

PROMOTING MULTILINGUALISM IN EUROPE'S BILINGUAL CAPITAL

ECPSM Symposium

Plurilinguaging in multieducational spaces

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Eric de Ville
The Tower of Brussels
(2010)

Background

- Demographic
- Linguistic

Promoting multilingualism

- Multilingual services
- Multilingual citizens

Demographic background

Brussels Capital Region 2000-2023
Domiciled residents according to origin
(in thousands)

	Total	Belgo-Belgians	Neo-Belgians	Foreigners	Total Neo+Foreign
2000	959	497 (51.8%)	189 (19.7%)	274 (28.5%)	463 (48.2%)
2010	1.090	394 (36.1%)	368 (33.8%)	327 (30.0%)	695 (63.8%)
2023	1.241	290 (23.4%)	493 (39.7%)	458 (36.9%)	951 (76.6%)

Belgo-Belgians = Belgians with both parents born as Belgians

Neo-Belgians = Belgians with at least one parent not born as Belgian

Foreigners = Non-Belgians

Source: Statbel

Demographic background

Brussels Capital Region 2000-2022

Arrivals and departures

(in thousands)

	Arrivals	Departures	Balance
From/to abroad	947 (64.2%)	536 (39.2%)	411
From/to Belgium	529 (35.8%)	833 (60.8%)	-304
Total	1.476	1.368	108

Population on 1/1/2023: 1.223

Source: <https://ibsa.brussels/themes/population/mouvement-de-la-population>.

Linguistic background

Brussels Capital Region 2000-2024 Native languages (percentage of adult population)

	as single native language			as (one of) the native languages		
	2000	2017	2024	2000	2017	2024
FR	51.8	52.2	41.3	71.0	73.0	63.8
NL	9.3	5.6	6.3	19.3	16.3	11.8
Other	19.7	21.4	28.8	28.9	31.5	48.0

Source : Taalbarometers 1, 4 & 5

Linguistic background

Brussels Capital Region 2000-2024 languages known well or very well

	2000	2017	2024
FR	95.5 %	87.1 %	81.0%
NL	33.3%	16.3 %	22.3%
EN	33.3%	34.4 %	46.9%
AR	10.1%	9.1 %	11.5%
DE	7.1%	3.2 %	6.1%
ES	6.9%	4.9 %	14.5%
IT	4.7%	3.5 %	6.1%
PT	1.4%	2.1 %	2.8%
No FR/NL	4.0%	10.2%	15.4%
No FR/NL/EN	3.0%	7.6%	10.5%

Source : Taalbarometers 1, 4 & 5

Promoting multilingualism

All trilingual+



The Marnix Plan for a Multilingual Brussels
2013



Brussels Minister for the Promotion of Multilingualism
2019

Promoting multilingualism

Brussels Council for Multilingualism
Memorandum (February 2024)

1. Mieux accueillir/ Beter onthalen: multilingual services

- Transgress and revise the 1960s legislation
- Broader and laxer interpretation of the « right to be served in one's language »

2. Mieux équiper/ Beter uitrusten: multilingual citizens

Promoting multilingualism

Memorandum of the Brussels Council for Multilingualism (February 2024)

1. *Mieux accueillir/ Beter onthalen*: multilingual services
2. *Mieux équiper/ Beter uitrusten*: multilingual citizens

- Home (creches, libraries)
- School
- Beyond home and school



Promoting multilingualism

2. Mieux équiper/ Beter uitrusten: multilingual citizens

- Home

- **School (80% FR, 20% NL)**

- Beyond

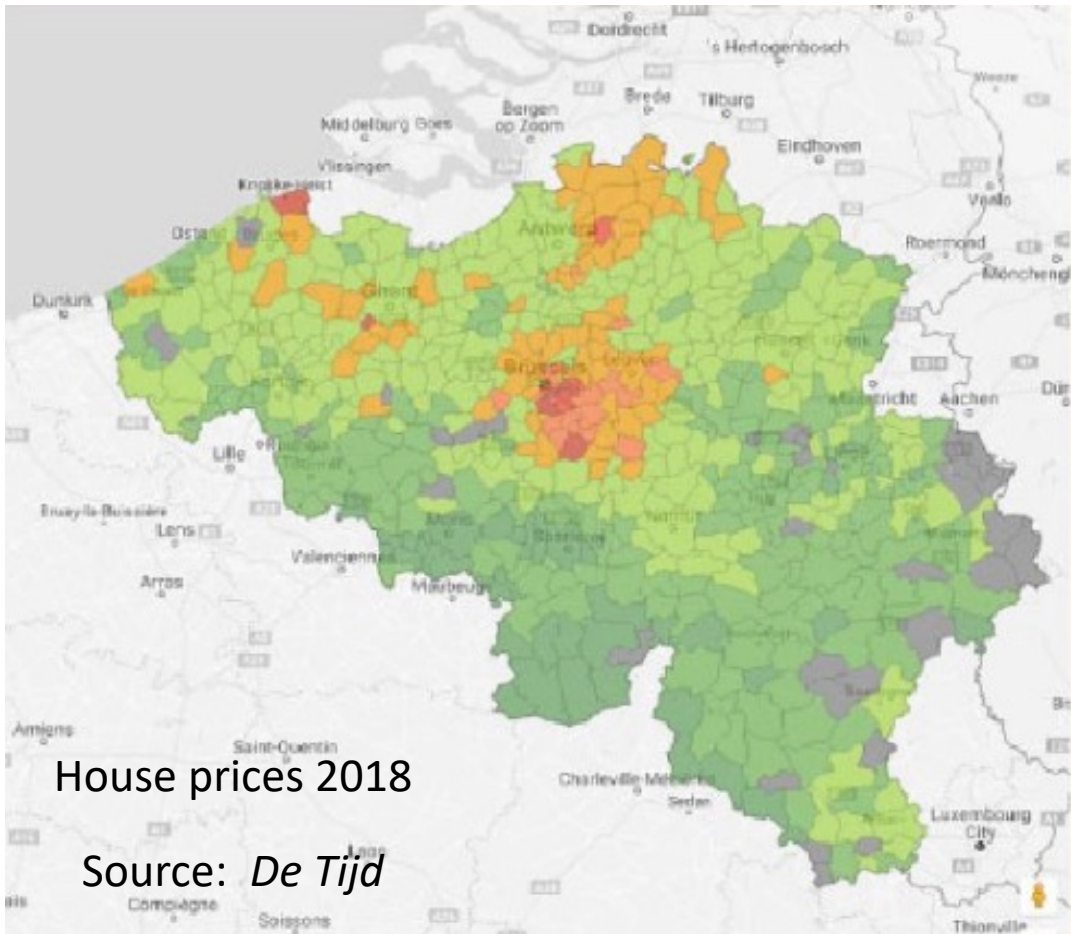
	Brusselers 18-30	2000	2017	2024
Dutch	From NL school	94,4%	96,9%	94,3%
	From FR school	20,0%	7,8%	6,5%
French	From NL school	94,4%	68,8%	82,9%
	From FR school	99,8%	96,3%	94,0%
English	From NL school	77,8%	71,9%	68,8%
	From FR school	36,8%	41,1%	45,5%

