



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

**ON THE PROGRAMME
“I AM ALBANIAN” FOR THE
ALBANIAN LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE**

BETWEEN

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND
YOUTH, MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE
ENVIRONMENT, AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

AND

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DIASPORA,



PREAMBLE

The Minister of State for Diaspora, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Ministry of Culture, hereinafter referred to as *Parties*:

Acknowledging the value of inter-institutional cooperation with a view to preserving the cultural, linguistic and national identity of the Diaspora;

With a view to encourage younger generations to engage in specific projects of educational and cultural programs that promote Albanian traditions, history and culture;

By Considering regular and periodic homeland visits as one of the ways of recognizing the country of origin and as a mechanism to keep alive the interest of the younger generation of Albanians in the Diaspora;

By confirming the willingness and determination to collaborate and contribute to the realization of this memorandum to meet the commitments within the framework of the state policy for the Albanian Diaspora;

Have agreed to sign this Memorandum of Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum.

Article 1 Scope and Objective

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to create the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme by promoting and organizing cultural, linguistic and tourist activities for cultural, linguistic education, make introduction with tourist attractions and the Albanian history of Albanian representatives in the Diaspora to improve and guarantee identity preservation, national, cultural and linguistic values and the legacy of these values from generation to generation.
2. This memorandum aims to:
 - a) facilitating the administrative procedures for the establishment of the "I AM ALBANIAN" Program as a joint structure of Albanian language and culture courses certified by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth;
 - b) providing professional available pedagogical staff for concrete realization of lectures in Albanian language and culture courses;
 - c) introducing the programme to participants about their homeland or country of origin as well as promoting Albanian nature and tourism with a view to bring participants back to their roots of national identity;
 - d) providing mutual assistance in the establishment and maintenance of the infrastructure for the delivery of Albanian language and culture courses, or for the handling of any future unforeseen situation in this Memorandum.



Article 2

Scope of Cooperation

- 1 The Parties shall collaborate with one another for the drafting and implementation of the “I AM ALBANIAN” Programme under the direction of the State Coordinator appointed by order of the Prime Minister. The Programme is a structure of Albanian language and culture courses for Albanian participants in the Diaspora aged from 11 to 17, who wish to visit their country of origin and get acquainted with nature, tourist sites, environment, traditions, culture, customs, Albanian history, Albanian language and literature, as well as archaeological parks.
- 2 The duration of the Albanian language and culture courses is a maximum of 15 (fifteen) days within the period from June - September (or even at different time duration as mutually agreed between the parties). Based on demand - registrations of members of the diaspora, several consecutive groups can be established.
- 3 The place where it will take place shall be determined by agreement between the parties year after year.

Article 3

The role and responsibilities of the parties

1. Cooperation under this memorandum is realized as follows:
 - a) Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth:
 - i. Develops and approves the curriculum to be provided to Albanian Diaspora participants who will visit the country and attend Albanian language and culture courses in compliance with the components of Albanian culture, history, literature and language;
 - ii. Authorizes subordinate institutions which are responsible for the publication of information regarding Albanian language and culture courses also on their official websites;
 - iii. Authorizes local educational institutions responsible for pre-university education to include in the course activities the number of teachers necessary for the smooth running of the course activities throughout the 15 (fifteen) day period, as well as the supervision and care of children attending these courses;
 - iv. Appoints a contact person who will take care of the preparation and subsequent development of Albanian language and culture course activities.



- b) State Minister of Diaspora;
- i. Collaborates with Albanian embassies and diplomatic missions to coordinate the drafting of participants lists and facilitate the travel of minor age participants from their country of residence to Albania;
 - ii. Through the National Agency of Diaspora coordinates with local educational institutions responsible for pre-university education in compiling the list of participants in the Albanian language and culture courses programme;
 - iii. The State Coordinator of the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme through the National Agency of Diaspora coordinates with the National Tourism Agency in the preparation of the itinerary to be attended by groups of participants in Albanian language and culture courses;
 - iv. The National Agency of Diaspora administers the fees for each tourist package paid by participants in the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme courses that are approved by the State Program Coordinator. All revenues collected shall be used to cover the costs of Albanian language and school course activities and will be published in a transparency report within one month of the completion of the last courses;
 - v. The National Diaspora Agency covers the cost of diets for NAD teachers and support staff who oversee the activities of Albanian language and culture courses throughout the duration and publishes them in the transparency report and at the State Programme Coordinator of the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme.
- c) Ministry of Finance and Economy;
- i. Authorizes the National Tourism Agency, in cooperation with tour operators/agencies, in the preparation of a tourist package to find an optimal offer including tourist destinations, accommodation, transport and full board;
 - ii. The tourist package for summer courses of Albanian language and culture is coordinated by the National Tourism Agency in cooperation with local educational institutions responsible for pre-university education and the National Agency of Diaspora;
 - iii. The National Tourism Agency may, in exceptional cases, request the modification of the tourist package by accomplishing any request logistically.
- d) Ministry of Culture:
- i. Authorizes free access to archaeological parks, cultural monuments and national museums that are subject to the Ministry of Culture,



