

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**LEPL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER (IEC), GEORGIA**  
**AND**  
**THE CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN UNIVERSITY RECTORS (CRUI), ITALY**

The **International Education Center (IEC)** Georgia, having its seat at Tbilisi (Georgia), and represented by its Executive Director Ms. Nino Chelidze

and

the **Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI)**, having its seat in Rome (Italy), represented by its President, Prof. Gaetano Manfredi, also Rector of the University of Naples “Federico II”,

Hereafter referred to as the “Party” or collectively referred to as the “Parties”,

**CONSIDERING THAT:**

- The IEC is a the legal entity under public law aimed to support individuals, in their endeavour to gain knowledge and quality education internationally and also to support the internationalization and capacity building of Georgian HEI;
- The CRUI is a private association of 82 Italian universities, both state and non-state legally recognized, aimed also at developing the international activities of the Italian universities;
- All Parties recognize the importance of higher education both at master and doctoral level for general welfare and sustainable development of society;
- All Parties have interest in enhancing bilateral cooperation and in training high-level specialists through university programs offered by the Italian universities;;
- the Government of Georgia is interested in extending the participation of Georgian students and early stage researchers in global worldwide educational and research projects;
- The Executive Programme of the *Agreement of Cultural, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Italy* for the years 2016-2020, promotes bilateral academic co-operation (as especially provided by the art. 1.2).
- The action plan of the Embassy of Italy in Georgia for promoting the Italian language in Georgia and strengthening the bilateral cooperation of academic institutions.

## **HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

### **Article 1 – Scope**

The Parties, under their international agreement and in the framework of the cooperation policies, promote a scholarship program for Georgian students.

Under the provision of this programme each Party will provide support to Georgian Students for attending and completing a Master program (Second Cycle program of the Bologna Process) or a Doctoral program in one of the Italian universities member of the CRUI. The number of students that will benefit from the program will be agreed upon every year.

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as MoU) constitutes the framework within which the IEC and the Italian universities shall develop bilateral agreement to define each specific scholarship program and their educational co-operation for mutual benefit.

### **Article 2 - Duties and Responsibilities**

The scholarship for each student will be co-financed by the IEC from the Georgian side and by each Italian university participating from the Italian side.

IEC will make every effort, based on available resources to provide financial support for the students. It is understood that the implementation of any types of additional financial support shall depend upon the availability of resources and financial support at the sides concerned.

The Italian universities can also co-finance their part in kind.

The IEC will sign an agreement with each Italian university interested and offering tuition fee waiver at 40% or more, defining the details of each scholarship scheme and the form of the university's co-financing.

Every year each Italian university will communicate to IEC the number of places available in the program envisaged in Article 1 of the MoU.

The IEC will select the Georgian students and will propose the number of candidates agreed upon to each Italian university, which will communicate within 15 days the acceptance of the students proposed.

### **Article 3 - Entry into force and duration**

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the Parties. This MoU shall remain in force for five years and shall thereafter be renewed, each time for a new period of five years.

This MoU may be modified at any time by mutual consent of Parties.

This MoU may, at any time, be terminated by one Party upon prior written notice to the other, and not later than six months before the termination date.

### **Article 4 – Implementation**

Each Party will designate one or more members in charge of maintaining contacts with each other and following the implementation of the program.

- IEC designates: Nino Chelidze, IEC Executive Director
- CRUI designates: Prof. Fabio Rugge, CRUI Delegate for International Relations (ri@crui.it);

Done in two copies in English language. Georgian translation attached.

IEC, GEORGIA  
The Executive Director  
Ms. Nino Chelidze



CRUI, ITALY  
for the CRUI President (Prof. Gaetano Manfredi)  
Ms. Prof. Paola Inverardi, Rector of the University of L'Aquila

