

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE YEARS 2002-2004
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LITHUANIA

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LITHUANIA

Lithuania, May 17 - 2002.

The chairman of the Lithuanian delegation welcomes the Flemish delegation and presents the members of the Lithuanian delegation :

Lithuanian delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. R. Svedas,	Director of Economics Department, chairman of the Lithuanian delegation
Mr. G. Levickas	Economics Department Head of Development Assistance Division
Mrs. V. Umbrasienė	Economics Department Attache of Development Assistance Division Economics Department

Ministry of Interior Affairs

Mr. A. Grybauskas	Director of Regional Development Department,
-------------------	--

Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Employment and Vocational Training /Welfare

Ms. R. Žemaitytė,	Deputy Director of EU and International Relations Department
-------------------	---

Ministry of Environment

Ms. D. Paškonytė,	Senior Officer of Environment Strategy Department
-------------------	--

Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade

Mr. K. Masalskis,	Director of Industry and Business Department
Mr. R. Šėgžda,	Director of Trade Department

Department Science and Higher Education

Ms. E. Kasperiūnienė,	Chief Officer of International Programs Division
Ms. A. Širkaitė,	Chief Officer of International Programs Division

Lithuanian State Department of Tourism

Mr. Juozas Raguckas,	Deputy Director
----------------------	-----------------

Ministry of Health

Ms. G. Kriveliene,

Senior Officer of Public Health Division

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Mr. R. Rutkauskas,

Chief Officer of European Integration
Division

Preservation of Monuments

Mr. A. Jomantas,

Head of international Relations Service

State Department of Physical Education and Sports

Ms. K. Tiesnesyte,

International Affairs Head Officer

Ministry of Agriculture

Ms. L. Petrašiūnaitė,
Ms. L. Naujalyte,

Head of Division
Senior Officer of International programs
and Projects Co-ordination Division

Ministry of Culture

Ms. D. Dapšienė,

Head of International Relations and EU
Division

Lithuanian Embassy in Brussels

G. Stonys,

First Secretary

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

Flemish delegation:

Co-ordination department

Foreign Affairs administration

Mrs. D. Verstraeten,	director-general, head of the delegation
Mr. F. Evens,	head of division Europe
Mr. E. Schollaert,	assistant to the director, secretary

Welfare, Public Health and Culture department

Family and Social Welfare administration

Mr. J. Mostinecx,	director
-------------------	----------

Community Education and Libraries Division

Mrs. M.A. Van Hijfte,	assistant to the director
-----------------------	---------------------------

Culture administration

Mr. J. Leconte,	assistant to the director
-----------------	---------------------------

Environment and Infrastructure department

Waterways and Marine Affairs administration

Ms. A. De Vriendt,	assistant to the director
--------------------	---------------------------

AMINAL administration

Mr. P. Hemeryckx,	assistant to the director
Mr. B. Van Impe,	expert

Economics, Employment, Home Affairs and Agriculture department

Employment administration

Mrs. C. Costermans,	assistant to the director
---------------------	---------------------------

OVAM

Mr. H. Geerts,	head of division
----------------	------------------

Export Vlaanderen (Foreign Trade agency)

Mr. F. Van Eynde,	Flemish economic representative in Vilnius
-------------------	--

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

1. ECONOMY

1.1. In general

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

The co-operation shall be concretised by the exchange of knowledge and experience on the economic and regional development policy and on the use of modern management techniques.

Both Parties shall send documentation and information concerning the subjects mentioned above.

- 1.1.2. Both Parties shall investigate the possibility of exchanging experts in the economic fields to be determined by themselves.

1.2. Specific actions

- 1.2.1. Economic, industrial and regional policies

- 1.2.1.1. On the request of the other Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experiences on economic, industrial, regional and regional development policies.

Particular attention shall be paid to co-operation between the regions and also together with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes (Structural Funds, Interreg).

- 1.2.1.2. Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of officials of the administrations concerned (Economy, Regional Policy) in the field of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and knowledge concerning the following subjects :
- sustainable industrial development;
 - innovations in industry;
 - assistance associated business structures and other business support institutions (e.g. chambers of commerce, confederations, Euro Info Centres etc.).

- 1.2.1.3. Both Parties shall alternately organise seminars on the above mentioned economic subjects.

- 1.2.2. Regional Development policy

Both Parties shall exchange experience, knowledge, documentation, work models and information on their activities in the field of regional development. The Flemish Party shall put its experience at the disposal of the Lithuanian Party in the field of Flemish sub-regional economic policy and the Strategic Urban Economy Plan. Notably, the Flemish Party shall present the ideas regarding regionalisation to the Lithuanian partners, especially the practical evolution in :

- Flemish legislation on regional policy and its compatibility with European legislation;
- financing sources for regional support.

Both Parties shall include the issue of special economic areas in their co-operation (for instance industrial zones) and they shall exchange their experience about this.

The Lithuanian Party requests the support of the Flemish Party. for solving future needs for sustainable development of the Ignalina region (Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant zone).

1.2.3. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

1.2.3.1. Both Parties shall stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SMEs.

1.2.3.2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts between Lithuanian and Flemish SMEs.

1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme : godparenthood projects

Both Parties shall exchange experience and knowledge in the field of godparenthood projects.

Godparenthood projects aim at professionalizing small enterprises and enhancing networking between enterprises.

The strategy consists in 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.

2. FOREIGN TRADE

2.1. The Flemish Party (Export Vlaanderen, i.e. Flanders-Export Promotion Agency) shall continuously promote trade relations with the other Party and has a Flemish economic representative to this end in Vilnius, who is responsible for Latvia and Lithuania. Throughout the year this representative shall be at the disposal of Lithuanian entrepreneurs who are looking for high-quality goods and services from Flanders. This representative shall return to Flanders at least once a year to discuss trade opportunities in Lithuania with interested Flemish business people.

If requested by the Lithuanian Party, the Flemish Party will provide support (know-how and experience), for the establishment of a Lithuanian business representation in Brussels.

2.2. Both Parties shall organise economic seminars and missions whenever there is an opportunity to do so. In economic missions or requests for information the active participation shall be asked of professional associations and all parties that may be involved.

2.3. Both Parties shall actively exchange - ad hoc and at the request of the other Party - information concerning their respective markets and sectors, their experiences with and

know how of export promotion, as well as proposals for co-operation between enterprises.

- 2.4. Both Parties shall actively assist each other in the matchmaking between companies whenever there could be a mutual interest.
- 2.5. Both Parties shall be actively involved in focussing the attention of their companies to Lithuania and Flanders through articles, business proposals, announcements of events, etc.

3. AGRICULTURE

On the conditions of financing possibilities, the Flemish Party is willing to share their knowledge and experiences with the Lithuanian Party in the field of farming, animal breeding, plant-growing, horticulture and fishery according to EU requirements; the education of farmers, rural people, agricultural advisers; close collaboration with different commercial firms in the field of agriculture; distribution of material

Important issues to be addressed in this co-operation are:

- . implementation of new technologies in pig-breeding;
- . implementation of EU regulations on organic farming and agri-environment in particularly the development of bio-seed production according to EU requirements;
- . organisation and implementation of farmers' training;
- . development of competitive flax farms in Lithuania;
- . modernisation of small fishing vessels;

The Lithuanian Party requests information from the Flemish Party about coastal fishery firms, ship repair yards for coastal fishery, design bureaus for that type of vessel, etc.

4. ENVIRONMENT

Both parties are prepared, on the condition of certain financing possibilities and insuring that there is no overlap with on-going projects, to co-operate in the field of environment on the following issues:

4.1. Environment

- 4.1.1. The Waste management Agency for the Flemish Region (OVAM) is prepared to co-operate in the field of waste management problems and soil decontamination;
- 4.1.2. The Lithuanian Party express their interest to co-operate in the field of management and protection of protected areas.
- 4.1.3. The VLM, Support Centre GIS-Flanders and the Ministry of Environment want to co-operate on the generation of an ecological forest species (forest main species) data set (EFSD) and development of a semi-automated forest change detection system.
- 4.1.4. The Flemish Party is prepared to invite in the first half of the year 2003, a delegation of specialists (5 senior managers, fluent English required) in the sectors of waste, soil decontamination, water, nature and environmental impact assessment or forestry for 5 days in Flanders, in order to exchange know-how and to establish contacts with the Flemish actors in these fields.

- 4.1.5. The Cell-EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) is prepared to co-operate with Lithuania on granting technical assistance in the field of EIA-practice (process, methodology).

4.2. Spatial Planning

- 4.2.1. The Lithuanian Party express their interest to co-operate in the field of spatial planning and urban development (about methodology, procedures and legal basis).
- 4.2.2. The Flemish Party (Planning Group, Bruges) is willing to put its experience in the field of town planning and mobility at the disposal of the Lithuanian Party.

4.3. Interdisciplinary co-operation

Where wanted and applicable the interdisciplinary co-operation between the fields of infrastructure and environment will be encouraged, more particularly in the field of e.g. environment impact assessment.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1. Road Traffic

The Flemish Party is willing to receive a delegation of six (6) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, in function of the interesting points, information, formation and documentation (including on-the-spot inspections on different locations):

- Traffic plans with loops, one way traffic.
- Mobility plans and mobility agreements
- The creation and the functioning of a Flemish Traffic Centre; traffic management by the federal police (for example blockdriving and a road side emergency telephone network).
- The draw up and interpretation of multimodal traffic models.
- Variable message signing and traffic monitoring, movable road information devices, the co-ordination of traffic lights control, priority measurements for public transport in road traffic (traffic lights influencing)
- The development of an internet site on road construction works and traffic regulations.
- The development of Intranet and CD-Rom applications about road markings at road works areas and related to road signs
- Information about GIS (Geographic Information System), the organisation of traffic census inquiries and traffic measures, the application of digital image processing (video cameras) for traffic management; RDS-TMS-systems.
- Information about projects on controlled access, the introduction of an alternative merging system to join the traffic on traffic lanes, the construction of roundabouts and speed reducing designs, measures on carpooling, the construction of cycle tracks and footpaths, the construction of car parks.
- Cycle tracks management.
- Facilities for disabled people.
- Road safety measurements in school areas.
- Information about road safety in general: traffic safety and communication with road users, road safety education in schools, road users awareness rising and main research methods.

- The cleaning and maintenance of roads; controlling methods and -materials for screening the road quality.
- The role of emergency repair service to remove the results of emergencies as well as the principles of the organisation of their work.
- A temporary (on peak hours) overtaking prohibition for trucks on certain motorways.
- Noise reducing barriers on motorways.

At the request of the Lithuanian Party, the Flemish Party is willing to assist them in providing expertise within the following fields and under conditions to be agreed upon later:

- Safety audits of existing roads, as well of projects audits, collecting data about road accidents and set up of a data base including the required activities for analysing the causes of road accidents.
- Introducing of technical safety measures on urban and non-urban roads.
Organizing a technical specialised visit (training) for three (3) experts for the implementation of the last technological realisations in the field of traffic management in Flanders (telematics in road management, multimodal information centre and video processing techniques) for staff members of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lithuania – Lithuanian Road Administration.
- Providing expertise in different areas to the officials of the Ministry of Transport and Communications among other things in the preparation of the law on road safety and the road safety programme with a view to the year 2005, the arrangement of the Lithuanian law concerning the regulation of the public road transport, related to the E.U. requirements.
- Co-operation in road safety communication and information methodology sharing, and expertise and co-operation in road safety education and research planning.
- In connection with the utilisation of the public urban and interurban transport, the following expertise can be put at the disposal:
 - data communication between vehicles and the fixed installation as a combination between radio, GPS and devaluation systems.
 - the integrated exploitation and information systems with, in the near future, travel information derived from those systems will be available on the Internet.
 - the construction of intermodal transfer points with in particular the combination of bus- and railway stations and P/R.

5.2. Waterways and Marine Affairs

5.2.1 Both parties shall exchange information and experiences concerning:

5.2.1.1 Port management and maritime policy

- regulation on handling of dangerous goods in port areas;
- regulation for maritime transport (state control, navigation safety);
- development of a “Global Marine Distress Safety System” (GMDSS);
- strategic port planning.

5.2.1.2 Infrastructure and hydrotechnical works

- design and construction of port infrastructure;
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging works in the ports;
- design and execution of hydraulic works (construction of environmental-technical dikes);

- water control and fight against floods;
- recycling building materials for hydraulic works;
- maintenance of waterways, dredging works, treatment and storage of dredged material;
- development of a "Hydro Meteo System".

To this end, two (2) Lithuanian and two (2) Flemish officials shall be invited to Flanders and Lithuania respectively in order to exchange their knowledge about one or more of the above-mentioned subjects.

5.2.2 The Flemish Party is prepared to further finance the project "Strengthening the Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Eastern Baltic Sea" by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in collaboration with the Department of International and Comparative Law, Vilnius University. The results of this study will be communicated to the Lithuanian Party.

5.2.3. Both parties shall co-operate in port related issues by

- providing mutual support on the occasion of exhibitions and seminars, among others;
- promoting the ports of both parties;
- attending and promoting commercial contacts.

5.2.4. The Hydraulics Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Flanders is willing to make new contacts with administrations and scientific institutes of Lithuania in order to develop co-operation programmes in one or more of the following study areas:

- hydraulic and hydrological studies by means of physical and mathematical models;
- port engineering and planning, maritime access channels and dredging works;
- environmental studies concerning environmentally friendly engineering structures along waterways;
- nautical studies and training by means of a navigation simulator and towing tank

5.2.5. The Flemish Party will investigate the possibility to:

- offer the Lithuanian Party five (5) scholarships of ten days (10) each for a training programme APEC (Antwerp / Flanders Port Training Centre) concerning port management;
- finance the studies of Lithuanian post-graduates in the field of hydro-technical construction;
- offer short-term training courses for operators of Klaipėda sea-port traffic service operators as well as support in the preparation of normative acts regulating the work of the above operators,
- finance the project "Economic impact study for the Lithuanian shipping sector".

6. PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS

6.1. During the validity of the present programme both Parties shall exchange information regarding monuments and landscape preservation at the request of the other Party.

6.2. During the validity of the present programme both Parties shall each exchange (2) experts in the preservation of monuments for one (1) week.

- 6.3. The Flemish Party is willing to participate in the start-up of a European project to restore the carillon of Kaunas. To this end the Flemish Party will have a technical expert's assessment and an estimate of the cost drawn up.

7. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- 7.1. Both parties will co-operate in the field of employment and professional training. They can exchange information about labour market, regulations, employment policy, legislation, statistical data and other information about employment and professional training.
- 7.2. Both parties will encourage contacts between both their public and private institutions which are specialized in the fields of employment and professional training.
- 7.3. On request of the Lithuanian party, the administration of Employment will receive a Lithuanian delegation (3 to 5 persons) in the course of **2002- 2003**. In order to organize this visit the Flemish party expects a request of the Lithuanian partner concerning the specific topics and themes they are interested in.
- 7.4. Both parties will further the co-operation in the field of the European Social Fund (ESF) and will exchange information and know how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.
- 7.5. The Flemish administration of Employment will support in different ways the projects concerning employment and vocational training which are approved in the framework of the Co-operation Programme with Central and Eastern Europe.
- 7.6. The Flemish administration of Employment will act as a facilitator for a possible co-operation with every actor and network working in the professional training, the labour market and the employment policy.

8. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Both Parties shall stimulate co-operation with regard to municipal policy.

To this end, they shall further all useful contacts between city councils and municipal councils and forms of co-operation between municipal councils and other local authorities.

Special attention shall be paid to:

- co-operation between municipalities;
- the organisation of local administrative policies;
- local public service;
- the exchange of experts.

The Lithuanian Party shall stimulate contacts through the Ministry of Interior, Regional Policy department.

The Flemish Party shall stimulate contacts through the Flemish Home Affairs Administration (and, when possible, through the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities).

9. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

- 9.1. Both Parties will examine in what way they can co-operate more closely in the context of the European Research Area, both at the level of research institutions and teams and at the level of research, technological development and innovation policy.
- 9.2. Co-operation in the field of science, research and technological innovation can be regulated by a special agreement, should the Parties agree to do so.
- 9.3. With regard to bilateral co-operation, the Parties shall encourage and facilitate, on the basis of mutual benefit, exchanges and co-operation in the field of research, technological development and innovations. Both Parties will provide appropriate opportunities for contacts between scientific institutions and organisations, research institutes, companies, universities and science and innovation administrations.
- 9.4. With regard to multilateral co-operation, both Parties shall aim at the joint participation of Flemish and Lithuanian researchers in the Sixth European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.
- 9.5. Exchange of researchers/experts/policy makers

During the validity of the present programme both Parties could exchange researchers from research institutions, experts or policy makers for short visits (not exceeding 7 days) in order to prepare and implement joint research projects, to share the experience and discuss the reforms of the science and research system following the implementation of the aims of the European Research Area and the bilateral cooperation. The financial conditions stipulated under the general and financial conditions for exchange of individuals will apply for these visits.

- 9.6. Both Parties express their interest in developing contacts between research institutes in the priority fields of both countries.

10. CULTURE

10.1. Literature

- 10.1 .1. The Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) translator from Lithuania at the Vertalershuis in Leuven for a period of one (1) 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 1.240 €.

10.1.2. Flemish day at the Vilnius Book Fair 2004

- 10.1.2.1. In order to prepare a Flemish day on the occasion of the Vilnius Book Fair 2004, the Flemish Party is willing to send in 2002 and 2003 three (3) members of the Flemish International PEN-club and one (1) Flemish civil servant to the above mentioned Book Fair.

In this regard, writers and civil servants will visit the Book Fair and will have meetings with representatives of the academic and literary world of Lithuania.

Excerpts of their works, translated into the Lithuanian language will be presented and discussed during the readings at the Book Fair.

Contrary to the usual financial arrangements the Flemish Party is exceptionally willing to cover all costs related to the visits.

- 10.1.2.2. The Flemish Party in co-operation with the Lithuanian Party will organise a Flemish day at the Vilnius Book Fair 2004. This project will consist of a general and literary presentation of Flanders and will focus on one or more Flemish writers, together with one or more Flemish novels.

The Flemish Party will examine the opportunity to present one or more Flemish artists in the fields of music and/or performing arts on the occasion of the Vilnius Book Fair 2004. The Flemish Party will cover the travel costs and daily allowances of the Flemish artists. The costs of translation will be carried by the Flemish Party.

10.2. Performing arts

The Flemish Party is willing to send a small dance ensemble of six (6) people at most to Lithuania for a period of five (5) days at most during the validity of the present programme.

10.3. Music

- 10.3.1. The Flemish Party is prepared to send a small music ensemble (trio or quartet) to Lithuania, during the validity of the present programme, for a concert tour of five (5) days at the most.
- 10.3.2. The Flemish Party is willing to send two (2) experts in the field of music for a maximum of three (3) weeks during the validity of the present programme. The number of experts may be changed, provided both Parties agree to this and the total number of forty-two (42) days is not exceeded.
- 10.3.3. The Flemish Party is willing to receive the music ensemble "Musica Humana" from Lithuania to give two (2) concerts in 2002 in Brussels and in Brugge. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements the Flemish Party will cover the costs of stay and the full fees of the musicians as well as the costs of renting the concert halls.

10.4. Plastic Arts and Museums

- 10.4.1. During the validity of the present programme both Parties are willing to exchange two (2) experts in the field of plastic arts, architecture, design or museums for a period of seven (7) days each during the validity of the present programme.
- 10.4.2. During the validity of the present programme both Parties are willing to exchange two (2) plastic artists for a visit of ten (10) days at most. If the Lithuanian artists are graphic designers, the Flemish Party shall receive them at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee.
- 10.4.3. Both Parties will exchange information about museums, the existing museum legislation/regulations, conditions for subsidies and funding, museum guides, initiatives in the field of the preservation of collections, architecture, and the report of the EMAC conference.

10.5. Media and Film

The Flemish Party aims at a fruitful co-operation in the audio-visual field and thinks that international organisations such as 'Audiovisual Eureka' and the 'European Audiovisual Observatory' are the appropriate bodies to stimulate such co-operation.

In particular, the Flemish Party also takes an interest in mechanisms of stimulation for spreading audio-visual works from areas with little productive capacity and/or limited language regions.

The Flemish Party calls for the exchange of information with regard to film festivals.

10.6. Non-formal adult education

The Flemish Party proposes to develop a training programme for people responsible for non-formal education in mutual consultation. During the validity of the present programme the Flemish Party shall receive each year four (4) people for a period of ten (10) days at most for a specific training programme.

Possible themes are: detecting needs in adult education programmes (acquiring an insight into the needs of learners or future learners), creating partnerships between providers of adult education, developing a culture of learning, increasing the provision's accessibility, activities with immigrants, the role of the support centres, volunteer work, and so on.

A good command of French or English is required. In preparation of these training programmes both Parties shall first of all exchange a delegation of three (3) people at the most (at least one of whom is a civil servant) for seven (7) days.

10.7. Popular culture

Both Parties shall exchange for four (4) days two (2) people who are expert in the research of popular culture, in order to become acquainted with the structure, specialist fields and operation of the ethnological research institutions and to examine the possibilities of joint projects and co-operation with regard to the development of web-guides on European ethnology.

10.8. Public libraries

The Flemish Party suggests to develop a training programme for experts in the library sector in mutual consultation, with an eye to supporting the promotion of expertise in Lithuania.

- The Flemish Party shall each year receive three (3) experts for an apprenticeship of seven (7) days in Flanders.
- A good command of French and English is required.
- Each year three (3) Flemish experts shall go to the partner country for seven (7) days in order to organise a training programme.
- Both partners shall commit to exchanging and promoting 'best practices' in both countries.

10.9. Amateur arts

The Flemish Party proposes to develop projects in the field of amateur arts in mutual consultation. In this context it has in mind sponsorship projects, the exchange of knowledge and experience, training and apprenticeship programmes, the exchange of groups, and the exchange of publications, documentation and information.

The Flemish partner suggests that – in preparation of these projects - both Parties exchange three (3) people that are expert in the field of amateur arts for four (4) days, so as to examine the possibility of these joint projects.

11. HEALTH CARE

- 11.1 . Both Parties are prepared to co-operate in the field of health promotion and prevention activities of their public health systems. They will exchange information and experience in the field of health promotion, disease prevention and management of the health care.

Special attention will be given to preventive, social and psychotherapeutic actions for youngsters in risk and drug addicted persons. A delegation of four (4) Lithuanian senior civil servants will be invited by the Flemish Party to study how the Flemish health system is dealing with it. They will receive information about the daily care centres and residential centres

- 11.2. Both Parties will exchange information, documentation and experience in the field of elderly and senior citizens care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes and apartments for the elderly and service flats to avoid long-term care in hospitals.

12. YOUTH

The co-operation and the co-operation programme concerning Youth will be discussed at the subcommittee Youth.

13. SPORT

- 13.1. Both parties will set aside each year a quota of twenty (20) days to create the opportunity for athletes, trainers and policy makers in the other country to participate in trainings, clinics, conferences and seminars in the field of sports.
- 13.2. Both Parties will encourage the exchange of information about sports policy, services and structures between governmental and non-governmental sports organisations.

14. WELFARE

Both parties will exchange information, documentation and experience in the field of welfare and social services, especially in the fields of:

- general welfare policy, in particular scientific research, the quality system, inspection and monitoring, client consultation, co-operation between the public and the private sector on the regional and local level

social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, integration of migrants in society, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies and children's rights

- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional care units, crisis care and urgent shelter, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim support family help and home care
- child and youth care particularly in youth protection, special youth assistance, residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care, mediation and conciliation
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care voluntary work.

15. EDUCATION

15.1. Exchange of information and documentation:

During the validity of the present programme, both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange all required and useful information regarding all types and levels of education. The Flemish Party is particularly interested in receiving information about the structure and organisation of education and the educational provision. It is also interested to exchange information about the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, the development of an accreditation system and the adaptation of education (organisation, structure . ..) to this.

15.2. Higher education

15.2.1. Exchange of professors/teachers/experts/policy makers

During the validity of the present programme both Parties shall exchange each year two experts or professors from a higher education institution or authority for a visit of 7 days at most in order to discuss the educational reforms following the implementation of the Bologna Declaration and other issues related to higher education and science.

15.2.2. Specialisation scholarships

The Parties shall annually provide specialisation scholarships for periods of studies of 4 to 10 months for the total duration of 20 months for the academic years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. The scholarships shall be available for postgraduate students who intend to obtain a degree at their home university.

The Parties shall inform each other about the scholarships offered within the framework of this programme and submit application forms not later than November 15 of each calendar year. Candidates shall be selected by the country of origin. The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party a list of candidates and all respective materials comprising the documents required in the application forms of the receiving Party including, in particular, a detailed curriculum vitae, a detailed plan of activities, a list of publications, and a letter of acceptance of the university. Each application shall be submitted for approval to the host Party. The sending Party shall present its candidates each year before 15 March. The host Party shall inform the sending Party before 1 July whether the candidates and/or learning programmes have been approved.

The sending Party shall provide exact information about the arrival of the scholarship students at least three (3) weeks in advance.

15.2.3. Summer scholarships

- 15.2.3.1. The Flemish Party shall provide to the Lithuanian Party each year two summer scholarships for the “Dutch Language and Culture” summer course, which will be organised either at the Limburgs Universitair Centrum in Hasselt Diepenbeek or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University.. The three-week courses are above all intended for Dutch language and literature students at the Lithuanian institutes of higher education. The candidates are expected to have a reasonable command of Dutch at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

Since 2000, the scholarships for the Dutch Language and Culture summer course have been allocated by the Nederlandse Taalunie (i.e. Dutch Language Union) in co-operation with the Flemish organisers. The spreading of the candidates over the two centres is the responsibility of the Dutch Language Union, which means that the spreading no longer takes place according to the country of origin. The Flemish Party draws the attention to the new registration procedure for the summer courses: the candidates for the summer course are to send their application or registration form, initialled by their Dutch language teacher, directly to the Higher Education Administration before February 1. The Dutch Language Union will select the most suitable candidates among the submitted applications by the end of March. Students have to confirm their registration by May 1. The Flemish Party shall communicate to the Lithuanian Party information about the selected candidates indicating their names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail and home university etc. before May 15 at the latest.

The Dutch Language Union will send the brochure entitled “Dutch Language and Culture” to all institutions where the Dutch language is instructed. The brochure (the English version as well) can also be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union: www.taalunie.org.

- 15.2.3.2. The Lithuanian Party shall annually offer two scholarships for 1 month's summer language and culture courses organised by Vilnius University or Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. The courses shall be offered on beginners, intermediate and advanced level and shall be intended for students, teachers and scientists of higher education and research institutions of Flanders.

Flemish candidates for the summer language and culture courses in Lithuania will be nominated by the Flemish Party before March 1 of each calendar year. The sending party nominating its candidates shall submit all the documents required in application forms of the receiving Party. The nominated Flemish candidates shall be subject to the approval by the Lithuanian Party. The Lithuanian Party shall inform the Flemish Party of the approval by June 1 at the latest.

16. TOURISM

- 16.1. The Flemish Party will provide information about hotel classification. The Lithuanian Party will study the documentation and two (2) Lithuanian specialists in hotel classification will be invited to Flanders for a study visit of up to three (3) days.
- 16.2. Both Parties will exchange information about tour operators in their respective markets who have a special interest in organising tourist trips to the partner country.

- 16.3. Both Parties will facilitate the contacts between Flemish and Lithuanian companies that are active in the domain of maritime tourism.
- 16.4. The Flemish Party will stimulate the organisation of seminars, colloquiums and task forces concerning topics of interest to one of both parties.
- 16.5. Both Parties will strive to present more information about its respective country to mass media. Both Parties will receive two (2) journalists active in the field of tourism for a study visit of up to five (5) days.

17. CAPACITY BUILDING

17.1. College of Europe in Natolin

The Flemish Party will offer a contribution of €10.000 to a postgraduate scholarship for one (1) Lithuanian student at the College of Europe in Natolin (Warsaw) during the academic years 2002-2003, 2003-2004.

The selection of the student will be effected by the college of Natolin in concertation with the competent Lithuanian authorities.

17.2. Port Training

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

The Lithuanian Party will present its candidates for these seminars. The participants will be selected by APEC.

The Flemish Party covers the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are to the account of the participant.

17.3. Training of diplomats

The Flemish Party is willing to support the capacity building of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through sending two experts in EU matters, economic and/or political issues, to teach courses to young diplomats.

17.4. Training of customs officers

The Flemish Party is willing to provide training for Lithuanian port customs officers in Flanders.

17.5. Interregional co-operation

The Flemish Party will provide, through sending of experts, assistance to the Lithuanian Party to acquire expertise in the field of developing projects for regional, interregional and cross-border co-operation.

18. **AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE FUTURE COLLABORATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

Both Parties agree on extending their co-operation by means of mutually supported projects.

The Flemish Party proposes to put at the disposal of the Lithuanian Party the expertise and experience present in Flanders in these following priority fields: SME-development, employment, structural funds, regional co-operation, agriculture, environment, ports and capacity building, administrative competence, management, ..

The Lithuanian Party wishes to collaborate preferably in the fields of vocational training and education, regional employment, development of the administrative competence of local authorities, environment, economic development, health care, waterways and marine affairs, in order to assist the country to meet the requirements demanded of the country to make its entry in the EU.

In accordance with the new Flemish policy towards Central and Eastern Europe, central contact points have been designated in Flanders and in Lithuania in order to collect and select project proposals and to transmit them to the respective contact point.

All the proposals have been evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures.

The Parties agree that members of the Flemish and Lithuanian contact points have regular meetings, alternately in Flanders and in Lithuania, aiming to review the procedure of the handling of project proposals and to examine the execution of the projects already approved, in co-operation with the representatives of the competent Flemish Administrations and Lithuanian ministries.

For the year 2002, the following projects have been registered :

Project number	Project title	Co-ordinator	Requested budget
LIT/00 1/02	ORIST	Eurogen vzw	97.899,00 EUR
LIT/002/02	LIT-REDS	Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen	268.308,97 EUR
LIT/003/02	Mother-baby care	SAMCOE vzw	76.227,21 EUR
LIT/004/02	EDVET	Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven	346.000,00 EUR
LIT/005/02	Public Transport in Kaunas as mobility-priority	BCE Networks vzw	165.390,00 EUR
LIT/006/02	The 'HARVEST' project	/Pro Mente vzw	104.759,59 EUR
LIT/007/02	Communicating XXI	KUB, Faculteit Pol & Soc (CSC)	152.524,00 EUR

LIT/008/02	Rural Tourism in Lithuania: practice hotel	Horeca Management and	118.938,00 EUR
LIT/009/02	Platform for PPP building in Lithuania	Business Mobility International	142.410,00 EUR
LIT/010/02	Q-MATEX	RUG, Department of Textiles	213.577,00 EUR
LIT/011/02	Strengthening of SMB associations	CMO- Waasland	166.723,00 EUR
LIT/012/02	Natural resources management Anyksciai	Ecolas NV	199.908,59 EUR
LIT/013/02	Countering Social Exclusion in Lithuania	Pax Christi Vlaanderen vzw	415.203,00 EUR
LIT/014/02	Pilot Plato Lithuania	Kamer van Koophandel Oost-Vlaanderen	143.934,25 EUR

Both Parties have agreed to submit the following projects for possible fundina to the Flemish government within the available budaet for 2002 of 490.000 EUR:

LIT/003/02	Mother-baby care	SAMCOE vzw	76.227,21 EUR
LIT/006/02	/The 'HARVEST' project	Pro Mente vzw	104.75959 EUR
LIT/010/02	Q-MATEX	RUG, Department of Textiles	213.577,00 EUR
LIT/012/02	Natural resources management Anyksciai	Ecolas NV	199.908,59 EUR

A call for project proposals for the year 2003 will be launched in November 2002.

19. General and financial conditions:

19.1. General conditions

Both Parties will send their proposals for the new working-programme at the latest six (6) weeks before the date foreseen for the meeting of the Joint Committee.

The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed :

- cultural activities and exchanges will be carried out within the limits of the financial resources at the disposal of the two Parties;
- the activities and exchanges envisaged in this programme will not exclude other initiatives or visits which might be proposed and agreed in advance by both Parties through diplomatic channels;
- the organisation of music, dance and theatre performances and exhibitions, other than those mentioned in this programme, a priori should be based on a direct agreement covering financial and other terms between the organisations and artists involved in such events;
- the governments can subsidise projects as well.

Other conditions are to be agreed upon by the co-operation partners on a case by case basis.

19.2. Exchange of individual persons (professors /teachers/researchers/experts/policy makers)

The exchanges of persons for a short period (fifteen (15) days at the most) laid down in the present programme shall be carried out in compliance with the following conditions:

- Candidates are selected by the sending Party. Each candidate is subject to the approval of the receiving Party.
- The sending Party shall submit the curricula vitae and the desiderata, as well as an indication of the dates of arrival of the people involved to the host Party at least two (2) months in advance.
- The host Party shall inform the sending Party whether the candidates are accepted at least one (1) month in advance.
- The sending Party shall submit the exact dates of arrival and departure to the host Party at least three (3) weeks in advance.

To be covered by the sending Party:

- international return travel expenses

To be covered by the host Party:

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast
- a fixed allowance for expenses of € 50
- health insurance and third-party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation

In Lithuania:

- a fixed daily allowance to be discussed on a case by case basis
- accommodation and breakfast

19.3. Specialisation scholarships for postgraduate students

The candidates shall preferably be younger than 35 years.

To be covered by the sending Party:

- international return travel expenses.

To be covered by the receiving Party

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of € 675;
- enrolment fees at a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Community, limited to a maximum amount that shall be revised annually;

- a maximum amount of € 620 as a contribution towards the costs of printing a doctoral thesis or a maximum amount of € 185 as a contribution towards the costs of printing a Master's thesis; the contribution shall only be granted if the candidate presents his thesis during the academic year for which he or she receives a scholarship;
- health insurance and third-Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Lithuania:

- a scholarship of:
 - 1 OMSL*/month for Bachelor's and Master's degree students;
 - 20MSL*/month for doctoral students and persons holding PhD. *(MSL – Minimum Standard of Living approved by the Government of Lithuania is subject to change. In 2002 it is 125Lt. Accordingly, 10MSL equal to 1250Lt or appr. € 362 , 20MSL – to 2500Lt or appr. € 724. According to the legislation in force in Lithuania scholarships awarded to foreign students, teachers and researchers are taxed (20%)).
- tuition fee observing the prices approved the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania;
- health insurance in accordance with Lithuanian legislation.

19.4 Summer scholarships

To be covered by the Flemish Party:

- enrolment fee;
- accommodation and meals;
- health insurance and third-Party insurance in accordance with local legislation.

To be covered by the Lithuanian Party:

- tuition and registration fees;
- a scholarship of:
 - 1 OMSL*/month for Bachelor's and Master's degree students;
 - 20MSL*/month for doctoral students and persons holding PhD. *(MSL – Minimum Standard of Living approved by the Government of Lithuania is subject to change. In 2002 it is 125Lt. Accordingly, 1 OMSL equal to 1250Lt or appr. € 362 , 20MSL – to 2500Lt or appr. € 724. According to the legislation in force in Lithuania scholarships awarded to foreign students, teachers and researchers are taxed (20%));
- accommodation expenses shall be covered by the scholarship holder;
- the Lithuanian sending Party may cover travel expenses for the candidates selected by the Dutch Language Union.

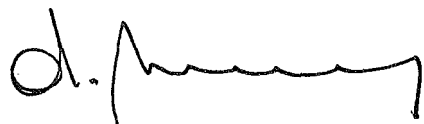
19.5. Both Parties will agree on the conditions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. All disputes concerning the interpretation or realisation of this programme of activities will be settled through negotiation between the Signatories.

19.6. Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint Committee in Brussels in the first semester of 2004.

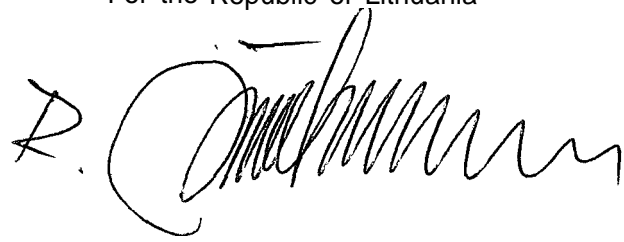
Drawn up in Vilnius on May 17th 2002, in two (2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Lithuanian and English languages. Both texts are legally valid. In the case of dispute, the English text will prevail.

For Flanders,

For the Republic of Lithuania



D. Verstraeten



R. Švedas