

Promotion of Multilingualism

2019-2024

Minister Sven Gatz





Brussels government agreement 2019-2024

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Brussels government agreement 2019-2024

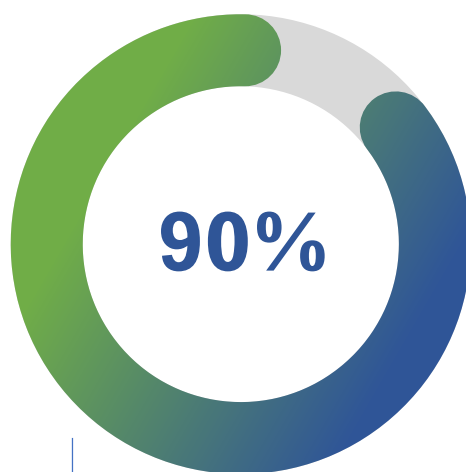
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A first for Brussels

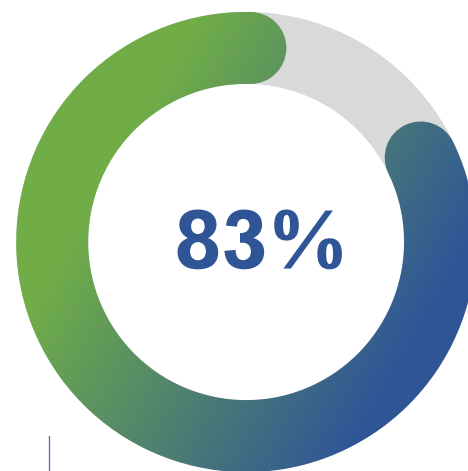
Appointment of a
minister in charge of
the promotion of
Multilingualism

Target: **Embedding
Multilingualism in
Brussels policies**

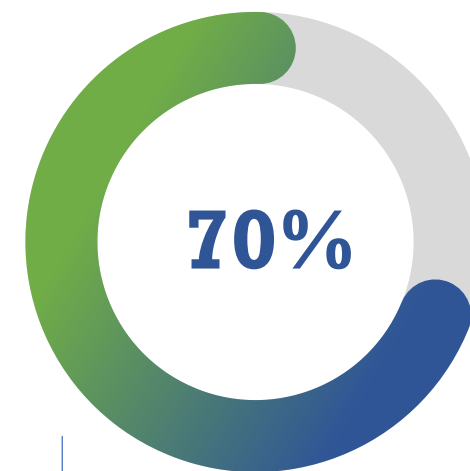
There is support for multilingualism with the population



of people in Brussels advocate bilingual primary school



of people in Brussels think bilingualism is a necessity on the work floor



of people in Brussels feel that bilingualism is part of the Brussels identity

There is political support for multilingualism

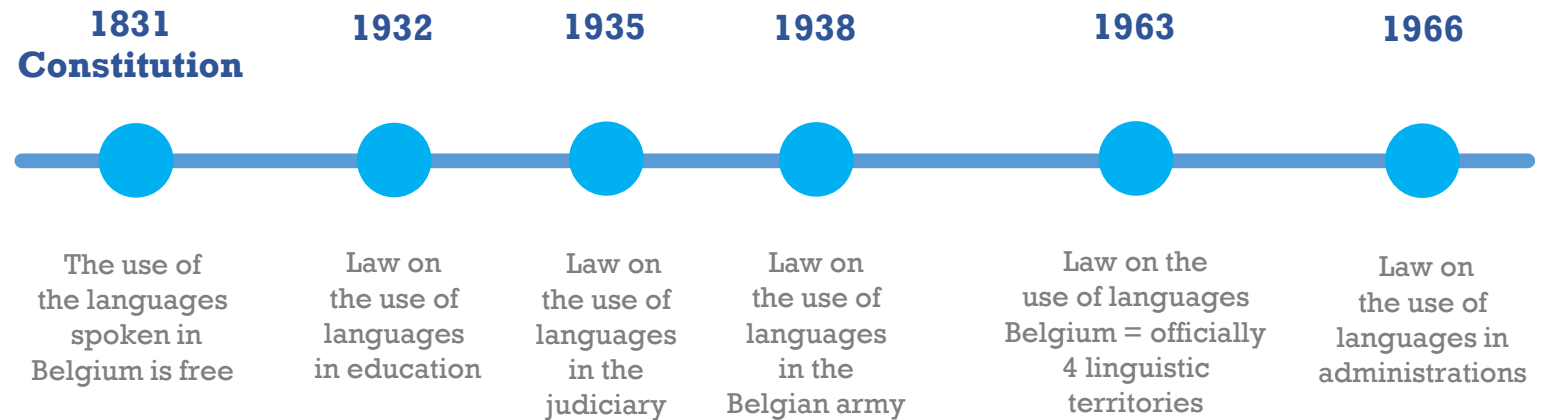
Commitments in the Governmental agreements



Language policy is not a politics of language

Language policy starts from the different languages spoken on the terrain and the political structures in force. The target is to use languages as instrument to better citizens' lives

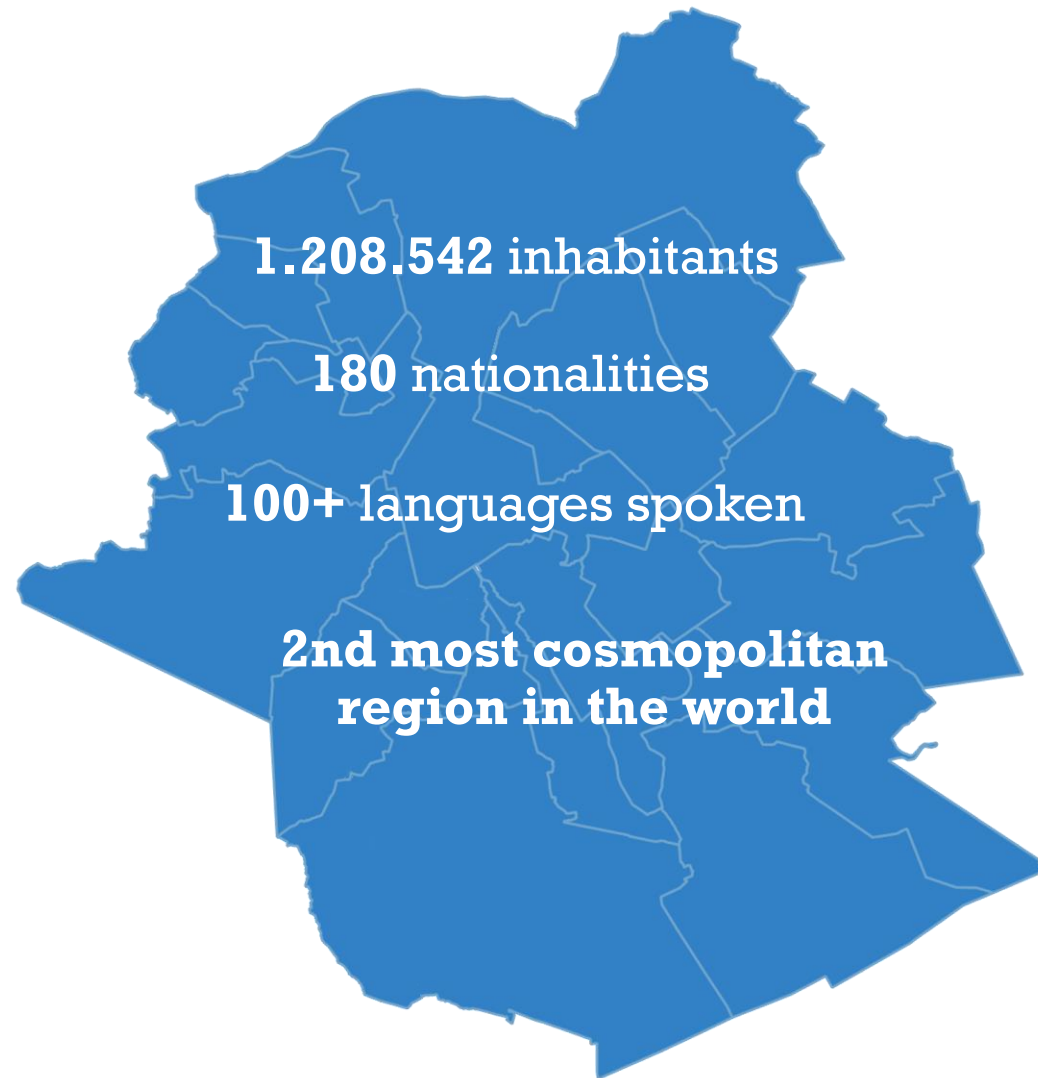
Politics of language makes use of laws protecting the rights of linguistic groups for instance:



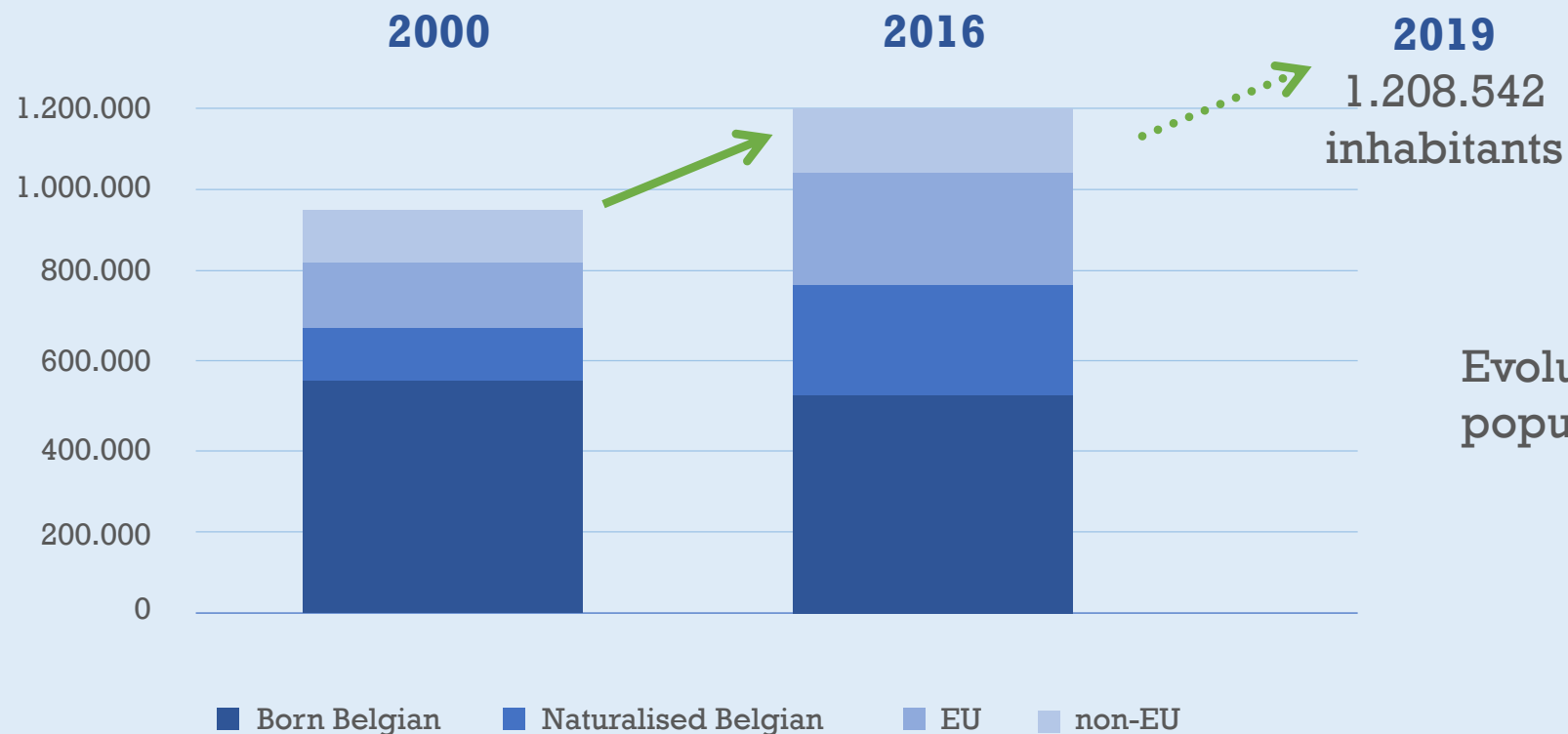
Joint responsibility



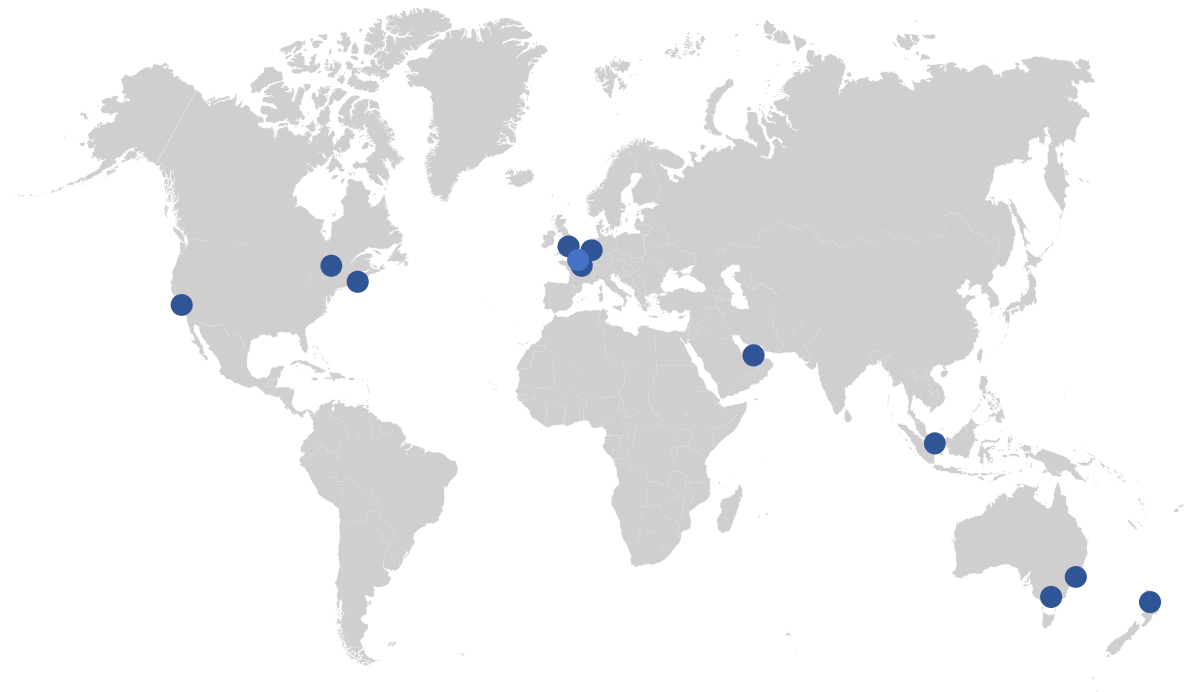
