**DRAFT**

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA**

**AND**

**THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER**

**OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, OF RHODES AND OF MALTA**

**The** **Republic of Estonia** (hereinafter referred to as *Estonia*),

for one Party; and

**The** **Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta** (hereinafter referred to as the *Sovereign Order of Malta*),

for the other Party,

hereinafter referred to separately as the *Party* and together as the *Parties*;

*Considering* the traditionally excellent relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Estonia and the Sovereign Order of Malta on 10 March 2020;

*Considering* that the Sovereign Order of Malta has been dedicated to the service of the sick and poor in the world ever since its foundation more than 900 years ago;

*Considering* the long tradition of cooperation in the field of medical, humanitarian and healthcare assistance between Estonia and the Sovereign Order of Malta;

*Considering* the desire to facilitate and further enhance the friendly relationship and cooperation between Estonia and the Sovereign Order of Malta, as well as to achieve the common goals of the future.

*Noting* that the Sovereign Order of Malta entrusts the management of its humanitarian missions to connected organisations as appointed by it;

hereby agree:

**Article 1**

**Purpose of the Agreement**

1.1. The purpose of this Agreement is to set the general framework and guidelines of the cooperation between Estonia and the Sovereign Order of Malta aimed at promoting the hospitaller and healthcare work and activities of the latter in the territory of Estonia and in accordance with legislation in force therein. The precise activities and services provided by the Sovereign Order of Malta in the territory of Estonia are agreed by the Assessment Committee and specified in mutually agreed programmes and projects, in accordance with Article 5 of this Agreement.

1.2. According to their existing means, the Parties shall support and implement measures intended to facilitate, develop and diversify their cooperation related to health care, social care and humanitarian aid.

1.3. In case of emergencies, necessity or unexpected events, and in lack of specific conventions, programmes and projects as defined above, this agreement, human rights law and general rules of international humanitarian law shall apply.

**Article 2**

**Programme and Project Implementation with the Connected Organisations of**

**the Sovereign** **Order of Malta**

2.1. To the purpose of accomplishing its missions and implementation of the aims of this Agreement, the Sovereign Order of Malta takes actions directly or through its connected organisations. These connected organisations are established in view of the accomplishment of the Sovereign Order of Malta’s works, such as foundation, aid services, the National Associations, Relief Organisations or Malteser International, its world-wide relief agency.

2.2. The connected organisations act within the framework of their competences; they may establish specific conventions which relate thereto. These connected organisations shall act in accordance with the legislation of Estonia. The Sovereign Order of Malta informs Estonia about the designation of its connected organisations.

2.3. For the effective implementation of the tasks arising from this Agreement, the Sovereign Order of Malta and its connected organisations shall cooperate with the competent authorities of Estonia, the local authorities and organisations involved in the execution of the mentioned tasks within the borders of Estonia.

2.4. The Sovereign Order of Malta and its connected organisations have the right to replace or hire any natural or legal person to ensure the proper execution of the programmes and projects in accordance with the legislation of Estonia.

2.5. The rights and duties granted by the legislation of Estonia to any natural or legal person shall apply equally and without any discrimination to the connected organisations designated by the Sovereign Order of Malta under this agreement.

2.6. The connected organisations of the Sovereign Order of Malta will be granted all tax exemptions and donations benefits to the extent foreseen for foundations, aid services and associations in the legislation in force in the territory of Estonia.

**Article 3**

**Objective of the Cooperation**

The Parties will make the effort to promote mutual cooperation in accordance with the international law, national laws, rules and internal regulations in harmony with their respective policies on the basis of principles of equality, promotion and protection of human rights and mutual respect of sovereignty.

**Article 4**

**Fields of Cooperation**

The cooperation foreseen in this agreement will be executed in the following fields:

a. Healthcare;

b. Social care;

c. Voluntary service;

d Disaster risk reduction;

e Humanitarian assistance;

f. Refugee integration;

g. Other areas of common interest, as agreed by the Parties

**Article 5**

**Assessment Committee**

5.1. In order to ensure proper implementation of the cooperation that corresponds to the needs and activities of Estonia, an Assessment Committee shall be set up to choose and examine cooperation programmes and projects to attain the objectives set out in this Agreement. To this effect, after entering into force of the agreement the Committee will review and choose from among the programmes and projects as suggested by the Parties for implementation. At the later stage, the Committee shall prepare annual reports of the results obtained from the accomplished programmes and projects and set out future programmes and projects to implement.

5.2. The Assessment Committee shall be composed of two representatives of each Party. Each Party shall notify its members to the other through diplomatic channels. This committee shall meet when the need arises at the initiative of either of the Parties.

**Article 6**

**Protection of Identity**

In accordance with international law, the Parties commit themselves to mutually protect their names, emblems, coats of arms, flags and other symbols of sovereignty against abuse or violation, and ensure to protect them against any imitation.

**Article 7**

**Settlement of Disputes**

Any dispute in the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by consultations or negotiations between the Parties.

**Article 8**

**Entry into force, Duration and Renewal**

8.1. This Agreement is concluded for a period of 10 (ten) years and will be renewed automatically for the same period by tacit consent. Each Party shall notify the other through diplomatic channels upon the completion of its legal procedures required for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall come into force on the date of the last notification.

8.2. The provisions of this Agreement may be amended at any time by a mutual written agreement of both Parties. The amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure stipulated in paragraph 8.1 of this Agreement. The amendment shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

8.3. This Agreement can be terminated by any of the Parties through diplomatic channels with a written notification to the other with an advance of at least six (6) months.

8.4. Even following its termination or expiry, the provisions of this Agreement will be applied to the programmes and projects which are being executed until these will finish, unless the contrary is expressively agreed by the Parties.

**Article 9**

**Language**

9.1. This Agreement shall be done in duplicate in Estonian, Italian and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy of interpretation of the provisions, the English text shall prevail.

9.2. The Parties shall agree on the use of English as the language of correspondence concerning all aspects of cooperation under this Agreement.

Done in……………….. on…………….

For the Republic of Estonia For the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodesand of Malta