



Schola Europaea

Office of the Secretary-General

Ref.: 2017-03-D-31-en-1

Original: FR

Interim report on Brussels schools

Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting on 4-6 April 2017 – Berlin (Germany)

Population in the Brussels schools and future perspectives

The difficult situation of the schools in Brussels has already been brought to the attention of the members of the BoG, namely during their meeting in December 2016.

The Board of Governors mandated the Brussels European Schools Monitoring Group to study to which extent the admission strategy has to be adapted to enable possible solutions for the future situation of the schools in Brussels and to report back to it at the April 2017 meeting.

The investigation takes into account, amongst other things:

- The completion of schooling in the same school.
- The regrouping of siblings in the same school.
- The gradual creation of new sections, year by year.
- The full educational offer in each of the schools.

As a reminder, 3 out of the 4 schools in Brussels are overcrowded:

CAPACITY AND POPULATION BRUSSELS SCHOOLS						
	CAPACITY	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
EEB1	3.100	3.046	3.084	3.280	3.397	3353
EEB1, BERK	1.000					169
EEB2	2.850	3.145	3.092	2.960	3.003	3061
EEB3	2.650	2.908	2.871	2.905	2.998	3040
EEB4	2.800	1.529	1.918	2.263	2.492	2708
TOTAL	12.400	10.628	10.965	11.408	11.890	12331
Difference			337	443	482	441

The overall pupil's population in Brussels is very close to the maximum capacity (temporary Berkendael included):

Capacity: 12400

Population: 12331

The population increase is quite steady and close to 400 pupils.

EVOLUTION OF POPULATIONS SINCE 2012-13, BY SCHOOL AND CYCLE

2012-2013	EEB1	EEB2	EEB3	EEB4	TOTAL
M	241	282	287	240	1.050
P	995	1.127	954	866	3.942
S	1.810	1.736	1.667	423	5.636
TOTAL	3.046	3.145	2.908	1.529	10.628

2013-2014	EEB1	EEB2	EEB3	EEB4	TOTAL
M	274	266	294	257	1.091
P	1.081	1.100	965	963	4.109
S	1.729	1.726	1.612	698	5.765
TOTAL	3.084	3.092	2.871	1.918	10.965

2014-2015	EEB1	EEB2	EEB3	EEB4	TOTAL
M	341	267	297	297	1.202
P	1.183	1.038	1.022	1.015	4.258
S	1.756	1.655	1.586	951	5.948
TOTAL	3.280	2.960	2.905	2.263	11.408

2015-2016	EEB1	EEB2	EEB3	EEB4	TOTAL
M	343	290	319	278	1.230
P	1.229	1.092	1.080	1.059	4.460
S	1.825	1.621	1.599	1.155	6.200
TOTAL	3.397	3.003	2.998	2.492	11.890

2016-2017	EEB1- UCC	EEB1-BK	EEB2	EEB3	EEB4	TOTAL
M	244	83	293	313	247	1.180
P	1.259	86	1.100	1.103	1.119	4.667
S	1.850		1.668	1.624	1.342	6.484
TOTAL	3.353	169	3.061	3.040	2.708	12.331

EVOLUTION OF POPULATION IN BRUSSELS SCHOOLS BY CYCLE

M	1050	1091	1202	1230	1180	
P	3942	4109	4258	4460	4667	
S	5636	5765	5948	6200	6484	
Tot	10628	10965	11408	11890	12331	
Diff		337	443	482	441	1703

INCREASE BY CYCLE OVER 5 YEAR

M	130	12%
P	725	18%
S	848	15%
T	1703	

M+P	855	17%
S	848	15%

Over the last five years, the population increase is quite similar (not significantly different) in the Nursery&Primary and Secondary cycles.

In the most optimistic scenario, Brussels 5 will be available by September 2019 for a capacity of 1500 pupils and by September 2020 for the full requested capacity (2500).

Assuming a similar increase rate of the population for the next two school years, there will be no left capacity in any of the existing schools/site: 800 places available in Berkendael would correspond to the increase of 800 pupils in two years.

The 400 pupils enrolling for the school year 2019-20 would need, ideally, to be all enrolled at Brussels 5, hoping that the site will be available.

