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10.11.2026

Republic of Lebanon
Office of the Minister of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND DIGITAL AFFAIRS

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Office of the Ministry of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence

and

the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs of the Republic of Estonia

On Cooperation in Digital Transformation, Technology and Artificial Intelligence

This Memorandum of Understanding **("MoU")** establishes a non-binding framework for cooperation between:

1- **The Office of the Ministry of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence**, having its address at Beirut Digital District, Bloc 1243, Second Floor, Beirut, Lebanon, represented for the purpose of this MoU by Dr. Kamal Shehadi, acting as Minister of Displaced and Minister of State for Technology and Artificial Intelligence, hereinafter referred to as "**MITAI**",

And

2- **The Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs of the Republic of Estonia**, having its address at Suur-Ameerika 1, 10122, Tallinn, Estonia, represented for the purpose of this MoU by Liisa-Ly Pakosta, acting as Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs, hereinafter referred to as "**The Ministry**".

Jointly the "**Parties**" and each individually a "**Party**".

Preamble:

Whereas MITAI operates within its existing mandate under the applicable Lebanese legal and institutional framework, with a role that includes policy-making and coordination with competent ministries and public institutions in the fields of digital governance, technology, AI adoption, and innovation. Its objectives include contributing to the development of the national digital ecosystem, fostering the progress of the technological environment in Lebanon, enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy, and supporting the improvement of public services through digital infrastructure and the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies,

Whereas the Ministry is engaged in digital governance, electronic identity, trust services and the rule of law in digital transformation,

Whereas the Parties agree that cooperation may be complemented by technical assistance provided through separately established programs, subject to their respective mandates, approvals and contractual arrangements,

Whereas the Parties wish to explore potential areas of cooperation based on mutual benefit, equality and respect for the applicable laws of each Party's State; on a strictly non-binding and non-exclusive basis, with the understanding that this MoU does not create any partnership, joint venture, representation, financial commitment, or legally binding obligation between the Parties,

Therefore, the Parties agreed to the following terms and conditions:

Article 1 Nature of this Memorandum

1.1 This Memorandum expresses the Parties' mutual intention to cooperate within their respective mandates in the areas described herein and establishes a non-binding framework for that cooperation.

1.2 Cooperation under this Memorandum will be undertaken in accordance with each Party's applicable laws, regulations, institutional mandate, approval procedures and available resources.

1.3 Any legally binding arrangements relating to specific activities require separate instruments concluded by the competent authorities in accordance with applicable laws and approval procedures.

1.4 Nothing in this Memorandum expands either Party's statutory powers or authorizes it to act on behalf of another ministry, public authority or institution. MITAI's participation will be undertaken within its existing mandate, in coordination with the competent Lebanese authorities where relevant. Activities requiring decisions, authorizations or operational responsibilities of those authorities remain subject to their approval and applicable procedures.

Article 2 Purpose and Objectives

2.1 The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish a framework for bilateral cooperation between the Parties in digital transformation, technology, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, for their mutual benefit.

Article 3 Areas of Cooperation

The Parties intend to cooperate in the following areas:

a) **Digital governance and public sector digital transformation**, including digital government strategies, digital public services, interoperability, data governance, national digital infrastructure and digital public service delivery;

b) **Digital identity, trust services and regulatory frameworks**, including digital identities, electronic identification, electronic signatures, trust services, personal data protection, and emerging technology governance;

c) **Cybersecurity and digital resilience**, including cybersecurity governance, incident response capabilities, capacity building, cyber awareness and the protection of critical digital services;

d) **Artificial intelligence, digital skills and innovation**, including AI governance, responsible AI adoption, digital skills development, startup ecosystems, education, research and knowledge exchange;

e) **Digital public infrastructure and international cooperation**, including interoperable digital platforms, trusted digital solutions, exchange of experience on digital transformation, and cooperation with regional and international partners;

Cooperation in these areas is subject to Articles 1 and 4 and to applicable financial, procurement, confidentiality and data safeguards in Articles 5 to 8.

Article 4 Implementation

4.1 The Parties designate the following institutions as their coordinating representatives, responsible for the arrangement of collaboration and implementation of activities mutually agreed under this MoU, within their respective mandates and subject to applicable laws and approvals:

Estonia: Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications

Lebanon: Office of the Ministry of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence

This designation does not in itself authorize either designated institution to bind a Party or another public authority, commit funds, award contracts, or grant access to data or systems.

4.2 The Parties may invite other institutions, including from private sector and non-governmental sectors, or other levels of government, to participate in the work and, where appropriate, take responsibility for the implementation of particular activities, subject to their willingness to participate and any applicable mandates and approvals.

4.3 The effective implementation may include, *inter alia*, evaluation, pre-qualification and nomination of suitable private companies or other institutions or experts from their respective countries to implement as well as partner and collaborate together in development projects in both countries.

Article 5 Financial Arrangements

5.1 This Memorandum does not create any financial obligation or commitment of funds by either Party.

5.2 Participation in any activity involving expenditure will be subject to prior approval by the competent authority, availability of the necessary budgetary allocations and compliance with applicable financial and procurement procedures. Any allocation or reimbursement of costs will be addressed separately in writing by the competent authorities before the expenditure is incurred.

5.3 Where technical or professional services are proposed under this MoU, any direct or indirect costs to be borne by either Party shall be agreed upon in advance in a separate written arrangement approved by the competent authorities, subject to the availability of budgetary allocations and compliance with applicable financial and procurement procedures.

5.4 The Parties may explore external funding or technical assistance for mutually agreed activities, under European Union programmes for which Lebanon is eligible, with Estonian participation where appropriate. Acceptance and use of any grant, donation or assistance will be subject to the applicable approval procedures and any separately approved funding arrangements.

