

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

FOR THE YEARS 2009 - 2010

**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

The chairperson of the Flemish delegation welcomes the Croatian delegation and presents the members of the Flemish delegation:

Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs

Koen Verlaeckt	Secretary General, Chairperson of the Flemish delegation
Freddy Evens	Head of Foreign Affairs division
Gaston Pulinckx	Policy advisor, Foreign Affairs division, secretary of the Mixed Commission
Peter Van Heesvelde	Collaborator, Foreign Affairs division

Department of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media

Anne-Marie Croes	Policy advisor, Arts division
Gaetan Poelman	Policy advisor, International Cooperation Team
Arlette Thys	Policy advisor, Cultural Heritage division

Department of Mobility and Public Works

Pim Bonne	Engineer, Ports
Herwig Callebaut	Engineer, Airports
Wim Van Rompay	Collaborator, Flanders International Technical Agency
Robert Peeters	Policy advisor, Mobility and Traffic Safety

Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

Bart Van Impe	Policy officer, Interregional and Bilateral Environment Policy
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Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Gabriel Ysebaert	Engineer
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Department of Education and Training

Dirk Lapeirre	Policy advisor, International Relations
Johan De Witte	Collaborator, International Relations

Public Governance department

Jan De Mulder	Policy advisor International issues
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Department of Welfare, Public Health and Family

Karin Van Puyenbroeck	International policy coordinator
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Flanders Investment and Trade

Evelien Staelens	Area Manager
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Department of Economy, Science and Innovation

Carolien Ruebens

Policy advisor, Europe Economy

The chairman of the Croatian delegation thanks for the kind reception and presents the members of the Croatian delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Mrs. Maja Vrtarić

State Secretary
Chairperson of the Croatian delegation

Mr. Davorin Jelavić

Croatian Delegation Secretary

Mrs. Marija Vrdoljak-Domljanović,

First Secretary

Mrs. Mirela Cvitak

State Secretary Office

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

Mrs. Silvana Siebert

Head of Department for Bilateral Cooperation,
Directorate for International Cooperation and European
Integration

Ministry of Culture

Mrs. Jasminka Lokas-Strpić

Director, Directorate for International Cultural
Cooperation

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

Mrs. Lidija Mrkoci

Head of Department for International cooperation

Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management

Mrs. Marija Rajaković

Head of Sector for regional development and cross-
border cooperation

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Mrs. dr. Thihomira Ivanda

Head of the Minister's office

Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship

Mrs. Željka Mrkša

Head of the EU Project Preparation and
Implementation Section, Directorate for SME's

Mr. Sani Ljubunčić

Head of Department, Investment Promotion and Export
Directorate

Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure

Mr. Dražen Antolović

Head of Department, Directorate of Strategic
Infrastructure Objects

Mr. Miro Cvijin

Senior Adviser for International Affairs, Directorate for
Air Traffic

Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and Construction

Dr. Nenad Mikulić

Head of Sector, Sector for Environmental assessment and Industrial Pollution, Directorate for environmental management

Central State Office for Administration

Mrs. Miroslava-Nina Mišković

Head of Department for Local and Regional Self-government and Co-operation

Embassy of Croatia

Mr. Boris Grigić

Ambassador

Mrs. Srećka Betica Sršen

Minister Counsellor

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

1. ECONOMY

1.1. General framework for cooperation

Both Parties agree upon the importance of long-term economic relations, based on the co-operation in different fields.

Particular attention will be paid to cooperation concerning regional development policies and SME development.

1.2. Specific actions

The Flemish Party, i.e. the Agency for Economy of the Flemish government, proposes the following fields of expertise as topics for which it can guarantee a highly qualitative transfer and exchange of knowledge and information.

Regarding the execution of cooperation projects by project promoters, both Parties underline the importance of relevant European programmes and also the Flemish Cooperation Programme for Central- and Eastern Europe as a means of financing these projects.

1.2.1. General economic and regional policies concerning SME's

Both parties underline the importance of developing co-operation concerning SME's.

The Croatian side is interested in particularly for:

- exchange in experience for incentives in small and medium entrepreneurship;
- cooperation within the framework of European programs;
- cooperation with regional development agencies and business support institutions;
- development of cooperation in research and transfer of know-how, and

- cooperation in the field of education for entrepreneurship as a key competence in all levels of education – formal and nonformal.

