

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE YEARS 2012-2014
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA ON CO-OPERATION**

Riga, 27-28 June 2011

The seventh meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2012-2014 to implement the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Flanders on Co-operation was held in Riga on 27-28 June 2011. The chairperson of the Latvian delegation welcomed the Flemish delegation and presented the members of his delegation:

Latvian delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Indulis Ābelis Director of the European Department

Ministry of Agriculture

- Ainārs Nābels-Šneiders Head of the International Affairs Division

Ministry of Culture

- Janīna Tiškina Senior Desk Officer of the International Co-operation and EU Policy Division
- Ms. Iveta Cīrule Senior Desk Officer, Strategy and Regional Cultural Policy Division

Ministry of Economics

- Sergejs Lūkins Senior Officer of the Foreign Economic Relations Division

Ministry of Education and Science

- Māra Katvare Senior Expert of the International Affairs Division

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

- Ilona Raugze Deputy Director of the State Development Planning Department, Head of Regional Development Planning Division
- Ilze Prūse Head of Climate Finance and Technology Division

Ministry of Health

- Guna Jermacāne Senior Officer of the Treatment Quality Division

Ministry of Transport

- Mr. Māris Pēkalis Deputy Director of the Department of Land transport
- Ms. Kristīne Bukholte Senior Officer of the Department of Transit Policy

The head of the Flemish delegation thanked for the kind reception and presented the members of his delegation:

Flemish delegation:

Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs Foreign Affairs Division

- Bart Laethem Head of Division
- Koen Haverbeke Representative of the Flemish Government in Riga (residing in Warsaw)
- Peter Van Heesvelde Policy Advisor, Secretary

Department of Public Governance

- Jan De Mulder Policy Advisor

Department of Mobility and Public Works

- Olivier Vandersnickt Policy Advisor

Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

- Bart Van Impe Senior Expert
- Quirina Huet Policy Advisor

Both delegations, hereafter called the Parties, agreed upon the following:

Latvia 2030 and Flanders 2020

Concerning the future development strategies Latvia 2030 and Flanders 2020 and it has been decided that both parties will exchange information about the implementation of these programs.

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).

2. FOREIGN TRADE

The Flemish Party is committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Latvia and Flanders. For that purpose, they will exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, the Flemish Party will also exchange information regarding its market and sectors, useful contacts, experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international entrepreneurship.

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

Flanders Investment & Trade has a Flemish economic representative in Helsinki who acts as a liaison officer between Latvian and Flemish companies and institutions.

The economic representative returns once a year to Flanders for individual meetings with Flemish companies in order to give them tailor made advice concerning the business opportunities in Latvia and how to approach the Latvian market.

Flanders Investment & Trade plans a multisectoral trade mission to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia from 20-25 November 2011; the purpose of this mission is to establish B2B-contacts between Flemish participants and potential Latvian partners.

3. AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

- 3.1.** The Parties shall exchange knowledge and information in the area of relations with the European Commission and other European institutions in the field of agricultural policy and rural development.
- 3.2.** The Flemish Party will assist the Latvian Party – on her demand – in specific projects (in collaboration with socio-economic umbrella organisations and research institutes in Flanders) to elaborate and realise the Latvian Rural Development Programme.
- 3.3.** In the field of Rural Development, the Flemish Party will assist the Latvian Party in implementing the National Rural Development Programme and using the structural funds for pillar II of CAP.

- 3.4. Both Parties shall concentrate on the facilitation of a co-operation and exchange with good practices in the following areas: encouraging of rural entrepreneurship, promotion of the development of human resources and sustainable management of natural resources.
- 3.5. An essential part of the co-operation is an exchange of experience and expertise between the competent authorities on the following:
- 3.5.1. measures to facilitate the development of organic agriculture;
 - 3.5.2. improvement of the certification system of organic farms;
 - 3.5.3. handling of genetically modified organisms;
 - 3.5.4. introduction of an integrated production system of agricultural product at agricultural holdings;
 - 3.5.5. compensation of losses for agricultural holdings;
 - 3.5.6. development of co-operation possibilities in specific sectors (flax, hemp);
 - 3.5.7. other areas of mutual interest.
- 3.6. This part of the co-operation programme will be executed taking into account the budgetary possibilities of both Parties.

4. ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY

4.1 The Nature and Environmental Education Unit (N(EE))

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

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

- introduction of and making acquaintance with the working of the (N)EE-unit service within Flanders, with Education for Sustainable Development as the frame of reference, and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and on ESD;
- making acquaintance in a profound way with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to secondary education and, if preferred, linked with one or more school visits; getting acquainted with the educational means;
- introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus-project, a new project to introduce environmental care in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management, student life), and, if preferred, linked with a visit to a university or an institution of higher education;
- introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on ESD in the formal education and informal or/and non-formal education; making acquaintance with examples of good practices how ESD can be introduced in (N)EE;
- site visit to one or more (N)EE-centres, linked with a Flemish nature reserve (coast, heath, ...), and to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

4.2 Waste Management

Both Parties are willing to exchange knowledge of support of awareness raising of municipalities and inhabitants in the area of waste management, particularly in separate collection of waste streams with emphasis on bio-waste, thermal recovery of wastes and support of secondary materials from wastes.

Taking into account the wishes / needs, the follow-up projects can be prepared:

- Awareness raising campaigns on support of separate collection of municipal waste, with emphasis on bio-waste;
- Education support activities of municipalities (mayors and delegates) in waste management;
- Site visit to one or more Flemish areas with best practices.

4.3 NATURA 2000

Both Parties are willing to co-operate in the field of the nature and landscape protection, namely through sharing experience in implementing the NATURA 2000 (exchanging information on the strategy, setting the conservation objectives, involving owners and users of the land, identifying the best economic tools).

4.4 Energy

Both Parties are willing to co-operate within the field of energy efficiency and international expertise in the following:

- energy efficiency improvement programmes;
- programmes in research and industry (theory and practical application) in the development and putting into effect of energy-efficient equipment and products;
- programmes for the improvement of the energy efficiency of buildings, including the development of district heating and cooling;
- renewable energy technologies.

4.5 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.

4.6 Expert exchange

Both Parties are prepared to invite, during the validity of the present program, a team of maximum 5 experts (fluent English required) for a period up to five working days within the frame of:

1. waste management
2. policy development, management planning and implementation of Natura 2000
3. the energy sector

in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts.

5. MOBILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Parties are willing to examine the possibilities to co-operate to the mutual benefit in regard to the mobility and public works.

Mobility and Road Safety Policy Division

- mobility and traffic safety – education and sensitizing regarding a better car use;
- promoting the desired traffic behaviour;
- information exchange in the field of road traffic safety.

Flemish side (the Mobility and Road Safety Policy Division) proposes two brand-new projects which have potential to serve as a test case for future projects:

“Centaurus” is an IT-based knowledge-platform for taxis and similar services which provide private transport of persons and who need a licence from the Flemish authorities. “Centaurus” provides a quick flow of information between different authorities on various levels of occupation and hierarchy. The end product is a swift service to get the usual administration done; the figures are kept as actual as possible. At the same time, “Centaurus” is an efficient prevention against fraudulent practices.

Road Database Traffic Signs (RDTS) is an on-line based data service based on GIS-technology. Fisheye pictures of the Flemish roads made it possible to develop an image and stock reports of all the traffic signs one can find on the road network. This project has been introduced through the European Rosatte Project and will help to improve policy:

- On traffic-sign management;
- GPS – management (avoiding stealth traffic);
- Traffic management in general (improving traffic safety).

5.1 Ports and Water Policy Division

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

- general policy on ports and Motorways of the Sea;
- greening of maritime transport (reduction of emissions, using LNG as a fuel for maritime shipping);
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulations;
- promotion of modal shift (shortsea shipping and intermodal connections);
- integrated multimodal logistics;
- logistics and logistics innovation;
- flood prevention and water management.

Both Parties are prepared to foster contacts between Latvian and Flemish ports.

5.2 Agency for Maritime Services and Coast

Sustainable management of the coastal area:

- Exchange of information about coastal protection and the balancing of coastal protection with environmental, economic and recreational objectives and about administrative and legal procedures and communication.

Hydro-meteo information:

- Exchange of information regarding the management of a hydro-meteo system off-shore and the drawing up of weather reports for the coastal zone.

6. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- 6.1.** Both Parties shall 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.
- 6.2.** The conditions for co-operation in the fields of science and technological innovation can be elaborated in a separate protocol, in case both Parties can reach an agreement.
- 6.3.** In the field of bilateral co-operation both Parties 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.
- 6.4.** As far as multilateral co-operation is concerned both Parties strive for joint participation of Latvian and Flemish researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development.

7. EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Both Parties shall continue the co-operation in the field of employment policy, social economy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy, social economy, vocational and entrepreneurial training.

Both Parties encourage the co-operation in the field of the European Social Fund (ESF) and they shall exchange information and know-how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.

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

The Flemish Party is ready to:

- Investigate, if in the country of the other Party workers can be found for Flemish bottleneck vacancies;
- exchange information in this respect and
- make bilateral agreements with the competent employment services of the other Party regarding the exchange and fulfilment of job vacancies.

The impact of the subject of this co-operation can in no way have a negative impact on the labour market situation of one or of both Parties.

8. CULTURE

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. When common subjects, of considerable present political 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.
- 8.3. 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. For example, the Toy Museum Mechelen will organise for its 30th anniversary a conference and exhibition with European partners, which could be of interest for the Latvian partner.
- 8.4. Both Parties are willing to co-operate in the field of culture and creative industries. They shall examine possibilities to exchange the knowledge and information, as well as to develop bilateral projects of common interests.
- 8.5. 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)

The Latvian Party wants to draw attention to the possibilities for writers and translators to enter the residence programme of the following organisations (participants should meet the criteria and pass the selection):

- International Writers' and Translators' House in Ventspils, (www.ventspilshouse.lv)
 - Culture and Arts Project "NOASS": contemporary arts projects in urban environment, (www.noass.lv).
- 8.6. 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 safeguarding of the intangible heritage of Latvia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Latvian Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

9. YOUTH

The work programme regarding Youth shall be discussed at the Youth sub-commission. This sub-commission meeting (for multilateral and bilateral co-operation) is meant to be

held in Riga before the end of 2011. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed afterwards.

10. SPORTS

Both Parties shall promote co-operation between the institutions of both countries in the field of sports through exchange of information, encouraging the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners.

Annually, both parties shall make a quota of fifteen (15) days available to provide athletes, trainers and policy-makers with the possibility to take part in apprenticeships, clinics, study trips and congresses and seminars in the field of sports in the other country.

11. YOUTH WELFARE

Both parties are willing to exchange information and promote co-operation in the field of youth welfare.

Agency for Youth Welfare:

Following themes could be of interest for an exchange of experience:

- Foster care;
- Alternative ways of implementation of punishment for juvenile offenders (focussed on rehabilitation/reintegration);
- Integrated assistance programmes for juveniles;
- Specific assistance programmes, in Flanders the YAR programme is extremely well perceived. YAR is a programme specifically focussing on juveniles between 15 & 21 years, with regular problems in many fields (criminality; education and employment; building of relations; attitude; sense of responsibility).

12. WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health and health care

Both Parties are willing to examine the possibilities to co-operate to the mutual benefit with regard to public health and health care.

Topics of interest (for Flanders) are:

- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Health economics
- eHealth

The Flemish Agency for Care and Health also proposes to use the European agenda and trends that may have an impact on our work.

Since Flanders is an active member of the European network of Regional and Local Health Authorities - EUREGHA, both Parties would be interested in regional and local co-operation. EUREGHA is a free and open network.

The Flemish Agency Child and Family (Kind en Gezin) is willing to exchange information, knowledge, experience, documentation and tools in the broad domain of the preventive healthcare and wellbeing of young children, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), target groups and social vulnerable families.

More especially, Kind en Gezin can provide information about selection procedures, training and evaluation instruments for childcare workers.

Kind en Gezin can also provide information about the organization of integrated early childhood preventive care (family/child centres).

Kind en Gezin 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.

Care for persons with disabilities

Both Parties shall promote co-operation between the institutions of both countries in the field of the care for persons with disabilities.

The Flemish Agency for 'Disabled People' remains ready to contribute to the organization of short visits of experts to Flanders in order to exchange information/experience in the fields of employment of disabled people and more in general the organization of the care for disabled people in Flanders.

The Ministry of Welfare of Latvia is interested in experience of Flanders on the development of criteria of work capacity determination for disabled persons - what kind of systems, schemes exists; how the system is functioning (normative acts, responsible and involved institutions, interdisciplinary co-operation), what kind of specialists are involved (capacity and qualification building of the specialists) what are the challenges of the system; persons with disability reintegration in society (employment opportunities).

13. EDUCATION

13.1 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.

Both Parties shall inform each other in an active way concerning important developments in educational policies: academic recognition of diplomas, initial teacher education and

further professional development, accreditation, sustainable higher education, international mobility.

13.2 Exchange of professors / teachers / experts / policymakers

The Flemish Party is willing to exchange its experience, know-how and best practices concerning

- the evaluation of quality of education and research;
- the development of the learning outcomes approach and the definition of these learning outcomes in order to contribute to the mobility of students.

Both Parties shall exchange annually two (2) experts / professors from a higher education institution / government for a study visit of seven (7) days (2 x 7 days) at most, in order to participate in seminars, symposiums, colloquia. This quota may be used to build a network of contacts and exchanges between institutions of higher education.

13.3 Specialisation scholarships

13.3.1. The Flemish Party offers the Latvian Party for each of the academic years 2011 – 2012, 2012 – 2013 and 2013 - 2014 one (1) scholarship for recognized postgraduate programs at higher education institutions. The applicants for scholarship awards should be in possession of a Master's degree at the time of commencement of the scholarship.

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

13.3.2. The Latvian party offers the Flemish Party for each of the academic years 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 one (1) scholarship for studies (up to 10 months) and one (1) scholarship for research (up to 9 months) at higher education institutions of the Republic of Latvia.

Information about the offered scholarships, application dead-lines and requested documents can be found on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia <http://www.izm.gov.lv> and the State Education Development Agency <http://www.viaa.gov.lv>. All information on study opportunities in Latvia (list of higher education institutions and study programmes taught in English is available on <http://www.aiknc.lv/lv/list.php>; www.studyinlatvia.lv.

13.4 Summer courses

13.4.1 Scholarships: “Dutch Language and Culture” summer course

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

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

A limited number of scholarships is available for these courses.

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

More information about the summer courses can be found on the website of the Dutch Language Union (NTU, Nederlandse TaalUnie):

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

and

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

13.4.2. Scholarships for participation at the international summer schools in Latvia

The Latvian party offers the Flemish Party each year during the validity of this Programme up to two (2) scholarships for participation at the international summer schools organized by higher education institutions of the Republic of Latvia.

Information about the international summer schools, application dead-lines and requested documents can be found on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia <http://www.izm.gov.lv> and the State Education Development Agency <http://www.viaa.gov.lv>.

14. TOURISM

- 14.1.** The Flemish Party shall exchange information on legislation and regulations concerning tourism, statistical information, the instruments used for measuring the effects of promotion actions, documentation and studies concerning the development of tourism.
- 14.2.** The Parties shall encourage the mutual exchange of tourism promotional activities and materials in the field of tourism.
- 14.3.** The Flemish Party shall encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and experts in the field of tourism.
- 14.4.** The Flemish Party shall stimulate the organisation of seminars, colloquia and workshops on tourism items that may be proposed by the other Party, in order to exchange ideas and experience.

15. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, HOUSING POLICY AND IMMOVABLE HERITAGE

The Latvian Party (State Inspection for Heritage Protection) and the Flemish Party (Urban Development Policy and Non-Movable Heritage) are willing to present each other their policy concerning immovable heritage. Subject to budgetary and staff constraints, a supplementary follow-up and further development of this proposal can be discussed on the occasion of meetings of competent intergovernmental organisations (Council of Europe, UNESCO).

As far as town and country planning and housing are concerned, the Flemish Party is willing to receive a Latvian delegation and give a brief presentation of the spatial planning or housing policy in Flanders.

16. CAPACITY BUILDING

Port Training

The Flemish Party offers to the Latvian Party the possibility to send experts to seminars in the field of Port training, organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center vzw) in the course of 2012 - 2014.

The Latvian Party shall present its candidates for these seminars. The participants shall be selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are to the account of the participant.

17. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

Both Parties will co-operate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices.

The concerned administrations are:

- for the Republic of Latvia: the State Chancellery, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the Public Administration institutions working in the field of public administration policy.
- for Flanders: the Public Governance department, The Flemish Agency for the Interior, the Government Personnel Agency, and other agencies or services that belong to the public governance policy field;

Possible items for future exchange activities include subjects in the fields of ICT tools and E-government, urban policy and relationships with local authorities and regulatory management.

The Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development will co-operate and exchange information about the following subjects: the organisation of local elections; local finances and local statistics; autonomous local enterprises; co-operation between local authorities; internal multi-level governance including scale and competencies; the relationship between central and local authorities; policy support and administrative control.

More specific and detailed topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the institutions, administrations and units at central and local levels, in accordance with their specific competences.

The Latvian Party and the Urban Policy Team of the Flemish Agency for the Interior and the Flemish Government Architect's Team of the Public Governance Department will exchange information and good practices concerning particular urban planning developments and instruments such as public participation and innovative institutional arrangements. Further to the previous collaboration with Latvian partners the concerned Flemish partners are particularly willing to co-operate with the Latvian project "RADI RIGU" in close relationship with academia and private partners from both Parties. Both Parties are willing to investigate the opportunity of two study visits (for delegations of maximum 5 participants with a maximum duration of 5 days) in both countries.

The Latvian School of Public Administration and the Flemish Department of Public Governance will investigate co-operation opportunities such as study visits or joint seminars.

Upon request from the Latvian Party the Flemish Public Governance department will provide the relevant information (including partners competent in the projects area) in order to elaborate specific co-operation projects.

18. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

18.1 Scholarships

The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.3 of this Programme shall be governed by the following general provisions:

The applicants should be aged not more than 35 years at the time of the application and should provide a proof of very good previous academic record. Applicants must be graduates of a Master's study programme at the time of commencing their visit.

The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the nominations and documents of the selected candidates and substitute candidates. Each nomination dossier shall contain completed application forms with compulsory attachments as required in the application form. In the case of Latvian candidates, all documents shall be drawn up in Dutch or English. In case of Flemish candidates, all documents that are not in Latvian must be translated into English. All translations must be officially certified.

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

The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.3 of this Programme shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

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

The Flemish Party shall cover:

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

The Latvian Party shall cover:

- a monthly allowance for students, which will be determined annually (in the 2011-2012 academic year this amount is 350,00 LVL for students of the bachelor, masters and 2nd level higher professional education programmes and 470,00 LVL for students of the doctoral study programmes);
- a fixed allowance (in the 2011-2012 academic year this amount is 20,00 LVL per day, including transport costs) and accommodation expenses (in the 2011-2012 academic year 120,00 LVL per month, excluding tax) for researchers.

The Latvian Party shall not cover all kinds of insurance and tuition fee at the study programmes, which are not financed from the state budget.

The application deadline for scholarships for studies and research is 1 May.

The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.4 (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

The Dutch Language Union shall inform the Latvian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and summer course about the selection by April 1st at the latest.

The organizational requirements concerning the submission of applications by Latvian candidates for participation in Dutch language and culture summer courses shall be subject to the rules laid down by the Dutch Language Union.

The Dutch Language Union shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 13.4.1, as well as their board and lodging, expenses for their participation in excursions organized within the framework of the course programme and their health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

Regarding the scholarships in accordance with Article 13.4.2 the State Education Development Agency shall inform the Flemish Party about the submission of applications by Flemish candidates for participation in international summer schools organized by higher education institutions according to the rules laid down by these institutions.

The Latvian Party shall cover tuition fee (participation expenses in the programme, accommodation, living, local transport expenses and field trip).

The application deadline for scholarships for participation at the international summer schools is 1 May.

18.2. Exchange of persons

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days as a maximum and at the invitation of the receiving Party) as determined in the present Programme shall be implemented according to the following criteria:

- a) The sending Party shall provide the receiving Party with the curriculum vitae, the letter of invitation and information on the goals and programme of visit as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the nominees concerned at least three (3) months in advance.
- b) The receiving Party shall confirm it is prepared to receive the nominees concerned six (6) weeks before their departure. The time of departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks beforehand.
- c) To be covered by the sending Party:
 - return international travel expenses incurred by its nominees.
- d) To be covered by the receiving Party:

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of EUR 37.00 per day (excluding transport costs) or EUR 50.00 per day (including transport costs);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

The above mentioned conditions do not apply to the exchanges or visits related to the topics in chapter 8. The precise conditions for these exchanges or visits shall be communicated by specific parties involved through the diplomatic channels.

In the Republic of Latvia the precise conditions shall be communicated by specific parties involved through the diplomatic channels.

18.3. Film

- To be covered by the sending Party: forwarding expenses.
- To the receiving Party: organisation costs.

18.4. Other conditions will be agreed on through diplomatic channels.

18.5. This Programme does not exclude the possibilities to organise other events or exchanges or to start new projects on which both Parties will agree.

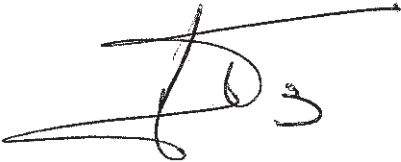
Both Parties shall agree on the conditions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. All disputes concerning the interpretation or realisation of this programme of activities shall be settled through negotiation between the Signatories.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission in Brussels in the first half of 2014.

Drawn up in Riga, on 28 June 2011, in two (2) original versions in English.

For the Government of Flanders

For the Government of the Republic of Latvia

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by a smaller 'L' and a final flourish.

Bart Laethem

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of connected, flowing letters.

Indulis Ābelis