

COOPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2016
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY AND THE FLEMISH REGION
AND THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

On the basis of the Cooperation Treaty between the Flemish Community and the Flemish Region and the Republic of Slovenia, signed on 3 September 1998, the representatives of Flanders and the Republic of Slovenia, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties", agreed upon the following areas of cooperation for the period 2014-2016:

1. ECONOMY

Entrepreneurship

The Parties shall promote the exchange of information, best practices and role models between entities responsible for outlining and executing entrepreneurship policies.

The parties shall also facilitate and promote direct contacts between project promoters and projects in the field of "entrepreneurship" financed either through regional, national and/or European funding sources (ERDF, CIP,...).

2. FOREIGN TRADE

2.1. General

Both Parties are committed to the promotion of the trade and investment relations between Flanders and Slovenia.

Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) and the Slovenian agency responsible for FDI and internationalisation (SPIRIT) are the respective agencies that are committed to supporting Slovenian and Flemish companies (especially SME's) in the field of international trade and that help foreign companies set up or expand investments abroad.

2.2 Specific approach and activities

In order to familiarize Flemish companies with the Slovenian market, FIT plans in the period 2014-2016 a multisectoral trade mission to Ljubljana and motivates companies to undertake individual prospection trips. On these occasions Flemish companies are being brought into contact with potential Slovenian business partners, through the services of the FIT office in Ljubljana.

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation between –SPIRIT and FIT.

Both Parties shall exchange information on their markets, industries, business potential and investment opportunities, and their experiences and knowledge related to the promotion of their international business.

Both Parties shall exchange information on their investment climate, including their financial incentives and investment conditions.

SPIRIT representatives and representatives of FIT (especially via the Flemish Economic Representative in Ljubljana) try to exchange experiences with regard to internationalization:

- To identify trade opportunities in the respective markets;
- To support the companies that want to expand their business in the respective markets;
- To organize events such as active / passive business delegations, seminars, trade missions, participation in trade fairs, etc.;
- To support companies in their search for products, services, potential partners and investment opportunities in the respective markets.

2.3. Concrete Proposals

Possible sectors for economic cooperation could be: renewable energy and photovoltaic modules, constructions (wooden houses), logistics (Gent – Luka Koper), medical technology, nanotechnology, cleaning technology, chemical and pharmaceutical industry, automotive industry.

3. TOURISM

Both Parties shall promote, and in case of mutual interest exchange delegations of officials, experts and researchers in the field of tourism, in order to mutually exchange information, experiences and knowledge about following topics:

- legislation and regulation in tourism;
- implementation of cultural heritage in tourism;
- Human Resources Development in the field of tourism,
- Sustainable tourism development and experiences in responding to the challenge of climate change,
- Tourism destinations management and marketing
- Valuation of the economic importance of tourism.

Both Parties encourage the organization of study visits for journalists, radio and television reporters in the field of tourism and study tours of tour operators and tourist agents.

Both Parties encourage the organization of seminars, symposia and workshops in the field of tourism during which the participants from both countries can exchange experiences, expert knowledge and ideas.

Both Parties shall promote cooperation at tourist fairs and workshops and encourage close cooperation between the tourism industries from both countries, together with best practice visits.

Both Parties encourage investments in tourism in both countries and inform mutually about the interesting projects for investing and other projects in the field of tourism where co-operation is possible.

4. AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Both Parties shall stimulate bilateral cooperation between their research institutes, governmental organisations, socio-economic organisations, and the Slovenian and Flemish business communities in the field of agriculture, environment and nature.

Both parties shall encourage and support cooperation in the prevention of environmental pollution due to various economic activities. Since coastal and marine pollution, its prevention and management are inevitably the problem of all countries of a specific region, the regional and sub-regional cooperation is necessary.

Both Parties shall encourage joint participation of Slovenian and Flemish researchers in multinational projects in Europe.

Both Parties shall encourage direct contacts, exchange of experts and exchange of information on the initiatives, experience and best practices in the following priority fields of agriculture:

- protection of plants;
- organic agriculture techniques in farming;

Both Parties are willing to organize seminars, workshops and study visits during which participants from both countries can exchange experience, knowledge and ideas.

Specific activities in Agriculture

The Slovenian Phytosanitary Administration (SPA) is prepared to share its scientific and technological knowledge on seed quality and on varieties of plant species for agricultural use through working groups, seminars and joint projects with partner organisations in Flanders. The SPA wishes to offer its know-how as applied in different projects, and broaden its knowledge and experience by participating in international cooperation projects in Europe and, more specifically, in the region of the Western Balkans by implementing relevant sectorial legislation.

In the field of organic farming, special attention should be paid to the exchange of know-how on new technology and processing methods in order to maintain organic integrity and vital qualities of products. Cooperation should exist between research institutes and other interested parties. Possible forms of cooperation should be organised in mutual consultation on the basis of specific requests and specific project proposals, once feasibility of the desired result within the project period has been checked.

Marine pollution, strategic environmental marine assessment

Coastal regions of all European countries are under high pressure of pollution due to various economic activities which are increasing daily.

Slovenian and Flemish governments shall support and foster cooperation with regard to the effects of marine pollution on land, integrated and sustainable coastal zone management and spatial planning, and the activities that are aimed to fulfil the above goals.

Since coastal and marine pollution, its prevention and management are inevitably the problem of all countries of a specific region, the cooperation of neighbouring countries is necessary. Accordingly, Slovenia is already taking an active role in several regional initiatives that deal with marine pollution (UNEP/MAP, Adriatic Ionian Initiatives). Due to the fact that many partners in those initiatives are new democracies efforts will be made on both sides to accelerate the cooperation also with the technical and financial assistance where also Flemish partners could take part.

The Slovenian and the Flemish government support and promote cooperation in the field of prevention and managing the consequences of pollution, with particular emphasis on: effects of marine pollution on land, integrated and sustainable management of coastal areas.

UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol

Both parties are willing to cooperate within the objective of the UN Framework

- Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

Environmental education

The Environmental Training and Education Service (ETE) is prepared to invite a delegation and introduce it to the environmental education (EE) operation and structure at the Flemish level in an active and interactive way.

Taking into account the desires/needs, the ETE Service can organise one or more days with the following topics:

- Introduction of and making acquaintance with the operation of the ETE Service within the Flemish policy and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and Education for Sustainable Development;
- Introduction of and making acquaintance with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education (and teacher training) and, if preferred, linked with a school visit; getting acquainted with the relevant educational means;
- Introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus project, introducing environmental care and sustainable development in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management);
- Introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development;
- Site visit to one or more (N)EE centres and to a provincial EE service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

Waste management

The Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) is prepared - within the financial possibilities - to invite a number of experts in the field of the Waste, Materials and Soil Management in order to exchange know-how, information and experiences concerning specific items in this matter.

Expert exchange

Both parties are prepared to invite, when human resources and financial possibilities allow, during the validity of the present programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) for a period of up to five working days within the frame of environment, spatial planning and energy, in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.

5. TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND SPATIAL PLANNING

5.1. Mobility Policy Persons and Goods

Both Parties are willing to exchange information and experience regarding one or more of the following topics:

- integrated public passenger transport (IJPP project);
- transport logistics (SCM supply chain management, transit...)
- mobility and traffic safety – education and sensitizing regarding a better car use;
- promoting the desired traffic behavior;
- information exchange in the field of road traffic safety.

In addition, the Mobility and Road Safety Policy Division has two brand-new projects which have potential to serve as a test case for future projects:

“Centaurus” is an IT-based knowledge-platform for taxis and similar services which provide private transport of persons and who need a licence from the Flemish authorities. “Centaurus” provides a quick flow of information between different authorities on various levels of occupation and hierarchy. The end product is a swift service to get the usual administration done; the figures are kept as actual as possible. At the same time, “Centaurus” is an efficient prevention against fraudulent practices.

Road Database Traffic Signs (RDTS) is an on-line based data service based on GIS-technology. Fisheye pictures of the Flemish roads made it possible to develop an image and stock reports of all the traffic signs one can find on the road network. This project has been introduced through the European Rosatte Project and will help to improve policy:

- On traffic-sign management
- GPS – management (avoiding stealth traffic)
- Traffic management in general (improving traffic safety)

5.2. Sustainable Energy

The parties are prepared to cooperate in the field of energy on those themes that fall within the competencies of the Flemish party (renewable energy, energy efficiency,

energy distribution and energy research), subject to the availability of financial and human resources and based upon a specific request for the exchange of information or the organization of an expert meeting.