- participants in summer courses, following the list previously sent by the National Agency of Diaspora;
- ii. Provides tour guides in archaeological parks, museums and cultural monuments;
 - iii. Provides courses and training at archaeological museums/parks, as well as courses in traditional dance and Albanian folk songs at the National Song and Dance Ensemble;
 - iv. It enables, on a case-by-case basis, the implementation and coordination of activities, according to the typology of the institution, based on the curriculum of the respective courses upon agreement of the parties.
2. The Parties agree within 3 (three) months from the signing of this Memorandum to:
 - a) Way of distribution of the “I AM ALBANIAN” Certificate.
 - b) Establishment of a technical secretariat with representatives from each institution party to this Memorandum

Article 4 **Registration of participants**

1. **The State Coordinator for the “I AM ALBANIAN”** Programme and the National Agency of Diaspora annually announces, within April, the programme of Albanian language and culture courses, as well as the logistical details.
2. Enrolment in the Albanian language and culture courses programme may be carried out online or through the available official email: summerschoolalbania@akd.gov.al
3. **The State Coordinator for the “I AM ALBANIAN”** Programme sends the final list with the names of participants, selected by age group, to MESY and MoC for the appointment of teachers and cultural specialists, who will implement the language courses program and Albanian culture.

Article 5 **Certification of participants**

1. Only participants who have fully attended the program of Albanian language and culture courses in all its components are entitled to certification.
2. Participant certification is carried out by the State Coordinator for the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme, according to the template attached to this Memorandum.
3. Certificates for participants who cannot receive them in person at the end of the summer courses, shall be submitted to the National Diaspora Agency for the purpose of sending them through accredited Albanian embassies around the world.



Article 6

Types of Activities

The basic activities to be conducted during the Albanian language and culture courses of the “I AM ALBANIAN” Programme are as follows:

1. Albanian language, culture, history and geography lessons;
2. exercises, workshops, interactive games;
3. illustrative excursions to archaeological parks, national museums, cultural monuments and tourist sites;
4. activities aimed at tourist visits, promotion of tourism as well as nature and environment of Albania;
5. cultural activities (concerts, exhibitions).

Article 7

Evaluation of Memorandum Implementation

1. The Parties undertake to jointly evaluate the implementation of the Memorandum by drafting and submitting a periodic written report from the State Coordinator for the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme at the end of each calendar year.
2. The report contains, in addition to the data on the progress of the activities carried out during the year, the concrete recommendations for addressing the identified problems. The report is published on the ministry's official website.

Article 8

Communication between the parties

1. The Parties undertake to establish a Technical Secretary under the direction of the State Coordinator for the "I AM ALBANIAN" Programme consisting of representatives of the Parties who shall carry out the communication and coordination of actions to be taken on a case-by-case basis for the implementation of this Memorandum.
2. The Parties engage to maintain continuous communication between them and to exchange any information necessary for the performance of their duties. Communication shall be conducted in paper form or electronically. In each case of submission of a request, the parties undertake to respond within 10 (ten) days. In each case of submitting a request, the parties shall engage to respond within 10 calendar days.

Article 9

Financial Costs

1. The remuneration and accommodation of teachers and persons engaged in the smooth running of this process will be covered by the budget of the National Diaspora Agency.



2. The financial costs resulting from the implementation of this Memorandum are subject to the legislation in force and comply with the budget expenditure limits approved by the National Diaspora Agency.

Article 10
Amendment of the Memorandum

This Memorandum may only be amended by agreement of the parties through the exchange of written communication.

Article 11
Duration of the Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed for a period of 3 (three) years.

Article 12
Dispute resolution

Any disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by mutual agreement between the parties.

Article 13
Entry into force

The Memorandum shall enter into force on the day of its signature and shall be published on the official websites of the Parties.

The Memorandum is prepared and signed in 8 (eight) original copies, two of which are deposited with the Minister of State of Diaspora, two with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, two with the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment and two with the Ministry of Culture.

Signed in Tirana, in _____, 2019.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DIASPORA
PANDELI MAJKO

MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH
BESA SHAHINI

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT
BLENDI KLOSI

MINISTER OF CULTURE
ELVA MARGARITI



Gjuha jonë sa e mirë!
Sa e ëmbël, sa e gjerë!
Sa e lehtë, sa e lirë!
Sa e bukur, sa e vlerë!

CERTIFIKATË

JAM SHQIPTAR

This certificate is proof of participation in the Program "I AM ALBANIAN" of The Albanian language and culture for the young generation of Diaspora Acknowledgement of Recognition of National Identity This Certification confirms the relationship with the country of origin and the unaltered relationship that every Albanian has with the country where the national history was written. This Certification represents a paper as a Reminder that the Past requests of something from of the Present in the Journey one goes through of becoming the person, he/she represents. PART OF THE ALBANIAN NATION.

DATE

PROGRAMME STATE
COORDINATOR