

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
and
the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research**

Co-operation in the Field of Science, Technology and Education

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research express their support for bilateral co-operation in science, technology and education between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Estonia.

All interested parties, like universities, research centres and institutes, private and public enterprises, foundations, are invited to participate in the framework of bilateral scientific, technological and educational co-operation. Industry, especially small and medium size enterprises, is highly welcomed.

Objectives of bilateral co-operation

The objectives of bilateral co-operation are to stimulate projects of mutual interest as agreed upon by the two partner countries and to support development of the European Research Area and the European Educational Area.

Main areas of co-operation

As the main areas of co-operation are foreseen:

- physics-related and chemical technologies (including new materials and optical technologies);
- information and telecommunication technologies;
- biotechnology and health sciences;
- environmental technologies;
- innovation in education.

In order to improve co-operation not only on bilateral but also on European level, special focus is laid on projects aiming at future joint co-operations within the Framework Programme of the European Union. Priority is also given to projects aiming at establishing new contacts and involving young researchers.

The following criteria will be considered for the evaluation of project proposals:

- common interest for Germany and Estonia;
- quality and originality of research approaches;
- qualification of applicants;
- support for young researchers;
- multilateral networking (EU and other international programmes, in particular FP6);
- practical use of project results;
- promising results and thus stimulation of further bilateral co-operation;

- relevance to the respective funding programmes of Estonia and Germany;
- only joint projects will be funded.

Instruments for co-operation

Support is given for starting projects and expert meetings.

These activities are meant to promote innovation in research and technology development including policy issues, which have to be agreed upon between the ministries; their aim is to facilitate the political dialogue and to analyse common interests in different areas of research, and to stimulate new bilateral co-operations as well as regional co-operation. Activity details will be agreed upon between the partners.

Financial provisions

Both sides are prepared to provide financial support for scientific co-operation. Funding of the activities will be covered jointly. It will be specified within the given activity. All the activities mentioned in this Memorandum shall be implemented within the limits of the resources and financing made available each year in the annual budget.

Closing provisions

Both sides agree to reconsider the Memorandum of Understanding if one side requires to do so.

Done in Tartu, on May 6, 2003.

For the Estonian Ministry of
Education and Research

For the German Federal Ministry of
Education and Research

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Deputy Secretary General for Education
and Research

Irene Rüde
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