

COOPERATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE PERIOD 2009–2011
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION TREATY
BETWEEN THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY AND THE FLEMISH REGION
AND THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

On the basis of the Cooperation Treaty between the Flemish Community and the Flemish Region and the Republic of Slovenia, signed on 3 September 1998, the delegations of Flanders and the Republic of Slovenia, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties", gathered at the 4th session of the Slovenian-Flemish Mixed Commission on 19 and 20 November 2008 in Ljubljana and agreed upon the following areas of cooperation for the period 2009–2011:

1 ECONOMY

1.1 General

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

Both Parties shall investigate the possibility to encourage cooperation and/or exchange information, experience and experts in specific fields of economy to be determined by both Parties. This exchange will be aimed at transferring experience, knowledge, documentation, work models, modern management techniques and information on these fields as well as providing specific training.

1.2. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Both Parties shall stress the importance of developing their cooperation concerning Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Both Parties shall encourage the development of direct contacts between Slovenian and Flemish SMEs and federations involved (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Chamber of Craft of Slovenia, VOKA, UNIZO, etc.).

Particular attention should be given to PLATO mentorship projects, aiming at professionalizing the management of SMEs and enhancing networking between enterprises.

2. FOREIGN TRADE

2.1 General

Both Parties shall commit themselves to promoting trade relations between Flanders and Slovenia.

Both parties have their specific agencies promoting investment and international trade.

Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) and Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments (JAPTI) are the respective agencies supporting Slovenian and Flemish companies (in particular SMEs) in their international trade, and assisting foreign companies in setting up or expanding in the respective countries.

2.2 Specific approach and activities

Actions planned (with reservation) by the Slovenian Party in the period 2009–2011 are as follows:

- information and catalogue on Accenta, Ghent (international trade fair);
- information and catalogue on Batibouw, Brussels (construction);
- a multisectoral mission to Flanders organized together with VOKA;
- furniture fair in Brussels;
- Innova in Brussels (innovations);
- organizing a beer fair (Flanders/Slovenia).

The Slovenian Party adopted the “Programme for Internationalisation of Slovenian Economy for the period 2005–2009” in August 2005. This Programme consists of two documents, namely “Programme on Attracting Foreign Direct Investments for the period 2005–2009” and “Programme of Slovenian Economic Representatives abroad”.

FIT draws up an action programme, based on regional strategy. This strategy is the result of a yearly discussion between FIT’s domestic and foreign network and the main economic actors in Flanders. The strategy focuses on the promising sectors in specific markets. As far as Slovenia is concerned, the focus for the period 2008–2010 is on the sectors of construction (materials), food and drinks, and furniture.

For the period 2009–2010 the following initiatives are planned: multisectoral trade missions to Ljubljana, individual prospection trips and a market study on food distribution.

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation between JAPTI and FIT.

Both Parties shall exchange information regarding their respective markets, sectors, business and investment opportunities, and their experience and knowledge concerning the promotion of international entrepreneurship.

Both Parties shall exchange information on the investment climate, such as financial incentives and investment conditions.

Representatives of JAPTI and representatives of FIT (particularly through the Flemish Economic Representative in Ljubljana) will try to exchange experience concerning internationalization by means of:

- Pointing out trade opportunities in the respective markets;
- Supporting companies that want to expand their business in the respective markets;
- Organizing events like inward/outward business delegations, seminars, trade missions, participations in trade fairs, etc.;
- Supporting companies in their search of products, services, possible partners and investment opportunities in the respective markets.

3 ENERGY

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of energy and exchanging information regarding energy.

4 TOURISM

Both Parties shall promote, and in case of mutual interest exchange delegations of officials, experts and researchers in the field of tourism, in order to exchange information, experience and knowledge about the following topics:

- Legislation and regulation in tourism;
- Tourism statistics and the Tourism Satellite Accounts methodology;
- Studies on tourism development;
- Implementation of cultural heritage in tourism;
- Education and training in tourism;
- Human resources development in tourism;
- Sustainable tourism development and experience in responding to the challenge of climate change;
- Tourism destination management and marketing.

Both Parties shall encourage the organization of study visits for journalists, radio and television reporters in the field of tourism.

