Cooperation Agreement
Dutch Language, Literature and Culture
in a Central European Context
DCC

This Agreement is entered into by and between the:

1. **Universität Wien,** Dr. Karl-Luegerring 1, A-1010 Wien, Austria, hereafter referred to as *University of Vienna*, represented by Rector Univ. Prof. Dr. Georg Winckler, Ao. Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Arthur Mettinger and Studienpräses Univ. Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kopp,

2. **Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci**, Křížkovského 8, CZ-771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic, hereafter referred to as *Palacký University at Olomouc*, represented by Vice-Rector Mgr. Jakub Dürr and by the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Prof. PhDr. Ivo Barteček, CSc.

3. **Uniwersytet Wrocławski**, Plac Uniwersytecki 1, PL-50-137 Wrocław, Poland, hereafter referred to as the *University of Wroclaw*, represented by Rector Prof. dr hab. Leszek Pacholski, and the Dean of the Philological Faculty, dr hab. prof. nadzw. UWr. Michał Sarnowski,

4. **Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave**, Šafárikovo námestie 6, SK-818 06 Bratislava 16, Slovakia, hereafter referred to as the *Comenius University Bratislava*, represented by Rector doc. PhDr. František Gahér, CSc., and the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, doc. PhDr. Anton Eliáš, CSc.,

5. **Masarykova Univerzita,** Žerotínovo náměstí 9, CZ-601 77 Brno, Czech Republic, hereafter referred to as the *Masaryk University*, represented by Rector Prof. PhDr. Petr Fiala, PhD., and the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Prof. PhDr. Josef Krob, CSc.,

6. **Debreceni Egyetem**, Egyetem tér 1, H-4010 Debrecen, hereafter referred to as the *University of Debrecen*, represented by Rector Prof. Dr. János Nagy, and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Doc. Dr. István Bujalos,

7. **Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem,** Kálvin tér 9, H-1091 Budapest, hereafter referred to as the *Karoli University Budapest*, represented by Rector Prof. Dr. Ferenc Szűcs and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Ferenc Kulin,

Hereinafter collectively referred to as **Partners**.

Preamble

- considering the agreement made for the CD project : 28544-IC-1-2004-1-AT-ERASMUS-PROGUC-2 (Dutch Language, Literature and culture in a Central European Context);
- considering that, as a result of fundamental changes in the international cultural and professional environment associated with European integration and developments in Central and Eastern Europe, the universities participating in this Programme acknowledge the need for their faculties and departments to develop European joint educational initiatives;
- considering professional preparation as one of the aims of the Bachelor Curriculum, as stipulated in the Bologna Agreement;
- considering a necessity to couple the traditional philological approach to the needs and expectations of an international and multicultural labour market in general and the Central European labour market in particular, with respect to graduates with a degree in Dutch language & literature;

- considering the importance attached within the European Union to the study of languages in general, and of the less widely spoken and less widely taught languages in particular;
- considering the wide range of expertise present in the institutes of Dutch studies in each of participating Partners respectively;
- considering the longstanding tradition and strong position of the studies of Dutch language, literature and culture in Central Europe;
- considering the tradition of cooperation within the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS), including staff and student mobility Programmes between all the Partners;

the Partners hereby agree as follows:

1. Objective

All words appearing in **bold** or Capitalised letters have the meaning attributed to them in Appendix III-Glossary.

The descriptive headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be interpreted so as to limit or affect in any way the meaning of the language in the pertaining Article, Section, Paragraph or Sub-paragraph.

Within the framework of this Agreement, '**Home institution**' refers to the institution where a student is enrolled, and pays tuition fees if such is required under the national legislation of this institution. '**Host Institution**' refers to the partner-institution, in whose courses students participate as part of their curriculum during the mandatory semester abroad.

1.1 Nature of the Agreement

The Partners are committed to cooperate in the joint award of the BA Joint Degree (in the following referred to as 'BA-Degree') for the jointly developed study program named '**Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context**' (in the following referred to as **Programme**'). The Programme (180 ECTS) shall be binding for each Partner only after its implementation. The decision regarding the implementation of the curriculum shall be taken by the respective authorized organ of each Partner in accordance with the legal prerequisites of the Partner's rules and regulations and the national legislation. The Study Programme (Appendix 1) is a guideline for the aims, structure and content of the Programme.

The purpose of this Agreement is to permit students enrolled at one of the Home Institutions, upon successful fulfilment of the conditions indicated in this Agreement, the opportunity of receiving, by means of a joint degree, both the academic degree of the Home Institution and the legal effects of the corresponding academic degree of the other Partners.

The BA-Degrees will be awarded in accordance with the awarding institutions' rules and regulations and the respective national legal requirements.

1.2 The Programme

The Programme agreed upon in this Agreement includes courses from various Partners. The Partners shall provide the students the possibility to fulfil the requirements as prescribed in the **Study Programme** (Annex 1).

Changes to the Study Programme can only be made in writing by unanimous decision of the Partners, on advice of the **Steering Committee** (see art. 2.1.).

The Study Programme prescribes that 30 ECTS must be obtained during a mandatory semester abroad and at least 30 ECTS must be obtained in courses offered on the **Virtual Platform DCC (http://www.ned.univie.ac.at/DCC).** The Virtual Platform DCC is a virtual Learning and Information Environment, where the Partners offer courses as part of the Study Programme. Further, the Virtual Platform presents information about the Programme and its implementation.

The Partners agree that the University of Vienna shall supply the server for the Virtual Platform. The Virtual Platform DCC will be online and active during the term of this Agreement. Thereafter, the University of Vienna shall decide on the further existence of the Platform. In case of termination of the Virtual Platform DCC the University of Vienna will, upon written request, return to the Partners their respective contributions to the Virtual Platform DCC such as, but not limited to, course materials, manuals, etc.

1.3   Equivalence of teaching volumes / modules / grades

In the publication of course offerings in the Study Programme, each Partner clearly defines the place and role of each of the offered courses within the agreed Study Programme.

The Partners are committed to using ECTS as a means of assigning course credits within the Study Programme.

ECTS obtained in courses offered within the Study Programme will be recognised by the Partners and count towards the BA-Degree.

Students will obtain grades according to the rules and regulations of their Home Institution. The Partners are committed to accredit the results a student has obtained in courses offered within the Study Programme. To this end, the **Joint Programme Coordinator** will define an equivalence list of the grades used, thus facilitating recognition of grades obtained during the mandatory semester abroad.

1.4   Academic degree and awarding institution

Graduates of the Programme 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' will be awarded the title 'Bachelor of Arts' (BA), or equivalent titles in national languages and according to the regulations of relevant national legislation.

The Partners are committed to award one joint BA-degree. The awarding institution is the 'Home Institution' of an individual student. The Home Institution will award the joint degree on behalf of the Partners.

1.5   Selection and Enrolment of the Students

The Partners are committed to accepting at least 35 students annually. Each of the participating universities can select at least 5 students annually.

Admission and/or selection procedures shall be the responsibility of the Home Institution through which a student enters into the Programme, according to the applicable laws and internal regulations of the university involved.

1.6   Bachelor Thesis and BA-Degree

A Bachelor thesis shall be approved by the rules according to the rules and regulations and the curriculum of the Home Institution.

A student will be eligible for the BA-Degree only after the Home Institution has concluded that, according to their exam regulations, all requirements of the Study Programme have been fulfilled and such has been confirmed by the Joint Programme Coordinator.

1.7 Quality Assurance

The Partners are subject to, and will follow, the local institutional quality assurance procedures to ensure that the Programme maintains its high academic quality.

In each of the modules and courses as part of the Study Programme, learning outcomes are clearly defined, in terms of competences of the students.

1.8 Mobility

The Programme requires all students to spend at least one semester in one 'Host Institution'. The Partners are committed to support students to fulfil this requirement as specified below.

The Partners will endeavour to support students within the Programme to obtain ERASMUS or CEEPUS scholarships for their mandatory semester abroad. However, students are not obliged to obtain a scholarship for their stay abroad but have the possibility to spend the mandatory semester at the respective Host Institution at their own expenses.

The Host Institutions will accept incoming students as exchange students (CEEPUS, ERASMUS or self-paying students). As such, they will be subject to the academic requirements and rules of conduct of the Host Institution. Students of all Partners will have the same privileges provided to students of the respective Host Institution during their mandatory semester abroad. The Partners in their capacity as Host Institutions further agree to waive tuition fees at least to the other Partner's students within the Programme, if they have the status of an ERASMUS or CEEPUS student.

The ECTS, which have been awarded for courses offered as part of the Study Programme, will be accredited by the academic authorities of the Partners. The **Local Programme Coordinator** is responsible for the transfer of ECTS obtained in the Host Institution into the student's record in the database of the **Central Students' Information Office**.

At the end of their second semester, students express a preference for at least two of the Partners. The Central Students' Information Office will provide the necessary information to the students on the Virtual Platform DCC. Assigning the available places among the students who applied is subject to the decision of the Steering Committee. Partners cannot accept or refuse students on their own accord.

1.9 Intellectual Property Rights

The Partners agree to respect their individual Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The Partners retain full title and rights to their own contributions made in the course of the implementation of the Programme. If one or more Partners contribute to a work or result, the contributing Partners gain co-ownership rights proportionately to their respective contribution. During the term of this Agreement, all Partners shall have the right to use the contributions of the other Partners to the Programme for the purpose of this cooperation free of charge.

The Joint Programme Coordinator will provide the Partners with editing-rights and access-rights regarding the content of the website. The Partners will be fully responsible for the contents and contributions they provide via the Virtual Platform DCC.

Every Partner is aware of the applicable national laws and regulations concerning copyright/intellectual property in his country and will take appropriate measures to assure compliance with these regulations. Under no circumstances will the Joint Programme Coordinator or the University of Vienna as the provider of the website be held liable for any infringement of copyright/intellectual property regulations caused by users/contributors/partners under the control of any Partner.

Should a third party prosecute the Joint Programme Coordinator or the University of Vienna due to a violation of copyright/intellectual property for content created under the responsibility of a Partner, this Partner will hold the Joint Programme Coordinator, the University of Vienna and the other Partners of the consortium harmless under all circumstances.

1.10 Disputes

The Partners agree to use their best efforts to settle all disputes amicably, if necessary with the mediating help of the Joint Programme Coordinator or the Steering Committee.

Any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be settled by the courts having jurisdiction matter at the seat of the Joint Programme Coordinator. This Agreement, its execution, interpretation and performance shall be governed by the laws of Austria.

2. Management

2.1 Management of the cooperation

Steering Committee:
The responsibility for the management of the cooperation rests with the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of one representative of each Partner, preferably the Local Programme Coordinator. As soon as the Partners have signed this Agreement, they will nominate the members of the Steering Committee. The Joint Programme Coordinator is member of the Steering Committee and the representative of his university. Each representative has one vote. Proxy votes are permitted if the nomination is in writing and signed by the representative. The representative delegating its voting rights may only name a substitute from its own organization as proxy.

The decisions of the Steering Committee are legally binding to all Partners. However, if the decisions of the Steering Committee are likely to modify or amend this Agreement, such as but not limited to the composition of the consortium, the tasks of the Partners, or the maximum number of students to be enrolled in the Programme, they shall be legally binding only after the persons authorized to legally represent the Partners have approved such decisions.

Among the responsibilities of the Steering Committee are:

a) defining regulations concerning new members, to be laid down in a new Agreement;
b) defining regulations for leaving the Partners, to be laid down in a new Agreement;
c) defining alternations and modifications to the cooperation of the Programme under this Agreement, to be laid down in a new Agreement;
d) deciding on minor and medium changes in the Study Programme under this Agreement.

The Steering Committee shall meet regularly according to the discretion of the Joint Programme Coordinator. Each member of the Steering Committee shall have the right to call an extraordinary meeting in case of urgent problems, which cannot wait to be discussed during a regular meeting.

In order to save costs, the Partners agree to communicate primarily by virtual working environments, virtual meeting or conference calls.

Decisions by the Steering Committee can be taken during a meeting or in writing by a circular resolution (if all Partners agree thereto). Decisions taken during a meeting shall only be valid if the Joint Programme Coordinator or in case of urgent problems, the Partner calling the meeting, has notified the other members of the Steering Committee of the meeting two (2) weeks in advance. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority votes of the members present.

In case of parity of votes, the vote of the Joint Programme Coordinator shall be decisive.

Joint Programme Coordinator:

The daily management of the Programme is the responsibility of a 'Joint Programme Coordinator'. For the duration of this Agreement the Chair of Dutch Studies at the University of Vienna will be the Chair of the Programme as well as the Joint Programme Coordinator.

The Joint Programme Coordinator is responsible for:

a) publishing the course offerings and course schedules in cooperation with the Central Students' Information Office;
b) assigning students for the semester abroad to specific Host Institutions, as required in the Programme under this Agreement;
c) allocating a second supervisor to the student's final thesis work;
d) facilitating the work of the Steering Committee.

Further, the Joint Programme Coordinator shall chair the meetings of the Steering Committee.

Local Programme Coordinators:

As soon as the Partners have signed this Agreement, each Institution will assign a '**Local Programme Coordinator**' who will be responsible for:

a) All aspects of communication and management of the cooperation with reference to the Partners' internal policy and procedures;
b) Implementing and coordinating the procedures for application and acceptance of students at their own institution;
c) Maintaining an up-to-date progress record of all students enrolled in the Programme under this Agreement through their institution in Cooperation with the Central Students' Information Office;
d) Monitoring and reviewing progress and the effectiveness of the cooperation in relation to their own institution;
e) Coordinating the annual update of the e-learning courses for the Virtual Platform DCC developed at their institution;
f) facilitating outgoing students in preparing the mandatory semester abroad in one of the Partner universities;
g) facilitating incoming students during the mandatory semester abroad in their own university.

2.2   Responsibilities of the Partners

The Partners will:

a) offer the courses as described in the implemented Programme;
b) provide adequate course descriptions for the annual publication of course offerings and course schedules of the Programme;
c) safeguard the quality of the Programme, as offered in their institution;
d) fulfil the necessary formal requirements for accreditation of the Programme in their home country;
e) cooperate in activities to maintain the quality of the Study Programme;
f) take formal and legal responsibility for the students enrolled in the Programme at their institution according to the applicable national laws and their respective internal regulations;
g) accept at least 5 exchange students within the Programme annually.

The University of Vienna will:

a) coordinate the development and implementation process of the Programme;
b) provide the technical means and support for the Virtual Platform DCC of the Programme;
c) provide the technical means and support for the website presenting the Programme;
d) provide access and use of all DCC virtual courses for the Partners during the term of this Agreement
e) provide the financial means for the Joint Programme Coordinator;
f) coordinate the enrolment strategies concerning the virtual courses on the Virtual Platform DCC of the Programme.

The University of Olomouc will:

a) coordinate the accreditation process of the Programme in the countries of the participating Partners;
b) coordinate a regular student and staff evaluation of the Programme;
c) coordinate a Central Students' Information Office;
d) coordinate contacts in the professional field.

The University of Wroclaw will:

a) coordinate an alumni network, including regular updates of professional occupations of alumni of the Programme under this Agreement;
b) coordinate a newsletter, keeping the Partners, staff and students informed on all running matters concerning the Programme under this Agreement;
c) coordinate the public relations for the Programme under this Agreement, including enrolment campaigns;
d) coordinate structural contacts with networks of Dutch Studies, both within the Central European Region as well as in the Low Countries.

2.3   Service and information for students

The Local Programme Coordinator of the Home Institution will use reasonable efforts to help outgoing students prepare for their semester abroad by providing the necessary practical information. This includes costs of living in the country of destination, available scholarships and application procedures, all other formalities.

The Local Programme Coordinator of the Home Institution will establish the contact between outgoing students and the Local Programme Coordinator at the Host Institution.

The Local Programme Coordinator of the Host Institution will inform incoming students about the infrastructure and provide all other information and assistance necessary. This includes the infrastructure of their own institution, registration procedures for exchange students, support mechanisms such as counselling, insurance issues, etc.

2.4 Confidentiality

The Partners shall treat as strictly confidential any data, information or documents etc. in whatever form and however communicated, marked as confidential, which the Partners become acquainted with during the execution of this Agreement.

Information is not considered as confidential if it
- was published or otherwise generally available to the public at the time of disclosure, or
- after disclosure has been published or made public otherwise than through any act or omission on the part of the receiving Partner or
- was already in the possession of the receiving Partner without any restrictions on disclosure or
- was rightfully acquired by the receiving Partner from others without any undertaking of confidentiality or
- was developed independently of the work under this Agreement by the receiving Party.

2.5 Warranty and Liability

The Partners warrant to use their best efforts to conduct all research and teaching activities in connection with the implementation of the Programme according to the present state of the art. Further warranties, whether implied or explicit are excluded.

Neither Partner shall be responsible to the other parties for indirect or consequential loss or damages such as, but not limited to, loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts. Each Partner shall indemnify the others in respect of wilful or grossly negligent acts or omissions of itself and of its Local Programme Coordinators provided always that such indemnification shall not extend to claims for indirect or consequential loss or damages such as, but not limited to, loss of profit, revenue, contract or the like.

The University of Vienna shall not be liable for any damages suffered by the other Partners or a third party resulting from the use of the Virtual Platform DCC.

The Partners will be fully responsible for the contents and contributions they provide via the Virtual Platform DCC and shall indemnify and hold harmless the University of Vienna from any responsibility and/or liability for any claims of third parties with respect to these contents and contributions.

2.6 Publicity and promotion

The Partners may make reference to the Programme under this Agreement, provided such reference clearly describes the nature and extent of the Programme and does not make misleading comments regarding standards, quality or services.

3. Financial Arrangements

The Partners are committed to provide the financial means necessary to guarantee their courses within the Programme under this Agreement for the coming 5 years.

The Partners are committed to provide the financial means for continued maintenance and development of course offerings within the Programme under this Agreement on the Virtual Platform DCC.

The University of Vienna, the Palacky University at Olomouc and the University of Wroclaw will provide the financial means for the respective responsibilities, as stipulated under art.2.2. of this Agreement.

Neither Partner will have the authority to authorise or incur financial liability on behalf of the others.

4. Further Provisions

4.1 Period of Validity / Start and Duration

This Agreement will come into force on the date of signature by the authorised representatives of the Partners. It will be valid for a period of 5 years from the last date of signing. It may be revised, modified or renewed by mutual written Agreement, on the recommendation of the Steering Committee.
As soon as the Partners have signed the Agreement, they will appoint the Steering Committee and nominate the Local Programme Coordinators.

Students can enrol in the Programme in the first full semester following the implementation of the Programme at all partner institutions. The Partners agree that in the case of termination of the Agreement, all students already enrolled in the Programme shall have the right to terminate their studies in accordance with the Programme.

4.2 Withdrawal, Termination or Modification

Defining regulations concerning new members as well as defining regulations for leaving the Partners are subject to decision by the Steering Committee, as stipulated in art. 2.1 of this Agreement.

Defining the terms for modifying the cooperation of the Programme under this Agreement into a new Agreement is also subject to decision by the Steering Committee, as stipulated in art. 2.1 of this Agreement.

An evaluation of this Agreement will be initiated by the Steering Committee at least every twelve months prior to its expiration, to ascertain if the Programme should be continued for another period of 5 years and, if so, how it might be improved.

4.3 Accountability of Institutions

If accreditation procedures can not be completed by 01.07.2008 for any of the participating Partners, the Programme will go ahead if at least 3 of the total number of Partner universities have implemented the Programme and are willing to continue the cooperation under adjusted conditions.

4.4 Assignment

No Partner shall, without the prior written consent of the Steering Committee, assign or otherwise transfer partially or totally any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement.

4.5   Severability

Should any provision of this Agreement prove to be invalid or incapable of fulfilment, or subsequently become invalid or incapable of fulfilment, whether in whole or in part, this shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Agreement. In such case, the Partners shall be entitled to demand that a valid and practicable provision be negotiated which mostly fulfils the purpose of the invalid or impracticable provision.

This agreement has been made up in English and in the respective national languages of the partners, being Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak. All partners will receive one version in English and one in their respective national language. All versions have equal value, the English being the master version of the agreement.

Vienna, 12 March 2007,

For the University of Vienna:

Univ. Prof. Dr. Georg Winckler   Ao. Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Arthur Mettinger   Univ. Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kopp

For Palacký University in Olomouc:

Mgr. Jakub Dürr   Prof. PhDr. Ivo Barteček, CSc.

For the University of Wrocław:

Prof. dr. hab. Leszek Pacholski   dr hab. prof. nadzw. Michał Sarnowski

For Comenius University Bratislava:

doc. PhDr. František Gahér, CSc.   doc. PhDr. Anton Eliáš, CSc.

For Masaryk University:

Prof. PhDr. Petr Fiala, PhD.   Prof. PhDr. Josef Krob, CSc.

For the University of Debrecen:

Prof. Dr. János Nagy   Doc. Dr. István Bujalos

For Károli University Budapest:

Prof. Dr. Ferenc Szűcs   Dr. Ferenc Kulin

Appendices I (Study Programme), II (Glossary)

Appendix I

The Study Programme

1. Profile of Qualification and Study Objectives

1.1. Objective

The objective of the Bachelor Curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' is a professional starting competence and the preparation for a Master's study, respectively. Upon successfully completing the Bachelor's study, the graduate receives a Bachelor's degree in 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context'.

1.2. Prospective Professional Fields

The Bachelor's study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' prepares students for activities in distinct professional fields. In particular they are qualified to function as a cultural intermediate in the Central European cultural domain. Primary job opportunities are in the area of foreign languages and in culture management (in its broadest sense). Additional job opportunities can be found in planning and organisation of scientific and cultural events, in public service and in management of academic and cultural institutions (such as archives, libraries, museums, tourism and media). Graduates of the Bachelor's study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' can also find employment in institutions for adult education and in the area of (automated) language processing and translation.

1.3. Profile of Qualification

Graduates of the Bachelor's study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' master the Dutch language both orally and in writing. Graduates are capable of presenting argumented opinions and views on the Dutch language, Dutch and Flemish literature and on culture, society, history and geography of the Dutch speaking countries. Moreover, the broad and interdisciplinarily oriented curriculum provides them with a broad perspective on issues related to mediation of culture, in Central Europe in particular. The curriculum is internationally oriented (including a compulsory residence at a foreign Partner university). It is specifically aiming at multilingualism and the curriculum is focussing on contemporary themes and issues. These characteristics of the curriculum prepares the graduates for their future profession, as well as qualifies them to continue with a Master's study. In other words, the aim of the Bachelor's study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' is not only to provide graduates with an understanding of language, literature and culture of the Dutch-speaking countries, thus enabling them to position the Dutch language and literature in a European historic context. Graduates are also familiarised with professional terminology and modern techniques of communication and presentation and thus expressly prepared for professional activities in the multicultural and multilingual Central European region.

1.4. Study Objectives and Competences

In the Bachelor's Study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context', knowledge, competencies and skills are certifiably acquired, which qualify the students for professional activities as well as for continuing study. The Bachelor's study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' promotes skills to analyse and synthesize. Special attention is paid to preparedness for developing and adopting new problem-solving strategies and interdisciplinary methods.

Since the curriculum is jointly organised by various universities, students have the opportunity to set focal points at different universities and to subscribe to courses at that academic institution where their personal interests are best served.

Students are familiarised with substantial amounts of information, as well as with creative and systematic application of new technologies and new media. Particularly stressed are personal motivation, decision making abilities, creativity and critical approach to norms and value judgements. Interculturality plays a central role in the curriculum.

Besides professional and methodological competences, the Bachelor's study 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' provides training in communication and a teamwork approach by teaching in small groups. Professional and social competencies can be further developed as students spend a study period at an internationally recognised Partner-university. Aim of this approach is to enable students to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in a professional field in a flexible way, as well as to position and establish themselves in their future profession. Students acquire the skills to work in an interdisciplinary surrounding and to express themselves adequately using appropriate terminology in a correct way. They gain insight in the multidisciplinary character of the profession and learn to evaluate and analyse the links between its separate disciplines. They gain fundamental knowledge concerning the special character of the Central European region and concerning the models which are being developed in this context, especially in the framework of an expanding Europe. They acquire a basic knowledge of one of the languages spoken in the region, other than their mother tongue.

The Bachelor's curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' consists of a Basis Curriculum and a Joint Curriculum. In the curriculum, **10 Module Groups** are distinguished:

1. Language Acquisition Basis
2. Introductions
3. Language Acquisition Intermediate
4. Language Acquisition Advanced
5. Linguistic Competence
6. Cultural Competence
7. Language and Culture in Context (Joint I)
8. Central European Context (Joint II)
9. Multilingual Competence : 2nd Foreign Language (Joint III)
10. BA-Final Module

1.4.1. Curricular Focal Points

In addition to the fundamental language acquisition, the curriculum includes three focal points, presented in a broad, international and contemporary context, i.e. competence in language and linguistics, competence in literature, and culture, society and history of the Dutch speaking countries in a Central European context. The combination of a traditional philological approach and the orientation on a profession in a multicultural and multilingual setting offers graduates sound opportunities for a continued Master's study, as well as professional career.

1.4.1.1. Competence in Language and Linguistics

Analysis and description of the Dutch language; understanding the role of (Dutch) language in society and (Dutch) language in communication, particularly in European context.

1.4.1.2. Competence in Literature

Knowledge of literature in Dutch, and its history, in particular in the context of literature from the (Central European) region; insight in the changing interpretations of literature in view of its changing role in historic and societal context.

1.4.1.3. Culture, Society and History of the Dutch Speaking Countries and the Central European Region

Study of culture, society, economy and history of the Dutch-speaking countries, especially in relation to culture and society of the Central European region; advanced studies include an expressed multidisciplinary confrontation to the (Central-)European context.

2. Duration and Credits

The Bachelor curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' represents 180 ECTS points, i.e. 6 semesters.

3. Structure - Module Groups and ECTS-Accreditation

At the beginning of each semester, students will be informed about the curriculum and its modules, as well as about professional perspectives. The curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' (180 ECTS) includes:

Phase	Year	Basis Curriculum			Joint Curriculum		
Propaedeuse 60 ECTS	1st year	**Modulegroup 1** Language Acquisition 1 20 ECTS	**Modulegroup 2** Introductions 10 ECTS		**Modulegroup 7** Joint I A Intercultural Introduction 5 ECTS B Language & Culture in Context 25 ECTS Themes: - Language in Context - Literature in Context - Culture in Context	**Modulegroup 8** Joint II Central European Context 30 ECTS Themes: - Economics - EU knowledge & politicology - History	**Modulegroup 9** Joint III 2nd Foreign Language 15 ECTS
BA phase **120 ECTS**	2nd year	**Modulegroup 3** Language Acquisition 2 15 ECTS	**Modulegroup 5** Linguistic Competence 15 ECTS	**Modulegroup 6** Cultural Competence 15 ECTS			
	3rd year	**Modulegroup 4** Language Acquisition 3 15 ECTS			**Modulegroup 10** BA Final Module	Professional Preparatory Project 7 ECTS Proficiency Proof 8 ECTS	

4. Mobility in the Bachelor's Study

A residence of one semester at one of the Partner universities is mandatory for all students in the curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context'. This semester abroad is to take place between the third and the fifth semester.

Students of the University of Vienna must, in addition, complete at least 30 ECTS worth of courses offered on the Virtual Platform DCC, the joint e-learing platform of 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' (http://www.ned.univie.ac.at/dcc/). Every semester an overview of course offerings will be made available on the website of 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context'. This overview will contain course descriptions of all courses offered by every one of the Partner universities, including courses in the basis curriculum, the virtual courses as well as courses for Modular Group 8 (Joint II). The e-learning courses themselves will be available there as well.

5. Classification of Courses

In the joint description of course offerings of 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' (http://www.ned.univie.ac.at/DCC/enroll.asp), courses are classified as follows.

In the framework of the Bachelor's curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context', the *Lecture* is a course without continuous assessment.

The courses classified as *Practical*, *Class*, *Seminar* and *Thesis Seminar* are offered as courses with continuous assessment.

With the exception of the *Thesis Seminar*, all courses can be offered as virtual courses (indicated with VC), using information- and communication technologies. Hybrid forms of e-learning, including interactive elements, and largely autonomous forms of e-learning, will be used for this purpose.

5.1. Lectures

General *lectures* aim to introduce the students into the primary areas and methodologies of the academic field. More in particular, they are meant to discuss the major facts and schools of thought of the discipline. Special *lectures* deal with the state-of-the-art in scientific research. Lectures are presented by one, or more (the so-called *forum-lectures*), member(s) of the academic staff. Other forms of presentation, and discussions, can be included as well. *Lectures* are completed through either an oral and/or a written examination.

5.2. Practicals

The *practicals* are meant to solve specific problems or achieve practical learning objectives.

5.3. Classes

The purpose of a *class* is to convey core knowledge, to present an introduction into relevant bibliography and discuss exemplary problems of the discipline, with a view to assure a broad orientation on research approaches. *Classes* comprise distinct forms of didactics, such as independent student work, team work, practical work, discussions,

presentations, etc. *Classes* are subject to continuous assessment, which is based on regular written and oral contributions of participants in the course of the *class*.

5.4. Seminars

Seminars are oriented towards students in the advanced phase of study. They serve to thoroughly discuss exemplary thematic areas and to practice independent academic work. Participants are required to show independent academic work as well as an ability to adequately present their results. *Seminars* are subject to continuous assessment, for the purpose of which regular written or oral contributions of the participants (among others independent written papers or comparable presentations, for instance with the use of new media) are to be prepared

5.5. Thesis Seminars

Thesis seminars are courses entirely devoted to questions to and discussions between participating students and lecturer(s). *Thesis seminars* take place parallel to preparing the Bachelor's thesis.

6. Detailed Description of the Basic Curriculum, the Joint Curriculum and the Module Groups.

6.1. Basis Curriculum

Language acquisition (up to C1); general knowledge of the Dutch-speaking regions, their culture and society; general knowledge of linguistics and literature

6.1.1. Module Group 1 Language Acquisition 1 (20 ECTS)

6.1.1.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	20 ECTS 10 hours
Content	Developing basic language skills on all four levels: listening, reading, speaking, writing. *Listening* Exercises directed towards understanding the main aspects of clearly spoken standard dialect in texts about familiar issues, understanding of headlines of radio- and tv programmes concerning actualities of personal or professional interest, when spoken reasonably slowly and clearly. *Reading* Reading of texts mainly comprising frequently used daily language or descriptions of events, feelings and desires in personal letters. *Speaking* Learning to communicate in daily situations and participating in a conversation about daily themes or subjects representing an interest of the student. Being capable of constructing simple connections between statements in such a way that he/she can describe dreams, experiences, events, expectations and ambitions. Learning to argue opinions and plans in a simple

	manner. Learning to be able to relate a comprehensive narrative concerning a book or a film. *Writing* Learning to write a simple, cohesive text about familiar issues or issues of a personal importance. The student is acquainted with the text type of a personal letter.
Qualification Objectives	B1 Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching Material	various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format
Language of Instruction	native language of the student / Dutch
Frequency	continuously

6.1.2. Module Group 2 Introductory Module (10 ECTS)

6.1.2.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	10 ECTS contact hours per week various
Content	The Introductory Module Group introduces students to Dutch language, literature and culture. Students will be familiarized with important contemporary issues and questions in research concerning Dutch language, literature and culture. The concept of culture is to be interpreted in a broad sense. It includes themes of history, art and art history, politics and the issue of identity. Students will gain insight in and will reflect on the differences between the culture of the Low Countries and their own culture and identity. All themes will be closely related to contemporary society.
Qualification Objectives	Students will have a basic knowledge of language, literature and culture of the Low Countries, as well as the academic views and debates in each of these disciplines. Students are prepared for Module Group 5: Linguistic Competence, and Module Group 6: Cultural Competence.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching Material	various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format
Language of	native language of the students

Instruction	
Frequency	continuously

6.1.3. Module Group 3 Language Acquisition 2 (15 ECTS)

6.1.3.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	15 ECTS 8 hours
Content	Further developing the language skills on all four levels: listening, reading, speaking and writing. *Listening* Students learn to understand a longer lecture or presentation and follow complex argumentations in familiar subjects. They learn to be able to follow most news shows and actuality discussions on TV as well as films in standard dialect. *Reading* Students learn to read articles and reports about contemporary issues, in which the author presents a particular standpoint. They can understand contemporary literary prose. *Speaking* Students learn to participate in a fluent and spontaneous conversation, and to have a reasonably good conversation with native speakers. They learn to actively participate in a discussion in familiar surroundings and to argue their views on the subject of discussion. They can clearly and in detail describe a wide range of topics related to their field of interest. They can present a point of view on current subjects and explain advantages and disadvantages of various options. *Writing* Students learn to describe a wide range of topics related to their field of interest in clear and detailed text. They learn to write a report and pass on information. They learn to argue a point of view. They are capable of writing extensive personal letters in which they can explain the personal importance of events and experiences.
Qualification Objectives	B2 Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching material	various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format
Language of Instruction	native language of the students / Dutch
Frequency	continuously

6.1.4. Module Group 4 Language Acquisition 3 (15 ECTS)

6.1.4.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	15 ECTS 8 hours
Content	Developing language skills on all four levels: listening, reading, speaking and writing. *Listening* Students learn to understand a longer expose which is not clearly structured, even if relations are only implicitly presented. They learn to effortless understand TV-programmes and films. *Reading* Students learn to understand a longer and more complex literary text and to evaluate the use of different styles. They learn to understand specialised articles and long technical instructions, even if unrelated to their specific field of interest. *Speaking* Students learn to express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. They learn to use the language flexibly and effectively to social and professional ends. They can formulate their viewpoints exactly. They learn to give a detailed description in a complex matter, develop specific points of view and conclude with an appropriate conclusion. *Writing* Students learn to clearly formulate a well structured text, including reasonably elaborate points of view. They learn to write different types of text on complex matters, in which important points are underlined. They learn how to adapt style to the targeted audience.
Qualification Objectives	C1 The student can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. He/she can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching Material	various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format
Language of Instruction	native language of the students / Dutch
Frequency	continuously

6.1.5. Module Group 5 Linguistic Competence (15 ECTS)

6.1.5.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	15 ECTS contact hours per week various
Content	This Module Group aims to practically apply the acquired language skills. In Dutch, this is entitled *"Taalbeheersing"*. Emphasis will be on those skills which can be useful and applicable in a professional setting. Special focus will be directed towards communication, terminology and translatology. Students acquire specific vocabulary, for instance European, legal or other technical terminology, serving them in making translations. Students will reflect on the art of translating, as well as practice by making translations.
Qualification Objectives	Students are able to communicate in a professional setting, both in writing and orally. They are familiar with specific vocabulary, for instance European, legal or other technical terminology. With this knowledge of specific terminology, students are capable of presenting accurate translations in various domains.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching Material	various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format
Language of Instruction	Dutch
Frequency	continuously

6.1.6. Module Group 6 Cultural Competence (15 ECTS)

6.1.6.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	15 ECTS contact hours per week various
Content	In this module group students broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Flemish and Dutch culture and literature. Selected themes in these areas will be related to contemporary society and culture. Furthermore, attention will be paid to possible future professional activities.
Qualification Objectives	Students are capable of applying the theories and insights as presented in the Introductory Module.
Teaching and Learning Format	various, including e-learning
Bibliography and Teaching Material	various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format
Language of Instruction	Dutch
Frequency	continuously

6.2. Joint Curriculum

In the Joint Curriculum students study culture, society, economy and history of the Dutch speaking countries, in particular in relation to the Central European region. In a

multidisciplinary confrontation with the (Central-)European context, students will deepen and diversify their knowledge of language, culture, society and economy of the Dutch-speaking countries. Students acquire skills to work in an interdisciplinary field and learn to express themselves adequately, using appropriate terminology. They gain an insight in the multidisciplinary character of their field of study and learn to evaluate and analyse the relations between the different disciplines. They gain fundamental knowledge concerning the special character of the Central European region and concerning the models which are being developed in this context, especially in view of an expanding Europe. Acquiring basic knowledge of one of the languages spoken in the region, other than their native tongue, will improve their communication- and integration skills and strengthen their awareness of the multilingual structure of the region.

6.2.1. Module Group 7 Language and Culture in Context (Joint I) (30 ECTS)

6.2.1.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	30 ECTS e-learning (12 units)
Content	In this Module Group, a wide selection of literary, linguistic and cultural themes will be presented. Each of these selected themes will be presented and studied in context. Thus, a student acquires skills to study and work in context, and to handle the appropriate concepts.
Qualification Objectives	Students are capable of working in context
Teaching and Learning Format	Virtual courses on the virtual platform DCC; assignments included in the various units
Bibliography and Teaching Material	Various
Assessment	Various
Language of Instruction	Dutch / various languages of participating partner universities
Frequency	continuously

6.2.2. Module Group 8 Central European Context (Joint II) (30 ECTS)

6.2.2.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	30 ECTS (15 ECTS per selected domain) contact hours per week various
Content	The Module Group "Central European Context" consists of electives in the following domains: a. EU and political science; b. economy; c. history. Students select courses in two of these three domains, 15 ECTS in each of the two selected domains. Students acquire additional insight in the Central European Region, from a different academic perspective, which can be useful for a future professional career in this region.
Qualification Objectives	Students have obtained knowledge and insight in a Central European context, from at least two additional academic

	perspectives.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching Material	various
Assessment	various
Language of Instruction	languages of the various participating partner universities
Frequency	continuously

6.2.3. Module Group 9 2nd Foreign Language (Joint III) (15 ECTS)

6.2.3.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	15 ECTS contact hours per week various
Content	Acquiring basic knowledge of the language of one of the countries in the Central European Region, other than one's native tongue. Or expanding already existing knowledge of a language of one of the countries in the Central European Region. If a student has previously acquired sufficient knowledge of another language to meet the qualification objective, he/she can also choose to study aspects of the culture of one of the other countries in the Central European Region.
Qualification Objectives	A minimum of CEF A2 level in the language of another country in the Central European Region, and at least 15 ECTS completed in language acquisition of that particular language, or in aspects of the culture of that particular country.
Teaching and Learning Format	various
Bibliography and Teaching Material	Various
Assessment	depending on teaching and learning format (N.B. Assessment of previously acquired knowledge of a foreign language could take place with the assistance of language institute of the university of the student or that of any of the participating partner universities).
Language of Instruction	native language of the students or the targeted language, depending on level
Frequency	continuously

6.2.4. Module Group 10 BA-Final Module (15 ECTS)

6.2.4.1. General Study Objectives

Study Load / Contact Hours per week	15 ECTS
Content	The student completes his/her studies according to local regulations: by writing a Bachelor's Thesis if necessary and completing a professional preparatory project.

	In the professional preparatory project, students prepare themselves for a professional position. Students can also choose a project in relation to continued studies in a Master's programme. This professional preparatory project is supervised by the institute at the home university of the student. In a substantial and solid Bachelor's thesis if necessary, students show their ability for independent academic work.
Qualification Objectives	Students are capable of independently formulating and conducting a small research and/or project. Students are capable of adequately reporting on this research and/or project both orally and in writing.
Teaching and Learning Format	individual work
Bibliography and Teaching Material	-
Assessment	Thesis and / or oral examination
Language of Instruction	Dutch
Frequency	Continuously

Appendix II - Glossary

Partners	The seven participating universities in the Programme and parties of this Agreement,
Home Institution	The institution where a student is enrolled, and pays tuition fees if such is required under the national legislation of this institution. (art. 2.1.)
Host Institution	The Partner-institution, in whose courses students participate as part of their curriculum during the mandatory semester abroad. (art. 2.1.).
Study Programme	The Study Programme is the Framework Curriculum as laid down in Appendix I and agreed by the Partners who have undersigned this Agreement.
Virtual Platform DCC	Virtual Learning and Information Environment, where courses from the Partners are offered as part of the Study Programme under this Agreement as well as where information is presented about the Programme under this Agreement.
Central Students' Information Office	The Central Students' Information Office will provide information on the Virtual Platform DCC, to the students enrolled in the Programme under this Agreement, such as the publication of course offerings and course schedules and information concerning the mandatory semester abroad. The Office will also provide information all other parties involved in this Programme. Furthermore, the Office will keep the student's progress record in a central database.
Steering Committee	The responsibility for the management of the cooperation rests with a Steering Committee. This Steering Committee consists of a representative of at least three of the participating universities. As soon as the Partners have signed this agreement, they will nominate the members of the Steering Committee. The Joint Programme Coordinator is member of the Steering Committee. (art. 3.1).
Joint Programme Coordinator	The daily management of the Programme is the responsibility of a Joint Programme Coordinator. For the duration of this agreement the Chair of Dutch Studies at the University of Vienna will be the Chair of the Programme as well as the Joint Programme Coordinator. (art. 3.1.)
Local Programme Coordinator	Each Partner will assign a Local Programme Coordinator who is responsible for the daily running of affairs concerning the Programme (art. 3.1.)
Erasmus scholarships	Financial support for a student during a semester abroad under the European Socrates Programme.
CEEPUS scholarships	Financial support for a student during a semester abroad from the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS).
Students	Students participating in the Programme 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context'.
Programme	Study Programme implemented at each University according to the Study Programme.
Agreement	The present cooperation agreement undersigned by the Partners.