

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS ADMINISTRATIONS
AND
TAIWAN

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS ADMINISTRATIONS

and

TAIWAN

both hereafter referred to as “the Participants”;

Acting in the spirit of partnership and cooperation;

With a view to further strengthening and developing their mutual relations;

On the basis of the friendship and the cooperation already existing between them;

HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

Section 1. PURPOSE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION

§1. This Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish the basis for a cooperative relationship to encourage bilateral cooperation between the Participants. It describes the areas of cooperation and the modalities of organisation in order to achieve this objective.

§2. The Participants will encourage cooperation in the following fields:

1° education;

2° public health and welfare;

3° environmental policy;

4° innovation and clean technologies;

5° business and investment;

6° employment and vocational training;

7° science.

§3. Other areas of cooperation may be decided upon later by the Participants.

Section 2. Education

§1. The Participants will pursue the types of activities outlined for each of the following domains:

1° Secondary education and adult education

1. The encouragement of educational institutions in Taiwan and Flanders to engage in joint projects.
2. The exchange of information on educational policy topics of mutual interest.

2° Higher education

1. The encouragement of higher education institutions in Taiwan and Flanders to jointly develop academic programs at master's degree and doctorate level, leading to joint or multiple degrees being issued by the respective higher education institutions.
2. The commitment of both of the Participants to encourage their respective higher education institutions to participate in mobility and cooperation schemes within the framework of educational programs of the European Union and within their respective national programs for international student mobility.
3. The exchange of experts and information on topics of mutual interest in the field of higher education reform and evaluation.

3° Language learning

1. The encouragement of educational institutions, teachers, and students to engage in cooperation and language learning exchanges, especially those building on existing mobility schemes.
2. The encouragement of educational institutions in Flanders to seek cooperative partners in Taiwan to set up projects related to their Chinese language courses.
3. The provision of support from the Dutch Language Union to assist Dutch language departments and teachers of Dutch, and the offer of summer courses in the Dutch language for students of the Dutch language abroad.

4° Mutual exchanges

1. The exchange of relevant information on all types and levels of education, at the request of the other of the Participants.
2. The facilitation of peer-learning at Ministry level in the respective Ministries responsible for education, education institutions, or other associated organizations.
3. The exchange of information with and the extension of invitations to the other of the Participants to expert seminars on educational topics which are open to international participation.

§2. The Implementing Officials responsible for coordinating these activities and communication are the Director-General of the Department of International and Cross-strait Education of the Ministry of Education in Taiwan, and the General Director of the Department of Education and Training in Flanders.

§3. A Working Group will be formed by the Participants to develop and oversee a basic work plan to assist in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. This Working Group will be co-chaired by the Implementing Officials, or by their designated delegates, and can involve the participation of other agencies as appropriate. The Working Group thus formed will meet at least once a year.

§4. An annual work plan may be developed based on proposals submitted to the Working Group. The nature and priority status of specific co-operation areas, the types of activities, and the development of the annual work plan to be implemented under this Memorandum of Understanding will be determined by the Working Group on behalf of the Participants.

§5. The Participants will promote, facilitate, and encourage, as appropriate, the development of direct contacts between and among education and scientific research institutions, industry, and stakeholder associations, and other organisations, both public and private.

Section 3. Public health and welfare

§1. The Participants will encourage exchange of good practices in the following areas within their competences:

1. implementation of medical and care information sharing mechanism;
2. management of hospitals, including – but not limited to – design, construction, financing models, maintenance;
3. hospital inspection and accreditation;
4. elderly/long term care.

§2. Exchange of good practices between the Participants may take the following modalities:

1. exchange of good practices and experiences on policy (administrative) and technical level;
2. exchange of good practices, expertise and experiences between academic, scientific and technical personnel;
3. organisation of study visits;
4. mutual invitation of experts to conferences, events, etc. organised by the Participants or where the Participants consider it useful for experts of the other Participant to be present.

§3. From the side of the Government of Flanders Administrations, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Department of Welfare, Public Health and Family;
2. Agency for Care and Health.

§4. From the side of Taiwan, the partner involved in this cooperation is: Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Section 4. Environmental policy

§1. The Participants decide that their cooperation on environmental policy issues will focus in particular on:

1. Renewable energy, sustainable energy and energy efficiency;
2. Green economy and clean technologies.

§2. From the side of the Government of Flanders Administrations, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Flanders Department of Environment and Spatial Development;
2. Flemish Energy and Climate Agency

§3. From the side of Taiwan, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Environmental Protection Administration;
2. Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Section 5. Innovation and clean technologies

§1. The Participants decide that their cooperation on clean technologies will focus in particular on development of new and renewable energy technologies.

§2. From the side of the Government of Flanders Administrations, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Flanders Department of Economy, Science and Innovation;
2. Cleantech Flanders;
3. VITO (Flemish Institution for Technological Research).

§3. From the side of Taiwan, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs;
2. Taiwan Power Company;

Section 6. Business and investment

§1. Both participants are committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and Taiwan. For that purpose, they intend to exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Participant, they can also exchange information regarding its market and sectors, useful contacts, experiences and knowledge concerning promotion of international entrepreneurship.

§2. Both participants intend to strengthen their cooperation in the field of investments.

§3. From the side of Government of Flanders Administrations, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office;
2. Flanders Investment and Trade.

§4. From the side of Taiwan, the partners involved in this cooperation are:

1. Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs;
2. Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs;
3. Department of Investment Services, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Section 7. Employment and vocational training

§1. This Memorandum of Understanding will enhance and promote cooperation between the Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding, VDAB), and the Workforce Development Agency of the Ministry of Labor (WDA of MOL), Taiwan for the purpose of implementing activities in the fields of public employment services and vocational training, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit.

§2. The Participants, in accordance with their own laws, policies, rules and regulations, will foster cooperation in the fields of public employment services and vocational training, with regard to:

1. sharing of knowledge and skills via interactions, such as meetings, conferences, symposia and other forms of institutional collaboration; and
2. the development of governmental cooperation through consultations between the Participants in order to address activities of mutual interest, including international events organised by both Participants.

§3. The areas of cooperative activities may include the following:

1. fostering institutional linkage between VDAB and the Taiwan public employment service centres and institution and registered training organisation and institution;
2. collaborating on public employment services and vocational training policy and system design, including in relation to quality assurance and good governance;
3. sharing best practices on public employment services and vocational training programs;
4. cooperation in the exchange of skills, knowledge related to methodologies, new technology use, and workforce development;

5. encouraging cooperation to improve the quality of Trainers and Assessors;
6. exchange of labour market information data;
7. other cooperative items agreed upon by the Participants.

§4. The designated persons of contact will meet periodically, at times and places of their choosing, to review this section of the Memorandum of Understanding and discuss the activity planning.

Section 8. Science

The Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) and The Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of China (Taiwan), signed on 28 August 2019, remains valid as a basis for the promotion and support of scientific cooperation between the Participants in all fields of their competence.

Section 9. Modalities of cooperation

§1. Cooperation by the Participants under this Memorandum of Understanding may particularly take the following modalities:

1. sharing of good practices relating to institutions and policies;
2. exchange of experiences in the areas of cooperation;
3. exchange of experiences and expertise between academic, scientific and technical personnel;
4. exchange of scientific and technological information and data;
5. organisation of study visits, workshops, seminars, training courses, field visits, working groups and other forms of dialogue;
6. co-host of joint projects and research, and the promotion of participation in activities relating to the areas of cooperation;
7. mutual invitation of experts to conferences, events, etc. organised by the Participants or where the Participants consider it useful for experts of the other Participant to be present.

§2. For purposes of implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding a Joint Commission will be established. The Joint Commission may hold meetings or conduct consultations in order to discuss and improve the cooperation to be carried out in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding. The Joint Commission will meet every two years or as otherwise decided upon by the Participants.

§3. Other modalities as may be decided upon later by the Participants.

Section 10. Financing

The costs involved in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the respective Participants. This Memorandum of Understanding does not bind either Participant to any financial arrangements other than those separately accepted in writing.

Section 11. Replacement, effective date, amendments, termination

§1. This Memorandum of Understanding will replace the following Memoranda of Understanding:

1. the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Flanders Administrations and Taiwan; signed on 17 October 2017;
2. the Memorandum of Understanding on Educational Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Department of Education and Training of the Flemish Community, signed on 12 July 2018;
3. the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in public employment services and vocational training between the Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding), and Workforce Development Agency of the Ministry of Labor, Taiwan, signed on 2 November 2018;
4. the Memorandum of Understanding between the Flemish policy domain Welfare, Public Health and Family and the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of China, Taiwan, signed on 29 January 2019.

§2. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon signature.

§3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants.

§4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Participant giving six months in advance written notice to the other Participant.

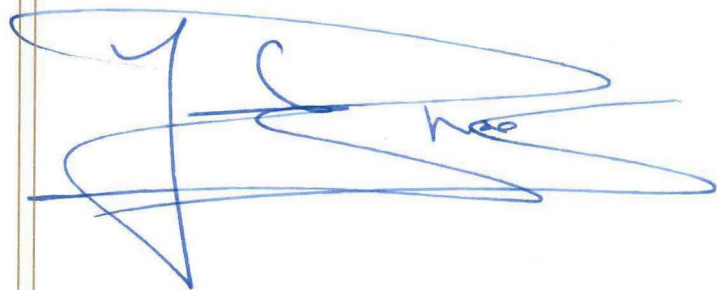
Section 12. Dispute settlement

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any rights or obligations under international law.

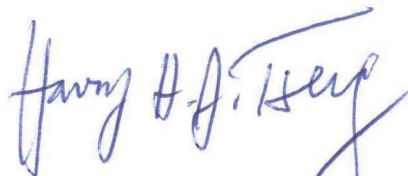
Any dispute between the Participants related to the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved amicably by means of consultation and negotiation between the Participants and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached between the Participants upon the matters referred to herein; it does not create legally binding obligations.

Signed in duplicate in Brussels and Taipei respectively on
in the English language.



Julie Bynens
Secretary General
Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office



Harry Ho-jen Tseng
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan