PROMOTING MULTILINGUALISM IN EUROPE’S BILINGUAL CAPITAL

ECPSM Symposium
Plurilanguaging in multieducational spaces
Ugent, 22-23 May 2024

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UCLouvain & KU Leuven
Brussels Council for multilingualism

Background
- Demographic
- Linguistic

Promoting multilingualism
- Multilingual services
- Multilingual citizens
## Demographic background

**Brussels Capital Region 2000-2023**

**Domiciled residents according to origin**

*(in thousands)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Belgo-Belgians</th>
<th>Neo-Belgians</th>
<th>Foreigners</th>
<th>Total Neo+Foreign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>497 (51.8%)</td>
<td>189 (19.7%)</td>
<td>274 (28.5%)</td>
<td>463 (48.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>394 (36.1%)</td>
<td>368 (33.8%)</td>
<td>327 (30.0%)</td>
<td>695 (63.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>290 (23.4%)</td>
<td>493 (39.7%)</td>
<td>458 (36.9%)</td>
<td>951 (76.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Departures</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From/to abroad</td>
<td>947 (64.2%)</td>
<td>536 (39.2%)</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From/to Belgium</td>
<td>529 (35.8%)</td>
<td>833 (60.8%)</td>
<td>-304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.476</td>
<td>1.368</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>63.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Taalbarometers 1, 4 & 5*
## Linguistic background

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

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

*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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>From NL school</th>
<th>Brusselsers 18-30</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dutch</strong></td>
<td>From NL school</td>
<td>94,4%</td>
<td>96,9%</td>
<td>94,3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From FR school</td>
<td>20,0%</td>
<td>7,8%</td>
<td>6,5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>French</strong></td>
<td>From NL school</td>
<td>94,4%</td>
<td>68,8%</td>
<td><strong>82,9%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From FR school</td>
<td>99,8%</td>
<td>96,3%</td>
<td>94,0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>From NL school</td>
<td>77,8%</td>
<td>71,9%</td>
<td>68,8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From FR school</td>
<td>36,8%</td>
<td>41,1%</td>
<td>45,5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% 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

House prices 2018
Source: De Tijd

Rent levels 2022
Source: De Tijd
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
PROMOTING MULTILINGUALISM IN EUROPE’ BILINGUAL CAPITAL

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

Eric de Ville
The Tower of Brussels
(2010)