

AGREED MINUTES

CONCERNING THE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

FOR THE YEARS
2019 – 2021

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, have reached the following understanding:

1. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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.

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.

The Czech Ministry of Transport proposes to examine a possibility on a cooperation in the area of research and development of space industry technologies. However space policy is mainly channelled through the Federal Public Planning Service Science Policy (Belspo), a Belgian institution. Its "Space Research and Applications" directorate is responsible for managing Belgium's space programme on a daily basis, both on a European (European Space Agency) and bilateral level. More information, also on the Belgian space industry, can be found here. https://www.belspo.be/belspo/space/index_en.stm

An Agreement on scientific cooperation was signed between the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS, Akademie věd České republiky) in November 2016. The programme focuses mainly on the exchange of young researchers in the field of fundamental research: at Flemish side at least one young scientist, with no more than 6 years of postdoctoral experience, should perform an exchange towards the Czech Republic and out of the whole Czech team, at least 1/3 must be junior researchers or PhD students. The funding covers travel and living expenses of the Flemish and Czech researchers performing the exchanges.

In June 2016 a first call was launched for two-year joint collaboration projects in order to further promote scientific cooperation between Flanders and the Czech Republic in all research domains. Consequently, the continuous application process for exchanges was replaced by regular calls for submission of joint cooperation projects. A second call has been launched on the 2nd of May 2018 and a third in principle in 2020. More information on: <http://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/international-collaboration/scientific-cooperation/cooperation-with-the-czech-republic/>

The Czech partner, Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the research organizations active in agricultural research wish to strengthen the cooperation. There are also the opportunities particularly in the exchange of the experts.

Flanders is interested in co-operation in the field of innovation through her Innovation and Entrepreneurship Agency (VLAIO). The equivalent in the Czech Republic is TA CR. Both are member of the TÁFTIE network. Contacts and agreements are possible within this network. VLAIO focuses for funding on existing networks such as Eureka, Eurostars, Art 185, ERA-NET.

Co-operation within the framework program H2020 or FP9 in the future is always possible by the NCP (national contact point) operation. In Flanders this is a joint venture between VLAIO and FWO. Interactions are also possible by the Enterprise Europe Network, a network of the European Commission for advice and partnering for companies. In Flanders, this is a joint venture between VLAIO and FIT

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.

2. EDUCATION

2.1. 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.

2.2. 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 three (3) 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 a number of summer courses: for students in Ghent and for academic researchers and teachers in Leuven, Utrecht and Amsterdam. Furthermore, it funds academic networks such as Comenius, organizes Dutch exams abroad, and provides different forms of support for institutes where Dutch is taught (basic funding; project funding; visiting writers.). More information about the different funding possibilities can be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union. <http://taalunieversum.org/inhoud/dutch-worldwide>

2.3. Specialisation scholarships

For the Flemish Party the responsible authority is the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training. The information on study opportunities in Flanders can be found at <http://www.flanders.be/en/studying> or <http://www.studyinlanders.be/>. The Government of Flanders awards scholarships to outstanding students for Master programmes in Flanders and Brussels. More information on <http://www.studyinlanders.be/en/scholarship-programmes/master-mind-scholarships/>

3. CULTURE

3.1. Film

The Flemish and Czech sides want to strengthen co-operation in the area of cinematography, for instance support of the participation in film festivals, exchange of information on the festivals, examination of the possibilities of deeper cooperation. 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 co-operation.

At present there is an active link between Flanders Image and the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Every year in the frame of a visitors' programme, a curator of this festival is twice invited by the VAF/Flanders Image. In April to become acquainted with new Flemish audio-visual creations. In October the same person is invited to CONNeXT, Gent, an initiative aiming at attracting the interest of important festivals, sales agents and buyers at an earlier stage. Selections of Flemish film productions are regularly presented at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival. VAF/Flanders Image visits the festival on a regular basis.

The opportunities of coproduction to be explored are based on an organic cooperation of Flemish film producers with partners in other countries, on sectoral needs and/or opportunities spotted by the VAF/ Flanders Image. These are followed by e.g. introducing and matchmaking moments which can lead to common projects. At present there is not yet an indication of such opportunities in the Czech Republic for VAF/Flanders Image.

3.2. Museums

A Flemish delegation from the Holocaust Museum in Mechelen and the Flemish network Special Committee for Remembrance Education participated in the study day of the Bubny Memorial on 17 October 2017 in DOX (Prague). The renovation of the Bubny Memorial of Silence and the possibilities of remembrance education were discussed. Czech and Flemish experts will explore how further co-operation can be achieved. Both Participants wish to support cooperation between Terežín Memorial and its Flemish partners within the permanent working groups of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

Both Participants will support mutual contact and cooperation with Flemish educational institutions within International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice. The Kazerne Dossin, Mechelen, is prepared to attract the attention and interest of Flemish schools via their communication channels in order to promote the International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice and thus stimulate the participation of Belgian children. The Kazerne Dossin will be awaiting for instructions of the organisers of the exhibition.

3.3. Performance and theatre

Both Participants are prepared to support cooperation in the field of non-professional art (exchange of ensembles, participation in non-professional art festivals, **cooperation between public organisations**) and cooperation within AITA/IATA.

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 2019. They also intend to support cooperation between the Arts and Theatre Institute and **Flanders Art Institute** within the European Network of Information Centres for the Performing Arts (ENICPA) as well as their cooperation on joint projects (SPACE, TRAVELOGUE).

3.4. Literature

Both parties intend to support the translation of Czech literature into the Dutch language in the context of the Modaviet series of the Flemish publisher Voetnoot.

3.5. Libraries

Both parties support the cooperation of the Czech National Library with the library of the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL).

3.6. Heritage

Both parties investigate if there are possibilities for co-operation with regard to the similar value and diversity of heritage in both territories. They intend to share knowledge and best practices concerning the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural goods; and to share knowledge and best practices concerning protection, conservation and digitization of movable cultural heritage.

3.7. EUNIC

Both parties develop their co-operation within the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC).

Flanders and the Czech Republic organise together with other partners debates in Brussels and Central-Europe, commemorating the events of 1918, 1968 and 1989. Flanders participates in 'The Night of Literature' and the 'Poetry Days' in Prague.

4. ECONOMY AND MUTUAL TRADE

4.1. 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 examine possible ways to cooperate in the field of innovative business and commercialisations of new technologies on mutually beneficial basis, and exchange best experience and best practices.

- 4.11 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.
- 4.12. The conditions for co-operation in the field of entrepreneurship policies will be elaborated in a separate protocol, if needed or wished for.
- 4.13 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.
- 4.14. 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, ..).

4.2. 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 promotion strategy 2018-2022, Flanders Investment and Trade focuses in the coming years on the following promising target sectors in the Czech republic. construction, food & drinks, e-commerce, environment (waste processing & renewable energy), biotechnology and machinery. This will be reflected in its action program in the Czech Republic which will be carried out in close cooperation with the Czech partners and authorities involved in those segments.

5. ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

5.1. Air quality

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

5.2. 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.):

- 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.
- 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;
- 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. Flanders wants to learn from the Czech experience in higher education In this way, the Ecocampus can be strengthened.
- 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;

- 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.
- Flanders is interested in biodiversity and more specifically the link with the bee story Flanders is looking for a co-operation with a Czech partner to give 'the Week of the Bee' a more international dimension

In parallel, the Czech side is prepared to host the Flemish delegation for approximately 4 days, with the following interest:

- The role of higher education and science/research in the strengthening of the environmental education in the Czech Republic
- Introducing of RCE Czechia (regional environmental center) and its role in the strengthening of the ESD in Czech Republic.
- Study visit in one or more examples of environmental education centers, focusing on centers with overnights educational programs for elementary schools.
- Study visit in several examples of forest kindergartens and eco-kindergartens as the example of outdoor learning and direct children's contact with nature, with possible topic also the strengthening of biodiversity in gardens.

5.3. 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, Circular Economy and Soil Remediation in order to exchange know how and information concerning specific items in this matter.

5.4. Biotechnology

The Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) in Gent and more specific the Center for Plant Systems Biology has a longstanding collaboration with the Central European Institute of Technology at the Masaryk University (CEITEC MU) in Brno. VIB is an excellence-based entrepreneurial institute that focuses on translating basic scientific results into pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial applications.

The collaboration is formalised in a Coordination and Support action "PASSAGE" funded by the European Commission under the H2020-WIDESPREAD program. In phase I of this Teaming action a business plan is being developed to create a joint venture between both institutes.

Both parties want to make further cooperation possible. Excellence and relevance of research at CEITEC MU will be strengthened through complementarity in scientific expertise and infrastructure between both institutes. VIB is committed to transfer this long-term experience and know-how in science management and translational research to CEITEC MU. The CEITEC MU will gain experience in technology transfer and hereby boost the biotech industry in South Morevia.

5.5. 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.

5.6. Exchange of experts

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

5.7. Animal welfare

The Czech Republic is the second largest importer of puppies in Flanders. In 2017, 3,932 pups from the Czech Republic were introduced.

Both Parties have set strict requirements for domestic as well as for foreign breeders. In spite of these efforts, there is still criticism from various angles on the import of pups in Flanders. The Czech Republic takes responsibility in this dossier and also supervises compliance with the Flemish requirements on dogs destined for Flanders. Through a cooperation project and more specifically an exchange between Flemish and Czech officials, a better understanding of dog trade and breeding will be gained. It offers both countries the opportunity to inform public opinion correctly. Through this exchange, we will get to know each other's legislation and control systems better, so that we can pursue an even more open and transparent policy.

6. MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Both Participants are willing to exchange information, knowledge and expertise regarding the below mentioned topics Both Participants are ready to share information and invitations about training programs, workshops and other gathering of experts in order to support exchange of information and best practice.

6.1. Logistics and multimodality

- a) Promotion of modal shift actions and intermodal connections
- b) General policies on inland waterways (eg policy in terms of regulation, operation and commercialization of inland waterways)
- c) Integrated multimodal logistics and multifunctional use of the waterways based on efficient transport (rail, road) flows between ports and the hinterland through the exchange of information related to cargo and transport flows enabling multimodal services (ICT and ITS), as well as the optimal localisation and operation of hubs, terminals and (European and regional) distribution centres

- d) Efficient and sustainable inland water management and urban logistics: sharing best practices and relevant policy experience, innovative concepts and transshipment methods, consolidation centres
- e) Exchange of innovative logistics concepts related to new trends, C-ITS, automated vehicles

6.2 Road transport and road traffic safety

- a) The financial aspects and benefits of PPP
- b) Implementation of relevant EU policies and regulations
- c) Policy regarding the evolution of new mobility platforms.

7 HEALTH, SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL CARE

Both parties are reforming and refining their primary health care systems. They share an interest in sharing views on reform processes and best practices with the aim of strengthening the position of general practitioners and improving the quality and effectiveness of primary health care. Both parties agree to exchange information on recent and coming primary health care policy reforms; an exchange of experts or a study visit could complement this exchange of information.

8 PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish side (Public Governance policy domain and the Czech side will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, knowhow and best practices between the administrations. In particular contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of human resources management, recruitment policy, diversity policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, regulatory management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities

The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the 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; and integration policy. Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the concerned services of both Parties.

9 TOURISM

The two parties will continue their cooperation, consultation, exchange of knowledge and good practices in the European Commission's Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) and within the framework of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and intensify where possible.

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 the Flemish Region are parties.

At Brussels on 12 December 2019

On behalf of the
Government of Flanders



Julie Bynens
Secretary general
Department of Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the
Government of the Czech Republic



Pavel Klucký
Ambassador of the Czech Republic
to the Kingdom of Belgium