The parties encourage contacts between each other's companies and research institutions and are prepared to play a facilitating role, should there be a specific request.

Specifically in the context of the European financing programme « Intelligent Energy for Europe » (and similar European programmes), the parties encourage information exchange between the respective focal points, so as to match potential partners.

5.3. Geodetic activities and geographical information systems (GIS)

Geographical and spatial planning data are essential for economic and social activities of public and private sectors in different thematic areas.

The development of the geodetic system as a land survey tool, the acquisition of data and the introduction of new location based services (GPS and satellite technology for positioning) are among the strategic goals of the land survey service.

Both parties are willing to exchange information, knowledge and experience:

- In the field of geodetic activity, spatial planning and spatial data infrastructures;
- In the field of geodetic activity, especially in the fields of real estate cadastre, altitude system, topographic data basis, data on public infrastructure and other geodetic databases;
- In the field of spatial planning, especially to enhance the development, use, and access to spatial data and related services between local and state governments in order to improve processes related to spatial planning and building.
- In implementing professional education and training of the employees in the field of geodetic activity and spatial planning;
- In supporting the connection between public and private sectors in the field of geodetic activity and spatial planning;
- In implementing the EU directive INSPIRE.

5.4. Expert exchange

Both parties are prepared to invite, during the validity of the present programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) for a period of up to five working days within the frame of environment, spatial planning and energy, in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.

6. REGIONAL POLICY

The signatories transfer and exchange experiences and knowledge in the field of Regional and Cohesion Policy.

Special attention will also be given to the role of the European programmes of territorial cooperation (Interreg IVC) in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The management and the effect of these programmes on regional development in Flanders and Slovenia will be treated.

7. EMPLOYMENT

Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy, social economy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage contacts between competent bodies and social partners in this field.

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy, social economy, vocational and entrepreneurial training.

The Flemish Party (Vlaamse Departement Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational and entrepreneurial training, labour market, social economy and employment policy.

8. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of Flanders was signed on 13 February 2008. Both Parties agree to align their cooperation in science and technology. For the Slovenian Party the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport will be in charge of the cooperation.

9. CULTURE

When one of the Parties participates in an important international project, it will associate the other Party – as far as possible – as a privileged partner.

9.1 General

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information and publications with regard to visual arts, design, architecture, museums, cultural heritage, literature, translations, performing arts, music, audiovisual and media activities, artist accommodation, amateur arts, libraries, cultural centres, local cultural policy, international festivals and competitions, including information and documentation on cultural cooperation in general.

Both Parties shall foster direct contacts between cultural institutions and associations.

9.2. Visual arts

The Flemish Party wishes to receive information and documentation about artist accommodation in Slovenia.

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall exchange art publications.

9.3. Cultural heritage

Both Parties shall foster the exchange of information and experience in the field of conservation, restoration and management of cultural heritage.

Both Parties are willing to improve and to stimulate the networking of the heritage institutions of their countries for the purpose of exchange of practices, experts and competences related to tangible and intangible heritage.

In the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003, both Parties will study the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding the methods of registration and preservation of the intangible heritage of Slovenia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Slovenian Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

9.4. Literature

Both Parties shall mutually encourage translation of literature into the language of the other Party and promote participation in international book fairs.

During the validity of the present Programme, the Slovenian Party in cooperation with Slovenian Writers' Association shall invite the Flemish Party to participate in the International Meeting of Poets and Intellectuals in Vilenica.

Both Parties shall encourage publishing selections of other Party's literature in literature reviews on the basis of agreements between interested partners.

The Flemish Party wants to draw attention to the possibilities for artists, writers and translators to enter the residence programme of the following organisations (participants should meet the criteria and pass the selection):

- Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee: offers residences in the field of graphic arts, (www.fransmasereelcentrum.be)
- Het Beschrijf: offers residences in Brussels and Vollezele for writers and translators, (www.beschrijf.be)
- Flemish Literature Fund: offers residences for translators in the Translators' House in Antwerp, (www.fondsvoordeletteren.be)

9.5. Performing arts

Both Parties shall encourage further cooperation between Bunker (Ljubljana) and Kaai theatre (Brussels) within the frame of Imagine 2020 (Arts and Climate Change) and cooperation between Bunker (Ljubljana) and Teatro Leporello as well as other forms of cooperation between Bunker and Flemish creators in the field of production, artistic residences and continuous touring.

Both Parties shall encourage further cooperation between Mini teater (Ljubljana) and Figurentheatre Vlinders Beveren.

Both Parties are willing to encourage exchange and cooperation in the field of contemporary dance and performance practice.

9.6. Musical Art

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation between international Festival Brežice and Flemish festival Antwerp.

Both Parties shall examine the possibility of exchanging observers during large festivals or music competitions.

Terms of cooperation shall be agreed upon between interested partners in due time and according to their financial capacities.

9.7. Libraries

Both Parties shall encourage the cooperation of libraries and the exchange of experts on the basis of direct agreements between interested partners.

Both Parties shall exchange information on "best practices" in both countries.

9.8. Amateur arts

Both Parties are willing to encourage cooperation in the field of amateur arts on the basis of direct agreements between interested partners.

9.9. Audiovisual and film activities

Both Parties shall encourage the realization of audiovisual co-productions, in particular within the framework of the co-production fund Eurimages, as well as stimulate mutual exchange of contemporary productions and audiovisual or film heritage and their mutual promotion.

Both Parties shall encourage thematic presentation of their films in the frame of festivals and cinematographic retrospectives.

9.10. Cultural policy

Both Parties shall inform each other in an active way about important developments in their respective cultural policies; this means that both Parties will keep each other informed, on a regular basis, of policy matters and their international context, including the identification of the stakeholders involved and references to other sources that may be available.

When common subjects, of considerable present political importance have been detected, the Parties may decide by consensus to organize specific projects in that field, such as exchanges, training, on the job training, seminars, residences, etc.

10. SPORT

During the validity of this Programme, both Parties shall encourage the exchange of trainers, athletes, policymakers or scientists in order to participate in apprenticeships, symposia, study visits, scientific congresses and seminars in the field of sport.

11. MEDIA

The Flemish Regulator for the Media proposes to share his knowledge, working methods and points of view with the Slovenian mediaregulator (Post and Electronic Communications Agency/PECA).

Agreements in this field can be made between the Flemish Regulator for the Media and his Slovenian counterpart.

Both parties shall encourage exchange of information and data in the field of Audiovisual and Media.

12. PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE, WELFARE CARE AND DISABILITY POLICY

12.1 General

- Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and expertise in the fields of **public health, health care, welfare/well-being, disability policy and child and family**, with special emphasis on:
- The general welfare/well-being policy, in particular scientific research regarding welfare/public health, quality management, inspection and monitoring, client consultation, cooperation between the public and private sectors at the international, national, regional and local levels;
- Support to services and facilities.

12.2 Disability policy

In its European Disability Strategy 2010–2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe (COM (2010) 636 final of 15 November 2010), the European Commission defined eight areas of action aimed at preventing discrimination based on disability, and providing equal opportunities to people with disabilities: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health and external action. These are also areas of potential cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of Flanders. These, however, should be complemented with a special area dedicated to raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

On the basis of the before mentioned areas of action we propose the following fields of concrete activities:

- improving access to the physical environment: exchange of experience or cooperation aimed at improving access to historic sites;
- cooperation in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the purposes of exchanging information on anti-discrimination policies and promoting equal opportunities in Slovenia and the Flemish region;
- exchange of analyses, political guidelines and other forms of support in order to be better informed on the employment issues of people with disabilities; special emphasis should be placed on the employment of women with disabilities, the transition of young people with disabilities from education to employment, and paid employment for persons with mental disabilities;
- exchange of information on opportunities for people with disabilities in inclusive education and promotion of life-long learning;
- exchange of information on social security systems, poverty reduction programmes, public housing programmes and other enabling services and programmes (for example personal assistance);
- exchange of information on access to health services and assistive devices with an emphasis on assistive devices for people with sensory impairments, mental health services, and the promotion of measures for health and safety at work in order to reduce risks of disabilities developing during working life, and the reintegration of workers with disabilities into work and employment;
- exchange of information on disability, including statistical and research data.

12.3 Child and Family

The Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) is able and willing to exchange information, knowledge, experiences, documentation and/or tools in the domain of the preventive healthcare, about the wellbeing of young children, in the domain of childcare and concerning target groups and social vulnerable families.

More especially, the Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can exchange information, experiences and documentation about the organization and regulation of child care in Flanders and Brussels.

The Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can also provide information about the organization of integrated early childhood preventive care (family centres).

The Flemish Agency Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) can provide tools in the domain of unsafe children's articles, webcourses (for instance breastfeeding), pictographic material, material about child development, family supporters, vaccination, experience in early eye or hearing screening, etc.

The exchange on the above mentioned items can be realized through different channels of communication. Mutual exchange visits can be organized within the limits of the available financial resources.

Slovenia can provide information regarding the following:

- *organization of a National School Nutrition programme; organized nutrition in educational institutions - kindergartens and primary/elementary schools. This programme for children and youth represents an effective tool for the promotion and prevention of health, improvement of bad dietary habits and nutritional education.*
- *network of public institutions in the field of mental health "Counseling centers for Children, Adolescents and Parents" providing diagnostic, counseling and therapeutic services. The role of these centers is the provision of counseling activities (including assessment, interventions, consultation, supervision, training, prevention, and psychological education) and therapy for children, adolescents and parents in individual treatment and in a team assessment and approach.*
- *Youth web counselling - a health promotion project – a counseling site, the approach is based on web communication, providing adolescents fast, simple access to free expert advice. The youth web counseling site is an additional form of support, complementing the existing sources of help.*

The cooperation in the above mentioned fields does not exclude other fields of mutual interest.

13. EDUCATION

13.1. Exchange of information and documentation

During the validity of the present Programme both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information on all types and levels of education.

13.2. Higher education

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation between higher education institutions by encouraging direct contacts and exchange between experts from higher education institutions.

Both Parties shall encourage and aim at joint participation of Slovenian and Flemish higher education institutions in the EU programmes for cooperation in education, as well as through other programmes.

Both Parties shall encourage direct contacts and exchange between experts/professors from higher education institutions in order to discuss the educational reforms following the implementation of the Bologna Process, to participate in seminars and symposiums, and establish a network of contacts and exchanges between higher education institutions.

13.3. Support for the study of the Dutch language and culture

The study of the Dutch language and culture in the Republic of Slovenia can count on the support of the Dutch Language Union.

The Dutch Language Union offers support for Dutch language departments, teachers and students of the Dutch language abroad, like for example summer courses of the Dutch language, literature and culture, teaching resources and continuing studies courses.

The Dutch Language Union offers two summer courses: one in Ghent (BE) and one in Zeist (NL). During the course in Ghent, special attention goes to the Flemish culture.

More information about the support and the summer courses can be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union: http://taalunieversum.org/en/dutch_worldwide/.

14. YOUTH

During the validity of the present programme both Parties shall, according to the interest of the other Party, exchange information and documentation regarding youth policy and youth work strategy.

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall exchange four (4) experts (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants, youth workers and youth researchers/experts) for a study visit up to seven (7) days, to elaborate a youth (work)policy at all levels (local, regional and national).

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall exchange delegations up to four (4) members (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants, youth workers and youth researchers/experts) for a period up to seven (7) days with the aim of deepening and enlarging the ideas, themes and instruments of the new framework of the EU youth policy (Council resolution 27th of November 2009) and the framework of cooperation on youth policy of the Council of Europe (based on resolution CM/Res(2008)23).

Both Parties agree to send or receive responsible civil servants, youth workers and youth researchers/experts for participation in selected international (youth) events.

15. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department, The Flemish Agency for the Interior) and the Slovenian Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know how and best practices between the administrations.

Contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, regulatory management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities.

The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Slovenian Party will cooperate and exchange information about the following subjects: the organisation of local elections; local finances and local statistics; local autonomous enterprises; cooperation between local authorities; internal multilevel governance including issues like scale and competences; the relationship between central and local authorities focusing on policy support and administrative control.

The Slovenian side is particularly interested in better regulation and improvement of quality of public administration in Flanders. The field of better regulation has gained importance in times of crisis. All European countries establish and implement measures to ensure the economy and development-friendly environment. Slovenia is willing to cooperate in the exchange of experience (for example, measurement of administrative burdens and removing administrative barriers) as well as closely cooperate in the field of regulatory impact assessment and evaluation of legislation. It would be of particular interest to see how the Flemish part assesses the impact in the social field and how operates the implementation of the "Internal Audit of the Flemish Administration", which focuses on risk management.

As for the quality improvement in the Slovenian public administration, the Slovenian side is mainly interested in the presentation of results as regards the improvement of the quality of public administration in Flanders.

16. CAPACITY BUILDING

Port management:

The Flemish Party (Department of Foreign Affairs) offers to the Slovenian Party the possibility to send experts to the port training and port management seminars that are organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre) during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Flemish Party will inform the Slovenian Embassy of the calendar of the seminars.

The Slovenian Party will present its candidates for the above mentioned seminars. Participants will be selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the expenses for

participation in the seminars. International travel expenses shall be covered by the participant or by the organisation on which he/she depends.

17. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

17.1 General

The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed:

- All activities and exchanges mentioned in this programme shall be carried out within the limits of the financial resources at the disposal of the two Parties;
- The activities and exchanges envisaged in this programme will not exclude other initiatives or visits which might be proposed and agreed in advance by both Parties through diplomatic channels;
- The organisation of music, dance and theatre performances and exhibitions other than those mentioned in the present Programme, should be *a priori* based on direct agreements covering financial and other terms between the organisations and artists involved in such events;
- Both governments can subsidise projects, as well.

Other conditions are to be agreed upon by the partners on a case-by-case basis.

17.2. Exchange of persons

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days as a maximum and at the invitation of the sending Party) as determined in the present Programme shall be implemented according to the following criteria (except for exchanges and visits in the field of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media, see below):

- a) The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with a *curriculum vitae*, a letter of invitation and information on the goals and programme of the visit as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the nominees concerned, at least three (3) months in advance.
- b) The receiving Party shall confirm that it is prepared to receive the nominees concerned, six (6) weeks before their departure. The time of departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks in advance.
- c) The sending Party shall cover:
 - In Flanders: the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination.
 - In Slovenia: the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination.
- d) To be covered by the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

- Accommodation and breakfast;

- A fixed allowance of EUR 37 per day (excluding transport costs) or EUR 50 per day (including transport costs);
- Health insurance and third party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Slovenia:

- Accommodation, meals and travel expenditure within the country, in accordance with the work programme and with the approval of the receiving authorities;
- Participants coming from the other Party shall be responsible for taking their own insurances (including health insurance) before entering the country.

For exchanges and visits in the field of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media, financial and material stipulations shall be decided upon by the specific parties involved and shall be communicated through the diplomatic channels.

18. FINAL PROVISIONS

The provisions of the present Cooperation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that would be negotiated and agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Both Parties shall agree on the conditions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. All disputes concerning the interpretation or realisation of this programme of activities shall be settled through negotiation between the signatories.


Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Mixed Commission in Slovenia in 2016.

This Cooperation Programme shall take effect on the date of its signing and apply to the period 2014-2016. The implementation of the Programme can be extended by written consent of both Parties.

Done in Brussels on 6 December 2013, in two original copies in the Dutch, Slovenian and English language, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of different interpretations, the English text shall prevail.

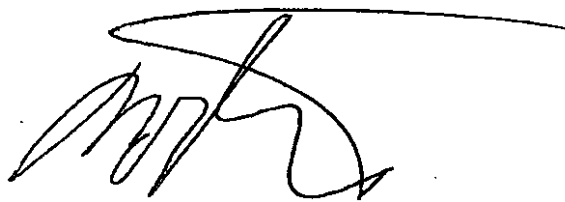
For the Government of Flanders

For the Government of the Republic of Slovenia



Koen Verlaeckt

Secretary General of the Flemish
Department of Foreign Affairs



Matjaž Šinkovec

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Republic of Slovenia
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