Over the last three years, every year some 1800 new enrolments have been accepted. Here are the accepted enrolments for the school year 2016-17:

2016-2017

		BG	CS	DA	DE	EL	EN	ES	ET	FI	FR	HU	IT	LT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SV	Total
M	M1	7	21	7	60	17	73	33	2	9	158	12	21	8	26	13	14	3	4	17	505
	M2	2	8	3	22	9	20	8	3	5	32	6	10	2	6	4	4	1	1		146
M	Total	9	29	10	82	26	93	41	5	14	190	18	31	10	32	17	18	4	5	17	651
P	P1	3	17	6	26	7	27	10		6	102	11	16	7	16	24	2	11		5	296
	P2	3	2	1	6	5	15	5		1	34	3	4	1	7	6	3	2		1	99
	P3	1	3	4	3	2	20	4		1	41		5	2	8	1	4	2		3	104
	P4		1	2	8	1	20	4		1	27		5	1	13	2	2	1		1	89
	P5	2	2	1	4	4	18	4		1	45	3	1	1	8	6				2	102
P	Total	9	25	14	47	19	100	27		10	249	17	31	12	52	39	11	16		12	690
S	S1			4	5	6	16	8		2	64	2	1		13	1	3			1	126
	S2		1	1	4	7	13	3			53	4	2		11	3	2			1	105
	S3			1	2	4	9	4		1	19	2	5		6		2			1	56
	S4			3	5	4	15	4			14		2		1	1	5				54
	S5		1	2	4	5	14	4		3	13	2	2		1	2	3			2	58
	S6				5	7	7	10			20		4		2	1	4			1	61
	S7										1										1
S	Total		2	11	25	33	74	33		6	184	10	16		34	8	19			6	461
	Total	18	56	35	154	78	267	101	5	30	623	45	78	22	118	64	48	20	5	35	1,802

The fact that 1800 enrolments are accepted every year, might lead to think that it should not be difficult to fill in Brussels 5, when it will be made available.

The reality is that the number of enrolments that could be directed to the new school will highly depend on the sections and the levels that will be created in the new school. Moreover, many enrolments are of siblings already enrolled in other schools: the regrouping of siblings rule would prevent these pupils to be enrolled at Brussels 5.

The situation has been discussed inside the Brussels European Schools Monitoring Group. A small operative WG has been mandated to further discuss possible future avenues.

The outcome of the two meetings has been again discussed in the enlarged group in its meeting in March.

One idea that has been agreed would deserve being further investigated would be the grouping in two or more schools of the pupils in the secondary cycle or in the last years of the secondary cycle (S4-7).

It is evident that it would be a major change, which would need attentive study of its technical feasibility. For this reason, the Monitoring Group has decided to give mandate to one or two people with high experience in European schools'

organization to analyse the different scenario, evaluate their feasibility and list advantages and disadvantages of the different options.

Newly created sections in the Brussels schools and future perspectives

In the Brussels school there is an important number of pupils “without language section” (SWALS). Measures could be taken to reduce their number.

Bulgarian section

As can be seen in these tables, the Bulgarian section is developing at Bxl4.

The whole section has been created at Bxl4 (meeting of BoG in December 2011). Started opening up on September 2012 with **Nursery and P1** and as from September 2013 one more level per year.

It counts already 45 pupils in Nursery and Primary.

Brussels IV

		BG
M	1	7
	2	3
M	Total:	10
P	1	9
	2	9
	3	10
	4	2
	5	5
P	Total:	35
S	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
S	Total:	
TOTAL:		45

SWALS pupils for the levels that do not yet have a class are enrolled at Bxl4.

Regrouping of siblings can still generate the need to create Bulgarian L1 courses just for one pupil at Bxl1.

The question is if it would not be better to accelerate the process of creation of the section at Bxl4, with the opening of all secondary levels from S1 to S6. This would download considerably the number and the percentage of SWALS in the other sections, the English speaking one namely, at Bxl4.

Brussels I - Uccle site

2016-2017

		DE		EN		FR	
		Effectifs	BG	Effectifs	BG	Effectifs	BG
M	1	6		11		18	
	2	15		17		45	
M		21		28		63	
P	1	19		35		63	
	2	24		27		74	1
	3	21		26		83	
	4	28		27		85	
	5	18		31		87	
P		110		146		392	1
S	1	25		29		96	2
	2	24		44		103	
	3	29		44	1	94	
	4	25	1	43	4	88	1
	5	22		52	3	88	
	6	22		38	1	70	
	7	26		40	3	73	
S		173		290	12	612	3
Total		304	1	464	12	1,067	4

		EEB1	
BG			
0	M	1	
0		2	
0	M		
0	P	1	
1		2	
0		3	
0		4	
0		5	
1	P		
2	S	1	
0		2	
1		3	
6		4	
3		5	
1		6	
3		7	
16	S		
17	Total		

