

**COOPERATION PROGRAMME BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
FOR THE YEARS 2017-2022**

The Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

are convinced that this cooperation shall contribute to the development of their relations and to the understanding between the people of the two countries, and broaden the educational and youth exchanges between Estonia and China;

guided by their desire to strengthen the friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the fields of education, language and youth, based on the Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed in Beijing on 3rd September, 1993 have agreed on the following Cooperation Programme for the years 2017-2022.

Article 1

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange any desired information regarding all forms and levels of education.

Article 2

The Parties shall encourage the development of cooperation between educational institutions of both sides. To this end, the Parties should facilitate the participation of experts in international congresses, conferences, seminars, colloquies and symposia held in the partner country and participation of pupils and university and college students in competitions and other international programmes and projects.

Article 3

The Parties shall promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at the respective secondary and higher education institutions. In compliance with the demand of the other Party, the partner country shall consider sending teachers and professors to the corresponding institutions.

The requirements for the teachers and professors and their conditions in the receiving country shall be negotiated between the respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channels.

In Estonia, teaching of the Estonian language and culture abroad is based on the respective national programme administered by the Archimedes Foundation.

In China, the implementing body for sending teachers of Chinese language and culture is Confucius Institute Headquarters.

Article 4

The Parties underscore the importance of reciprocal recognition of educational certificates, diplomas and academic degrees. The Parties promote the implementation of the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Qualification, signed on 27 April, 2015.

Article 5

1. The Chinese Party shall provide annually 3 (three) state scholarships for Estonian holders (including undergraduate students, post graduate students, PhD candidates, exchange students, and the person(s) whose stay is approved by the Parties to be extended for the following year).

The Estonian holders of Chinese state scholarship shall study in the colleges or universities appointed by the Chinese Party, and shall be granted scholarships covering the tuition, accommodation, living expenses and comprehensive medical insurance scheme, in accordance with the funding standard of Chinese Government Scholarship.

2. The Estonian Party shall provide annually 3 (three) state scholarships for Chinese

holders (including undergraduate students, post graduate students, PhD candidates, exchange students, and person(s) whose stay is approved by the Parties to be extended for the following year).

The Chinese holders of Estonian state scholarship shall study in the colleges or universities appointed by the Estonian Party, and shall be granted an allowance to cover their living expenses, in accordance with the funding standard of Estonian National Scholarship Program. For exchange students studies are free of charge at Estonian public universities.

3. The Parties shall inform the persons sent in accordance with this Article (Article 5) of this Agreement of the necessity to contract health insurance to cover their stay in the receiving Party's country in accordance with the current national legislation of the receiving Party's country.
4. The scholarship holders (except for Estonian students of the Chinese language and Chinese students of the Estonian language) may, with the consent of the receiving party, study in English in the country of the receiving Party. The scholarship holders have to demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the English language (at a level that will enable them to attend higher education lectures and tutorials without problems).
5. The sending Party shall submit its nomination of the candidates (including the required documents) to the receiving Party no later than 30 April each year. In case of any changes in the application deadline the Parties shall inform each other by sending the call of application with all necessary information.
6. The receiving Party shall notify the sending Party of its decision concerning the acceptance of the nominees no later than on 15 July each year.
7. The scholarships will be awarded taking into account the overall conditions of the scholarship programmes of the receiving Party.
8. The scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Parties.

Article 6

1. The Estonian Party shall provide annually one scholarship for the Estonian language and culture summer course. The Estonian Party shall provide Chinese holders of the scholarship with free tuition and a scholarship to cover the living

expenses. Information for applicants will be available on the internet through the website: www.studyinestonia.ee .

2. The Chinese Party shall provide annually one scholarship for the Chinese language and culture summer course. The Chinese Party shall provide Estonian holders of the scholarship with free tuition and allowance to cover the living expenses. In China, the implementing body for the Chinese language and culture summer course is Confucius Institute Headquarters.
3. The sending Party shall, by 30 April each year at the latest, provide the receiving Party with the list of scholarship candidates and the required documentations.
4. The receiving Party shall, by 31 August each year at the latest, inform the sending Party of the result of acceptance of the candidates.
5. In case of any changes in the application deadline the Parties shall inform each other by sending the call of application with all necessary information.
6. The scholarships will be awarded taking into account the overall conditions of the scholarship programmes of the receiving Party.
7. The scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Parties.

Article 7

The Parties agree that the exchange of youth constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. Emphasis will be placed on the active participation of young people and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through the specific youth activities. The Parties shall facilitate the youth exchange.

The Parties shall invite youth delegations of six people for a period of seven days to visit respectively Estonia and China. The conditions of the youth exchanges shall be negotiated between the respective institutes of both countries or through diplomatic channels.

In Estonia, the administrative body for international youth exchange is the Estonian Youth Work Center.

In China, the administrative body for international youth exchange is the Secretariat

of China Education Association for International Exchange.

Article 8

The Programme does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the educational, language or youth fields.

The Programme will enter into force from the date of signing and will be valid till 31 December, 2022, whereupon, its validity shall be automatically extended until the signing of the new Programme or its termination.

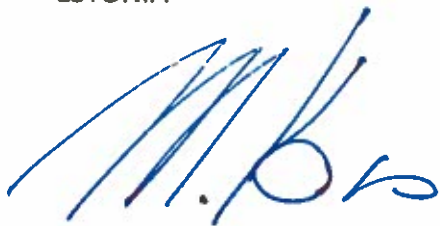
This Programme can be amended or modified by mutual consent of the Parties. The amendments or modifications shall be made in writing.

Either Party may terminate the Programme by providing written notice to the other Party six months prior to the proposed date of the termination.

Signed in *Beijing*.....on *2017.05.06*, in two copies, each in Estonian, Chinese and English languages, all three texts being authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

For

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ESTONIA



For

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

