

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN OF ICELAND  
AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SPORTS OF  
THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

FOR EDUCATION COLLABORATION AND THE PROMOTION OF THE SPANISH  
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN ICELAND

The Ministry of Education and Children of Iceland and the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Both Signatories" and individually as "Signatory"),

Considering that Iceland and Spain share the common recognition of their long history of friendly relations, common values and principles,

Bearing in mind the relevance of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which encourages and supports close and friendly relations between Iceland and Spain,

Aware of the importance of having a good collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Children of Iceland (hereafter referred to as "MEC") and the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports of Spain (hereafter referred to as "MEVTS") in order to strengthen their mutual understanding,

Recognizing the Article 78 of the Economic European Area (EEA) Agreement which underlines the need to strengthen and broaden cooperation in the framework of the community's activities in the fields of Education, Training and Youth and the Article 4 of the Protocol 31 on Cooperation in Specific Fields outside the Four Freedoms of the EEA Agreement, giving access to the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Education Area,

Encouraged by their common intention of maintaining, extending and developing their bilateral cooperation between the respective Ministries of Education,

Acknowledging the role of the MEVTS in the promotion of Spanish language and culture in Iceland and its engagement in ensuring the quality of Spanish language teaching,

Recognizing the institutional competence of the MEC on the implementation and execution of the national education policy in Iceland,

Have established in terms of the present MoU the following:

1. To contribute to the development and consolidation of friendly relations between both Signatories on the field of education, teacher training and the exchange of students and teachers.
2. To share experience and information in the area of education between the Signatories on a reciprocal basis on different activities and networks.
3. To exchange views regarding activities of common interest, taking advantage of international conferences related to education issues of bilateral interest.
4. The MEVTS agrees to collaborate with the MEC on the development of Spanish language teaching in Iceland on specific common actions to be discussed and agreed upon by the Signatories.
5. The MEVTS agrees to provide support to initiatives promoted by MEC in the area of Spanish language teaching and Spanish cultural promotion in Iceland, within the boundaries of its institutional mission and internal regulations, and in the forms and ways to be agreed upon by the Signatories.
6. The MEC and the MEVTS shall cooperate on the development of Spanish teaching resources.
7. The MEC and the MEVTS agree to strengthen Spanish teaching in Iceland in order to deepen both lower and upper secondary students' proficiency in the Spanish language and expand their knowledge of Spanish culture.
8. Concrete activities to pursue these objectives could include:
  - Student exchange programs
  - Teacher exchange programs
  - Language assistant programs

- Individual learning mobility for pupils in secondary schools (general and vocational schools)
- Teacher training

9. Both parties agree to periodically exchange information about the state of Spanish language teaching in Iceland and about their activity in the aforementioned programs.

### **FINANCIAL CONDITIONS**

10. The areas of cooperation envisaged in the present MoU will be carried out in compliance with the limitations of the financial provisions based on the respective ordinary budgets of each Signatory and with respect to applicable laws.

11. The financial and human resources to be allocated to actions arising from this MoU shall be subject to the approval of each Signatory responsible in accordance with their budgetary availability and its implementation through the corresponding specific agreements.

12. In the implementation of this MoU, financial expenses to be incurred will be borne by either Signatory, or defined, on a case by case basis, through an agreement between Both Signatories. In any case the possible cost will be adapted to the regular annual budget availability of each Signatory.

### **SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES**


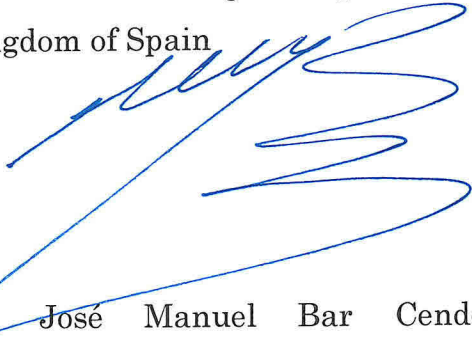
13. This MoU is not legally binding, does not give rise to legal rights or obligations under international law and the above-mentioned activities will be conducted within the budgetary constraints of each Signatory's law.

14. Any difference concerning the interpretation and implementation of this MoU shall be resolved by dialogue between the two Signatories.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND DURATION**

15. The implementation of this MoU will start on the date of its signature by both Signatories, and will be applicable until either Signatory informs the other side, in writing, of its intention to put an end to it.
16. The present Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Signatory with at least 6 months' notice.
17. Notice of termination must be sent by registered letter with an official receipt notice.
18. Once a written termination letter has been sent by one of the Signatories, the second Signatory is obligated to cease mentioning or using the logo of the other institution.
19. The present MoU shall come into effect from the date of its signature for a period of three years. This MoU may be extended once only for three more years by mutual agreement.

Signed in Madrid on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023, in English and in Spanish, in two originals each.

<p>For the Ministry of Education and Children of Iceland</p>  <p>Ms. Erna Kristín Blöndal Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Children of Iceland</p>	<p>For the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain</p>  <p>Mr. José Manuel Bar Cendón, Secretary of State of Education of the Kingdom of Spain</p>
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