

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation
between
the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience
and
the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education,
Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic

The State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience and the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic,

- taking into account the fact that the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople is the center of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Jesus Christ and has a unique position in Orthodox Christianity as the Mother Church and the centuries-old history of relations between the Hellenic and Ukrainian nations and peoples, especially in the spiritual sphere.

- bearing in mind the desire of Ukraine to develop further cultural, educational and religious cooperation with the Hellenic Republic,

have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience and the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic (hereinafter – the Parties).

Article 1

The purpose of this Memorandum is to foster cooperation between the Parties to enrich the cultural, educational, and religious life of Ukraine through the exchange of experience and knowledge shared by the theologians, scholars and religious leaders of the Hellenic Republic.

Article 2

To implement this Memorandum the Parties, determine the following areas of cooperation:

- organizing of events aimed at strengthening interreligious peace and understanding between churches and religious communities;
- ensuring the teaching of Greek language courses in accredited institutions of higher spiritual education (Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy, Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy etc.);
- organization and participation in academic exchange programs between teachers and students of both Parties;
- organizing and holding guest lectures by academic faculties, scholars and leading experts;
- provide scholarships to the best students;

- organizing special educational programs (military chaplaincy, medical chaplaincy, spiritual and psychological therapy, trauma healing, liturgical programs, best pastoral practices, etc.);
- holding seminars, summer schools, and forums for Ukrainian clergy and theologians;
- conducting scientific internships and academic and pedagogical visits; — providing the scientific libraries of accredited institutions of higher spiritual education (Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy, Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy etc.) with contemporary writings of Greek theologians and public figures;
- providing translation of manuals, textbooks, and materials for seminars, conferences, colloquia and other academic events;
- co-financing of conferences and other academic events;
- financing the publications of educational, methodological materials and textbooks; —organizing retreats for chaplains and military personnel;
- organizing summer camps for children from the war zones involving students engaged in pastoral and pedagogical practice;
- assisting in cooperation with the Synodal Committee for Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Communication and the Synodal Commission for Church Education and Clergy Education, the Department of Apostolic Ministry, and other commissions operating within these institutions;
- promoting cooperation with the two Faculties of Theology (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), the University Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens, the Patriarchal University Ecclesiastical Academy of Crete and other known institutions of the Church of Greece or Church of Crete, such as the Volos Academy for Theological Studies and the Orthodox Academy of Crete;
- coordinating the activities of state institutions, ecclesiastical organizations and public foundations to ensure the optimal realization of all available opportunities.

Article 3

To advance the objectives of this Memorandum, the Parties shall exchange ideas and proposals during the final semester of each calendar year to develop Action Plans outlining relevant activities.

The Parties shall also convene regular meetings at an appropriate level to:

- (a) prepare the aforementioned activities;
 - (b) monitor the progress of the cooperation programs;
- and (c) address any issues that may arise during the implementation of these programs.

Article 4

To facilitate cooperation between the Parties, a Joint Coordination Committee shall be established. The Committee shall comprise two representatives from each Party and shall be formed by a joint decision signed by authorized representatives of both Parties. Each Party retains the right to withdraw its representatives and appoint new ones at its discretion.

Article 5

The activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the availability of resources for both Parties.

All educational and cultural activities implemented under this Memorandum shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and procedures of the respective Parties.

In applying this MOU, the Hellenic Republic shall respect its obligations arising from its membership in the European Union.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be a legally binding agreement. No provision of this Memorandum shall be construed as creating any legal rights or obligations for either Party.

Article 6

This Memorandum may be amended or supplemented by mutual written agreement of the Parties through the execution of additional agreements, which shall become integral parts hereof.

Any disputes arising between the Parties concerning the implementation or interpretation of this Memorandum shall be resolved through amicable negotiations and consultations.

This Memorandum shall enter into force from the moment of its signing by the Parties.

This Memorandum shall remain in effect indefinitely, unless one of the Parties expresses its intent to terminate it by written notification transmitted through diplomatic channels. Such termination shall become effective six months following receipt of the notification by the other Party.

Done in Kyiv, on June 18th 2025 in duplicate, in the Ukrainian, Hellenic and English languages, all texts being authentic.

**The Head of the State Service
of Ukraine
for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience**

Viktor Yelenskyi



**The Secretary General
for Religious Affairs
of the Ministry of Education,
Religious Affairs, and Sports
of the Hellenic Republic**

George Kalantzis