5.5 This Memorandum does not require either Party to provide matching funds, guarantee third-party funding, reimburse a third party or assume recurrent operating, maintenance or license costs.

Article 6 Procurement

6.1 This Memorandum does not award, and shall not be construed as awarding, any procurement contract, concession or exclusive right to any person or entity.

6.2 Any procurement undertaken by a Lebanese procuring entity in connection with activities contemplated by this Memorandum, including procurement of goods, works, software, licenses, services or consulting services, will be conducted in accordance with Lebanese Law No. 244/2021 on Public Procurement, as amended, and other applicable legislation and procedures, by the competent procuring entity.

6.3 Technical assistance provided under separately established donor programs remains subject to applicable law and the relevant program arrangements. Neither this Memorandum nor participation in such assistance confers any entitlement to a subsequent contract, procurement exemption or preferential treatment.

Article 7 Confidentiality

7.1 Confidential Information means non-public information disclosed in connection with this MoU that is identified as confidential or should reasonably be understood as confidential, including credentials, technical vulnerabilities, restricted government records and personal data.

7.2 The Parties will protect Confidential Information and use it solely for the agreed cooperation purposes, subject to applicable law and any separate confidentiality agreement.

7.3 Access will be limited to authorized persons who need the information for those purposes and are subject to appropriate confidentiality requirements. Disclosure to external experts or organizations requires the originating Party's prior written approval and appropriate confidentiality arrangements.

7.4 Disclosure required by applicable law or by a competent judicial or oversight authority remains subject to that law. Where legally permitted, the receiving Party will notify the originating Party in writing before disclosure.

7.5 The Parties will use secure means of exchange, notify each other promptly of any known unauthorized access or disclosure, and consult on appropriate remedial measures.

7.6 The Parties will continue protecting information received during cooperation after this Memorandum ceases to apply, subject to applicable law and any separate confidentiality arrangement.

7.7 Before disclosing Confidential Information requiring legally enforceable protection, the competent authorities will establish a separate legally binding confidentiality arrangement in accordance with applicable law and approval procedures.

Article 8 Data Protection and Access to Systems

8.1 This Memorandum does not itself authorise access to public-sector information systems, production environments, credentials or non-public databases, or the disclosure, transfer or processing of personal data.

8.2 Cooperation will use public, synthetic or appropriately anonymised information wherever practicable.

8.3 Any activity requiring personal data or access to non-public systems will require prior approval by the competent authorities and a separate written arrangement addressing the lawful purpose, respective responsibilities, authorised access, security, retention, deletion, incident handling and any cross-border transfer, in accordance with applicable law, including Lebanese Law No. 81 of 10 October 2018 on Electronic Transactions and Personal Data, as amended.

8.4 Information or data made available for cooperation will not be used to train or improve AI models, or for unrelated purposes, without the originating Party's specific prior written authorization, any required approval of the competent authorities and a lawful basis.

Article 9 Intellectual Property

9.1 Each Party and any relevant third-party rights holder retain their rights in pre-existing intellectual property, including methodologies, software, training materials and know-how. Disclosure or provision of materials under this Memorandum does not itself transfer ownership or grant a license.

9.2 Before undertaking an activity expected to generate intellectual property or deliverables, the competent participating entities will establish appropriate written arrangements addressing ownership, rights of use, modification and adaptation, attribution, publication and any third-party licenses.

9.3 Any use, translation, adaptation or distribution of shared training materials, software or other protected content will be subject to the rights holder's permission or the applicable license.

Article 10 Public Communications and Use of Names

10.1 Any use of a Party's name, logo or official emblem in publications, training materials, promotional activities or other communications requires prior written approval from the relevant Party. Public announcements purporting to be jointly issued will be coordinated and approved by both Parties.

10.2 Participation in cooperation does not constitute endorsement of any supplier, product or commercial service.

Article 11 Amendment

This Memorandum may be amended by mutual written understanding of the Parties' duly authorized representatives, following any applicable approval procedures. An amendment will take effect on the date of the later signature, unless another date is specified in the amendment.

Article 12 Duration and Termination

12.1 This Memorandum remains effective for five (5) years from the date specified in Article 14.1. Renewal requires mutual written agreement signed by duly authorized representatives, following applicable approval procedures.

12.2 Either Party may terminate this Memorandum at any time by giving thirty (30) days' written notice to the other Party.

12.3 Expiry or termination of this MoU does not affect obligations arising under applicable law or separate legally binding arrangements. Information received during cooperation remains subject to Article 7.6.

12.4 Either Party may suspend a particular activity by written notice where necessary to comply with applicable law or address information security or data protection concerns.

Article 13 Settlement of Differences

Any difference concerning the interpretation or conduct of cooperation under this non-binding Memorandum will be addressed through consultation between the Parties. This Memorandum does not establish arbitration or judicial dispute settlement. Nothing in this Article limits remedies under applicable law or a separate legally binding agreement.

Article 14 Final Provisions

14.1 Following completion of their respective applicable internal approval procedures, this Memorandum will take effect on the date of the later signature.

14.2 This Memorandum will be signed in two (2) originals in the English language, each Party retaining one original.

14.3 Nothing in this Memorandum affects the existing or future cooperation between either Party and any other State, institution or organisation.

14.4 Any change in a Party's designation or institutional responsibilities will be communicated to the other Party. Any continuation of cooperation through a successor authority will be subject to applicable law and confirmation by the competent authorities.

Signatures

Signed by the duly authorised representatives of the Parties in Tallinn

on the 6 of November 2026

For the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs of the Republic of Estonia

Signature:

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H.E. Liisa-Ly Pakosta
Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs

For the Office of the Ministry of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Signature:

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H.E. Dr. Kamal Shehadi
Minister of Displaced
Minister of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence