

### **Pupil survey 'Language background'**

*Example pupil survey, provided by Daisy Termont (PHTI, currently Richtpunt campus Gent Henleykaai)*

*Functional multilingual learning in secondary education*

Source:

[https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/page/documents/Voorbeeld\\_Leerlingenbevraging\\_talige%20achtergrond\\_0.pdf](https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/page/documents/Voorbeeld_Leerlingenbevraging_talige%20achtergrond_0.pdf)

from Onderwijscentrum Gent - Ghent Education Centre

#### 1. Objectives:

- a. To map pupils' linguistic background (at school and/or class level).

#### 2. Duration:

- × survey: 15';
- × discussion per class 50';
- × processing in student monitoring system

#### 3. Target group: secondary school students

#### 4. Methods:

- a. Communication about the survey to the parties involved (pupils, teachers, possibly also parents...).
- b. Data collection: can be via Google Forms, Smartschool, SurveyMonkey or other tools.
- c. Interpretation of the data.
- d. Communication of the results of the survey to stakeholders, coupled with a discussion of the results.

#### 5. Material

> Possible questions for the pupil survey regarding their linguistic background:

- Which country do you come from?

- Which language(s) is/are your mother tongue? How well do you know these languages (understanding, speaking, reading, writing)?
- What language(s) do you speak at home? How well do you know these languages (understanding, speaking, reading, writing)?
- What language(s) do you speak at school? How well do you know these languages (understanding, speaking, reading, writing)?
- × in class
- × in the break
- What other languages do you still use daily when interacting with friends, How well do you know these languages (gradation: understanding, speaking, reading, writing)?
- Do you know any other languages? How well do you know these languages (understanding, speaking, reading, writing)?
- I think everyone should speak Dutch in class (agree/agree)
- I also want to use my home language in class from time to time (agree/disagree)
- × (If yes,) when (in what situations) would you like to use your home language then?

#### 6. Effects / evaluation

- You gain insight into the pupils' linguistic and cultural background and their language use at home and with friends.
- You get an insight into what languages the pupils speak at home and what position Dutch takes in these.
- You get an idea of what languages students speak at school (in class and during breaks) and what place Dutch occupies in this.
- You gain insight into what languages pupils use with their friends and what place Dutch occupies in this.
- You gauge what the pupils think about the (functional) use of their home languages in class.
- You gain insight into which (home) languages your pupils can use during the learning process and in what way (written, oral).

#### 7. Tips/experiences

- Be flexible with the questions: adapt them to your needs, objectives and students.
- Tell the pupils why you want to carry out the survey and what you will do with the results.
- Link the results of the survey back to the pupils. Based on the results, you can start a discussion with them about multilingualism and language use in class and possibly come to some agreements that can make the learning process more efficient.
- This survey can be carried out at classroom and/or school level.