



EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

Between the Academy of Martinique
and
the Ministry of Education and Human Resource
Development of the Commonwealth of Dominica
With the support of
the French Embassy to the O.E.C.S. Member
States and Barbados, in Saint Lucia

and the Alliance Française of
the Commonwealth of Dominica

EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made between:

The Academy of Martinique, represented by Mrs. Catherine Bertho-Lavenir, Rector of the Academy, Chancellor of Université Antilles, Director of Departmental Education Services,

And

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, represented by Honourable Petter SAINT-JEAN,

With the support of

The French Embassy to the O.E.C.S. Member States and Barbados, in Saint Lucia, represented by His Excellency Éric de La MOUSSAYE,

And

The Alliance Française of the Commonwealth of Dominica represented by its President, Mr. Antoine RAFOUL;

Considering the interest to develop and organise partnership initiatives in the field of educational co-operation between the institutions, teaching staff and students of the French Overseas Department of Martinique, on the one hand, and the Commonwealth of Dominica, on the other hand, within a favourable framework of geographic, historical, cultural and linguistic proximity,

It has been agreed:

Article 1: Purpose

The current agreement aims to specify the scope and the objectives of the educational cooperation initiatives targeted in Article 2, as well as the obligations and the resources to be made available by each signatory in order to support these initiatives during the period: ***1st February 2016 to 31st March 2017*** renewable annually by tacit agreement until ***31st March 2019***.

Article 2: Scope

2.1 Physical and virtual mobility of teachers and students

The two parties aim to give new impetus to teacher and student exchanges between the two territories. They have expressed their common desire to develop "learning mobility", both physically and virtually, at all levels of the education system.

In light of this, they undertake to promote partnerships between schools and teaching teams from the two territories in order to organise language immersion programmes for primary, secondary *and post-secondary* school students. In the first instance, the primary school tours will be based on the discovery class model and will be accompanied by a team of bilingual teachers. For the secondary and post-secondary levels, these will take the form of school trips or courses whose organizational arrangements will refer to the specific regulations in the education system of both parties.

In order to reinforce the authentic use of the language, the two parties will encourage distance exchanges through Information and Communication Technologies. This virtual mobility will allow teacher and students to prepare their physical mobility project, to keep in touch during the trip and to make the exchanges sustainable.

2.2 Linguistic Perfection for Teachers

- The parties agree to establish a partnership for teacher exchanges which will enhance the teaching of the French language in Dominica.
- Martinican students will be given the opportunity to be instructed by English speaking teachers, and vice versa, Dominican students will receive instruction from native French teachers.
- These teacher exchanges will contribute to language development of both Martinican and Dominican teachers upon their return to their respective territories.
- At the primary and secondary levels, professional exchanges will be offered to teachers for a one-year period in which they will substitute each other in the partner territories and will coordinate co-operation activities.
- At the secondary and post-secondary levels, professional short trips for English teachers and *teachers* of a non-linguistic background will be encouraged and facilitated.

- Give students from Martinique the opportunity to receive instruction from English-speaking teachers in the Caribbean, and, vice versa, the Dominican students, instruction from a native French teacher.
- Strengthen the international exposure offered by schools.
- Create favourable conditions for mobility of students and teachers.

2.3 Providing Information on Training opportunities

With the assistance of the *Office National d'Information sur les Enseignements et les Professions (ONISEP)*, the Academy of Martinique is committed to developing information campaigns intended for its Dominican counterparts on the possibilities for study being offered at the post-secondary level.

Article 3: Signatory Contributions

The four signatories of this agreement will lend their support to the co-operation initiatives described in Article 2 by mobilising the following structures and personnel:

The Academy of Martinique will:

- (1) mobilise the relevant departments in the areas of primary, secondary *and post-secondary* education, information and orientation services for students and international relations;
- (2) organise exchange programmes and twinning of schools, classes, students and teachers in collaboration with the other Semi-Autonomous Regions;

The Ministry of Education of Dominica will:

- (1) mobilise the relevant departments and staff within the Ministry in order to support, manage and evaluate the common initiatives previously cited;
- (2) promote the teaching of the French language in primary, secondary *and post-secondary* schools island-wide as well as the initial and in service training of teachers of the French language;
- (3) implement the necessary mechanisms to facilitate the dissemination of information to students and their families about possible higher education programmes offered in Martinique.
- (4) promote the sitting of official and internationally recognized examinations offered by the French Ministry of Education through the Alliance Française such as the DELF (Diplôme d'Étude en Langue Française) and DALF (Diplôme Approfondi en Langue Française).

The French Embassy to the OECS Member States, through its Department of Co-operation and Culture will:

- (1) ensure the monitoring of the current agreement with the assistance of the relevant local education authorities in Martinique and Dominica and will facilitate the implementation of the educational co-operation initiatives undertaken therein;
- (2) ensure the coherence of the initiatives with those undertaken within the framework of the Embassy's Action Plan and by the other partners (the other Semi-Autonomous Regions) in regional co-operation;
- (3) support, as much as it can, mobility between the two territories through grants, scholarships, mobilisation of funds for regional co-operation.

The Alliance Française of Dominica will:

- (1) make its staff and premises available for the organisation of activities and training programme for teachers of the French language.
- (2) take charge of the daily operational expenses incurred by this office .
- (3) promote, arrange and organise bi-annual sessions of the DELF and DALF official examinations.
- (4) provide the teacher appointed by the Academy of Martinique with an equipped office for the duration of his/her tenure, in order to coordinate educational cooperation activities. The daily operational expenses incurred by this office will be borne by the Alliance Française.

Article 4: Responsibility and Monitoring of the Agreement

The Rector of the Academy of Martinique, the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development in the Commonwealth of Dominica, the French Ambassador to the O.E.C.S. Member States and Barbados and the President of the Alliance Française of the Commonwealth of Dominica are responsible for the execution of the current agreement.

A monitoring committee comprising the signatories to the current agreement or their delegates/agents will be put in place and will meet at least twice a year in order to conduct mid-term and end of term evaluations of the activities as well as to outline an action plan for the following year should the agreement be renewed.

Article 5: Modification

The current agreement may be amended by a freely negotiated endorsement between the concerned parties.

In case of default by one of the parties of one or more of its obligations, the current agreement can be terminated or automatically cancelled by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt addressed to the other parties, on the initiative of one of the parties with an advance notice of three months. The denunciation does not affect the fulfilment of the ongoing activities at the date of its coming into force.

Article 6: Duration

The current agreement will enter into effect on **1st February 2016, for a period of one year, and will end on 31st August, 2017.** It is renewable, annually, by tacit agreement subject to a positive assessment of the activities and the availability of the resources committed by the signatories.

Signed in Roseau on 29th January, 2016

(in four original copies, one for each signatory)


On behalf of the Academy of Martinique,
Rector of the Academy,
Chancellor of the University,
Director of Departmental Education Services


Catherine BERTHO-LAVENIR

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and
Human Resource Development of the
Commonwealth of Dominica
Honourable Minister


Petter SAINT JEAN

On behalf of the French Embassy to the O.E.C.S.
Member States and Barbados, in Saint Lucia
His Excellency Ambassador of France


Eric de La MOUSSAYE

On behalf of the Alliance Française of the
Commonwealth of Dominica
The President


Antoine RAFFOUL