

**COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

**FOR THE YEARS 2008 - 2010**

**IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**

**AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA**

**COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

**BETWEEN**

**FLANDERS AND CATALONIA**

**FOR THE YEARS 2008 - 2010**

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

**Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs**

Koen Verlaeckt	Secretary General, Chairperson of the Flemish delegation
Freddy Evens	head of Foreign Affairs division
Michel Dingenen	policy advisor, Foreign Affairs division
Peter Van Heesvelde	collaborator
Jan Korthout	director
May Persoons	policy advisor
Jan Ceulemans	policy advisor (VAIS)

**Department of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media**

Astrid Vervae	policy advisor
Lieve Caluwaerts	policy advisor
Hilde Billiet	policy advisor
Arlette Thijs	policy advisor

**Department of Welfare, Public Health and Family**

Machteld Wauters	policy advisor
Karin Van Puyenbroeck	policy advisor
Peter Casteur	policy advisor

**Department of Mobility and Public Works**

Etienne De Winne	director-engineer
Martijn De Bruijn	policy advisor

**Department of Environment, Nature and Energy**

Patrick Hemeryckx	policy advisor
Koen Desimpelaere	head of service (VLM)

**Department of Economics, Science and Innovation**

Mieke Houwen	policy advisor
Bart Laethem	researcher

### **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**

Isabelle Magnus policy advisor

### **Department of Education and Training**

Nina Mares policy advisor

Dirk Lapeirre policy advisor

### **Flanders Investment and Trade**

Caroline Ampe Area Manager Greater Europe

The chairperson of the Catalan delegation thanks for the kind reception and presents the members of the Catalan delegation:

### **Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Catalan Government**

Roser Clavell Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Chairperson of the Catalan delegation

Àngel Cortadelles Director General of International Relations

Déborra Miralles Head of the Area of International Action

Ignasi Doñate Director General of International Projection of Catalan Organisations

Andreu Felip Director of the Catalan Agency of Development Cooperation

Marta Ros Policy officer, Directorate General of International Relations

### **Vice-presidential Department**

Jordi Fernández Cuadrench Director of the Office of the Generalitat in Perpignan

Mar Novell Policy officer, Secretariat of Linguistic Policy

### **Presidential Department**

Anna Repullo Coordinator, Secretariat for the European Union

### **Culture and Media**

Estanislau Vidal-Folch Responsible of International Relations

### **Economy and Finances**

Núria González Directorate General of Analysis and Economic policy

### **Innovation, Universities and Business**

Ramon Pinós Responsible of Institutional Relations of ACCIÓ-CIDEM/COPCA



Mariona Sanz Head of International R+D+i Department ACC10-CIDEM/COPCA

**Health**

Enric Mayolas Director of the Office of International Relations and Cooperation

**Social Action and Citizenship**

Jordi Ribot Policy officer, Secretariat General  
Xavier Alonso Head of institutional Relations, Secretariat for Immigration

Oriol López Policy officer, Secretariat for Youth  
Ares Montardit Policy officer, Youth Catalan Agency

**Employment and Social Economy**

Marc Balaguer Advisor of the Minister of Employment  
Josep Montoya Advisor of the Minister of Employment

**Agriculture, Food and Rural Action**

Oriol Anson Head of the Office of External and Sectorial Relations  
Salvador Puig President, GESFER

**Environment and Housing**

Kenty Richardson Responsible of International Relations

**Territorial planning and Public Works**

Saki Aciman Responsible of International Relations

**Education**

Mireia Montané Director of the International Education and Science Cooperation Office

**Catalan School of Public Administration**

Pere Camino Head of projects

**Internal Affairs, Institutional Relations and Citizens participation**

Mireia Grau Institute of Federalist Studies



The Government of Flanders and the Government of Catalonia (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), with a view to implementing the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Government of Catalonia, signed in Barcelona on 20 February 2008, and pursuant to the outcome of the Flanders – Catalonia Joint Committee meeting held in Brussels from 8 till 9 July 2008, have agreed as follows:

## **1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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### **1.1. General bilateral and multilateral cooperation**

#### **1.1.1. Delegations abroad**

Both Parties will organise regular contacts between their delegates and delegations abroad and specifically amongst those dealing with the international organisations.

Both Parties will in this respect exchange information and experiences regarding the following aspects of subnational representation abroad:

- General aspects of the model of representation abroad (diplomatic recognition, relations with the national embassies, criteria for establishing delegations in certain countries, etc.);
- Relations with the country where the delegation is based; collaboration between the delegation and the host country's institutions and services; relations with other foreign delegations in the host country;
- Coordination established between their departments of Foreign Affairs and their delegations abroad;
- Relations between their own departments of Foreign Affairs and their national Foreign Affairs authorities with regard to subnational representation abroad;
- Management of the delegations (legal status, staff recruitment, wages, law applicable, kind of activities developed, interaction with other services within the delegation such as foreign trade, tourism etc.)

In order to discuss these issues and to exchange best practises, the Flemish Party is willing to organise a technical meeting/workshop during the first trimester of 2009 between representatives from both Governments.

In addition, Flanders will organise a REGLEG seminar about foreign action of regions with legislative powers (planned on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008), based upon the input of the study on delegations abroad carried out by the University of Antwerp. It is foreseen that Catalonia participates in this seminar.

