

**Ensuring access to education
in the Brussels-Capital
Region: efforts to prevent
children from dropping out
of school (in times of
corona)**

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Overview

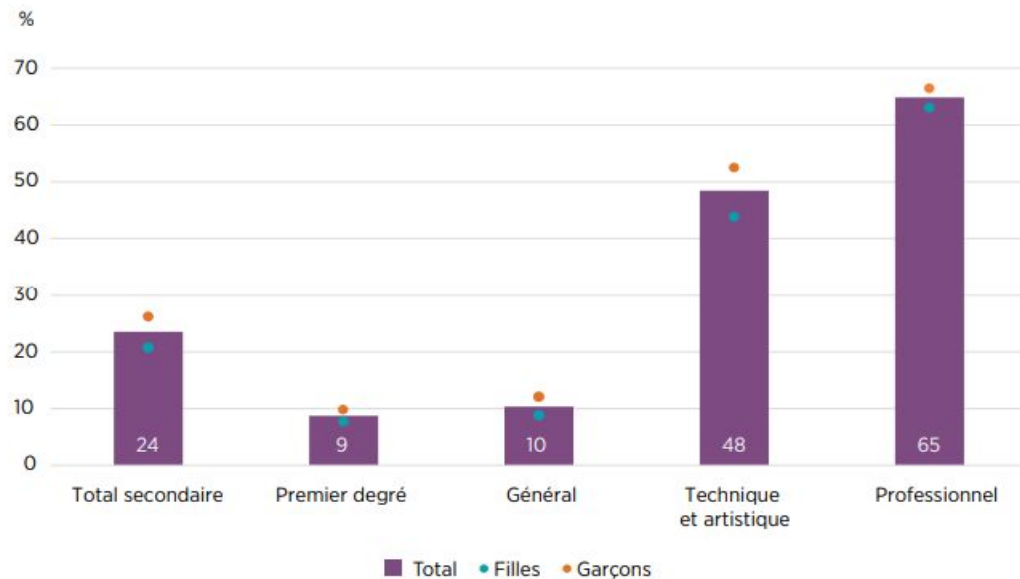


- School dropout in the Brussels-Capital Region
- Strategy to tackle school dropout
- 3 subsidy programs to tackle school dropout
- Response to the COVID 19 pandemic

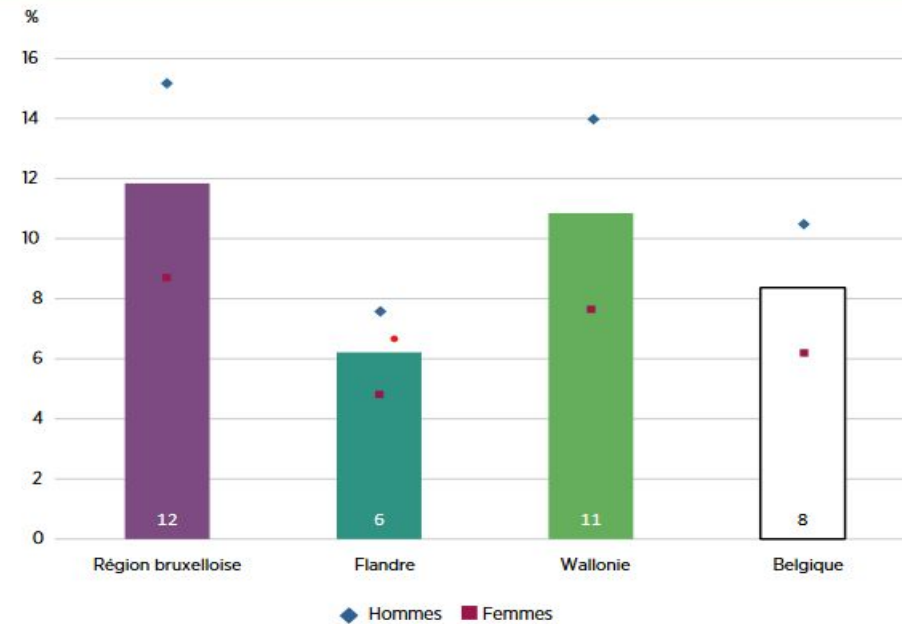
School dropout in the Brussels-Capital Region

2 indicators: academic delay and early school leaving

Academic delay, by gender and education type: 2018-2019
% of students having an academic delay of 2 or more years in secondary education-
Brussels-Capital Region



Early school leaving, by gender, Belgium and regions : 2019
% of people aged between 18 and 24 years old leaving secondary school without
degree and who do not follow any type of education or training



Source : SPF Economie - Statistics Belgium, Enquête sur les forces de Travail.

School dropout in the Brussels-Capital Region

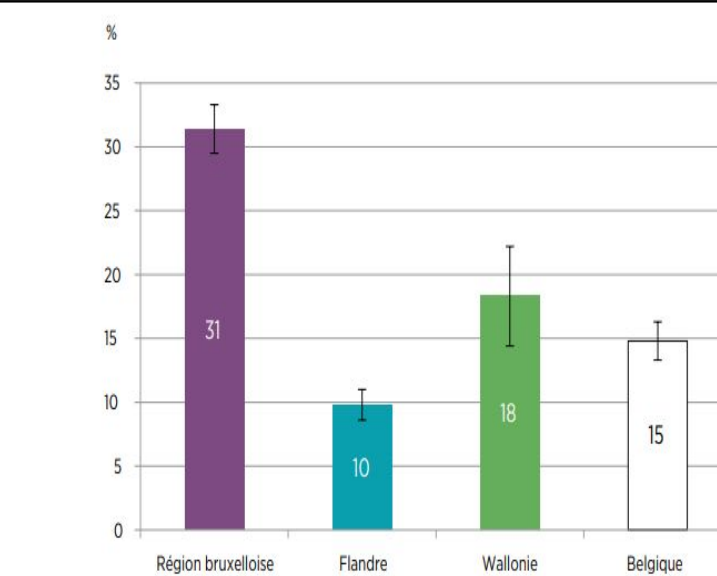
- High child poverty rates: 54% of children lack at least one essential item, 29% at least three (EU threshold to define child deprivation) and 22% at least five (severe level of deprivation), (Guio & Vandenbroucke, 2019)

List of items for the measurement of child deprivation

1. Child: some new (not second-hand) clothes
2. Child: two pairs of properly fitting shoes
3. Child: fresh fruit and vegetables daily
4. Child: meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent daily
5. Child: books at home suitable for the child's age
6. Child: outdoor leisure equipment
7. Child: indoor games
8. Child: regular leisure activities
9. Child: celebrations on special occasions
10. Child: invitation of friends to play and eat from time to time
11. Child: participation in school trips and school events
12. Child: holiday
13. Household: replacement of worn-out furniture
14. Household: arrears
15. Adults in the household: access to Internet
16. Household: home adequately warm
17. Household: access to a car for private use

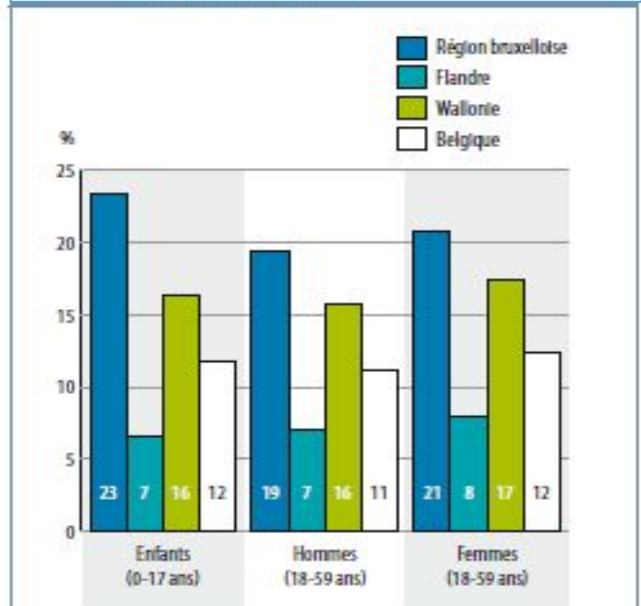
Guio et al, 2017

% of risk of poverty, Belgium and regions, income 2018



Source: SPF Economie - Statistics Belgium, Quality Report Belgian SILC 2019.

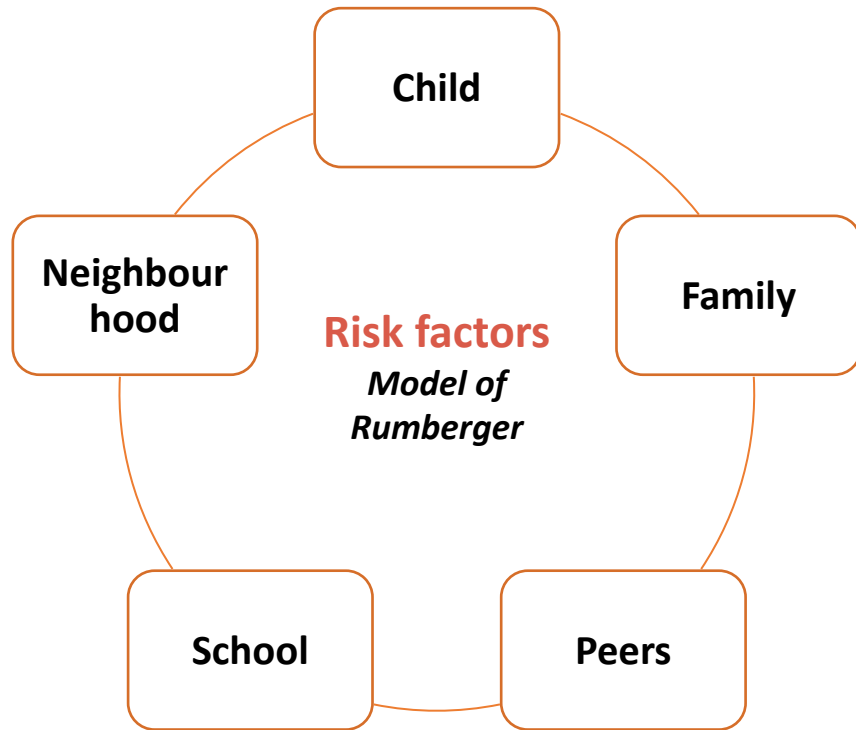
% of population living in a household without income, by age group and gender, Belgium and regions, 2018



Source: SPF Economie - Statistics Belgium, Enquête sur les forces de travail

Strategy to tackle school dropout

...based on a theoretical framework



...containing **8 objectives**

1. Identification et monitoring
2. Strengthening the social environment/ relations
3. Smoother transition during critical moments in the school trajectory
4. Psychosocial engagement
5. Pedagogical engagement
6. Relations student-family-school
7. Reintegration of students back to school or into a school trajectory
8. Coordination of various local and supra-local initiatives and networking



3 recurrent subsidy programs to tackle school dropout (2022-2024)

Schools

- 424 projects
- Children/ youth
- 7 million euros

Local associations

- 38 projects
- Children/ youth/ parents
- 1.5 million euros

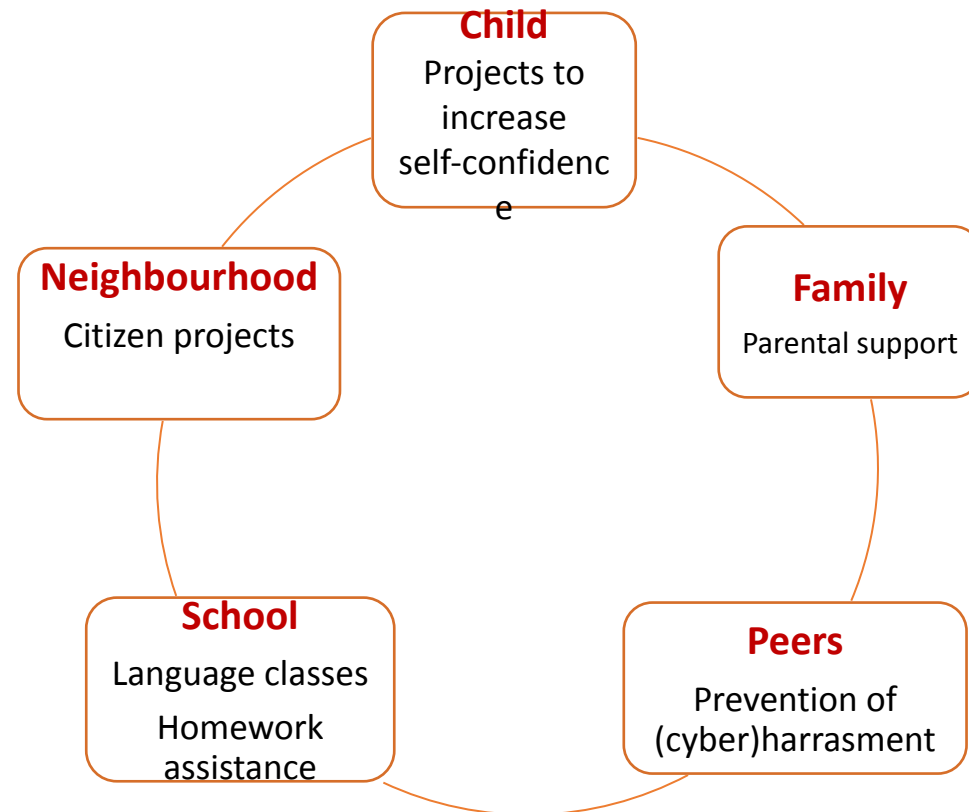
Local authorities

- 160 projects + 130 employees
- Children/ youth/ parents/ schools
- 17.000.000 euros

3 recurrent subsidy programs to tackle school dropout

- Priority is given to children living in the most deprived areas of the Region
- A few examples:
 - *La Petite Ecole*: place of transition to school for children from exile, who have never or rarely attended school.
 - *FEFA*: tackling school dropout by combining sports, compulsory school follow-up and psychosocial support for young people and their parents.
 - *ReMua*: giving access to musical practice to vulnerable children.

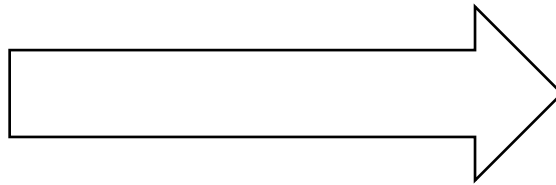
Covering several risk factors for school dropout



Covid 19 pandemic: school closure & distance learning

OBSERVATIONS

- Learning delay (half a school year)
- Increase of inequalities within and between schools
- Mental health: demotivation, social isolation, school phobia, especially among youngsters



RESPONSE

- Change of project priorities
- Providing most vulnerable children with computers and other materials
- Boosting existing & creating new subsidy programs

Boosting existing & creating new subsidy programs

- Local authorities: funding to create local networks to address school dropout in a coordinated manner at local level
- Schools: extra subsidy for secondary schools
- Associations: new program to help youngsters who dropped out of school and who are not in employment, education or training (15-21 years old)

Thanks for your attention!

For more information: <https://accrochagescolaire.brussels/>