

Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture 2019–2023

The Parties,

The State of the Netherlands, represented in this matter by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Justice and Security, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media, hereinafter jointly referred to as: central government, each insofar as relates to their responsibilities
and

the province of Fryslân, represented in this matter by the King's Commissioner in Fryslân, acting to implement a decision passed by the Provincial Executive on 20 November 2018, hereinafter referred to as: the province,

Whereas:

- as a member state of the Council of Europe the Netherlands has undertaken to protect and promote the Frisian language and culture through the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (2005)¹ and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1998);²
- the present administrative agreement is regarded as setting out in further detail the measures in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages ratified by Dutch central government;
- in the event that central government/the parties decides/decide to provide financial support on the basis of this administrative agreement, it/they will abide by the financial and other frameworks and procedures stipulated by law. The financial support will consequently be provided on condition that the budget legislator makes sufficient resources available;
- section 2a of the Use of Frisian Act which entered into force on 1 January 2014 states that central government and the province of Fryslân have a joint responsibility and duty of care for the Frisian language and culture. It further states that central government and the province of Fryslân will, in order to fulfil this responsibility, periodically enter into administrative agreements concerning the Frisian language and culture, and that in view of the international treaty agreements on this matter the administrative agreements may also cover areas of policy relevant to the Frisian language beyond the use of Frisian in administrative and judicial matters;
- the legal status of Frisian in education is regulated in section 9, subsection 4 of the Primary Education Act, in section 11e, subsection 1 of the Secondary Education Act, and in section 13,

subsection 6 of the Expertise Centres Act;

- in 2015 the province adopted an administrative rule pertaining to obtaining exemption for the subject of Frisian in primary and secondary schools;
- the legal status of Frisian in childcare is regulated in section 1.55 of the Childcare Act;
- the legal status of Frisian in the media is regulated in the Media Act 2008;
- Leeuwarden – Fryslân was the Cultural Capital of Europe on behalf of the Netherlands in 2018, in connection with which an innovative, creative and inspiring programme focusing on language and culture resulted in a step being taken from *Mienskip* ('community') to *Iepen Mienskip* ('open community');
- central government and the province reserve the right to make additional agreements concerning the Frisian language and culture during the term of this administrative agreement in response to national and international developments,

have decided to conclude the following administrative agreement:

Chapter 1 General

PART II OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH

1

Article 7. Objectives and principles³

The entry into force of the Use of Frisian Act on 1 January 2014 signified the recognition of Frisian as an official language in Fryslân, alongside Dutch. Central government and the province of Fryslân share the view, based on their joint responsibility and duty of care, that the Frisian language and culture must not only be safeguarded, but must also continue to be promoted. The Frisian language is not only a right, but as part of the regional identity it is also indisputable.⁴

Several studies into the state of Frisian in Fryslân⁵ have shown that more than 50% of the province's population are native speakers of Frisian⁶ and that the language has attained a robust position in virtually all areas of public life. Given its legal status as an official language alongside Dutch, central government and the province therefore see promoting Frisian as an ongoing task. The objective is to continue to put in place the prerequisites and create the ideal conditions to ensure that the use of Frisian in education, the legal system, the media, culture etc. is natural and indisputable, and no longer a mere right. The main aim is to ensure that in the future no Frisians are illiterate in their own

language. They must be able to read and/or write their language as well as they speak and understand it. By 2030 three cycles of the *Taalplan Frysk* ('Frisian Language Plan')⁷ will have been completed, so that year is regarded as an important point at which to reassess the objectives concerning Frisian. By that time, the number of people in Fryslân who can write, read and speak Frisian should have increased. A distinction will be drawn between those whose mother tongue is Frisian and those for whom it is a second or third language. With regard to native speakers the focus will be on reading and writing, and for second- or third-language speakers the focus will be on their ability to understand and speak the language. The goal is to increase by 10% the number of native speakers who can read and write Frisian well, and also to increase by 10% the number of second- and third-language speakers who can understand and speak Frisian well.

Fryslân has undergone a major development, becoming a region of knowledge with expertise on Frisian from a multilingual perspective. The province will continue this multilingual development, with an explicit focus on the legacy of Leeuwarden – Fryslân 2018 and, more especially, *Lân fan taal* ('Land of Language'). The province will be proactive in its sharing of knowledge.

The chapters below set out specific interim targets and agreements, based on the above vision, enabling steps to be taken in the near future. The measures in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages ratified by central government will be taken as the starting point, alongside current language, education and media legislation. This legislation, which did not exist in the 1990s, now provides a legal framework for the implementation of non-ratified measures. This first chapter will set out several general steps that central government and the province intend to take during the period that the present administrative agreement is in force:

1.1 Central government and the province will ensure that all policy frameworks and policy documents relating to areas that fall within the scope of this administrative agreement take account of any implications for the Frisian language, with due regard for the provisions of the European Charter endorsed by the Netherlands.

Action: central government/province

1.2 Legislation relating to the Frisian language and culture will also be made available in Frisian, and will be published in the *Staatscourant* ('Government Gazette') or on the Official Publications website. The legislation should in principle be published as a single piece of legislation, first in Dutch followed by Frisian.

Action: central government/province

1.3 As the authority most closely involved, the province of Fryslân has primary responsibility for the Frisian language and culture. This is a natural responsibility that concerns the ongoing promotion of use of the Frisian language, implementation of the provincial tasks arising from the Use of Frisian Act and the education and media legislation concerning Frisian, as well as the present administrative agreement. As the authority most closely involved, the province has, in consultation with central government, fulfilled the role of '*Taalskipper*' ('language captain') since 2017. Notwithstanding the above, however, the province and central government still have a joint responsibility and duty of care for the Frisian language and culture.

As *Taalskipper* the province ensures, in consultation with central government, that there is clear guidance, ambition and cooperation on the matter of the Frisian language in Fryslân province.⁸ The *Taalskipper* takes the lead when it comes to setting out a long-term vision for the Frisian language, and organises consultations with the relevant administrative bodies for that purpose. Based on this vision, the *Taalskipper* connects the various areas that have a bearing on the Frisian language, and highlights and raises opportunities with the relevant parties. The *Taalskipper* also highlights and discusses the implementation of the statutory responsibilities of the subnational administrative bodies in Fryslân, as well as acting as the linchpin in the network of other important partners and administrative organisations, such as FUMO (the regional environment and planning agency), Wetterskip Fryslân (the regional water authority) and the Fryslân Safety Region.

As *Taalskipper* the province also has a duty to educate and inform, and in fulfilling this role welcomes discussion with organisations and residents of Fryslân. The Provincial Council, central government and DINGtiid, the advisory body on the Frisian language (see 1.4), are tasked with calling the province to account, if necessary, on its fulfilment of responsibilities. Fulfilment of the role of *Taalskipper* is also the subject of consultation with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The document launching the *Taalskipper*, '*De Taalskipper Frysk*',⁹ fleshes out the concept. It describes the roles of the province and central government in more detail, and defines objectives. Halfway through the term of this administrative agreement central government will evaluate the implementation of the *Taalskipper* role.

Besides performing this informal role, the province will continue to implement its statutory

responsibilities concerning the Frisian language and culture. As regards Frisian in the judicial system, it will confer with the North Netherlands District Court and the North Netherlands Court of Appeal. Regarding education legislation, it will coordinate and guarantee the further development and implementation of policy on Frisian as a subject in primary and secondary education. To this end it will consult with the parties concerned, including school boards, the education inspectorate and organisations with a supporting and implementing role in education. With regard to the implementation of media legislation, the *Taalskipper* will consult closely with the Frisian regional broadcaster Omrop Fryslân.

Action: central government/province

1.4 In accordance with the Use of Frisian Act, a body has been established for the Frisian language, jointly funded by central government and the province. With a view to the Use of Frisian Act, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, this independent advisory body, DINGtiid, is tasked with promoting equal status for the Frisian and Dutch languages in Fryslân. DINGtiid performs this task mainly by making recommendations and reporting to the administrators responsible, on matters concerning the Frisian language and culture. DINGtiid does so on its own initiative, or at the request of central government and/or the province. In accordance with section 19 of the Use of Frisian Act DINGtiid must also, in consultation with the *Taalskipper*, offer support to administrative bodies in Fryslân or parts of central government that cover Fryslân concerning their language policies and regulations. DINGtiid provides this support in the form of recommendations on, and drafting and promotion of, language policy. In the performance of this duty DINGtiid may consult with implementing organisations such as Stipepunt Frysk, which is part of language promotion institute Afûk. Furthermore, DINGtiid promotes the civic discourse on the Frisian language.

Action: central government/province

1.5 Given its responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the Frisian language, it is important for the province of Fryslân itself to use and champion all aspects of the Frisian language too. This allows it to play the role of *taalbrenger* ('bringer of language'), using Frisian as a fully-fledged language of government, and thus promoting its status. Both the province and central government will make efforts to enhance the functional use of Frisian, and thereby its visibility, in public spaces in Fryslân. This should include a focus on visibility both in a formal sense, such as signposting, and in a creative sense, as in the context of *Lân fan taal* in 2018.

Action: central government/province

1.6 The Use of Frisian Act, which entered into force in 2014, has led to increased staffing levels at Fryslân provincial authority. This is the result both of increased responsibilities and of greater demand for language policies. Given the joint responsibility of the province and central government, it has been decided that this increase should be funded jointly on a temporary basis. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has budgeted €150,000 to be put at the disposal of the province for the duration of this administrative agreement.

Action: central government/province

1.7 To safeguard the continuity of Frisian language and culture policy and the full implementation of the Use of Frisian Act, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations – as coordinating minister – and the province will organise an annual introductory working visit to Fryslân each year. This will be designed to enhance the basic level of knowledge of the Frisian language and culture among central government employees directly involved in this policy issue.

Action: central government/province

1.8 The central-government and other advisory bodies concerned with Frisian language and culture will consider the unique position of the Frisian language and culture when drawing up work programmes and appointing members of their executives, in order to safeguard that position in practice. When drafting work programmes and/or announcing vacancies for the various advisory bodies related to the ministries, such as the Council for Culture, any link with the Frisian language and culture will be explicitly highlighted. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will play a coordinating and stimulating role in this effort.

Action: central government/province

1.9 Before the end of the term of this administrative agreement an exploratory study will be conducted by Fryslân province to establish the potential benefits of converting the Use of Frisian Act into a framework act, in response to recommendations 32 and 33 in the report of the Committee of Experts (2016). A framework act would not be limited to the status of Frisian in administrative and judicial matters alone, but would extend to all areas covered by the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

Action: central government/province

1.10 The province of Fryslân's complaints and appeals committee will establish a separate independent Frisian reporting centre that will consider complaints on an impartial basis. The reporting centre will, both on its own initiative and on request, investigate the legality of actions of the authorities and

private institutions and companies concerning the use of Frisian.

Action: province

1.11 Further to the applicable Dutch legislation, during the term of this administrative agreement the province of Fryslân will investigate, on the basis of day-to-day practice, which articles of the European Charter that have not yet been officially ratified might perhaps be ratified during the term of the administrative agreement. In principle, where any non-ratified articles and current practices are found to have benefits, measures with clear added value can be included in a new administrative agreement. In other words, further ratification by central government of as yet unratified articles of the Charter is not the object here.

Action: central government/province

1.12 Frisian is an official language in the province of Fryslân, alongside Dutch. Central government and the province acknowledge that in order for Frisian to have full and equal status in practice, facilities and standardisation will be needed on a permanent basis. This includes teaching materials, dictionaries, media and online tools in Frisian. These efforts will be continued.

Action: central government/province

1.13 The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will promote the use of the officially adopted provincial name Fryslân in all relevant central government legislation.¹⁰

Action: central government

Chapter 2 Education

PART III MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 8. Education

Central government and the province share the view, based on their joint responsibility and duty of care, that in the longer term the conditions should be in place for the Frisian language to be offered at all levels of education, from nursery school to PhD. By 2030 Fryslân will be a multilingual province with schools that include Frisian as a subject in their curricula as a matter of course. Frisian will also be a natural language of communication and instruction in schools: not Frisian education because it is mandatory, but because the benefits of education in Frisian are felt in practice. This implies that by 2030 it will be expected that schools in the Frisian language area¹¹ will no longer apply for exemption

from teaching Frisian. As such, schools will then comply with the statutory obligation to achieve the attainment targets. For the acquisition and development of a language, attention must be focused not merely on the language itself but on the context in which the language is used and develops. This means giving greater consideration to the role of language in cultural expression (music and drama), nature and landscape, heritage and history. Teaching Frisian language and culture thus requires a broad educational approach. It must challenge children to work on contemporary expressions of culture both within and outside school, using locations relevant to the nature and landscape and the heritage and history of Fryslân. This will require educational innovation in terms of both content and organisation. It is explicitly the intention to share knowledge and experience on this matter. Broad-ranging responses are needed to the emerging demand for revitalising multilingual education, addressing issues in which identity plays a key role. Language does not exist in isolation, after all. People use and hear different languages every day, including Dutch, Frisian, regional and foreign languages. In the province of Fryslân, Frisian has a natural place among the other languages, making multilingualism an everyday reality. Presenting and offering these languages in school in this multilingual context will be more consistent with day-to-day practice than simply offering them as separate subjects. Furthermore, language is always tied to culture and heritage, and as such is a key to those fields, giving pupils a better understanding of other cultures and, in the case of Frisian, a greater awareness of their own region. There should be general acknowledgement of these advantages of integrating Frisian properly into a multilingual context, and across different types of school, by 2030. A multilingual education and upbringing will give Frisian children competencies and skills that are important in the globalising world of today and tomorrow. Central government and the province will create room for experimentation within schools from which new forms of education can emerge, so that these new forms of education can be further developed. Encouraging pupils to actively use Frisian is a key element of this. The traditional, more method-oriented approach will be enhanced with products that stimulate children's imaginations. In this experimental space, education specialists will work with theatre, music, nature and landscape, and heritage and history specialists. Central government and the province will continue to create the right conditions for good Frisian education in a multilingual context. Efforts to achieve the attainment targets for Frisian, reflecting the different levels of language skills, will be automatic in the Frisian language area.

To this end central government and the province wish to implement the following agreements during the term of this administrative agreement:

2.1

General arrangements and principles

1 Basic infrastructure in place

Central government and the province will continue to ensure there is a suitable basic infrastructure for Frisian as a subject. This means that:

- Frisian language teaching is continually available from preschool through to higher education;
- sufficient good-quality teaching materials are available;
- schools and teachers have access to educational support;
- there are sufficient training opportunities (including in-service training) for playgroup assistants and for teachers of Frisian in primary, secondary and higher education;
- there are good opportunities for assessment and evaluation. In addition pupils' progress can be tracked through a pupil monitoring system (this method-independent assessment and evaluation system known as GRIP was set up and implemented under the previous administrative agreement (2013–2018);
- the province will commission the further optimisation and development of GRIP when this administrative agreement enters into force;
- finally, the Inspectorate of Education will structurally monitor the standard of Frisian language teaching and encourage schools to consolidate the position of Frisian where necessary. The Inspectorate will also publish a report on Frisian in education every six years.

Action: central government/province

2 Teaching qualifications in Frisian

For teachers and school boards in particular, it is not currently clear what conditions apply to teaching qualifications in Frisian, how they are defined, and what authorities have competence in the matter.

This will be further defined during the term of this administrative agreement and clearly communicated with the education field. The province will also initiate talks with teaching professionals on the possibility of including a Frisian teaching qualification in the Register of Teachers.

Action: central government/province

3 Register of Teachers

The Education Professions Act sets out the required standards of competence for teachers in primary, secondary and secondary vocational education. New statutory standards of competence came into force in August 2017. The province will consult the teaching profession to ascertain to what extent standards of competence can be set for the subject of Frisian.