Brussels IV

		DE		EN		FR					
		Effectifs	BG	Effectifs	BG	Effectifs	BG	BG		EEB4	
M	1	19		17		41				M	1
	2	20		24		62					2
M		39		41		103				M	
P	1	27		31		78				P	1
	2	22		35		98					2
	3	22		42		98					3
	4	24		34		101					4
	5	30		61		116					5
P		125		203		491				P	
S	1	27		40	4	114	4	8		S	1
	2	20	1	43	5	106	5	11			2
	3	22	1	49	6	103	5	12			3
	4	21		55	9	107	5	14			4
	5	19		59	10	89	1	11			5
	6	11		40	7	81	1	8			6
	7	11	1	24	6	49	1	8			7
S		131	3	310	47	649	22	72		S	
Total		295	3	554	47	1243	22	72		Total	

Romanian section

Brussels IV

		RO
M	1	3
	2	18
M Total:		21
P	1	22
	2	19
	3	20
	4	14
	5	
P Total:		75
S	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
S Total:		
TOTAL:		96

As can be seen in these tables, the Romanian section is developing quite well at Bxl4.

Whole section created at Bxl4 (meeting of BoG in December 2012). Started opening up on September 2013 with Nursery and Primary P1 and as from September 2014 one more level per year.

It counts already 75 pupils in Nursery and Primary P1-P4.

SWALS pupils for the levels that do not yet have a class are enrolled at Bxl4 and regrouping of siblings has generated the need to create Romanian L1 courses just for one pupil at Bxl1 now in S1 and S2. Their siblings have now left the school, because they have finished their secondary studies.

The question is if it would not be better to accelerate the process of creation of the section at Bxl4, with the opening of all secondary levels from S1 to S6. This would download considerably the number and the percentage of SWALS in the other sections, the English speaking one namely, at Bxl4.

Pupils are already in the school and the school has room capacity yet.

Their number would fully justify the creation of classes at all levels.

Brussels I - Uccle site

2016-2017

		DE		EN		FR	
		Effectifs	RO	Effectifs	RO	Effectifs	RO
M	1	6		11		18	
	2	15		17		45	
M		21		28		63	
P	1	19		35		63	
	2	24		27		74	
	3	21		26		83	
	4	28		27		85	
	5	18		31		87	
P		110		146		392	
S	1	25		29		96	1
	2	24		44		103	1
	3	29		44		94	
	4	25		43		88	
	5	22		52		88	
	6	22		38		70	
	7	26		40		73	1
S		173		290		612	3
Total		304		464		1,067	3

		Total	EEB1		
		RO	SWALS		
0	5	M	1		
0	8		2		
0	13	M			
0	14	P	1		
0	10		2		
0	8		3		
0	5		4		
0	10		5		
0	47	P			
1	11	S	1		
1	5		2		
0	2		3		
0	12		4		
0	9		5		
0	7		6		
1	6		7		
3	52	S			
3	112	Total			

Brussels IV

		DE		EN		FR		Total
		Effectifs	RO	Effectifs	RO	Effectifs	RO	SWALS
M	1	19		17		41		3
	2	20		24		62		4
M		39		41		103		7
P	1	27		31		78		7
	2	22		35		98		6
	3	22		42		98		5
	4	24		34		101		9
	5	30	2	61	11	116	7	21
P		125	2	203	11	491	7	48
S	1	27		40	2	114	11	23
	2	20		43	6	106	5	24
	3	22		49	8	103	6	32
	4	21		55	7	107	2	27
	5	19	1	59	12	89	4	32
	6	11	1	40	5	81	3	22
	7	11	1	24	4	49	2	20
S		131	3	310	44	649	33	180
Total		295	5	554	55	1243	40	235

		RO	EEB4	
			M	1
				2
			M	
			P	1
				2
				3
				4
	20			5
	20		P	
	13	S		1
	11			2
	14			3
	9			4
	17			5
	9			6
	7			7
	80	S		
	100	Total		

Estonian section

Brussels IV

Whole section created at Bxl4 (written procedure ending on 19 December 2015) for opening up on September 2016, starting with **Nursery**.

		ET
M	1	2
	2	3
M	Total:	5
P	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
P	Total:	
S	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
S	Total:	
TOTAL:		5

In order to develop the section, SWALS from P1 until S5 can be enrolled at EEB4 too.

SWALS pupils for the levels that do not yet have a class are enrolled at Bxl4, but regrouping of siblings risks to generate the need to create Estonian L1 courses just for one pupil at Bxl2 for long time.

Given the large numbers of Estonian SWALS pupils enrolled at Bxl2, a gradual creation of the section (a level per year) might easily create a situation similar to the one already observed and commented for the Bulgarian and Romanian sections.

