

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA**

**AND THE**

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

**ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF**

**HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES**

The Ministry for Education and Employment of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter referred to as both sides) recognise the benefit of establishing mechanisms for mutual recognition of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates in order to promote co-operation in education and to improve student and professional mobility between Malta and Macedonia.

Both sides agree to the following:

### **I. The Objectives and Obligations**

1. This Agreement aims to facilitate the mutual recognition of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded to students in Malta and in Macedonia.
2. Both sides will each provide information on recognition and will also make concrete recommendations in accordance with their current regulations and practices.
3. Both sides should advise higher education institutions and bodies eligible to award higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates (hereinafter referred to as higher education institutions) in their countries on the provision of higher education and the comparability of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates from both systems with the aim of facilitating academic mobility and co-operation.

### **II. Application Profile**

1. This Agreement relates to all higher education institutions in Malta recognised by the education administrative authority of Malta and all higher education institutions recognized by the education administrative authority of Macedonia.
2. Both sides will inform each other through their respective education administrative authorities of the updated list and relevant information of higher education institutions of both sides, and provide information on different award titles which are recognised on both sides.
3. Both sides respect the autonomy of higher education institutions of both sides for admission to higher education programmes in accordance with any relevant regulations.

### **III. Range and Levels of Higher Education Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates**

The recommendations of the two sides are given as advice on the comparability of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates from both sides based on comparative studies of relevant academic materials in Malta and in Macedonia.

1. A summary of the Maltese Academic Qualifications Frameworks (MQF) and Macedonian Qualifications Framework (MKQF) is attached at Annex 1.
2. Both sides encourage and support the higher education institutions in both countries to co-operate on the recognition of course credits in order to facilitate mobility of students in both directions.

### **IV. Entry to Study in Higher Education Institutions**

1. Holders of recognized senior higher school diplomas (MKQF Level 4) should be considered eligible to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Malta, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.
2. Holders of an intermediate higher education diplomas from recognised Macedonian higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Malta in a manner paralleling their entry into programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Macedonia, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.
3. Holders of a Bachelor degree (MKQF Level 6) from recognised Macedonian higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Master's degree in Malta subject to specific requirements of the admitting institution and subject to the availability of expertise to supervise the proposed research.
4. Holders of a Master's degree (MKQF Level 7) from recognised Macedonian education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Doctorate degree in Malta (MQF Level 8) subject to the relevance of previous studies and the proposed research and the specific requirements of the admitting institution, as well as subject to availability of expertise to supervise the proposed research.
5. Holders of qualifications at MQF Level 4 (Matriculation Certificate) and Level 5 from recognised Maltese education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue programmes leading to a Bachelor degree in Macedonia, in a manner paralleling their entry into programmes leading to a Bachelor degree

in Malta, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution, including the manner in which their programmes are organised.

6. Holders of a Bachelor degree (MQF Level 6) from recognised Maltese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Master's degree in Macedonia, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
7. Holders of a Master's degree (MQF Level 7) from recognised Maltese higher education institutions should be considered eligible to pursue studies leading to a Doctorate degree in Macedonia, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.
8. Students who have successfully completed recognized higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates in Malta or Macedonia, should be considered eligible to pursue further studies within the other party's education system, subject to the specific requirements of the admitting institution.

**V. Higher Education Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Expert Committee**

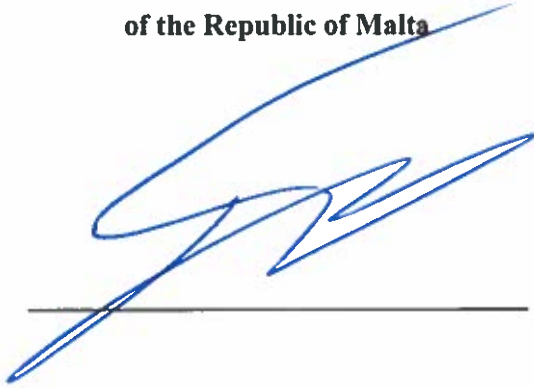
1. Higher Education Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Expert Committee (HEDDCEC) shall be established based on the implementation of this Agreement and a consensus by both sides after consultation. The HEDDCEC shall consist of members from and nominated by each side. The names of members will be exchanged through diplomatic channels. The primary function of the HEDDCEC is to:
  - a. Follow-up all issues and discussions raised by this Agreement including further discussions on details as appropriate
  - b. Monitor and facilitate the co-operation between the designated bodies and other relevant organisations to ensure the continuing development of recognition mechanisms in Malta and in Macedonia and the exchange of information.
2. The Expert Committee may arrange meetings and/or discussions as deemed necessary and appropriate according to any working programme agreed upon by both sides. The location of the meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels. Expenses related to the meeting will be shared as follows:
  - a. The host country will cover costs in relation to accommodation, meals, local transport and interpretation.
  - b. The sending country will bear travelling costs of the return journey from departure point until the closest airport of the host country.
  - c. The sending country will be responsible for the insurance costs of its delegation.

## VI. The Duration and Force of this Agreement

The Agreement will come into effect 30 days after the date of signature by both sides. The Agreement shall remain valid for five years from the date of its entry into force. It shall be automatically renewed for further periods of five years, unless terminated at any time by either side by giving six months' notice in writing.

Signed in duplicate in Valkata on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
in two original copies, in the English and Macedonian languages, both versions being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government  
of the Republic of Malta**



**For the Government  
of the Republic of Macedonia**



Annex I

**The Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF)**

8	Doctoral Degree		8
7	Master's Degree Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate		7
6	Bachelor's Degree		6
5	Undergraduate Diploma Undergraduate Certificate	VET Higher Diploma Foundation Degree	5
4	Matriculation Certificate Advanced Level Intermediate Level	VET Diploma (iv)	4
3	General Education SEC Grade 1-5	VET Level 3 (iii)	3
2	General Education Level 2 SEC Grade 6-7 Secondary	VET Level 2 (ii)	2
1	General Education Level 1 Secondary School Certificate	VET Level 1 (i)	1
B	Introductory Level B*		
A	Introductory Level A*		

\*These are not yet included in legislation

**Annotations**

i. A Full VET Level 1 qualification should enjoy the same parity of esteem as a Full

Secondary School Certificate and Profile (SSC&P) Level 1.

ii. A Full VET Level 2 qualification should enjoy the same parity of esteem as 4 Secondary

Education Certificate (SEC) subjects at Grade 6 and 7.

iii. A VET Level 3 Qualification should enjoy the same parity of esteem as 6 Secondary

Education Certificate (SEC) subjects at Grades 1 to 5.

iv. A VET Diploma should enjoy the same parity of esteem as the Matriculation Certificate.

### Macedonian Qualifications Framework (MKQF)

MKQF level		Description	EQF level
VIII		III cycle (doctoral) studies (≥3 years, 180 ECTS)	8
VII	VIIA	II cycle academic studies (60/120 ECTS)	7
	VII B	II cycle professional studies (60/120 ECTS)	
VI	VIA	I cycle studies (240 ECTS)	6
	VIB	I cycle studies (180 ECTS)	
V	VA	Professional studies (60/120 ECTS) Short cycle studies within I cycle of studies	5
	VB	Post-secondary education (60/120)	
IV		TVET and General secondary education, 4 years (240)	4
III		Vocational Education for Occupations, 3 years (180)	3
II		Vocational Training, 2 years (60–120)	2
I		Primary Education, 9 years	1