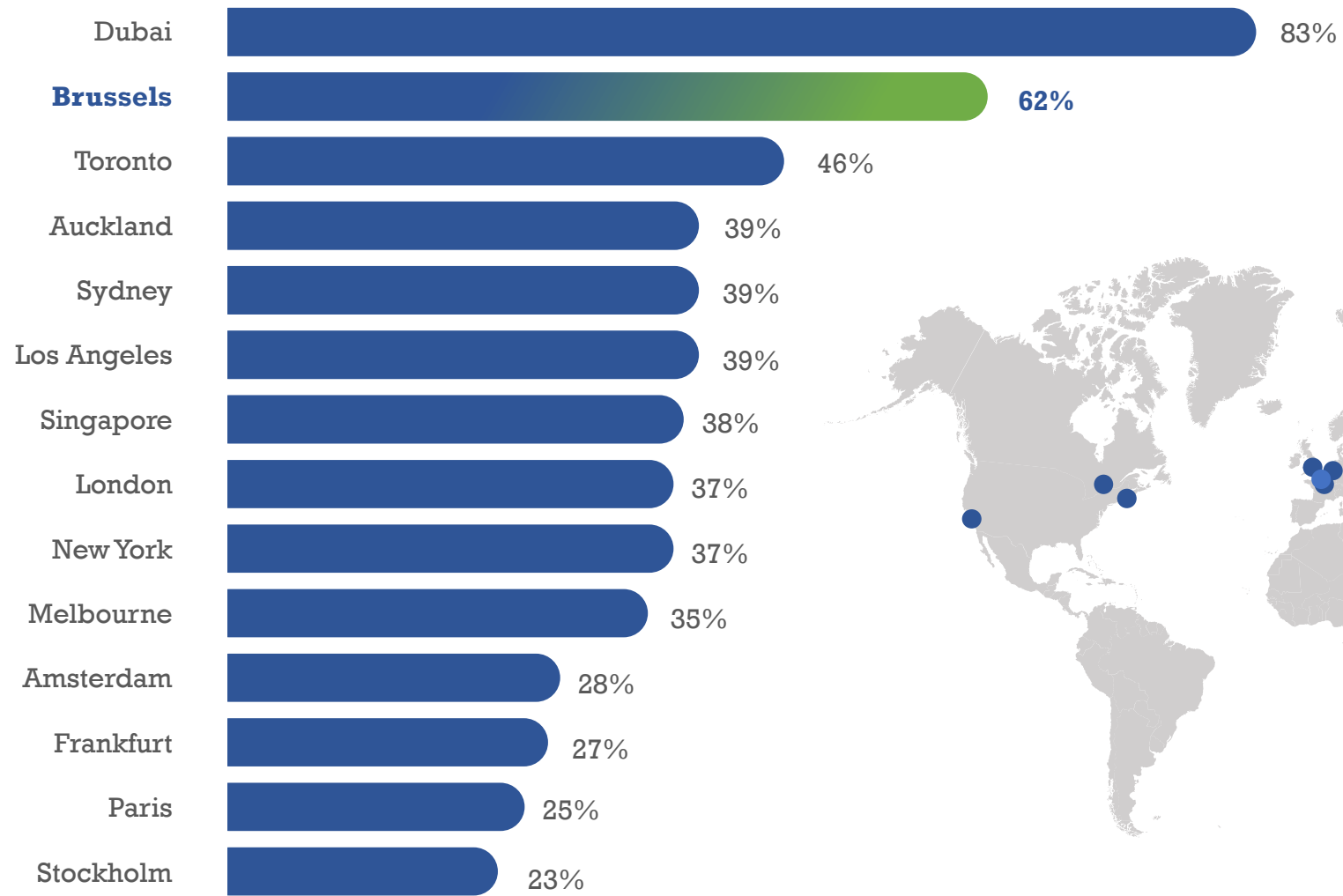
Brussels, a cosmopolitan city: the figures



