

**A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY “NEOFIT RILSKI”**

**(BLAGOEVGRAD, BULGARIA)**

**AND**

**ZHETYSU UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER ILYAS ZHANSUGUROV**

**(TALDYKORGAN, KAZAKHSTAN)**

2026

1/5

**BETWEEN**

**Zhetysu University named after Ilyas Zhansugurov** headquartered at 187A Zhansugurov str., Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan, represented by its Chairman of the Board – Rector, **Prof. Dr. Yermek Buribayev**

(hereinafter referred to as (“**ZU**”));

**AND**

**South-West University “Neofit Rilski”**, headquartered in 66 Ivan Mihaylov str., 2700, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, represented by its Rector, **Prof. Dr. Nikolay Marin**,

(hereinafter referred to as (“**SWU**”));

“**ZU**” and the “**SWU**” are collectively referred to as the "Parties", and each, a "Party".

The purpose of this agreement is to promote and expand international understanding, development, and cooperation by stimulating and supporting educational, professional and intercultural activities and projects among students, faculty and staff of ZU and SWU. Both institutions look forward to initiating this agreement towards developing a broad range of long-term and mutually beneficial academic activities.

**The parties agree as follows:**

**1. COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS**

General activity areas of mutual interest and concern may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Student exchange programs;
- Summer education abroad programs;
- Visiting researchers/scholars;
- Faculty exchange programs;
- Collaborative research projects;
- Joint lectures, conferences and seminars;
- Joint supervision of PhD students.



## **2. FACULTY/STAFF EXCHANGE**

The faculty/staff may participate in a variety of activities at the other institution. These may include but are not limited to faculty exchange for instructional and/or research activities for short-term or extended periods; conferences, seminars and/or lecture series; professional consultation on special projects within the institutions; exchange of short-term visits to explore the development of activities between the two institutions.

In general, faculty exchange activities are implemented through a request/review/approval process involving both institutions.

## **3. STUDENT EXCHANGE**

Both institutions shall make efforts to enable student exchanges through Erasmus program procedures, which will be discussed and decided among the parties. The details considering the realization of each student exchange shall be determined, taking into account the specific Erasmus program, which shall be applicable from time to time.

The selection procedure shall be the responsibility of the sending institution. The number to be sent by each institution each year will be decided upon by a mutual agreement between the two institutions, but normally shall not exceed 5 per year. The institutions will endeavor to achieve parity in number of students exchanged over a three-year period. Any imbalance will be resolved by mutual agreement between the institutions.

Candidates have to complete the admission documents required by each institution. The acceptance of a student is contingent upon him or her obtaining the necessary immigration and travel clearances. All students will work directly with the host institution to obtain the proper documents.

Each institution reserves the right to accept or reject for admission to the institution each candidate on the basis of regular academic selection criteria. Participating students are subject to the admissions regulations, class performance standards and all other policies of the host institution. They are expected to meet the academic “good standing” as well as language requirements of the host institutions.

Exchange students will be provided the same academic resources, support services, and access to courses that are available to all students of the host institution. The host institution will provide the home institution with a formal record of the participant’s academic performance

(e.g., a transcript). Courses completed by students at the host institution will be accepted for credit by the home institution according to that institution's policies.

#### **4. SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS**

Details of specific cooperative endeavors and projects will be negotiated by the parties and reduced to a separate written Implementation Agreement in each case. Such details may include financial arrangements, faculty leave of absence, conditions for use of joint research results, etc.

#### **5. EXCLUSIVENESS**

Both parties understand that this MOU is not exclusive and each Party is permitted to enter into such agreements as it deems fit with other universities and institutions.

#### **6. SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES**

The parties acknowledge that immigration, security, GDPR and other applicable laws and regulations may affect their respective ability to participate in the exchange of personnel and information.

#### **7. TERMS**

This MOU shall become effective upon the date of its full signature and execution, and continue in effect for an initial period of five (5) years from the date, unless either Party acts to terminate as provided below. This MOU itself does not create any legal relationship, legal obligation, or financial obligation between the parties, but is designed to facilitate and develop a genuine and mutually beneficial process for collaboration.

This Agreement may be extended for another period to be mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties.

#### **8. TERMINATION OF MOU**

Either Party may at any time, with or without cause, terminate this MOU without cost or penalty by giving the other Party ninety (90) days written notice of such termination.



**9. REVIEW**

The Parties agree to periodically review all activities, projects and programs developed under the auspices of the MOU to assess if articulated goals and objectives are being met and to determine viability of continuation.

**10. GOVERNING LAW**

For the disputes arising from the performance of this agreement, if the disputes occur in the training stage of ZU the substantive laws such as the understanding of the MOU and dispute settlement shall apply to the laws of Kazakhstan; and if the disputes occur in training stage of SWU, the substantive laws such as the understanding of the contract and dispute settlement shall apply to the laws of Bulgaria.

For any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation, both Parties agree to refrain from unilateral action and to first consult and negotiate mutually acceptable decisions/resolutions.

The present agreement has been signed in two original copies in the English language.

Signed in Taldykorgan, on 19.02.2026

Signed in Blagoevgrad, on .....

**For**  
**Zhetysu University named after Ilyas**  
**Zhansugurov**

**For**  
**South-West University “Neofit Rilski”**

  
**Prof. Dr. Yermek Buribayev**  
**Chairman of the Board – Rector**

NIKOLAY  
ATANASOV MARIN

Digitally signed by NIKOLAY  
ATANASOV MARIN  
Date: 2026.02.12 08:33:03  
+02'00'

**Prof. Dr. Nikolay Marin**  
**Rector**