Action: central government/province

4 Inspectorate of Education

The province has implemented the recommendations made by the Inspectorate in its 2010 report '*Tussen wens en werkelijkheid*' ('Between Desire and Reality') insofar as it was in its power to do so. Examples include the development of GRIP (the method-independent assessment and evaluation system), the new digital teaching methods Spoar 8 (for primary schools) and Searje 36 (for secondary schools) and the detailed policy implemented in the *Taalplan Frysk* project. Over the coming years the Inspectorate of Education will focus on and stimulate the quality of Frisian in education, on the basis of its own role. If necessary, during its four-yearly reviews of boards and schools, the Inspectorate will check how school boards monitor and enhance the quality of the teaching materials offered, including teaching materials for Frisian. If there are signs that the teaching offered is severely sub-standard, the Inspectorate may decide to investigate the quality of Frisian in a verification or risk assessment of the school. In the event of non-compliance with the law, the Inspectorate will issue an order to rectify the situation. The Inspectorate will also conduct two special studies during the coming three language plan (*Taalplan*) cycles up to 2030, to monitor developments in the teaching offered in Frisian. This will safeguard and enhance the quality of Frisian in education.

Action: central government/province

5 Awareness-raising for pupils, parents and schools

The province will launch activities designed to demonstrate the value of Frisian and multilingualism to parents, pupils, teachers, school boards, business and civil society organisations. The goal will be to motivate them and ensure Frisian and multilingualism are considered an intrinsic part of daily life. The latest insights concerning Frisian and multilingualism will be taken into account.

Action: province

6 Materials for the Preservation of Frisian budget

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science will continue the budget for materials for the preservation of Frisian (MIF), intended for the purchase of teaching materials for Frisian by schools in Fryslân. The province will determine how MIF funding is to be distributed, based on the outcomes of the *Taalplan Frysk*. In 2019 a study will explore scope for making MIF funding structurally available for

secondary vocational education (MBO).

Action: central government/province

2.2

Agreements concerning Frisian in the preschool period

1 Language acquisition

A great deal of focus and information will be required to ensure future generations learn Frisian. This is true both of language acquisition at home and in professionally organised or other settings for young children. The province will ensure that parents, childcare organisations and healthcare and educational institutions receive enough information about the importance of and how to deal with Frisian in a multilingual upbringing. The continuous learning trajectory from preschool provision to primary school will be essential if this is to succeed. Provision of information will be combined with inspiring projects designed to engender enthusiasm, in which the relevant context of language will also play a key role.

Action: central government/province

2 Embedding and consolidating Frisian in preschool provision

The use of Frisian as the working language is permitted under the Childcare Act. When this legislation was debated, the province of Fryslân was formally given the scope to offer bilingual early childhood education programmes (Dutch and Frisian), but not exclusively Frisian. In the event that amendments are made to the legislation on preschool provision and education, it is recommended that they be assessed for compliance with the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, in consultation with the province. The province will strive to ensure that the inspection policies of the municipal health service and the Inspectorate of Education in Fryslân provide for the use of Frisian as the working language.

Action: central government/province

3 Basic competences / professionalism

The development and official adoption of basic competences for teaching staff concerning the Frisian language and multilingualism will be continued. The modules for in-service training have been drawn up in detail and endorsed by the appropriate parties (study programme committees) in the Frisian education sector. The province will continue to support the study programme committees in their

efforts to further integrate the multilingualism modules into the curricula of various training programmes. This should ensure they reflect insights from developmental psychology and language acquisition studies.

Action: central government/province

4 Frisian-language materials

Teaching materials in the Frisian language will continue to be provided for preschool provision in Fryslân (for the youngest age group, 0–4). Existing materials are already used on a structural basis.

Action: province

5 Multilingual childcare

The province will make every effort to ensure the further growth and availability of Frisian, bilingual and multilingual childcare and childminder services for all parents in Fryslân. Quality assurance and support are at least as important as growth in quantitative terms.

Action: province

2.3

Agreements concerning Frisian in compulsory education (primary and secondary education)

1 *Taalplan Frysk*

The first phase of *Taalplan Frysk*, the baseline measurement of the current situation, was completed in 2018.

During the term of this administrative agreement, education policy in the province of Fryslân will be further implemented on the basis of the provincial administrative rule on obtaining exemption from teaching Frisian in primary and secondary education (2015). The analysis of the outcomes of *Taalplan Frysk* will be used to offer schools tailor-made support to help them raise the quality and standard of Frisian teaching identified in the baseline measurement. This applies, for example, to initial teacher training and in-service training, teaching methods and/or educational support. After the school's Frisian teaching profile has been established, it will be revisited after four years, but by 2021 at the latest. The goal is for all schools in the Frisian language area to comply with all the attainment targets for the subject of Frisian after three cycles of the *Taalplan Frysk* (by 2030 at the latest) and for none to

receive exemption, either full or partial. Besides offering Frisian as a subject in the lower forms of secondary schools, the aim of *Taalplan Frysk* is to ensure that the subject is offered in accordance with the scope provided for in legislation, in other words in all years and at all levels of secondary education. This will create a continuous learning trajectory and ensure continuity between secondary and higher education. There will also be an appropriate focus on Frisian at practical training schools.
Action: central government/province

2 Attainment targets

The province will aim for all schools to which attainment targets for Frisian apply to offer provision consistent with those attainment targets. Under the amendment to the education legislation in 2014, Fryslân Provincial Council has the authority to set attainment targets for the subject of Frisian in primary education, secondary education and special education. In 2018 there was a nationwide study to ascertain how a comprehensive reform of the curriculum might be conducted in primary and secondary education. The province conducted such a study for the subject of Frisian, in accordance with the national procedure and curriculum reform. The House of Representatives and the Provincial Council are expected to adopt the new curriculum in 2019.

During the process of reforming the attainment targets for Frisian, the province of Fryslân launched a process parallel to curriculum.nu. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science will provide one-off compensation for the costs of releasing teachers in the development team and at the development school from their teaching duties so that they can participate. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the province of Fryslân will discuss how the reform of the attainment targets for Frisian can in future be aligned as much as possible with the national curriculum.nu process.

Action: central government/province

3 Teaching materials

The Frisian-language teaching materials for primary education (*Spoar 8*) and secondary education (*Searje 36*) which the province has had developed over the past few years are used in many schools. Continuous consideration must be given to the need for a broader variety of physical and digital materials, innovation, methods for lower and upper years, and differentiation. Schools are free to choose an alternative. Given the failing market for Frisian teaching materials, it is desirable that the authorities play an active and stimulating role. The province is also investigating whether teachers of Frisian can use the national platform on which teachers share material they have developed themselves.

The province will ensure that, by the end of the term of this administrative agreement, there is a report on the requirements that Frisian teaching materials for the upper years of secondary schools at all levels must meet.

Action: central government/province

4 Assessment methods, evaluation and pupil monitoring systems

During the term of the previous administrative agreement, the province commissioned a consortium of Frisian educational and language organisations to develop a standardised method-independent assessment and pupil monitoring system: GRIP. This system allows primary and secondary schools to monitor pupils' language development using various tools. GRIP is an integral part of the *Spoar 8* (primary) and *Searje 36* (secondary) teaching methods. Teachers are given support as they implement the methods in order to achieve a continuous learning trajectory in Frisian. GRIP will be further developed on the basis of experience and new developments.

Action: province

5 Multilingual secondary education

Multilingual secondary education (MVO) will be continued, and the transition from bilingual education (TTO) to MVO will be improved.

Action: province

2.5

Agreements concerning Frisian at schools falling under the Expertise Centres Act

1 Study to establish demand for Frisian as a working language

During the first half of the term of this administrative agreement the province will investigate demand for using Frisian at schools falling under the Expertise Centres Act (WEC). The results may be used as a basis for a project plan that will lead to specific teaching provision.

