

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

MEMORANDUM with summary of activities (2008-2011), new developments, wishes and needs on

Frisian in teacher training (for primary & secondary education)

For the on-the-spot-visit of Committee of Experts (24 January, 2012)

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Presentation also on behalf of mrs. Liskje Flapper (NHL), mrs. Dussy Ybema (Stenden) (both trainers for primary school) as well as on behalf of dr. Babs Gezelle Meerburg (trainer for secondary education at NHL); also representing the Frisian section of the national Association of Language Teachers = Vereniging van Leraren in Levende Talen (VLLT)

Activities and new developments

- The **curriculum for training primary school** has been redrafted in accordance with the new curriculum for primary school (“Frysk oan bod”/ Frisian on its turn, 2005). Within the curriculum more digital teaching materials are included.
- Extensive description of all aspects of the qualifications of coming teachers has been drafted, in comparable terms with all other school subjects and training courses. These **descriptions** (Dutch “kennisbases”) have been made both for primary training (bachelor) and secondary training (bachelor and master). Working on the development of an item-bank.
- A range of tailor made **in-service courses** has been developed aiming at the acquisition of the formal teaching qualification for Frisian in primary school. Courses can be offered (and taken) for free on the base of a specific grant from the national ministry of Education (2008-2011). To be continued!
- In the academic year 2010, both training institutes of NHL and Stenden, have started a **common stream for trilingual training**. The aim is to expand the stream over the following three years into a four years program. The number of students participating in the curriculum in 2011-2012 is 14. This is a promising number for the future. Financial resources are limited but sufficient on the base of the structural grant from the provincial administration, which is guaranteed in the Covenant between Fryslân and the Dutch government.
- A **minor “Frisian and multilingualism”** (30 ECTS) has been developed for the fourth year of teacher training; in the school year 2011-2012 4 students of the training for primary school have attended this minor. Main characteristics are (a) the linking of theory and a research task to be carried out by the students at the school of their internship, (b) intensive course of English.

- For the near future, the training institute for primary school at Stenden, will transform its curriculum into a **full program of multilingual education**. Main characteristics are the use of three target languages Dutch, Frisian and English as medium of instruction throughout the curriculum on an equal footing. The curriculum will start as from the academic year 2012.
- The training institute for secondary education at NHL continuously as working at **integrating courses and modules** for Frisian in cooperation with training for other school subjects, to wit the languages Dutch, English, German and French. However, formal qualifications are labelled to the defined school subjects. The **Master Frisian in Education** has gained accreditation in December, 2011.
- In cooperation with the Fryske Akademy, both NHL and Stenden have established a **lectureship “Frisian and Multilingualism in Education”** for four years (2011-2015). The lecturer together with (to date) three researchers is working towards the improvement of the continuity of teaching and learning from trilingual primary into tri- (multi-) lingual secondary education. Focus is to be put on teacher’s didactic qualities towards integrated language learning and teaching, and the assessment of the language command of students. Language tests for Frisian will be developed in line with the national tests for Dutch (of the Cito Institute) and the frequently used tests for English *Anglia* (junior and pre-liminary level). The lecturer shares his knowledge with Bachelor and Master students.
- Within the remit of the University Campus Fryslân (UCF), the NHL university of applied sciences together with the University of Groningen (RUG) has developed a curriculum for a **Master on Multilingualism** (60 EC) which currently is being assessed, and which hopefully will be advertised for to start in the academic year 2013-2014. The aim is to develop this Master on Multilingualism further into a master based on distant learning methodologies. The development process will be carried out in close co-operation with a number of universities in Europe preferably partners in the actual European University Network on Multilingualism (EUNoM).
- Within the guidelines of the Law on Professional Qualifications (Wet Beroepsstandaarden in het Onderwijs - BiO) the national Association of Language Teachers (VLLT) has developed **common professional standards** to be applied for the official notification and registration of teaching professional. Common standards for the teaching of Frisian have been developed in line with those for Dutch and other modern languages taught in education.

Wishes and Needs

- General on education:
The main need is the further **implementation** of the signed undertakings in part III: 8.1.a.ii, 8.1.b.ii, 8.1.c.iii.

These signed articles are aiming at making available a “substantial part” of the curriculum in Frisian in pre-school and primary education, respectively an “integral part of the curriculum” in secondary education.

Although the programmatic spirit of the Charter is aiming at further development and improvement of education IN and OF the regional/minority language, the Dutch government confines itself to the existing measures and legislation in force.

Treaty parties to the Charter are also entitled to sign articles from part III in addition to earlier signed articles and/or to **upgrade signed articles** to a higher level.

The Dutch government, however, has denied requests from the language community to sign article 8.1.d vocational training. As a result, only smaller initiatives for Frisian at senior vocational training (MBO) have been put in place over the last years, in particular with regard to the training of pre-school practitioners and health & wealth care workers. A more structural approach for Frisian as a subject and medium of instruction needs the legal support based on the article 8.1.d. That article should be signed by the Dutch government in addition to the 48 already signed undertakings.

Continuity of learning and teaching, including teaching at Vocational Training (MBO);
Strengthening of the position of Frisian as exam subject at all schools for secondary education (with help of distant learning, on line courses);

With regard to education in general, it is necessary that the endorsed obligations of art. 8 in the Charter are *fully converted* into Dutch *legislation*, supplemented with special emphasis on the implementation of those measures for Frisian as a subject and as a medium of instruction not only at primary school and secondary school level, but also in the *special education, vocational education*, as well as for the education in Frisian *history* (art. 8, sub-paragraph g).

- General on teacher training & schools:
 - Aiming at the assuring of the requirement of qualification of teachers of Frisian at level of Masters (in line with the qualifications required for all other school subjects).
 - Creating “Schools of excellence” through cooperation of training institutes and schools by means of formal agreements on training facilities and assessments.
 - Improving the **integral approach** in training modules and courses, not only between languages as school subjects, but also between languages and other school subjects.
- Schools in general, and training institutes should develop their own **Language policy** plans and strategies, and continuously implement and assess the set goals.
- In particular the training for primary school (Pabo) needs to continue its work to offer **in-service training** courses for the qualification of teachers.

- **Bachelor and Master** training courses to be guaranteed in order to assure the signed article 8.1.e.ii for Frisian at higher education and university level.
- The **inspectorate** of education (last report 2010) should set as its own target to intensify the inspection on the attainment targets, levels of teaching quality, and the appointment of sufficiently qualified teachers.

END of Memorandum