#### **1.1.2. Signature of international agreements**

Catalonia and Flanders will exchange information about the agreements signed with other countries, regions and international organisations within the areas of their jurisdiction.



The Flemish Party is willing to inform the Catalan Party about its procedures to sign and ratify international agreements.

#### 1.1.3. International organizations

Both Parties will exchange information and experiences about their policy towards international organisations such as UNESCO, ILO, WHO, WTO, UNAIDS, UNIFEM and the OECD.

To this end they may organise study visits or seminars for their respective civil servants.

The Flemish Party may present examples of good practices, such as;

- the Fund in Trust cooperation agreements with UNESCO and the ILO;
- the participation on behalf of Belgium in international organisations;
- the Funding programme for placements for young people in international organisations.

The Catalan Party may present their examples of good practices, such as:

- the organisation of the Forum of Cultures under the auspices of UNESCO;
- the experience in UNIFEM;
- the Millennium Campaign;
- its model of relations with civil society related to UNESCO;
- development cooperation through international organisations.

Both Parties will encourage the contacts between the Flemish UNESCO Commission, the two Flemish UNESCO clubs and the Catalan UNESCO Center.

#### 1.1.4. Regional and cross-border cooperation

Since Catalonia and Flanders cooperate in the framework of several European regional associations (e.g. REGLEG, 4 Motors for Europe, PURPLE, NRG4SD), both Parties will search a common position when possible.

They will exchange experiences on cross-border cooperation, in the case of Flanders the *Euregio Benelux Middengebied and Euregio Maas-Rijn*, and for Catalonia the *Working Community of the Pyrenees* and the *Pyrenees Mediterranean Euroregion*.

The experiences of Flanders in the projects *Eurodistrict Eurometropool Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai* and the *Cooperation Platform West-Vlaanderen / Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte*, as well as the experience of Catalonia in the project of the *Eurodistrict* in the "Catalan Crossborder Area" (province of Girona and department of Pyrénées-Orientales) will facilitate exchanges of studies (mostly legal) and strategies for consolidating an European entity of proximity cross-border cooperation.

## 1.2. **Development Cooperation**

Contacts between the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD) and the Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA) will seek to establish the proper framework for further cooperation:

- by sharing experiences on internal organisation of both agencies, strategies and budgeting

- by studying a joint strategy for Mozambique:
  - o Creation of a joint committee between the two headquarters to do the follow up of the joint actions in Mozambique.
  - o Joint or delegate participation in the working groups of the SWAP.

## **2. EUROPEAN UNION**

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- 2.1. Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of the EU decision-making process by exchanging information, opinions and positions concerning general EU matters.
- Information shall be exchanged on institutional achievements concerning the involvement and participation of regions in EU affairs. In this regard, institutional reforms in Belgium and Spain can be mutually inspiring despite the existing differences.
  - In the light of the up-coming team-presidency in which both Spain and Belgium will take up the EU Presidency for one semester in 2010, both Parties shall exchange information on the preparations during 2008-2009. Within their own competences, both Parties will push for a strong regional dimension and attention for the RegLeg agenda within the common programme of the team-presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary.
  - Both Parties will inform each other on initiatives and good practices concerning the inclusion of regional representatives at the expert groups and comitology within the Commission and working parties within the Council of the European Union.
  - Both Parties shall exchange experiences and enhance a dialogue concerning the application of Community law. Particular attention shall be paid to working methods and policy instruments to prevent and manage infringements, as well as court rulings that imply issues of regional autonomy. To this end, both Parties will encourage study exchanges between the administrations concerned, and the Flemish Party is willing to organise a meeting to present its manual on the European infringement procedures to the Catalan Party.
  - Both Parties shall exchange experiences and good practices concerning the information-flow within their administrations on new European legislative initiatives, policies and priorities, such as the publication of the Catalan 'Biannual report on the incoming Presidency of the European Union' and its Flemish counterpart 'Flemish Finger on the European Pulse' presenting the priorities of each EU Presidency.
  - Both Parties are willing to exchange information concerning each other's experiences on the application of EU legislation on European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).
- 2.2. Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of the EU decision-making process by exchanging information, opinions and positions concerning specific dossiers, such as the future of cohesion policy, the common agricultural policy or the EU budget. The cooperation shall be structured through contacts between the Representation of the

Flemish Government and the Catalan Delegation to the European Union in Brussels. When appropriate, common initiatives can be undertaken in this regard.

2.3 Both Parties shall stimulate the cooperation between Flemish and Catalan institutions, organisations, civil society and companies in the framework of EU programmes and initiatives.

- EU programmes and initiatives can be scrutinised on opportunities for cooperation between Flanders and Catalonia which can be of common interest.
- Institutions and organisations of the respective Parties will be encouraged to contact one another in order to participate in European projects. On the Flemish side, the official Flemish contact points as well as VLEVA (the Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe) would be key partners for stimulating such initiatives.
- Joint activities or joint participation in consultations of the European Commission in matters of common interest shall be encouraged. On the Flemish side, the department of Foreign Affairs and VLEVA (the Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe) would be the most appropriate partners for such initiatives.

2.4. Both Parties are committed to further consolidate and reinforce the cooperation in the framework of RegLeg and the Committee of the Regions.

