

**PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
FLANDERS AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC
FOR THE YEARS 2011 - 2013**

The Government of Flanders and the Government of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), with a view to implementing the Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Czech Republic, signed in Prague on 12 February 2002, and in accordance with the conclusions of the session of the Flanders - Czech Republic Joint Commission held in Prague on 7th December 2010, have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1
YOUTH**

Article 1.1

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.

Article 1.2

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

Article 1.3

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall exchange delegations up to four (4) members (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants and youth workers/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).

Article 1.4

Both Parties agree to send or receive youth workers/experts for participation in selected international (youth) events.

ARTICLE 2

SPORT

Article 2.1

(a) The Parties shall encourage the development of direct co-operation of Czech and Flemish sports organisations. The arrangement of specific activities of co-operation and their financial coverage fall within the terms of reference of the respective sports organisations.

(b) During the validity of the present programme, both Parties shall provide, each year, a quota of fifteen (15) days so as to enable coaches, athletes and decision makers to participate in work placements, clinics, study tours or congresses and seminars in the field of sports in the other country.

ARTICLE 3

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Article 3.1

(a) The Parties shall promote the exchange of information and documents between entities active in the field of research and development.

(b) The Parties shall, upon request, inform each other of the R&D policies and national promotion programmes as well as priorities of international bilateral and multilateral co-operation in this area.

Article 3.2

(a) The Parties shall encourage direct co-operation of higher education institutions, research institutes, research centres and other entities active in the field of research and development

and they shall facilitate the development of such direct co-operation through the provision of contacts and information.

(b). The Parties shall also, within the limits of their resources, promote the exchange of researchers, implementation of joint research projects focused upon areas and topics they attach priority to as well as the organisation of scientific seminars, conferences and symposia.

Article 3.3

The Parties shall endeavour to achieve closer mutual co-operation within the European Research Area and the EU Framework Programmes.

Article 3.4

Co-operation in the field of research and development may be stipulated by a separate agreement, if the Parties decide to conclude it.

ARTICLE 4 EDUCATION

Article 4.1

Exchange of information

(a) The Parties shall, upon request, exchange information on the structure and organisation of their education systems as well as topical education-related issues.

(b) The Parties shall exchange information on the range of study programmes and other study options offered by institutions of higher education in their countries.

Article 4.2

Exchange of Academic Staff Members

The Parties may exchange annually two (2) members of academic staff for visits in the length of up to seven (7) days for the purpose of editing scientific publications, arranging joint

research projects, establishing direct co-operation, delivering lectures and/or attending conferences and seminars held in the partner country.

Article 4.3

Long-term Scholarships

(a) The Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party two (2) scholarships to cover study or research stays in the length of ten (10) months at public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic. The applicants for scholarship awards should have finished at least two years of study in an accredited study programme at a higher education institution at the time of commencement of the scholarship.

(b) The Flemish Party offers the Czech Party for each of the academic years 2010-2011, 2011–2012, 2012 - 2013 and 2013-2014 two (2) scholarships for recognized postgraduate programs at higher education institutions.

All information on study opportunities in Flanders (useful addresses of university colleges and universities, accredited non Dutch-language courses) can be found on <http://www.studyinlanders.be>

Article 4.4

Short-term Scholarships

(a) The Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party six (6) scholarship months for graduates from the Flemish institutions of higher education to cover research visits to public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic. This scholarship can be divided to cover several stays in the minimum length of two (2) months.

(b) The Flemish Party offers the Czech Party for each of the academic years 2010-2011, 2011–2012, 2012 - 2013 and 2013-2014 six (6) months annually for research. At the request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

Article 4.5

Scholarships for Participation in Summer Language Courses

(a) In order to promote the study of the Czech language and culture in Flanders, the Czech Party shall offer annually to the Flemish Party six (6) scholarships for participation in the Czech language courses at the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies organised by public institutions of higher education in the Czech Republic.

(b) The Dutch Language Union is a Dutch-Flemish organisation set up in 1980 by treaty between the Netherlands and Belgium. The Dutch Language Union promotes and finances projects relating to the Dutch language, literature, education and culture, both in and outside the Dutch language area.

Summer courses in Dutch language, literature and culture are a good supplement to the Dutch courses being taken at an academic level by students abroad. Three summer courses are organised under the auspices of the Dutch Language Union. These courses are aimed at advanced students of Dutch wishing to spend a short period in the Netherlands or Flanders during summer.

A limited number of scholarships is available for these courses.

In the Netherlands the course is held in Zeist; in Flanders it is held in Gent (University of Gent).

More information about the summer courses 2011 can be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union:

http://taalunieversum.org/en/dutch_worldwide/summercourses_in_dutch/

and

http://taalunieversum.org/wereldwijd/zomercursussen_voor_students/2011/

Article 4.6

Language Lecturers

Both Parties shall continue to support the activity of the Czech language and literature lectureship at the Faculty of Eastern European Languages and Cultures, Ghent University, and endorses the possible optional activities of the lecturer performed at the Faculty of Translation Studies, Hogeschool Gent.

ARTICLE 5

CULTURE

Article 5.1

Film

The Czech Party's priority in the area of cinematography remains the support of film festivals.

The Flemish and the Czech Party each have a rich tradition concerning animation film. Both parties shall exchange information on this theme and examine the possibilities for cooperation.

Article 5.2

Cultural heritage

The priority topic proposed by the Czech Party is "Relations between the Czech Lands and Flanders in the area of visual arts during the Baroque period". Both parties shall exchange information on this theme and examine the possibilities for cooperation.

ARTICLE 6

ECONOMY AND MUTUAL TRADE

ECONOMY

Article 6.1

The Czech Party will welcome joint activities creating room for the coordination of policies intended to remove non-tariff barriers to trade, open up public procurement markets and enhance the protection of intellectual property rights. Mutual relations should be developed also in the area of energy in response to the emerging international initiatives. The Czech Party is interested in developing more specific mutual contacts in business as well as research in the context of the emerging European energy initiatives, wherever such contacts may bring technical development and economic benefits to the Parties concerned.

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

(b) 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,...).

MUTUAL TRADE

Article 6.2

(a) Both parties are committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and the Czech Republic. For that purpose, they will exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, both Parties will also exchange information regarding their respective markets and sectors, useful contacts, experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.

(b) For Flanders, the above will be realised by Flanders Investment & Trade, the official Flemish institution supporting Flemish companies in various kinds of international enterprise, as well as helping foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders.

(c) Within its new export promotion strategy 2011-2015, Flanders Investment & Trade will focus in the coming years on the following promising target sectors in the Czech Republic : construction, food & drinks and cleantech (environment & renewable energy). This will be reflected in its action program on the Czech Republic which will be carried out in close cooperation with the Czech partners and authorities involved in those segments.

ARTICLE 7

AGRICULTURE

Article 7.1

The Czech Party is interested in cooperating in the following areas:

- Scope and conduct of inspections in agriculture and food industry, with focus on businesses and consumer protection;

- Practical application of the cross-compliance system and forms of ecoagriculture, e.g. in the form of internships and seminars targeting the supervisory authorities as well as the business community;
- Implementation of specific programmes under the rural development programmes - present situation and outlook beyond 2013.

The range of proposals and projects is limited by the financial capacities of the individual programmes on both sides.

ARTICLE 8 ENVIRONMENT

Article 8.1

Both parties are willing to investigate the possibility to set up a bilateral projects on “Supporting the development of models to predict air pollution levels”.

Article 8.2

The Nature and Environmental Education Unit (EE)

is prepared to invite a delegation to introduce them within the (N)EE-working, the educative environmental care projects and the structure on the Flemish level in a profound and participative way.

Taking into account the wishes/needs, the (N)EE-unit can organise 3 or 4 days with the following interests, possibly in a follow-up project (MOS, Ecocampus, ...):

- introduction of and making acquaintance with the working of the (N)EE-unit service within Flanders, with Education for Sustainable Development as the frame of reference, and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and on ESD
- making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education and, if preferred, linked with one or more school visits; getting acquainted with the educational means
- introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus-project, a new project to introduce environmental care in higher education and universities (curricula, internal

management, student life), and, if preferred, linked with a visit to a university or an institution of higher education

- introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on ESD in the formal education and informal or/and non-formal education; making acquaintance with examples of good practices how ESD can be introduced in (N)EE
- site visit to one or more (N)EE-centres, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, ...), and to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

Article 8.3

Waste management and soil remediation

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

Article 8.4

Expert exchange

Both parties are prepared to invite, during the validity of the present program, a team of maximum 5 experts (fluent English required) for a period up to five working days within the frame of environment, nature and energy, in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.

ARTICLE 9

SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL CARE

For the Flemish part, Kind en Gezin can provide the software, experience and content for the installation of an official (i.e. as an initiative of the Czech government) Report Point for Unsafe Children's Products. Such a report point provides a safer environment for babies and children. The original Report Point for Unsafe Children's Products is installed in Flanders on the website of Kind en Gezin and has a strong recommendation of the OESO and European Consumer organizations.

The Flemish party is willing to receive a Czech delegation for the exchange of knowledge and information in the domain of health and welfare of young children (from prenatal age till the age of 3).

ARTICLE 10 PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Czech Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know how and best practices between the administrations. In particular 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.

Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

Possible themes:

- Innovation and reform of public administrations
- regulatory impact assessment
- e-government and local authorities
- integration policies

ARTICLE 11 GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 11.1

The exchange of scholarships under Articles 4.3 and 4.4 of this Programme shall be governed by the following general provisions:

(a) The applicants should be aged not more than 35 years at the time of the application and should provide a proof of very good previous academic record. Applicants nominated by the Czech Party must be graduates of a Master's study programme at the time of commencing their stay in Flanders.

(b) In the Czech Republic, the candidates shall be selected by the Flemish Representation and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; in Flanders, the selection shall be made by Ministry of the Flemish Community of Belgium.

(c) The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the nominations and documents of the selected candidates and substitute candidates by April 1 of each calendar year. Each nomination dossier shall contain completed application forms with compulsory attachments as required in the application form. In the case of Czech candidates, all documents shall be drawn up in Dutch, English, French or German; in the case of Flemish candidates, they shall be drawn up in Czech, English or French or shall be accompanied by a translation into any of these languages.

(d) The receiving Party shall notify the sending Party, by 1 July of each calendar year, whether the candidates have been accepted, and shall at the same time notify to the sending Party the detailed terms and conditions of each stay, including the exact dates and the name of the receiving higher education institution.

Article 11.2

The exchange of scholarships under Articles 4.3. and 4.4. of this Programme shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

(a) The sending Party shall pay the costs of international travel to and from the place of stay in the State of the receiving Party for its accepted candidates.

(b) The Czech Party shall provide to the accepted Flemish candidates free tuition or the possibility to do research at public higher education institutions, a monthly scholarship in an amount determined by the applicable Czech scholarship programme, and shall also offer them the possibility of lodging and board at student dormitories and catering facilities under the same conditions as those applicable to citizens of the Czech Republic.

(c) The Flemish Party shall cover:

For long-term scholarship (art. 4.3)

- a monthly allowance of 840,00 EUR
- enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Community, the maximum amount of which shall be determined annually (in the 2010-2011 academic year this maximum amount is 564,30 EUR; if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he has to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish party by herself/himself
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

For short-term scholarship (art. 4.4)

- a monthly allowance of 800,00 EUR
- a starting allowance of 185,00 EUR granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one month
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.
- REMARK: No reimbursement of tuition fee for this type of scholarships

Article 11.3

The exchange of scholarships under Article 4.5. (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- (a) When nominating candidates for participation in courses at the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies, the Flemish Party shall submit to the Czech Party documents containing the data required in the appropriate application form not later than on 31 March of each calendar year.
- (b) The Flemish Party shall inform the Czech candidates for participation in the Dutch language and summer course about the selection by April 1st at the latest.
- (c) The Czech Party shall notify the Flemish Party, by 1 June of each calendar year, whether the nominated candidates have been accepted and shall at the same time notify to the Flemish Party the names of the institutions accepting them.
- (d) The organizational requirements concerning the submission of applications by Czech candidates for participation in Dutch language and culture summer courses shall be subject to the rules laid down by the Dutch Language Union.
- (e) The Czech Party shall pay the enrolment fees for candidates accepted under Article 4.5., paragraph 1, as well as their board and lodging and expenses related to participation in study trips organized within the framework of summer language courses.
- (f) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 4.5 as well as their board and lodging, expenses for their participation in excursions organized within the framework of the course programme and their health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

Article 11.4

Czech language and literature lecturer at Ghent University

(a) At the request of the Flemish Party, the Czech Party shall submit the nomination of candidates for the position of language lecturer. Each nomination dossier shall contain the candidate's detailed resume, copies of education certificates, documents proving work experience and letters of recommendation.

(b) The candidates must be university graduates in Czech language and literature. Previous experience of teaching at a higher education institution and experience of teaching Czech to foreigners are an advantage.

(c) The final selection shall be made by the Flemish Party on the recommendation of Ghent University; the university may lay down additional conditions with regard to the lecturer's job description.

(d) The Flemish Party shall notify its decision regarding the acceptance of the lecturer as well as the exact date on which the lecturer is to report at Ghent University, within one month from receiving the applications. The date of the lecturer's arrival and the detailed terms and conditions of his/her work at Ghent University are to be agreed between the respective department of Ghent University and the lecturer in compliance with the employment contract.

(e) The Czech Party shall provide the lecturer with a monthly allowance and shall pay the costs of his/her international travel and the transport of his/her personal effects to the place of work in Flanders and back to the Czech Republic in accordance with the applicable decrees of the Government of the Czech Republic concerning the programme of promotion of Czech cultural heritage abroad. The Czech Party shall also keep the lectorate supplied with study materials and technical equipment.

(f) The Flemish Party shall provide the lecturer with 1.100,00 EUR per month as a contribution to the expenses brought about by the lectureship (accommodation, meals, relocation, purchase of instructional materials, ...) and shall cover the health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with the Belgian legislation.

Article 11.5

Short-term exchanges

Short-term exchanges under 4.2. shall be subject to the following general and financial provisions:

- (a) The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the candidates' documentation containing their professional resumes, information on language skills, publication lists, proposed programme of stay including the dates and duration, and a letter of invitation from the receiving institution (in the case of Flemish academics, a letter of invitation from a Czech public higher education institution) not less than three (3) months before the proposed date of arrival.
- (b) The receiving Party shall confirm its readiness to receive the candidates at least six (6) weeks before the proposed date of commencement of the stay.
- (c) On receiving the letter of acceptance, the sending Party shall notify to the receiving Party the exact date of arrival of the candidates not less than two (2) weeks in advance.
- (d) The sending Party shall pay the costs of travel to and from the destination in the State of the receiving Party.
- (e) The Czech Party shall provide the accepted candidates of the Flemish Party with allowances for meals and out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with the applicable financial regulations of its State, and shall pay the cost of their accommodation at a hotel or an equivalent facility and the cost of their travel within the territory of the Czech Republic, insofar as such travel is related to the agreed programme of the stay.
- (f) The Flemish party shall cover the local costs incurred by the accepted candidates of the Czech party according to the general rules of the host institute in Flanders.

Article 11.6

Exchanges of individuals

Short-term exchanges of individuals (lasting not more than 30 days, at the invitation of the sending Party) under this Programme, with the exception of the provisions of Articles 4.4 and 4.2, shall be governed by the following criteria:

- (a) The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the resume, letter of invitation and information on the purposes and programme of the visit, as well as the date of arrival and departure of the nominated individuals not less than three (3) months in advance;
- (b) The receiving Party shall confirm its readiness to accept the candidates not less than three (3) months in advance;
- (c) The sending Party shall pay:
- The costs of the candidates' travel to and from the place of stay;
- (d) The receiving Party shall pay:

In Flanders:

- Accommodation and breakfasts;
- A fixed allowance of EUR 37 per day (travel costs not included) or EUR 50 per day (travel costs included);
- Health insurance and third-party liability insurance in accordance with Belgian laws.

In the Czech Republic:

- Accommodation at a hotel or an equivalent facility;
- Per diem allowances in accordance with the applicable laws of the Czech Republic;
- The cost of travel within the territory of the Czech Republic, insofar as such travel takes place within the framework of the programme of the visit as approved by the Czech Party.

Article 11.7

Exhibitions

The sending Party shall pay:

- The exhibition concept, design and installation, packing and collecting of exhibits;
- The transport of the exhibition to the first venue and from the last venue back to the country of origin or to another country;
- The insurance of exhibits and display materials while in transit from the place of origin to the exhibition venue;
- The delivery of materials necessary to produce a catalogue;
- The costs of travel to and from the exhibition venue for one (1) expert, exhibition monitoring, supervision of installation and dismantling, supervision of exhibit packing and unpacking.

The receiving Party shall provide:

- A suitable exhibition venue in compliance with the required security standards;
- Any auxiliary staff necessary to load and unload, pack and unpack, install and dismantle the exhibition;
- The printing of catalogues (by agreement between the Parties), posters and invitation cards;
- The organization of advertising, exhibition opening, as well as suitable location for the exhibition;
- Accommodation costs for one (1) expert, exhibition monitoring and supervision of exhibition installation and dismantling, supervision of exhibit packing and unpacking;
- 25 complimentary copies of all materials produced on the occasion of the exhibition (catalogues, posters, invitation cards and press releases) for the sending Party;

- In the event of any damage to exhibits, the receiving Party shall not commence any repairs without the prior consent of the sending Party.

ARTICLE 12

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 12.1

(a) The provisions of this Cooperation Programme shall not preclude other activities, exchanges or projects agreed between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

(b) Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Programme shall be settled by negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 12.2

(a) This Cooperation Programme is subject to approval in accordance with the internal legislation of each Party and with the EU legislation. The Parties shall notify each other about such approval.

(b) This Cooperation Programme shall enter into force on the date of the delivery of the later notification to the other Party. The Programme shall remain in force until 31 December 2013.

(c) The next session of the Joint Commission shall take place in Brussels in the last quarter of 2013 and will include an evaluation of the implementation of the current work programme..

Article 12.3

The Parties shall, within their competences, make every effort to protect intellectual property and related rights in accordance with their domestic laws and regulations and with the international conventions of which the Flemish Region and the Czech Republic are signatories.

Done in Prague on 7th December 2010 in two originals in the English language. The copies in the Dutch and Czech languages shall be exchanged through diplomatic channels. In case of any divergences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For Flanders



For the Czech Republic

