationalisation and quality enhancement of higher education;
 - the exchange of academic knowledge, experience and good practices;
 - the development of student, academic and administrative staff mobility;
 - the implementation of joint educational and research activities;
 - the development of entrepreneurship and innovation;
 - digital transformation and development of digital competences;
 - the responsible application of artificial intelligence in education, business and research;
 - the development and implementation of joint national and international projects;
 - strengthening the resilience, internationalisation and sustainable development of higher education.
- 1.3. Particular attention may be given to areas related to business education, digital business, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, innovation, applied research and internationalisation.
- 1.4. The Parties may jointly identify priority areas and develop specific activities, projects and programmes in accordance with their respective institutional strategies, capacities, regulations and available funding opportunities.

Article 2. Areas of Cooperation

Within the framework of this MOU, cooperation may include, but shall not be limited to, the following areas:

2.1. Student Mobility and International Learning

The Parties may cooperate in:

- 2.1.1. student exchange and study mobility;
- 2.1.2. short-term and blended mobility activities;
- 2.1.3. virtual mobility and international online learning;
- 2.1.4. student internships and practical placements;
- 2.1.5. study visits and academic exchanges;
- 2.1.6. student participation in international and joint projects;
- 2.1.7. joint student projects and other forms of experiential learning.

2.2. Academic and Administrative Staff Mobility

The Parties may facilitate:

- 2.2.1. teaching mobility and guest lectures;
- 2.2.2. academic visits and job-shadowing;
- 2.2.3. staff training and professional development activities;
- 2.2.4. exchange of academic and administrative staff experience;
- 2.2.5. sharing of institutional practices in internationalisation, quality assurance and higher education management;
- 2.2.6. participation in staff weeks, training programmes, workshops and other professional development activities.

2.3. Joint Educational Activities

The Parties may jointly develop and implement:

- 2.3.1. joint courses and modules;
- 2.3.2. guest lectures and expert sessions;
- 2.3.3. seminars, workshops and conferences;
- 2.3.4. summer and winter schools;
- 2.3.5. intensive educational programmes;
- 2.3.6. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) activities;
- 2.3.7. virtual classrooms and international online learning activities;
- 2.3.8. joint student projects and case studies;
- 2.3.9. development and exchange of educational materials and teaching practices.

2.4. Research and Publications

The Parties may cooperate in:

- 2.4.1. joint scientific and applied research projects;
- 2.4.2. research seminars and conferences;
- 2.4.3. joint publications and dissemination of research results;
- 2.4.4. exchange of research methodologies, expertise and good practices;
- 2.4.5. development of joint research proposals;
- 2.4.6. participation in international research networks;
- 2.4.7. joint supervision or support of student research activities, where appropriate;
- 2.4.8. dissemination of research and educational outcomes through appropriate academic and professional channels.

2.5. Joint Projects and Funding Opportunities

The Parties may jointly:

- 2.5.1. identify relevant national, European and international funding opportunities;
- 2.5.2. prepare and submit joint project proposals;
- 2.5.3. cooperate within Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, EU–Ukraine cooperation initiatives and other relevant funding programmes;
- 2.5.4. develop pilot activities that may subsequently be expanded through external funding;
- 2.5.5. establish joint project teams and working groups;
- 2.5.6. exchange information concerning calls for proposals, funding opportunities and project development.

Cooperation under this Article shall not create an obligation for either Party to participate in a particular project unless this is separately agreed in writing.

Article 3. Forms and Mechanisms of Cooperation

- 3.1. Specific activities will be implemented through separate agreements, project documents, Erasmus+ arrangements, action plans or other appropriate instruments.
- 3.2. Specific agreements will define objectives and scope of cooperation, responsibilities of each Party, financial arrangements and other conditions relevant to the specific activity.
- 3.3. The Parties may establish joint working groups or commissions for specific areas of cooperation, including, where appropriate.

Article 4. Coordination and Communication

- 4.1. Each Party may designate an institutional coordinator or contact person responsible for facilitating communication and coordination under this MOU.
- 4.2. The Parties will maintain communication concerning planned activities, cooperation opportunities, funding calls and other matters relevant to implementation of this MOU.
- 4.3. The Parties may organise regular coordination meetings, either in person or online, to review progress and identify new opportunities for cooperation.

Article 5. Responsibilities of the Parties

- 5.1. The Parties will make reasonable efforts to support and facilitate activities agreed under this MOU within their respective institutional capacities and applicable legislation.
- 5.2. Neither Party shall be obliged to undertake a specific activity or incur financial expenditure solely as a result of this MOU unless such commitment is established in a separate written agreement.
- 5.3. The Parties shall inform each other, where appropriate, of circumstances that may significantly affect the implementation of agreed activities.

Article 6. Financial Arrangements

- 6.1. This MOU is non-commercial and does not in itself create financial obligations for either Party.
- 6.2. Each Party shall normally bear its own costs associated with activities under this MOU unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.3. Any financial commitments, costs, participant support, travel, accommodation, tuition or other financial arrangements related to specific activities shall be agreed separately in writing.
- 6.4. Cooperation may be supported through institutional, national, European or international funding programmes, subject to the applicable rules and availability of funding.

Article 7. Publications, Intellectual Property and Data Protection

- 7.1. The Parties intend to promote dissemination of results arising from joint research, educational and innovation activities.

- 7.2. Authorship, publication rights, intellectual property rights and ownership or use of results arising from specific joint activities shall be agreed by the Parties in advance, where applicable, through specific agreements.
- 7.3. Publications resulting from joint activities should appropriately acknowledge the contribution of both Parties and comply with applicable academic and institutional requirements.
- 7.4. The Parties shall process and exchange personal data in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and their respective institutional policies.

Article 8. Confidentiality

- 8.1. Each Party undertakes to maintain the confidentiality of information that is expressly identified as confidential or that, by its nature, should reasonably be understood to be confidential and that is obtained in the course of joint activities.
- 8.2. Confidential information shall not be disclosed to third parties except where required by applicable law or authorised by the disclosing Party.
- 8.3. The confidentiality obligations shall not apply to information that is publicly available, was lawfully known to the receiving Party before disclosure, is independently developed without use of confidential information or is lawfully obtained from a third party without confidentiality restrictions.

Article 9. Use of Names and Logos

- 9.1. Neither Party shall use the name, logo or other institutional identifiers of the other Party for promotional or public communication purposes without prior consent, unless such use is explicitly permitted under a separate agreement or institutional policy.
- 9.2. Joint communication concerning activities implemented under this MOU may be developed by mutual agreement between the Parties.

Article 10. Duration, Amendment and Termination

- 10.1. This MOU shall enter into force on the date of signature by both Parties and shall remain valid for **five (5) years**.
- 10.2. The MOU shall be automatically extended for successive periods of **one (1) year**, unless either Party notifies the other Party in writing, at least thirty (30) days prior to its expiration, of its intention not to extend the MOU.
- 10.3. Either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other Party.
- 10.4. Termination of this MOU shall not automatically affect activities already formally agreed under separate written arrangements. The Parties shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the orderly completion or appropriate termination of such activities.
- 10.5. Any amendments to this MOU shall be made in writing and signed by authorised representatives of both Parties.

Article 11. Final Provisions

- 11.1. The Parties intend to resolve any disagreements arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MOU through consultation and amicable dialogue.
- 11.2. This MOU expresses the mutual intentions of the Parties and provides a framework for cooperation. It does not, by itself, create a partnership, joint venture, agency relationship or financial obligation between the Parties.
- 11.3. Specific legally binding obligations, where required, shall be established through separate written agreements signed by authorised representatives of the Parties.
- 11.4. The Parties acknowledge that cooperation under this MOU shall be carried out in accordance with applicable national legislation, institutional regulations and the rules of relevant funding programmes.

- 11.5. This MOU may be signed in counterparts, including by electronic or scanned signature, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

SIGNATURES

For Vilnius Business College

**For Communal Institution of Higher
Education**

**“Kremenchuk Humanitarian and
Technological Academy”**

Director

Deimantė ŽEBRAUSKAITĖ

Director

Lesia KRUPINA

Signature: _____

Date: _____