- Both Parties shall explore ways to intensify the cooperation between RegLeg and the Committee of the Regions, amongst others on the basis of the evaluation of the intergroup that takes place in 2008 and in the framework of the RegLeg Co-ordination Committee actions.
- Experiences regarding the internal monitoring of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles shall be exchanged.
- Coordinated actions by both Parties will give momentum to the Interregional Group of regions with legislative powers in the Committee of the Regions, prepared on the basis of the RegLeg Co-ordination Committee actions.
- A channel for the early exchange of amendments to opinions of the Committee of the Regions can be established through the network of assistants.
- Through the Troika working method, the Catalan Party will support the Flemish RegLeg Presidency in 2008, for instance by chairing a political working group at the RegLeg Conference of Presidents in December 2008, according to the formula introduced at the RegLeg Conference of Presidents in Barcelona in 2007.

### **3. ECONOMY, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

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Both Parties will explore the possibility of establishing a common area of cooperation on funding programmes provided by the public sector, aiming at growth and innovation of enterprises. This common area of cooperation can include:

- networking
- exchange of information
- mutual opening of funding programmes.





- joint funding of cross-border R&D projects

### **3.1. Trade, innovation and business (ACC1Ó-CIDEM/COPCA – FIT)**

#### **3.1.1 4 Motors for Europe: Economy Group**

Flanders will continue participating in the Economy Group of 4 Motors for Europe. Flemish participation started in 2005 following a Catalan proposal. The Flemish Minister for Economy will be invited to participate in the Conference of Regional Ministers in charge of Productive Economy of 4 Motors for Europe and partners. The Conference will be organised by the Catalan Minister of Innovation, Universities and Business at the end of 2008 (or beginning 2009, depending on the agendas of the six Ministers)

#### **3.1.2 Flanders District of Creativity (FDC)**

Catalonia participated in the Reverse Mission in Baden-Württemberg (May 2008) with three representatives of ACC1Ó.

Catalonia will participate in the Creativity World Forum that will take place in November 2008. The Catalan delegation will be integrated by representatives of ACC1Ó, headed by the director general of ACC1Ó and two innovative experiences.

#### **3.1.3 RTPO network**

The active participation of Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) in the RTPO network, in which it is a founding member and member of the Executive Committee, will be continued.

#### **3.1.4 Staff exchange programme**

ACC1Ó is interested in learning how the Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) work in order to promote the Flemish enterprises' participation in contracts with multilateral organisations. For this purpose ACC1Ó would like that one member of its staff visit FIT. On the other side, there could also be an exchange of a FIT agent in ACC1Ó in order to learn the Catalan system of business internationalisation.

#### **3.1.5 Information exchange about clusters and company networks**

ACC1Ó and Flanders Investment and Trade will inform each other about the local sectorial company clusters and the relevant contact persons in those. They can help on a practical and organisational level with the events in Catalonia and Flanders, (co-)organised by ACC1Ó or FIT.

### **3.2. Industry, science and technological innovation (ACC1Ó-CIDEM/COPCA – FIT)**

#### **Technology Transfer Cooperation between Flanders and Catalonia**

In the framework of the existing cooperations between Flanders and Catalonia in the field of Technology Transfer (Enterprise Europe Network, TRANSBIO Project were participates ACC1Ó CIDEM/COPCA and IWT and Flanders BIO), both regions (Catalonia and Flanders) would like to continue working in this direction.

### 3.2.1 Introduction

Companies are opening more and more Innovation processes: there is an increasing tendency of collaboration between agents and there is also a tendency in building global and international consortiums to acquire of transfer technology. Looking at this increasing phenomenon, the Centre for Innovation and Enterprise Development of the Catalan Government (ACC1Ó-CIDEM/COPCA) realise specific technology transfer activities with IWT from Flanders with the objective of fostering the process of internationalization Technology Transfer of Catalan and Flemish enterprises.

### 3.2.2 Objective

The cooperation between ACC1Ó and IWT supports processes of global collaboration and internationalization of Technology Transfer of the Catalan and Flemish companies. In order to obtain this objective the program will base its work on existing instruments, programmes and projects already existing that support Technology Transfer at the international level (e.g. Enterprise Europe Network)

The activities proposed are the following:

- Compilation of Technology Profiles in each region
- Exchange of information on specific technologies from each region
- Exchange of technology profiles from each region in order to be promoted locally
- Promotion of the participation of companies in Technology Transfer Events in each region
- Organisation of exchange of staff programmes

### 3.3. Fashion

Both Parties welcome the cooperation that has been started up in the field of fashion. In the framework of the Catalan Dynamisation Plan of Fashion 2007-2010, the Catalan Services Government has been in touch with the Flanders Fashion Institute and has started to work together in the First Edition of 080 Barcelona Fashion. Both Parties encourage further collaboration in this area, which is to be developed and financed directly by the respective institutions involved in this cooperation.

## 4. EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

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- 4.1. Both Parties shall cooperate in the field of labour policy, employment, social economy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and encourage the contacts between the competent bodies and the social partners in this field.
- 4.2. Both Parties shall exchange information about the labour market, the legislation, the statistical data and any other information concerning labour policy, employment, social economy, vocational and entrepreneurial training. More specific, both Parties are interested in exchanging information on the following topics:
  - Comprehensive vocational training centres: interactive guidance service;
  - Workplace training programmes;

- Policies towards active ageing: career paths, employability within companies, age management;
- Active labour market policies to reintegrate redundant workers into the labour market and youngsters;
- Equality and non-discrimination: diversity plans within companies;
- Social responsibility within firms, and policies to promote it;
- Mechanism to deliver work permits;
- Aspects regarding social dialogue with different sectors.

4.3. The Flemish Party (Vlaams 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, social economy, labour market and employment policy.

## **5. TOURISM**

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5.1. Social Tourism is a subject of common interest for both Parties. On the one hand, Catalonia is carrying out the project of "Accessible Tourism" (publication and website). On the other hand, Toerisme Vlaanderen has a specific website of accessible tourism in which there is information about several destinations. Catalonia will send information on Catalan destinations to Toerisme Vlaanderen once the publication and website are officially presented.

5.2. Both Parties will organise a benchmarking trip of a Catalan delegation to Flanders in order to learn and exchange experiences on "Accessible Tourism". A Flemish mission has already visited "Tourism of Catalonia" with the same goal.

## **6. AGRICULTURE**

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6.1. The Flemish Party (i.c. the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) is already cooperating with Catalonia through the PURPLE network (European regions raising awareness about rural areas in peri-urban regions), more specifically in information exchange.

6.2. ILVO (Institute for research in agriculture and fisheries) and IRTA (Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries) will search for scientific cooperation opportunities in the field of agriculture.

6.3. The Catalan Party is willing to put at the disposal of the Flemish Party, within the budgetary limits, its knowledge and experience in the field of risk management in compliance with the European legislation.

6.4. The Catalan Party and the Flemish Party are willing to cooperate in the preparation of the Spanish EU presidency in the first half of 2010 and the Belgian EU presidency in the second half of 2010.

- 6.5. The Flemish Land Agency and the Agriculture, Food and Rural Action Department of Catalonia are looking for measures to promote the cooperation between farmers in an individualistic environment:
- To organise visits of farmers leading associations and farmers representatives to farms and farming facilities that deal with manure questions
  - To organise exchanges of technical staff of Flanders and Catalonia to compare different management technologies and processing of manures. There will be one meeting in Catalonia and one meeting in Flanders
  - To study the possibility of jointly participate in European projects
- 6.6. The Agriculture Department of Catalonia and the Flemish Land Agency will exchange information concerning the implementation of the nitrates directive and the request for derogation.
- 6.7. In addition *ad hoc cooperation* occurs on the basis of concrete questions, without necessity to incorporate it explicitly in a cooperation agreement or working plan.

## **7. ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND ENERGY**

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### **7.1. Key subjects identified**

1. EE: Environmental education and *awareness-raising campaigns* such as "Slip on a Sweater Day" and the campaign on the "Ecoscore" of vehicles and similar campaigns done in Catalonia
2. AQ: Air quality policy for monitoring and reducing PM10 particles and NOx.
3. CC: Climate change especially in climate policy plans and inventories for GHG emissions
4. Ws and Mn: Waste management especially concerning managing contaminated soils, and managing manure from intensive pig farming in both regions.
5. Wa: Water policy related with the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive particularly focusing the water basin participation and the water tariffs.
6. IR: Coordination of both Environmental Departments international agendas especially with our joint participation to interregional networks such as ENCORE (Environment Conference of the Regions of Europe) and nrg4sd (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) and to United Nations environmental conferences.
7. EX: Facilitate mutual participation to exhibitions: Flanders can supply information or participate in exhibitions in Catalonia; Catalonia can be represented at exhibitions in which Flanders participates.
8. EU: Any other issue related to EU environmental policy in the framework of the main priorities of the future Spanish and Belgian EU presidency.
9. LU: Finally there is a cross-cutting issue identified as a priority by the Flemish Land Company (VLM) in relation with "*open space under urbanisation pressure*" and also "*land planning and land management, land bank, manure bank and countryside development, environmental themes*". The competent authorities in Flanders are: the Environment, Nature and Energy Department (ENE), with the support from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department as well as VLM and in Catalonia, the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and Public Works, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and

Rural Action and the Ministry of the Environment and Housing. *This issue should be treated by a special focus group.*

## **7.2. Work methodology**

1. Preliminary exchange of information for each subject
2. Unit consultation in order to confirm their interest and availability
3. Organisation of technical short visits to Flanders or Catalonia in some of the key issues

## **7.3. Work agenda**

1. Second semester 2008:
  - Exchange of information on the topics 1 (EE), 2 (AQ) and 6 (IR)
  - Both regions are cooperating for the organisation of the Post-Kyoto thematic session during the Saint Malo nrg4sd Summit.
  - Organisation of a Flemish mission to Catalonia on the following subject: exchange of expertise with a specific attention to NOx and PM10 particle reduction and presentation of the Plan for air quality improvement in the Special Protected Zones of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.
2. First semester 2009:
  - Exchange of information on the topics 3 (CC) and 8 (EU)
  - Cooperation in the framework of the Spanish and Belgian EU presidency related with environmental issues. Both regions will consult mutually and with other regions from the upcoming 'triple presidency' of the EU (Spain, Belgium, Hungary) on the substantive programme for the European Environmental policy in this period (beginning 2010 till half 2011).
  - Organisation of a technical meeting in Barcelona on climate change mitigation plans and inventories for GHG emissions taking the opportunity of the Carbon Expo that will take place in Barcelona the 27-29 of May 2009.
3. Second semester 2009
  - Exchange of information on the topic 4 (Ws & Mn)
  - The division for Soil Management of OVAM (the Flemish Public Waste Agency) is prepared to collaborate with the Catalan Waste Agency by way of exchange of information on soil management. This can be realised through a Catalan work visit to OVAM.
4. First semester 2010
  - Exchange of information on the topic 5 (Wa)
  - Catalan mission to Flanders concerning the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60) – state of affairs and the ENE Department's and VMM's expertise in ground water and surface water taxation and exchange of information on economic and ecological supervision of the water sector.

## **8. MOBILITY, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

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Both Parties distinguish several areas and themes of common interest; for which concertation, exchange of best practices or active cooperation can be set up.

- Exchange of information between the Catalan and Flemish traffic centre.
- The Flemish Transport Company "De Lijn" would like to continue its cooperation with the Catalan authorities and public transport companies with regard to Public Private Partnerships. "De Lijn" is also convinced that further collaboration (i.c. exchanging best practices) would be fruitful.
- Exchange of best practices for the information on the public works affectation.
- Analyse the opportunities for further cooperation between Zeebrugge and Antwerp ports and Barcelona and Tarragona ports:
  - o The logistical strategies of these ports and their economical and territorial effects.
  - o Tourist strategies and interrelation port & city.
- Collaboration between regional airports.

## **9. LANDSCAPE, SPATIAL PLANNING AND HOUSING**

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- 9.1. The Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, especially by practising article 8 of the convention.
- 9.2. As far as town and country planning and housing are concerned, the Flemish Party is willing to receive a Catalan delegation and give a brief presentation of the spatial planning or housing policy in Flanders.

## **10. WELFARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL ACTION**

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- 10.1. There will be an exchange of information between the Flemish Ministry of Welfare, Public Health and Family on one side and the Catalan Departments of Health, and Social Action and Citizenship on the other; to compare the respective approaches to aspects at the border of welfare and health, and experiences on collaboration and networking between different actors in these areas, and examples of integration between both.
- 10.2. Regarding **Social Action**, both Parties agree on exchanging information on the following subjects:
  - Support of children and families in need of social assistance and protection
  - Knowledge management in the field of Social Services
  - Relation between the different stakeholders involved in the management of social services (e.g. local administration, private sector, etc.)
  - Management of disability policies.

10.3. Regarding **Health**, both Parties agreed on 'devolution in health care' as central theme for the working programme.

The Flemish Agency for Health and Care and the Catalan Department of Health will cooperate by exchanging information on their experience with:

- Developing health plans, the use of 'health targets' in health policy, and evaluation by indicators and goals.
- Methods for structural planning
- Health information systems
- Public involvement in (local) health policy
- Organisation of home care and related policies such as the use of ICT-tools in home care
- Mental health policy, in particular mutual experiences with suicide prevention and mental health promotion.

The Flemish partner will study the possibility to enrol in a trilateral project with Catalonia and Québec on mental health on the work floor.

10.4. To implement this working programme concretely, both Parties will investigate the feasibility to organise regular seminars including study visits (e.g. twice a year, alternately in Flanders and Catalonia) on one of these specific topics identified as priorities in this working programme.

## 11. YOUTH

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The meeting of the "Youth" Subcommittee in implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between Flanders and Catalonia was held in Brussels from 6 to 7 May 2008 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jan Vanhee (Division of Youth, Flemish Community) and Mrs. Ares Montardit (Catalan Youth Agency of the Government of Catalonia).

The main interests agreed by both Parties for the working programme 2008-2010 are:

- Youth information
- Support of local Youth policy
- Youth research
- Support of youth accommodation centers
- Youth participation processes (Youth Councils)

In this working programme both Parties will set up study visits/peer-learning.

The working programme 2008-2010 agreed at the "Youth" Subcommittee meeting is attached to the present document.

## **12. IMMIGRATION**

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Both Parties agree to:

1. Exchange information about the distribution of powers on immigration affairs (Belgian State, region and local level).
2. Exchange information on coordination systems and bodies with the State and the local level.
3. Exchange good practices on public policies on integration of immigrants.
4. Exchange information on the policy of first reception of immigrants and first reception services offered to immigrants.
5. Examine the organisation of exchange of experts.  
The Flemish Authority welcomed the invitation of the Catalan Authority to participate at an expert meeting in May 2008.
6. Exchange information on the subject of policies of linguistic integration of the immigrated population.

## **13. EDUCATION**

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- 13.1. Both Parties are prepared to facilitate information about their respective educative structures, on all levels.
- 13.2. The Flemish department of Education and Training identifies cooperation opportunities in encouraging Flemish institutions of higher education to:
  - establish direct contacts with Catalan institutions;
  - exchange information about both education structures;
  - organise short work visits in order to develop joint projects.
- 13.3. Both Parties are prepared to investigate the possibilities to cooperate about the external evaluations of both educational systems in general, as OCDE indicators, and the evaluation of schools made by the Inspection services to interchange protocols, tools, processes and results in order to prepare further possible collaborations.
- 13.4. Both Parties are prepared to initiate specific bilateral projects, if they can agree on the need to start with such projects.



## 14. CULTURE

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14.1. 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.

14.2. 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.

A first exchange will be organised by the Flemish Party in order to inform the Catalan Party about:

- Flemish information policy, especially Cultuurnet
- the reform of the "2001 Local Culture Policy Decree"
- the Flemish position on the "UNESCO convention on protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions"

This exchange of a delegation of up to four (4) people for the study visit of 5 days (at most) is scheduled for the beginning of 2009. At that occasion, information about the main actual evolutions in Catalan culture policy could be exchanged as well.

14.3. 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.

There is already a privileged relation between Flanders and Catalonia under the terms of the Edinburgh Declaration. In that framework Flanders announces for the beginning of 2009 the organisation of an event focussed on the intangible heritage of the concerned regions.

14.4. During the validity of the present Programme the Flemish Party is willing to receive one (1) graphic artist 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.

The Catalan Party shall examine the possibility of receiving a Flemish visual artist. The Catalan Party will communicate the modalities in due time.

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

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

The "Institució de les Lletres Catalanes" shall examine the possibility of receiving a Flemish author or translator. The Catalan Party will communicate the modalities in due time.

- 14.6. 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 Catalonia and Flanders. During the first phase, the responsible units of the Flemish and Catalan Ministry of Culture can exchange experience and know-how.

## **15. SPORTS**

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- 15.1. To promote mutual exchange of information on and comprehension of the different kind of international sports competitions and meetings in a way to investigate which politics of cooperation can be applied in order to enlarge the high level sport range for the Catalan and Flemish athletes and teams.
- 15.2. To exchange information on sportive activities and competitions in Flanders and Catalonia in which sportsmen and sportswomen of both countries could participate.
- 15.3. To exchange information about sportive world networks in which Catalonia and Flanders participate.
- 15.4. To organise a technical meeting in Flanders or in Catalonia between high level sport experts in order to jointly analyse the management of high level sports in each country.
- 15.5. To promote the participation of representatives of the Flemish administration and sportive Flemish federations in the 2nd Sportive Countries Conference that will take place next 24-27 November in Barcelona. The main theme of the Conference will be "sportive policies and health".
- 15.6. Bloso (Division Sports Promotion) is willing to, within the framework of her program for recreative sports competitions, host a Catalan participation for the Megabeachvolleyfestival (19-21st July 2008) in Ostend and the Flemish Badmintonfestival (6-7th December 2008) in Antwerp. Bloso will give all necessary information about the participation at those sports competition to the Catalan counterpart.

## **16. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS**

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- 16.1. The Flemish Party and the Catalan Party will cooperate by exchanging information, experience, know-how and best practices between the administrations and institutes.

In particular contacts will be established among specialists in the fields of : human resources management, recruitment policy, integrity policy, ICT, E-government, integration and language policies, sustainable urban development policy and relationships with local authorities, the Flemish government architect and facility management, better regulation policy, policy planning and evaluation, as well as research and international cooperation activities.

The concerned administrations are:

- for Flanders : the Public Governance department, the Government Personnel Agency, the Agency for Recruitment and Selection, the Agency for Interior Affairs, and other agencies or services that belong to the public governance policy field;
- for Catalonia: the School of Public Administration (EAPC), the Institute for Autonomous Studies (IEA), the Secretary of Linguistic Policy and other institutions working in the field of public administration.

16.2. The following specific cooperation topics were outlined and agreed upon by the services concerned within both Parties:

- the legal framework for the use of languages;
- public management approaches, including methodologies for job classification, rationalisation of ranks and grades, pay scales, rewarding systems, the implementation of competency based and performance-based management;
- relevant ICT systems and e-government applications;
- policies on administrative burden reduction and regulatory simplification, regulatory management approaches including indicators, participatory and electronic tools;
- research policies including methodologies for evaluation and long term policy development;
- research results regarding the impacts of constitutional reforms and regionalisation processes on regional public management and participation to supranational policy making;
- research on institutional changes and developments in self government and processes of regionalisation".

16.3. The following particular future activities have been identified by the Catalan School of Public Administration (EAPC) and the Flemish Public Governance department:

- The organisation by the EAPC of a Seminar addressed to top civil servants of the Flemish public administration.  
Timing: 2009 / Duration: 2 days / Number of participants: 15 to 20 (maximum)  
The programme of the seminar will include issues regarding the Spanish state model and the involvement of Catalonia (organization and competences of the Catalan Government (Generalitat; new Autonomy Statute) and its Public administration); ideas and strategies for improving the public administrations; systems of public funding within multilevel states; development cooperation (identification of good practices); human resources policy of the Catalan administration and specific workshops on issues that will be agreed mutually when preparing the seminar in detail.
- The implementation of an exchange programme for 5 senior civil servants or designated experts.

The focus of the programme concerns practical learning about public management approaches; participants may be employed in sectorial (e.g. education) or horizontal (e.g. public governance) policy domains / Duration: from 7 to 10 days / The individual programme (including the subject matter) of each visit is agreed upon in advance.

- Visits of students-public employees within the framework of the programs of teaching or formation that both administrations carry out for public managers. Duration: minimum 1 day / maximum 3 days. The individual programme (including the subject matter) of each visit is agreed upon in advance.

## 17. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

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Both Parties will agree bilaterally and case by case on the financial and general conditions for each specific action.

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

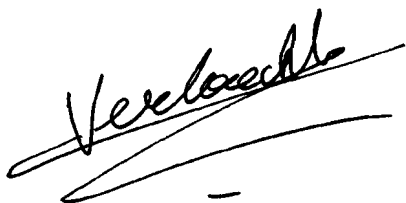
Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of the present Cooperation Programme shall be solved by negotiation between the Parties.

The Cooperation Programme shall enter into force on the day of its signature. It shall remain in force until 31 December 2010 unless stipulated differently in the present programme for specific policy areas.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Barcelona (in the last quarter of the year 2010).

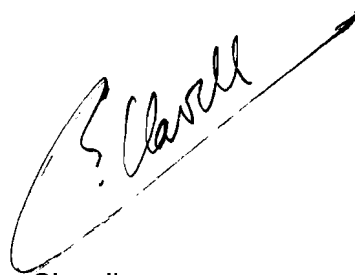
Done in Brussels on 9 July 2008, in two original copies in the English language. The Dutch and the Catalan versions will be exchanged through the channel of the respective Foreign Affairs services. Should any differences in the interpretation of the Cooperation Programme occur, the English version shall prevail.

For the Government of Flanders



Koen Verlaeckt  
Secretary General for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Catalonia



Roser Clavell  
Secretary for Foreign Affairs



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
“YOUTH” SUBCOMMITTEE IN  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION  
BETWEEN FLANDERS AND CATALONIA  
Working Programme 2008-2010**

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**Brussels, from 6 to 7 May 2008**

The meeting of the "Youth" Subcommittee in implementation of the Agreement on cooperation between Catalonia and Belgium (Flemish Community) was held in Brussels from 6 to 7 May 2008 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ares Montardit and Mr. Jan Vanhee.

The composition of both delegations is enclosed with this document.

In implementation of the Agreement on cooperation between Flanders and Catalonia the representatives of the Flemish Community, Division of Youth and representative of Catalonia, Secretariat for Youth of the Government of Catalonia, agreed on the following work programme:

1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Both parties agree that they will set up a study visit within the framework of the Joint Subcommittee Belgium-Spain. For the work programme 2009, it will be an exchange on youth participation processes at local level.
- In this work programme both parties will set up study visits/peer-learning:
  - o These are the policy-related projects focussed on one common subject realised by the authority itself or with its cooperation.
  - o They are paid by the same authority, according to the financial stipulations mentioned further in this cooperation agreement.
  - o For the peer-learning visits English is recommended as a working language. If necessary a translator is provided by the hosting country.

2. FINANCIAL STIPULATIONS FOR THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY

- sending :
  - 100% of the flight ticket to the airport closest to the first destination
  - civil liability insurance (within the framework of Belgian legislation) travel insurance
  - for repatriation insurance for diseases and accidents the EC-regulation is applicable
  - for civil servants the labour insurance is valid 24 hours/day
- hosting :
  - hotel and accommodation expenses
  - organisational costs and transport costs inside the country

3. FINANCIAL STIPULATIONS FOR CATALONIA

- sending :
  - at least 80% of the flight ticket to the airport closest to the first destination
  - necessary insurance
- hosting :
  - hotel and accommodation expenses
  - organisational costs and transport costs inside the country



#### 4. 2008 – 2010 WORK PROGRAMME

The approved projects are mentioned in this 2008- 2010 work programme by the articles 1 to and including 6.

Main interests for the work programme 2008-2010 are:

- Youth information
- Support of local youth policy
- Youth research
- Youth accommodation Centres
- Participation, Youth Council

#### REMARKS

- a. In anticipation of a maximum programme implementation and given the need to use the available means optimally, the parties shall aim at using the cheapest transport means possible.
- b. The initiative for each project must be taken by the host country.  
The programme and the data needed for a good course must be submitted to the other party at the latest four (4) weeks in advance.

#### 5. FINAL STIPULATIONS

- a. The 2008 – 2010 working programme shall be presented at the responsible authority of foreign affairs in Flanders and to the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and the Department of Social Action and Citizenship of the Government of Catalonia.
- b. The next meeting of the “Youth” Subcommittee shall take place in Catalonia in the framework of a meeting on Flemish-Catalan youth cooperation in the beginning of 2011 to agree on a new work programme.
- c. To guarantee a good follow up, there will be a mid-term evaluation in Flanders (Ghent) in the second half of 2009.

Done in Brussels, 6 and 7 of May 2008, in two copies, in English.

For the Government of Catalonia  
Secretary for Youth  
Secretariat for Youth of the Government  
Of Catalonia

For the Flemish Community  
Agency of Social Cultural Work for Youth  
and Adults  
Youth Division

Eugèni VILLALBI

Jan VANHEE

**ENCLOSURE**

**COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATIONS**

A. For Catalonia

Ares MONTARDIT

Officer in charge of the Cooperation and  
International Relations Programme  
Catalan Youth Agency

Arianna MAZZEO

Officer for the inclusion programme  
Catalan Youth Agency

B. For the Flemish Community

Jan VANHEE

Adjunct of the director  
Division Youth – International youth policy

Lieve CALUWAERTS

Adjunct of the director  
Division Youth – International youth policy

Josée VAN DYCK

Expert  
Division Youth

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **A. Theme**

Youth Policy development

### **B. Aim and objectives/key-questions**

- To have an overview of the existing youth legislation and instruments to develop a youth policy
- To have an overview of the key actors in the youth field and the role they play in the youth policy
- To have an insight in the working of the ministry and youth administration

### **C. Number of participants**

High level delegation

### **D. Period and duration**

3 days

In Flanders: autumn 2008

In Catalonia: 2009

### **E. Authorised bodies**

#### **In Flanders**

Agency for Social Cultural Work for Youth and Adults, Division Youth

Arenbergstraat 9

1000 Brussel

Tel: + 32 2 553 42 30

Fax: + 32 2 553 41 17

Contact: Lieve Caluwaerts

Email: [lieve.caluwaerts@cjsm.vlaanderen.be](mailto:lieve.caluwaerts@cjsm.vlaanderen.be)

#### **In Catalonia**

Secretariat for Youth

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08015 Barcelona

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Contact: Oriol López (Secretariat for Youth) Ares Montardit (Catalan Youth Agency)

Email: [olopezb@gencat.cat](mailto:olopezb@gencat.cat); [amontardit@gencat.cat](mailto:amontardit@gencat.cat)

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **A. Theme**

Coordination of youth information

### **B. Aim and Objectives / Key-questions**

- To get to know the functioning of the youth information points in Flanders and Catalonia and its network
- To have an exchange on how the coordination of youth information is set up
- To have an overview on which instruments are developed to support the local youth information points
- To gain insight how the European common objectives on youth information are implemented

*The Council proposes to promote access for young people to information in order to increase their participation in public life and help them realise their potential as active, responsible citizens, in particular by:*

- *improving access for young people to information services;*
- *increasing the provision of quality information;*
- *increasing participation by young people in youth information, for example in the preparation and dissemination of information.*

### **C. Number of participants**

4 youth experts in the field of youth information

### **D. Period and duration**

2-4 days, depending on the programme made by the hosting country.

In Flanders: 2010

In Catalonia: 2010 to be confirmed

### **E. Authorised bodies**

#### **In Flanders**

Agency for Social Cultural Work for Youth and Adults, Division Youth

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## **ARTICLE 3**

### **A. Theme**

Local Youth Policy development

### **Aim and Objectives/Key-questions**

- To have an overview of the legislation and instruments that the Flemish and Catalan level have developed and are developing to support and stimulate the local youth policy
- To gain insight in the role of the administration in controlling and evaluating the local youth policy plans
- To have an exchange on the mechanisms to support the work of the local youth officers (information sessions, trainings, advising sessions, ...)

### **C. Number of participants**

4 youth experts of the national level who are involved in the local youth policy

### **D. Period and duration**

2-4 days, depending on the programme made by the hosting country.

In Flanders: 2009

In Catalonia: spring 2009 (after February to be confirmed)

### **E. Authorised bodies**

#### **In Flanders**

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## **ARTICLE 4**

### **A. Theme**

Youth research and youth observatory

### **B. Aim and Objectives/Key-questions**

- To get to know the functioning of the youth research and youth observatory in Flanders and Catalonia
- To get to know the main areas of research and the main needs in the field of youth research
- To gain insight how the European common objectives on better knowledge and understanding of young people are implemented

*The Commission proposes four common objectives based on the responses from the Member States to the questionnaire on their own situations and their expectations at national level. In order to achieve these objectives, the Commission presents lines of action at national and European levels for each of them.*

- *Identify knowledge relating to priority themes*
- *Identify existing knowledge relating to other areas*
- *Knowledge quality*
- *Dialogue and networks*
- To discuss about possible future cooperation

### **C. Number of participants**

4 youth experts in the field of youth research

### **D. Period and duration**

2-4 days, depending on the programme made by the hosting country.

In Flanders: 2009

In Catalonia: 2010 to be confirmed

### **E. Authorised bodies**

#### **In Flanders**

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## **ARTICLE 5**

### **A. Theme**

The support of Youth Accommodation Centres

### **B. Aim and Objectives/Key-questions**

- To get to know the legislation on youth accommodation centers in Catalonia
- To exchange insights, problems and solutions about quality, safety, ... of youth accommodation centers
- To exchange on the purpose, target groups, ... of the youth accommodation centers

### **C. Number of participants**

4 youth experts

### **D. Period and duration**

4 days, one way delegation: Catalonia hosting a Flemish delegation on the issue of Youth accommodation centres.

In Catalonia: 2009

### **E. Authorised bodies**

#### **In Flanders**

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## **ARTICLE 6**

### **A. Theme**

Youth participation processes

### **B. Aim and Objectives/Key-questions**

- To get to know the Youth Council how they work in Flanders and Catalonia (on regional and local level)
- To get to know the legislation and existing instruments on youth councils and youth participation
- To gain insight how the European common objectives on participation are implemented  
*With regard to participation, the Council proposes to promote the introduction of, and support for, measures to encourage young people to exercise their citizenship actively and to participate effectively in democratic life, and in particular to:*
  - *increase participation by young people in the civic life of their community;*
  - *increase participation by young people in the system of representative democracy;*
  - *provide greater support for various forms of learning to participate.*
- To exchange best practices on youth participation processes and to encourage the knowledge of youth councils and its members.

### **C. Number of participants**

4 youth experts

### **D. Period and duration**

4 days, one way delegation: Flanders hosting a Catalanian delegation

In Flanders: XXX

### **E. Authorised bodies**

#### **In Flanders**

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