



Charitable Foundation "Culture.UA"

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Annex 1: Expanded Proposal for Engaging Institutions in the International Consortium "Kyivan Rus: Shared Heritage"

Purpose of Engaging Institutions

Engaging leading Estonian universities and museums in the International Consortium "Kyivan Rus: Shared Heritage" aims to create a platform for academic exchange, preservation of cultural heritage, and the development of international cultural initiatives. This collaboration will facilitate the integration of Ukrainian historical heritage into the European space and strengthen academic and cultural ties between Ukraine and Estonia, building on a thousand-year history of military campaigns and trade routes.

Estonian National Museum

A global leader in preserving world heritage with unparalleled expertise in restoration and organizing large-scale international exhibitions.

- **Potential:** Conducting restoration of key Kyivan Rus objects using advanced technologies, organizing a world tour of exhibitions in over 20 countries, attracting 500,000 visitors.

- **Benefits:** Enrichment of collections with unique artifacts, enhanced global impact through cultural diplomacy, and participation in prestigious projects.

- **Proposal:** Create a large-scale exhibition, "Baltic Connections: From Rus to Estonia", in 2026, featuring rare artifacts, interactive displays, a 200+ page catalog, and virtual reality for global access. This proposal aims to establish long-term partnership aligned with the museum's strategic goals and leadership in the cultural sphere. We are open to detailed discussions and adjustments based on your resources and priorities.

Art Museum of Estonia

A specialized museum of medieval art with expertise in iconography and restoration.

- **Potential:** Conducting detailed analysis of Kyivan Rus iconographic styles, organizing masterclasses for over 30 restorers, and creating a virtual gallery.

- **Benefits:** Strengthened specialization in medieval art, access to new exhibits, and promotion as a center for restoration innovations.

- **Proposal:** Restore a unique object from Sophia of Kyiv, followed by producing a documentary film about the process for an international audience, accompanied by an interactive online resource. This proposal aims to establish long-term partnership aligned with the museum's strategic goals and leadership in the cultural sphere. We are open to detailed discussions and adjustments based on your resources and priorities.

Estonian History Museum

A distinguished museum focused on medieval archaeology and history, known for researching Varangian connections.

- **Potential:** Conducting thorough analysis of Varangian trade and military routes, creating a permanent exhibition with interactive elements.
- **Benefits:** Expanded collection of Varangian artifacts, increased tourism appeal, and strengthened academic ties.
- **Proposal:** Organize an exhibition, "Varangians: Bridges between Cultures", in 2027, using archaeological finds from Vyshhorod, lectures by leading historians, and an interactive trade route map. This proposal aims to establish long-term partnership aligned with the museum's strategic goals and leadership in the cultural sphere. We are open to detailed discussions and adjustments based on your resources and priorities.

Seaplane Harbour (Lennusadam)

Renowned for its art collection and innovative approach to integrating historical narratives into modernity.

- **Potential:** Organizing a competition for young artists with over 100 participants, creating modern interpretations of Rus heritage for a broad audience.
- **Benefits:** Attracting new audiences, strengthening reputation as an innovative museum, and collaborating with Ukrainian artists.
- **Proposal:** Develop a project, "Rus Heritage: A Modern Perspective", including installations, multimedia exhibitions for international biennales, and an art catalog publication. This proposal aims to establish long-term partnership aligned with the museum's strategic goals and leadership in the cultural sphere. We are open to detailed discussions and adjustments based on your resources and priorities.

Kumu Art Museum

A leader in researching Eastern cultures with a deep understanding of Byzantine influences on Eastern Slavic art.

- **Potential:** Conducting interdisciplinary research on Kyivan Rus religious art, organizing a lecture series for over 200 attendees.
- **Benefits:** Expanded exhibition with Eastern artifacts, elevated status as a center for Eastern studies, and access to new research materials.
- **Proposal:** Create a detailed digital catalog of Eastern Slavic icons with analysis of Byzantine parallels, integration into international databases, and an accompanying exhibition. This proposal aims to establish long-term partnership aligned with the museum's strategic goals and leadership in the cultural sphere. We are open to detailed discussions and adjustments based on your resources and priorities.

Specific Steps for Cooperation

- **Drafting Letters:** We request the Embassy to prepare invitation letters to institutions (deadline: 15 October 2025).
- **Meetings:** Organizing virtual or in-person negotiations to align plans.
- **Exchange Program:** Launching a pilot mobility project for 10–15 participants in 2026.
- **Funding:** Seeking co-financing through EU grants (Horizon Europe, Creative Europe) and national programs.