

**CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEARS 2018-2020**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF POLAND**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**

Brussels, the 9th of February 2018

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Koen Verlaeckt, the President of the Flemish delegation welcomes the Polish delegation and presents the members of his delegation.

#### **Department of Foreign Affairs**

- Koen Verlaeckt Secretary General, Co-Chairman of the Joint Polish-Flemish Commission
- Yves Wantens General Representative of the Government of Flanders in Warszawa
- Stefaan De Groote Secretary of the Flemish part of the Joint Polish-Flemish Commission and policy advisor Central-Europe
- Jan Korthoudt Director Tourism
- Roxanne Van Hulle Policy advisor cultural diplomacy

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#### **Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research**

- Cathy Plasman International relations

## **Department of Work and Social Economy**

Ariane Rober, project coordinator ESF

Renata Szczęch, the President of the Polish delegation thanks for the warm welcome and presents the members of her delegation.

## **Ministry of the Interior and Administration**

- Renata Szczęch Undersecretary of State, Co-Chairman of the Joint Polish-Flemish Commission
- Joanna Tomasini-Lewandowska Deputy Director, International Affairs Department, Deputy Co-Chairman of the Joint Polish-Flemish Commission
- Barbara Skólska Head of Unit, International Affairs Department
- Witold Kadenaci Chief Expert, International Affairs Department, Secretary of the Polish Part of the Joint Polish-Flemish Commission

## **Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the Kingdom of Belgium**

- Artur Orzechowski Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Belgium
- Joanna Doberszyc – Toulsaly Minister Counsellor

## **Ministry of Health**

- Katarzyna Przybylska Head of unit, E-Health and European Funds Department

## **Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology**

- Aleksander Siemaszko Head of unit, International Affairs Department

## **Ministry of Culture and National Heritage**

- Teresa Mikulska Chief Expert, Department of International Relations

### **Ministry of Science and Higher Education**

- Anna Majda Chief Expert, International Affairs Department

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- Anna Biernacka-Rygiel Senior Specialist, Department of Transport Strategy and International Cooperation

### **Polish Tourist Organization**

- Dominika Szulc Director, Pools Informatiebureau voor Toerisme
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To implement the dispositions of the Co-operation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Flanders that was signed in Warsaw on the 6th of June 1994, the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Flanders, hereafter called the Parties,

have agreed as follows, for the years 2018 – 2020:

## **1. THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE (2018), THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLISH-BELGIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (2019) AND THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF FLANDERS FROM THE GERMAN OCCUPATION (2019)**

### **1.1. Introduction**

Poland and Flanders have a long history of friendly relations, shaped by our shared values and history: from trade relations between Polish cities and the Flemish cities of the Hanseatic League, independence wars of the 1830s, to the support afforded by Belgium to Solidarity.

Flanders regularly commemorates the participation of the 1st Polish Armoured Division led by General Stanislaw Maczek in the liberation of Flanders from the German occupation in September 1944. We hope to continue to preserve the memory about these historical events and Polish heroes through jointly implemented projects, e.g. 'Polish Days in Flanders' and the General Maczek exhibition in Warsaw ( June 2018) and probably also in Gdansk at the WWII museum in September 2018.

The Polish Embassy is planning several actions in Flanders. In 2019, Poland and Flanders shall commemorate two events from the history of Polish-Flemish relations: the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Flanders from the German occupation by the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division of General S. Maczek and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Polish-Belgian diplomatic relations.

Flanders welcomes these initiatives and will support wherever possible and specifically for the project implemented by the Polish Embassy in Brussels: "Remembering the Soldiers of General Maczek, the Liberators of Flanders". The project involves the organisation of a cycling rally in September 2019, through Poperinge, Roeselare, Tielt, Ruiselede, Aalter, Maldegem-Aldegem, Ghent and Lokeren, with the participation and involvement of local authorities in cities and towns liberated by Polish soldiers.

Both Parties intent to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries.

### **1.2. List of actions**

- Following the invitation of the Mayor of Ghent and the Governor of East Flanders, the Polish Embassy in Belgium shall participate in the commemoration of the liberation of Ghent, which is to take place on 1st November 2018.
- As for commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries, a joint publication of the "History of Polish-Belgian Relations: from the 19th to the 21st Century" is planned (in Polish, Dutch and French), which shall be presented and promoted during a conference for Polish and Belgian historians, organised as a common project of several universities (first half of 2019). In this context, an important topic of discussion will be the presence of Polish generals in the Belgian army, e.g. of General Kruszewski (2019 marks the 220th anniversary of his birth and the 140th anniversary of his death; Kruszewski is buried in Gogołów, Podkarpackie region). The Flemish and Polish party will engage to further develop this initiative by mutual agreement.

- An amateur cycling rally in the footsteps of the soldiers of the 1st Armoured Division of General S. Maczek shall tally with a number of important anniversaries and events related to cycling that Belgium plans to celebrate in 2019. First of all, Tour de France is to start in Brussels on Saturday, 6 July 2019. On 25<sup>th</sup> June each year , Cycling Day shall afford a great opportunity for organizing a joint Polish-Flemish event. In 2019, it will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the so-called “maillot jaune” (yellow jersey) and the 50th anniversary of Eddy Merckx's first victory.
- In joint partnership with IPN, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Representation of Flanders in Poland, an exhibition on the liberation of Flanders by General Maczek will be opened on the 4th of June 2018 in Warsaw. This happens in the presence of Geert Bourgeois, Minister President of Flanders. The WWII museum in Gdansk is planning to show this exhibition in the second half of the 2018. The exhibition will travel to Flanders in 2019 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Flanders by the 1st Polish Armoured Division.
- Together with the Lazienki museum, the MFA, the Office of the Prime Minister ( Secretary of State, Anna-Maria Anders) and the Flemish General Representation an outside poster exhibition at Lazienki Park ( Al. Ujazdowskie) on General Maczek is envisaged for September 2018 consisting of 30 panels attached to the fence along Lazienki Parc. Possibly, the same poster exhibition on General Maczek could be attached to the fence along the Cinquantenaire Park, in front of the Polish Embassy, avenue des Gaulois 29.
- Both parties acknowledge the information about the cruise with the Polish ship ‘ Dar Mlodziezy’ in the period May 2018 to March 2019 which will moor in Antwerp during the world tour celebrating 100 years of Poland returning to Polish Sovereignty.
- The the Flanders Inspires International Visitors Program

Since 2010, seven participants from Poland were invited. The General Representative of Flanders in Poland will continue to detect suitable candidates in the future.

Since its start in 2010, over 100 guests from more than 30 countries worldwide participated in. Our guests are experts in their respective fields, from policy makers to researchers in public service and civil societies. The themes are related to the long-term policy goals of the Government of Flanders. The objectives are to provide an orientation and overview of the latest innovation trends and potential future developments.

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## 2. EDUCATION

Both Parties will support exchange of information on the systems of education, their development plans and directions of reforms, particularly in the following areas:

- Exchange of experience and good practices,
- Inclusion of the employers in the vocational education process, with particular focus on dual learning,
- Career guidance for schools.

Both Parties will support the cooperation between schools and educational establishments under the Erasmus+ programme and under eTwinning and eTwinningPlus programmes as well as in the framework of direct partnerships.

Both Parties encourage development of cooperation between vocational schools and vocational education establishments, chambers of crafts, social partners and companies in the field of traineeships and placements in companies in order to allow education in real work environment and to improve employability and professional competences.

The cooperation will comply with the conditions directly agreed by the interested establishments.

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### **3. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**

#### **3.1 In general**

The Polish Party is ready to exchange specialist knowledge, information and experience in the field of supporting various forms of additional agricultural activity and non-agricultural economic activity in rural areas as well as in the development of tourism functions in rural areas.

The Polish Party suggests to establish cooperation in farm advisory services based on the exchange of experiences and expertise in the domain of farm advisory system organisation, principles of agricultural consultants upskilling, support areas for farmers and rural inhabitants as well as the use of new communication means for advisory services.

Both Parties are interested in developing the concept of social farming and care farms by exchange of expertise, information and experience, joint participation in projects, coordination of joint projects and development measures, training and promotion. The Flemish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is willing to share experiences and information about the support for care farms.

The Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants from Poznań and the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation from Puławy have expressed their willingness to contribute to work in areas specified in the 2018-2020 Action Plan.

The Institute of Technology and Life Sciences proposed cooperation in the following matters:

- ✦ development of experimental biomass refineries;
- ✦ conducting joint research under European Commission's programmes, i.e. HORIZONT 2020, FP9 and other programmes: production of advanced biofuels from agricultural residue, forest and urban waste; construction of systems converting biomass to fuels, energy or chemicals, in particular power-to-gas technologies, use of fuel cells for generating electricity from locally sourced biomass.

#### **3.2. Scientific Cooperation already financed by Horizon 2020**

ILVO (Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Flanders) has established the following joint Research Projects with Polish partners:

- Agridemo and Nefertiti, Centrum Doradztwa Rolniczego, Brwinów
- Seafoordtomorrow and the Waterproject, Zachodniopomorski Uniwersytet Technologiczny Szczecin
- Surefarm Instytut Rozwoju Rolnictwa Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warszawa
- Susan and Suscrop, Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, Warszawa
- Radar (second phase), Instytut Uprawy Nawożenia i Gleboznawstwa w Puławach

#### **3.3. Proposal to extend the research funded under Horizon 2020**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland suggests to extend the research cooperation funded under Horizon 2020 with the following proposals:

*With the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – National Research Institute*

- Adapting agriculture to climate change,
- Increasing the production of quality leguminous crops for the purpose of animal production,
- Impact of agriculture on the natural environment.

*With the Institute of Biotechnology for Agri-food Industry*

- The development of food production in SME and on family farms,
- Joint development and research work in the following areas: innovative (functional) food for human and animal consumption; methods of food quality testing; waste-free production.

*With the National Research Institute of Animal Protection*

- Protection of natural environment against adverse impact of animal breeding,
- Climate change mitigation,
- Use of PLF in animal breeding,
- Improving the methods for assessing the genetic value of farm animals, including the genomic breeding value assessment,
- Improving the animal welfare and health level.

*With the National Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute*

- Joint development and research work on the new crop variety breeding (cereals and potatoes);
- Testing the resistance to diseases of new breeding materials;
- Participation in the research projects within the framework of the European Commission contests.

Both Parties are interested in the researchers exchange, aimed at developing the scientific and research potential of cooperating organizations. ILVO is interested in an exchange of researchers and is willing to facilitate visits; travel and accommodation costs at expenses of sending party.

Developing the concept of social farming and care farms:

exchange of expertise, information and experience, joint participation in projects, coordination of joint projects and development measures, training and promotion. The Flemish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is willing to share experiences and information about the support for care farms.

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## **4. SOCIAL WELFARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE**

### **4.1. Social integration of disabled people**

- Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy sees potential possibilities for cooperation in the area of help and social integration and disabled people, namely:
  - system of long term care for elderly people, disabled and chronically ill people,
  - social and labour rehabilitation of disabled people.
- In Flanders, the VAPH is the agency that is competent for these matters. They will consider potential opportunities for cooperation within their scope.

### **4.2. E-health**

- On 26 May 2017, the Under-Secretary of State Piotr Gryza met with the Flemish Minister for Social Policy, Health and Family Jo Vandeurzen at the Ministry of Health in Warsaw. They discussed potential joint projects of Poland and Flanders in the area of e-health, in the framework of the 2018-2020 Cooperation Programme.
- Possible fields of cooperation within e-health proposed by the Polish side:
  - Exchange of experiences and information on telemedicine,
  - Development of telemedicine and information systems at the primary care level,
  - Medical University of Gdańsk would like to join new program between Poland and Flanders as an entity that will implement the program on the Polish side within the scope of integrated health and e-health,
  - Cooperation will take place in accordance with the terms agreed directly by the involved institutions.

### **4.3. Health prophylaxis**

- Possible fields of cooperation within health prophylaxis proposed by the Polish side:
  - Exchange of experiences and solutions to increase registering to screening tests,
  - Exchange of knowledge on the implementation of preventive projects, including co-financed by EU funds or other European funds - good practices / successes, but also pitfalls in the implementation of prevention programs,
- Cooperation will take place in accordance with the terms agreed directly by the involved institutions.

### **4.4. Care and services elderly people**

A delegation of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship brings on March the 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 a visit to Flanders and more specific to the health care campus in Aalst ‘‘Onze-Lieve-Vrouwziekenhuis’ and the ‘Woon- en Zorgcentrum Sint-Vincentius’ in Erpe-Mere (centre for recovery stay elderly people).

The aim of the visit is getting to know the practicalities of care and medical services for elderly people, organization of care and services for elderly people, coordinated care, elements of medical rehabilitation after orthopedic surgeries. Poland is introducing coordinated care and would like to get the knowledge from other countries.

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## 5. TOURISM

Both Parties encourage the exchange of information concerning tourist markets and they promote tourism events in Poland and in Flanders.

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

Both Parties encourage the organization of seminars, colloquiums and workshop that are proposed by each Party, to exchange experience and ideas especially in the field of development of tourism in rural areas, including rural tourism, agro-tourism and educational farmsteads: exchange of expertise, information and experience.

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## 6. CULTURE, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SPORTS

### 6.1. Culture and cultural heritage

Both Parties propose:

- The implementing joint projects and initiatives related to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poland's independence.
- A cooperation between Polish and Flemish museums, e.g. the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw , Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen and the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp..
- An investigation of the development of joint projects in the area of research in the Dutch school of painting (e.g. the project regarding Hans Memling's triptych carried out by the National Museum in Gdansk, cooperation proposals from the National Museum in Warsaw and Łazienki Królewskie Museum).
- The exchange of experience in protection, promotion and management of UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- A development of cooperation between cultural and creative sector institutions and organizations, in particular between regional creativity centres.

The Polish Party wishes to promote the work of B. Verstock, Flemish film director who has recounted in his films the history of Polish soldiers that participated in the liberation of Flanders.

As part of its efforts in the area of education, Poland also intends to pursue a project initiated in May 2017 by the Polish Embassy in Belgium together with the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN). In a series of regularly organized events, Polish history and cultural heritage shall be promoted among citizens of Belgium and Flanders.

The Flemish Party draws attention to the possibilities for artists, writers and translators to enter the residence programs of the following organizations (participants should meet the criteria and pass the selection).

- "Frans Masereel Centre" in Kasterlee offers residences in the field of graphic arts ([www.fransmasereelcentrum.be](http://www.fransmasereelcentrum.be)).
- "Passa Porta" offers residences in Brussels and Vollezele for writers and translators ([www.passaporta.be](http://www.passaporta.be)).
- "Flemish Literature Fund" offers residences for translators in the Translators' House in Antwerp ([www.fondsvoordeletteren.be](http://www.fondsvoordeletteren.be)).

### 6.2. Cooperation proposals submitted by Mazovian region

Office of the Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw is willing to establish cooperation with the Flemish Party according to the following proposals:

## I. MAZOVIA INSTITUTE OF CULTURE

1. A series of scientific and popularising lectures "Olędrzy in the cultural landscape of Mazovia",
2. A series of lectures popularising the most important scientific works and essays in the field of history of culture and art and ethnology and cultural anthropology concerning Flemish-Polish relations,
3. International, bilateral scientific conference "the Flemings at the court of the kings of the Commonwealth of Poland (17th-18th centuries)",
4. International bilateral research symposium "Not only Tylman van Gameren. About the cultural and artistic role of the Flemings in the 12th-19th century in Masovia and in Warsaw",
5. Ordering, preparation and editing of two bilingual collective volumes of the ordered scientific texts on the following topics:
  - a). Polish immigrants in Belgium after 1813 and their role in the formation of the Kingdom of Belgium (1830-1831),
  - b). Diplomats, industrialists, craftsmen and artists – the Flemish presence in the life of Warsaw and Mazovia in the 19th and 20th centuries.

## II. STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW

1. Exhibition "Treasures of the middle ages"

### Planned partners:

1. Archeological Museum in Bruges  
<https://www.visitbruges.be/en/archeologiemuseum-archeological-museum>
2. Provinciaal Archaeologisch Museum  
<http://www.pam-ov.be/ename>

## III. WARSAW CHAMBER OPERA

1. Joint project entitled Flanders and Masovia By Mozart

### Planned partners:

1. Regions: Mazovia and Flanders
2. Cities: Warsaw and Ghent
3. Warsaw Chamber Opera - Opera Ghent
4. Ensembles: Musicae Antiquae Collegium Varsoviense - Collegium Vocale, Ghent

## IV. MASOVIAN MUSIC THEATRE

1. Common project : "Musical Journey along the Slavs and Flemish routes"

### Planned partners:

1. Regions: Mazovia and Flanders
2. Cities: Warsaw and Ghent

3. Jan Kiepura Masovian Music Theatre and Best Art Concept / Vooruit Arts Centre - Ghent and Capitole Theatre Gent (suggested institutions without prior contact – possibility to indicate others)
4. Ensembles: L'Orchestre du Joli Bord / The Orchestra of the Masovian Music Theatre and Music Ensembles from Ghent (without prior contact, to be identified)

Cooperation will take place in accordance with the terms agreed directly by the involved institutions: Jan Kiepura Mazovian Music Theatre and the Flemish institutions.

### 6.3. Sports

Flanders is interested in collaboration with the Polish Partner in the field of for instance Erasmus+ Sport, peer learning activities or very specific knowledge exchanges such as research, sports promotion, infrastructure.

Flanders is encouraged to support and get engaged at the Polish Run, organized for the first time in September 2017, and scheduled to be held each year at the end of September in Brussels (WSL and WSP), within the framework of the European Sports Week (European Commission).

#### Units involved in co-operation from the Polish side:

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## 7. ENVIRONMENT

Both Parties propose:

- Exchange of information, knowledge and expertise regarding (Ministry of Environment):
  - forest, non-forest and water ecosystem protection,
  - NATURE 2000 network,
  - forest and environment education.
  
- Exchange of knowledge on substances of particular environmental concern, including asbestos (Office of the Marshal of the Malopolskie Voivodship):
  - Tackling the issue on the problem of asbestos waste;
  - Initial and current quantity of asbestos;
  - Asbestos waste and waste disposal programmes – funding;
  - Database of asbestos-containing products – data verification;
  - Tackling the issue on the local level – a study visit to a Flemish municipality.
  
- Exchange of knowledge on waste- and Materials and Soil Management  
The Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) is prepared - within its financial possibilities and depending on staff availability – to invite a number of Polish experts in the field of the Waste and Materials Management and Soil Remediation in order to exchange know-how and information concerning specific items in this matter.
  
- Exchange of information, knowledge and expertise regarding climate adaptation in relationship to transport infrastructure development (Office of the Marshal of the Malopolskie Voivodship):
  - Protection against flooding and water shortage by means of inter alia pumping installations and hydroelectric power stations in one
  - Taking into account 'worst case' climate change scenarios when building bridges, locks and roads
  - Taking into account the effect of rising temperatures on the development of airports, in particular the extension of runways
  
- Exchange of information, knowledge and expertise (Mazovia Energy Agency Ltd):
  - energy management in public utility buildings,
  - fuel cells (hydrogene),
  - electricity storage technology in supercapacitors,
  - LNG application in communes and transport.

Units involved in co-operation from the Polish side:

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## 8. MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### 8.1. Ports, maritime transport and inland waterways

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

- General policy on sea and inland ports with emphasis on the co-operation between ports and the exchange of best practices in the field of sustainability and ICT
    - The Flemish Party (Department of Foreign Affairs) offers the Polish Party the possibility to send experts to the port training and port management seminars that are organised by APEC (Antwerpen/Flanders Port Training Center).  
The Polish Party will present its candidates for those seminars. Participants are selected by APEC. The Flemish Party covers the expenses for participation in the seminars. The international travel expenses are covered by the participant or by the organisation on which he/she depends.
  - Design and construction of port and water related infrastructure, including training and other services
    - Maritime Education/Inland Education – implementation of joint projects and exchange of experience. Polish schools and universities are interested in the cooperation in this area.
  - Facilitating networking between the Polish and Flemish port sector (port authorities, ministries and knowledge institutions)
  - Implementation of relevant EU policy and EU legislation (e.g. Clean Power for Transport, Port Regulation, RIS directive, EU water framework directive and sea spatial planning directive)
  - Supporting European initiatives concerning European Shortsea and motorways of the sea
  - Policy and measures to reach the goals of European Clean Air Policy Package
  - Mitigating climate change by reduction of greenhouse gasses, greening of maritime and inland waterway transport with regard to air pollution, the use of LNG as a fuel for maritime shipping (Poland and Flanders are both located in an Emission Control Area)
  - Policy in terms of regulation, operation, commercialization and promotion of inland waterways; policy on sustainable inland navigation
  - Multifunctional use of the waterways, combining both its economical and recreational function
  - On-shore services for inland navigation (inter alia Inland Electronic Navigational Chart)
  - Promotion of inland shipping, short sea shipping, modal shift actions and intermodal connections
  - Various aspects regarding the policy, infrastructure, management, new technologies and information of inland waterways and water protection
  - 
  - Share innovative approaches on integrated flood control inland systems waterway
- Learn about strategic integrated governance, programming and project implementation methods

- -Preparation of project documentation especially for investments in inland waterways;
- - How to prepare a feasibility study (the most important elements, cooperation with contractors) for inland waterways projects;
- - Stages of the investments (milestones) – good and bad examples;
- - Barriers and obstacles during project implementation;
- - Public-private partnership, other models of project implementation – good practices;
- - Cooperation with NGOs (good and bad examples);
- - Experiences in building a network of partnerships in the field of TEN-T.
- - Ministry of Maritime and Inland Navigation is interested in cooperation when it comes to the exchange of experience gathered while implementing the project of construction of a global river project – the connection Seine-Scheldt. The experience of Flemish side and exchange of good practices might be a valuable source of information for the Ministry of Maritime and Inland Navigation in the terms of implementation of the Danube-Oder-Elbe project.  
River transport in Flanders is very well developed what makes Flemish side an attractive partner, especially in the perspective of plans for development of inland sailing in Poland. Cooperation could be based on the exchange of experience and organization of study visits.
- Exchange of innovative logistics concepts related to new trends (e-, m- and c-commerce, horizontal collaboration, 3-D-printing, ...) and integrated multimodal logistics based on efficient transportflows (via inland navigation, rail, road) between sea ports and the hinterland through the exchange of information related to cargo and transport enabling multimodal services (ICT and ITS), as well as the optimal localisation and operation of hubs, terminals and (European and regional) distribution centres

## 8.2. Road transport and traffic safety

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

- In the area of road infrastructure, the Road and Bridge Institute have presented following proposals:  
Materials and technologies:
  - control methods and equipment for measuring the condition of the roads: pavement (PMS) and road surroundings (Flemish Inventory Inspection Reporting system)
  - guidebooks road design, management and maintenance



- outsourcing of maintenance contracts
- trajectory control and the use of ANPR
- design and evaluation of geotechnical constructions, including geotechnical monitoring
- exchange of expertise and information concerning regional databases of the subsoil
- designing of bridge and airport surfaces, constructions and equipment,
- design and evaluation of geotechnical constructions,
- comprehensive evaluation of street and airport surfaces. Co-operation with the Flemish airports of Ostend-Bruges and Antwerp in this matter is possible. In the coming years, both airports plan to renew pavings including the runways . Flanders lacks the expertise to execute these works itself. Therefore, they will be entrusted to an external consultancy firm.
- evaluation of the anti-slip properties of the surface,
- bearing assessment,
- corrosion protection of steel, galvanizing of steel and concrete structures.

**Organizational activities:**

- the financial aspects and benefits of PPP
- the impact of climate change costs on integrating decision-making,
- development of solutions and equipment used in Intelligent Transport Systems and in road safety area,
- mechanization and organization of road and bridge works.
- shaping of road management systems.
- road infrastructure charging – Heavy Goods Vehicles

In the area of mentioned above fields, the Institute is especially interested in exchange of information and experience concerning:

- standardization in telematics,
- architecture of ITS systems,
- communication systems,
- systems for navigation in transport,
- system for special information and data base,
- integration of telematics systems,
- road remote sensing, data collection on the roads that include camera traffic measurement, radar traffic measurement, segment speed measurement, drive recording of vehicle while passing on the red light, automatic recognition of car plates, vehicle brand, vehicle color (Intelligent System of Comprehensive Identification of Vehicles).

**Economy and ecology:**

- implementation of sustainable resources and transport solutions,
- greenhouse gas emission in transport,
- intelligent cities and intelligent transport,
- mobility in the cities,
- planning of eco-travels in the city, sustainable transport policy,
- elder people in urban mobility's,
- innovative financial models of transport infrastructure.

- The Road and Bridge Institute would also eagerly start a cooperation in development of methods that use information obtained thanks to the usage of vehicle weighing system in motion (WIM-enforcement, WIM-standardization, accuracy of WIM-measurements).
  - methods of using the data from Weight in Motion (WIM) system
- The Institute has at its disposal urban mobility experts, who are able to conduct precise analysis of this problem (the analysis would include the research in the cooperation with NGOs).

Road and Bridge Institute is especially interested in:

- electro mobility in the scope of policies and tools for implementation of electric cars on national and regional scale; analysis of effectiveness of specific actions and system requirements needed for the wide usage of electric cars,
  - implementation of relevant EU policy and EU regulation (e.g. Clean Power for Transport)
  - intelligent cities and sustainable urban transport in the context of the impact of new technologies and “smart cities” elements for the functioning of transport systems in the cities (especially in the area of implementation the sustainable transport system idea) as well as for adaptation of new technologies in the cities (car-sharing, big data analysis, smart mobility etc.),
  - passageways preferences – analysis of monitoring and methods for creation of passageways preferences among city residents.
  - efficient and sustainable urban logistics: sharing best practices (e.g. innovative concepts, consolidation centres, sustainable transport, ...) and national, regional, local policy experience
- Road and Bridge Institute is able to present methods and devices for assessment of road condition, including the bearing assessment with the laser deflectometer Traffic Speed Deflectometer. In the Institute there are numerous specialists that conduct research and assessment of the materials that are used while winter road maintenance, specialist work also in the area related to winter and summer road maintenance. Institute is involved in the exchange of information and experience in the scope of financial allocation for winter and summer road maintenance.
  - Road and Bridge Institute is eager to take part in actions that aim for creating analysis of solutions that improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, which is one of the crucial issues for Poland and Belgium. Institute is ready to support actions concerning usage in the transport fast growing solar and wind energy (e-car as a clean vehicle and energy accumulator) as well as actions concerning legal regulations of the autonomous vehicles.
  - Ministry of Infrastructure is ready to exchange good practices and international experiences in actions aimed for improvement of traffic safety. As an example - development and implementation of a National Road Safety Programme 2013-2020.

### 8.3 Air transport

- After the consultation with Polish Airports (P.P. “Porty Lotnicze”) Ministry of Infrastructure proposes following ways for the Polish – Flemish cooperation:
  - Creation of net of contacts between Polish and Flemish aviation sector (including: managers of airports, institutions), organization of meetings and study visits between Flemish and Polish representatives of airports.
  - Exchange of experience in creating and implementing strategies for development of airport industry as well as in creating policies in airports with the special interest on exchange of experience in innovative and intermodal transport concepts.

#### 8.4. Construction

- Ministry of Investments and Development would be interested in the exchange of experience in terms of solutions implemented in Flanders concerning building life cycle.

#### 8.5. Spatial policy

- In the field of spatial planning the Ministry of Investments and Development is interested in the exchange of experience concerning:
  - spatial planning and real estate management in the cities,
  - tools for integrated investment and transformation of the space,
  - applied solutions while implementing big investment projects,
  - rehabilitation of cities and villages.

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The Road and Bridge Institute

Polish Airports (P.P. “Porty Lotnicze”)

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## 9. HIGHER EDUCATION

- The Polish Party draws attention on promoting bilateral contacts between academic institutions, universities and public administration bodies responsible for the development of international cooperation.
- In 2019, the College of Europe in Bruges (founded in 1949) shall celebrate the 70th anniversary of its establishment. Flanders wishes to highlight its ties and cooperation with the College of Europe in Natolin (Warsaw), for instance through organizing a POLISH DAY/FESTIVAL that would coincide with the annual Flanders National Day (11 July).
- 
- The Polish Party draws attention on vocational training. It will involve the establishment of partnerships among catering and baking vocational colleges, aimed at increasing the educational and training mobility of teachers and instructors (job shadowing, study visits, observations). Exchange projects can be combined with Erasmus +, eTwinning or other partnerships.
- The Dutch Language Union offers support for Dutch language departments, teachers and students of the Dutch language abroad, like for example summer courses of the Dutch language, literature and culture, teaching resources and continuing study courses.
- The Dutch Language Union offers a summer course for students in Ghent (BE) and summer courses for teachers and researchers in Leuven, Amsterdam and Utrecht. More information about the financial support in general and the summer courses can be found at the website of the Dutch Language Union:  
<http://taalunieversum.org/inhoud/dutch-worldwide/04-summer-courses-dutch>  
<http://taalunieversum.org/inhoud/dutch-worldwide/05-summer-courses-teachers>  
<http://taalunieversum.org/inhoud/dutch-worldwide/01-funding-studying-dutch-abroad>
- The Flemish Party offers scholarships for Master studies via the Master Mind Scholarship Programme. More information on Flemish scholarships is accessible at: <http://www.studyinlanders.be/en/scholarship-programmes/master-mind-scholarships/>
- The Polish Party offers to the Flemish Party six (6) scholarships organized by Polish universities for learning the Polish language and culture. Poland offers summer courses of Polish to the best undergraduates of the Polish Language Faculties. Persons of Flemish origin that do not participate in the scholarship exchange under this Co-operation Program may obtain information about the Polish language and culture course enrolment rules and conditions directly from universities that organize such courses. Addresses and phone numbers of Polish universities are available at [www.go-poland.pl/](http://www.go-poland.pl/).
- Both Parties welcome the possibility of teaching Polish at universities in Flanders and support all forms of co-operation in teaching and promotion of the language of the other Party.

- The Polish Party may send professionally trained experts – teachers at the request of universities and other higher education institutions. The costs shall be partially paid by the Sending Party and the accepting higher education institution in line with the general rules of employing personnel in higher education institutions in Flanders.
- The world @ school is a new project launched by the Flemish Government. It involves international students in small projects in primary and secondary schools. Every school in Flanders can invite an international student to do an activity for or with the pupils on a subject related to their home country. The aim is to get to know the Flemish society better and to create global awareness for young school pupils. The Flemish party would like Polish students to participate in this program in the future.  
[www.flandersknowledgearea.be/nl/projecten/the-world-school](http://www.flandersknowledgearea.be/nl/projecten/the-world-school)

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## **10. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

### **10.1 General cooperation**

The Parties shall explore the ways to optimize further co-operation in the European Research Area, both with respect to research groups and innovation & science policies.

Co-operation in research and R&D may be agreed under a special agreement if the Parties decide to sign it.

Both Parties encourage each other to share knowledge and co-operate in research and innovative technologies. The parties will create contacts for research institutions, centers, firms, universities and administrations responsible for research and innovative technology policy. In this context, Poland is interested in strengthening co-operation with the University of Ghent.

As concerns multilateral co-operation, both Parties shall promote joint participation of Flemish and Polish researchers in European framework programs for R&D.

In order to promote international collaboration as a driving force for excellence and to stimulate the scientific collaboration between Flanders and Poland, the FWO has signed an agreement with the Polish Academy of Sciences for the funding of potential exchange projects. The projects have a duration of 3 years and the funding covers the travel expenses and accommodation costs of the involved researchers. In close consultation with the Polish Academy of Sciences, a new call for proposals will normally be launched in 2018 (start of new projects: January 2019).

### **10.2 Proposed actions**

- Mini- brokerage session

The Polish Party encourages its Flemish Partner to actively participate in bi-annual event called “mini-brokerage session”, hosted by the Polish Embassy in Brussels, on the margin of the study visits organized by the National Contact Point in Poland for the Horizon 2020. Mini-brokerage sessions help establishing direct contacts with the Polish partners (coming twice a year to Brussels) representing well performing firms and research institutions from different sectors (according to the topic of the study visit).

- Clustering and startup development policy

The Offices of the Marshals of the Voivodeships are willing to establish cooperation with the Flemish Party in the following areas:

1. Exchange of experience in building a comprehensive clustering development policy and exchange of experience between clusters from the Polish regions and Flanders.
2. The Office of the Marshal of Mazovia Voivodeship in Warsaw looks especially in cooperating in the fields of agro-food industry, chemical industry, life science, space industry.

Exchange of experiences in creating a friendly ecosystem of startup development at regional level.

Cooperation will take place in accordance with the terms agreed directly by the involved institutions.

- Lifelong learning, change and innovation

The Department of Work and Social Economy of Flanders has started a transnational ESF project entitled 'Partnership policy as a lever for lifelong learning, change and innovation'. The project is supported by two transnational partners, with representatives from Sweden (North-Middle Sweden) and Bulgaria (located in Sofia). The project examines how multi-stakeholder partnerships between different stakeholders are established elsewhere in European member countries or regions. Flemish Party wants to find out which foreign good practices of cooperation are transferable to the Flemish policy context.

After the desk and research phase (2017), Flemish Party is planning the foreign study visits (2018). Poland is chosen to be one of the six countries to learn from their partnership policy. In particular, Flemish Party is looking for inspiring multi-stakeholder partnerships to exchange good practices and ideas. Various stakeholders (from the field of work, education and/or economy) take part in this partnership. Flemish Party is specifically looking for partnerships that (in an innovative way) deal with the mapping of competences, the development of competences and/or the validation of competences. Within each country, Flemish Party is hoping to make contact with two or three inspiring partnership.

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## 11. COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Both parties emphasise importance of cooperation between local communities in Poland and Flanders which shall be continued and developed not only at the regional level, but also in the form of partnerships between cities. New partnerships and cooperation projects between Polish and Flemish cities are to be established.

Flanders proposes in concreto to cooperate and to provide information on the following topics: the organization of local elections; local finances and local statistics; local independent agencies; cooperation between local authorities; internal management at multiple levels, including scale and competences; the relationship between central and local authorities: policy support and administrative control.

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## 12. TRADE

- Flanders is Poland's main partner in our trade with Belgium. In this context, it is important to deepen our economic cooperation, e.g. trade and investment. Given that we find it important to promote trade relations between the two countries by the regular participation in exhibitions and fairs (furniture, fashion, food, construction etc.).
- In the framework of the "Strategy's for Responsible Development" international expansion area, the Polish side is particularly interested in increasing of the Polish investment in Flanders, as well as the Polish exports to this region. We underline the importance of SME cooperation. In particular the mutual exchanges of experiences of the internationalization of the family companies activities.
- The main sectors, which the Polish side considers as the perspective contribution to the intensification of the economic cooperation include :
  - agri-food sector
  - furniture sector
  - construction and logistics.
  - Energy and electro mobility
- Taking into regard the Flanders experience and achievement in the field of the innovation policy and clusters development, the Polish side will be also interested in the exchange of know-how and realization of common initiatives in this area.
- The Flemish Party is committed to enhancing and promoting the trade relations between Flanders and Poland. For that purpose, they will exchange information regarding business and investment opportunities. Ad hoc, and at the request of the other Party, the Flemish Party will also exchange information regarding its market and sectors, useful contacts, experiences and knowledge concerning the promotion of international entrepreneurship.
- For Flanders, the above will be realized by Flanders Investment & Trade, the official Flemish institution supporting Flemish companies in various kinds of international entrepreneurship, as well as helping foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders.
- Within its export promotion strategy, Flanders Investment & Trade focuses on the following promising target sectors in Poland:
  - Construction/Building materials
  - Retail and Food
  - Clean tech (environment & renewable energy)
  - Logistics
  - New technologies and mobile applications
- As in the past Flanders planned the following actions:
  - Group stand on the construction fair Budma in Poznan

- Multi sectoral trade mission (Poland for explorers, introduction Flemish companies to the Polish market)
- Road shows invest in eastern and western part of Poland

In addition to these actions, the Flemish economic representatives (Warsaw) and the trade secretary (Poznań) return once a year to Flanders for individual meetings with Flemish companies in order to give them tailor made advice concerning business opportunities in Poland and how to approach the Polish market.

Additionally, VLAM (Flanders' Agricultural Marketing Board) focuses on the products of the Flemish agricultural, horticultural and fishery sectors.

Mazovia Development Agency offers co-organization of trade or investment mission, under which we propose the following activities: organization of B2B matchmaking sessions between representatives of entrepreneurs from Poland and Flanders, study visit in the chosen Mazovia company, Special Economic Zone or Industrial & Technology Park, meetings with representatives of local authorities etc. Within the organization of mission, ARMSA can propose:

- Lending out of our conference room in our headquarters – free of charge,
- Recruitment of Polish entrepreneurs after receiving the list of entrepreneurs from Flemish side
- Coordination of the meeting.

Units involved in co-operation from the Flemish side will be responsible for: recruitment of Flemish entrepreneurs, shall cover the cost of their travel, including local transport, accommodation and business stay costs in Warsaw, etc.

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### 13. DECISION MAKING AND THE ROLE OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING PUBLIC POLICIES

The Malopolska Regional Development Observatory provided the Flemish partner with information about a possible project: Decision making and the role of research and analysis in the process of developing public policies’.

The project suggested by the Polish Partner will consist of three stages:

- exchange of information and searching for models of functioning of analytical and research departments in public administration;
- analysis of the influence of the research results and recommendations on decisions taken by the public authorities;
- two-week and month internships in analytical and research departments of various public institutions.

The Flemish Partner considers the project proposal as interesting but given its available resources suggests a feasible approach along the following lines:

- In order to obtain a mutual benefit of the project, it needs further elaboration and fine tuning, inter alia concerning its objectives, scope, planning etc.
- The final project outline should include the use of electronic means for the bilateral communication about the activities and their outcomes (suggested in stages 1 and 2 of the project proposal).
- As part of the project (e.g. on the basis of the results of stages 1 and 2) Flanders is willing to organize a two-day exchange between Flemish and Polish experts, including workshops and visits to other institutions (e.g. administrations, academia, etc. ).

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## **14. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **14.1**

The provisions of the present Co-operation Programme do not preclude the possibility of implementing other activities, exchanges or projects that will be agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

### **14.2**

Both Parties will agree on the provisions for each specific event through diplomatic channels. Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of the present Co-operation Programme shall be solved by negotiations between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

### **14.3**

Both parties agree that each party is responsible for its own costs related to the exchange of experts.

### **14.4**

For exchanges and visits or in the field of, Youth, Sports and Media, financial and material stipulations shall be decided upon by the specific parties involved and shall be communicated through diplomatic channels. All activities and exchanges mentioned shall be carried out within the limits of the financial resources at the disposal of the two Parties.

The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Warsaw in the fourth quarter of the year 2020.

Done in Brussels on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 in three original copies Polish, Dutch and English, the three texts being equally valid. Should any differences in the interpretation of the Co-operation Programme occur, the English version shall prevail.

For the Government  
of Flanders



Koen VERLAECKT

For the Government  
of the Republic of Poland



Renata SZCZĘCH