

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME**  
**FOR THE YEARS 2007-2008**  
**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY**  
**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**  
**AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**Brussels, March 9, 2007**

Representatives of the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter called the Parties) appointed to the Flanders – Lithuania Joint Committee,

referring to Article 10 and Article 11 of the Co-operation Treaty between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania,

have agreed upon the following:

## **1. ECONOMY**

### **1.1. In general**

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

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

Both Parties shall exchange 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 common agreement.

### **1.2. Specific actions**

#### **1.2.1. Economic, industrial and regional policies**

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

Particular attention shall be paid to co-operation among the regions and the co-operation with third regions in the corresponding EU programmes.

1.2.1.2. Both Parties shall exchange a delegation of officials of the ministries and local authorities concerned (Economy, Regional Policy) in the fields of economy and regional policy with the aim of exchanging information, experience and know how concerning the following subjects:

- sustainable economic and industrial policy (in particular concerning SME's);
- regional policy (sub regional economic policy aimed at sub regions);
- aid to companies;
- entrepreneurship (parenthood projects);
- structural funds;
- contacts with the European Commission and the elaboration of programmes (i.a. concerning Interreg-programmes).

#### **1.2.2. Regional development policy**

Both Parties shall exchange experiences, know how, documentation, work models and information on their activities in the field of regional development, including the



experience in the field of sub-regional economic policy. The Flemish Party shall put its experience in the field of Flemish sub-regional economic policy and the Strategic Urban Economy Plan at the disposal of the Lithuanian Party. In particular the Flemish Party shall propose to the Lithuanian Party the ideas regarding regionalisation, 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 in their co-operation the issue of special economic zones and they shall exchange their experiences in this field. Special attention may go to areas zoned for economic activities.

### 1.2.3. Small and medium-sized enterprises

1.2.3.1. Both Parties stress the importance of developing their co-operation concerning SME's.

1.2.3.2. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts among Lithuanian and Flemish SME's.

### 1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme: Parenthood projects.

Both Parties shall exchange experience and know how in the field of parenthood projects.

The parenthood projects aim at professionalizing small enterprise management and promoting networking among enterprises.

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

## 2. FOREIGN TRADE

2.1. The Flemish Party is committed to further encourage trade relations between Lithuania and Flanders. This will be realized by "Flanders Investment & Trade", the new institution that has been created in July 2005 and which is the merger between the former "Flanders Export Promotion Agency" and "Flanders Foreign Investment Office". Flanders Investment & Trade deals with export promotion and various kinds of international enterprise (e.g. technology exchange, joint ventures and other kinds of co-operation) as well as attracting foreign investors to Flanders. To this end, Flanders has a Flemish economic representative in Vilnius who acts as liaison officer between Flemish and Lithuanian companies and institutions. This representative stays at the disposal of Lithuanian entrepreneurs looking for Flemish goods or services, for co-operation with Flemish business partners or for investment possibilities in Flanders. Once a year this economic representative goes back to Flanders in order to discuss business opportunities in Lithuania with Flemish companies and to give them tailor-made advice on how to approach the Lithuanian market and companies.

2.2. Flanders Investment & Trade established a long-range strategy for the Baltic States and for Lithuania in particular that will focus in the coming years on a series of sectors which represent promising co-operation opportunities: transport & logistics, the food and retail



sector, the agricultural industry, interior decoration, construction materials, mechanical engineering and environment. Flanders Investment & Trade will organize various kinds of actions (such as trade missions and B2B-individual consultations) for which the active co-operation of Lithuanian sector federations or other Parties concerned is needed.

2.3. Flanders Investment & Trade plans the following actions for the coming years:

2.3.1. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia: Multisectoral trade mission (November 2006)

2.3.2. 2007-2008: invitation campaign with purchasers of an important retail chain in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, followed by a Flemish "food" week in the retail sector in the Baltic states (to be confirmed), participation in the trade fairs Resta in Vilnius and Agrobalt in Šiauliai.

2.4. Both Parties will continue to exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, both Parties will also exchange information regarding their respective markets and sectors and their experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international enterprise.

### 3. AGRICULTURE

3.1.1. Both Parties shall examine the possibility to co-operate to the mutual benefit of both Parties with regard to the exchange of knowledge and information in the area of relations with the European Commission and others in the field of rural development and other agriculture related policy areas.

3.1.2. The Flemish Party shall provide its experience with regard to dealing with the European Commission and the European Commission practice.

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

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

3.3.2. Important components of training may be:

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

3.4. Within their budgetary possibilities both Parties agree to develop a training programme for people responsible for non-formal adult education, farmers' training, vocational training, etc.



- 3.5. The Flemish Land Agency (FLA) would like to exchange its scientific and technological expertise of the sustainable development of the open space with partner organisations in Lithuania.

More specifically the FLA has expertise in the following work fields:

- land consolidation;
- agro-economical studies;
- rural development;
- agri-environmental agreements with farmers;
- participation of local stakeholders;
- integrated approach of projects.

- 3.6. The exchange of sustainable land development methods between the FLA and the Lithuanian partners can be organised through:

- study visits by Lithuanian partners to land development projects in Flanders;
- study visits by the FLA to land development projects in Lithuania;
- exchange of information about the methods and technology;
- development of a demonstration project in Lithuania.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENT**

Both Parties are, depending on possibilities of financing, prepared to collaborate on the following items in the field of environment:

##### **4.1. Nature Protection**

The Flemish Land Agency (FLA) would like to exchange its scientific and technological expertise with partner organisations in Lithuania in the following work fields:

- erosion measures;
- land development for nature;
- construction of ecological shores (wave screens, puddle/mud verges);
- construction of spawning place for fishes;
- geographical information systems (GIS) and aerial photogrammetry;
- environmental impact assessment (EIA);
- exchange of a limited delegation of officials. The Flemish Land Agency can illustrate to partner organisations in Lithuania different realised projects on the previous mentioned topics, as well as examine / advise about different opportunities on potential locations of projects.

##### **4.2. Environmental Quality**

The Flemish Environment Agency (FEA) proposes to provide expertise through training of official experts with a maximum of 15 man-days a year (1/2 month per year) on one or more of the following issues:

- implementation of the following EU regulations and directives: nitrates directive 91/676/EC, water framework directive 2000/60/EC, integrated pollution prevention and control directive 96/61/EC, national emission ceilings directive 2001/81/EC, Council regulation 259/93/EEC on the supervision and control of shipments within, into and out of the European Community;
- monitoring network on air quality (with regard to mercury and ozone precursors);
- monitoring network on chemical and biological water quality (set-up, sampling and analyses) and surveillance of inland surface water quality;



- emission inventories of air and water;
- environmental reporting, including environmental impact analysis, strategic environmental analysis, air and water quality modelling;
- price-fixing and levies on waste water;
- collecting and reporting of water and air monitoring data;
- integrated water policy;
- pollutant release transfer registers (PRTR).

The training shall be organised in mutual consultation on the basis of a specific request and programme proposal, after having checked the feasibility of the desired result within the training period.

#### **4.3. Other environmental policy issues**

The Flemish Party (Waste Management Agency for the Flemish Region - OVAM) is prepared to invite, during the validity of the present Programme, a team of experts (fluent English required) in the fields of waste management and soil decontamination, water, nature and environmental education and forest management for a period of five (5) days in order to exchange knowledge and establish contacts with the Flemish actors.

### **5. TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **5.1. Road Traffic and Transport in general**

5.1.1. The two Parties shall exchange information, documentation and expertise in the form of expert meetings and seminars, in the following fields:

(a) Traffic and Town planning:

- traffic prognoses;
- means to improve fundraising from actual users;
- the drawing up and interpretation of multimodal traffic models;
- temporary (during rush hours) overtaking prohibition for lorries on motorways;
- cycle and pedestrian track management;
- motorway service areas.

(b) Public Private Partnership (PPP)

(c) Road Traffic Safety:

- policies to reduce the occurrence of traffic congestions and safety measures applied during works on motorways;
- information on projects on controlled access and the introduction of an alternative merging system to join the traffic on traffic lanes;
- construction of roundabouts and speed reducing devices, policies to encourage carpooling, construction of cycle and pedestrian tracks, construction of car parks;
- traffic safety measures in the vicinity of schools;
- traffic safety and communication with road users, traffic education classes at schools, measures to raise the safety awareness of road users, and main methods of research;
- road tunnel safety;
- black spot management;



- safety audits of existing roads, as well as project audits, the collection of data about road accidents and the setting up of a data base, including the required activities for analysis of the causes of road accidents.

(d) Road Maintenance and Management:

- road cleaning and maintenance including wintermaintenance, and control of overloaded lorries on motorways;
- control methods and technologies for measuring the condition of roads and the condition traffic signalisation;
- the role of emergency repair services in dealing with the consequences of emergencies and the principles of organization of their work.

(e) Mitigating the environmental impact of traffic:

- noise reduction measures, including sound barriers , road surfaces and tyres.

(f) Public Transport

- facilities to improve accesability for everyone;
- models of integrated transport systems, eg traffic plans with loops and small buses, one way traffic, mobility plans and mobility agreements.

(g) Development of Telematics

- variable message signing and traffic monitoring, moveable road information devices, the co-ordination of traffic lights control, priority measures for public transport in road traffic (traffic lights influencing);
- creation of a website on ongoing road construction works and traffic regulations;
- possible uses of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), organization of works on roads and traffic signs , traffic control, RDS-TMC (Radio Data System – Traffic Message Coding);
- the functioning of a Flemish Traffic Centre: traffic management f.e. blockdriving, a road side emergency telephone network;
- as regards the utilisation of the public urban and interurban transport:
  - data communication between vehicles and the fixed installation as a combination between radion, GPS and devaluations systems;
  - the integrated exploitation and information systems with travel information derived from those systems available on the Internet in the near future;
  - the construction of intermodal transfer points for the multimodal usage of bus and railway stations and P/R (park & ride);
  - sharing the Flemish experience in performing international non accompanied combined transportation, as well as in the construction of freight settlements in the framework of the development of combined transport.

- 5.1.2. The Flemish Party is willing to receive two (2) delegations of five (5) experts for a period of five (5) days in order to give, in function of the interesting points, information, formation and documentation in the form of expert meetings and seminars (including on-the-spot inspections on different locations).

At request of one of both two Parties, they are willing to assist each other in providing expertise under conditions to be agreed upon later.



## 5.2. Water infrastructure and maritime affairs

### 5.2.1 Exchange of information and experiences

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

#### 5.2.1.1 Policy

- general policy on waterways and maritime affairs;
- implementation of relevant EU policy and EU law;
- policy concerning regulation, exploitation, commercialisation and promotion of the inland waterways;
- promotion of modal shift;
- regulations on the handling of hazardous cargo in port areas;
- regulations for maritime transport (governmental control in ports, shipping safety, etc.);
- registration of recreational craft and particularities (issuance of documents etc.).

#### 5.2.1.2 Port infrastructure and port management

- design and construction of port infrastructure;
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging operations;

#### 5.2.1.3 Waterways

- construction of environmentally engineered banks;
- water control and fight against flooding;
- re-use of building materials for structural waterworks;
- maintenance of waterways, dredging, processing and storage of polluted dredged materials;
- development of a Hydro-Meteo System;

### 5.2.2. Co-operation on port related issues and Shortsea Shipping

Both Parties are willing to:

- facilitate contacts between Lithuanian and Flemish ports;
- create favourable conditions to generate traffic flows between Lithuania and Flanders through Shortsea Shipping;
- promote better transport connections between the Lithuanian and Flemish hinterlands;
- exchange information on Shortsea Shipping;
- exchange information and experiences on Motorways of the Sea;

### 5.2.3. Scientific co-operation

The Flanders Hydraulics Research laboratory of the Ministry of Flanders is willing to establish new contacts with administrations and scientific institutes in 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.



## **6. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

- 6.1. Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy and vocational training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 6.2. 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 and vocational training.
- 6.3. The Lithuanian Party would like to pay a visit to the Flemish Party (Werk en Sociale Economie) during 2007-2008 for fields of interest to be communicated.  
The Lithuanian Party will pay all costs related to travel, accommodation and daily allowances of the delegation members.
- 6.4. Both Parties encourage the cooperation in the field of the European Social Fund and they shall exchange information and know-how concerning the management and the monitoring of the ESF.
- 6.5. The Flemish Party (Werk en Sociale Economie) shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment and vocational training within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.
- 6.6. The Flemish Party (Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of social partnership, vocational training, labour market and employment policy.
- 6.7. The Flemish Party (Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training - VDAB) is prepared to investigate all questions raised by the Lithuanian party in the fields of labour market issues, guidance and training and possibly to propose a form of co-operation.  
Since Lithuania has become a member state of the European Union, organisations from the country can now also act as partners in the transnational projects and networks of the VDAB.

## **7. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Both Parties will promote the co-operation in the fields of municipal policy and management of cities and municipalities, and they will encourage the mutual contacts in this sphere and the introduction of project proposals in the framework of the Flemish Co-operation programme for Central and Eastern Europe.

Both Parties propose the exchange of delegations consisting of experts in order to elaborate a concrete programme of exchange of information and transfer of know-how and experience between their respective associations of cities and municipalities. These working visits could result in concrete projects that answer specific needs of the Lithuanian local administrations".



## **8. CULTURE**

### **8.1. General**

Due to an internal reorganisation of the Flemish Department for Culture, Youth, Sport and Media the agency of Arts and Heritage, as well as the agency of Socio-cultural Work for Youth and Adults cannot at this moment take part in a structural, long-term commitment but remain willing to consider, examine and if possible support individual proposals within these fields of cooperation and exchange.

### **8.2. Literature**

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party is prepared to receive one (1) translator from Lithuania at the Vertalershuis in Leuven for a period of one (1) month. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of € 1,000.00.

The Flemish Party wishes to draw the attention of the Lithuanian Party to the possibility for foreign writers to apply for a residence in one of the two writers residences in Flanders (Brussels and Vollezele) coordinated by the literature organisation 'Het Beschrijf' ([www.residencesinlanders.be](http://www.residencesinlanders.be)).

### **8.3. Intangible and movable heritage**

8.3.1. The two Parties shall, on request, exchange information and publications concerning the traditions of folk culture and their uses in contemporary cultural and political life of their respective countries.

8.3.2. The two Parties shall exchange, for a period of eight (8) days, three (3) experts the fields of the intangible heritage, the movable heritage and the folk culture.

In the field of folk culture they will get acquainted with the structure, special fields and functioning of ethnologic research institutions and consider the possibility of joint projects.

(In Flanders, initiatives concerning the immovable heritage (monuments and sites) fall under the competence of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, Housing and Immoveable Heritage, whereas the Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media is responsible for movable and intangible, immaterial heritage.)

8.3.3. The two Parties shall exchange information regarding:

- the existing legislation regulating the cultural heritage (intangible and movable heritage);
- educational activities;
- digitalization programmes;
- projects about the inventory of the intangible and movable heritage.

### **8.4. Tangible and immovable heritage**

At the request of either Party, both Parties shall exchange information and experience in the fields of tangible and immovable heritage.



## **8.5. Plastic Arts**

At the request of the Lithuanian Party the Flemish Party shall receive one (1) graphic designer for a period of fourteen (14) days at the Frans Masereel Centre in Kasterlee. He/she shall be offered free accommodation as well as a daily allowance of EUR 50.00.

The Flemish Party wishes to receive information concerning artists' accommodations in Lithuania.

## **9. YOUTH**

The work programme regarding Youth shall be discussed at the Youth sub-commission. This sub-commission meeting (for multilateral and bilateral co-operation) was held in Tartu on May 31 – June 1, 2006. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed afterwards.

## **10. SPORTS**

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

## **11. MEDIA AND FILM**

11.1. The Flemish Party is prepared to consider a limited placement for one (1) person at the Internationaal Perscentrum Vlaanderen (International Press Centre Flanders).

11.2. The Flemish Party proposes to exchange best practices and information with regard to (investigative) journalism, public television, etc.

11.3. The Flemish Party proposes to further the exchange of information, the co-operation and the cross-programming of Flemish and Lithuanian movies on the occasion of audiovisual festivals in Lithuania and Flanders. The Flemish Party wishes to mention in particular the European Film Festival in Brussels that specializes in European debut movies.

## **12. SOCIAL POLICY, WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and experience in the fields of welfare and social services.

### **12.1. Social welfare and health care policy**

- the general welfare policy, in particular scientific research, the quality system, inspection and monitoring, client consultation, co-operation between the public and the private sectors at the international, national, regional and local levels;
- programming, recognition and subsidising of welfare and health facilities;
- elderly care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes, and apartments for the elderly;
- support to services and facilities;
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control);



- voluntary work.
- health and social care insurance and management of the care insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from a long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- co-operation with the justice in the field of welfare and health care.

## **12.2. Health care**

- mental health care (e.g. integrated mental health care, psychiatric home health care, ambulant psychiatry);
- 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));
- primary health care and home health care;
- inspection, counselling and treatment of complaints about environmental licences.

## **12.3. Social Services**

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, integration of migrants in society, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- general welfare work, in particular multifunctional social work units, 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;
- family help and home care;
- child protection and special youth assistance, particularly residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care;
- comprehensive and preventive youth welfare policy and integrated youth care
- child and family: child care, preventive child care, help in case of child abuse, adoption etc.;
- care for the handicapped people;
- 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.

# **13. EDUCATION**

## **13.1. Exchange of information and documentation**

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

## **13.2. Secondary education**

- 13.2.1. The Flemish Party shall invite participants from Lithuania to each contact seminar that it organizes within the framework of the Socrates Programme (or its successor).
- 13.2.2. The Flemish Party shall bear the accommodation and organisation costs, included: accommodation, meals, local transportation and all organisation costs during the full duration of the programme; not included: insurance for health and third Party liability, personal costs for two (2) participants from Lithuania per year for the proposed



seminars. The Lithuanian Party shall bear the international travel expenses of these participants.

- 13.2.3. Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct co-operation of institutions of secondary education in the countries of the two Parties, through the EU programmes for co-operation in education (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci) as well as through other programmes. In this respect, The Flemish Party refers to its programme "Euroklassen", which allows Flemish secondary schools to apply for a subsidy to organise a short class exchange with a secondary school abroad and to finance its own travel and accommodation costs and the costs to host the partner school.
- 13.2.4. The Lithuanian Party is willing, as far as available funding allows, to support these projects and to finance the international travel costs of the Lithuanian partner schools.

### 13.3. Academic Mobility

Both Parties welcome the agreement that was recently signed by the Free University of Brussels and the University of Vilnius on the occasion of H.R.H. the King of Belgium visit to Lithuania on March 20-22, 2006.

#### 13.3.1. Specialisation scholarships

- 13.3.1.1. The Flemish Party offers for each of the academic years 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 two (2) scholarships for recognized postgraduate programs at higher education institutions. Useful addresses of hogescholen and universities can be found on:  
<http://ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/download/heif105.pdf> .

- 13.3.1.2. 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.

The offer of postgraduate studies, taught in English, is listed in the brochure "Higher Education in Flanders": <http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/pub/> .

International courses and International Training Programmes, listed in the Vlir-brochure, "*Study in Flanders and make things happen at home* " can be found on the website: [www.vlir.be](http://www.vlir.be) .

- 13.3.1.3. The Lithuanian Party shall offer scholarships for specialisation studies of the total duration of twenty (20) months for each of the academic years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. This overall period can be divided into studies of 4-10 months. For a specialisation programme exceeding one academic year, a new application needs to be made after the first year.

- 13.3.1.4. The offer of study programmes offered by higher education institutions of the Republic of Lithuania in foreign languages is available from the respective institutions. A list of accredited and recognized higher education and research institutions of the Republic of Lithuania can be found on the web-site: [www.mokslas.lt](http://www.mokslas.lt).

#### 13.3.2. Research Scholarships

- 13.3.2.1. The Flemish Party offers to the Lithuanian Party for each of the academic years 2007-2008 and 2008–2009 six (6) months annually for teaching staff and researchers of higher education and research institutions of Lithuania to carry out research in higher education



and research institutions of Flanders. At the request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of two (2) months at least.

- 13.3.2.2. The Lithuanian Party offers to the Flemish Party for each of the academic years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 six (6) months annually for teaching staff and researchers of higher education and research institutions of Flanders to carry out research in higher education and research institutions of the Republic of Lithuania. At the request of the sending Party, these months can be divided into periods of two (2) months at least.

13.3.3. Summer scholarships:

13.3.3.1. "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course

In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in Lithuania, the Flemish Party shall annually offer the Lithuanian Party a number of summer scholarships for participation in the "Dutch Language and Culture" summer course held either at the University Hasselt or at the Talencentrum of Ghent University. These three-week courses are intended mainly for persons not resident in the Dutch language area who are not native speakers of Dutch. 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 Lithuania. 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/](http://www.taalunieversum.org/taalunie/summer_courses_in_dutch/).

13.3.3.2. Lithuanian language and culture courses

In order to promote the study of the Lithuanian language and culture in Flanders the Lithuanian Party shall annually offer two scholarships for 3-4 weeks' summer language and culture courses organised by one of the universities of Lithuania. The courses shall be offered on beginners, intermediate and advanced levels and shall be intended for students, teachers and researchers of higher education and research institutions of Flanders. Concrete universities offered for summer language and culture courses for a particular year shall be specified in the call for applications advertised on the web-site: [www.mokslas.lt](http://www.mokslas.lt).

13.3.4. Art education

In Flanders a network exists of academies that offer both to adults and to children a music teaching after school hours. This teaching is being organised in accordance with central legislation and quality control and is, to a large extent, financed by the Flemish central authorities.

The Flemish Party (Education Department) wishes to receive information about the existence of a similar system in Lithuania and – should that be the case – to set up an exchange project on the theme "Pedagogy in music teaching".



## **14. TOURISM**

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

## **15. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 15.1. Both Parties will examine in what way they can further optimize the cooperation in the context of the European Research Area, both at the level of research teams and at the level of research and innovation policy.
- 15.2. Co-operation in the field of science, research and experimental development can be regulated by a special agreement, in case the Parties should agree to do so.
- 15.3. 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 scientific research and technological innovation. Both Parties will provide appropriate opportunities for contacts between scientific institutions and organisations, research institutes, companies, universities and science and innovation administrations.
- 15.4. With regard to multilateral co-operation, both Parties shall aim at the joint participation of Flemish and Lithuanian researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

## **16. EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF**

During the validity of this co-operation programme the Parties shall exchange each year two (2) researchers, experts and academic staff of the field of research and development, or representatives from ministries co-ordinating the aforementioned fields. The duration of these visits shall not exceed seven (7) days.

These visits can also be intended for participation in scientific conferences, colloquia and similar scientific events or meetings devoted to discuss perspectives of bilateral co-operation in the field of research and development, to prepare and harmonize a programme of bilateral co-operation in the field of research and development.



## 17. CAPACITY BUILDING

### 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) in the course of 2006, 2007 and 2008.

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

## 18. COLLABORATION VIA PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties agree on extending their co-operation during the validity of this work programme by means of mutually supported projects.

Project proposals shall be submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs of Flanders. The final date for submission of applications for the budget year 2006 was 24 March 2006.

All the proposals for 2006 have been evaluated by both Parties on the basis of their own criteria and procedures and both Parties established a ranking list.

For the year 2006, the following projects were registered:

Project-number	Name of the project	Promoter	Lithuanian partner
LIT/001/06	Capacity building in Lithuanian community mental health care	Pro Mente vzw	Vilnius Centre for Psychosocial Rehabilitation
LIT/002/06	Zeebrugge meets the Baltic Ports	N.V. Maatschappij van de Brugse Zeevaartinrichtingen	Klaipeda Port Authority

The Flemish Minister for Administrative Affairs, Foreign Policy, Media and Tourism, Mr Bourgeois granted a subsidy of 16.989,92 EUR to the project LIT/001/06.

## 19. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 19.1. General

- 19.1.1. Both Parties shall send their proposals for the new co-operation programme at the latest six (6) weeks before the date foreseen for the meeting of the Joint Committee.
- 19.1.2. Both Parties agree that their future co-operation should be developed in as concrete a way as possible, starting from realistic projects. It should avoid general points such as exchange of information or proposals without a real commitment from the Parties involved.
- 19.1.3. The following general provisions and regulations were endorsed:
  - all activities and exchanges mentioned in this programme shall 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 shall 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, should a priori be based on a direct agreement covering financial and other terms between the organisations and artists involved in such events;

19.1.4. Other conditions are to be agreed upon by the partners on a case by case basis.

## 19.2. Scholarships

19.2.1. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 13.3.1. (specialisation scholarships) and 13.3.2. (research scholarships) shall be governed by the following general provisions:

- a) The applicants for specialisation scholarships should be under 35 years of age and they must have a master's degree or equivalent and an excellent academic record.
- b) The nominees shall be selected by the sending Party.
- c) The sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the nominees' filled out scholarship application forms and other documents required in the scholarship application forms before 1 April of each calendar year. All documents can be submitted in Dutch for Lithuanian applicants and in Lithuanian for Flemish applicants or in the English or German languages.

The application must contain at least the following documents:

- a detailed curriculum vitae mentioning the knowledge of languages;
  - a detailed study or work programme which one wants to take at a recognized institution in the guest country;
  - letters of recommendation and eventual admission to the institution;
  - transcript of records.
- d) The receiving Party shall inform the sending Party, before 1 July of each calendar year, whether the nominees have been admitted and shall simultaneously communicate to the sending Party the names of institutions accepting them for the study periods.

19.2.2. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.3.1. (specialisation scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

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

- b) The receiving Party shall cover:

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EUR 770.00;
- enrolment fees to be paid to a Flemish Community institute or to an institute subsidised by the Flemish Community, limited to a maximum amount that will be readjusted annually (academic year 2005-2006: EUR 505.00);
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;
- domestic travel costs provided that the journeys are part of the adopted programme.

In Lithuania:

- scholarship in accordance with the applicable Lithuanian legal regulations, the amount of which shall be specified in the annual call for applications advertised on the web-site [www.mokslas.lt](http://www.mokslas.lt);
- tuition fee.



Lithuania guarantees necessary and urgent medical care services during a temporary stay in Lithuania, available under EU Regulation 1408/71 and provides payable accommodation and meals in university accommodations under the same conditions that are granted to Lithuanian citizens.

19.2.3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.3.2. (research scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

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

In Flanders :

- a monthly allowance of EUR 740.00;
- a starting allowance of EUR 125.00 granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one (1) month;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Lithuania:

- scholarship in accordance with the applicable Lithuanian legal regulations, the amount of which shall be specified in the annual call for applications advertised on the web-site [www.mokslas.lt](http://www.mokslas.lt);
- tuition fee.

Lithuania guarantees necessary and urgent medical care services during a temporary stay in Lithuania available under EU Regulation 1408/71 and provides payable accommodation and meals in university accommodations under the same conditions that are granted to Lithuanian citizens.

19.2.4. The exchange of scholarships under Article 13.3.3. (summer courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- a) The Flemish Party informs the Lithuanian candidates for the summer course Nederlandse taal en cultuur of the commissions decision ultimately by 1 April.  
The Lithuanian Party requests to be kept informed of the sending of the application forms to the Lithuanian institutions and of the names of the candidates that have been selected afterwards.
- b) The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Lithuanian candidates for participation in summer courses of the Dutch language and culture are specified by the Dutch Language Union (cf. brochure).
- c) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees, board and lodging, expenses for participation in excursions within the framework of the course programme, and health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.
- d) Flemish candidates for summer language and culture courses shall be nominated by the Flemish Party before 1 April of each calendar year. The Flemish Party nominating its candidates shall submit all the documents required in application forms of the Lithuanian Party.
- e) The Lithuanian Party shall inform the Flemish Party by 1 June of each calendar year, whether the nominees have been admitted and shall simultaneously communicate to the Flemish Party the names of institutions admitting them. Other organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by the Flemish candidates for participation in summer courses of the Lithuanian language and culture shall be specified in the annual call for applications advertised on the web-site: [www.mokslas.lt](http://www.mokslas.lt).



- f) The Lithuanian Party shall cover the admission fees, expenses for participation in excursions organized within the summer language courses, award a scholarship in accordance with the applicable Lithuanian legal regulations and provide accommodation in a university dormitory for which an individual pays himself/herself, and guarantees in accordance with EU Regulation 1408/71 necessary and urgent medical care in the case of a sudden illness or injury suffered by accepted individuals during their stay in Lithuania.

### 19.3. Exchange of persons

The short-term exchange of persons (for 30 days max. and at the invitation of 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 invitation, goals and programmes as well as the dates of arrival and departure of the people concerned at least three (3) months in advance.
- b) The receiving Party shall confirm it is prepared to receive the people concerned six (6) weeks before departure. The time of departure shall be confirmed at least two (2) weeks on beforehand.
- c) To be covered by the sending Party:
  - return international travel expenses;
  - health insurance.
- 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 Lithuania:

- accommodation ;
- a fixed allowance of 25 Lt per diem;
- transport costs.

### 19.4. Film

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



## 20. FINAL PROVISIONS

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

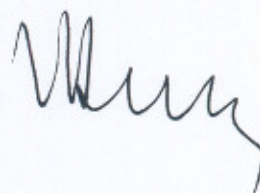
Drawn up in Brussels on March 9, 2007, in two (2) original versions, each one in Dutch, Lithuanian, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of dispute, the English text shall prevail.

For the Flemish Party  
of the Joint Committee,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a series of smaller loops and strokes below.

Freddy Evens

For the Lithuanian Party  
of the Joint Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of connected, somewhat vertical strokes that form a cursive-like shape.

Vidmantas Purlys