The reason is that the 2016-2017 Policy on Enrolment provides that applications for enrolment in the nursery cycle may be referred to Bxl2, where the pupil will be enrolled as a SWALS, if a request to that effect is made for him/her and if he/she meets the conditions for the regrouping of siblings.

The same provision applies in 2017-2018 Policy for applications for enrolment in the nursery cycle and P1.

The question is if it would not be better to accelerate the process of creation of the section at Bxl4, with the opening of all primary levels from P1 to P5, as already done for the Slovak and the Latvian section. This would download the number and the percentage of SWALS in the other sections at Bxl4, the English speaking one namely.

In primary grouping of several levels (2, maximum 3) is foreseen in the rules, when the number of pupils in each level would fall below a certain threshold.

Brussels II

		DE		EN		FR		Total	2016-2017		
		Effectifs	ET	Effectifs	ET	Effectifs	ET	SWALS	EE	EEB2	
M	1	14		26	4	18	4	19	8	M	1
	2	15		28	6	34	9	28	15		2
M		29		54	10	52	13	47	23		M
P	1	20		26	6	50	4	24	10	P	1
	2	25	1	24	4	52	12	32	17		2
	3	16	1	29	8	53	10	36	19		3
	4	17		23	5	56	9	33	14		4
	5	18		44	11	66	2	26	13		5
P		96	2	146	34	277	37	151	73		P
S	1	23	1	17	6	73	8	23	15	S	1
	2	21		23	7	51	1	12	8		2
	3	27		29	5	56	4	24	9		3
	4	20		33	6	50	2	23	8		4
	5	18		36	4	50	2	27	6		5
	6	25		39	2	65	5	30	7		6
	7	25		32	7	70		20	7		7
S		159	1	209	37	415	22	159	60		S
Total		284	3	409	81	744	72	357	156		Total

Brussels IV

		DE		EN		FR		Total	2016-2017		
		Effectifs	ET	Effectifs	ET	Effectifs	ET	SWALS	ET	EEB4	
M	1	19		17		41		3		M	1
	2	20		24		62		4			2
M		39		41		103		7			M
P	1	27	2	31		78	1	7	3	P	1
	2	22		35	2	98		6	2		2
	3	22	1	42		98		5	1		3
	4	24	2	34	2	101		9	4		4
	5	30		61		116		21	0		5
P		125	5	203	4	491	1	48	10		P
S	1	27		40		114	1	23	1	S	1
	2	20		43		106		24	0		2
	3	22		49		103		32	0		3
	4	21		55		107		27	0		4
	5	19		59	2	89		32	2		5
	6	11		40		81		22	0		6
	7	11		24		49		20	0		7
S		131		310	2	649	1	180	3		S
Total		295	5	554	6	1243	2	235	13		Total

Lithuanian section

Brussels II

		LT
M	1	8
	2	13
M	Total:	21
P	1	20
	2	20
	3	23
	4	18
	5	9
P	Total:	90
S	1	10
	2	10
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
S	Total:	20
TOTAL:		131

As can be seen in these tables, the Lithuanian section is quite well developing at Bxl2.

It has been created at EEB2 for the nursery and primary cycles (meeting of BoG in April 2006). Opened in September 2006 from **Nursery until P5**.

Continuation of the section at EEB2 for secondary cycle (written procedure ending on 19 December 2015), starting with **Secondary year 1** as from September 2015 and gradually involving all secondary levels, one level per year.

It counts already 131 pupils in Nursery, Primary and the first two levels in Secondary.

SWALS pupils for the levels that do not yet have a class are enrolled at the same school.

Their number is such that it would be better to accelerate the process of creation of the section at Bxl2, with the opening of all secondary levels up to S6. This would download considerably the number and the percentage of SWALS in the other sections at Bxl2, the English speaking one namely.

Brussels II

		DE		EN		FR		Total SWALS		
		Effectifs	LT	Effectifs	LT	Effectifs	LT		LT	EEB2
M	1	14		26		18		19		M 1
	2	15		28		34		28		2
M	Total:	29		54		52		47		M
P	1	20		26		50		24		P 1
	2	25		24		52		32		2
	3	16		29		53		36		3
	4	17		23		56		33		4
	5	18		44		66		26		5
P	Total:	96		146		277		151		P
S	1	23		17		73		23		S 1
	2	21		23		51		12		2
	3	27		29	6	56	1	24	7	3
	4	20		33	11	50	1	23	12	4
	5	18		36	10	50	1	27	11	5
	6	25		39	8	65	4	30	12	6
	7	25		32	5	70	2	20	7	7
S	Total:	159		209	40	415	9	159	49	S
Total		284		409	40	744	9	357	49	Total

Latvian section

Section created at Bxl1 – Berkendael Site (meeting of BoG in December 2015) for the nursery and primary cycles starting in September 2016 with Nursery and Primary P1 and P2.

This section was created “with new enrolment applications and respecting the principle of protection of grouping and regrouping of siblings, so that all newly enrolled pupils with brothers and sisters in higher year groups will be able to attend the same school as their siblings, provided that the application [was] submitted during the first enrolment phase.”

Latvian section has just opened at the temporary site of Berkendael, but no pupil could be enrolled. All levels in Nursery and Primary will be open as from September 2017, under the same conditions.

Given the large numbers of Latvian SWALS pupils already enrolled at Bxl2, a gradual creation of the section (a level per year) might easily create a situation similar to the one already observed and commented for other sections (Bulgarian, Romanian and Estonian).

SWALS pupils for the levels that do not yet have a class are enrolled at Bxl2 and regrouping of siblings risks to generate the need to create Latvian L1 courses just for one pupil at Bxl2 at very long term.

The question is if it would not be better to accelerate the process of creation of the section at the temporary site of Berkendael, opening also S1-3 secondary levels. This would download the number and the percentage of SWALS in the other sections at Bxl2, the English speaking one namely.

Brussels II								2016-2017			
		DE		EN		FR					
		Effectifs	LV	Effectifs	LV	Effectifs	LV	LV		EEB2	
M	1	14		26	9	18	2		11	M	1
	2	15		28	8	34	5		13		2
M	29			54	17	52	7		24		M
P	1	20		26	11	50	3		14	P	1
	2	25		24	6	52	9		15		2
	3	16		29	6	53	11		17		3
	4	17		23	9	56	10		19		4
	5	18	2	44	7	66	4		13		5
P	96	2		146	39	277	37		78		P
S	1	23		17	2	73	6		8	S	1
	2	21		23	2	51	2		4		2
	3	27		29	5	56	3		8		3
	4	20		33	3	50			3		4
	5	18		36	9	50	1		10		5
	6	25		39	9	65	2		11		6
	7	25		32	6	70			6		7
S	159			209	36	415	14		50		S
Total	284	2		409	92	744	58		152		Total

Slovak section

Section created at Bxl1 – Berkendael Site (meeting of BoG in December 2015) for the nursery and primary cycles starting in September 2016 with **Nursery**.

This section was created “with new enrolment applications and respecting the principle of protection of grouping and regrouping of siblings, so that all newly enrolled pupils with brothers and sisters in higher year groups will be able to attend the same school as their siblings, provided that the application [was] submitted during the first enrolment phase.”

Brussels I - E All levels in Nursery and Primary will be open as from September 2017.

		SK
M	1	4
	2	1
M	Total:	5
P	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
P	Total:	0
TOTAL:		5

Given the large numbers of Slovak SWALS pupils already enrolled at Bxl3, a gradual creation of the section (a level per year) might easily create a situation similar to the one already observed and commented for other sections.

SWALS pupils for the levels that do not yet have a class are enrolled at Bxl3 and regrouping of siblings risks to generate the need to create Slovak L1 courses just for one pupil at Bxl3 at very long term.

The question is if it would not be better to accelerate the process of creation of the section at the temporary site of Berkendael, opening also S1-3 secondary levels. This would download the number and the percentage of SWALS in the other sections at Bxl3, the English speaking one namely.

Brussels III

		DE		EN		FR				EEB3	
		Effectifs	SK	Effectifs	SK	Effectifs	SK	SK			
M	1	11		19	5	34	3	8	M	1	
	2	13		32	12	38	6	18		2	
M		24		51	17	72	9	26	M		
P	1	24		27	7	52	12	19	P	1	
	2	26	1	24	12	52	5	18		2	
	3	26		27	7	59	7	14		3	
	4	23		36	6	56	9	15		4	
	5	23		30	7	57	4	11		5	
P		122	1	144	39	276	37	77	P		
S	1	25	1	36	4	76	5	10	S	1	
	2	26		27	6	76	4	10		2	
	3	26		25	6	75	1	7		3	
	4	19		27	7	79	1	8		4	
	5	26	1	26	5	70	1	7		5	
	6	19		32	6	52	1	7		6	
	7	28		38	2	76	2	4		7	
S		169	2	211	36	504	15	53	S		
Total		315	3	406	92	852	61	156	Total		