

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia

and

the British Council

On co-operation within the scope of delivery of the British Council's English and Education portfolio

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry"), represented by the Deputy Minister Artur Martirosyan, and the British Council through its Armenian Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the British Council"), represented by Director Arevik Saribekyan

(hereinafter referred to as "the Participant", and/or "the Participants");

With the intention to cooperate within the scope of delivery of the British Council's English and Education portfolio

have agreed as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1

The aim of the cooperation is to deepen and systemise bilateral support for delivery and implementation of the British Council's English and education programmes aiming at contributing to Armenia's education reforms around the enhancement of quality of teaching and learning.

The expected outcomes of Cooperation are:

- 1. Development of "State Schools Continuing Professional Development Policy and Framework" in Armenia**

The British Council will:

- a) provide financial support for UK consultancy to develop the framework;
- b) liaise with the Ministry to manage and coordinate the work on the ground and ensure the final product's full alignment with the vision and priorities of the Ministry;
- c) lead on the organisation of a Policy Forum for dissemination of the policy paper and framework with key stakeholders.

The Ministry will:

- a) assign staff from the Ministry to support with the Desk Research within the project by providing information on ongoing education reforms;
- b) form and coordinate a Local Advisory Group to review and feedback on the developed policy paper and framework;
- c) position and promote the project among the beneficiaries.

2. Provide research and insight and drive innovation in English teaching system through the "Future English: Pathways to Excellence" Project

The British Council will:

- a) provide financial support for conducting a comprehensive piece of research to analyse the English language skills of 16-year olds (their motivations, aspirations and learning preferences), the classroom practices and attitudes of English teachers and whether this is affected by the English language policy in-country;
- b) lead on organisation of a Policy Forum to share its research findings and explore possible solutions with a focus on English language policy and teachers' continuous professional development;
- c) lead on creating a virtual teaching community named a vTAG - a Virtual Teaching Activity Group - as a digital innovation to support English teachers connect with like-minded professionals, access resources and have a personalised online learning experience.

The Ministry will:

- a) assign staff from the Ministry to support with the Desk Research within the project by providing information on ongoing education reforms;
- b) form and coordinate a Local Advisory Group to review and feedback on the developed policy paper and framework;
- c) position and promote the project among the beneficiaries.

3. “English Impact” Research Study Project

The British Council will:

- a) provide financial support for conducting a research based on PISA methodology by the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER);
- b) support ACER to build a multi-dimensional profile of English capability in Armenia and help diagnose the impact policy decisions can have on the development of learning systems: the curriculum, its delivery and assessment.

The Ministry will:

- a) Assign staff from the Ministry to support the British Council with the defined sampling standards and requirements;
- b) Liaise with 150 target schools nationwide to support delivery of the research assessment and survey.

4. “Coding Skills: Connecting Present to the Future” Project

The British Council will:

- a) Through the financial support from VEON Armenia (Beeline Armenia), pilot a project aiming to teach coding skills to three high school students and develop their core skills of critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, creativity and collaboration;

- b) provide pedagogical, technical, logistical support to the pilot schools;
- c) conduct a monitoring and evaluation of the project outcomes.

The Ministry will:

- a) Assign staff from the Ministry to coordinate and support British Council in selecting pilot high schools;
- b) Support project positioning with the selected high schools;
- c) Support with sustainability and expansion of the project post-pilot phase.

PARAGRAPH 2: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 1) The Participants acknowledge that neither of them will acquire any rights to the intellectual property of the other Participant under this MoU.
- 2) The terms on which each Participant shall be entitled to use the other Participant's intellectual property rights will be set out in separate legally binding agreements, if necessary.
- 3) Each Participant will ensure that any publicity related to the purpose of this MoU is accurate and not misleading and does not contain reference to the other (including branding and logo) without that other Participant's prior written consent.

PARAGRAPH 3: PRINCIPLES

- 1) The Participants recognize the paramount importance of child protection and adults at risk in the delivery of the purpose of this MoU and acknowledge that each of the signatory of this Memorandum of Understanding have robust policies and procedures in place complying with all applicable legislation related to adults at risk and child protection including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989. Any potential incidents related to adults at risk and/or child protection can lead to the immediate termination of this MoU.

PARAGRAPH 4

This Memorandum reflects the current mutual intentions of the Participants and does not create legal obligations for the Parties.

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signing and be valid for a period of one year. Upon the expiry of this term, the Participants may review this Memorandum and make a decision on continuing the co-operation.

The Participants may amend or supplement this Memorandum upon mutual written agreement, which will constitute inseparable part of this Memorandum.

Any difference concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum will be settled through consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

Any Participant can terminate this Memorandum by giving a six months prior written notice to the other Participant.

This Memorandum is signed in Yerevan on 23 Feb. 2021, in two original copies, each in Armenian and English languages. In the event of inconsistency between the two versions of the Memorandum, the Armenian version shall prevail.

Deputy Minister of Education,
Science, Culture and Sport
of the Republic of Armenia

Director, British Council Armenia

Artur Martirosyan

Arevik Saribekyan

