

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

FOR THE YEARS 2012 - 2014

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

The President of the Flemish delegation welcomes the Romanian delegation and presents the members of his delegation.

Flemish delegation

Department of Foreign Affairs

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Koen Jongbloet | Head of division, president |
| - Peter Van Heesvelde | Policy advisor, secretary |
| - Christine Breugelmans | Head of ceremony |

Department Mobility and Public Works

General Policy division

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| - Olivier Vandersnickt | Policy advisor |
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Flanders Investment and Trade

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| - Evelien Staelens | Areamanager |
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Department Public Governance

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| - Jan De Mulder | Policy advisor |
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Flanders Heritage Agency

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| - Barbara Dubaere | Policy Officer International Cooperation |
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Department of Economy, Science and Innovation

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| - Niko Geerts | Policy advisor |
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Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

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| - Quirina Huet | Policy advisor |
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The President of the Romanian delegation thanks for the kind reception and presents the members of his delegation.

Romanian delegation

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment

General Directorate Commerce and International Relations

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Radu Zaharia | General director, president |
| - Mugur Popovici | Diplomatic counsellor, secretary |
| - Marcel Sima | Counsellor |

Directorate Industrial Policies

- | | |
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| - Cristina Leucuta | Deputy director, cluster policy coordinator |
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General Directorate Business Environment

- | | |
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| - Ovidiu Horatiu Voinea | Counsellor |
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Romanian Embassy in Brussels

- | | |
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| - Stefan Tinca | Designated ambassador |
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National Authority for Scientific Research

- Virginia Enache

Deputy director

Romania Trade and Invest

- Luciana Marinescu

Counsellor

In implementation of the Co-operation Agreement between the Governments of Flanders and Romania, the two Parties have agreed on the Co-operation Programme for the years 2012-2014, during the seventh meeting of the Joint Commission Flanders-Romania (Brussels, October 25th 2012).

1. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

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,...). The parties shall in particular promote the use of their respective Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) organisations for developing mutual initiatives aimed at informing, advising and guiding SME's in their internationalisation process. The parties also acknowledge that the EEN framework is particularly suited for informing Flemish and Romanian entrepreneurs on possible opportunities via available EU programmes in Flanders and Romania.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

The Romanian Party underlines the significant role that the Flemish companies could play within the Romanian economy and proposes the following:

- Facilitating the exchange of information, experience and best practices related to the policy and the strategy of supporting the SMEs sector;
- Exchange information mutually on measures and steps taken by the Romanian and Flemish authorities concerning the control of the effects of global economic and financial crisis;
- The interest for looking into the possibilities for creating a joint SMEs working group Romania –Flanders at expert level to meet on yearly basis;
- Upon request, bringing the Romanian party into contact with Flemish specialists that can contribute to training programs in Romania on subjects of interest for Romanian entrepreneurs.
- Adopting best practices models regarding methods and tools to simplify the administrative procedures for the Flemish SMEs sector.
- Sharing the experience on the absorption of Structural or Cohesion funds by Flemish SMEs.

2. FOREIGN TRADE

Both Parties are committed to further enhance and support the trade and investment relations between Romania and Flanders.

Both Parties shall exchange information on their markets, industries, business potential and investment opportunities, and their experiences and knowledge related to the promotion of their international business, in order to:

- identify trade opportunities in the respective markets;
- support companies that want to expand their business in the respective markets;
- organize events such as seminars, trade missions, invitation of purchasers, etc.;
- support companies in their search for products, services, potential partners and investment opportunities in the respective markets.

For this purpose, The Romanian Party will make use of the services of the Economic Section of the Romanian Embassy in Brussels and other agencies under its coordination, including Romania Trade and Invest.

The Romanian Party proposes the following:

- Participation of Flemish companies and entrepreneurs to the National SMEs Forum, annually organized in Bucharest.
- Organizing of economic missions and business meetings for entrepreneurs from both countries.
- Mutual information on economic investment projects regarding the participation of the companies from both countries;
- Encouraging the development of joint ventures in different economic sectors of common interest;
- Continuing the positive dynamics of Flemish investments in Romanian economy;
- Informing the Flemish companies about the opportunities offered by Romanian SMEs, especially in complementary areas.

Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) - the agency of the Flemish Government that is committed to support Flemish companies and in particular SMEs, in international trade and assist foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders, will:

- point out trade opportunities to Flemish companies on the Romanian market;
- support Flemish companies that want to expand their business in Romania;
- assist Romanian companies that want to expand their business in Flanders;
- organise events related to Romania, such as seminars, trade missions, participations in trade fairs, etc.

Flanders Investment & Trade is represented in Bucharest through a Flemish Economic Representative, who is the dedicated contact person for Flemish companies as far as doing business in Romania is concerned.

In its strategic plan 2011-2015 Flanders Investment & Trade considers Romania to be a focus country. This implies that trade promotion events are organized on a regular basis. Particular attention is given to the following sectors: building & infrastructure, environment and transport & logistics.

3. AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

The Flemish Party shall, within its budgetary possibilities, put at the disposal of the Romanian Party its knowledge and experience in the field of the production, processing and marketing of fruit, vegetables, animal breeding (cattle, pigs, sheep), animal registration and identification and animal waste treatment in accordance with the European regulations. The Flemish Party shall also provide the opportunity to exchange its knowledge and experience concerning the establishment and operation of producer organisations.

The Flemish Party shall, among other things, in co-operation with the practical training centres, provide the opportunity to train or further train local practical work teachers in giving after-school training and refresher training with main focus on sustainable agriculture.

Important components of training may be:

- management training depending on the crops and the region;
- sustainable farming techniques, organic farming;
- training in practical techniques: masonry, welding, maintenance of farm machinery and small repairs, claw nursing, milk hygiene, etc.;
- technical training: tillage, ploughing, manuring, sowing techniques, animal feed, etc.

The Romanian Party proposes:

- Organization of training and cooperation at the inter-branch organizations.
- Waste management in agricultural and livestock farms, in accordance with EU requirements.
- Training on:
 - a) Management of small and medium farms in the conditions of climate changes;
 - b) Systems of machinery and equipment for holdings up to 150 hectares;
 - c) application of new agricultural technologies to help on reducing gas emissions.
- Regarding the organic sector, we propose a training partnership on issues regarding the functioning of inspection and certification bodies.
- Production of traceable foods: traceability systems and consumer awareness on benefits of the food safety management implementation in agricultural and livestock farms.
- Production of functional foods and natural health products.
- Training on best practices for hygienic design in milk collecting but also in processing plants of the raw materials.
- Technical assistance and information on land conservation and consolidation practices and policies.
- Production economics and risk assessment.

4. ENVIRONMENT

4.1. Environmental education (EE)

The Flemish Party, the Environmental Training and Education Service (ETE), offers to invite a Romanian delegation and to introduce it to the environmental education (EE) operation and structure at the Flemish level in an active and interactive way.

Taking into account the wishes/needs, the ETE Service can organise one or more days with the following topics, interests, possibly in a follow-up project (MOS, Ecocampus, ...):

- introduction of and making acquaintance with the operation of the ETE Service within the Flemish policy, with the networking on EE (diverse target groups) and on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as the frame of reference;
- introduction and making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School) and his evolution, an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education (and teacher training) and, if preferred, linked with one or more school visits; getting acquainted with the relevant educational means;
- introduction of and getting acquainted with the Ecocampus-project, introducing environmental care and sustainable development in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management), 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 formal education and informal or/and non-formal education; presenting examples of good practices of how ESD can be introduced in EE;
- site visits to one or more Flemish Knowledge and Training centres for Nature and Environment, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, etc.), and to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

4.2. Flemish Public Waste Agency (OVAM)

The Flemish Party (- OVAM)) is prepared – within its financial possibilities - to invite a number of experts in the field of waste and soil management in order to exchange know-how and information concerning specific items in this matter.

4.3. Biodiversity policy

The Flemish Party (the Nature and Forest Agency) is prepared to exchange knowledge and experience on biodiversity policy with the Romanian partners. This can be organized through:

- visits of Romanian partners to Flanders to study projects and policy processes on biodiversity;
- study visits of the NFA to Romanian projects;
- exchange of information on mechanisms, techniques and instruments being applied;
- courses organized in joint consultation on a demand driven base and programme and after a feasibility check of the envisaged result within the course period;
- the NFA will evaluate proposals and further initiatives with regard to its own priorities and available means.

4.4. Emission Trading

In the field of emission trading, both parties propose to examine the possibilities of trading with additional AAU's under the Green Investment Scheme.

4.5 Sustainable Energy

The parties are prepared to cooperate in the field of energy on those themes that fall within the competencies of the Flemish party (renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy distribution and energy research), subject to the availability of financial and human resources and based upon a specific request for the exchange of information or the organisation of an expert meeting.

The parties encourage contacts between each other's companies and research institutions and are prepared to play a facilitating role, should there be a specific request.

Specifically in the context of the European financing programmes, such as for instance «Intelligent Energy for Europe», the parties encourage information exchange between the respective focal points, so as to match potential partners. In this regard, the parties wish to focus the effort of encouraging participation in European programmes that are in line with the energy policy of the parties and with a potential added value.

4.6. Efficiency of buildings

The Romanian Party proposes projects and study visits, with the agreement of the Flemish Party, related to the energy efficiency of buildings, as well as those for using renewable in buildings are often technically demanding, and appropriate training for architects, engineers, technicians and installers of renewable energy systems in buildings, notably for those involved in construction with the ecological approach of building sector.

4.7 The Romanian Party proposes the following project: development of an eco sustainable construction - organic sustainable made with materials with energy-efficiency characteristics and that absorb polluting properties.

The project aims to develop systems or residential and social-cultural buildings made with natural, environmentally friendly materials that possess energy-efficiency characteristics and that absorb polluting emissions from the atmosphere. The target of this project is the concept of a sustainable building which generates a healthy environment.

4.8. Expert exchange

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

5. TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

5.1 Ports and Water Policy

Both Parties propose to exchange information and experience regarding one or more of the following topics:

- the Danube estuary and the aspects of accessibility vs. nature;
- the Flemish project 'Water in the City';
- the indicators for integrated water policy on navigable waterways;
- the implementation of the Flood directive 2007/60/EC (competence of the Ministry of Environment of Romania).

5.2 Inland waterways

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

Inland shipping:

Policy:

- General policy;
- Implementation of the relevant EU-policy into EU-legislation;
- Implementation of directive 2005/44/EC ("RIS Directive").

Freight transport:

Promotion of modal shift (shift from road transport to rail, inland shipping and Short Sea Shipping);

Infrastructure:

- Cooperation regarding the construction of the canal between Bucharest and the Danube river.

Management:

- Elaboration of a model of cooperation for a centre of border crossing waterway transport between the EU and non-EU countries, as a follow up of the ILDE (Improvement of Intermodal Links to the Danube Estuary) project which is connecting Hungary/Baja, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania and Flanders (trial transports according to the programme);

New techniques:

- Studying the possibilities in order to prevent low water levels of the Danube river.

The Flemish Company Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV is willing to participate in receiving two (2) delegations of five (5) experts for a period up to five (5) days to provide information, training and documentation (including guided visits of different locations) concerning the above mentioned topics, in case the Romanian party is interested.

5.3 Exchange of expertise in the field of inland waterways

The Flemish Party (Department of Mobility and Public Works) will aim at the co-operation with the non-profit association Flanders International Technical Agency (FITA) for the implementation of a technical working visit to Flanders at which the transfer of knowledge and capacity building occupy a central position. FITA would like to involve the private sector for the areas of infrastructure and environmental protection.

Nitrates Directive:

The Flemish Land Agency will exchange information concerning the implementation of the nitrates Directive (competence of the Ministry of Environment of Romania).

5.4 Exchange of expertise between the two Parties regarding the road transport strategy:

- Analysis of the methodology used in the planning and prioritization of projects promoting
- Modalities of control technical condition of national roads and highways network to implement an integrated strategy of modernization and rehabilitation, respectively the construction of new roads and highways. Experience exchange regarding the implementation of a modern data structure corresponding to the present technologies regarding the spatial data, GIS. Information exchange in order to gain insight in the use of PMS software.
- Promotion of the multimodal transport concept, by identifying the ways to achieve a link between the strategies for each and every type of infrastructure in order to create an integrated transport.

5.5. Exchange of information on the following:

- Road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS),
- Control of construction quality,

- Environment protection, respectively measures to reduce noise, to protect flora and fauna etc.,
- Multiannual maintenance of road infrastructure, namely a comparative analysis of road maintenance during summer or winter and solutions to reduce the costs;

5.6. Methods for identifying and attracting private capital in road infrastructure, namely the implementation of the major highway construction projects in the PPP system.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH AND (HEALTH) CARE

6.1. Public Health & (Health) Care:

- planning, monitoring and subsidizing of welfare and health facilities;
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control), inspection and monitoring;
- preventive health care for the young child (organization and expertise): development, hearing screening, vaccination, breastfeeding, toy safety, ...

Proposals of the Romanian Party:

1. Public Health Agency Bihor suggests actions on health promotion component with the following themes:

- reproductive Health, with teenagers as target group;
- oral Health, with focus on preschool and primary school children;
- healthy eating, target group children and adolescents.

Potential actions:

Implementation in Romania of examples of good practice from Flanders specialist expertise in the above fields by:

- study visits for exchange of experience;
- training of trainers (for health and education specialists);
- applying the Flanders' health education models for the target groups mentioned.

2. Arad Public Health Agency

Actions proposal:

In the research and innovation, improving the health of European citizens and increasing the competitiveness and boosting the innovative capacity.

Possible actions: translational research in major infectious diseases: to confront major threats to public health, as well as anti-microbial drug resistance all the important deadlines

6.2. Welfare / Well-being & care:

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- general welfare work; primary care, crisis intervention and crisis relief, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim support, telephone counseling services;
- voluntary work;
- cooperation with justice in the field of welfare;

- family friendly policy;
- special youth care, particularly residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care;
- integrated youth care, i.e. youth care and general prevention regarding youth welfare;
- children and families: preventive child care, parenting support, child care services, child abuse counseling, adoption, ECEC (early childhood education and care) etc.;
- mediation: family mediation (divorce mediation, child custody mediation and access mediation), mediation in the context of criminal law (restorative justice, reparation of harm, settlement of conflict, restorative justice) and debt mediation, community mediation (neighbours, neighbourhood mediation).

6.3. Care for persons with disabilities

- exchange/examples of good practices regarding the employment and social inclusion of disabled persons;
- exchange of information on evaluation of the disability;
- exchange in order to realise an inclusive society for all, and to realise full participation of disabled persons in all domains of social life and across borders (mainstreaming policy for disabled people);
- exchange aiming at improving the quality of care;
- exchange of information, documentation and expertise concerning the different support services and other ways of supporting disabled people, as far as – from a Flemish point of view – these support systems are being recognised and subsidised by the Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health and Family (PwD);
- exchange, referring to the execution of international treaties and European directives;
- exchange of information and good practices regarding the UN Convention – coordination mechanism, monitoring the implementation (developing monitoring tools);
- exchange in order to agree on a cross-border standardisation of assistive devices and special tools for disabled people;
- exchange in order to agree on a commonly accepted definition on “PwD” in the European and international contexts;
- exchange of statistical data and results of scientific research in the field of the policy for disabled persons;
- exchange in order to realise gradual deinstitutionalisation and to attain more personalised care and community living.

6.4. Child and Family

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, webcourses (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.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Romanian Party will co-operate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations. In particular, contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of ICT, E-government, as well as research activities in the ICT field. Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Romanian Party will co-operate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations in the ICT field.

In particular, contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of ICT, E-government, as well as research activities. Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

8. EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Both Parties shall enhance continue the cooperation in the field of :

- employment policy;
- vocational and entrepreneurial training;
- labour market (implementation of the employment policies and programs tackling the future challenges of the labour market, improving labour force qualification, integrating young people and vulnerable groups in the society on the labour market, promoting employment through social economy);
- legislation;
- statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy;
- promoting active ageing.

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information experience, best practices, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners.

The Flemish Party (Vlaamse Departement Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational and entrepreneurial training, labour market and employment policy.

Both Parties reaffirm their commitment to the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 and agree to facilitate the dialogue and as well as their willingness to cooperate in order to implement their respective integration strategies.

9. SCIENCE AND INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY

9.1. Cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment Romania

Both Parties agree to:

- Exchange best practices on Cluster policy and the Competence Networks in the Innovation System between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment and the department EWI.
- Exchange information or best practices and wherever appropriate, cooperation, between clusters in sectors involved in grand economic and societal challenges. Examples of these can be micro and nano-electronics, electronical and electrical installations, software, aerospace, logistics, environmental and energy technology, creative industries, food industry.
- Identify key areas of collaboration and investment between stakeholders within economic missions, reciprocal events etc.
- Collaborate on opening a science centre pilot in Romania with the expertise of the Technopolis centre from Mechelen. The mission of this Centre is to inspire curiosity, support individual learning and exploration of the world as well as to investigate social dialogue on science.

9.2. Cooperation with the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS) Romania

The Romanian Party welcomes the cooperation with the Flemish Party in the frame of the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

Both Parties shall examine ways of further optimizing their cooperation in the broad field of scientific research and innovation, in order to reach the goals of the European Research Area. This may include e.g. cooperation in the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, the future "Horizon 2020" programme (as of 2014), or in other relevant European programmes and initiatives, if this is appropriate and mutually beneficial for each Party's research community participants.

Both Parties strive towards joint participation of Flemish and Romanian researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development or in other EU programmes and initiatives, if this is appropriate and mutually beneficial for each Party's research community participants.

For the Romanian Party the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS), as the focal point of the NCP system in Romania, will be the one stop shop and it will cooperate with the Flemish National Contact Points for FP7 (NCP), the Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders (e-mail: europrogs@iwt.be) which is the one stop shop. The Romanian Party informed that its National Coordinators of the NCP network may act as the main contact persons (contact details at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html). On the other side, the Romanian Office for Science and Technology to the European Union (ROSTeu), the Romanian liaison office in Brussels (<http://rosteu.ancs.ro>), may act as a dialogue partner for the Flemish Party concerning the European affairs in subjects pertaining to scientific research and innovation. The department Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI) will act as one stop shop with respect to further elaboration on future work programmes for FP7.

Both Parties will stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and cooperation in scientific research and innovation between the public and the private sectors, in order to enhance the development of fundamental, strategic and applied research. This includes, at various policy levels, the exchange of best practices between relevant public and private institutes, the interaction between the academic community and the business community, and the valorisation of research results into societal and economical applications.

10. CULTURE (Co-operation in the fields of Culture Policy and Youth)

- 10.1** Both Parties shall inform each other in an active way concerning important developments in cultural policies. That means that both Parties will keep each other informed, on a regular basis of policy matters and their international context, including the identification of the stakeholders involved and references to other sources that may be available.
- 10.2** Both Parties shall inform each other in regards to international cultural events in the field of theater, music, film, exhibitions, book fairs and shall support their participation to the ones of common interest, promoting direct contacts between professional artists and in the two countries.
- 10.3** When common subjects, of considerable importance have been detected, the Parties may decide by consensus to organise specific projects in that field, such as exchanges, training, on the job training, seminars, residences, etc.
- 10.4** When one of the Parties participates in an important international project, it will associate the other Party – as far as possible – as a privileged partner.
- 10.5** The Flemish Party wants to draw attention to the possibilities for artists, writers and translators to enter the residence programme of the following organisations (participants should meet the criteria and pass the selection):
- Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee: offers residences in the field of graphic arts, (www.fransmasereelcentrum.be)
 - Het Beschrijf: offers residences in Brussels and Vollezele for writers and translators, (www.beschrijf.be)
 - Flemish Literature Fund: offers residences for translators in the Translators' House in Antwerp, (www.fondsvoordeletteren.be)
- 10.6** Both Parties are willing to improve and to stimulate the networking of the heritage institutions of their countries for the purpose of exchange of practices, experts and competences related to movable and intangible heritage.

In the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003, both Parties will study the possibilities to develop joint projects regarding the methods of registration and preservation of the intangible heritage of Romania and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Romanian Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

- 10.7** The Flemish Regulator for the Media proposes to share his knowledge, working methods and points of view with the Romanian mediaregulator. Agreements in this field can be made between the Flemish Regulator for the Media and his Romanian counterpart.

10.8 Immovable heritage

The Parties will encourage the exchange of information, publications and experts in the field of immovable heritage. The Flemish Agency of Immovable Heritage is competent for this matter.

- 10.9** The parties shall cooperate within their possibilities, in the framework of the training programme in the field of old music developed under the title „Il maestro e lo Scolare”, dedicated to young musicians. The Association Medieval Praxis is competent in this regard, on behalf of the Romanian side.

10.10 Youth Policy

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.

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall 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).

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall 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).

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

10.11 Film

The Flemish Party wants to promote the coproduction of films by the two Parties, and informs the Romanian Party about the willingness to investigate the possibility to conclude a bilateral agreement for the coproduction of films.

11. SPORTS

The Parties shall support the development of the relationships between the sports federations, organisations and institutions attending to the sports matters in both countries. The concrete

actions and financial conditions for the carrying out of the sports exchanges are to be agreed upon by the interested entities.

12. EDUCATION

12.1 Exchange of information and documentation

During the validity of the present Programme both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information on all types and levels of education.

12.2 Scholarships for studies

The Flemish Party shall optimize, in consultation with the Roumanian Party, the system of awarding scholarships to residents of the Roumanian Party for scholarships in a Flemish higher education institution in order to increase its added value for both higher education systems. The Flemish Party shall take these steps in the framework of the Flemish action plan on the promotion of student mobility and of the mobility strategy of the European Higher Education Area.

The Romanian Party offers annually to the Flemish Party 2 (two) scholarships for undergraduate studies (B.A.) and/or postgraduate studies (M.A. or Ph.D.)

12.3 Exchange of experts / policy makers

Both Parties shall promote the exchange of experts in higher education.

Both Parties shall offer mutually three months of scholarship to exchange experts in higher education institutions, the ministry of education or other intermediary organizations.

12.4 Both Parties will encourage co-operation between Romanian and Flemish Universities.

Both Parties shall promote direct contacts cooperation between higher education institutions in the field of education.

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

12.5 The Flemish Party welcomes the offer of the Romanian Party, which will provide didactic material for the Romanian lecturer, through the Romanian Language Institute.

12.6 Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization Summer Courses - Since 2009, The Romanian side did not finance this kind of scholarship

The Romanian Party will annually offer, in function of the budgetary capacities, two (2) scholarships for the Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization Summer Courses held at the Romanian Universities. These two-week courses are intended particularly for students of the Romanian language and literature, enrolled in the Flemish public

institutions of higher education. The applicants are expected to have an appropriate command of the Romanian language.

The scholarships for Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization Summer Courses are granted by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport.

Candidates will send their applications, certified by their Romanian lecturer, to the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport, through the Embassy of Belgium in Bucharest.

The Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport will select among the applicants the most suitable candidates.

All information on Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization Summer Courses can be found at www.edu.ro/summercourses.htm.

12.7 Dutch Language and Culture summer courses

The Dutch Language Union offers support for Dutch language departments, teachers and students of the Dutch language abroad, like for example summer courses of the Dutch language, literature and culture, teaching resources and continuing studies courses.

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

13. CAPACITY BUILDING

Port management

The Flemish Party (Department of Foreign Affairs) offers the possibility to send experts to the port training and port management seminars organised by APEC (Antwerpen/Flanders Port Training Center).

The Romanian Party will present its candidates for those seminars. Participants are selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the expenses for participation in the seminars. The international travel expenses are covered by the participant or by the organisation on which he/she depends.

14. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Romanian Party will cooperate and exchange information about the following subjects: the organisation 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.

1. Fields of co-operation

- Administrative and fiscal decentralization and local development: Federal, regional and local related responsibilities; Normative, economic and financial aspects; Assignment and delegation of powers; Organization and management in the field of local public administration;
- Preparation, implementation and evaluation of public policies;
- Planning, development and management of administrative simplification programs promoting the closeness of administration to citizens and the reduction of bureaucratic barriers;
- Integrated approach to territorial policies and effective cooperation between public institutions responsible for improving multi-level governance instruments, in terms of cooperation between authorities at different governmental levels - Multigovernance;
- Types of instruments available to central government territorial representatives in order to streamline administrative guardianship of acts issued or adopted by the local public authorities – The relationship between central and local public authorities;
- The consultation procedure of local public authorities on the drawing-up process of normative acts which have an impact on the respective local public authorities;
- Implementation of projects in the field of preventing and combating corruption;
- Developing reliable and consistent integrity policies, applicable not only to the law enforcement agencies, but to the whole spectrum of public institutions;
- The electoral process at the local level - Exchange of good practices.
- Involvement and participation of local authorities in EU-issues.

2. Forms of cooperation:

- Reciprocal visits of senior officials and civil servants, in order to promote the exchange of experience in the areas.
- Seminars and bilateral meetings on topics in the areas proposed above, under paragraph 1;
- Exchange of information and relevant materials on the areas proposed above, under paragraph 1.

15. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

15.1. Scholarships

The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.2 will be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

The sending Party will cover international transport cost and the receiving Party will cover the rest of expenses supposed by academic programme.

Each year, the sending Party will inform the receiving Party about its nominees until 1-st June. The scholarships will be confirmed at that latest on August 31-st.

The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.6 will be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Flemish candidates for participation in the Romanian language and culture summer courses are specified by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport.

All provisions can be consulted on the website: www.edu.ro/summercourses.htm.

15.2. Exchange of educational experts

The exchange under 12.3 shall be implemented according to the following criteria:

- a) The sending party shall provide the receiving party with a curriculum vitae, a letter of invitation and information on the goals and programme of the visit as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the nominees concerned, at least three months in advance.
- b) The receiving party shall confirm that it is prepared to receive the nominees concerned six weeks before their departure.
- c) The sending party shall cover:
In Flanders: the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination
- d) To be covered by the receiving party:
In Flanders:
 - Accommodation and a fixed allowance of 250 euro per week.
 - Participants shall be responsible for taking their own insurances before entering the country.

15.3. Exchange of persons

To be agreed upon on a case by case basis.

15.4. Exhibitions

The conditions for the organisation of exhibitions and the respective responsibilities of both Parties will be laid down in a protocol concerning the organisation of the exhibition, signed by the organisers.

15.5. Other conditions will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

15.6. This programme does not exclude the possibility to organise other events or exchanges or to start new projects upon which both Parties will agree.

15.7. Both Parties agree upon the conditions through diplomatic channels on each specific event. Misunderstandings about the interpretation or the realisation of this action programme will be solved by means of negotiations between both Parties.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the joint committee in Bucharest, in the third trimester of 2014.

Agreed and signed in Brussels on 25 October 2012, in two original copies, both in the English. Both versions will be equally authentic.

For the Government of Flanders,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Koen Jongbloet', written over a horizontal line.

Koen JONGBLOET

For the Government of Romania,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Radu Zaharia', written over a horizontal line.

Radu ZAHARIA

Contact persons from the Flemish side:

1 Entrepreneurship

David Grzegorzewski, Director
Enterprise Flanders
Division Europe Economy
david.grzegorzewski@agentschapondernemen.be
+32 (0)2 553 39 96

2 Foreign Trade

Evelien Staelens, Area manager
Flanders Investment and Trade
evelien.staelens@fitagency.be
+32 (0)2 504 88 48

3 Agriculture and Fisheries

Liesbeth Hiele, Policy Advisor
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
liesbeth.hiele@lv.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 552 77 27

4 Environment

Quirina Huet, Policy Advisor
Environment, Nature and Energy Department
quirina.huet@lne.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 75 52

5 Transport and Public Works

Olivier Vandersnickt, Policy Advisor
Department of Mobility and Public Works
Olivier.vandersnickt@mow.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 71 19

6 Public Health and Healthcare

Fabian Dominguez, Policy Advisor
Department of Welfare, Public Health and Family
internationaalbeleid@wvg.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 31 06

7 Communication and Information Technology

Jan De Mulder, Policy Advisor
Department of Public Governance
Jan.demulder@bz.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 02 05

8 Employment

Farah Nolens, Policy Advisor
Department of Work and Social Economy

Farah.nolens@wse.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 39 55

9 Science and Innovation

Pierre Verdoodt
Department of Economy, Science and Innovation
Pierre.verdoodt@ewi.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 59 33

10 Culture and sports

Marie Renier, Policy Advisor
Department of Culture, Youth, Sport and Media
Marie.renier@cjsm.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 06 70

11 Education

Maddy Bollen, Policy Advisor
Department of Education
Maddy.bollen@ond.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 98 87

13. Tourism

Jan Van Praet, Policy Advisor
Tourism Office Flanders-Brussels
Jan.vanpraet@toerismevlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 504 03 50

14. Capacity Building

Stefaan De Groote, Policy Advisor
Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs
Stefaan.degroote@iv.vlaanderen.be
+32 (0)2 553 59 21

Peter Van Heesvelde

Peter.vanheesvelde@iv.vlaanderen.be

beleidsmedewerker | policy officer

Departement internationaal Vlaanderen | Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs

Afdeling Buitenlandse Zaken | Foreign Affairs Division

Boudewijnlaan 30 bus 80, B-1000 Brussel

T: +32 2 553 48 55 | F: +32 2 553 59 22

<http://iv.vlaanderen.be> | <http://www.flanders.be>

Contact persons from the Romanian side:

1. Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Ovidiu Horatiu Voinea, Senior counsellor
General Directorate Industrial Policy and Business Environment
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment
ovidiu_voinea@minind.ro
Tel: 0040-21-2025288
Mobile: 0040-755-024885

2. Foreign Trade

Ioana Rusescu, senior counsellor
International Relations Office
Romania Trade and Invest
ioana.rusescu@romtradeinvest.ro
Tel: 0040-21-318.50.58
Fax: 0040-21-311.14.91

3. Agriculture, fisheries, and forests

Livia Chivu
Counsellor for European Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
General Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations
livia.chivu@madr.ro
Tel: 004021/3072433

Gina Fintineru, Vice Rector
University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine – Bucharest
gina.fintineru@usamv.ro
Tel: 0040-21-311.02.07.11
Mobile: 0040-740.114.403

4. Environment (4.1-4.5)

Dalia MAIER, Counsellor
External Relations, International Treatments and Agreements
Ministry of Environment and Forests
dalia.maier@mmediu.ro
+40-21-3117158

Environment (4.6.-4.7.)

Claudia Hussain, Counsellor - External Relations Department
Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
claudia.hussain@mdrt.ro
Tel: +40732111559

5. Transport and Public Works

Adriana Pacuraru, Adviser
Department of EU-cooperation and International Relations
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
adriana.pacuraru@mt.ro
T: +40 21 319 61 84/ +4075 119 213 90

F : +40 21 319 61 77

6. Public Health and (Health) Care
Dr. Alexandra Constantinescu
Counsellor for European Affairs,
Social Inclusion Unit Coordinator, MoH
sandra@ms.ro
Tel: +40 213072576
Fax: + 40 213072567
7. Communications and Informations Technolgy
Ionela Andrisoi, Councillor for European Affairs
Ministry of Communications and Information Society
ionela.andrisoi@mcsi.ro
Tel./ Fax 004-021-311 41 15
8. Employment
Daniela Motorga, Advisor
Ministry of Labour Family and Social Protection
Directorate for External Relations
danielamotorga@mmuncii.ro
tel./fax: 004021 - 312 13 17
9. Science and Innovation Technology (9.1.)
Christina Leucuta, Deputy Director
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment
christiana_leucuta@minind.ro
christinaleu@yahoo.com
Tel: +40-21-2025199
Mobile: +40-724208980

Science and Innovation Technology (9.2.)
Madalina Borceanu, Counselor
National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS)
European Integration and International Cooperation Department
madalina.alionte@ancs.ro
Tel: 0040-21-3183064
Fax: 0040- 21-318 30 53
10. Culture
Mihai Serban, Public manager
Department for International and Intercultural Relations
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Email: mihai.serban@cultura.ro
Tel/ fax : +40 21 224 37 67
Mobile : +40 720 0720 71
11. Sports
Mihai Sebe, Director
Directorate International Relationship

National Authority for Sport and Youth
Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport
mihai.sebe@anst.gov.ro
Tel: +4021 317 10 72
Fax: +4021 318 90 26

12. Education

Veronica Lucianu, expert
General Direction for International and European Relations
Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports
veronica.lucianu@medu-edu.ro
Tel: 004 021 405 56 00
Fax: 004 021 312 66 14

14. Capacity building

Ministry of Transport and Public Works
Adriana Pacuraru, Adviser
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Department of EU-cooperation and International Relations
adriana.pacuraru@mt.ro
T: +40 21 319 61 84/ +4075 119 213 90
F: +40 21 319 61 77

15. Public Administration

Carmen Stefan, deputy general director
General Department European Affairs and International Relations
Ministry of Administration and Interior
carmen.stefan@mai.gov.ro
Tel.: 021.303.70.80 (i. 11850)

Mugur Popovici
Diplomatic counselor
EU Members Department
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment
152, Calea Victoriei St.
010072 Bucharest
mugur.popovici@dce.gov.ro
Tel:0040-21-40.10.510 Fax:0040-21-40.10.592