MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY ON

COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM PROGRAMME FOR THE YEARS 2026–2028

Driven by the desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries and to promote cooperation in the field of higher education and in pursuance of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on educational, scientific and cultural cooperation signed on 28 June 2005, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (hereinafter referred to together as the "Participants" or individually as the "Participant") have agreed to implement the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU") for the years 2026–2028.

I. Objective of the MoU

The objective of the present MoU is to facilitate, in the long term, the extension of cooperation between the Participants, thus contributing, in the interest of developing a knowledge-based society, to mutually beneficial collaboration in the field of higher education.

II. Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships for the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia

- Within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Scholarship Programme"), the Hungarian Participant offers at most 20 scholarships annually to the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia for pursuing studies in Hungary either in Hungarian or in a foreign language, giving priority to applicants wishing to study in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), plus Medical and Health Science and Agriculture.
- 2. Scholarships may be granted for pursuing:
 - full-time undergraduate (BA/BSc), graduate (MA/MSc) and one-tier master's (OTM) studies in any available field of study, as well as doctoral (PhD/DLA) studies in any field of interest; and/or
 - three (3) to ten (10) months' credit-earning part-time studies.

3. The list of the available study programmes at different levels will be published by the Tempus Public Foundation (www.tpf.hu) in the given year's call for applications.

III. Commitments of the Hungarian Participant

- 1. Regarding scholarships offered in Paragraph II of the present MoU, the Hungarian Participant undertakes to provide the following to the scholarship holders from the Republic of North Macedonia:
 - tuition-free courses.
 - dormitory places on the campus of the receiving higher-education institution or contribution to the accommodation costs as stipulated by the relevant legal regulations in effect at the time of the present MoU's signing,
 - entitlement to health services and the option for additional health insurance covering services in a foreign language,
 - use of free library services,
 - monthly allowance in accordance with the prevailing legal regulations defining the amount of the scholarship for international students, in effect at the time of the signing of the scholarship contract.
- 2. On behalf of the Hungarian Participant, the Scholarship Programme is operated by the Tempus Public Foundation. Further information as regards the application and the scholarship (actual monthly allowance, accommodation, entitlement to health services) will be published in the given year's call for applications.

IV. Commitments of the Participant from the Republic of North Macedonia

- The Participant from the Republic of North Macedonia undertakes to disseminate and promote the call for applications and to select and rank the applicants to be nominated for the scholarships based on the applications submitted to the Tempus Public Foundation. In addition to the primary list of nominees, the Participant from the Republic of North Macedonia will also compile a secondary, standby list of applicants.
- 2. Every year, the Participant from the Republic of North Macedonia informs the Hungarian Participant, within the timeframe specified in the call for applications, about the primary and secondary list of persons selected and to be nominated.

V. Requirements for participation in the Scholarship Programme

- 1. Applicants must comply with the following qualification requirements:
 - for undergraduate (BA/BSc) and undivided, one-tier master's (OTM) studies, to be in possession of certifiable secondary education;

- for graduate (MA/MSc) studies, to be in possession of an appropriate Bachelor's (BA/BSc) degree;
- for doctoral (PhD/DLA) studies, to be in possession of an appropriate graduate (MA/MSc) degree.
- 2. Before commencing studies in the Hungarian language, students without at least an intermediate-level command of Hungarian shall participate in a one-year preparatory course organised by the Hungarian Participant. The terms and conditions of the scholarship for students enrolled in the preparatory year will be identical to those applicable to undergraduate students.
- 3. Students applying for studies in a language other than Hungarian shall have relevant knowledge of that language at the level prescribed by the host institution.
- 4. Applicants must comply with the admission requirements of the Hungarian higher-education institution they applied to.
- 5. Scholarship holders must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of beginning their studies.
- 6. International travel expenses shall be borne by the student.
- 7. Any other conditions of the scholarship will be published in the given year's call for applications.

VI. Alumni Programmes

To facilitate the development of bilateral relations, the Participants will encourage graduates of the Scholarship Programme to participate in various alumni programmes and, upon return to their home country, to maintain contact with their compatriots who have also graduated in Hungary, as well as with the Hungarian higher-education institution they have graduated from.

VII. Amendment of the MoU

The present MoU may be amended by the mutual consent of the Participants in writing, through official channels. These amendments will constitute an integral part of the MoU.

VIII. Resolution of differences

Any differences that may arise concerning the interpretation, application, or implementation of this MoU will be resolved in a friendly manner, through consultations or negotiations between the Participants.

IX. Entry into effect, duration, termination

- 1. The present MoU takes effect from 1 January 2026 and will remain in effect until 31 December 2028. This MoU does not constitute an international treaty and does not create rights and obligations governed by international law.
- 2. Paragraphs II through V are to be implemented from the application period starting after the present MoU has taken effect.
- 3. The present MoU may be terminated by either of the Participants in writing, through diplomatic channels. In this case, the termination of the MoU will take effect after the expiry of six (6) months after receiving the notification about its termination. In the event of this MoU's expiry or termination, its provisions will continue to be implemented with respect to all ongoing programmes and projects until they are completed.

Done in two (2) original copies in Skopje on 13 June 2025, in the English language, both copies being equally authentic.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF

HUNGARY