Both Parties shall encourage the organization of seminars, symposia and workshops in the field of tourism during which the participants from both countries can exchange experience, expert knowledge and ideas.

5 AGRICULTURE

Both Parties shall stimulate bilateral cooperation between their research institutes, socio-economic organisations, and the Slovenian and Flemish business communities in the field of agriculture.

Both Parties shall encourage joint participation of Slovenian and Flemish researchers in multinational projects in Europe.

Both Parties shall encourage direct contacts, exchange of experts and exchange of information on the initiatives, experience and best practices in the following priority fields of agriculture:

- protection of plants;
- organic agriculture techniques in farming;
- horticulture;
- rural development;
- climate change impact.

Both Parties are willing to organize seminars, workshops and study visits during which participants from both countries can exchange experience, knowledge and ideas.

Specific activities

The Slovenian Phytosanitary Administration (SPA) is prepared to share its scientific and technological knowledge on seed quality and on varieties of plant species for agricultural use through working groups, seminars and joint projects with partner

organisations in Flanders. The SPA wishes to offer its know-how as applied in different projects, and broaden its knowledge and experience by participating in international cooperation projects in Europe and, more specifically, in the region of the Western Balkans.

In the field of organic farming, special attention should be paid to the exchange of know-how on new technology and processing methods in order to maintain organic integrity and vital qualities of products. Cooperation should exist between research institutes and other interested parties. Possible forms of cooperation should be organised in mutual consultation on the basis of specific requests and specific project proposals, once feasibility of the desired result within the project period has been checked.

In the field of horticulture both Parties are willing to exchange experts on glasshouse irrigation systems and undertake joint projects for the construction and modernisation of the existing greenhouses. Special attention should also be paid to cooperation in the field of orchards and outdoor vegetable growing. Depending on financial possibilities, the Parties shall share knowledge and experience in the fields of production, processing and sale of fruit, vegetables and fish.

Both Parties are willing to cooperate in the field of rural development and, in particular, to broaden scientific knowledge on agri-environmental measures and the diversification of rural economy. Cooperation should be elaborated in close cooperation with Slovenian and Flemish research institutes, socio-economic organisations and the Slovenian and Flemish business community.

New answers to the impact of climate change on agriculture have to be found. By exchanging experience, research institutes and other interested parties should cooperate in order to adopt new measures to lessen the negative impact of climate change on agricultural products.

In addition to the above, *ad hoc* cooperation may take place related to specific issues, without necessity to incorporate it explicitly in cooperation agreements or working plans.

6 ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

6.1 Marine pollution, strategic environmental marine assessment

Coastal regions of all European countries are under high pressure of pollution due to various economic activities which are increasing daily.

Slovenian and Flemish governments shall support and foster cooperation with regard to the effects of marine pollution on land, integrated and sustainable coastal zone management and spatial planning, and the activities that are aimed to fulfil the above goals.

Since coastal and marine pollution, its prevention and management are inevitably the problem of all countries of a specific region, the cooperation of neighbouring countries

is necessary. Accordingly, Slovenia is already taking an active role in several regional initiatives that deal with marine pollution (UNEP/MAP, Adriatic Ionian Initiatives). Due to the fact that many partners in those initiatives are new democracies, there is interest on the Slovenian side to accelerate the cooperation also with the technical and financial assistance where also Flemish partners could take part.

6.2 Geodetic activities and geographical information systems (GIS)

Geographical data are essential for economic and social activities of public and private sectors in different thematic areas.

The development of the geodetic system as a land survey tool, the acquisition of data and the introduction of new location based services (GPS and satellite technology for positioning) are among the strategic goals of the land survey service.

Both parties are willing to exchange information, knowledge and experience:

- In the field of geodetic activity and spatial data infrastructures;
- In the field of geodetic activity, especially in the fields of real estate cadastre, altitude system, topographic data basis, data on public infrastructure and other geodetic databases;
- In implementing professional education and training of the employees in the field of geodetic activity;
- In supporting the connection between public and private sectors in the field of geodetic activity;
- In implementing the EU directive INSPIRE.

6.3 UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol

Both parties are willing to cooperate within the objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

The Environment, Nature and Energy Department (ENE) proposes to cooperate in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

6.4 Environmental education

The Nature and Environmental Education Unit (EE) is prepared to invite a delegation and introduce it to the (N)EE operation and structure at the Flemish level in an active and interactive way.

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

- Introduction of and making acquaintance with the operation of the (N)EE-unit service within the Flemish policy and with the networking on (N)EE (diverse target groups) and Education for Sustainable Development;
- Introduction of and making acquaintance with the MOS-project (Environmental Care at School), an educational and environmental care project from kindergarten to higher education and, if preferred, linked with a school visit; getting acquainted with the relevant educational means;

- Introduction of and making acquaintance with the Ecocampus project, introducing environmental care in higher education and universities (curricula, internal management, student life);
- Introduction of the procedure in Flanders on the phasing and implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development;
- Site visit to one or more (N)EE centres and to a provincial EE service, getting acquainted with the common educational means.

6.5 Spatial and urban planning, housing policy and immovable heritage

Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of spatial and urban planning, housing policy and immovable heritage, by exchange of information and experience.

6.6 Expert exchange

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

7 TRANSPORT

7.1 Mobility Policy Persons and Goods

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

7.1.1 Education with regard to the car use:

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

7.1.2 Evaluating, improving existing infrastructure:

- Permanent adjustment of the rational use of means of goods transport: logistics and intermodality, transport of goods.
- Rational use of transport modes (balance between public and private transport, carpooling, car sharing, etc., as well as mobility planning at different levels – by government and industry – and similar initiatives).
- Public transport:
 - Models of integrated transport systems and urban planning for passenger transport (experience and plans), e.g. mobility agreements and management;
 - Facilities for disabled people (design for all);
 - 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 have an equal and balanced use for all participants/actors in daily traffic: pedestrians, persons with reduced mobility capacities, cyclists and powered two wheel users.

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

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

7.1.4 Actual policy toward legislation/management concerning the environment:

- Improving and managing the balance between available space and (car) traffic (with a special interest in (city) areas with historically relevant heritage).
- Exchanging and consulting know-how about toll-collecting, traffic pricing and other monetary techniques to curb congestion traffic in urban areas or as a means to achieve other goals.
- Transport policy:
 - Internalization of external costs (methodology, contents, data);
 - Methodologies for the evaluation of transport policy scenarios.

7.1.5 General policy toward legislation/management:

- Permanent improvement/management of access to airports, ports and economic poles;
- Freight transport measures (follow-up traffic safety and novelties);
- Passenger transport measures (adjustments to infrastructure or traffic rules and follow-up novelties);
- Implementation of relevant EU policies and EU regulation with regard to transport and mobility (Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) etc.).

7.1.6 ITS/computer/high tech:

- Consultation regarding cross border communication networks and exchange of interesting sources through the growing number of media channels and technical innovations;
- Management of an internet site with public information:
 - laws and legislation,
 - other relevant information about the authorities,
 - including linking to valuable information outside the strict institutional environment.
- Information on Geographic Information System applications;
- Organization of studies and measurements concerning traffic data, the road network, spatial planning;
- Development and use of mobility indicators for policy-based and strategic research of passenger and freight transport on main roads and in metropolitan areas;
- Exchanging information on the management of available 'in house' data and expertise.

7.2 The Flemish Public Transport Company “De Lijn”

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

- 7.2.1 Participation of De Lijn – Oost Vlaanderen and the town of Ghent at the CIVITAS PLUS project (acronym ELAN) in collaboration with Ljubljana, Zagreb and Brno during the period 2008–2012.

- 7.2.2 Exchange of expertise concerning transport management and public transport as “mandated body” in TAIEX–TWINNING projects.
- 7.2.3 Exchange of information about “netmanagement” in according with the Slovenian Ministry of Transport and, eventually, exchange of experts.

7.3 **Road and Traffic Agency (management of operations)**

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

- 7.3.1 Coordination centre for all road construction works: all road activities are geared toward one another within a certain region in order to avoid conflicts in space and time, and to minimize obstructions for road users and adjoining people.
- 7.3.2 Development of an internet site for public use, e.g. about road works and regulations, travel planners and other 'pre-trip' information.
- 7.3.3 Road safety: how to make priorities – how to deal with unsafe locations – handbook of road safety – road safety inspections and audits.
- 7.3.4 PPP (Public Private Partnership) – applied for the construction of motorways or strategic constructions to improve mobility and to deal with missing links in the primary road network – dealing with contracting by result and risk management. As application to reduce external costs.
- 7.3.5 Road Datawarehouse of the Agency: all kinds of data which can be geographically referred are stored and handled by one application and one interface. Application of the Geographic Information System in handling road and traffic related data.
- 7.3.6 Methods and materials for the control of road conditions.
- 7.3.7 Control of overloaded lorries running on the motorways.
- 7.3.8 Traffic light and speed cameras.
- 7.3.9 Projects to improve traffic circulation of public transport.
- 7.3.10 Telematics – network.
- 7.3.11 Exchange of information about expertise and know-how.
- 7.3.12 Maintenance of roads (general and/or winter).
- 7.3.13 Incident management: ensuring first aid services, emergency planning, also the hoisting of vehicles when blocking traffic during rush hours in urban areas.

7.4 Division Traffic Centre

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

- 7.4.1 Development and exploitation of traffic models for management purposes and for application on traffic management.
- 7.4.2 Application of measurement systems to collect traffic related information.
- 7.4.3 Use of instruments for dynamic traffic control on motorways and in metropolitan areas.
- 7.4.4 Organization of services related to traffic information.
- 7.4.5 Organization and operation of traffic centres.

7.5 Division Ports and Water Management

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

- 7.5.1 Exchange of information and experience:
 - general policy on ports, dry ports and waterways;
 - implementation of relevant EU policies and EU regulation;
 - promotion of co-modality;
 - logistics and logistic innovation.
- 7.5.2 Cooperation on port-related matters and short sea shipping.
Both Parties are prepared to:
 - Foster contacts between Slovenian and Flemish ports and dry ports;
 - Establish favourable conditions for the generation of traffic flows between Slovenia and Flanders through short sea shipping;
 - Exchange information about short sea shipping;
 - Exchange information and experience on the Motorways of the Sea.

7.6 Maritime Services and Coast Agency

The Agency for Maritime Services and Coast, Division Coast proposes to cooperate with Slovenia with regard to communication on integrated coastal management, particularly concerning the following subjects:

- 7.6.1 Actual initiatives to create a relevant basis with stakeholders and coastal actors (e.g. to grant awards for sustainable coastal projects): communication with governmental institutions, initiators on the coast and the public in general.
- 7.6.2 To contribute to publications on specific sector-wide themes (e.g. publication of a coastal compass including an array of sustainability indicators as a guide for the intended developments on the coast): external communication towards governments, lobby groups and policy makers.

- 7.6.3 To organise workshops and conferences: professional moments with a lot of attention for the participation of coastal actors.
- 7.6.4 To organise days for the general public (e.g. science-fest which incorporates various aspects of coastal management: littering, erosion, tourist as well as recreational interests). Communication is directed towards families and the interested scientific public.

7.7 Work visits

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

8 REGIONAL POLICY

Both Parties shall transfer and exchange experience, knowledge, documentation in the field of regional policy and regional development policy.

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

Particular attention will be paid to innovative project results and examples in view of the Lisbon objectives.

Both Parties shall exchange delegates in the field of regional policy and structural funds with the aim of transferring and exchanging information, experience and knowledge.

9 EMPLOYMENT

Both Parties shall continue the cooperation in the field of employment policy and vocational training, and encourage contacts between competent bodies and social partners in this field.

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

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 and vocational training within the framework of the 'Flemish Cooperation Programme Central and Eastern Europe'.

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 training, labour market and employment policy.

10 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of Flanders was signed on 13 February 2008. Both Parties agree to align their cooperation in science and technology as mentioned in the Agreement with the European Framework Programme for Research and Development, with special emphasis on joint programming and its implementation.

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 Slovenian Party the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology will be in charge of the cooperation.

11 CULTURE

11.1 General

Both Parties shall, at the request of the other Party, exchange information and publications with regard to visual arts, design, architecture, museums, cultural heritage, literature, translations, performing arts, music, artist accommodation, amateur arts, libraries, cultural centres, local cultural policy, international festivals and competitions, including information and documentation on cultural cooperation in general.

Both Parties shall foster direct contacts between cultural institutions and associations.

11.2 Visual arts

Both Parties are willing to support the exchange of experts in the fields of visual arts, applied arts, architecture and design on the basis of direct agreements between partner institutions. Both Parties support cooperation in visual arts in the form of exchange and visiting exhibition projects, and by promoting mobility of artists from both countries.

The Flemish Party wishes to receive information and documentation about artist accommodation in Slovenia.

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall exchange art publications.

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 EUR 50.

11.3 Cultural heritage

Both Parties support the exchange of experts in the field of movable and intangible cultural heritage on the basis of direct agreements between partner institutions.

Both Parties are willing to exchange four (4) experts in the field of cultural heritage – movable and intangible (e.g. museums, folk culture) – in order to explore the possibilities of developing joint projects (in the field of cultural heritage informatisation).

Within the framework of UNESCO Convention of 17 October 2003, both Parties shall exchange experience and expertise, and explore the possibilities to develop joint projects, *inter alia* for listing and preservation of intangible heritage in both countries.

Both Parties shall foster the exchange of information and experience in the field of museums, conservation, archives, galleries and management of cultural heritage.

Both Parties support further cooperation in the project Francia Media.

11.4 Literature

Both Parties shall mutually promote translation of literature into the language of the other Party and promote participation in international book fairs.

During the validity of the present Programme, the Slovenian Party in cooperation with Slovenian Writers' Association shall invite the Flemish Party to participate in the International Meeting of Poets and Intellectuals in Vilenica.

Both Parties shall support publishing selections of other Party's literature in literature reviews on the basis of agreements between interested partners.

The Flemish Party shall receive one (1) Slovenian translator at the Vertalershuis in Louvain for a period of 1 (one) month during the validity of the present Programme. Contrary to the usual financial arrangements when receiving individuals, this translator shall be given free accommodation and an allowance of EUR 1000.

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

11.5 Performing arts

During the validity of the present Programme, the Flemish Party shall consider sending a small dance company of up to six (6) people to Slovenia for a period of up to five (5) days, within the terms of the Arts Decree.

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall encourage the exchange of one (1) dance or theatre expert on the basis of direct agreements between interested partners.

Both Parties shall encourage further cooperation between Bunker (Ljubljana) and Kaai theatre (Brussels) within the frame of Network 2020, and BUDA Centre (Kortrijk) within the frame of APAP network and Circle programme, as well as cooperation between Bunker (Ljubljana) and Victoria theatre (Gent) and Flemish theatre Institute VTI.

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation between Mini teater (Ljubljana) and Festival in Ieper and with Figurentheatre Vlinders Beveren.

11.6 Music

Both Parties shall encourage cooperation between international Festival Brežice and Flemish festival Antwerp.

Both Parties shall encourage exchanging a small music ensemble (trio or quartet) for a concert trip of up to five (5) days during the validity of the present Programme on the basis of direct agreements between interested partners.

Both Parties shall examine the possibility of exchanging observers during large festivals or music competitions.

Terms of cooperation shall be agreed upon between interested partners in due time and according to their financial capacities.

11.7 Libraries

Both Parties shall encourage the cooperation of libraries and the exchange of experts on the basis of direct agreements between interested partners.

Both Parties shall exchange information on “best practices” in both countries.

11.8 Amateur arts

Both Parties are willing to encourage cooperation in the field of amateur arts on the basis of direct agreements between interested partners.

11.9 Audiovisual and film activities

Both Parties shall encourage the realisation of audiovisual co-productions and stimulate mutual exchange of contemporary and archival audiovisual productions.

Both Parties shall encourage thematic presentation of their films.

11.10 Cultural policy

Both Parties shall inform each other in an active way about important developments in their respective cultural policies; this 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.

When subjects of considerable present political importance will 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.

12 SPORT

During the validity of this Programme, both Parties shall encourage the exchange of trainers, athletes, policymakers or scientists in order to participate in apprenticeships, symposia, study visits, scientific congresses and seminars in the field of sport.

13 PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE, WELFARE CARE AND DISABILITY POLICY

Both Parties shall collaborate and exchange information, documentation and expertise in the fields of **public health, health care, welfare/well-being and disability policy.**

13.1 General

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

13.2 Public health and health care

- Preventive health care policy (e.g. cancer prevention and screening programmes, suicide prevention, prevention of problematic use of alcohol and drugs);
- Health promotion policy, strategy and activities, with special focus on nutrition and physical activity;
- Coordination and monitoring of vaccination programmes and prophylactic of infectious diseases (e.g. fighting sexually transmittable diseases (e.g. HIV);
- Planning, monitoring and subsidising 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, cooperation with the judiciary);
- Improving quality (Integral Quality Control), inspection and monitoring;
- Environmental health;

- Management of the care insurance fund providing for those people who suffer from long-lasting seriously diminished capacity;
- Preventive health care for the young (organisation and expertise): development, hearing screening, vaccination, breastfeeding, etc.

13.3 Welfare/Well-being and care

- Social cohesion, anti-poverty and social inclusion policies and preventive social policy;
- General welfare work, e.g. primary care, crisis intervention and crisis relief, care and shelter for the homeless, care and shelter for mentally and physically abused women, help for victims and victim support, telephone counselling services and voluntary work.

13.4 Disability policy

- 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 services;
- Exchange in order to gradually realise deinstitutionalisation and attain more personalised care and community living;
- Exchange in order to agree on 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 as well as full participation of disabled persons in all domains of social life and across borders (mainstreaming policy for the disabled);
- Exchange of statistical data and results of scientific research in the field of policy for disabled persons.

The cooperation in the above mentioned fields does not exclude other fields of mutual interest.

Concrete cooperation activities and projects as well as ways of cooperation shall be developed after mutual consultation between both Parties.

14 EDUCATION

14.1 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.

14.2 Higher education

Both Parties shall encourage and aim at joint participation of Slovenian and Flemish higher education institutions in the EU programmes for cooperation in education, as well as through other programmes.

Both Parties shall encourage direct contacts and exchange between experts/professors from higher education institutions in order to discuss the educational reforms following the implementation of the Bologna Process, to participate in seminars and symposiums, and establish a network of contacts and exchanges between higher education institutions.

14.3 Scholarships (defined in Chapter 19 – General and Financial Provisions)

15 YOUTH

During the validity of the present Programme both Parties shall, according to the interest of the other Party, exchange information and documentation regarding youth policy and youth work strategy.

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall exchange four (4) experts (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants and youth workers/experts) for a study visit of five to seven (5–7) days, to elaborate youth policy at all levels (local, regional and national).

During the validity of the present Programme, both Parties shall consider exchanging delegations of up to four (4) members (mixed delegation: responsible civil servants and youth workers/experts) for a period of five to seven (5–7) days with the aim of deepening and enlarging the ideas and themes of the White Paper of the European Commission “A New Impetus for European Youth”, the European Youth Pact and the framework of cooperation in the field of youth and the themes of Agenda 2020 of the Council of Europe.

Both Parties agree to send or receive youth workers for participation in selected international youth events.

16 COLLABORATION THROUGH PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FLEMISH PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Both Parties confirm their willingness to continue their cooperation by means of projects in the period 2009–2011.

Both Parties will try to build on previously established contacts and networks, and concentrate on the sectors where cooperation provides mutual advantages and may lead towards win-win situations.

The Slovenian Party will nominate a central contact point in order to coordinate projects submitted to the Flemish Cooperation Programme with Central and Eastern

Europe. The tasks of the above mentioned contact point will be concentrated on contact coordination between all interested Slovenian entities (ministries, self-government authorities, project beneficiaries) as well as on giving support and assistance in case of project applications.

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

The Flemish Party annually launches a call for proposals. For 2009 a call will be launched and project proposals can be filed until 31 March 2009.

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

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

17 PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The Flemish Party (Public Governance Department) and the Slovenian Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations.

Contacts may be established between specialists in the fields of human resource management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, integration policy, urban policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, regulatory management and policy evaluation, as well as research activities.

The Flemish Party is particularly interested in the Better Regulation policy as well as in the quality improvement of public management in Slovenia. Specific cooperation possibilities will be explored in the course of 2009. This initial exchange of information could result in a specific project to be outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both administrations.

18 CAPACITY BUILDING

Port management:

The Flemish Party (Department of Foreign Affairs) offers to the Slovenian Party the possibility to send experts to the port training and port management seminars that are organised by APEC (Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre) during the years 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Flemish Party will inform the Slovenian Embassy of the calendar of the seminars.

The Slovenian Party will present its candidates for the above mentioned seminars. Participants will be selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the expenses for participation in the seminars. International travel expenses shall be covered by the participant or by the organisation on which he/she depends.

19 GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

19.1 General

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 will not exclude other initiatives or visits which might be proposed and agreed in advance by both Parties through diplomatic channels;
- The organisation of music, dance and theatre performances and exhibitions other than those mentioned in the present Programme, should be *a priori* based on direct agreements 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 Scholarships

19.2.1 Scholarships offered by the Slovenian Party to the Flemish applicants:

The Slovenian Party shall grant to the Flemish Party for each of the academic years 2009–2010, 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 20 (twenty) months of scholarship for individual postgraduate studies at Slovenian higher education institutions. The scholarships are intended for post-graduate students and young researchers. Scholarships cannot be granted for a complete course of study. Scholarships cannot be granted for any Slovene language course, either. The main purpose of the scholarships is to support foreign students/researchers wishing to take advanced studies or a part of the research on the individual basis under the supervision of Slovenian professors. Individual scholarships can be awarded for a period of 3 to 10 months per year.

The Slovenian Party shall provide the admitted applicants with a scholarship (EUR 244 per month in 2008/09) and free accommodation in the student dormitory.

Candidates must be under 35 years of age.

All information about these scholarships (and application forms) is available at the home page of CMEPIUS – Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes – <http://www.cmepius.si>

Candidates shall be selected by the sending Party. Each candidate is subject to the approval of the receiving Party. The scholarship can only be awarded if the acceptance

and confirmation letter addressed to the applicants' name from a Slovenian higher education institution are enclosed with the application.

The sending Party shall nominate and present its candidates each year before 30 April.

The candidates and the sending Party will be notified of the results by the CMEPIUS in June/July each year.

In addition to these scholarships, the Slovenian Party invites Flemish students, graduates and young researchers to apply for other scholarships offered by the Slovenian Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund – <http://www.ad-futura.si>.

19.2.2 Scholarships offered by the Flemish Party to the Slovenian applicants

The Flemish Party shall grant the Slovenian Party, for each of the academic years 2009–2010, 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 20 (twenty) months of scholarship for postgraduate studies or research at Flemish universities or university colleges. This quota can be used for recognized postgraduate programmes (10 months) or for research (up to six (6) months – can be divided in periods of three (3) months at least). These scholars cannot register on part-time basis.

The scholarships offered by the Flemish Party are valid for one (1) academic year only. For a specialisation programme of two (2) years, a new application needs to be made after the first year.

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

The 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 shall be determined annually; if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he shall be obliged to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish Party by herself/himself.

Scholarships for participation in summer language courses “Dutch language and culture”:

In order to promote the study of the Dutch language and culture in the Republic of Slovenia, the Flemish Party shall annually offer the Slovenian Party 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 the Ghent University. These three-week courses are intended primarily for students of the Dutch language and literature enrolled in Slovenian 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 as well as to the Belgian Embassy in Ljubljana. 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/.

Specific conditions for Flemish scholarships:

The applicants should be under 35 years of age and must have an excellent academic record. Slovenian applicants must hold a master's degree or equivalent at the time of commencement of their stay in Flanders.

The candidates shall be selected by the sending Party.

By 1 April of each calendar year, the Slovenian Party shall submit to the Flemish 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 Slovenian applicants;

- a detailed *curriculum vitae* mentioning the command of languages;
- a detailed study or work programme which the applicant wants to pursue at a recognized institution in the host country;
- letters of recommendation and possibly a letter of invitation or acceptance issued by the respective department of the receiving institution;
- transcript of records.

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.

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.

The exchange of scholarships under paragraph 19.2.2 (Scholarships for postgraduate programmes) shall be governed by the following financial provisions in Flanders:

In Flanders: the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination for Flemish applicants.

Flanders shall guarantee for the Slovenian applicants as follows:

- A monthly allowance of EUR 840;
- Enrolment fees payable to a Flemish Community institution or an institution subsidised by the Flemish Government, the maximum amount of which shall be determined annually (in the academic year 2008–2009 the maximum amount is EUR 540); if an applicant applies for a more expensive programme, she/he has to cover the difference between the actual enrolment fees and the amount awarded by the Flemish Party herself/himself;
- Health insurance and third party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

The exchange of scholarships under 19.2.2 (Scientific research scholarships) shall be governed by the following financial provisions in Flanders:

In Flanders: the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination.

Flanders shall guarantee for the Slovenian applicants:

- A monthly allowance of EUR 800;
- A starting allowance of EUR 185 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.

The exchange of scholarships for participation in summer courses "Dutch language and culture" shall be governed by the following general and financial provisions:

- The organizational arrangements applying to the submission of applications by Slovenian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer courses are specified by the Dutch Language Union (cf. the brochure).
- The Flemish Party shall inform the Slovenian candidates for participation in the Dutch language and culture summer course about the selection by 1 April at the latest.
- The Flemish Party shall cover the enrolment fees incurred by applicants 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.

19.3 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 a *curriculum vitae*, a letter of invitation and information on the goals and programme of the 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 that 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 in advance.
- c) The sending Party shall cover:
In Flanders: the return expenses for international travel to and from the predetermined destination.
In Slovenia: the return 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 EUR 37 per day (excluding transport costs) or EUR 50 per day (including transport costs);
- Health insurance and third party insurance in accordance with Belgian legislation.

In Slovenia:

- Accommodation, meals and travel expenditure within the country, in accordance with the work programme and with the approval of the receiving authorities;
- Participants shall be responsible for taking their own insurances before entering the country.

19.4 Film

To be covered by the sending Party: forwarding expenses.

To be covered by the receiving Party: organisation costs.

19.5 Exchange of exhibitions

Arrangements shall be discussed and agreed on a case-by-case basis by the parties concerned. If not, the following rules shall be applicable:

- The sending Party shall take care of the following:
 - Design, preparation, production and packing of the exhibition;
 - International transport to its first location in the receiving country and return transport from its last location to the country of origin or to another country;
 - Insurance from nail to nail;
 - Supply of the material for the production of the catalogue (texts, photos, slides, etc.);
 - Return travel expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition to supervise the mounting and/or dismantling as well as packing and/or unpacking of the works.
- The receiving Party shall take care of the following:
 - Making available appropriate exhibition halls with the necessary security infrastructure (climatic conditions, guards, etc.);
 - Providing the necessary staff for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, mounting and dismantling of the exhibition;
 - Printing the catalogue if agreed by both Parties, and the posters and invitations;
 - Organising general publicity as well as the opening ceremony for the exhibition;
 - Accommodation expenses of one (1) expert accompanying the exhibition and supervising the mounting and/or dismantling; the duration of any such visit shall be agreed upon in advance;
 - Providing the sending Party with ten (10) copies of all documents published in connection with the exhibition (catalogues, posters, invitations, etc.).

In case of damage caused, the receiving Party shall not proceed with the restoration of the works without a prior approval of the sending Party, but shall supply all relevant documentation and assistance to enable the sending Party to pursue any claim for compensation from the relevant insurance company.

20 FINAL PROVISIONS

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

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

Both Parties agree to hold the next meeting of the Mixed Commission in Flanders in 2011.

This Cooperation Programme shall take effect on the date of its signing and apply to the period 2009–2011. The implementation of the Programme can be extended by written consent of both Parties.

Done in Brussels on8/10/09....., in two original copies in the Dutch, Slovenian and English language, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of different interpretations, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of Flanders

Koen Verlaeckt
Secretary General of the Flemish
Department of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Slovenia

Anita Pipan, M.A.
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Republic of Slovenia
in the Kingdom of Belgium