Particular attention shall be given to:

- efficient instruments and means of financial support for companies;
- entrepreneurship (a.o. mentorship projects, promotion campaigns on entrepreneurship, strengthening business associations and networks...);
- efficient institutional support network for start-ups and growth SME's (a.o. access to finance, marketing, management, business conduct,...);
- advisory services to SME's;
- education for entrepreneurship – good practise exchange, curriculum implementation of entrepreneurship as a key competence, education of entrepreneurs – start ups, growth, specific target groups .

1.2.2. Regional development policy and the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF)

Both Parties shall transfer and exchange experience, knowledge, documentation and information on their activities in the field of regional development. The Flemish Party will present its experience in the field of Flemish sub regional economic policy and spatial economic policy.

Particular attention will also be given to the role of national (ex. given Objective 2) and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg IV) in the framework of the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). Both the management as the impact of ERDF programmes on regional development policies and projects in Flanders will be looked at. Also, with regard to the exchange of ERDF experience, a visit of a Croatian group of officials to the Agency for Economy will be organised.

Particular attention will be paid to innovative project results and/or -examples in view of the Lisbon Agenda/objectives and the mutual experience with SME participation in ERDF programmes and projects.

The Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia is interested in cooperation in the following areas:

- cooperation and exchange of experience between the regional development agencies of Croatia and Flanders;
- exchange of experience in creating innovative regions and the development of regional clusters;
- exchange of experience in monitoring and evaluation of measures for regional development.

1.2.3. Sustainable infrastructure and sustainable management of business premises

Particular attention will be paid to the results and outputs of a Flemish - European Union supported "Innovative Actions" project related to this issue.

1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme: PLATO mentorship projects

Particular attention will be given to PLATO mentorship projects. PLATO projects aim at professionalizing the management of small enterprises and enhancing networking between

enterprises. The strategy consists in setting up fixed groups of small enterprise managers with one or two counsellors to exchange experiences on a monthly basis during one or two years. The counsellors are executives from large companies or experienced self-employed persons who are gladly willing to put their experience at the disposal of other entrepreneurs.

1.3. Exchange of delegations

Both Parties are interested in the possibility of exchanging a limited group of experts and officials in the economic fields mentioned under 1.2 or other fields to be determined by common agreement.

This exchange will be aimed at transferring experiences, knowledge, documentation, work models and information on these fields as well as providing specific training.

2. FOREIGN TRADE

Both parties are committed to further enhance and support the trade relations between Flanders and Croatia.

Flanders Investment & Trade, the agency of the Flemish government that supports Flemish companies and in particular SME's in their international trade and also assists foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders, will do this by means of:

- pointing out trade opportunities on the Croatian market to Flemish companies;
- supporting Flemish companies that want to expand their business to Croatia;
- organising events related to Croatia, like seminars, trade missions, participations in trade fairs, etc.;
- supporting Croatian companies in their search for Flemish products and services, cooperation with a Flemish partner or investment opportunities in Flanders.

Flanders Investment & Trade uses for this purpose the services of the trade representative of the Brussels Region in Zagreb, who is also the contact person for Flemish companies as far as the Croatian market is concerned.

Flanders Investment & Trade works with an action programme, based on a regional strategy. This strategy is the result of a yearly discussion between FIT's domestic and foreign network and the main economic actors in Flanders. The strategy focuses on promising sectors in a certain market. As far as Croatia is concerned, this strategy is focused on the sectors building and environment.

In this respect FIT organised in 2008 an economic mission to Zagreb, was present with a catalogue stand on the fair GAST in Split and organised an invitation campaign of Croatian purchasers from the food sector.

Flanders Investment & Trade plans the following initiatives in the period 2009-2010:

- 2008
 - seminar on EU funds for Croatia (November).
- 2009
 - multisectoral trade mission to Zagreb (October);
 - catalogue stand and seminar on the environmental fair Emat (September).

- 2010
 - multisectoral trade mission to Zagreb;
 - catalogue stand on the building fair Building & Equipment (April).

Both parties are committed to exchange information regarding business opportunities and investment possibilities, as well as on incentives for foreign investors.

Ad hoc and on the request of the other party, both parties will exchange information about their respective markets and sectors and share their knowledge and experience.

The Croatian side will present to the Flemish party the legal framework for investment in the Republic of Croatia, as well as the new legal framework for doing business within free trade zones in the Republic of Croatia.

The Croatian side is interested in the organisation of a round table or seminar on the theme of investment incentive and internationalisation (Flemish Model vs. Croatian Model)

3. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Both parties are interested in cooperating in the field of agriculture:

- in the field of oil-bearing, albuminous crops and cereals
- modern management (with multilevel cooperation of research institutes and other interested parties) techniques in farming.

Both parties wish to cooperate in the field of horticulture:

- co-operation projects for the construction and modernisation of existing greenhouses;
- co-operation projects in the field of irrigation systems;
- visits by experts to farms that are specialised in outdoor vegetable growing and fruit trees;
- particular attention will go to cooperation in the field of plantations of trees and bushes.

Both parties will examine the possibilities to cooperate in the field of rural development. This cooperation should be elaborated in close cooperation with Flemish and Croatian research institutes, socio-economic organisations and Flemish and Croatian business community.

Both parties are prepared to, within their financial possibilities, share knowledge and experience within the field of production, processing and the sale of fruit, vegetables and fish. Both parties are prepared to do the same for the protection and production of plants.

Both parties shall create the opportunity to share knowledge and experience in the field of the foundation and functioning of producers organisations.

In addition *ad hoc cooperation* occurs on the basis of concrete questions, without necessity to incorporate it explicitly in a cooperation agreement or working plan.

4. ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1. The Environment, Nature and Energy Department is prepared to invite, during the validity of the present programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) for a period of five

(5) days within the frame of environment, nature and energy in order to exchange knowledge and to establish contacts with the Flemish actors.

- 4.2. The Nature and Environmental Education Unit (EE) is prepared to invite a delegation to introduce them within the (N)EE-working and -structure on the Flemish level in an active and interactive way.

Taking into account the wishes/needs, the (N)EE-unit can organise one or more days with the following interests:

- introduction of and making acquaintance with the working of the (N)EE-unit service within the Flemish policy and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and Education for Sustainable Development;
- introduction of and making acquaintance with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to higher education and, if preferred, linked with a school visit; getting acquainted with the educational means;
- introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus-project, a project to introduce environmental care in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management, student life);
- introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development;
- site visit to one or more (N)EE-centres and to a provincial EE-service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

- 4.3. Both parties are willing to exchange information, knowledge and experiences in the following fields:

- implementation of obligations in SEVESO directive (96/82/EC, Seveso II Directive and Directive 2003/105/EC);
- Implementation of obligations regarding the Liability Directive (2004/35/CE);
- reduction and control of VOC emissions for the activities prescribed in Directive 1999/13/EC and 2004/42/EC;

- 4.4. Protection of nature

In the area of nature protection Croatian side proposes cooperation between Flemish and Croatian Ministries responsible for nature conservation with an aim of exchange of experience in NATURA 2000 sites designation and management. The cooperation will include state institutions, responsible regional authorities as well as local landowners in the area of agriculture, forestry, building and NGO's.

5. TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1. Division Mobility and Traffic Safety

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

5.1.1. Education regarding the car use:

- promotion of equal alternatives for road traffic to the use of the car;
- revaluation of pedestrian and cycling traffic and not making (small) travels dependable on combustion engines.

5.1.2. Evaluating, improving existing infrastructure:

- permanent adjustment of the rational use of means to transport goods;
- rational use of modes of transport (balance between public and private transport, carpooling, car sharing, etc as well as mobility planning at different levels (by government and industry) and similar initiatives);
- integrated approach to public transport (intermodal transfer points between private and public transport);
- state of the art managing the public space in order to have an equal and balanced used for all participants/actors in daily traffic: pedestrians, people with reduced mobility capacities, the cyclists and powered two wheel users.

5.1.3. Reduction of the accident rate and the promoting of desired (traffic) behaviour:

- promoting the desired (traffic) behaviour and choices, such as adjusted speed, avoiding driving alone in a car, fighting/advising against drinking and driving, etc.;
- specific policy regarding road safety.

5.1.4. Actual Policy toward legislation/management concerning the environment:

- improving and managing of the balance between available space and (car) traffic (with a special interest for (city)areas with historical valued patrimony);
- exchanging and consulting of know-how about toll collecting, traffic pricing and other moneytairal techniques to curb congestional traffic in urban areas or as a mean to other achieve other goals.

5.1.5. General Policy toward legislation/management:

- permanent improvement / management of access to airports, ports and economic poles;
- freight transport measures (follow-up traffic safety and novelties);
- passenger transport measures (adjustments to infrastructure or traffic rules and follow-up novelties);
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation with regard to transport and mobility (Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) ...).

5.1.6. ITS/ computer/ High Tech:

- consultation with regard to cross border communication networks and exchanging interesting sources through the growing number of media channels and technical innovations;
- management of an internet site with public information:
 - o about laws and legislation;
 - o other relevant information about the authorities;
 - o in combination with linking to valuable information outside the strict institutional environment.
- information on the applications of the Geographic Information System, the organization of the studies and the measurements concerning traffic data, the road network, spatial planning;

- the development and use of mobility indicators for the policy-based and strategic research of passenger and freight transport on main roads and in metropolitan areas;
- exchanging information on the management of available 'in house' data and expertise.

5.2. Road and Traffic Agency

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

- 5.2.1. Coordination centre for all road construction works: all road activities are geared to one another within a certain region in order to avoid conflicts in space and time and to minimize obstructions for road users and adjoining people.
- 5.2.2. Development of an internet site for public use e.g. about road works and regulations, travel planners and other 'pre trip' information.
- 5.2.3. Road safety: how to make priorities – how to deal with unsafe locations – handbook of road safety – road safety inspections and audits.
- 5.2.4. PPP (Public Private Partnership) - applied for the construction of motorways or strategic constructions to improve mobility and to deal with missing links in the primary road network – dealing with contracting by result and risk management.
- 5.2.5. Road Data warehouse of the Agency: all kinds of data which can be geographically referred is stored and handled by one application and one interface. Application of the Geographic Information System for handling road and traffic related data.
- 5.2.6. Methods and materials for the control of the road condition.
- 5.2.7. The control of the overloaded lorries running on the motorways.
- 5.2.8. Traffic light and speed cameras.
- 5.2.9. Projects to improve the traffic circulation of public transport.
- 5.2.10. Telematics – network.
- 5.2.11. Exchange of information about expertise and knowledge.
- 5.2.12. Maintenance (general or winter) of roads.
- 5.2.13. Incident management: ensuring first aid services, emergency planning, also the hoisting of vehicles when blocking traffic during rush hour in urban areas.

5.3. Division Traffic Centre

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

- 5.3.1. The development and exploitation of traffic models for management purposes and for the application on traffic management; plans and emission measures by reducing redundant motor vehicle use

- 5.3.2. The application of measurement systems to collect traffic related information.
- 5.3.3. The use of instruments for dynamic traffic control on motorways and in metropolitan areas.
- 5.3.4. The organization of services related to traffic information.
- 5.3.5. The organization and working of traffic centres.

5.4. Division Ports and Water Policy

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

5.4.1. Exchange of information and experience:

- general policy on (inland)ports, dryports and waterways;
- the relation between inland navigation and the environment;
- integrated water policy and the implementation of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC on navigable waterways;
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulations;
- implementation of RIS Directive 2005/44/EC;
- policy in terms of regulation, operation, commercialisation and promotion of inland waterways;
- promotion of co-modality;
- logistics and logistic innovation.

5.4.2. Cooperation on port-related matters and shortsea shipping:

Both Parties are prepared to:

- foster contacts between Croatian and Flemish (inland) ports and dryports;
- establish favourable conditions for the generation of traffic flows between Croatia and Flanders through shortsea shipping;
- exchange information on shortsea shipping and Motorways of the Sea.

5.4.3. FITA (Flanders International Technical Agency) subordinated to the Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works, would like to invite a Croatian delegation in Flanders on the occasion of the mutual elaborated working visit in the frame of the SIGMA plan. As a consequence of the FITA trade mission to Croatia under the chairmanship of Minister President Kris Peeters in 2008, the Croatian River basins districts (especially for the Sava river) expressed their wish for a guided technical working visit in Flanders on the framework of the Flemish Sigma Plan and the elaboration of the River Basin Management Plans.

FITA proposes exchange of knowlegde about the the SIGMA plan. The following topics are subject to the programme:

- Flood control management;
- River basin planning;
- Implementation Water Framework Directive;
- Inland water transport.

5.5. Air transport from the regional airports

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

Croatian side is interested in cooperation between Croatian airports and small and regional airports of Flanders through:

- exchange of experience and support by the Flemish authorities (Division Regional Airports) in the field of airport management;
- exchange of experts and acquired experience in the administration in those airports;
- abetment in air transport between them;
- extending the potential of regional airports;
- the access / communication to airports is dealt with in paragraph 6.1.5.

5.6. Work visits

The Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia takes part in the preparation and realisation of road, highway, waterways, port, regional airport projects and sustainable transport. It is interested to exchange experience with the relevant institutions of the Flemish government.

Both Parties are prepared to consider receiving three delegations of maximum five (5) Croatian/Flemish experts for a period of five (5) days at the most in Flanders/Croatia to exchange information, training, documentation (including site visits to various locations to be determined) and knowledge about one or more of the aforementioned themes, according to their points of interest.

6. PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS

Both parties will co-operate in the fields of studying and preservation of monuments and sites. The responsible body for the Croatian side is the Ministry of Culture; for the Flemish side the "Vlaams Instituut voor Onroerend Erfgoed".

7. EMPLOYMENT

- 7.1. Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 7.2. 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, vocational and entrepreneurial training.
- 7.3. The Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment, vocational and entrepreneurial training within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.

- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. Within the framework of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Flanders, the joint project titled "Strengthening Social Dialog and Partnership at the Local Level" commenced during 2007, which, for Croatia performs the Government Department for Social Partnership. The Croatian side is interested that the cooperation between Croatia and Flanders in the area of social dialogue continues to strengthen and broaden.

8. SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Both Parties agree to align their cooperation in science and technology with the European Framework Programme for Research and Development.

For the Flemish Party the National Contact Point of the Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders (europrogs@iwt.be), will be the one stop shop.

For the Croatian Party the National Contact Points for FP7 will be in charge for the cooperation.

9. CULTURE

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. 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.

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.

Both Parties will encourage participation of experts at international meetings in the field of culture and art organised in Croatia and Flanders.

- 9.3. During the validity of the present Programme the Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) graphic designer for a working visit of two (2) weeks at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. Free accommodation shall be provided as well as a per diem of € 50,00.

During the validity of the present Programme the Croatian Association of Visual Artists is willing to receive one (1) Flemish artist for a working visit of two (2) weeks. Free accommodation will be provided as well as daily allowances in accordance with national legislation.

The Croatian Association of Visual Artists is willing to receive one (1) Flemish expert for contemporary art for a period of two (2) weeks to organise lectures and a workshop in

Croatia. Free accommodation will be provided as well as daily allowances in accordance with national legislation.

Both Parties will encourage co-operation between experts and institutions in all fields of visual arts and exchange of exhibitions. The financial terms of the realization of art exhibitions will be agreed directly between Croatian and Flemish institutions.

- 9.4. The Flemish Party shall receive one (1) Croatian translator at the Vertalershuis in Louvain for a period of 1 (one) month during the validity of the present Programme. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of € 1000.00.

Croatian authors also have the possibility to enter the writers-in-residence scheme of Het Beschrijf. Further details regarding the eligibility requirements and the registration procedure are available from the Ministry of Culture.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia is willing to continue to support the writers-in-residence programme. The Croatian Party will accept one (1) Flemish writer for the period of four (4) weeks. This writer shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of € 1000.00 (250 EUR/week).

The Croatian Party proposes direct cooperation between Croatian Festival of Short Story Zagreb and Passa Porta Festival- Het beschrijf.

The Croatian Party informs that the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia co-finances foreign publishing houses for translations and publications of Croatian authors in foreign languages.

- 9.5. Both Parties are willing to exchange four (4) experts in the field of cultural heritage – tangible and intangible (e.g. museums, folk culture) to analyse the possibilities to develop joint projects (e.g. in the field of the digitising of cultural 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 Croatia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Croatian Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

The Croatian Party informs that the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar was proclaimed as UNESCO's Category II Centre in 2007. The Centre offers possibilities to exchange experts and to organize international conferences and workshops.

10. YOUTH POLICY

- 10.1. During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall consider sending four (4) experts (civil servants and youth experts/workers) for a study visit of seven (7) days, to elaborate a youth strategy at all levels (local, regional and national) and to establish better co-operation between these levels.

- 10.2. During the validity of this action Programme, both Parties shall consider exchanging delegations of up to four (4) members (responsible civil servants and youth workers) for a period of seven (7) days at most. The objective is to elaborate the ideas of the youth policy framework of the Council of Europe as well as the Agenda 2020 by exchange of good practices. Both Parties will focus on priority themes like human rights, diversity, active citizenship, involvement and participation, empowerment, non-formal learning, voluntary work and information about youth.
- 10.3. Both Parties agree to send or to receive youth workers in view of participation in selected international (youth) events.

11. SPORTS

During the validity of the present programme, both Parties shall provide, each year, a quota of fifteen (15) days so as to enable coaches, athletes and decision makers to participate in work placements, study tours or congresses and seminars in the field of sport in the other country.

If sports federations are interested in closer cooperation, both Parties shall offer any useful support to realise this cooperation.

12. WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and expertise in the field of welfare/well-being, health care and care for the disabled.

12.1. General

- the general welfare/well-being policy, in particular scientific research regarding welfare/public health, quality management, inspection and monitoring, client consultation, co-operation between the public and the private sectors at the international, national, regional and local level;
- support to services and facilities.

12.2. Public Health & (Health) Care

- preventive health care policy (i.a. cancer prevention and screening programmes; suicide prevention; prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);
- co-ordination and monitoring of vaccination programmes and prophylactic of infectious diseases (i.a. fighting sexually transmittable diseases (e.g. HIV);
- planning, monitoring and subsidising of welfare and health facilities;
- primary health care and home health care;
- elderly care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes, and service flats;
- mental health care (e.g. residential and non-residential mental health care, integrated mental health care, psychiatric home nursing, patient consultation, non-residential psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, co-operation with justice);
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control), inspection and monitoring;

- inspection, counselling and treatment of complaints about environmental licences;
- management of the care insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from a long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- preventive health care for the young child (organisation and expertise): development, hearing screening, vaccination, breastfeeding.

12.3. 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 counselling services;
- voluntary work;
- co-operation with justice in the field of welfare and health care;
- family help, home care and 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 counselling, 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).

12.4. Care for persons with disabilities

- exchange of information, documentation and expertise concerning the different support services and other ways of supporting disabled people, as far as –from Flemish point of view- these support systems are being recognised and subsidised by the Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health and Family (PwD);
- exchange aiming at improving the quality of care;
- exchange in order to realise gradually deinstitutionalisation and to attain more personalised care and community living;
- exchange in order to agree on a commonly accepted definition on "PwD" in the European and international context;
- exchange in order to agree on a cross-border standardisation of assistive devices and special tools for disabled people;
- exchange, referring to the execution of international treaties and European directives;
- 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 policy);
- exchange of statistical data and results of scientific research in the field of policy for disabled persons.

13. EDUCATION

13.1. Exchange of information and documentation

During the validity of the present programme, both Parties will, at the request of the other Party, exchange relevant information on all types and levels of education, with a particular interest in advanced academic programmes for foreign students, in the exchange of experience regarding the implementation of the Bologna Declaration and in the challenge of "the Bologna process beyond 2010".

13.2. Exchange of professors / teachers / experts / policymakers

Both Parties shall exchange each year three (3) experts / professors from a higher education institution / government for a stay of seven (7) days (3 x 7 days) at most in order to participate in seminars, symposiums, colloquia or to build a network of contacts and exchanges between institutions of higher education or to encourage the co-operation of secondary schools.

These days can be used to exchange experiences concerning rationalizing and decentralizing the educational system, development of education for teachers and instructors, improving the quality and efficiency of education and equal access to education.

13.3. Specialisation scholarships

The Flemish Party offers for each of the academic years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 two (2) scholarships for recognized postgraduate programs (full-time programme of 60 ECTS credits) at higher education institutions of the Flemish Community.

The scholarships offered by the Flemish Party are valid for one academic year only. For a specialisation programme of two years, a new application needs to be made after the first year.

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/>.

The Croatian Party offers for each of the academic years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 two (2) scholarships for study period at postgraduate level (for one academic year) at public higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia.

13.4. Research Scholarships

Both Parties offer each other for the academic years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 annually six (6) months for research. On request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

13.4.1. Summer scholarships: "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course

In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in the Republic of Croatia, the Flemish Party shall annually offer the Croatian Party at least a number of scholarships for participation in the "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course, held either at the Hasselt University or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University. These three-week courses are intended mainly for students of the Dutch language and literature enrolled in Croatian public higher

education institutions. Applicants are expected to have a reasonable command of the Dutch language at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

The Dutch Language Union will send the "Dutch Language and Culture" brochure to all institutions where the Dutch language is instructed, also to the Belgian Embassy in Zagreb. The brochure (including the English version) can also be found at the web site of the Dutch Language Union:

www.taalunieversum.org/taalunie/summer_courses_in_dutch/

13.4.2. Summer scholarships: "Zagreb School of Slavic Studies (Croatian Seminar for Foreign Slavic Studies Students)" summer course

In order to promote the study of the Croatian language and culture in Flanders, the Croatian Party shall annually offer the Flemish Party two (2) scholarships for participation in the summer seminar of Croatian language, literature and culture - Zagreb School of Slavic Studies (*Croatian Seminar for Foreign Slavic Studies Students*), held in Dubrovnik.

Information on the Zagreb School of Slavic Studies can be found at the web site:

www.hrvatskiplus.org

14. TOURISM

Both Parties shall endeavor to encourage bilateral cooperation and exchange of information and experience between enterprises, organizations and other relevant institutions in the field of tourism.

The cooperation shall include following fields:

- education and training;
- eco-tourism;
- wellness;
- rural tourism.

15. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Croatian Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know how and best practices between the administrations. Contacts may be established between specialists in the fields of human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, regulatory management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities.

The Croatian Party is particularly interested in the formation and training of civil servants in Flanders at the regional level. Specific cooperation possibilities will be explored in the course of 2009. This initial exchange of information could result in a specific project as to be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

16. CAPACITY BUILDING

16.1. Port management

The Flemish Party (Department of Foreign Affairs) offers to the Croatian Party the possibility to send experts to the port training and port management seminars that are organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center) during the years 2009 and 2010. The Flemish Party will inform the Croatian embassy of the calendar of the seminars.

The Croatian 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.

16.2. College of Europe Natolin (Poland)

The Flemish Party (Department of Foreign Affairs) supports the College of Europe in Natolin by providing one year scholarships for candidates from its non-EU partner countries in South-eastern Europe.

The Flemish Party is prepared to provide an amount of 10.000€ as a contribution to the payment of a one year scholarship for one Croatian student to be selected by the College of Europe. The payment is made to the College of Europe that manages these scholarships.

17. PROJECT COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties confirm their willingness to continue their cooperation by means of projects in 2009 – 2010.

Both Parties will try to build on previously contacts and networks and concentrate on those sectors where cooperation provides a mutual advantage and may lead towards a win-win situation. The Croatian Party may inform the Flemish Party of the domains in which it would like to acquire specific support in the process of accession to the European Union. This information will be used by the Flemish Party during the selection procedure of the projects.

The Croatian Party will nominate a central contact point in order to coordinate projects submitted to the Flemish Cooperation Programme with Central and Eastern Europe. The tasks of the above mentioned contact point would be concentrated on contact coordination between all interested Croatian entities (ministries, self-government authorities, project beneficiaries) as well as on giving support and assistance in case of project application.

Both Parties will monitor the implementation (project proposals, information on procedures, cooperation between the partners ...) on a regular basis. The Flemish party may undertake a site visit to check upon the execution of the funded projects and welcomes the support the Croatian Party can provide for such site visits.

The Flemish Party annually launches a call for proposals. For 2009 a call will be launched and project proposals can be filed until 31 March 2009. A specific budget of a maximum of 700.000€

is reserved for cooperation projects with Croatian partners. The Flemish Party is willing to fund up to a maximum of 85% of the budget for projects within its budgetary limits. The other part must be borne by the Croatian partner(s) and/or the Croatian authorities.

All project proposals shall be evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures. During a bilateral meeting the projects proposed for funding shall be ranked and selected. Projects that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria are not taken into account.

For the year 2008 the following projects have been agreed upon by both partners to be proposed for funding by the Flemish government:

Projectnumber	Title project	Promotor
HR_08_004	Long life learning for Craftsmen	UNIZO Internationaal vzw
HR_08_006	STROSMERG	Innotek
HR_08_007	REDEEM	GREEN-Geel Regional Energy Efficiency Network
HR_08_001	Air quality Rijeka Port	ARCADIS Belgium nv
HR_08_002	SEFIK	Erkend Regionaal SamenwerkingsVerband West-Vlaanderen vzw
HR_08_003	ECO-COMPETITIVE	EURAPPEL VZW

Both parties commit themselves to monitor and support the execution of these projects, as well as the projects that were funded during previous years.

18. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

18.1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 13.3 and 13.4 shall be governed by the following general provisions:

- a) The applicants should be under 35 years of age, they must hold a master's degree or equivalent at the time of commencement of their scholarship and they must have an excellent academic record.
- b) The candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.
- c) By 1 April of each calendar year, the sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the candidates' completed scholarship application forms and other documents as specified in the application form. All documents shall be submitted in Dutch or in English in the case of Croatian applicants; Flemish applicants file one application in Dutch and two in English:
 - a detailed curriculum vitae mentioning the knowledge of languages;
 - a detailed study- or work programme which the applicant wants to pursue at recognized institution in the host country;
 - letters of recommendation and possibly also a letter of invitation or acceptance issued by the respective department of the receiving institution;
 - transcript of records.
- d) By 1 July of each calendar year, the receiving Party shall inform the sending Party whether the candidates have been accepted, and shall at the same time communicate to the sending Party the names of the institutions accepting them for study stays.

- e) The sending Party shall provide precise and detailed information about each scholarship holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks before the commencement of his/her stay.

18.2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.3 (scholarships for postgraduate programs) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- a) The sending Party shall cover the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.

- b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 840,00;
- enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Government, the maximum amount of which shall be determined annually (in the academic year 2008-2009 the maximum amount is EUR 540,00; 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 herself/himself);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In the Republic of Croatia:

- a monthly allowance of 1.500 kn to cover subsidized board and lodging in student's dormitory and student's restaurants;
- exemption from tuition fees;
- health insurance in accordance with Croatian legislation.

18.3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.4 (Research scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- a) The sending Party shall cover the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination in the receiving country.

- b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 800.00;
- a starting allowance of EUR 185,00 granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one month;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In the Republic of Croatia:

- a monthly allowance of 6.500 kn;
- health insurance in accordance with Croatian legislation.

18.4 The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.4.1 (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- a) The Flemish Party shall inform the Croatian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer course about the selection by 1 April at the latest.
- b) The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Croatian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer courses are specified by the Dutch Language Union (cfr. brochure).
- c) The Flemish Party shall cover:
 - the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 14.5.1 as well as their board and lodging,
 - expenses for their participation in excursions within the framework of the course programme
 - their health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation
- d) The Croatian Party will cover the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination.

18.5. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.4.2 (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- a) The Croatian Party will forward to the Flemish Party information about the Zagreb School of Slavic Studies together with Application Form by 1 April at the latest.
- b) Persons interested in participating at the Zagreb School of Slavic Studies can apply by filling out the application form and the questionnaire and by sending them to the School's address by 15th May at the latest.
- c) The Croatian Party will cover:
 - the enrolment fees;
 - board and lodging expenses;
 - other expenses in connection with the program.
- d) In Flanders:
 - the travel expenses to and from the place of study are to be covered by the nominees.

18.6. Exchange of persons

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days as a maximum and at the invitation of the sending 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.

In the Republic of Croatia:

- hotel accommodation;
- daily allowances in accordance with national legislation;
- transport costs within Croatian territory in accordance with the programme of stay.

19. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The provisions of the present Cooperation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that will be agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Both Parties will agree on the provisions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of the present Cooperation Programme shall be solved by negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Mixed Commission in Zagreb, in the first quarter of 2011.

Done in Brussels on October 23, 2008, in two (2) original copies in the Dutch, Croatian, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of different interpretations, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of Flanders



Koen Verlaeckaert
Secretary General of the
Flemish Department of
Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic
of Croatia



Maja Vrtarić
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
European Integration