

**Memorandum of Understanding on Educational  
Cooperation and Exchanges  
Between  
the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Brazil  
and  
the Ministry of Education and Training  
of the Flemish Government of the Kingdom of Belgium**

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Brazil and the Ministry of Education and Training of the Flemish Community of the Kingdom Belgium, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”, agree to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on educational cooperation and exchanges, in order to contribute to the strengthening of educational relations between Brazil and Flanders.

The Parties have reached the following understanding:

**Article 1: Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding aims to achieve the following purposes: to develop and enhance bilateral cooperation in educational matters, to promote mutual understanding, and to realize common benefits through collaborative action.

**Article 2: Fields of cooperation**

The Parties agree to facilitate cooperation in the following domains:

**I. Higher Education**

With reference to the Flemish Action Plan for Mobility in Higher Education, which identifies Brazil as one of the priority destination for Flemish students, higher education institutes on both sides are encouraged to carry out exchanges and cooperation in such areas

as teaching, research and knowledge transfer and mutual recognition of academic degrees.

1.1 Higher education institutions on both sides will be encouraged to jointly develop academic programmes at master's and doctorate level, leading, where appropriate, to joint or multiple degrees issued by the higher education institutions from both sides.

1.2 The two sides are encouraged to exchange students for credit mobility with validation of their exchange in their home institution.

1.3 The two sides are encouraged to send students for a full degree to the partner country.

1.4 The two sides are encouraged to send scientific researchers to each other's country for research cooperation or PhD studies.

1.5 The two sides recall that students are bound to respect the international legislation on intellectual property rights when carrying out their research at universities/higher education institutions, research centers, etc.

1.6 The two sides agree to exchange experiences in higher education reform and evaluation.

1.7 These initiatives can be supported by organizing a seminar to bring possible partners together.

1.8. Both sides will encourage exchange of good practices in cooperation between higher education institutions and business/industry and rely on the expertise of both Brazilian and Flemish initiatives in the field.

## **II Language learning**

Both sides recognize the importance of understanding more about each other's language and culture, encourage more young students to study in the other country in order to enhance their understanding about the other's language, literature, arts and culture.

### **2.1 Language teaching**

The two sides will encourage the teaching of each other's language in their educational institutes at all levels.

2.1.1 Flemish educational institutes including universities will be encouraged to teach the Portuguese language.

2.1.2 Brazilian universities will be encouraged to strengthen the teaching of the Dutch language and Flemish culture.

2.1.3. The Dutch Language Union offers support for Dutch language departments and teachers and offer summer courses to students of the Dutch language abroad. Brazilian students and teachers of the Dutch language are welcome to apply for participation to the summer courses on Dutch language and culture organized by the Dutch Language Union, inter alia in Ghent (Belgium). Applicant students should demonstrate intermediate knowledge (level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

### **III Government exchanges and scholarships**

#### **3.1 Scholarships**

3.1.1 Each party shall put in its best efforts to offer scholarships to their own students for exchange periods in recognized programmes. The scholarships will preferably be granted in pairs between the two parties within the context of a bilateral cooperation between two higher education institutions, in accordance with the country's legislation.

#### **3.2 Selection of and arrangement for scholarship candidates**

3.2.1 At the Brazilian side the programme "Science without Borders" will provide scholarships for the Brazilian students following the procedures, set out in the agreements with the Flemish Council or Universities and University Colleges. The Ministry of Education and Training of the Flemish Government will provide scholarships for the Flemish students, set out priorities and select the students, following the general modalities of the exchange programme to be adjusted annually

3.2.2 Candidates shall meet the requirements of the other party.

### **IV Mutual exchanges**

#### **4.1 Exchanges and cooperation in school and adult education.**

Exchanges and cooperation in elementary education, secondary education and adult



education will be encouraged.

To learn more about each other's educational structures both parties can organize a seminar or study visits between educational institutes.

The cooperation between educational institutes and the exchange of teachers and students will be encouraged.

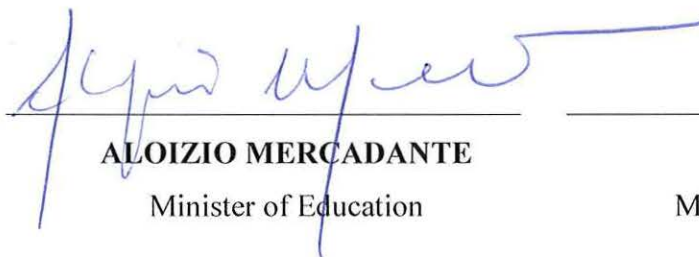
The mutual recognition of degrees and qualifications will be encouraged.

This agreement shall take effect from the date of signature and will remain valid for two years, and no funds transfer shall be made between the Parties. After two years both parties will evaluate the cooperation and, if needed, make adjustments.

The controversies between the Parties and changes to the document (vetoed any changes to its purpose) shall be resolved amicably by mutual consent. In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the Portuguese and English versions of the present Memorandum, the English version shall prevail.

The agreement is signed in Brasilia on 29 October 2013.

**For the Ministry of Education of the  
Federative Republic of Brazil**



**ALOIZIO MERCADANTE**  
Minister of Education

**For the Ministry of Education, Youth, Equal  
Opportunities and Brussels of the Flemish  
Community of the Kingdom of Belgium**



**PASCAL SMET**  
Minister of Education, Youth, Equal  
Opportunities and Brussels