

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

FOR THE YEARS 2014 - 2017

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**AGREED MINUTES CONCERNING
THE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
FOR THE YEARS 2014 - 2017**

The Delegation of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Delegation of the Government of Flanders (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"), on the basis of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Flanders, signed in Prague on 12 February 2002, and in accordance with the conclusions of the session of the Czech Republic-Flanders Joint Commission held in Brussels on 27th May 2014, have reached the following understanding:

1. YOUTH

1.1.

Both Participants express the intent, according to the interest of the other Participant, to exchange information and documentation regarding youth policy and youth work strategy.

1.2.

Both Participants intend to 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).

1.3.

Both Participants are prepared to 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).

1.4.

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

2. SPORT

The Participants wish to 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.

3. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

3.1.

Both Participants are prepared to examine ways of further optimizing their co-operation in the framework of the European Research Area, both in the field of research, science and innovation policies.

3.2.

The conditions for co-operation in the fields of science and technological innovation will be elaborated in a separate document. as agreed by both participants.

3.3.

In the field of bilateral co-operation, both Participants will stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and co-operation in science and technological innovation. They will search for suitable occasions for contacts among scientific institutions, companies, universities and administrations that are in charge of science and technological innovation policies.

3.4.

As far as multilateral co-operation is concerned both Participants strive for joint participation of researchers in the European Programs (H2020, COST, ESFRI, JPI, ...) for Research and Development.

4. EDUCATION

4.1.

Exchange of information

- (a) The Participants are, upon request, prepared to exchange information on the structure and organisation of their education systems as well as topical education-related issues.
- (b) The Participants intend to exchange information on the range of study programmes and other study options offered by institutions of higher education in their countries.

4.2.

Exchange of experts / policymakers

Both Participants will endeavour to exchange experts for exchange-based learning in the ministry responsible for education, higher education institutions or other intermediate organizations. The length of these visits will not exceed three weeks during the validity of this Programme.

4.3.

Scholarships for Participation in Summer Language Courses

- (a) In order to promote the study of the Czech language and culture in Flanders, the Czech side is prepared to offer annually to the Flemish side 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 offers support for Dutch language departments, teachers and students of the Dutch language abroad.

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.

4.4.

Language Lecturer

Both Participants wish to continue to support the activity of the Czech language and literature lectureship at the Faculty of Eastern European Languages and Cultures, Ghent University during the academic year 2014-2015.

5. CULTURE

5.1.

Culture and Heritage

- (a) Both Participants wish to support cooperation between Terezín Memorial and its Flemish partners within the permanent working groups of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).
- (b) Both Participants express their readiness to support cooperation between the National Technical Museum in Prague and the FotoMuseum in Antwerp within the Daguerrobase project.
- (c) Both Participants intend to support cooperation between the National Heritage Institute in Prague and its Flemish counterpart in different areas of care for heritage, with regard to the similar value and diversity of heritage in both countries.
- (d) Both Participants are prepared to support cooperation in the field of non-professional art (exchange of ensembles, participation in non-professional art festivals) and cooperation within AITA/IATA.
- (e) Both Participants will support cooperation between the Arts and Theatre institute (IDU) and Flemish partners on the project The Prague Quadrennial of performance Design and Space, which will be held in June 2015.

- (f) Both Participants intend to support cooperation between the Arts and Theatre Institute and Vlaams Theater Instituut within the European Network of Information Centres for the Performing Arts (ENICPA) as well as their cooperation on joint projects (SPACE, TRAVELOGUE).
- (g) The Czech side priority in the area of cinematography remains the support of the film festivals. The Flemish and Czech each have a rich tradition concerning the animation film. Both participants will exchange information on this theme and examine the possibilities for cooperation.

6. ECONOMY AND MUTUAL TRADE

6.1. Economy

The Czech side welcomes activities designed to strengthen cooperation between Czech and Flemish companies in the area of economy and trade. These include namely activities encouraging participation in exhibitions and trade fairs, organization of business missions (multisectoral missions, missions focused on matters of interest to participants, or missions focused on meetings with purchasing managers), and participation in public tenders. The Czech side is interested to cooperate namely in the following areas: energy, transport and logistics, infrastructure projects, and new technologies (ICT, nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, etc.). Both participants are ready to cooperate in the field of innovative business and commercializations of new technologies on mutually beneficial basis, and exchange best experience and best practices.

- (a) Both Participants are prepared to examine ways of further optimizing their co-operation in the framework of the European open method of coordination (OMC) or the OECD between entities responsible for outlining and executing entrepreneurship policies.
- (b) The conditions for co-operation in the field of entrepreneurship policies will be elaborated in a separate protocol.
- (c) In the field of bilateral co-operation both Participants will stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and co-operation in entrepreneurship policy. They will search for suitable

occasions for contacts among scientific institutions, companies, universities and administrations that are in charge of entrepreneurship policies.

