

**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND
THE FRENCH COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM**

LIST OF ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2022-2023

Higher education

The Province of Ontario and the French Community of Belgium are committed to facilitating the visibility and promotion of institutions of postsecondary education and encouraging closer ties between these institutions, and student and faculty exchanges, among others.

To this end, the following actions are proposed:

Advantage Ontario will take the following actions:

- add the French Community of Belgium to the regions targeted for specific promotion to increase the visibility of Ontario's French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions to students from the French Community of Belgium;
- increase awareness of the possibility for Ontario students to receive financial aid through the Ontario Student Assistance Program for certain postsecondary institutions and programs offered within the French Community of Belgium.

Wallonie Bruxelles International, Wallonie-Campus and the Délégation générale Wallonie-Bruxelles au Québec will take the following measures:

- add Ontario to the regions targeted by a specific promotion to increase the visibility of the postsecondary institutions of the French Community of Belgium to students in Ontario;
- to accentuate the promotion of mobility grants from Wallonie-Bruxelles International for short and long research stays in a postsecondary institution of the French Community of Belgium; and

Together, Ontario and the French Community of Belgium will take the following measures:

- promote existing and new student exchange agreements between Ontario French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions and institutions of higher learning in the French Community of Belgium;
- assist in the development of partnerships or student exchange agreements between Ontario French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions and institutions of higher learning in the French Community of Belgium;
- increase the promotion of the French language scholarships offered by Wallonie-Bruxelles International to candidates from Ontario; and
- promote Ontario French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions that offer scholarships and/or reduced tuition fees for French-speaking international students.

Economic and Digital Francophonie

Ontario and the French Community of Belgium are committed to bringing together Francophone youth and Francophone organizations in the media, creative, digital and innovative sectors of their jurisdiction.

To this end, the following actions are proposed:

- support for strengthening the relationship between Groupe Média TFO and RTBF to encourage the sharing of expertise in digital innovation and the exploration of opportunities that could lead to future joint projects; and
- support for the linking of incubators associated with postsecondary institutions.

Research

Ontario and the French Community of Belgium are committed to fostering closer ties between organizations and research support programs in their jurisdictions, with a view to promoting joint research programs and exchanges of researchers, particularly at the doctoral and post-doctoral levels.

To this end, the following actions are proposed:

- planning virtual meetings, roundtables and conferences, and facilitating contacts between academic and research entities to encourage the exchange of knowledge, the development of collaborative proposals and the establishment of partnerships.

Culture

Ontario and the French Community of Belgium are committed to working towards bringing together artists, particularly emerging artists, cultural organizations, producers, and presenters in their jurisdictions, particularly in the music, film, theater, digital arts and design sectors.

To this end, the following actions are proposed:

- connecting Francophone performing arts organizations to explore opportunities for exchange and collaboration;
- planning bilateral meetings, business missions and networking between specialized agencies and organizers and programmers of major cultural events to promote the emergence of joint projects; and
- linking science centers and science museums to foster collaboration.

Youth

Ontario and the French Community of Belgium are committed to fostering relationships and exchanges between youth and youth support organizations in their jurisdictions.

To this end, the following actions are proposed:

- linking French-speaking organizations involved in training and coaching young people, including young entrepreneurs (18 to 35 years old), to encourage the creation of exchange programs and collaboration between young people.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

This section will be required starting in 2023-2024 and include a summary of the implementation status of the actions proposed in the previous annual action plans.

NON-COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES BY AREAS OF ACTIVITY IDENTIFIED BY THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Higher Education

Advantage Ontario

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Advantage Ontario is a consortium that brings together Ontario's ten French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions to collaboratively recruit students, promote Ontario's French-language and bilingual postsecondary education system, and build relationships with an international network of francophone partner institutions and stakeholders.

Université de l'Ontario français and other French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

The Université de l'Ontario français (UOF) is a new francophone university in Toronto, Ontario, for francophones and francophiles from Ontario, Canada and around the world who want to study in French and live in French and English in Canada's economic capital.

The UOF guarantees a unique learning experience through its pedagogical approach focused on the development of knowledge, skills and experiences (courses, internships, coaching seminars, professional workshops) through training programs that draw on knowledge and methods from several disciplines.

As of November 2022, Ontario has a total of ten French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions that offer French-language courses:

- Campus Glendon, York University
- Dominican University College, Carleton University
- Collège Boréal
- Collège La Cité
- Laurentian University
- Saint-Paul University
- Université de Hearst
- Université de l'Ontario français
- University of Ottawa
- Centre de recherches en éducation franco-ontarienne, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Economic and Digital Francophonie

Groupe Média TFO (multi-platform and television)

Ministry of Education

Designed as an educational media agency to complement Ontario's French-language education system, Groupe Média TFO offers a variety of educational products and services, including a television channel, 200 websites, 20 mobile applications and games, 15 subscribed content distribution platforms, and 14 social media platforms.

In addition to its educational and youth content for audiences aged 2 to 17, the Group also produces and broadcasts cultural and social content for adults. It is a member of the association *Les Médias Francophones Publics* and the only French-language multimedia network in Canada whose head office is located outside Quebec.

Ontario Creates

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

The agency provides targeted services and financial support programs in the creative industries, including music, book and magazine publishing, film, television and digital interactive multimedia, both nationally and internationally.

Grants, which are available to Francophone creators, help creative industries increase their productivity, grow in scale, achieve critical and commercial success and access international markets.

Research

Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence (ORF-RE)

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

The ORF-RE program provides funding to publicly assisted universities, colleges and academic hospitals and not-for-profit research institutes to support the operating costs associated with leading-edge, large-scale and internationally significant projects of strategic value to the province. The program is open to all disciplines and funds basic, applied and experimental research. Eligible institutions are encouraged to collaborate with local and international institutions and private-sector partners.

The most recent program round included two application streams: a basic and applied research stream, open to all research disciplines, and a targeted experimental research stream, focused on projects with high commercialization potential in the areas of information and communication technologies, life sciences and medical devices, and industrial technologies.

Culture

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Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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Ontario Arts Council

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

The agency fosters the creation and production of art for the benefit of Ontarians and administers grants to support professional artists and arts organizations based in Ontario in the areas of arts education, Aboriginal arts, community arts, craft, dance, francophone arts, literature, media arts, multidisciplinary arts, music, theatre, touring and visual arts.

The Ontario Arts Council offers an Artist-Presenter Collaboration Projects grant program which supports international and digital engagement projects. The agency also offers a number of French-language grant programs specifically for Francophone artists and organizations.

NON- COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES BY AREAS OF ACTIVITY IDENTIFIED BY THE FRENCH COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM

Higher Education

Wallonia-Brussels International

Wallonie-Bruxelles International is the public institution responsible for international relations for the French Community of Belgium. As such, it offers mobility grants for students and academics, and in particular for future French language teachers

Wallonia-Brussels Campus

Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus is the Agency for the promotion of higher education of the French Community of Belgium on the international scene. Through its actions, it contributes to reinforcing the visibility and attractiveness of the French Community of Belgium and its higher education institutions (HEIs).

The strategic objectives of the agency are to support the international actions of the higher education institutions of the French-speaking Community of Belgium, to attract international students of 2nd and 3rd cycle and to help them concretize their study project in a higher education institution of the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

WB Campus also develops specific information and promotion tools and ensures regular monitoring to inform higher education institutions in the French-speaking Community of Belgium of international cooperation opportunities.

Opportunities will also be considered through the FAMES program (Fonds d'Aide à la Mobilité Étudiante dans l'Enseignement Supérieur) which provides grants to students from the French Community of Belgium for mobility outside the European Union. This fund is managed by the Agence francophone pour l'éducation et la formation tout au long de la vie (AEF-Europe).

Economic and Digital Francophonie

RTBF

Belgian Radio and Television of the French Community

RTBF is a public, cultural and autonomous company. It operates in the French-speaking part of Belgium, i.e., Wallonia and Brussels, and operates three television channels and six radio channels (not counting numerous web-radios).

RTBF is a member of the association *Les Médias Francophones Publics*. It is innovative in terms of digital platforms and youth programming. Its OUFtivi channel offers programming for 4- to 10-year-olds without advertising. Children host themselves, create and watch the programs composed of educational information and cartoons.

Bureau International Jeunesse

The Bureau International Jeunesse (“International Youth Bureau”) is a service of Wallonia-Brussels International co-managed by the French Community of Belgium and set up to manage international programs for young people in Wallonia and Brussels outside the school framework. Each year, more than 5,000 young adults benefit from this funding.

The BIJ offers specialized support to young people and to the youth sector relays to help them set up quality international or Belgian projects. It organizes training sessions, information sessions, contact seminars and projects related to priority themes.

The BIJ has several support programs, including a program to support young entrepreneurs in their first international mobility projects.

Research

Wallonia-Brussels International

Wallonie-Bruxelles International is the public institution responsible for international relations for the French Community of Belgium. As such, it offers mobility grants for graduates and postgraduates from abroad, in order to follow postdoctoral training in sectors of excellence, both in Belgium for foreign graduates and abroad for graduates from the French Community of Belgium.

The FRS-FNRS Scientific Research Fund

The mission of the Fund is to develop basic scientific research through investigator-initiated initiatives.

This fund promotes the production and development of knowledge by supporting, on the one hand, individual researchers and, on the other hand, by financing research programs carried out in laboratories and departments located mainly in the universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

Culture

Wallonia-Brussels International

Wallonie-Bruxelles International is the public institution responsible for international relations for the French Community of Belgium. As such, it offers mobility grants and services to creators and programmers in several artistic disciplines. Among the forms of support, grants are available to support participation in an event abroad, a prospection mission and the reception of foreign programmers within the French Community of Belgium.

Alongside the WBI Cultural Service and integrated into it, several agencies specialized in their field represent a lever at the international level. Their mission is to accompany, promote and disseminate the artistic and cultural productions of Wallonia-Brussels as well as to activate the chain of collaborations and professional dissemination of these talents by specifically encouraging marketing and networking. This in all sectors:

- Wallonie-Bruxelles Théâtre Danse (WBTD) is the public agency that supports the export of performing arts creations from the French-speaking Community of Belgium in the fields of theater, dance, circus and street arts.
- Wallonie-Bruxelles Architectures (WBA) supports the dissemination and international promotion of the architectural sector (architects, urban planners, landscape designers, photographers, graphic designers) of Wallonia-Brussels.
- Wallonie-Bruxelles Design Mode (WBDM) is the support agency for the internationalization of designers and companies in the fashion and design sectors of Wallonia and Brussels.
- WBMusiques (WBM) is the export support agency for the music sector in the French Community of Belgium.
- WBIimages is the promotion agency for the audiovisual sector (all formats) of the French Community of Belgium abroad.

Youth

Bureau International Jeunesse

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The BIJ has several support programs, including a support program for young artists, to help them participate in festivals, training, exploratory or creative missions abroad. The BIJ can also support the reception of foreign artists in the framework of creations or residences conceived in common.

APPROVAL

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Date

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Date