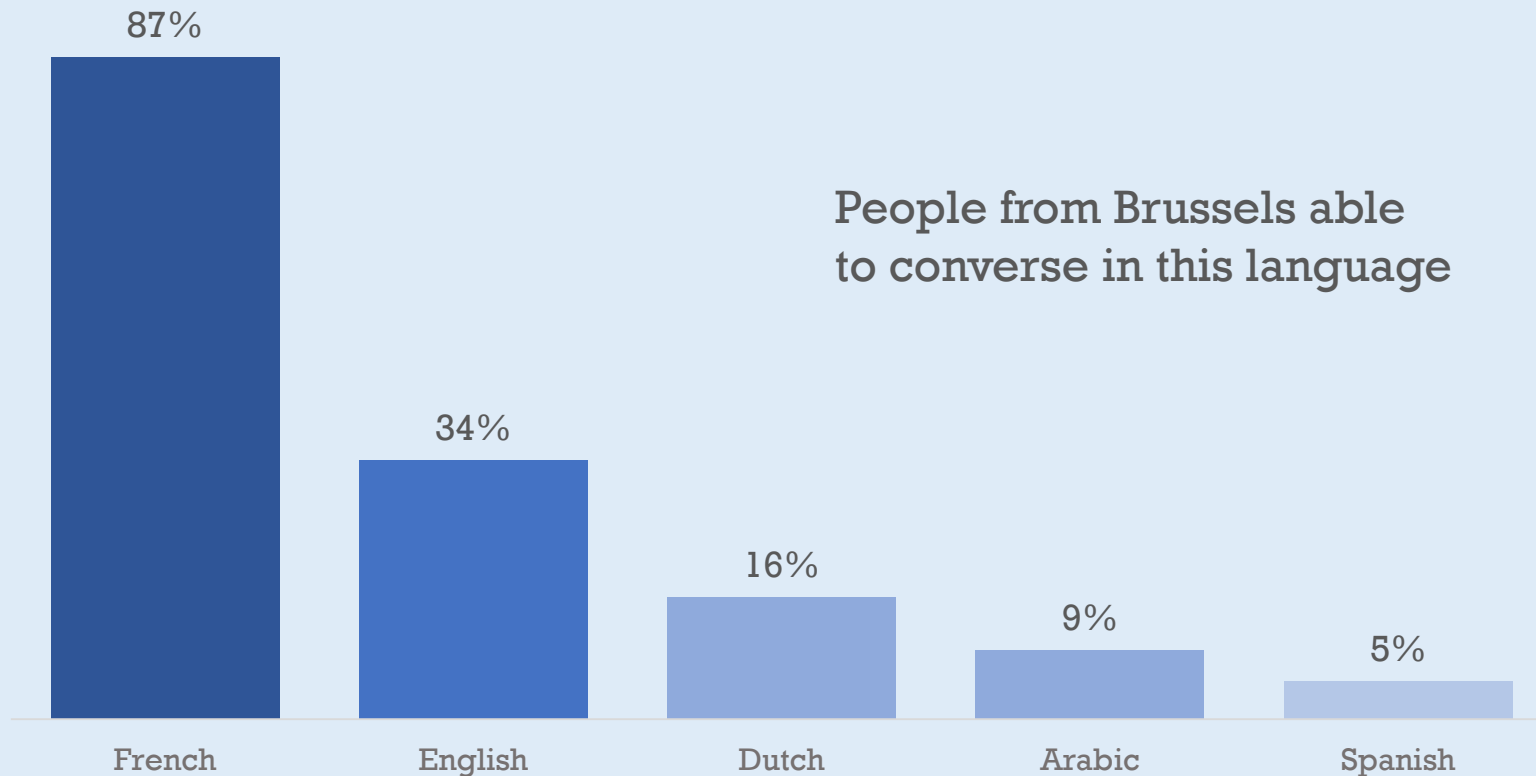
Migration flow 20th and 21st century



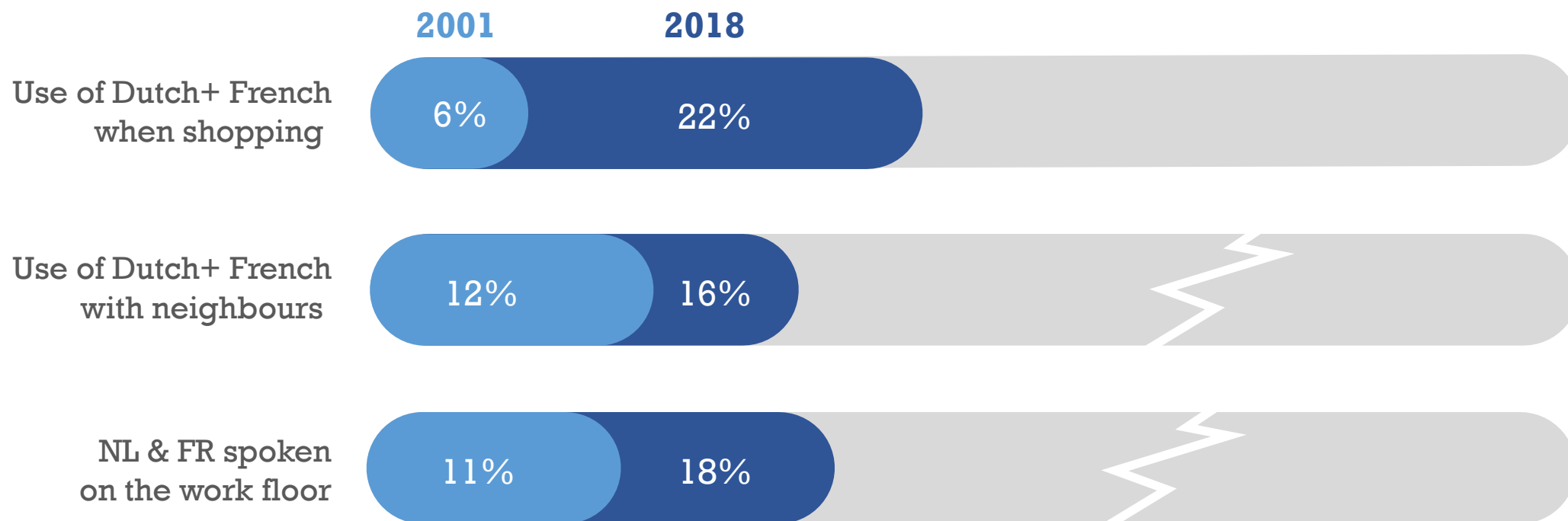
Evolution Brussels population by nationality



Best known languages in Brussels



Most used languages in Brussels



“Translanguaging”: a phenomenon typical of Brussels

Je can't read this article si t'es pas drietalig.

Being drietalig est parmi de beste pleasures dans le hele wereld.

Think about it pour un momentje. You can utiliser drie verschillende languages en même temps in such a way dat uw hersenen want to exploder from the speed par laquelle it switches van één taal naar de andere but still tu peux do it en tegelijkertijd avoir beaucoup de plezier et c'est pour ça dat je uniek bent. Le fact that tu peux lire dit artikel zonder stopping to think est un talent heel weinig people have. La majorité van de

mensen struggle to lire just in één taal, but what you are doing maintenant est een teken van absolute genie. Reading a très complicated tekst in trois