- (d) As far as multilateral co-operation is concerned both Participants strive for joint participation of researchers in initiatives in the field of “entrepreneurship” financed either through regional, national and/or European funding sources (ERDF, COSME, H2020, ...).

6.2. Mutual Trade

- (a) Both Participants are prepared to enhance and promote 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 Participant, both Participants 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 realized 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, Flanders Investment & Trade focuses 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.

7. ENVIRONMENT

7.1

Both Participants are willing to explore the possibility to set up bilateral projects on “supporting the development of models to predict air pollution levels”.

7.2

The Nature and Environmental Education Unit (EE)

The Nature and Environmental Education Services (NEE) are prepared to receive a delegation to introduce them within the NEE-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 NEE-services can organise 3 or 4 days with the following interests, possibly in a follow-up project (MOS, Ecocampus, ...):

- (a) introduction of and making acquaintance with the working of the NEE-unit service within Flanders, with Education for Sustainable Development as the frame of reference, and with the networking on NEE (diverse target groups) and on ESD; a specific educational activity or course on NEE and ESD for educators, teachers, guides, ... can be organized for the delegation.
- (b) making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School, eco-schools), 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;
- (c) introduction of the Ecocampus project which is concerned with the particular role of universities and colleges in a sustainable society: higher education can offer the intellectual leadership –through its teaching, research, and outreach– needed to get on track for a sustainable future. If interested, this introduction can be linked to a visit to a Flemish higher education institution.
- (d) 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 NEE;
- (e) site visit to one or more NEE-centres, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, forest, ...), and/or to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

7.3

Waste management and soil remediation

The Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) is prepared – within its financial possibilities and depending on staff availability - 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.

7.4

Biotechnology and Chemical Substance Management

Both Participants are prepared – within their financial possibilities and depending on staff availability - to invite expert delegations in order to support know how and information exchange in the field of Biotechnology and Chemical Substance Management.

7.5

Expert exchange

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

8. MOBILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS

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

- Inland Waterways Policy

Freight Transport:

- Policy regarding regulation, operations, commercialization and promotion of inland waterways;
- Promotion of “modal shift”.

9. SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL CARE

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, online courses (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.

10. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish side (Public Governance Department) and the Czech side 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 administration

- Regulatory impact assessment
- E-government and local authorities
- Integration policies

The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Czech side intend to cooperate and exchange information about the following subjects: the organization 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.

11. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

11.1.

The exchange of scholarships under paragraph 4.3. (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) will be governed by the following general principles:

- (a) When nominating candidates for participation in courses at the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies, the Flemish side will submit to the Czech side documents containing the data required in the appropriate application form not later than on 31 March of each calendar year.
- (b) The Czech side will notify the Flemish side, by 1 June of each calendar year, whether the nominated candidates have been accepted and will at the same time notify to the Flemish side the names of the institutions accepting them.
- (c) The Czech side will pay the enrolment fees for candidates accepted under Article 4.3., paragraph 1, as well as their board and lodging and their expenses related to participation in study trips organized within the framework of summer language courses.

11.2.

Short-term exchanges

The exchange under 4.2 will be implemented according to the following criteria:

- a) The sending Participant will submit a proposal of the experts' visit to the receiving Participant at least three months in advance. The nomination dossier will comprise the

curricula vitae of the individual participating in the exchange and information on the goals and programme of the visit as well as the proposed dates of arrival and departure of the nominees concerned.

- b) The receiving Participant will confirm whether it is prepared to receive the nominees concerned six weeks before their departure.
- c) The sending Participant will cover:
 - the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination
- d) The receiving Participant will cover:
 - accommodation at a hotel or facility of the same standard and per-diem allowance.
- e) Individuals participating in the exchange are responsible for taking their own insurances before entering the country.

11.3.

Exhibitions

Unless otherwise agreed, the exchange of exhibitions shall be organised in accordance with the following conditions:

The sending Participant will 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 Participant will 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;

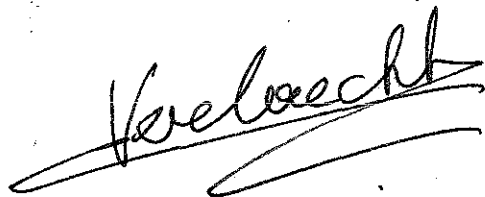
- The printing of catalogues (upon agreement between the Participants), posters and invitation cards;
- The organization of advertising, exhibition opening, as well as suitable location for the exhibition;
- Accommodation costs for one (1) expert, exhibition monitoring and supervision of exhibition installation 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 Participant;
- In the event of any damage to exhibits, the receiving Participant will not commence any repairs without the prior consent of the sending Participant.

The next session of the Joint Commission will take place in Prague,

The Participants will, 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 Czech Republic and Flanders are parties.

Done in Brussels on 27th May 2014.

For the Government of Flanders,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verlaeckt', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Koen Verlaeckt
Secretary General
Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Czech Republic,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaroslav Kurfürst', with a long diagonal stroke and a curved line at the end.

Jaroslav Kurfürst
Director General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs