

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between

University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (ULSIT, Sofia,
Bulgaria)

and

M.Kh. Dulaty Taraz State University (TARSU, Taraz, The Republic of
Kazakhstan)

ON JOINT TRAINING OF MASTER STUDENTS

The **University of Library Studies and Information Technologies** (hereinafter termed as **ULSIT**) represented by rector Stoyan G. Denchev and M.Kh.Dulaty Taraz State University, (hereinafter termed as **TARSU**) represented by rector Mahmetgali Nurgalievich Sarybekov, hereinafter jointly referred to as Parties, and individually - Party, establish the Agreement on the following:

Preamble

In the spirit of prolific international relations and academic cooperation, the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (named as short **ULSIT**) and M.Kh. Dulaty Taraz State University, (named as short **TARSU**) wish to further strengthen their ties in accordance with their mutual interests in delivering programs of academic excellence and cultural diversity.

Hence, **ULSIT** and **TARSU** have decided to enter into this cooperation agreement for the joint establishment and operation of a double degree program in the area of Information and Cyber Security (hereinafter referred to as the “agreement”).

Upon successful completion of the course the students graduate respectively in **ULSIT** and **TARSU** in the respective master programs.

The training is done in accordance with the curricula of the two higher schools.

The agreement shall facilitate conducive opportunities for the highly qualified students from both institutions and further enhance their competence, language, cultural and social skills.

The double degree program shall serve as a cornerstone in the study program portfolios of the partner institutions, positioned as a unique opportunity for students to study in the area of Information / Cyber Security from a truly European perspective.

In this agreement “*home institution*” refers to the institution at which a student is initially enrolled. “*Host institution*” denotes the institution, which has agreed to receive a double degree candidate from the home institution.

I. Objectives

This agreement delineates the legal and organizational framework for the double degree program in the area of Information and Cyber Security. The double degree program will provide the opportunity to graduate students from both institutions to simultaneously pursue the Master degree from **ULSIT** and **TARSU**.

Upon successful completion of the double degree program the following degrees shall be awarded by the partner institutions:

- **ULSIT** : Master in Information Security
- **TARSU**: Master in Cyber Security

II. Admission and Selection of Students

Candidates for the double degree program will be nominated by their home institution according to selection criteria jointly defined and agreed upon by **ULSIT** and **TARSU**. Due to the higher workload compared to the ordinary Master courses at the partner institutions, only highly qualified students shall be nominated for the double degree program. The home institution has the obligation to send minimum 3 students per year for the double degree program, unless this number is varied by mutual and written attachment to this agreement.

The host institution shall be granted access to any written application documents and protocols of selection procedures for the double degree program. The host institution has the right to send a representative with advisory status to the home institution selection interviews for the double degree program. Joint selection interviews by both home and host institutions are encouraged

The double degree candidates must satisfy all admission requirements of the double degree, including language proficiency requirements and good knowledge on Bachelor level of Information Science, Mathematics and Statistics

Minimal Application Requirements:

- Applicants are admitted students at least with completed Bachelor Degree having performance not less than Good 3.50 grade according to Six-scaled System in the same professional field.
- All double degree candidates must provide evidence of a satisfactory level of English language proficiency according to the requirements of the Common European Framework (CEF) (or Bulgarian). The Bulgarian partner is responsible for organization of corresponding entry tests.
- Each institution reserves the right to require double degree candidates to complete the standard enrolment documents and to provide the results of any required entrance examinations.

- The host institution has the right to not accept a double degree candidate from the home institution for academic rationales or any other substantial reasons.
- Any deviations from the study structure as stated in the agreement shall be approved jointly by the partner institutions via mutual written agreement on an individual case-by-case basis.

III. Structure of the Study Program

The intended period of study for the double degree program at the host institution shall be two years (3 semesters). Double degree students will spend their first year at host institution, the second year at home institution. Mobility students will acquire at the partner University at least 30 ECTS. Full information should be provided to the host institution on the courses that participants have taken at their home institution and vice versa.

Double degree students shall have access to courses and share the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same rules and regulations as the regular graduate students in the corresponding Master course of the host institution. They shall be registered at the host institution only for the curriculum parts that will be carried out under the responsibility of the host institution. Students admitted for the double degree program shall complete curriculum plan of the program presented in the Annexes 1 and 2.

Any deviations from the study structure as stated in the agreement shall be approved jointly by the partner institutions via mutual written agreement on an individual case-by-case basis.

IV. Master Thesis

In addition to the mandatory curriculum at both institutions, as set forth in the agreement, the double degree student is required to write a Master thesis.

The Master thesis is worth 30 ECTS at **ULSIT** and 36 ECTS at **TARSU**. The partner institutions assure the legal and organizational preconditions required for enabling the double degree students to start with the Master thesis in their second study year.

The Master thesis shall be supervised by the faculty member of the receiving university and reviewed by a faculty member of the sending university. **TARSU** students write Master thesis at **ULSIT** and get **ULSIT** Master degree and **ULSIT** students get **TARSU** Master Degree after writing Master thesis in **TARSU**. The official Master thesis language is English. Master thesis at **TARSU** and **ULSIT** is completed by defense. The defense will be conducted in Bulgarian (or English languages).

The preparation of the Master thesis management process should meet all the legal and academic constraints of the institution where the Master Thesis has been written and defended.

V. Conditions for Obtaining the Double Degree Diploma

The double degree shall only be awarded after the student has completed the program by fulfilling the following requirements:

- the award of at least 60 ECTS credit points during the 1st year of studies at **ULSIT** and **TARSU** equivalent to the regulations constituted in this agreement,
- the award of at least 30 ECTS Master Thesis during the training at **ULSIT** for the Major “Information Security”, equivalent to the regulations constituted in this agreement,
- the award of at least 60 ECTS (24 ECTS + 36 ECTS Master Thesis in the case of **TARSU** students) during the 2nd year at **TARSU** for the Major “Cyber Security”, equivalent to the regulations constituted in this agreement.

The double degree shall award both the academic degree of the home institution and the corresponding academic degree of the host institution. Upon completion of the double degree the student shall receive two diploma certificates, two transcripts of records and two diploma supplements. Each institution shall issue only the certificate and corresponding transcripts of records for the part of the double degree it is accountable for. The diploma supplement shall provide detailed information on the nature, regulations and credit transfer mechanisms of the double degree program. The conversion of grades between both institutions is presented in Annex 3.

VI. Program Management

Both parties agree to provide the necessary means, resources and prerequisites to implement and operate the double degree program as set forth in this agreement.

Each institution ensures that the double degree program proceeds according to a reasonable schematic plan, and that the terms of this agreement are carried out. The partner institutions shall provide support

services assisting the incoming double degree students in academic, administrative, organizational and social-cultural issues.

VII. Financial Part

All students must register and pay tuition and other required fees at their home institution. For **TARSU** students, the regional tax will be paid by the **TARSU**.

The host institution will provide incoming double degree students with tuition fee – 1000 Euros for the first year of education and 500 Euros for the second year (semester 3). The students are responsible for paying any other relevant fees required for regular degree students at each institution, including the administrative fees at **TARSU** and **ULSIT**.

The institutions are strongly encouraged to acquire third party funding, in particular for providing scholarships to the double degree candidates.

VIII. Insurance

Students will be responsible for arranging and paying the costs for health and travel insurance, and other expenses arising out of the participation in the program. The host institution will not have any requirement to provide health or personal damages insurance for the hosted students.

Participants to this exchange program must be insured, whilst engaging in the activities provided by the present agreement for: accident, third party, public liability, with the host institution being relieved of any such liability. Insurance cover for this risk will be obtained independently by the participants themselves. For health insurance cover, participants will have to pay on their own account according to the laws of the host country. For sundry other eventualities relating to insurance cover, appropriate separate agreements can be stipulated.

IX. Duration, Amendment, Review and Termination of Agreement

This agreement shall be in force from the academic year 2019/2020 and be binding upon the parties for a period of 5 years until the academic year 2023/2024 inclusive. It might be subject to revision and eventually modification or renewal by mutual written agreement after two years.

This agreement may be terminated at the request of either institution, provided such request is made in writing at least 12 months before termination is to become effective.

Any termination or non-renewal of the agreement must take into account the rights of students already participating or admitted to the double degree

program to complete the parts of the study program, which will be carried out under the responsibility of the host institution.

An evaluation of this agreement will be initiated by both institutions at least 12 months prior to its expiration.

The agreement is based on long-term strategic cooperation interests from both institutions. **TARSU** and **ULSIT** will support and work towards the renewal and extension of this agreement to ascertain the continuation of the double degree program.

Specific curricula and syllabus based on Erasmus+ Project LMPI 573901-EPP-1-2016-1-IT-EPPKAZ-CBHE-JP will be agreed after the signing of this agreement. A minimum number of students from Erasmus+ Project LMPI required to start the program is 15 students.

X. OTHER CONDITIONS

This agreement has been made in two (2) original versions in English. Each Party receives one (1) copy of the agreement. All texts are equally valid.

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