Action: province

2 Survey of potential for language policy

In its role as *Taalskipper*, during the first half of the term of this administrative agreement the province will ensure a survey is conducted of the potential for policy on the Frisian language and

culture for schools falling under the Expertise Centres Act. This will also include a survey of demand relating to language policy in special education.

Action: province

2.6

Agreements concerning Frisian at secondary vocational schools

1 Frisian in the curriculum

The proportion of Frisian speakers in secondary vocational education is relatively large. The province's aim is for all secondary vocational schools to include Frisian in their curriculum, as a command of the Frisian language can have added value for Fryslân's future employees. The number of secondary vocational courses which include Frisian as a subject (optional or otherwise) will be increased during the term of this administrative agreement.

Action: province

2 Regional training centre and agricultural training centre language policy

The development of language policy in a vocational context based on the needs of regional businesses at regional training centres (ROCs) and the agricultural training centre (AOC) in Fryslân remains a matter of great importance and the *Taalskipper* will continue to promote it.

Action: province

3 Optional component for Frisian language competences

Students from ROCs who move on to primary school teacher training can take an optional component to prepare for subjects that are part of teacher training but were not taught at their ROC. At ROCs and primary school teacher training colleges in the north of the country, these subjects will be grouped together into a single optional component, leaving room for students to take Frisian as a second optional component, thus acquiring competences in the language. The province will hold consultations with the primary school teacher training colleges on this matter.

Action: province

4 Collaboration between secondary schools and secondary vocational schools

The existing provincial scheme for Frisian Teaching Hours in secondary education is accessible to the AOC and the ROCs that wish to include Frisian in their curriculum. The province will encourage collaboration on Frisian language teaching between secondary schools and secondary vocational

schools.

Action: province

5 Working groups at secondary vocational schools

It is important that the education sectors develop sound competences for Frisian, and incorporate these into their curricula. Special working groups are currently working on this, in coordination with the educational support services. The latter will make more effort to promote and encourage uptake of the current provincial grant scheme for the teaching of Frisian at secondary vocational schools.

Action: province

6 Teaching materials for secondary vocational schools

With the development of Frisian as an optional component at secondary vocational schools, demand for suitable teaching materials is growing. In 2019 central government and the province will investigate how structural MIF funding can be made available for secondary vocational education. This should if possible be fleshed out by both parties from 2020.

Action: central government/province

2.7

Agreements concerning Frisian in higher education

1 Primary school teacher training in Frisian language and culture

NHL Stenden University of Applied Science offers Frisian language and culture as part of its curriculum.

The province supports the funding of this provision, so that students training to become primary school teachers can obtain a teaching qualification in Frisian language and culture. The province will consult with NHL Stenden as to how students can be encouraged to take this subject.

Action: province

2 Frisian as language of instruction and working language

Besides Frisian as a subject, aimed at language acquisition, there must also be a focus on Frisian as the language of instruction in other subjects, as part of the curriculum relating to culture and heritage, and as the institutional working language. This will allow the status of Frisian as an official language in the province to be fully acknowledged in schools, and will ensure that it is actually used in a multilingual context.

Action: province

3 Frisian-language teacher training

Frisian-language secondary school teacher training courses are a vital link in the continuous learning trajectory for Frisian in schools. Central government and the province will therefore maintain Frisian teacher training leading to grade one and grade two qualifications at NHL Stenden.

Action: central government/province

4 Chair in Frisian language and literature

The University of Groningen's Minorities & Multilingualism Department has a chair in Frisian language and literature. Besides funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the University will annually receive €110,000 each from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the province of Fryslân for the duration of this administrative agreement, to maintain the chair in Frisian language and literature.

Action: central government/province

5 Multilingualism Lab

During the term of the administrative agreement collaboration between the various academic and civil society institutions (educational and otherwise) concerned with multilingualism in the Frisian context must be stepped up. The Multilingualism Lab, the organisations in the Frisian language alliance (*Taalalliantie*) and *Lân fan taal* with its legacy will be vital in this process, while the province will direct and encourage the process in its role as *Taalskipper*.

Action: province

2.8

Agreements concerning Frisian in educational support

1 Language coordinators

The current province-wide network of language coordinators will be maintained. These language coordinators will be deployed to follow up *Taalplan Frysk*, implement the multilingual continuous learning trajectory, raise awareness among parents and teachers and strengthen language policy in schools.

Action: province

2 Sintrum Frysktalige Berne-opfang

The *Sintrum Frysktalige Berne-opfang* ('Centre of Expertise on Frisian-language Childcare', SFBO) targets the preschool sector, providing educational support and advice and promoting Frisian-language/multilingual childcare settings.

Action: province

3 Preschool, primary and secondary education networks

The province is keen to actively encourage the educational organisations concerned to ensure optimum facilitation of the networks of bilingual and Frisian-language preschool organisations, and educational support services for primary schools and secondary education. These organisations inform, advise and support the various schools and centres. They help teachers with multilingual teaching methods, introduce them to available teaching materials and offer guidance on using them, facilitate intervision and information-sharing through networking events, symposiums and conferences, give in-service training, offer practical support through native speakers (*memmetaalsprekkers*), and help schools mainstream multilingual education in their organisation (e.g. by appointing language coordinators and creating support within the team).

Action: province

4 Taalsintrum Frysk

The Taalsintrum Frysk ('Frisian Language Centre', part of Cedin) is a centre of expertise that provides support and advice on Frisian-language/multilingual education at primary and secondary schools. The support is designed to ensure schools use the available teaching materials correctly and in a differentiated manner.

Action: province

5 Encouraging demand-driven approach by expertise centres

The province will encourage school boards to keep developing their language policy, calling on the expertise of the educational support service or Taalsintrum Frysk in this regard. During the term of this administrative agreement, these centres will focus more strongly on responding to demand from the education sector.

Action: province

6 Network of trilingual schools

The province will continue its *De Trijetalige Skoalle* (Trilingual School) project, updating it to reflect the latest developments in policy and didactics. In Fryslân, 15% of all pupils are in trilingual education in 2018. Efforts will be made to increase this to 30% before this administrative agreement expires.

Action: province

7 Lektoraat Frysk en Meartaligens yn Underwiis en Opfieding

The *Lektoraat Frysk en Meartaligens yn Underwiis en Opfieding* (Lectureship in Frisian and Multilingualism in Education and Upbringing) at NHL Stenden helps consolidate Fryslân's academic basis as a 'Living Lab of Multilingualism' and helps with the valorisation of research, education and innovation in the field of multilingualism. The *Lektoraat* thus plays a role in basic provision to ensure a continuous multilingual learning trajectory.

Action: province

Chapter 3 Judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services

PART III MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 9. Judicial authorities

Article 10. Administrative authorities and public services

The entry into force of the Use of Frisian Act on 1 January 2014 further strengthened the statutory basis for the use of Frisian in administrative and judicial matters. Central government and the province share the view, based on their shared responsibility and duty of care, that in the longer term the use of Frisian should not only be regulated by law. Central government and the province strive to ensure that Frisian will be used as a matter of course, given the added value that using this language can have in a Frisian multilingual context. They will therefore invite the judicial and administrative authorities and relevant public services in Fryslân to discuss whether this will not only be possible, but also self-evident, by 2030. It is important to central government and the province that the residents of Fryslân and those concerned at the judicial and administrative authorities are aware of the positive role that using of Frisian can play in administrative and judicial matters.

To this end central government and the province wish to implement the following agreements during the term of this administrative agreement:

3.1

Agreements concerning Frisian at judicial authorities

1 Section 2a of the Use of Frisian Act stipulates that, having regard to their joint responsibility and duty of care for the Frisian language and culture, central government and the province of Fryslân will periodically enter into administrative agreements detailing responsibility for the Frisian language and culture. Having regard to the constitutional position of the judicial authorities, and to the signatories, such administrative agreements may not contain any provisions pertaining to the judicial authorities. The province will consult with North Netherlands District Court and the Arnhem–Leeuwarden Court of Appeal. Agreements made between the province and the judicial authorities will be laid down separately.

Action: province

3.2

Agreements concerning Frisian at administrative authorities

1 Administrative boundary changes

In the event of municipal boundary changes, central government and the province will draw the attention of the municipalities concerned to the need to arrive at municipal language policy that promotes the use of Frisian, in accordance with section 5 of the Use of Frisian Act. In the event of administrative boundary changes, central government and the province of Fryslân, in consultation with the parties involved, will make arrangements to protect and promote the position of Frisian in the newly formed municipality.

Action: central government/province

2 Drafting of language policy by administrative authorities

On the basis of its role as *Taalskipper* the province will encourage administrative authorities that are not part of central government to draw up language policy plans and language ordinances concerning Frisian, in accordance with the Use of Frisian Act. On the same basis the province will encourage subnational authorities to have an up-to-date language policy and language ordinance by the end of the term of this administrative agreement. Halfway through the term of this administrative agreement an overview will be made in consultation with central government and the province of the most relevant deconcentrated central-government agencies to which the Use of Frisian Act applies. Such an

overview will enable further identification of parties that must be involved in the *Taalskipper's* consultations '*Mei-inoar foar it Frysk*' ('Together for Frisian') established by the province.

Action: province

3 Implementing and updating language policy

Existing language policy that has been in force for up to 10 years will be updated by the parties involved under the terms of the Use of Frisian Act, on the basis of formal input and new academic and policy developments. The basic principle will be not only the preservation but also the promotion of the Frisian language.

Action: province

4 Administrative consultations and drafting of long-term vision

In addition to the consultations at official level, the *Taalskipper* will, at least twice a year, invite the administrative authorities involved in the Use of Frisian Act to a high-level meeting chaired by the King's Commissioner to discuss progress with implementing the language legislation. The long-term goals for the Frisian language and culture drawn up by the Working Group '*Frysk yn 2030*' ('Frisian in 2030') will be discussed during these consultations. In its role as *Taalskipper* the province may, in coordination with central government, call the administrative authorities to account over their statutory responsibilities at these consultations. The Provincial Executive, central government and the advisory body DINGtiid may of course also call the province to account over its statutory responsibilities.

Action: central government/province

5 Fryslân safety region

Fryslân safety region will also be actively involved in the parts described at 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 under the terms of the Use of Frisian Act, and will be encouraged to develop, implement and, if necessary, update language policy. To this end the province will actively involve Fryslân safety region in the '*Mei-inoar foar it Frysk*' consultations. The emergency control centre serving the Frisian language area (currently in Drachten) will maintain a Frisian language policy. It is important that there always be enough Frisian-speaking staff available so that emergency calls from Fryslân can always, as a matter of standard procedure, be dealt with in Frisian.

Action: province.

6 North Netherlands regional police unit

Frisian citizens in the North Netherlands region may avail themselves of their right to report crimes to the police in Frisian. The province and central government will encourage the police to ask which

language the citizen in question prefers to use and to record this preference as a matter of standard procedure. Even if the police report is drafted in Dutch, it should be clear whether the conversation took place in Frisian. In line with 3.2.2 the province will, in its role as *Taalskipper*, also launch an information campaign to inform citizens of their right to use Frisian in their contacts with the police. The province and central government will hold consultations on the matter with the regional chief of police of the North Netherlands unit.

Action: central government/province

7 Frisian templates for election candidacy applications

To guarantee the equal status of Dutch and Frisian in the province of Fryslân, Frisian templates may be used to submit lists of candidates for elections to the Provincial Council of Fryslân, the general board of Wetterskip Fryslân and the local councils in Fryslân (under section 3, subsection 1 of the Use of Frisian Act). Furthermore, from now on the Frisian templates may also be used for elections to the House of Representatives, the Senate and the European Parliament.

Action: central government

8 Frisian toponyms

Whenever Frisian toponyms are officially adopted by the competent authority, only the Frisian toponym will be used in the Addresses and Buildings Database (or land registry systems). The Land Registry will ensure its main register is up to date so that only the Frisian place and water body names officially adopted by the competent authority are used. Frisian local authorities will decide themselves on the names of places of residence, addresses, topographical areas etc. and record these in their own Addresses and Buildings Database. The Land Registry will include a copy of the municipal source data in the national database.

Action: central government/province

Chapter 4 Media

PART III MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 11. Media

The 2016 administrative agreements on Frisian in the media, which expire on 1 January 2019, firmly

anchor the use of Frisian in the Frisian media. Their provisions have therefore been incorporated into the present administrative agreement in so far as possible. Central government and the province share the view, on the basis of their joint responsibility and duty of care, that the use of Frisian in the media should remain undisputed in the longer term. The Frisian-language media, possibly the traditional media such as radio and television but digital, social and new forms of media, will play an important role during the term of this administrative agreement in ensuring the use, preservation and status of Frisian. The Frisian regional broadcaster Omrop Fryslân broadcasts in Frisian and therefore fulfils a special task in terms of the preservation, promotion, development and teaching of Frisian and its use as a living language.

This administrative agreement is therefore based on the principle that, further to the European Charter, central government and the province regard it as their task to continue to facilitate regional Frisian-language media in whatever innovative form as a basic service. The aim in this regard will be a fully-fledged, independent, wide range of programmes and media in Frisian, provided on a daily basis on various media platforms. The independence of the media and the recognisability of Omrop Fryslân will be safeguarded during the term of this administrative agreement, in accordance with the provisions of the Media Act 2008.

4.1 Agreements concerning the media

Central government and the province wish to implement the following agreements during the term of this administrative agreement:

1 Administrative arrangements

- It has been observed that the Media Authority has designated Omrop Fryslân as the regional public media organisation for the province of Fryslân, under the Media Act 2008.
- The current objective of Omrop Fryslân will remain unchanged insofar as it is in accordance with the provisions laid down by or pursuant to the Media Act 2008.
- The Media Act 2008 stipulates that the tasks of the regional public broadcaster as well as the strategy plan, the multiyear budget and the performance agreement will also apply to Omrop Fryslân.
- The Supervisory Board of the regional public broadcaster should have expertise in the Frisian

language and culture.

- Omrop Fryslân may, during the period for which it is designated regional public broadcaster for the province of Fryslân under the Media Act 2008, receive an annual contribution from the central government media budget to provide regional public media services in Fryslân. The contribution received by Omrop Fryslân is a percentage of the total budget available for regional broadcasters. This percentage is laid down in the Media Decree 2008. The contribution is intended to allow the regional broadcaster to provide a full range of media services in the Frisian language.
- At least once a year there will be a consultation between the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the province of Fryslân on, among other things, guaranteeing Frisian-language services in the broadcasting system and the allocation of extra funding by central government and the province to support these services.

Action: central government/province

2 Body that determines programming policy for Omrop Fryslân

To qualify for designation as regional public media organisation, an organisation must, pursuant to section 2.61, subsection 2, opening words and at c of the Media Act 2008, identify a body in their statutes that determines its programming policy and is representative of the main social, cultural, religious and spiritual movements in the province in question. Omrop Fryslân therefore has such a body. In the context of designating the regional public media organisation, Fryslân Provincial Council advises the Media Authority as to whether that body is representative as described above. In assessing this, Fryslân Provincial Council considers whether at least one member has a background in the Frisian language and culture.

Action: province

3 Promoting the Frisian language and culture in the media

Central government and the province pursue a special policy concerning public media services in the Frisian language. Specifically, a full range of programmes is available in Frisian on a daily basis on various platforms. Frisian media services are vital to keep the language alive and ensure new generations learn it. Children are therefore a very important target audience. During the term of this administrative agreement, the scope will be explored for aligning Frisian-language programming for children (including Frisian school television) with the development of digital teaching methods and environments for Frisian in the preschool period, primary education and secondary education.

Documentaries in Frisian (specifically FryslânDok), which are also broadcast on the national network, are important for a full and varied range of programmes in Frisian. In this regard, setting up regional

slots on the national NPO broadcasting channels also presents an important opportunity.

Action: central government/province

4 Area served and channel covering entire region

As long as it is the designated regional public media organisation in Fryslân, Omrop Fryslân must have its own broadcasting channel in accordance with the provisions of the Telecommunications Act and the Media Act 2008.

Action: central government/province

5 Funding

The broad remit of Omrop Fryslân demands structurally differentiated funding and a separate procedure for determining its budget. Central government therefore provides sufficient funding for a full and varied range of Frisian-language programmes on radio, television and the internet.

Specifically, this funding consists of the standard contribution to Omrop Fryslân by virtue of section 2.170 of the Media Act 2008, an annual contribution provided via national public broadcaster NPO and an extra annual grant from central government for projects in support of a full and varied range of Frisian-language programmes. The province of Fryslân provides annual direct funding specifically for creating a full and varied range of Frisian-language programmes. In this way, both authorities guarantee the availability of Frisian-language services in the public broadcasting system. All the funding listed above is assured for the duration of this administrative agreement for a full and varied range of Frisian-language programmes.

Action: central government/province

6 Project-based funding

Besides the standard contribution for basic regional broadcasting services, central government and the province may award project-based funding to Omrop Fryslân for the sole purpose of making programmes that are consistent with special policy concerning Frisian-language public media services.

Action: central government/province

7 Implementation of the motion by Ten Hoeve et al.

A motion submitted to the Senate by Henk ten Hoeve et al. on amending the Media Act to make the national public media service fit for the future was adopted on 1 March 2016. The motion called upon the government to establish a media council for Fryslân as extra assurance for the province of Fryslân province, affirming the importance of the Frisian language, culture and identity and, by extension, guaranteeing the position of Omrop Fryslân in the system of regional public broadcasters. The motion was submitted with a view to the announced bill on modernising the regional public broadcasting

system. The bill was never subsequently submitted to the House of Representatives, however. In the event that it is submitted in its current form or in slightly amended form, the substance of this motion will be fully incorporated in the bill.

Action: central government

8 National availability of Omrop Fryslân

The Media Act 2008 stipulates that media service providers within the meaning of the Act must transmit to their subscribers all regional public broadcasting services from their 'own province' and the bordering provinces. Given the unique position of the Frisian language and culture, as indicated in the opening words of this administrative agreement, the province of Fryslân will actively pursue nationwide transmission of Omrop Fryslân.

Action: province

Chapter 5

Cultural activities and facilities

PART III MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 12. Cultural activities and facilities

In 2018 Leeuwarden – Fryslân was the Cultural Capital of Europe. In this context a broad range of productions were created spotlighting the Frisian language and culture, current social issues and historical themes. These productions used prose, poetry, music and theatre in Frisian, and often involved professionals and amateurs working in collaboration. Central government and the province will work to make a substantial fund available for a varied range of productions focusing on the Frisian language and culture. Fryslân has the potential to become an experimental region for the regionalisation of cultural policy, a process initiated by the Council for Culture. In the music and theatre sector there are enough producers who will put forward plans for productions of this kind. When it comes to language productions, central government and the province will pursue the establishment of a production company whose goal will be to promote the writing of prose and poetry and broaden the platform for such productions. By 2030 the Frisian language should play an important, natural part in a large number of cultural activities and institutions. But even organisations and activities where the use of Frisian is less self-evident can play a key part in strengthening the

position of the Frisian by using it in public presentations and information campaigns. In its role as *Taalskipper* the province will encourage the presence and expression of Frisian in the cultural sector.

To this end central government and the province wish to implement the following agreements during the term of this administrative agreement:

5.1 Agreements concerning Frisian at professional theatre companies

1 Maintaining Frisian theatre

Tryater is a professional theatre company that uses the Frisian language and is maintained until the end of 2020 with funding from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science. It provides theatre productions for adults and young people in Frisian. Tryater is part of the basic infrastructure 2017 – 2020. The Council for Culture will perform the official assessment on behalf of central government. For the maintenance of Frisian professional theatre after this period, see also 5.1.4.

Action: central government

2 Funding

Tryater receives financial support for Frisian–language professional theatre to the end of 2020 in accordance with the standard conditions, on the understanding that the following exception applies: in terms of geographical distribution, the company need only give performances in the province of Fryslân. The company occasionally gives performances outside the province.

Action: central government

3 Geographical distribution of performances

The province of Fryslân will ensure geographical distribution of performances by subsidising performances that would not be possible without extra support because of the venue's small capacity or unfavourable location.

Action: province

4 Assessment of professional theatre

In the event that assessment of the professional theatre – Tryater to the end of 2020 – leads to the termination or reduction of the provision of resources to maintain the company, or after the termination of activities by the company, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and Fryslân Provincial Executive will consult on the situation that has arisen. The purpose of these consultations will be to seek potential solutions to the situation, in accordance with European treaties.

Action: central government/province

5.2 Agreements concerning academic research

1 Maintenance of academic institution

The Stichting Fryske Akademy is an academic institution in Leeuwarden that is responsible for the study of and research into the Frisian language and culture and that is maintained with funding from by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the province of Fryslân.

Action: central government/province

2 Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

The Fryske Akademy is affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and as such is part of the national system of academic and research institutions. The nature of the link between the Fryske Akademy and the KNAW is jointly determined by the institutions themselves. The aim is for the Fryske Akademy to be a robust, future-proof institution for which academic standards and quality are paramount, and which conducts applied research to the benefit of the Frisian language and culture. The independence of the Fryske Akademy as an entity is assured. The Fryske Akademy will retain its status as a non-profit foundation (*stichting*) and may avail itself of KNAW facilities.

The KNAW and Fryske Akademy will change the nature of their affiliation in summer 2019, in agreement with the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the province of Fryslân. The province will consider the outcomes of the gateway review in this process.

Action: central government/province

3 Funding

The financial resources that the Minister of Education, Culture and Science provides for the Fryske Akademy, including funding for its accommodation, were transferred to the KNAW in 1990 (as a result of the operation to devolve responsibility for research institutions directly managed by the Ministry to the universities) and 1994 (as a result of the reform of the system of accommodation) respectively. The central government funding transferred to the KNAW is earmarked for academic study by the Fryske Akademy on subjects that are relevant for the Frisian research area, and for the institution's accommodation. The KNAW now assesses the quality of the academic work performed by the Fryske Akademy; this includes the efficiency of its programme, considering activities in this field of academic study elsewhere.

Action: central government

4 Consultation

If, on the basis of its assessment as referred to at 3, the KNAW is of the opinion that it needs to make substantial changes to the resources it provides for the Fryske Akademy, it must notify the Minister of Education, Culture and Science immediately of its opinion. Before taking a decision on the matter, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Fryslân Provincial Executive will consult with each other on the scope for achieving the objectives in another manner.

Action: central government/province

5 Provision of resources for Fryske Akademy

If the province of Fryslân is considering reducing its funding for the Fryske Akademy, it must notify the Minister of Education, Culture and Science immediately of its intention. Before taking a decision on the matter, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and Fryslân Provincial Executive will consult with each other on the scope for achieving the objectives in another manner.

Action: central government/province

5.3 Agreements concerning Frisian literature

1 Frisian literature

The province promotes the production, distribution and reading of books in Frisian. To this end, it uses its own grant schemes, makes arrangements with language and literature institutions, promotes and facilitates the development and support of library policy geared to the acquisition of titles, activities, knowledge and products for the benefit of the Frisian language and culture and multilingualism. Children's literature and books for young children are a particular focus of attention.

Action: province

2 Tresoar

As the provincial library and academic archive institution, Tresoar has an important role as a repository and knowledge institute for the Frisian language, culture, history and literature. Central government, the province and the Frisian Literary Museum and Documentation Centre are all members of a common scheme entitled Letterhoeke, and are represented on the general board of Tresoar.

Action: central government/province

3 Digitalisation

Digitalisation is a way of providing more access to and distributing literature. Digitalisation activities will focus on preserving and managing the digital collection representing the provincial cultural heritage.

Action: central government/province

4 The Dutch Foundation for Literature

The Dutch Foundation for Literature also includes Frisian literature in its activities. Dutch Foundation for Literature stipends for authors and translators are therefore also available to Frisian writers. When awarding stipends consideration is given to the specific market conditions in which these writers operate.

Action: central government

5.4

Agreements concerning support, promotion and knowledge institutions

1 Institution in support of Frisian art and culture

There is an institution that supports Frisian art and culture and that focuses on amateur arts, cultural participation and cultural education in several disciplines. The institution will be encouraged to link art, heritage and language education in the education sector, as a complement to language teaching in education. At the time at which this administrative agreement was drawn up the institution in question was Keunstwurk in Leeuwarden.

Action: province

2 Language promotion institute

There is a language promotion institute that is concerned with the acquisition, development and promotion of Frisian in relation to all social domains covered by this administrative agreement. At the time at which this administrative agreement was drawn up the institution in question was Afûk in Leeuwarden.

Action: province

3 Connecting knowledge institutions with policy implementation

Over the coming years a concerted effort will be made to link knowledge of the Frisian language and culture within provincial knowledge institutions with parties that implement policy on language and

culture in education, heritage, nature and landscape, and art and culture.

Action: province

4 Language production house

Central government and the province will strive to establish a language production house with the goal of stimulating the writing of prose and poetry and expanding the platform for it. The production house will build on creative products such as those developed as part of *Lân fan taal* during LF2018, in collaborations between parties like Tresoar, Afûk and Explore the North. Provincial instruments that might potentially be used for this purpose include the *Iepen Mienskipsfûns*, the events fund and the Performing Arts Fund, and the municipality of Leeuwarden's scheme for mitigating ticketing risks. An application might also be submitted to the Dutch Foundation for Literature.

Action: central government/province

5.5 Agreements concerning cultural activities

1 Iepenloftspullen

To encourage participation in Frisian-language culture, the organisation of *iepenloftspullen* will be promoted. This will be taken to mean: musical theatre productions in the Frisian language or musical theatre productions in a Frisian local dialect performed in the open air between March and October.

Action: province

2 Liet

To give Frisian-language bands a platform, the province will facilitate the organisation and staging of the '*Liet*' festival and participation in '*Liet Ynternasjonaal*'.

Action: province

3 Frisian-language productions

As a follow-up to *Lân fan taal*, part of LF2018, the province will in 2019 investigate scope for establishing an incentive scheme (facilitation) for creative and innovative productions in a peripheral Frisian context. This might include prose, poetry, song lyrics, spoken word performances, design, scripts, Frisian-language films (including short films), music etc. The scheme will be intended for stimulating, reviving and increasing the visibility and use of Frisian. International collaboration with other minority-language regions will also be promoted.

Action: province

4 OBE visitor centre

The *Lân fan taal* OBE visitor centre, which was part of the LF2018 programme on language and multilingualism, and Frisian in particular, will be maintained after LF2018 for the duration of this administrative agreement, as a unique and permanent platform for language and literature.

Action: province

5 Material in Frisian in the cultural sector

The Frisian language is part of Frisian culture. The province will encourage the cultural sector in Fryslân to use Frisian in its marketing activities, educational and information materials, catalogues, brochures etc.

Action: province

6 Frisian language and culture as part of cultural education

The emergence and context of the Frisian language and culture are a very important part of the *Ferhaal fan Fryslân* (Story of Fryslân) and Frisian identity. The province will strive to ensure that education is not only geared to language acquisition, but also highlights the importance and value of the Frisian language as cultural heritage within the context of people's daily lives.

Action: province

7 Frisian film archive

The Frisian film heritage will be managed, expanded and maintained through the Frisian Film Archive, in view of its unique cultural heritage value.

Action: province

Chapter 6 Economic and social life

PART III MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 13. Economic and social life

The European Charter lays the foundations for the use of Frisian in economic and social life. On the basis of their common responsibility and duty of care, central government and the province share the view that the use of Frisian in the economic and social domain must be actively facilitated by central

government and the province. The goal for 2030 is for communication with and by staff, clients and/or patients to take place or be able to take place in both Dutch and Frisian in the vast majority of companies and organisations as a matter of course. Economic and social organisations in the province are convinced of the potential benefits of communicating with clients or patients in Frisian, in addition to Dutch. Any impediments (social or otherwise) to the use of Frisian in economic or social life will be removed by 2030. Use of Frisian will be customary in the healthcare sector and social services.

To this end central government and the province wish to implement the following agreements during the term of this administrative agreement:

6.1 Agreements concerning Frisian in economic life

1 Use of Frisian

The province will take action in the event that any companies or bodies in Fryslân lay down internal regulations or provisions excluding or limiting the use of Frisian, at least between users of the same language. In its role as *Taalskipper* the province will talk to the organisations concerned. Public benefit organisations established in the province of Fryslân may submit returns to the Tax and Customs Administration in Frisian, without any implications for their status as public benefit organisations.

Action: central government/province

2 Encouraging use of Frisian in external corporate communications

Companies in the province of Fryslân will be encouraged to use Frisian, thus making it more visible.

Action: province

3 Frisian language, culture and identity in the private sector

Work will continue to improve the position of Frisian in the economic domain. Knowledge sessions and the like will be held to enhance understanding of the benefits of the Frisian language, culture and identity to the private sector. The purpose of these knowledge sessions will be to show entrepreneurs the potential for reinforcing their identity as a Frisian company. Stipepunt Frysk at the language promotion institute will play a role in this effort during the term of this administrative agreement.

Action: province

6.2 Agreements concerning Frisian in social life

1 Frysk yn 'e soarch

The 'Frysk yn 'e soarch' (Frisian in care settings) project will be continued, focused among other things on ensuring that use of Frisian is undisputed in care settings. The project will focus on maternity care, baby and toddler clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, general practitioners, emergency control centres and home help provided under the Social Support Act. The possibility of including Frisian in quality assessment frameworks will be explored in contacts with nursing homes. To this end, talks will be initiated with local authorities, which are responsible for implementing the Social Support Act, purchasing care services and liaising with health insurance companies.

Action: province

2 Assessment of potential for incorporating Frisian into healthcare courses at higher professional level

During the term of this administrative agreement the province will investigate the possibility of including language awareness and the importance of using patients' mother tongue in the curriculum of various healthcare and welfare courses at higher professional (HBO) level (in addition to secondary vocational healthcare training).

Action: central government/province

3 Pilot using bilingual digital tools in Frisian healthcare

During the term of this administrative agreement the province will examine – if necessary by means of a pilot project – in consultation with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the extent to which bilingual animations can be used in all Frisian hospitals. It will first identify existing Frisian–language tools for healthcare institutions, hospitals in particular, and establish what additional tools might be needed. The possibility of using these resources in care settings funded through the Social Support Act/Chronic Care Act will also be considered.

Action: central government/province

Chapter 7 Transfrontier exchanges

PART II MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 14. Transfrontier exchanges

On the basis of their joint responsibility and duty of care, central government and the province share

the view that in the longer term the Frisian cultural and language minority should occupy a unique position not only in Fryslân, but also in Europe and beyond. By 2030 it should be natural for central government to actively highlight the Frisian language and culture in its international communications concerning the positioning of the Dutch language and culture. By 2030 the province of Fryslân should be known in particular for its knowledge concerning the promotion of a minority language in a multilingual context.

To this end central government and the province wish to implement the following agreements during the term of this administrative agreement:

7.1

Agreements concerning transfrontier exchanges

1 Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

The European Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) is a key platform organisation for areas and regions where a minority or regional language is used. As a leading member of this network, the province of Fryslân has held the position of chair several times. It will remain a member of the NPLD during the term of this administrative agreement, sharing and disseminating knowledge of language and multilingualism and will jointly with the other members help to organise meetings on certain themes. The platform is actively used to share knowledge of multilingualism. The province's goal is to improve the links between academia, policymakers and parties promoting the Frisian language on the ground. The platform is also keen to collaborate more where possible, as laid down in the European Roadmap for Linguistic Diversity. During the term of this administrative agreement, the province will also seek to ensure the platform is expanded to include several more regions.

Action: province

2 Mercator European Research Centre of Multilingualism and Language Learning

The province helps to maintain the Mercator European Research Centre of Multilingualism and Language Learning and attempts to expand the knowledge that Mercator has acquired in the field of multilingual education to other areas of the European Charter, such as cultural activities and economic and social life. The NPLD network can also be used for this purpose. The future maintenance of the Mercator European research centre will also benefit from closer links between academia, policymakers and Frisian language promotion on the ground. The OBE visitor centre, the gateway to *Lân fan taal*, will act as intermediary

to this end during the term of this administrative agreement.

Action: province

3 International projects

The province will participate in more collaborative international projects, as lead partner in some cases, with partners from other minority language areas and similar European regions. The NPLD network will be used for this purpose, as well as the network of cultural capitals (EcoC), Eurocities and the network associated with Culture21 /UCLG, with the aim of making constructive and sustainable connections.

Action: province

4 Exchange projects for young people

The province will maintain a grant scheme for projects that aim to promote and achieve exchanges for young people from minority language areas. Dutch embassies in the exchange regions involved will play an active role in these exchange projects.

Action: province

5 Language, cultural and educational exchanges

Contacts and exchanges in the fields of language, culture and education between the province of Fryslân and traditionally related language areas around the Wadden Sea region will be continued and may, in close consultation, be stepped up. In particular, scope for exchanges and collaboration between the Frisian language areas in the Netherlands and Germany (and the Wadden Sea region) will be examined during the term of this administrative agreement.

Action: province

6 Expansion of transfrontier activities

Transfrontier activities will not be limited to the Frisian language areas in Germany, but will be expanded to include other minority language areas in Europe and the world. In particular, the possibility of jointly taking up the language element in an Interreg context will be investigated.

Action: province

7 Dutch embassies' information policy

The Frisian language and culture must have a clear position in Dutch embassies' policy on informing people about the language and culture of the Netherlands. Twice during the term of the administrative agreement the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will send instructions to the Public Diplomacy and Cultural

Affairs sections of all Dutch embassies to draw their attention to the statutory status of the Frisian language and culture. The instructions will encourage Dutch embassies to consider the statutory status of the Frisian language and culture in their public diplomacy and cultural policy. The point concerning the Frisian language and culture may also be included on an ad hoc basis in follow-up days and in professional development activities for cultural attachés.

Action: central government

8 Frisian language and culture in European cooperation programmes

With the growing interest in regional identity as part of national and international cultural policy, the position of the Frisian language and culture deserves particular attention. Regional and transfrontier projects within European cooperation programmes that promote Frisian in a multilingual context will therefore be promoted and supported where possible.

Action: central government

Chapter 8 Final provisions

1 Regular consultations

Administrative consultations chaired by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will be held regularly, and at least once a year, between the parties, concerning the activities performed in the context of this administrative agreement. Any recommendations by the Committee of Experts can be discussed at these consultations.

Action: central government/province

2 Timeframe

The present administrative agreement will be implemented in the period 2019 – 2023.

Action: central government/province

3 Provision of information

To ensure the House of Representatives and Fryslân Provincial Council are adequately informed on the implementation of this administrative agreement, they will receive an interim progress report halfway through its term (in 2021). The implementing organisations and authorities concerned will consult on the achievement of the objectives of the administrative agreement for the purposes of this interim report. Prior to the mid-term review members of the House of Representatives (permanent committees on the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Justice & Security and Education, Culture and Science) will be

invited to the province of Fryslân on a working visit.

Action: central government/province

4 Consultations at official level

The administrative consultations as referred to at 8.1 will be prepared at official level by central government and the province, under the responsibility and coordination of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Every quarter, there will be a consultation at official level between the coordinating ministry and the province on the implementation of the administrative agreement. If desirable, once a year the consultation will also be attended by officials from the other ministries that are party to the administrative agreement (Justice & Security, and Education, Culture & Science). This consultative structure will perform the following tasks:

- a. preparation of the administrative consultations referred to at 8.1;
- b. preparation of the report to the House of Representatives and to Fryslân Provincial Council as referred to at 8.3;
- c. monitoring of the implementation of the obligations ensuing from the European Charter and the European Framework Act on the Protection of National Minorities, as set out in this administrative agreement;
- d. consideration of the recommendations made by advisory body DINGtiid, with a view to possible follow-up.

5 Total or partial revision

This administrative agreement is not legally enforceable. In the event that this administrative agreement no longer suffices or in the event of any dispute, the parties will consult in a timely manner in order to arrive at an amicable solution. In the event that the parties feel the need for total or partial revision of the administrative agreement, this will be announced during the consultations as referred to at 8.1. Further arrangements will then be made on the matter in those consultations. It is the statutory responsibility of central government and the province of Fryslân to agree a new administrative agreement. If there is agreement regarding a total or partial revision, this may be carried out in mutual consultation in the interim.

6 Termination of agreements

The administrative agreement may be terminated provided the other parties are notified in writing of the proposal to do so one year in advance, and both sides give their consent. The parties will then consult on the situation that has arisen during their regular consultations as referred to at 8.1.

7 Translation of administrative agreement

The administrative agreement will be published in the *Staatscourant* (Government Gazette) in Dutch and in Frisian as a single agreement, and will be translated into English for submission to the Council of Europe.

8 Entry into effect and term of validity

The administrative agreement will enter into effect when it is signed and will be valid for five years. If, after this period, no new administrative agreement has been agreed, this administrative agreement will remain in effect until such time as a new one is signed.

9 Applicable law

This administrative agreement is subject exclusively to Dutch law.

Title

This administrative agreement may be cited as: *Bestjoersôfspraak Fryske Taal en Kultuer 2019 – 2023 (BFTK)*

Duly agreed and drawn up in duplicate, in both Frisian and Dutch, and signed,

in Leeuwarden on 30 November 2018,
The State of the Netherlands,

in Leeuwarden on 30 November 2018,
The Province of Fryslân,

K.H. Ollongren

Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

A.A.M. Brok

King's Commissioner in the province of Fryslân

On behalf also of the Minister of Justice and Security, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, and the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media

¹ <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBV0001714/2005-06-01>

2 http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBV0001223/1998-03-01#Verdrag_2

3 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

4 Two different definitions of Frisian identity are in use. One is primarily based on language and the other on origin:

Gorter, D. Jelsma, G.H., Van der Plank, P.H., De Vos, K., (1984) *Taal yn Fryslân. Undersyk nei taalgedrach en taalhâlding yn Fryslân*. Ljouwert, Fryske Akademy, p. 428.

5 Taalsurvey2018 (Fryske Akademy), Taalatlas 2015 (Provinsje Fryslân).

6 For example, over 80% stated they understood Frisian 'very easily' to 'well'. These figures have been fairly stable over the years. As far as speaking is concerned, there has been a visible downturn, with 65% speaking Frisian 'very easily' to 'well', compared to 91% in 1994 (Taalsurvey 2018, Fryske Akademy).

7 More information on Taalplan Frysk can be found in chapter 2: education.

8 <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-34550-VII-35.html>

9 The paper '*De Taalskipper Frysk*' will be submitted to the Provincial Council and the House of Representatives along with the administrative agreement.

10 Implementation Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture 2005, no. 58, 23 March 2005: '4.5. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will promote the use of the official Frisian province name of Fryslân in all relevant central government legislation.'

11 The Frisian language area encompasses all Frisian municipalities with the exception of the Frisian Islands and the municipality of Weststellingwerf.