

AGREEMENT

between

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

and

COMENIUS UNIVERSITY, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT
AT COMENIUS UNIVERSITY
OF A
UNESCO CHAIR IN TRANSLATION STUDIES
(MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION IN SPECIALIZED ENVIRONMENTS)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO"), represented by its Director-General, Mr Federico Mayor,

and

Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the University"), represented by its Rector, Professor Ferdinand Devínsky,

Considering that co-operation between countries in the field of higher education plays an important role in the training and development of human resources, which are an important prerequisite for their socio-economic and cultural development,

Emphasizing that all universities and other higher education institutions stand to gain by mutually reinforcing their teaching, training and research capacities and by undertaking joint activities, based on equal partnership,

Being aware that increased international academic co-operation can make an important contribution to the promotion of a culture of peace,

Bearing in mind the objectives of UNESCO set forth in its Constitution and, more particularly, its role in promoting international academic co-operation,

Bearing in mind the need for innovative approaches to the problems of translation, and in particular of multilingual communication *in* specialized environments in the Slovak Republic and other Central European countries,

Taking into account the experience of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme as a stimulus for academic co-operation through exchange, networking and other linking arrangements and as a means of ensuring the rapid transfer of knowledge and the overall development of various disciplines within higher education,

Hereby agree as follows:

Article 1

The University shall, in co-operation with UNESCO, establish a UNESCO Chair in Translation Studies (hereinafter referred to as "the UNESCO Chair") at the Faculties of Philosophy and Education, as agreed between the Rector and the respective Dean of each Faculty. Its activities shall be carried out in co-operation with the relevant units of the UNESCO Secretariat, especially the Programme for Central and Eastern European Development (PROCEED), the Languages Division of the Education Sector and the Information and Informatics Division of the Sector of Communication, Information and Informatics. It shall seek to develop relevant and innovative national and regional training and research programmes.

Article 2

The UNESCO Chair shall be located at the University. It shall be transdisciplinary in character and shall collaborate with all relevant faculties, departments and chairs of the University, as well as with other higher education departments and institutions in the Slovak Republic and the sub-region. It may also collaborate with teaching and research institutions whose programmes are focused on multilingual communication in specialized environments.

Article 3

The UNESCO Chair shall act as a multidisciplinary focal point, promoting teaching and research projects in multilingual communication involving academics in such disciplines as translation, terminology, language engineering, didactics and distance learning.

The long-term objective of the UNESCO Chair shall be to provide, in collaboration with UNESCO, advice concerning:

- the establishment of a network of UNESCO Chairs in translation studies in Central Europe;
- the setting-up of a Virtual Institute for Training and Research in Translation.

Article 4

The short-term objectives of the UNESCO Chair shall include:

- curriculum development and elaboration of teaching materials for the training of trainers in translation and terminology;
- development of terminological research, which is vital for the cultural identity of the country and should become part of a national language planning policy.

Article 5

On the basis of the principle of academic freedom and the free flow of scientific information, and in a spirit of academic solidarity, the institutions and members of the academic community directly participating in the activities undertaken by the UNESCO Chair shall

seek, through various forms of co-operation such as student exchanges, scholarships, curriculum and institutional development, staff exchanges with relevant universities and other higher education institutions, especially those in the Slovak Republic and Central Europe, to facilitate the transfer of knowledge among themselves on subjects related to the activities to be undertaken by the UNESCO Chair.

Article 6

The University, in consultation with UNESCO, shall appoint the incumbent of the UNESCO Chair (hereinafter called the "Chairholder") on a rotating basis. He/she shall be selected for a limited period following a procedure mutually agreed upon by UNESCO and the University. The Chairholder shall serve primarily as a co-ordinator of the activities carried out *by* the UNESCO Chair.

Article 7

The programme of activities to be carried out by the UNESCO Chair and its development shall be the subject of a yearly review by the University. UNESCO shall be informed of its conclusions.

Article 8

The University shall sign a contract with the Chairholder for a fixed period to be determined by it, giving the Chairholder the same rights and obligations as those of other scholars of the same category at the University. If applicable, the contract shall define the Chairholder's salary and benefits, travel allowances, installation and housing grants and medical insurance.

Article 9

The UNESCO Chair shall co-operate with UNESCO. It will also seek to co-operate with other international organizations whose work is relevant to its activities.

Article 10

In conformity with the overall principles of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, the funding of the activities carried by the UNESCO Chair shall depend mainly on the University's own resources and contributions sought from outside donors. If a proposal is received and approved by UNESCO, the latter shall do its best to play a catalytic role in seeking sources for such funds.

Article 11

The UNESCO Chair shall submit a report on its activities to UNESCO at least once every two years.

Article 12

The University shall be entirely responsible for taking measures it deems necessary to insure itself against loss, injury or damage incurred during the implementation of the activities covered by the present Agreement. Neither the University nor any member of its staff

employed or involved in the implementation of activities linked to the execution of this Agreement shall be considered an agent or representative of UNESCO's staff, nor shall they enjoy any benefit, privilege, immunity, remuneration or reimbursement if not expressly foreseen in the present Agreement; moreover, they shall not be authorized to commit UNESCO to any expenses of any nature or any other obligation.

Article 13

The present Agreement shall enter into force on its signature. It shall remain in force for the duration of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, or until such time as either party may determine, if earlier than the conclusion of that Programme, upon giving the other party three months' written notice thereof.

Article 14

In the event of a dispute the parties shall make a good faith to settle it amicably. In the event an amicable settlement cannot be reached, any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be settled by binding arbitration by a sole arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement, or, failing this, by the President of the International Court of Justice at the request of either party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, have signed two copies of the present Agreement in the English language.

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Federico Mayor
Director-General

Date: 15.6.98

For Comenius University

Ferdinand Devínsky
Rector

Date: 15.6.98