

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE YEARS 2009-2012
IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CO-OPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Brussels, 29 June 2009

The sixth meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss the Co-operation Programme for the years 2009-2012 to implement the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania was held in Brussels on 29 June 2009.

The chairman of the Flemish delegation welcomed the Lithuanian delegation and presented the members of his delegation:

Flemish delegation:

Foreign Affairs department

- Koen Verlaeckt
- Koen Haverbeke

Secretary General, Head of delegation
Representative of the Flemish
Government in Lithuania (housed in
Warsaw)
Head of Bilateral Affairs Unit,
Foreign Affairs Division
Policy advisor, secretary

- May Persoons

- Ursula Van Riet

Public Governance department

- Jan De Mulder

policy advisor

Culture, Youth, Sports and Media department

- Marie Renier

policy advisor

Agency for Arts and Heritage

- Anne-Marie Croes

policy advisor

Economy, Science and Innovation department

- Bart Laethem
- Mieke Houwen

policy advisor
policy advisor

Mobility and Public Works department

- Etienne De Winne
- Joke Bamps

director-engineer
policy advisor

Agriculture and Fisheries department

- Aranka Delombaerde

policy advisor

Environment, Nature and Energy department

- Bart Van Impe

expert

Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)

- Sabine Vincke

policy advisor

The chairman of the Lithuanian delegation thanked for the kind reception and presented the members of his delegation:

Lithuanian delegation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Vidmantas Purlys

Director of the European Union Department,
Head of delegation

Ministry of Economy

- Živilė Kriščiūnienė

Director of Small and Medium Business Department

Ministry of Culture

- Vida Gražienė

Attache for Culture,
Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU

Ministry of Science

- Karina Firkavičiūtė

Attache for Science,
Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU

Ministry of Transport

- Vaiva Obelevičienė

Attache for Transport,
Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU

Embassy of Lithuania to Belgium

- Kristina Vareikytė-Zapata

Third Secretary

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

1. ECONOMY

1.1. General framework for co-operation

Both Parties underline the importance of co-operating concerning regional development policies and SME development.

1.2. Specific actions

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

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

1.2.1. General economic and regional policies concerning SME.

Particular attention shall be given to:

- efficient instruments and means of financial support for companies;
- entrepreneurship (a.o. mentorship projects, promotion campaigns on entrepreneurship, strengthening business associations and networks,...);
- efficient institutional support network for start-ups and SME (a.o. access to finance, marketing, management, business conduct,...).

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

Attention will be paid to the system of Flemish regional and spatial economic policy.

Particular attention will also be given to the role of national (e.g. Objective 2) and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg IV) in the framework of the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). Both the management as the impact of ERDF programmes on regional development policies and projects in Flanders will be looked at.

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

1.2.3. Sustainable infrastructure and sustainable management of business premises.

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

1.2.4. Enterprise coaching programme: PLATO mentorship projects.

Particular attention will be given to PLATO mentorship projects. PLATO projects aim at professionalizing the management of small enterprises and enhancing networking between enterprises. The strategy consists in setting up fixed groups of small enterprise managers with one or two counsellors to exchange experiences on a monthly basis during one or two years. The counsellors are executives from large companies or experienced self-employed persons who are gladly willing to put their experience at the disposal of other entrepreneurs.

1.3. Exchange of delegations

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

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

2. TOURISM

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.

Both Parties shall encourage the organisation of study trips for journalists, radio and television reporters, researchers and experts in the field of tourism.

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.

3. FOREIGN TRADE

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

The Flemish Party is committed to further encourage trade relations between Lithuania and Flanders. This will be realized by Flanders Investment & Trade, the official Flemish institution backing Flemish companies -especially SME- in various kinds of international enterprise, as well as helping foreign companies in setting up or expanding an investment in Flanders.

Flanders Investment & Trade will achieve this by:

- helping Lithuanian companies looking for Flemish goods and services, for cooperation with Flemish business partners or for investment in Flanders;
- pointing out Flemish companies at concrete trade opportunities on the Lithuanian market;
- supporting Flemish companies wanting to expand their commercial activities by helping them in their prospection efforts on the Lithuanian market (e.g. by means of tailor-made information and advice);
- realizing the sectoral focus-strategy and corresponding action programme for Lithuania. Flanders Investment & Trade is working with a long-term strategy for the Lithuanian market, focusing in a pro-active way on promising sectors in Lithuania which represent interesting opportunities for Flemish companies. For the period 2007-2010 the following target sectors have been chosen for Lithuania: food and retail, construction materials and industrial subcontracting. The promotion actions of Flanders Investment & Trade are dealing to a great extent with these sectors and are organized in close cooperation with the concerned parties and authorities in Lithuania.

The following initiatives are planned for 2009-2010:

2009:

- Info sessions on trade possibilities for Flemish companies in the Baltic states (incl. Lithuania) in the framework of the "Export days Northern Europe", held in Flanders (1st half of December).

2010:

- A multisectoral trade mission to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, with special focus on the food sector, the sector of construction materials and industrial subcontracting in various branches of industry.

The export promotion actions for 2011 still have to be defined. This will be done in the half of 2010 in function of the target sectors that will be chosen for Lithuania for the period 2011-2015.

Flanders Investment & Trade has a Flemish economic representative in Vilnius who acts as liaison officer between Flemish and Lithuanian companies and institutions. Once a year he goes back to Flanders for individual meetings with Flemish companies in order to give them tailor made advice concerning business opportunities and best approach of the Lithuanian market.

The Lithuanian Party is committed to promote its trade and investment through its Agencies "Enterprise Lithuania", responsible for export promotion and "Invest in Lithuania", responsible for investment promotion in Lithuania, both acting on behalf of the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.

Export promotion will be achieved by:

- disseminating of information on Lithuanian products and manufacturers;
- finding business partners;
- organising incoming/outgoing trade missions, contact fairs;
- planning and implementing international projects.

Investment promotion will be achieved by:

- provision of all relevant information on business opportunities and investment incentives;
- building contact networks for project development;
- guidance through the investment location (sites/buildings) selection process, finding JV partners;
- organising site and company visits, incoming and outgoing missions;
- providing investment aftercare service.

The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Brussels will act as liaison for Lithuanian and Flemish companies in Flanders.

4. AGRICULTURE

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. 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.

- 4.7. 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.

5. ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY

5.1. Nature and Environmental education

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

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

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

5.2. UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol

The Flemish Party (ENE) proposes to cooperate in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

Lithuania and Flanders are willing to cooperate within the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular to facilitate cooperation in the field of Joint Implementation under Article 6 and in the field of Emissions Trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

For this purpose a Memorandum of Understanding between the Lithuanian Government and the Government of Flanders could be drawn up which will detail procedures described in the Kyoto Protocol in relation to Lithuanian-Flemish cooperation regarding Articles 6 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol.

5.3. Expert exchange

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

5.4. Flemish Public Waste Agency

The Flemish Public Waste Agency (OVAM) is prepared – within its financial possibilities - to invite a number of experts in the field of Waste Management and Soil Sanitation in order to exchange know-how and information concerning specific items in this matter.

6. MOBILITY AND PUBLIC WORKS

6.1. Roads and Traffic

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

- Road safety: how to make priorities – how to deal with unsafe locations – handbook of road safety – road safety inspections and audits.
- PPP (Public Private Partnership) - applied for the construction of motorways or strategic constructions to improve mobility and to deal with missing links in the primary road network – dealing with contracting by result and risk management.
- The control of the overloaded lorries running on the motorways.
- Traffic light and speed cameras.
- Deployment of intelligent transport systems and services (ITS) into road transport network.
- Maintenance (general or winter) of roads.

6.2. Mobility and Traffic Safety

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

6.2.1. Education with regard to the car use:

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

6.2.2. Evaluating, improving existing infrastructure:

- Permanent adjustment of the rational use of means of goods transport: logistics and intermodality of transport of goods.
- Public transport and intermodality of transport of persons.

- Models of integrated transport systems and urban planning for passenger transport (experience and plans), e.g. mobility agreements and management.
- Improving transport for people with reduced mobility (principles of universal design in transport).
- Construction of intermodal transfer points for multimodal use of bus and railway stations, and the Park & Ride system.
- State-of-the-art management of the public space in order to maximise the goal setting toward the benchmark, eg. improvement for pedestrians, cyclists, improvement of junctions.
- Improving mobility for non-motorised transport users (Bike and Ride sharing, walking and cycling infrastructure).

6.2.3. Reduction of accident rate and promotion of desired (traffic) behaviour:

- Promoting desired (traffic) behaviour and choices, specific topics are: speeding, drinking and driving, traffic-aggression, drivers fatigue, eco driving.
- Specific policy regarding road safety.

6.2.4. Actual policy towards legislation/management:

- Improving and managing the balance between available space and (car) traffic.
- Exchanging and consulting know-how about toll-collecting, traffic pricing and other monetary techniques to curb general or parking congestion of cars in urban areas.
- Transport policy and long-term planning policy of transport network development.
- Internalization of external costs (methodology, contents, data).
- Methodologies for the evaluation of transport policy scenarios.
- Organization of studies and measurements, laws and legislation.

6.2.5. General policy towards the road network:

- Permanent improvement/management of access to airports, ports and economic poles.
- Methods for the categorizing of roads.

6.2.6. IT/computer/high tech:

- Management of an internet site with public information:
 - laws and legislation;
 - other relevant information about the authorities.

6.3. Ports and Maritime Affairs

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

- general management related to (inland) ports;
- foster contacts between Lithuanian and Flemish ports;
- exchange information and experiences on Motorways of the Sea;
- exchange information about Short Sea Shipping;

- sustainable management of the coastal area:
 - information will be exchanged in connection with the protection of the environment, recreation and tourism, coastal protection, infrastructure, administrative and legal procedures, communication.

6.4. Waterways

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

6.4.1. Inland Shipping

Policy:

General policy:

- general management on waterways.

Regulations:

- regulations for the handling of hazardous goods in port areas.

Implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation:

- implementation of directive 2005/44/EG the ("RIS directive = River Information System);
- integrated water policy and the implementation of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EG on navigable waterways.

Freight transport:

- promotion of modal shift (shift from road transport to rail, inland Shipping and Short Sea Shipping).

Navigation:

- creation of favourable conditions to generate traffic flows between Lithuania and Flanders through inland navigation and Short Sea Shipping;
- registration of recreational crafts and personal particulars (issuance of documents, etc...).

Infrastructure:

Maintenance:

- maintenance of waterways;
- renovation of port infrastructure (design and execution);
- dredging.

New techniques:

- dredging, processing and storing of polluted dredged materials;
- logistics and logistic innovation.

6.4.2. Water Control:

Management :

- Low and high-water control:
- water control and the fight against flooding.

6.5. Work Visits

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

7. EMPLOYMENT

- 7.1. Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 7.2. Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning employment policy, vocational and entrepreneurial training.
- 7.3. On request of the Lithuanian Party the Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) will accept a Lithuanian delegation (three to five experts) to Flanders during 2009-2010. The Flemish Party expects a request of the Lithuanian Party concerning their fields of interest in order to organise and prepare the visit.
- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. The Flemish Party (Vlaamse beleidsdomein Werk en Sociale Economie) shall examine the possibilities to play a stimulating role in the realisation of new projects in the field of employment, vocational and entrepreneurial training within the framework of the 'Flemish Co-operation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.
- 7.6. The Flemish Party (Vlaamse Departement Werk en Sociale Economie) shall act as mediator for possible cooperation with any actor or network active in the field of vocational and entrepreneurial training, labour market and employment policy.

8. CULTURE

8.1. Culture policy

- 8.1.1. Both Parties shall inform each other in an active way concerning important developments in cultural policies. That means that both Parties will keep each other informed, on a regular basis of policy matters and their international context, including the identification of the stakeholders involved and references to other sources that may be available.

The Flemish Party wishes to clarify that the Flemish cultural policy also includes policy making concerning non-formal adult education, the amateur arts, the local libraries and cultural centres, the circus and the initiatives that aim at increasing the participation of specific target groups in culture.

- 8.1.2. When common subjects, of considerable present political importance have been detected, the Parties may decide by consensus to organise specific projects in that field, such as exchanges, training, on the job training, seminars, residences, etc.
- 8.1.3. When one of the Parties participates in an important international project, it will associate the other Party – as far as possible – as a privileged partner.

8.2. Visual Arts

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

8.3. Literature

- 8.3.1. Lithuanian authors have the possibility to enter the writers-in-residence scheme of het Beschrijf. Lithuanian translators can apply for a free stay at the Vertalershuis in Antwerp in the framework of a translation of literary works that were written in Dutch. Further details regarding the eligibility requirements and the registration procedure for both schemes are available from the Ministry of Culture.

8.4. Cultural Heritage

- 8.4.1. Both Parties are willing to exchange four (4) experts in the field of cultural heritage - tangible and intangible (e.g. museums, folk culture) to analyse the possibilities to develop joint projects (e.g. in the field of the digitising of cultural heritage).

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

9. YOUTH

The Flemish Community and Lithuania will cooperate in the youth policy field bilaterally and multilaterally. The latter way includes the other two Baltic States – Latvia and Estonia. The core of the cooperation will be the 2009-2011 Work Programme agreed at the Meeting of the Youth Sub-commission in implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation between Flanders and Lithuania in Brussels on 18th February 2009. Both Parties will follow the goals and commitments established in that Programme and implement these common actions:

- Improving access to youth work for young people in situations of social exclusion and poverty.
- Identifying youth work and youth work quality.
- Developing cross sectoral youth policy on local level.
- Exchange of experience in running youth centers at local level.

10. SPORTS

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

The amount of days actually taken up may vary, according to the demand of both parties.

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

11. WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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

11.1. General

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

11.2. Public Health & (Health) Care

- preventive health care policy (i.a. cancer prevention and screening programmes; suicide prevention; prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);

- co-ordination and monitoring of vaccination programmes and prophylactic of infectious diseases (i.a. fighting sexually transmittable diseases (e.g. HIV);
- planning, monitoring and subsidising of welfare and health facilities;
- primary health care and home health care;
- elderly care, particularly in rest homes, nursing homes, and service flats;
- mental health care (e.g. residential and non-residential mental health care, integrated mental health care, psychiatric home nursing, patient consultation, non-residential psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, co-operation with justice);
- improving quality (Integral Quality Control), inspection and monitoring;
- inspection, counselling and treatment of complaints about environmental licences;
- management of the care insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from a long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- preventive health care for the young child (organisation and expertise): development, hearing screening, vaccination, breastfeeding, toy safety, ...

11.3. Welfare/Well-being & care

- social cohesion, in particular community development work, preventive social policy, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies;
- general welfare work; primary care, crisis intervention and crisis relief, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, forensic care, help for victims and victim support, telephone counselling services;
- voluntary work;
- co-operation with justice in the field of welfare and health care;
- family help, home care and family friendly policy;
- special youth care, particularly residential, semi-residential and ambulatory care;
- integrated youth care, i.e. youth care and general prevention regarding youth welfare;
- children and families: preventive child care, parenting support, child care services, child abuse counselling, adoption, ECEC (early childhood education and care), etc.;
- mediation: family mediation (divorce mediation, child custody mediation and access mediation), mediation in the context of criminal law (restorative justice, reparation of harm, settlement of conflict, restorative justice) and debt mediation, community mediation (neighbours, neighbourhood mediation).

11.4. Care for persons with disabilities

- exchange of information, documentation and expertise concerning the different support services and other ways of supporting disabled people, as far as – from Flemish point of view - these support systems are being recognised and subsidised by the Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health and Family (PwD);
- exchange aiming at improving the quality of care;
- exchange in order to realise gradually deinstitutionalisation and to attain more personalised care and community living;
- exchange in order to agree on a commonly accepted definition on “PwD” in the European and international context;

- exchange in order to agree on a cross-border standardisation of assistive devices and special tools for disabled people;
- exchange, referring to the execution of international treaties and European directives;
- exchange in order to realise an inclusive society for all, and to realise full participation of disabled persons in all domains of social life and across borders (mainstreaming policy for disabled policy);
- exchange of statistical data and results of scientific research in the field of policy for disabled persons.

12. EDUCATION

12.1. Exchange of information and documentation

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

They will promote direct co-operation and exchange between universities and other educational institutions in both countries, in particular within the framework of the programmes of the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organisations. The terms of the co-operation will be agreed upon and specified through direct contacts between the institutions concerned.

Both parties take a particular interest in advanced academic programmes for foreign students, in the exchange of experience regarding the implementation of the Bologna Declaration and in the challenge of "the Bologna process beyond 2010".

12.2. Exchange of professors/teachers/experts/policymakers

Both Parties are willing to invite each year two (2) experts/professors from a higher education institution/government for a stay of seven (7) days (2 x 7 days) at most in order to discuss the educational reforms following the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, to participate in seminars, symposiums colloquia regarding accreditation, mobility, Ph D programmes, development of internationalisation of higher education.

These days can also be used to make preparatory visits in order to start projects within the frame work of European programmes or to build a network of contacts between institutions of higher education.

12.3. Scholarships

12.3.1. Scholarships for studies

12.3.1.1. During the validity of the present programme the Flemish Party offers for each of the academic years 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 two (2) scholarships for recognized postgraduate programs (full-time programme of 60 study points) at higher education institutions of the Flemish Community. These scholarship are offered to students who have finished accredited master study

programmes at the Lithuanian institutions of higher education and who want to follow a programme “master after master” (a second cycle Advanced Master’s degree) in Flanders; doctoral students are also eligible to apply for these scholarships.

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

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

- 12.3.1.2. The Lithuanian Party offers scholarships for students of higher education institution of the Flemish community for periods of postgraduate studies of the total duration of twenty (20) months for each of the academic years 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 to be pursued at accredited higher education and research institutions of the Republic of Lithuania. The overall period can be divided into studies of 4-10 months.

Information on study programmes and courses 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 website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania: www.smm.lt.

12.3.2. Research Scholarships

- 12.3.2.1. The Flemish Party offers to the Lithuanian Party research scholarships of the total duration of six (6) months for each of the academic years 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 for students of the third study cycle, teachers, scientists and other researchers of higher education and research institutions. On request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

- 12.3.2.2. The Lithuanian Party offers to the Flemish Party research scholarships of the total duration of six (6) months for each of the academic years 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 for students of the third study cycle, teachers, scientists and other researchers of higher education and research institutions. On request of the sending Party, these months can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least.

12.3.3. Summer scholarships

12.3.3.1. “Dutch Language and Culture” summer course

In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in the Lithuanian Republic, the Flemish Party shall annually offer the Lithuanian Party at least a number of 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 students of the Dutch language and literature enrolled in Lithuanian public higher education institutions. Applicants are expected to have a reasonable command of the Dutch language at the Elementary Knowledge Level of the Certificate of Dutch as a Foreign Language.

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

www.taalunieversum.org/taalunie/summer_courses_in_dutch/

12.3.3.2. 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 (2) scholarships for 3-4 weeks' summer language and culture courses organised by one of the universities of Lithuania. The courses organized on beginners, intermediate and advanced levels are offered to 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 annual call for applications advertised on the website: www.smpf.lt.

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

At the request of the other Party both Parties shall exchange information and experiences on Town and Country planning, Housing Policy and Immovable Heritage.

The Flemish Party is willing to explain the Flemish policy in the field of immovable heritage. Subject to budgetary and staff constraints, follow-up and further development of this proposal can be discussed on the occasion of meetings of competent intergovernmental organisations (Council of Europe, UNESCO, etc.).

In the field of Town and Country Planning and in the field of Housing, the Flemish Party is willing to receive, at the request of Lithuania, a delegation and give a brief presentation of the Town and Country Planning or Housing policy in Flanders.

14. SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Both Parties shall examine ways of further optimizing their cooperation in the framework of the European Research Area, both in the field of research groups and science and innovation policies.

Both Parties will stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges and cooperation in science and technological innovation between the public and the private sectors at the international, national, regional and local level, and integration of education, technology, research and innovation ideas to the business context and to the commercial application. Both Parties will search for suitable occasions for contacts among scientific institutions, companies, universities and administrations that are in charge of scientific and technological innovation policies.

Both Parties strive for joint participation of Flemish and Lithuanian researchers in the Seventh European Framework Programme for Research and Development as well as in other EU initiatives. For the Flemish Party, the National Contact Point of the Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders (europrogs@iwt.be) will be the one stop shop. For the Lithuanian Party, this function shall be carried out by the Agency for International Science and Technology Development Programme (e-mail: tpa@tpa.lt, <http://www.tpa.lt/ENG/index.htm>).

15. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Lithuanian Party will co-operate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations. In particular, contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, regulatory management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities. Specific cooperation topics will be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

16. CAPACITY BUILDING

Port Training and Port Management

The Flemish Party offers to the Lithuanian Party the possibility to send experts to seminars, in the field of port training and port management, organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center vzw) during the validity of this work programme.

The Lithuanian Party shall present its candidates for these seminars and the participants shall be selected by APEC.

The Flemish Party shall cover the costs of the participation. Travel expenses are borne by the participant.

17. 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.

Both Parties will try to build on previously built-up contacts and networks and concentrate on those sectors where cooperation provides a mutual advantage and may lead towards a win-win situation. The Lithuanian Party has a special interest in creating/developing contacts in the following fields: integration into knowledge communities, biotechnologies, information technologies and laser technologies.

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

The Flemish Party is willing to fund 50 % of the budget within its budgetary limits. The other 50% must be foreseen by a partnership of the Flemish promoter, the Lithuanian partner(s) and/or the Lithuanian authorities.

18. UPCOMING EU-PRESIDENCIES

Both Parties are willing to exchange information and experience on the preparation of their EU presidencies. This may include the transfer of training materials, exchanging experts and information on the development of the presidency programme and specific activities and events organised during the period of the Belgian presidency in 2010 and in preparation of the Lithuanian presidency in 2013.

19. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

19.1. General

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.

They 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.

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 or by direct mutual agreement;
- 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;
- both governments can subsidise projects as well.

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

19.2. The exchange of scholarships under Articles 12.3.1. (scholarships for studies) and 12.3.2. (research scholarships) shall be governed by the following general provisions:

- a) The applicants should be under 35 years of age and they must have an excellent academic record. Lithuanian applicants must hold a Master's degree or equivalent at the time of commencement of their stay in Flanders. Flemish applicants must hold at least a Bachelor's degree or equivalent at the time of application.
- b) The candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.
- c) By 1 April of each calendar year, the sending Party shall submit to the receiving Party the candidates' completed scholarship application forms and other documents as specified in the application form. All documents shall be submitted in Dutch or in English in the case of Lithuanian applicants, and in Lithuanian or in English in the case of Flemish applicants.
- d) By 1 July of each calendar year, the receiving Party shall inform the sending Party whether the candidates have been accepted, and shall at the same time communicate to the sending Party the names of the institutions accepting them for study stays.
- e) The sending Party shall provide precise and detailed information about each scholarship holder's arrival at least two (2) weeks before the commencement of his/her stay.

19.3. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3.1. (scholarships for studies) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

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

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EURO 840,00;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation;

- the Flemish Party shall provide the admitted applicants with a sum designed to cover enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Community. The maximum amount of which shall be determined annually (in the academic year 2008-2009 the maximum amount is EURO 540.00); if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he has to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish Party by herself/himself.

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 website www.smpf.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 accommodation in a university dormitory under the same conditions that are granted to Lithuanian citizens.

19.4. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3.2. (research scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

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

In Flanders:

- a monthly allowance of EURO 800.00;
- a starting allowance of EURO 185.00 granted at the first arrival in Flanders, on the condition that the stay in Flanders takes at least one month;
- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In 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 website www.smpf.lt.

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

19.5. The exchange of scholarships under Article 12.3.3. (scholarships for participation in summer language courses) shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- a) The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Lithuanian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer courses are specified by the Dutch Language Union (cfr. brochure).
- b) The Flemish Party shall inform the Lithuanian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer course about the selection by 1 April at the latest.
- c) The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants admitted under Article 12.3.3. as well as their board and lodging, expenses for their participation in excursions within the framework of the course programme, and their health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.
- d) 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 website: www.smpf.lt
- e) 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.

19.6. Exchange of persons

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

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

In Flanders:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of EURO 37.00 per day (excluding transport costs) or EURO 50.00 per day (including transport costs);

- health insurance and third Party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Lithuania:

- accommodation and breakfast;
- a fixed allowance of 50 Lt per day;
- local transport expenses.

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.

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Joint commission in Vilnius in the first half of 2012.

Signed in Brussels on June 29, 2009, 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.

On behalf of the
Government of Flanders,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verlaeckaert', written over a horizontal line.

Koen Verlaeckaert
Secretary General
Foreign Affairs Department

On behalf of the
Government of the Republic of Lithuania,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Purlys', written over a horizontal line.

Vidmantas Purlys
Director of European Union Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs