MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
YAD VASHEM, THE HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH OF ITALY

Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority as represented by its International School for Holocaust Studies (Mountain of Remembrance, Jerusalem, Israel), henceforth referred to as the "ISHS", on one side,

and

The Ministry of Education, University and Research of Italy (Viale Trastevere, 76/a, Zip Code 00153, Roma, Italy), henceforth referred to as "the Ministry", on the other,

Preamble

Recalling that Italy and Israel are member states of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research;

Considering that both Italy and Israel signed the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust in 2000 and pledged themselves to improve efforts into promoting education and remembrance of Holocaust, including the study of Holocaust in schools and universities, communities and other institutions;

Bearing in mind previous cooperation and annual seminars held at the ISHS since 2000 for approximately one hundred and fifty Italian educators;

Emphasizing the achievements of the Ministry in its commitment to support Holocaust educators and students in Italy, including the organization of Holocaust memorial events, essay contests and study trips to Auschwitz-Birkenau;

Recognizing the support of the Italian embassy in Israel in promoting common goals in such field;

Underlining the professional contributions of ISHS experts to Holocaust education in Italy;

Aware of the importance of supporting Holocaust education in Italy and the positive outcome that may result from continued consultation and cooperation between the ISHS and the Ministry;

agree on the following:

Article 1: Objectives

The ISHS and the Ministry will take the following actions:

I. Organization of an annual teacher-training seminar at the ISHS for Italian educators:

a. The Ministry will annually select twenty-five active classroom teachers, representing the broadest spectrum of regional areas of Italy. The Ministry will choose these teachers among those having not previously participated either in whatever ISHS seminar or an ISHS teacher-training seminar.
b. Both the ISHS and the Ministry will financially contribute - according to respective available funds - to bear the expenses related to seminars at the ISHS. In particular:

i. The ISHS will cover program costs associated with translation, recruitment and coordination of experts, workshops, meals for participants, teaching materials, study trips and local transportation.
ii. The Ministry will secure funding to cover the expenses associated with participants' round trips from Italy to Israel and their lodging in Israel.

The Ministry will select the participants (who have never previously studied at Yad Vashem) who will take part in the seminar that the Ministry organizes in cooperation with Yad Vashem. All participants are expected to attend all sessions of the seminar program. Any other person accompanying the participant - regardless of willingness to defray expenses - will not be admitted to the seminar sessions, excursions or any part of the seminar program.

c. Each seminar will last not more than ten days. Scheduling dates for the seminar will be agreed upon in advance by the ISHS and the Ministry.

II. Organization of a follow-up session in Italy for the participants of the seminar at Yad Vashem

a. Both the ISHS and the Ministry will financially contribute - according to respective available funds - to expenses related to workshops to be held in Italy. In particular:

i. Yad Vashem will cover the flight costs and work days for one expert for his/her participation in the follow-up session in Italy.

ii. All along the workshop duration in Italy the Ministry will cover board and lodging costs for one ISHS expert as well as his/her local travel expenses and other costs pertinent to the organization of the follow-up workshop.

Article 2: Signatories

For the Ministry of Education, University and Research of the Italian Republic, the Minister of Education, University and Research Ms. Mariastella Gelmini;

For Yad VaShem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Rememberence Authority, Mr. Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, and Israel's Minister of Education, Mr. Gideon Sa'ar;

shall be the signatories of this MOU.

Article 3: Validity

This MOU will come into force on the date of the signature and will expire on December 31st of the following year. Its validity could be extended for not more than one year, if the two sides agree, until the entering into force of the next MOU.

Either the Ministry or the ISHS may terminate this MOU at any time, upon a written notification received by the other party at least three months before its expiry.

Signed in Rome, on 13 June, in three originals in the English language.

Ms. Mariastella Gelmini
Minister of Education, University and Research of the Italian Republic

Mr. Gideon Sa'ar
Minister of Education of the State of Israel

Mr. Avner Shalev
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate