

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE YEARS 2003-2005
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ESTONIA**

**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ESTONIA**

Brussels, 17-18 November 2003.

The chairman of the Flemish delegation welcomes the Estonian delegation and presents the members of the Flemish delegation :

Flemish delegation:

Co-ordination department

Foreign Affairs administration

Diane Verstraeten,
Freddy Evens,
Tom Fordel,

director-general, head of the delegation
head of division Europe
assistant to the director

Protocol

Ferdinand Van Den Berghe
Christine Breugelmans

chief of protocol
assistant to the director

Welfare, Public Health and Culture department

Culture administration

Hilde Billiet
Jan Leconte
Marie-Anne Van Hijfte
Chris Dehondt

assistant to the director
assistant to the director
assistant to the director
assistant

Family and Social Welfare Administration

Jozef Mostinckx
Rudi Overloop

director
assistant to the director

Environment and Infrastructure department

Dirk Zwaenepoel

co-ordinator Foreign Affairs

Roads and Traffic administration

Jacques Vandeputte
Etienne De Winne

engineer
inspector-general

Waterways and Marine Affairs administration

Dries Vervoort

assistant to the director

Housing policy division

Ronald Van Paassen

assistant to the director

AMINAL administration

Bart Van Impe

expert

Economics, Employment, Home Affairs and Agriculture department

Economy administration

David Grzegorzewski

assistant to the director

Employment administration

Louis Vervloet director

Home Affairs administration

Evert Van Walle head of division

Agriculture and Horticulture administration

Patricia De Clercq engineer

Science, Innovation and Media department

Media administration

Adriaan Heirman assistant to the director

Education department

Ruth Timmermans assistant to the director

Flanders export

Annik Dupont area manager Central & Eastern Europe

Flemish Land Agency

Division Support Centre Flanders

Jo Van Valckenborgh head of the servicecentre

Public Waste Agency of Flanders

Anne Vandeputte assistant to the director

Both delegations, hereafter called the Parties, agreed upon the following:

1. ECONOMY

1.1. In general

- 1.1.1. Both Parties agree upon the importance of economic relations based on co-operation in different fields.

The co-operation shall be put into practice by exchanging knowledge and experience regarding the economic and regional development policy and on the use of modern management techniques.

Both Parties shall send documentation and information relating to the themes mentioned above.

- 1.1.2. Both Parties shall examine the possibility of exchanging experts in the economic fields to be determined by them.

1.2. Specific actions

1.2.1. Economic, industrial and regional policies

- 1.2.1.1. Both Parties shall exchange information and experiences regarding the economic, industrial and regional policies and the regional development policy at the request of the other Party. Special attention shall be paid to co-operation between regions as well as co-operation with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes (structural funds, Interreg).

- 1.2.1.2. Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of civil servants of the administrations concerned (Economy, Regional Policy) in the fields of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and knowledge on the following subjects:

- sustainable industrial development;
- structural funds;
- support to related business organisations and other institutions that offer support to the business community (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, confederations as – in the case of Flanders – VIZO, UNIZO and VOKA, Euro Info Centres, etc.).

- 1.2.1.3. Both Parties shall organise alternately economic seminars on the items mentioned above.

1.2.2. Regional Development Policy

Both Parties shall exchange experience, knowledge, documentation, work models and information on their activities in the field of regional development. Notably, the Flemish Party shall put its experience in the field of the Flemish sub-regional economic policy and the Spatial Economy Strategic Plan at the disposal of the other Party. The Flemish Party shall present its ideas regarding regionalisation to the Estonian partners, in particular the practical evolution as regards:

- the Flemish legislation on regional policy and its compatibility with the European legislation;
- the financing sources for regional support;

Both Parties shall incorporate the issue of special economic areas (for instance industrial zones) into their co-operation and exchange their experience in this field.

1.2.3. Small and medium-sized enterprises.

1.2.3.1. Both Parties shall stress the importance of the development of their co-operation with regard to the SMEs.

1.2.3.2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts between Estonian and Flemish SMEs.

1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programmes: mentorship projects

Both Parties shall exchange experience and knowledge in the field of "mentorship projects".

"Mentorship projects" aim at the professionalisation of the management of small and medium sized enterprises and the enhancement of networking between enterprises.

The strategy consists of fixed groups of small and medium sized enterprise managers meeting with one or two mentors in order to exchange experiences on a monthly basis during one or two years. The mentors are executives of large companies or experienced self-employed entrepreneurs who are gladly willing to put their experience at the disposal of other entrepreneurs.

2. FOREIGN TRADE

2.1 Both Parties shall organise economic seminars and economic missions, as opportunity requires.

2.2 In the first half of 2004 the Flemish Party plans a multi-sectoral economic mission to Estonia, in co-operation with Unizo (Flemish Organisation for the Self-employed and SMEs).

The Estonian Party shall draw the attention of their Chamber of Commerce and Industry to this mission and shall provide details of contact persons.

2.3 The Estonian Party informs the Flemish Party of an Estonian economic follow-up mission to investigate new business opportunities in Flanders;

2.4 The Flemish Party plans a merger of Flanders Export Promotion Agency and Flanders Foreign Investment Office in 2003. The new institution "FIT – Flanders Investment and Trade" will deal with various aspects of international enterprise:

- export;
- attracting foreign investors to Flanders;
- promoting Flemish investments abroad, technological exchange, joint ventures, several forms of co-operation.

2.5 The Flemish Party shall make its services available to the Estonian Party, among other things through exchange of information with regard to business opportunities and investments. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, both Parties shall exchange information regarding their respective markets and sectors and their experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.

2.6 Enterprise Estonia shall make its services available to the Flemish Party, among other things through exchange of information concerning investment opportunities, trade conditions and trade partners.

2.7 The Estonian Party shall put a list of fairs and international exhibitions in Estonia in the years 2003-2005 at the disposal of the Flemish Party. The latter shall distribute this information among the Flemish enterprises.

3. AGRICULTURE

- 3.1 The Flemish Party examines the possibility to assist the Estonian Party through targeted projects or exchanges, in the further development and realisation of its rural programme in the framework of the SAPARD programme of the EU. The Flemish Party also provides Flemish expertise in setting up and carrying out a rural development programme in the framework of Regulation 1257/99 regarding rural development which will be applicable after Estonia's accession to the European Union.
- 3.2 The Flemish Party is willing, within the limits of its financing capacity, to put its knowledge and experience in the field of production, processing and marketing of fruit, vegetables and fish – in accordance with Community legislation – at the disposal of the Estonian Party. The Flemish Party also offers the possibility to exchange its knowledge and experience on the formation and functioning of producer organisations.
- 3.3 The Flemish Party offers, in co-operation with the centres of practical work, the possibility to train and improve local technical teachers in giving post-school education and extra training, with a main focus on sustainable agriculture.

Important aspects of formation can be:

- management training in function of cultivation and area;
- sustainable farming techniques, organic farming;
- training in application-oriented techniques: bricklaying, welding, maintenance of farming machines and small repairs, claw care, milk hygiene, etc.;
- technical formation: tillage, ploughing, fertilisation, sowing techniques, feeding of cattle, etc., other fields of mutual interest and know-how.

4. ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1 The Flemish Land Agency (VLM), Support Centre GIS-Flanders and the Ministry of Environment would like to establish contacts with scientific institutions and administrations in Estonia in order to co-operate in one or more of the following fields related to the use of GIS and Remote Sensing :
- environmental impact assessment;
 - the construction of a database for forest inventory;
 - the development of a change detection system for the monitoring of deforestation;
 - flooding risk assessment;
 - landscape ecology and landscape planning.
- 4.2 The Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) is prepared to co-operate in the field of waste management and soil sanitation.

Both Parties shall co-operate, exchange information and support each other in the field of waste management, such as:

- drawing up waste management plans, both for domestic and industrial waste;
- introducing pilot projects on collection and recovery with regard to various waste streams;
- exchanging experiences with regard to selective collection and processing of waste;
- exchanging experiences on recovery methods of packaging waste, especially on recycling possibilities.

Both Parties shall co-operate, exchange information and support each other in the field of soil sanitation, such as:

- protection of the soil and the subsoil and management of polluted grounds with regard to the rights and duties of the users;
- soil sanitation.

Depending on the major bottlenecks with regard to the waste management and soil sanitation policies and their implementation, OVAM can offer its expertise in those fields.

- 4.3 Both Parties shall co-operate, exchange information and support each other in the field of water management, precipitation water regulations, implementation, sampling, testing, intercalibration etc.
- 4.4 The Flemish Party is prepared to invite one (1) delegation of specialists namely five (5) senior managers, (fluent English required) in the sectors of waste, water, nature and environmental education, and forestry for five (5) days in Flanders during the period of validity of the co-operation programme, in order to exchange know-how and to establish contacts with the Flemish actors in these fields.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1 Road Traffic

- 5.1.1 The Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) delegation of five (5) to seven (7) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, depending on the topics of interest, information, training and documentation (including on-the-spot visits on different locations), regarding:

- traffic plans with loops, one way traffic;
- mobility plans and mobility agreements;
- the creation and the functioning of a Flemish traffic centre; traffic management by the federal police (for example blockdriving and a road side emergency telephone network);
- the draw-up and interpretation of multimodal traffic models;
- variable message signing and traffic monitoring, movable road information devices, co-ordination of traffic lights control, priority measures for public transport in road traffic (traffic lights influencing);
- the development of an internet site on road construction works and traffic regulations;
- the development of intranet and CD-ROM applications about road markings at road works areas and related to road signs;
- the reduction of traffic jams and unsafe situations because of road works on motorways;
- information about GIS (Geografic Information System) applications, the organisation of traffic census inquiries and traffic measurements, the application of digital image processing (video cameras) for traffic management; RDS-TMC systems;
- information about projects on controlled access, the introduction of an alternative merging system to join the traffic on traffic lanes, the construction of roundabouts and speed reducing designs, carpooling, the construction of cycle tracks and footpaths, the construction of car parks;
- cycle tracks management;
- pedestrian tracks management;
- facilities for disabled people;
- road safety measures in school areas;
- information about road safety in general: traffic safety and communication with road users, road safety education in schools, road users awareness rising and main research methods;
- Public Private Partnership (PPP);

- the cleaning and maintenance of roads; control methods and materials to screen the road quality;
- surface friction testing on road markings using the methods SRT and Grip Tester;
- the role of emergency repair teams to remove the results of emergencies as well as the principles and the organisation of their work;
- a temporary (on peak hours) overtaking prohibition for trucks on certain motorways;
- noise reducing barriers on motorways;
- organising passenger transportation busses:
 - formation of timetables;
 - issuing of public transport permits;
 - organisation of public tenders;
 - access to sector (evaluation of reputation, of competence in the field, of economic stand etc...);
 - operability of bus transport;
 - interoperability of tram, train, car and bus transport;
 - fares system;
 - price setting;
 - training of professional drivers and persons responsible for transport;
 - requirements for buses used in transport;
- organising of company transport plans.

5.1.2 At the request of the Estonian Party, the Flemish Party is willing to assist them in providing expertise within the following fields and under conditions to be agreed upon later:

- safety audits of existing roads, as well as projects audits, the collection of data about road accidents and the setting up of a data base, including the required activities for analysis of the causes of road accidents;
- the introduction of technical safety measures on urban and non-urban roads;
- the organisation of a technical specialised visit (training) for three (3) experts focused on the implementation and deployment of the newest technologies for traffic management in Flanders (ITS in road management, a multimodal information centre and video processing techniques) for employees of the Ministry of Transport in Estonia – Directorate for Roads;
- providing expertise in the preparation of the law on road safety and the road safety programme with a view to the year 2005 (the harmonisation of the Estonian law concerning the regulation of the public road transport, according to the EU requirements).
- co-operation in the area of road safety communication and sharing of information methodology, exchange of expertise and know-how on road safety education and research planning;
- As regards the utilization of the public urban and interurban transport, the following expertise can be put at the disposal of the Estonian Party:
 - data communication between vehicles and the fixed installation as a combination between radio, GPS and devaluation systems;
 - the integrated exploitation and information systems with, in the near future, travel information derived from those systems available on the Internet;
 - the construction of intermodal transfer points, in particular the multimodal usage of bus- and railway stations and P/R.

Both Parties agree on co-operation and exchange of information in the following fields:

- external costs (methodology, projection contents, data);
- transport policy (implementation and projections);
- review of programme tools for the evaluation of transport policy scenarios;

- public passenger transport and urban planning (experiences and plans for the future);
- intermodality (existing state, projections, evaluation methodology).

5.2 Waterways and Marine Affairs

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

5.2.1 Port infrastructure, port management and policy

- design and construction of port infrastructure (marine and interior ports);
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging operations;
- regulations on the handling of hazardous cargo in port areas;
- regulations for maritime transport (governmental control in ports, shipping safety, etc.)

5.2.2 Waterways

- design and execution of structural waterworks
- water control and fight against flooding
- recycling of construction materials for structural waterworks
- maintenance of waterways (dredging operations)

5.2.3 New Techniques

- construction of environmentally engineered banks
- development of a 'Hydro Meteorological System'
- dredging, processing and storage of polluted dredging materials
- development of a 'Global Marine Distress Safety System' (GMDSS)

5.2.4 Scientific co-operation

The Hydraulics Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Flanders is willing to establish new contacts with administrations and scientific institutes of Estonia in order to develop co-operation programmes in one or more of the following study areas:

- hydraulic and hydrological studies by means of physical and mathematical models;
- port engineering and planning, maritime access channels and dredging works;
- environmental studies concerning environmentally friendly engineering structures along waterways;
- nautical studies and training by means of a navigation simulator and towing tank

6. HOUSING POLICY

6.1 Both Parties shall exchange information and experiences regarding the Housing policy at the request of the other Party.

6.2 Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of civil servants of the administrations charged with Housing policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and knowledge on the following subjects:

- Housing policy, development plans
- Housing provision, including PPP (Public Private Partnership);
- New construction;
- Renovation of the housing-stock;
- Housing maintenance and management;

- Housing financing.

7. PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS

Monuments and Sites

The Flemish Party is willing to consider all suggestions of proposals concerning the preservation of monuments and sites.

The Estonian Party is interested in study tours and exchange of experts in the field of architectural heritage and historical cities. The Flemish party is offering a study tour of 5 days in Flanders for 2 Estonian experts.

8. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- 8.1 Both Parties shall continue the co-operation in the field of labour market and employment policy, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 8.2 The Flemish Party (Employment Administration) shall invite in 2004 a delegation of three (3) experts to Flanders in order to exchange information and experiences with regard to employment policy, vocational training and social dialogue.
- 8.3 Within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe', the Flemish Party shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment.
- 8.4 The Flemish Party shall act as mediator for possible co-operation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational training, labour market and employment policy.
- 8.5 The Flemish Party is prepared to put its expertise at the disposal of the Estonian Party in view of establishing structures for the support of and activities with the ESF.
- 8.6 Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information concerning the labour market policy and the vocational training.
- 8.7 Both Parties shall examine the terms of a common action, with third countries, that shall be offered by the international organisations.

9. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Estonian Party wishes to focus the co-operation on three topics:

1. public procurement on local level;
2. use of European funds supporting local development;
3. training of members of local councils and local administration.

1. Public procurement on local level

The Estonian Party shall provide the Flemish Party with a note explaining the detailed points of interest regarding public procurement procedures, especially in the light of European legislation, and the procedures and practices of Public-private-partnership, on the local level (including inter-municipal co-operation).

2. Use of European funds supporting local development

The Flemish Party shall examine the use of European funds by local authorities regarding the social and economical development. Special attention shall be paid to cities and restoration of the social fabric in the cities.

3. Training of members of local councils and local administration

In co-operation with the VVSG (Vlaamse vereniging van steden en gemeenten – Flemish association of cities and municipalities), the Flemish Party shall dress an overview of the existing organisations regarding training of elected members of local authorities and local civil servants.

On the basis of the exchange of this information, both Parties shall agree on further co-operation.

10. CULTURE

10.1 In General

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information and publications with regard to plastic arts, design, architecture, museums, heritage, folk culture, literature, translations, performing arts, music, artists' accommodations, amateur arts, socio-cultural adult work, libraries, cultural centres, local culture policy, international festivals and competitions with an international dimension, youth activities, including information and documentation on cultural co-operation in general.

The Flemish Party shall inform, within its possibilities, the Estonian Party on the progress and the outcome of its working group on cultural industries.

10.2 Plastic Arts and Heritage

The Flemish Party is prepared to exchange experts in plastic arts, applied arts, architecture, design or cultural heritage for a period of fifteen (15) days in total.

During the validity of the present Programme the Flemish Party wishes to invite one (1) graphic designer for a working visit of fourteen (14) days at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. Free accommodation shall be provided as well as a per diem of € 50.

The Estonian Party is willing to receive one (1) Flemish graphical artist for a period of fourteen (14) days. The Estonian Party shall offer free accommodation and cover subsistence costs to the amount of € 25 per day. He/she shall be accommodated at the Estonian Artists' Union guest studio, and shall be given the opportunity to work at the experimental workshop of graphical art in Tallinn. The Estonian Party has to be notified six (6) months in advance.

As a result of Jan van Imschoot's exhibition at the Art Museum in Tallinn in November 2003, the Estonian Party would like to invite him to lecture at the Tallinn Art Academy workshop in January-February 2004. The Flemish Party agrees to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of the artist during this period. Should the artist and the Academy find that their co-operation is fruitful, the Estonian party would also like to invite him to give a masters course at the Academy. In this case the Flemish Party is prepared to consider to cover of the artist's expenses.

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

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party is prepared to send a number of art publications to the Estonian Party.

The Flemish Party wishes to receive information and documentation about artists' accommodations in Estonia.

10.3 Literature

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party is prepared to receive one (1) translator from Estonia at the Vertalershuis in Leuven for a period of one (1) month. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of € 1,250.

The Estonian Party is prepared to receive during the validity of the Programme one (1) writer or translator from Flanders at the Writers' House in Käsmu for a period of one (1) month. The Estonian Party shall offer free accommodation and cover subsistence costs at the amount of € 25 per day.

Both Parties shall mutually promote the literature and culture of the other Party. They shall promote translations and participation in international book fairs.

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party is prepared to receive one (1) expert in the field of book trade for a period of five (5) to seven (7) days.

The Flemish Party is prepared to make a contribution towards the translation costs of major works from Flemish literature into Estonian.

10.4 Performing Arts and Music

Both Parties are prepared to exchange a small music ensemble (trio or quartet) for a concert trip of five (5) days at most during the validity of the present Programme.

During the validity of the present Programme both Parties are prepared to exchange two (2) music experts for three (3) weeks at most.

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

Considering the exceptionality of the year 2004 and the accession of Estonia to the European Union, both Parties are ready to consider a more profound exchange of performing arts and music groups.

During the validity of the present Programme both Parties shall encourage the exchange of one (1) dance or theatre expert for a period of five (5) to seven (7) days at most.

10.5 Amateur Arts

The Flemish Party proposes to develop, in mutual consultation, projects in the field of amateur arts, such as for instance mentorship projects, knowledge and experience exchange, training and placement programmes, the exchange of groups, and the exchange of publications, documentation and information.

In order to prepare for these projects the Flemish Party proposes that both Parties exchange three (3) persons who are experts in amateur arts for four (4) days so as to examine the possibility of establishing joint projects.

10.6 Socio-cultural adult work

The Flemish Party proposes to continue the training programme for persons in charge of non-formal adult education that was established within the framework of the previous co-operation programme.

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party shall receive annually four (4) persons for a period of ten (10) days at most for a specific training programme.

Possible topics are: detection of needs in adult education programmes (gaining an insight into the needs of the learner or the potential learner), creation of partnerships between the providers of adult education, development of a learning culture, increase of the accessibility of the programmes offered, migrant activities, local culture policy, the role of the support centres, volunteer work, etc.
Good French or English skills are required.

10.7 Folk Culture

Both Parties shall exchange two (2) persons who are experts in the research of folk culture for four (4) days so as to get to know the structure, specialist domains and functioning of the ethnological research institutions and to examine the possibilities of joint projects and co-operation with regard to the development of web guides on European ethnology.

Both Parties are willing to consider the particularity of Estonian traditional culture –i.e. the extremely rich collections of orally transmitted traditional folklore.

10.8 Libraries

The Flemish Party proposes to develop, in mutual consultation, a training programme for professionals in the library sector with an eye to supporting expertise development in Estonia and exchanging experience of the library sector.

The Flemish Party shall annually receive three (3) professionals during seven (7) days for a practical placement in Flanders. Good French or English skills are required.

Annually, the Estonian Party shall receive three (3) Flemish professionals in Estonia for seven (7) days, in view of the organisation of a training.

Both Parties undertake to share and promote best practices in both countries.

11 YOUTH

Both Parties take note of the working programme 2002-2003 that was agreed upon during the Youth sub-commission that took place in Riga from 13 to 16 April 2002.

12 SPORT

Annually, both Parties shall make available a quota of fifteen (15) days to provide athletes, trainers and policy-makers with the possibility to take part in apprenticeships, clinics, study trips, congresses and seminars in the field of sport in the other country and in sports events as far as these take place within the framework of the aforementioned activities.

13 MEDIA AND FILM

13.1 Both Parties shall encourage the exchange of journalists

13.2 During the validity of the present co-operation programme the Estonian Party wishes to present Estonian films during the Baltic week in Grimbergen.

14 WELFARE AND HEALTH

Both Parties shall co-operate and exchange information, documentation and experience in the field of welfare and health services, especially in the fields of:

- general welfare and health policy, in particular scientific research, the quality assurance system, inspection and monitoring, client consultation and co-operation between the public and the private sector on regional and local level;
- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies and children's rights;
- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional care units, crisis care and urgent shelter, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim support;
- family help and home care;
- elderly and senior citizens care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes, and apartments for the elderly;
- child and youth care, particularly in youth protection, special youth assistance, residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care, mediation and conciliation;
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care;
- voluntary work.

15. EDUCATION (academic years 2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006)

Preliminary remark

The bilateral co-operation between the Ministry of Education and Research of the Estonian Republic and the Departement of Education of the Ministry of the Flemish Community runs smoothly and both Parties intent to continue the co-operation on the levels of secondary and higher education and the exchange of information and documentation.

15.1 Exchange of information and documentation

During the validity of the present programme both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange any desired and useful information regarding all forms and levels of education.

15.2 Secondary education

Both Parties shall support the co-operation between educational institutions within the framework of the Socrates programme by inviting the participants from Estonian side to take part in the Socrates seminars organized in Flanders. The Flemish Party shall cover the accommodation and organisation costs for two (2) participants from Estonia per year for the proposed seminars. The Estonian Party shall arrange the international travel of these participants.

15.3 Higher education

15.3.1 The implementation of the Bologna Declaration is high on the agenda of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Estonian Republic and the Education Department of the Ministry of the Flemish Community. Both Parties shall consider the possibility of organising a conference regarding the implementation of the Bologna process in the small countries of the European Higher Education area. Both Parties shall also encourage the exchange of information, documentation and experiences regarding the implementation of the Bologna Process.

15.3.2 Exchange of professors / lecturers / experts / policymakers

Both Parties shall exchange each year two (2) experts / lecturers / policymakers and/or professors from a higher education institution / government institution for a stay of seven (7) days at most in order to discuss the educational reforms following the

implementation of the Bologna Declaration. The appointment of the experts / lecturers / professors and/or policymakers is subject to regulations and provisions of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Estonian Republic and the Education Department of the Ministry of the Flemish Community.

15.3.3 Specialisation scholarships

The Flemish Party shall provide each year two (2) specialisation scholarships of ten (10) months each (20 months in total) for the academic years 2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006.

The Estonian Party shall provide each year one (1) specialisation scholarship of ten (10) months for the academic years 2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006.

The scholarships provided by both Parties shall be valid for the duration of one (1) academic year. For a programme lasting more than one (1) academic year, a new application is to be submitted after the first year.

Information about the provision of English-language postgraduate studies can be found in the brochure "Higher Education in Flanders", published by the Higher Education Administration in co-operation with the Flemish Interuniversity Council and the Flemish Council for Higher Non-University Education. The Estonian Ministry of Education and Research shall provide up-to-date information about higher education institutions and programmes in Estonia to the Flemish Community.

15.3.4 Summer scholarships: Dutch Language and Culture summer course

The Flemish Party shall provide to the Estonian Party each year two (2) summer scholarships for the 'Dutch Language and Culture' summer course which shall be organised either at the Limburgs Universitair Centrum in Hasselt Diepenbeek or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University. These summer courses shall be organised on an annual basis. The three-week courses are above all intended for Dutch language and literature students at the Estonian institutes of higher education. The applicants are expected to have a reasonable command of Dutch at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

The scholarships for the Dutch Language and Culture summer course shall be allocated by the Dutch Language Union in co-operation with the Flemish organisers. The applicants shall be divided over the two centres by the Dutch Language Union, which means that the division no longer takes place according to the country of origin. The Flemish Party draws attention to the registration procedure for the summer courses: the applicants for the summer course are to send their application / registration form, initialled by their Dutch language teacher, directly to the Higher Education Administration. The Dutch Language Union shall select the most suitable applicants among the submitted applications. The shortlist of selected applicants shall be sent for information to the body responsible for the allocation of the scholarships in Estonia.

The Dutch Language Union shall send the brochure 'Dutch Language and Culture' to all institutions where the Dutch language is instructed. The brochure (including the English version), which also comprises the registration forms, can also be found at the web site of the Dutch Language Union: www.taalunie.org.

The Estonian Party shall provide each year one (1) scholarship for summer courses on the Estonian language and culture at the University of Tartu or at the Tallinn Pedagogical University for the academic years 2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006. The scholarship for the Estonian language and culture summer course has to be allocated by the Flemish Party. The Flemish Party submits its candidate each year before the 1st of April. The candidate is subject to the approval of the Estonian Party.

The Estonian party shall provide information about summer courses at the University of Tartu and the Tallinn Pedagogical University with all necessary application forms.

16. TOURISM

- 16.1 Both Parties, through Enterprise Estonia and Toerisme Vlaanderen, shall exchange information with regard to legislation and regulations on tourism, statistical information, tools for carrying out impact measurements of promotional actions, documentation and studies concerning the development of tourism.
- 16.2 Both Parties shall exchange know-how and are prepared to co-operate in the field of sustainable development.
- 16.3 Both Parties shall inform each other about the holiday behaviour and spending of Flemish and Estonian tourists.
- 16.4 Both Parties shall further the mutual exchange of tourism promotion material and the participation of different tourism organisations in tourist events.
- 16.5 Both Parties shall encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and specialists in the field of tourism.
- 16.6 Both Parties shall stimulate the organisation of seminars, symposiums and working groups on tourism items, which have been presented by the Party interested, with the aim of exchanging ideas and experiences.

17. CAPACITY BUILDING

17.1 College of Europe in Natolin

The Flemish Party shall offer a yearly contribution of € 10,000 (ten thousand) to a postgraduate scholarship during the academic years 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 for one (1) Estonian student to study at the College of Europe in Natolin (Warsaw). The selection of the students shall, for each academic year, be done by the College of Europe in Natolin in concertation with the competent Estonian authorities.

17.2 Port Training

The Flemish Party offers to the Estonian Party the possibility to send experts to seminars in the field of Port training, organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center vzw) in the course of 2003, 2004 and 2005.

The Estonian Party shall present its candidates for these seminars. The participants shall be selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are to the account of the participant

18. AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE COLLABORATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties confirm their willingness to continue their co-operation by means of projects in 2003 and 2004.

The Flemish Party offers to provide its expertise in the following fields: SME development, employment, management of European funds for regional development and within the framework of agricultural policy, agriculture, regional development, the environment, ports, capacity building and the management and reform of public services.

The Estonian Party informs the Flemish Party through diplomatic channels about the priorities of the Estonian Government for co-operation with Flanders within the framework of the co-operation programme with the Central and Eastern European countries.

The project proposals are mutually evaluated whilst taking into account the priorities and criteria which were laid down by each of the Parties. Both Parties establish a ranking list on either side. During a bilateral meeting the projects proposed for funding are selected.

For 2003 the following projects have been selected and shall be executed in the course of this co-operation programme.

Project-number	Amount (€)	Promoter	Partner	Projectname
EST/001/03	79,793.13	KvK Antwerpen-Waasland	Estonian chamber of Commerce and Industry – Euro Infocentre	Acquis communautaire – capacity building
EST/008/03	110,000.00	VIG	Estonian centre for health education and promotion	Health promotion and social inequalities
EST/009/03	150,000.00	Boerenbondstichting Oost-Europa	Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce	Est Educoop
EST/051/03	139,998.61	VL ABVV	E.A.K.L.	Trade union capacity building
Total	479,791.74			

The deadline for the call for new applications for 2004 is 30 January 2004. Since Estonia will become a member of the European Union on 01 May 2004, the overall budget available for projects has been reduced to € 100,000.00.

19 MULTILATERAL AND TRILATERAL CO-OPERATION

Both Parties shall study the opportunity to collaborate on a trilateral basis starting from the experience gained during previous years, based on the bilateral projects financed by the Flemish government.

Special attention shall be given to an exchange of experience in dealing with the WTO and the development of trilateral co-operation with the Ukraine. Since both Parties have already established some links with the Ukraine, they shall investigate if they can combine their experience and build upon it to initiate new trilateral projects.

The Parties shall study to what extent they can use European programmes to finance this.

Both Parties shall nominate a contact person to develop these links and to propose joint projects

20 GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

20.1 General

Both Parties shall send their proposals for the new co-operation programme at the latest six (6) weeks before the date foreseen for the meeting of the joint committee.

They agree that their future co-operation should be developed in as concrete a way as possible, starting from realistic projects. It should avoid general points such as exchange of information or proposals without a real commitment from the Parties involved.

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 shall 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 this programme, should a priori be based on a direct agreement 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.

20.2 Scholarships

20.2.1 Specialisation scholarships

Candidates must be under 35 years of age.

They must hold a university or long type higher education (university level) graduation degree or a certificate of equivalent studies and they must have excelled during their studies.

The Flemish Higher Education Administration, taking into account the latest legal provisions regarding the status of foreigners in Belgium, only offers scholarships to applicants who do not have a doctorate yet and who wish to take a third-cycle master's course within the framework of the bilateral agreement or who wish to do research for a longer period (up to ten (10) months) with a scholarship within the framework of the bilateral agreement in preparation of a doctorate which they must obtain at their home university.

The Estonian Party offers scholarships for students who wish to take a master's course or who wish to do research for a longer period (up to ten (10) months) within the course of their doctoral studies (PhD-studies).

They can be accepted only on approval by both Parties and on the basis of an application that contains at least:

- a detailed curriculum vitae;
- an extensive plan of activities;
- possibly a list of publications.

Candidates are selected by the sending Party. The sending Party shall present its candidates every year before April 1st.

The receiving Party shall inform the sending Party about the approval of the candidates at the latest two (2) months after the candidacies and/or study programmes' proposals were submitted.

At least three (3) weeks in advance, the sending Party shall provide precise information concerning the arrival of scholarship holders.

The travel expenses to and from the place of study are to be covered by the students.

To be covered by the Flemish Party :

- a monthly allowance of € 720;
- registration fees up to a max. of € 490 for a training; the additional costs shall be covered by the candidate
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

To be covered by the Estonian Party:

- a monthly allowance of 4,500 Estonian kroons;
- health insurance shall be provided to the student in accordance with the Estonian legislation;
- additional costs associated with the study programme shall be covered by the student.

20.2.2 Allowances for summer courses

To be covered by the Flemish Party :

- registration fees;
- accommodation and meals;
- health insurance and third-party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

To be covered by the Estonian Party:

- registration fees;
- accomodation and meals;

20.3 **Exchange of persons**

The terms and conditions mentioned in this paragraph apply to all exchanges of individual persons mentioned in the co-operation programme, unless otherwise agreed upon.

The short-term exchange of persons (for fourteen (14) days at the most) as determined in the present programme shall be implemented according to the following criteria:

- The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the curriculum vitae, plan of activities and the dates of the departure and arrival of the people concerned at least two (2) months in advance.
- The receiving Party shall inform the sending Party, at least one (1) month in advance whether the candidates have been accepted.
- The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the exact dates of departure and arrival at least three (3) weeks in advance. .

To be covered by the sending Party: the travel expenses to and from the place of destination.

To be covered by the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of € 50/day;
- health insurance and third-party insurance within the framework of the Belgian legislation.

In Estonia :

- hotel-type of accomodation
- transportation

20.4 **Film**

- To be covered by the sending Party: forwarding expenses.

- To the receiving Party: organisation costs.

20.5 Exchange of exhibitions

Arrangements shall be discussed and agreed upon on a case by case basis by the Parties concerned. If not, the following rules are applicable:

The sending Party shall take care of:

- design, preparation, production and packing of the exhibition;
- international transport to its first location in the receiving country and return transport from its last location to the country of origin or to another country;
- insurance from nail to nail;
- supply of the material for the production of the catalogue (texts, photos, slides, etc.);
- return travel expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition to supervise the mounting and/or dismantling as well as packing and /or unpacking of the works.

The receiving Party shall take care of:

- making available appropriate exhibition halls with the necessary security infrastructure (climatic conditions, guards, etc.);
- providing the necessary staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling of the exhibition;
- printing of the catalogue, if agreed by both Parties, and the posters and invitations;
- organising general publicity as well as the opening ceremony for the exhibition;
- accommodation expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition and supervising the mounting and/or dismantling; the duration of any such visit shall be agreed upon in advance;
- providing the sending Party with ten (10) copies of all material published in connection with the exhibition (catalogue, poster, invitation, etc.).

In case of damage, the receiving Party shall not proceed with the restoration of the works without the prior approval of the sending Party, but shall supply all relevant documentation and assistance to enable the sending Party to pursue any claim for compensation from the relevant insurance company.

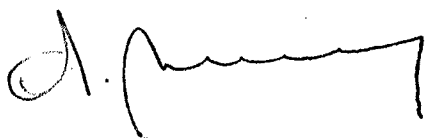
Both Parties shall agree on the conditions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. All disputes concerning the interpretation or realisation of this programme of activities shall be settled through negotiation between the Signatories.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission in Tallinn in the second half of 2005.

Drawn up in Brussels on November 18th 2003, in two (2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Estonian and English languages. Both texts are legally valid. In the case of dispute, the English text shall prevail.

For Flanders,

For the Republic of Estonia,



Diane Verstraeten



Andres Tropp