

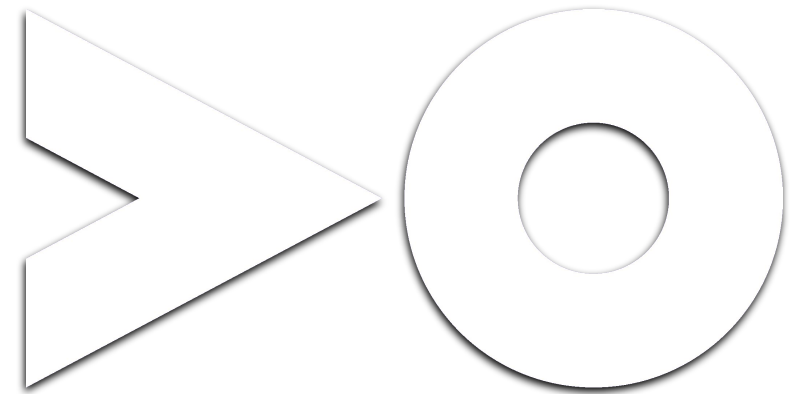
Experiences: North Brabant (Netherlands)

Internationalization education for everyone in Brainport Eindhoven*

* the following text is the translation taken from the original document in Dutch entitled "Internationalisering onderwijs voor iedereen BrainportEindhoven"

Why extra focus on the internationalization of education in Brainport

Brainport Eindhoven has evolved into an international community. This is not only due to an increase in the number of internationals in the region but also because businesses are becoming more global in their operations. Education plays a vital role in preparing students for an international world. The region has begun exploring how education can be further internationalized, resulting in the 'Vision for the Internationalization of Education for Everyone in Brainport Eindhoven.'



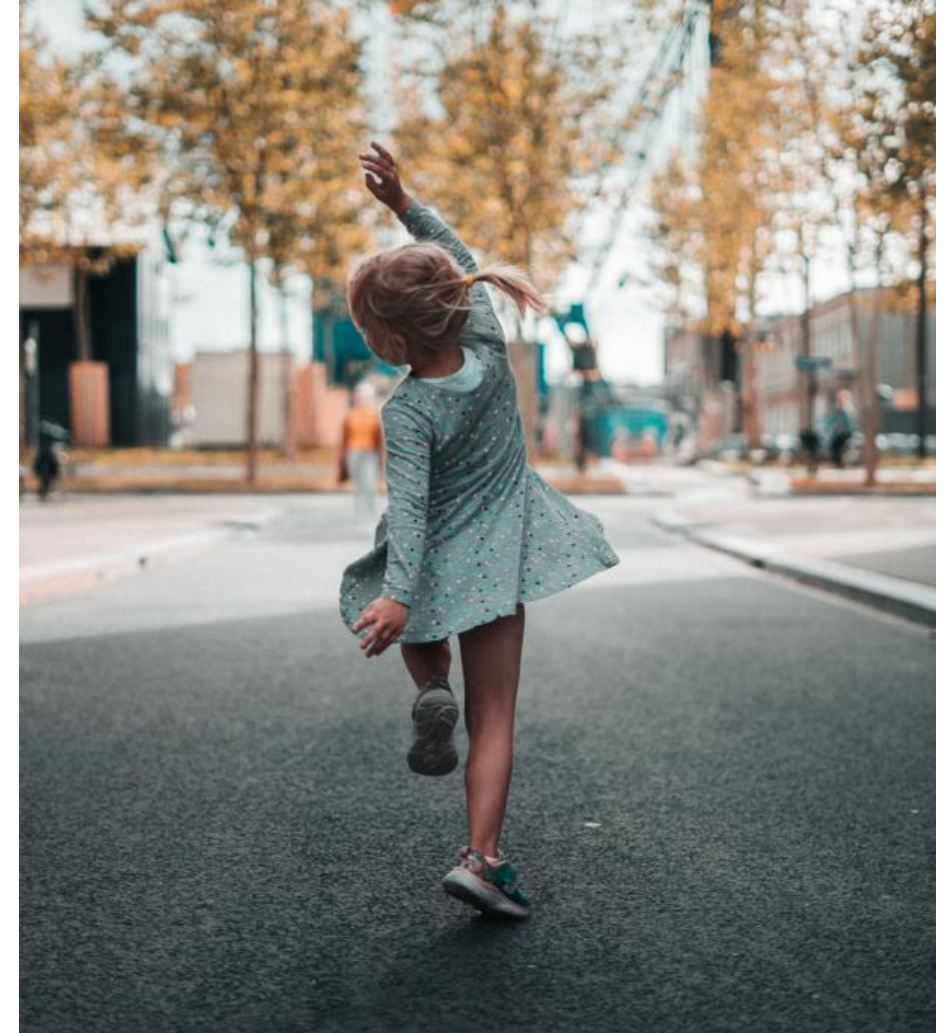
**BRAINPORT
EINDHOVEN**

home of pioneers

Brainport Eindhoven is a technology region where people from all over the world work together for a better and brighter future. When we think about that future, we think about today's world and the world of our children. Education is crucial in preparing children for the future.

Whatever the future holds, one thing is certain: internationalization will impact our children. They will likely work with clients from all over the globe, collaborate with international colleagues, hold neighborhood meetings with people of diverse cultural backgrounds, or give directions in English.

Internationally oriented education prepares students for our increasingly globalized future. Children benefit later in life when they learn early on to be open to others.



In recent years, we've seen a significant increase in internationals—both knowledge workers and labor migrants, as well as status holders—who stay in our region for extended periods with their children. This enriches our society but also places certain demands on us.

For an inclusive and strong society in Brainport Eindhoven, it's essential that internationals can integrate well into our community. It helps if we welcome them with open arms. In doing so, we increase the attractiveness of Brainport Eindhoven as a place for talented individuals to settle for the long term.



Mission

Education plays a key role in preparing students for a more international future and in integrating internationals into our society. That is why partners from education, business, and government have come together to consider how we can internationalize our education.

The result is the Vision for the Internationalization of Education for Everyone in Brainport Eindhoven, and the following mission:

“By internationalizing our education, we contribute to preparing all children better for the (future) society and job market in our increasingly international, dynamic, innovative, and inclusive Brainport Eindhoven region, where education, business, and government work closely together.”

How do we internationalize our education?

In short, the goal of our vision is: all primary, secondary, and vocational schools, as well as childcare organizations in Brainport Eindhoven, have embedded internationalization into their policies and will actively work on it.

To achieve this, our education system collaborates with regional partners, such as businesses, municipalities, and teacher training programs. Through the Internationalization of Education program, we bring the Vision for the Internationalization of Education for Everyone in Brainport Eindhoven to life.



How do we define internationalization?

As previously mentioned, there are two reasons why the internationalization of our education is of great added value. First, internationally oriented education is crucial for attracting and retaining internationals in the region. Second, it is important to prepare all students in our region for a world that is becoming increasingly international.

These two reasons combined call for attention to three aspects of the internationalization of our education: language proficiency, global citizenship, and intercultural communication and collaboration. The following page provides more details on these.



Three Aspects of Internationalization in Education

1

Language Proficiency

Proficiency in one or more foreign languages is a basic requirement for functioning in international contexts. The global language, English, is dominant in science, trade, and business. Other important languages include French, German, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese. Children of international parents need lessons not only in English but also in their native language and Dutch as a second language (NT2).

2

Global Citizenship

Global citizenship involves knowledge of other countries and cultures, and the willingness to engage with people from these places and give meaning to their cultural practices. Cultural awareness enhances your ability to reflect internationally and understand various cultural perspectives. In the classroom, teachers and students translate events happening elsewhere into their local context, and vice versa.

3

Intercultural Communication and Collaboration

International collaboration goes beyond just understanding cultural diversity. The goal is to build trusting relationships while respecting differences. The key is reflecting on communication styles and adapting your own to suit the environment and background of your partners.

How do we organize internationalization?

We adopt a broad vision for internationalizing our education, ensuring that every student receives education that fits their needs:

A. All children in our region are entitled to high-quality education that addresses the three components of Internationalization of Education.

B. Children of internationals are part of our society and are best integrated into regular education.

C. Children of expats and knowledge workers who stay in the Netherlands for a short time have the right to continue their international learning pathway at the International School Eindhoven (ISE).

For international collaboration and communication, "international classrooms," where multiple nationalities are represented, are the foundation. These classrooms also promote integration and local participation.

How does the internationalization of education program work?

With the Internationalization of Education program, we can make significant strides in internationalizing our education in the coming years. The program runs until 2025.

The national government has provided a financial boost, making €7.1 million available through the national Regio Deal, provided the region matches this amount.

All childcare organizations, primary, secondary, and vocational schools are eligible to participate. Schools can draw guidance and direction from the vision and program but ultimately shape their education as they see fit. Participation in the program offers schools various forms of support in internationalizing their education.

As from 2025 regional companies have taken over the funding of the program of internationalization and inclusiveness.

Internationalisation of education



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