% of young adults (18-30) who say they speak the language well or very well

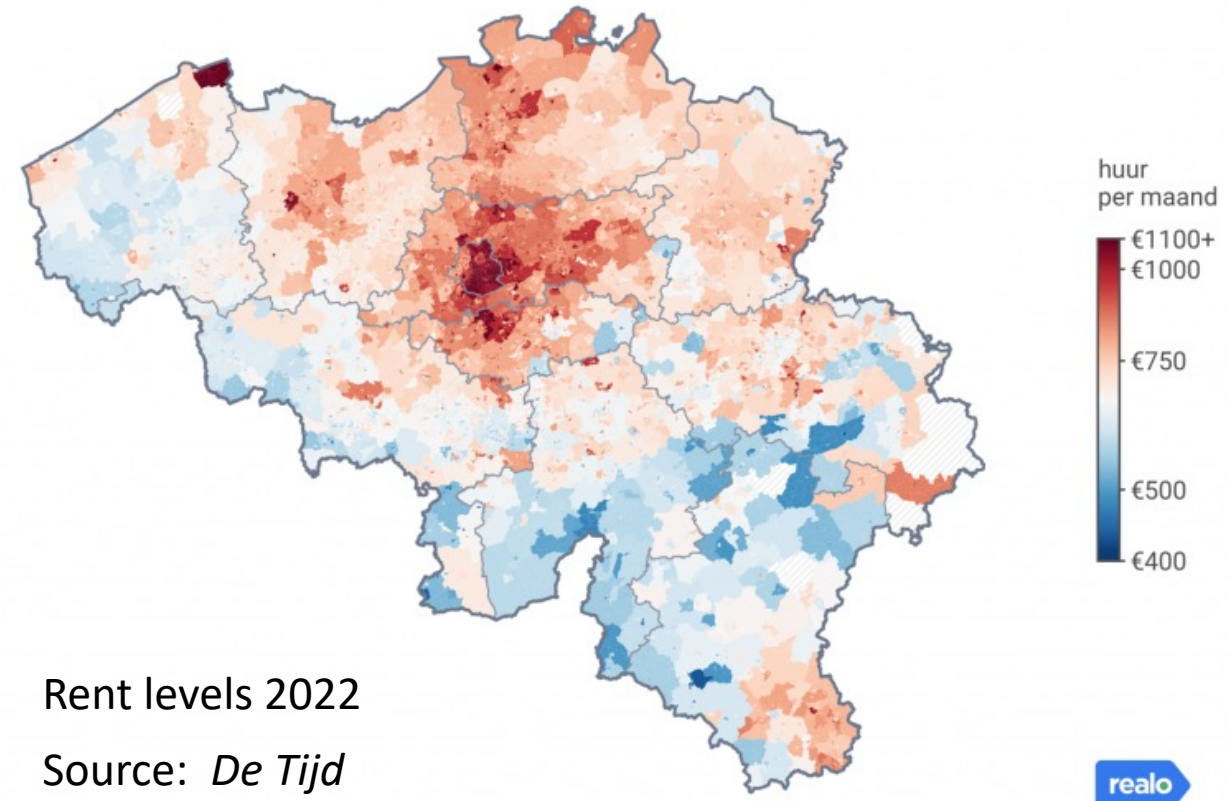
Promoting multilingualism

2. *Mieux équiper/ Beter uitrusten*: multilingual citizens

- Home
- **School : recruitment > housing**
- Beyond home and school



Gemiddelde huurprijs appartementen



Promoting multilingualism

Memorandum of the Brussels Council for Multilingualism (February 2024)

1. *Mieux accueillir/ Beter onthalen*: multilingual services
2. *Mieux équiper/ Beter uitrusten*: multilingual citizens
 - Home
 - School
 - **Beyond home and school**
 - **Brulingua**
 - **adult education**
 - **maximin-breaking practice**
 - **Brussels multilingualism week**

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The memorandum of Brussels Council for Multilingualism

can be downloaded
in French:

<https://site.betalky.brussels/fr/memorandum>

and in Dutch :

<https://site.betalky.brussels/nl/memorandum>

An executive summary is available in English:

<https://site.betalky.brussels/en/memorandum>