

Heritage Language Schools Eindhoven

HL PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

Spring 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Respondents
- 03** Demographics
- 04** Community
- 05** Visibility
- 06** Quality
- 07** Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

Heritage Language Schools Eindhoven (HLSE) is an initiative that started in 2018 to bring together heritage language (HL) programs in the Eindhoven region. HLSE has established several aims, such as to create a sense of **community** between the different programs in the region, to make them more **visible**, and to increase the **quality** and availability of these important, supplemental educational programs.

The purpose of this survey is to (1) gauge the success of HLSE's efforts so far and (2) to gather feedback that can be used as the organization becomes more formalized. The data summarized in this report is anonymous (not associated with the particular programs that responded) and the questions were optional so that respondents did not have to share any information that they did not care to.

[A survey during a pandemic . . .](#)

HL programs were encouraged to respond even if they were temporarily closed. About half of the HL programs that responded were closed at the time they completed the survey. Although a handful of the programs reported that they did not see a noticeable reduction in number of students due to the pandemic, the majority did see a negative influence.

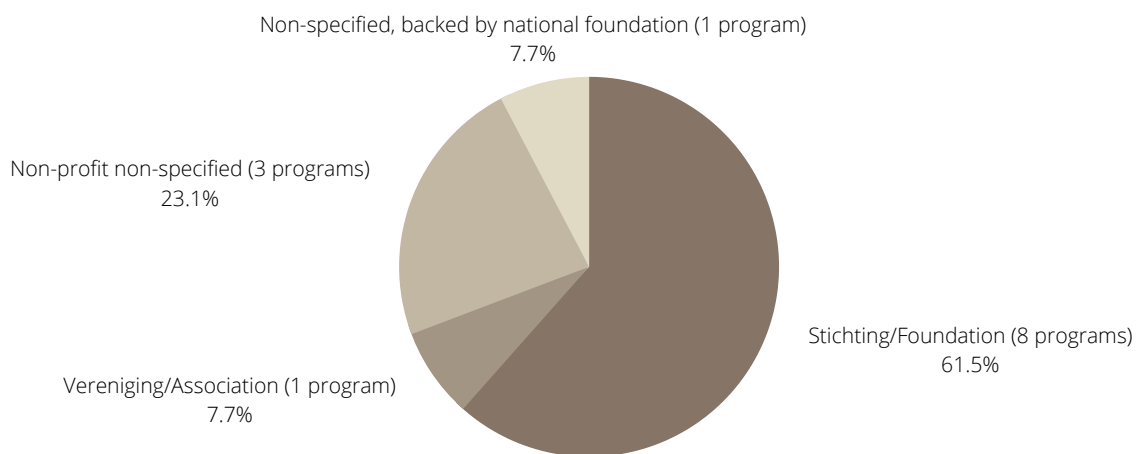
There were various reasons why the HL programs reported that they had to close during the pandemic, such as health concerns of staff and families, a strong preference by staff and families for face-to-face lessons over online lessons, lack of permission from the host building to hold lessons, or overburdened staff and families who were busy with the remote learning required for mainstream schooling. All of the programs that were closed expressed confidence that they would reopen again in the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the survey. We hope you find the results interesting!

RESPONDENTS

Between March and June 2021, the survey was open. It was announced to 23 programs known to have been in operation in the 2019–2020 school year. Thirteen programs responded.

Program form



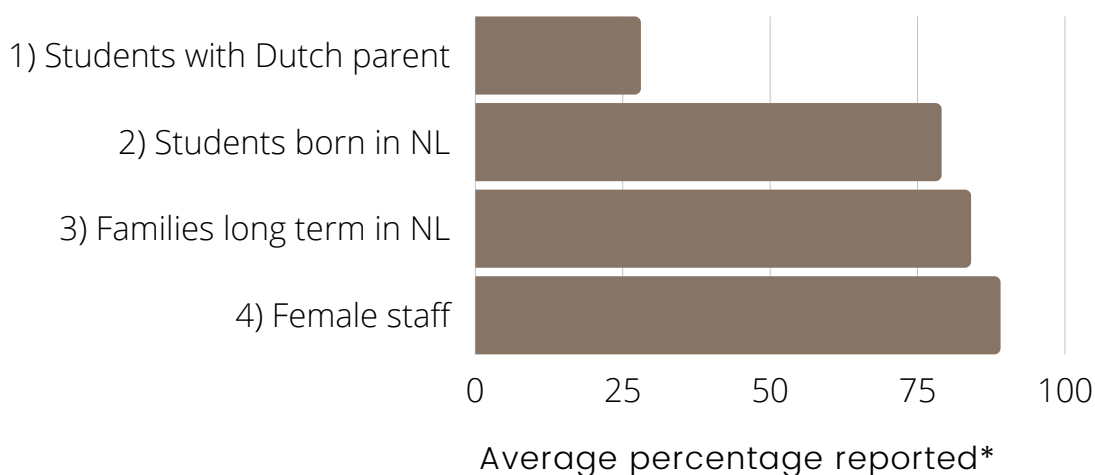
The survey was completed by one individual from each HL program, usually the head manager. Most of the programs that responded operate in the form of a foundation; no responses were received from any program with the form of a business (B.V. or ZZP). The programs range in size from having just a few students to having several hundred.



DEMOGRAPHICS

We asked each program: Approximately what percentage of the student population (1) has a Dutch parent, and approximately what percentage of the students (2) were born in the Netherlands? We also asked: Approximately what percentage of the families in the school (3) expect to stay long term in the Netherlands? Finally, we asked: What percentage of the program staff (4) is female? We asked the programs to give their best guess from over the last 3 years, ignoring any effects from the pandemic.

Student/staff characteristics



*One program did not share a response to the first three questions.

The reason we asked these questions is to have specific data that we can report to stakeholders in the community regarding how "international" the students and programs are (or are not!). The data shows that about a fourth of the students have at least one Dutch parent, and that the majority of the students were born in the Netherlands and will likely stay long term. Furthermore, these programs are overwhelmingly run by women, which is relevant when considering certain subsidies and activities that support women's initiatives.

We also asked about lessons for non-native speakers of the language: roughly half of the programs support some non-native speakers (either mixed in or via separate groups).

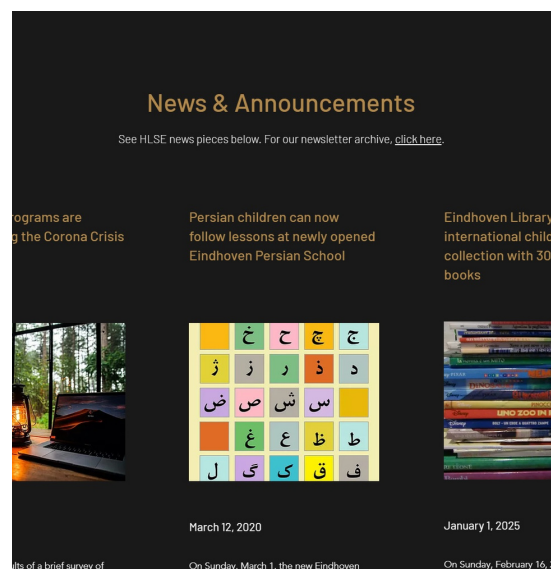
COMMUNITY

Do the HL programs feel a greater sense of community since HLSE got started?

On the one hand, a score of only 3.4 out of 5 was given when the HL programs rated to what extent they feel an increased sense of community with other HL programs in the region. And only 39% were in favor of the research carried out to find out how programs handled the initial COVID lockdown in spring 2020.

On the other hand, an overwhelming 12 out of the 13 respondents (92%) supported the September/February Meetups. Likewise, 100% of respondents receive the HLSE newsletter and 100% read it, giving the content an average rating of 4.2 out of 5. Posting announcements on the HLSE website is considered a good idea (77%).

**100% of
respondents
receive and read
the HLSE
newsletters**



VISIBILITY

Do the HL programs support HLSE's efforts to increase the visibility of HL programs?

Most of the respondents support the creation of the list of HL programs on the Expat Center website (77%) and the detailed overview of HL programs on the HLSE website (62%).

Efforts to make HL education visible in publications and at events were met with approval by about half of respondents (ranging from 46 to 62%), for example presenting at events such as the Heritage Language Education Conference and Brainport's Kennisfestival, and publishing information about HL education in the Expat Center's Expat Guide. (Although: only 2 respondents found publishing information in Eindhoven's English magazine How Do to be a worthy effort.)

Despite the increased publicity, only 2 of the respondents noticed more interest in their program since HLSE began.

The International Children's Book Collection at the Eindhoven Library is given a "thumbs up" by 11 out of the 13 respondents (85%)



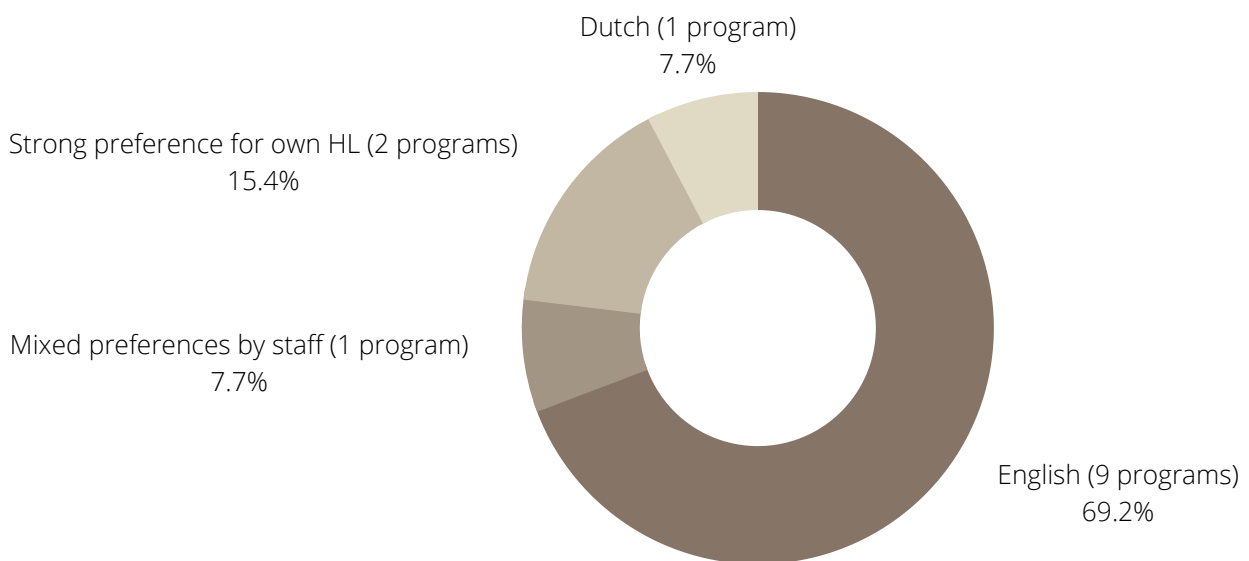
Meertalige Kinderen, Wat Doe Je Ermee?

Together with SALTO Schools and the Expat Center, HLSE organized a webinar in October 2020 to raise awareness among Dutch mainstream school teachers about HL education. This event is considered a worthy effort by 69% of the respondents.

QUALITY

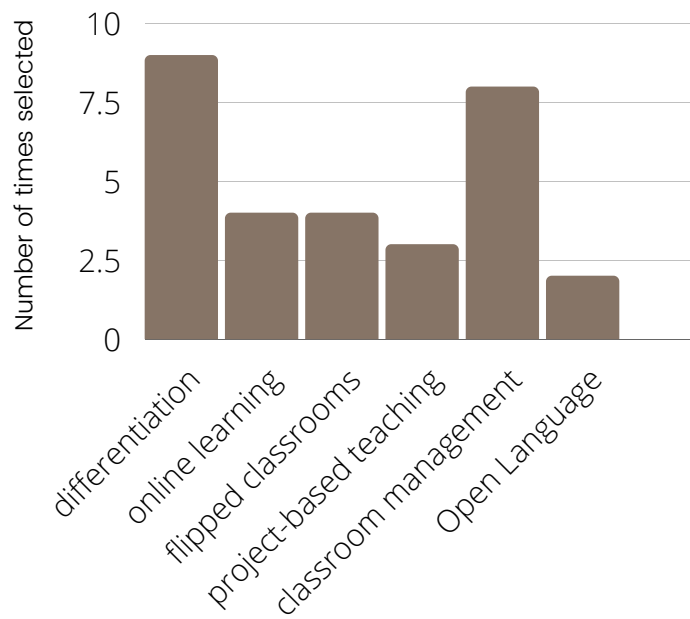
Are the HL programs interested in following professional development (PD) workshops organized by HLSE? There is more interest in PD for teachers (62%) than for managers/administrators (46%). Most respondents would prefer PD in English over other languages. Some of the respondents indicated that PD is already available to them from language-affiliated organizations, to varying degrees. When asked about other professional activities: there was more interest in events that allow HL program staff to network with other members of the community (100%) than in social events that connect HL programs with each other (62%).

Preferred language for PD

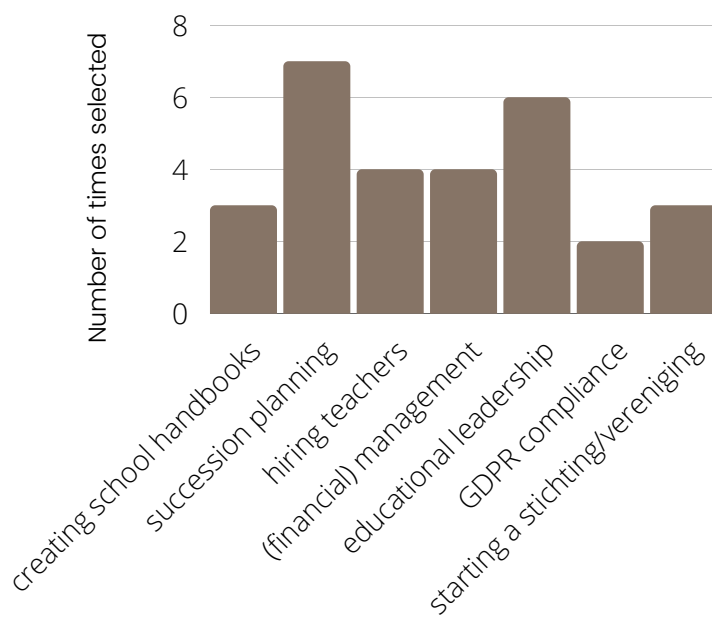


Respondents were asked to check all topics that might interest their staff.

PD topics that would likely interest TEACHERS



PD topics that would likely interest MANAGERS



CONCLUSION

More than half of the HL programs we reached out to filled in the survey, and the results show that the efforts of HLSE are generally supported. Furthermore, we conclude that:



Community

News-sharing, Meetups, and networking activities should be continued.



Visibility

A list of HL programs online should be maintained, and the library project should be widely promoted.



Quality

PD workshops and professional networking activities should be organized to maximize their relevance for the quite varied HL programs.



Demographics

The HL programs are not exclusively for "expats" and are largely run by women. This information is expected to help guide fundraising efforts.

If you have questions regarding this survey, you can reach the team at HLSE via heritagelanguageschools040@gmail.com. Thanks again to all who participated!