verschillende talen seamlessly makes you un nerd et someone die van talen houdt. Reading cet article must have given your brain een goed gymnastiekske. That's why you should le partager avec uw vrienden. De rien bij voorbaat and have a très bonne après midi 🙌 😊



A policy for multilingualism in Brussels

Inclusive
and functional take
on individual multilingualism:

*“the ability to at least have
a simple conversation in
more than one language”*

Our ambition

All Brussels youth at the age of 18 have command of Dutch, French and English.

Importance of recognition of the native language

Good knowledge of native tongue improves the acquisition of other languages.

Children growing up in multilingual environment need multiple languages to express themselves emotionally.

Language sensitization: developing positive attitude to multilingualism from childhood.



Multilingualism as cohesion

Social cohesion

Brussels identity

Shared citizenship



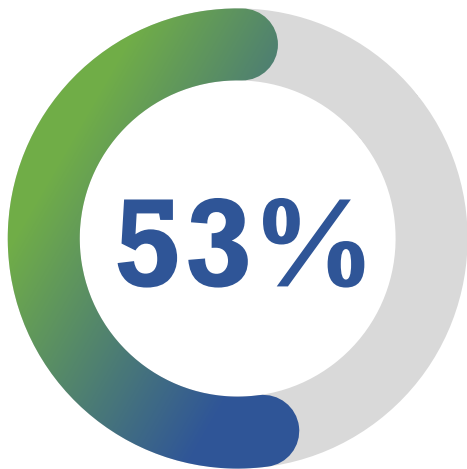
“ The limits of my
language mean
the limits of my world. ”

Linguist Ludwig Wittgenstein
(1889-1951)



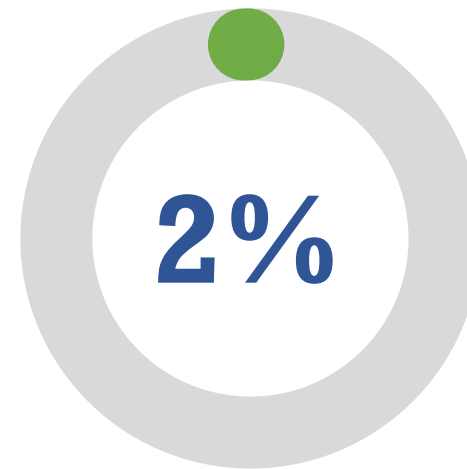
Multilingualism creates opportunities

Multilingualism as leverage on the job market



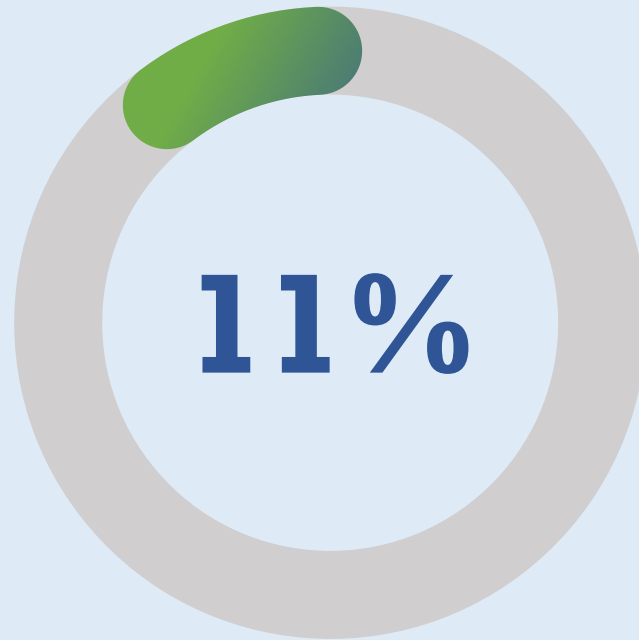
Of the openings in Brussels explicitly require the knowledge of languages

- 80% require knowledge of French and Dutch
- 40% require knowledge of English



Of job seekers in Brussels are trilingual FR-EN-Dutch

Multilingualism as trump in business



of companies indicate having lost at least one contract due to lack of knowledge of languages in their company.



“ One language sets you
in a corridor for life.
Two languages open
every door along the way. ”

Linguist Frank Smith
(°1928)

But why stop
at two languages?

Short term

Mapping existing initiatives:
who are the 'language plow horses'?

Creation of Council for Multilingualism:
structurally embedding consultation

Education: a primary partner

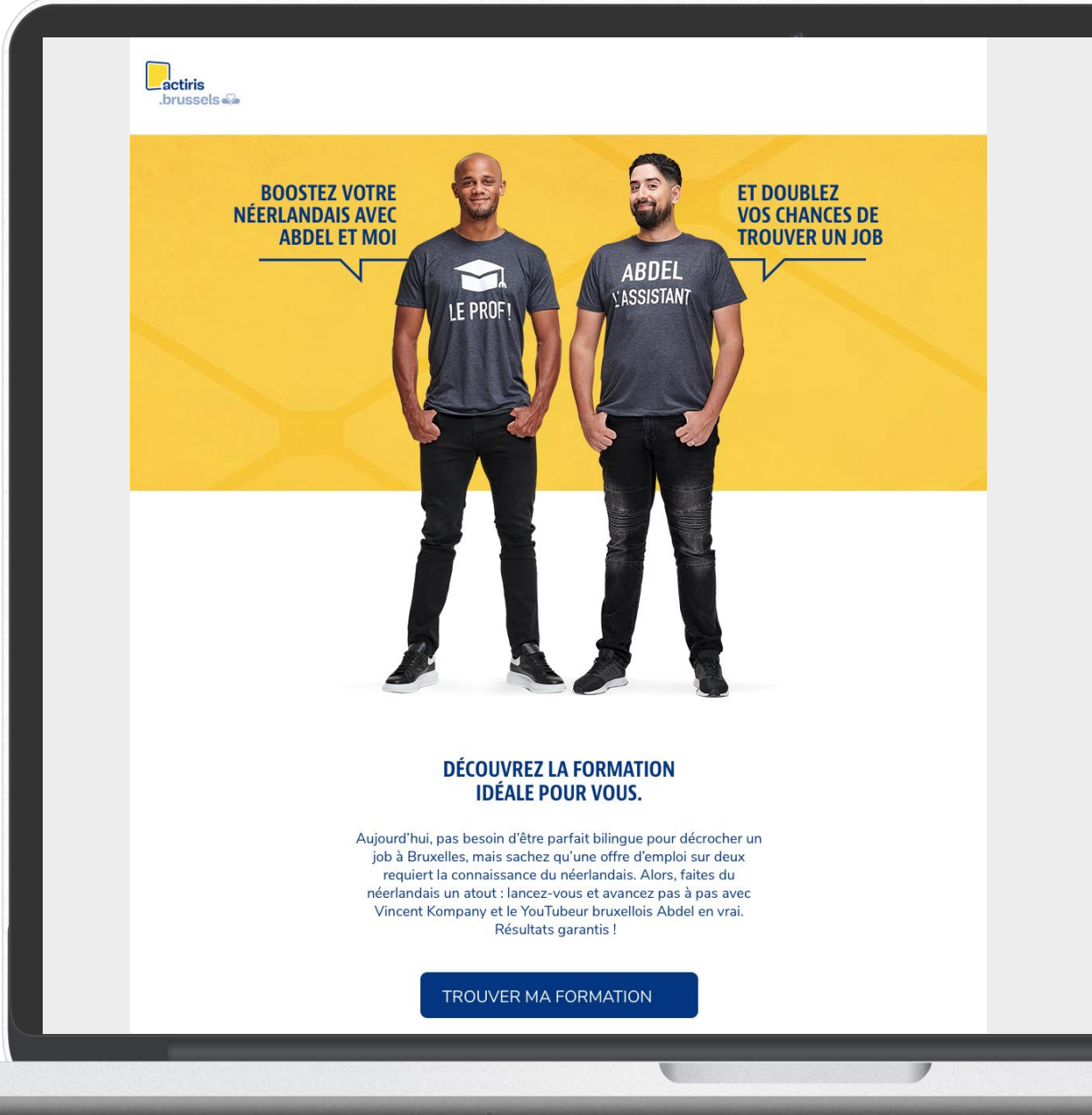
Stimulation of
existing initiatives
and cooperations:
Exchange
of existing expertise

**Teacher exchange
French and Dutch
Focus on bilingual
teacher education**

**Cooperation agreement
with the federal government
and the regions**

Language: vocational training and jobs

Language hub, a central service providing language training aimed at job seekers



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BOOSTEZ VOTRE NÉERLANDAIS AVEC ABDEL ET MOI

ET DOUBLEZ VOS CHANCES DE TROUVER UN JOB

LE PROF!

ABDEL L'ASSISTANT

DÉCOUVREZ LA FORMATION IDÉALE POUR VOUS.

Aujourd'hui, pas besoin d'être parfait bilingue pour décrocher un job à Bruxelles, mais sachez qu'une offre d'emploi sur deux requiert la connaissance du néerlandais. Alors, faites du néerlandais un atout : lancez-vous et avancez pas à pas avec Vincent Kompany et le YouTubeur bruxellois Abdel en vrai. Résultats garantis !

TROUVER MA FORMATION

Trilingual communication cultural offer

visit.brussels 

Concerten in Brussel

Welk concert zoek je?

ZOEKEN

Trouvez un concert à Bruxelles

Quel concert cherchez vous ?

RECHERCHER

Find your concert in Brussels

which concert are you looking for ?

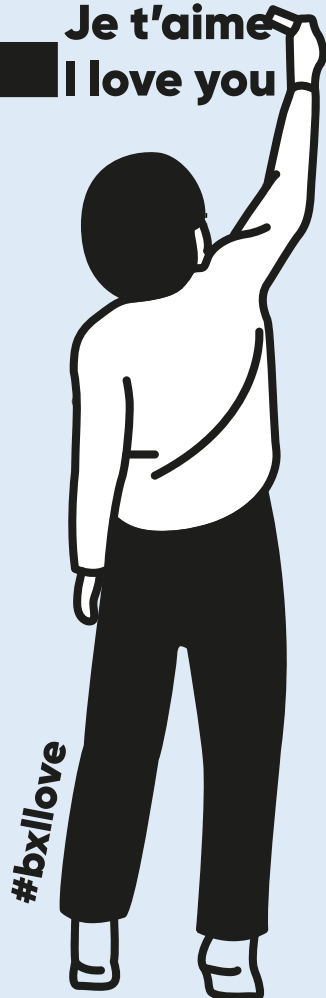
SEARCH



International image of a multilingual region

European Day of Multilingualism
and the Day of European Languages:
Brussels joins the celebrations!

BXL 'k zeen a geire
Ik hou van jou
Je t'aime
I love you



#bxlllove

Vragen?
Des questions ?
Any questions?
Fragen?
¿Preguntas?
أسئلة

