UMONS
Université de Mons

Indicators for monitoring social disadvantage in French Speaking Belgium and their usage

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French Speaking Belgium

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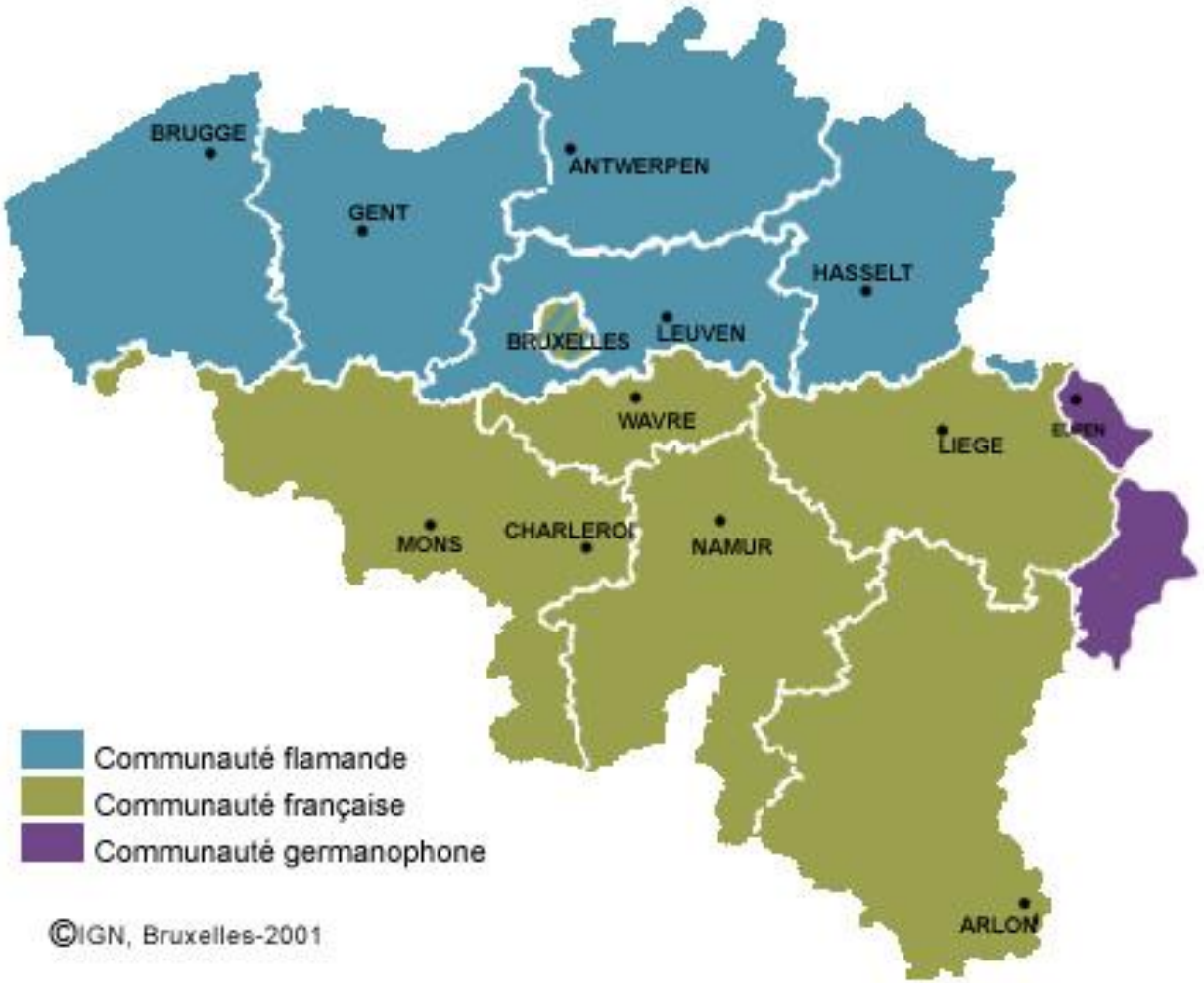
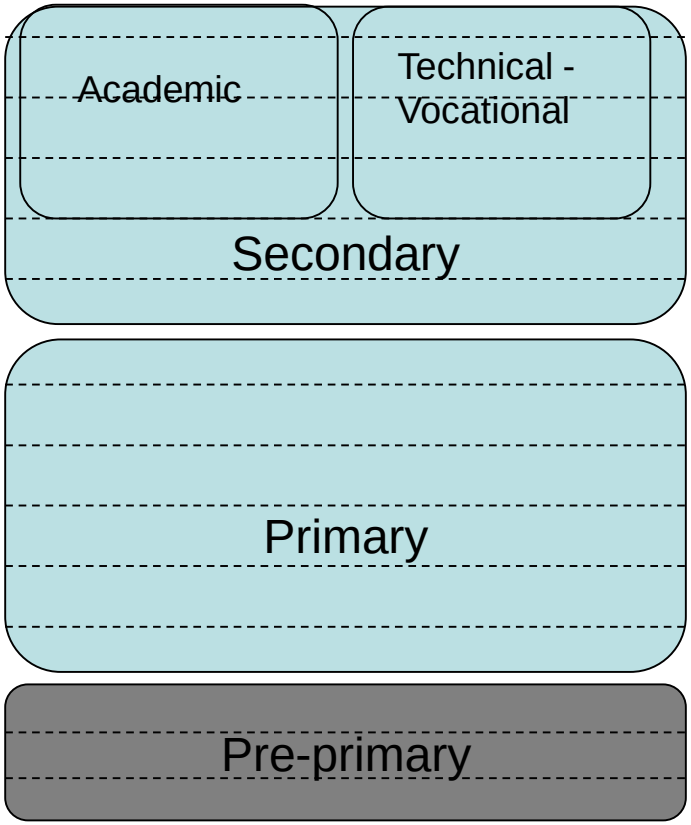


Education system

Education is compulsory and free of charge for a period of 12 years starting at the age of 6 and ending at the age of 18



Education system

- Freedom of education proclaimed in the Belgian Constitution
  - Freedom given to pupils and parents to chose the school that suits them
  - Freedom of school management

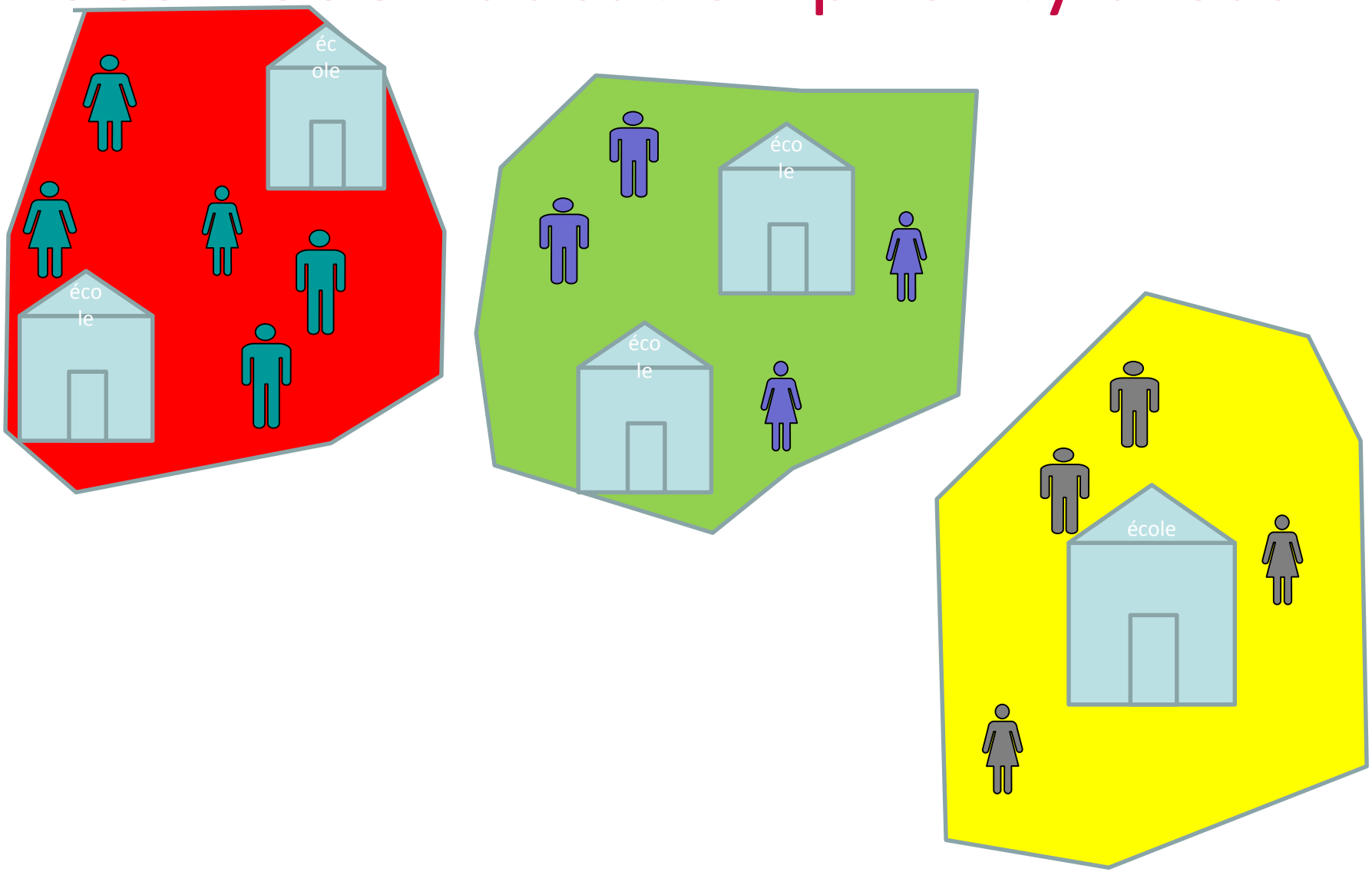
- Networks
  - Public schools run and financed by the public authorities
  - Public grant-aided schools run by provinces or municipalities
  - Private grant-aided schools run by private associations

- Public financing based on the same rules whatever the network: per capita funding

Education system

- Decree of July 24, 1997
- Give to all pupils the means that are necessary to ensure equal chances of social emancipation, in particular by allowing them to actively participate in society.
- “Give more to those who have less”
- By identifying schools attended by underprivileged pupils.

1989-1998 Education priority areas



1989-1998 Education priority areas

- Area-based targeting
- Identification problems

1998-2009 Positive discrimination

- Distinction made for the benefit of schools on the basis of social, economic, cultural and educational criteria.
- Indirect measure of the characteristics of the schools' population
- Via the socioeconomic characteristics of the pupils' neighbourhood.

1998-2009 Positive discrimination

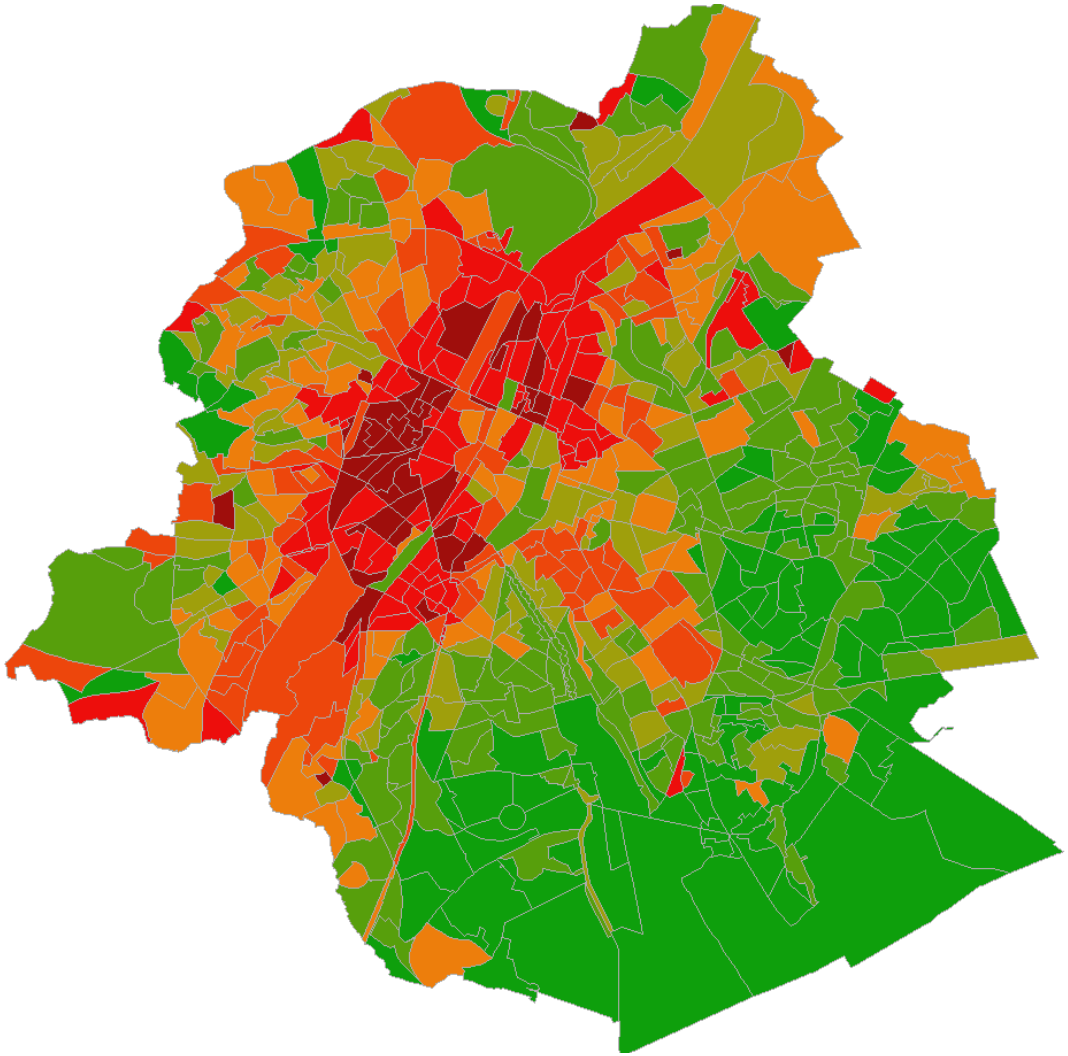
- What ?
  - Extra teachers and funding
- To whom?
  - Schools
  - Approximately 12% of the total of pupils
- How are the schools chosen?
  - Pupils' socioeconomic status
  - The schools are ranked from the most disadvantaged to the least
  - The first schools of this ranking are selected amounting to a total 12% of the whole population

Socioeconomic index (SEI)

A composite index defined on the basis of 11 socioeconomic variables aggregated at the level of neighbourhoods and given to each pupil according to his/her neighbourhood of residence. These 11 variables were in these 5 categories:

- Revenues
- Levels of diplomas
- Professional activities
- Employment market and unemployment benefit
- Housing comfort

Socioeconomic index (SEI)



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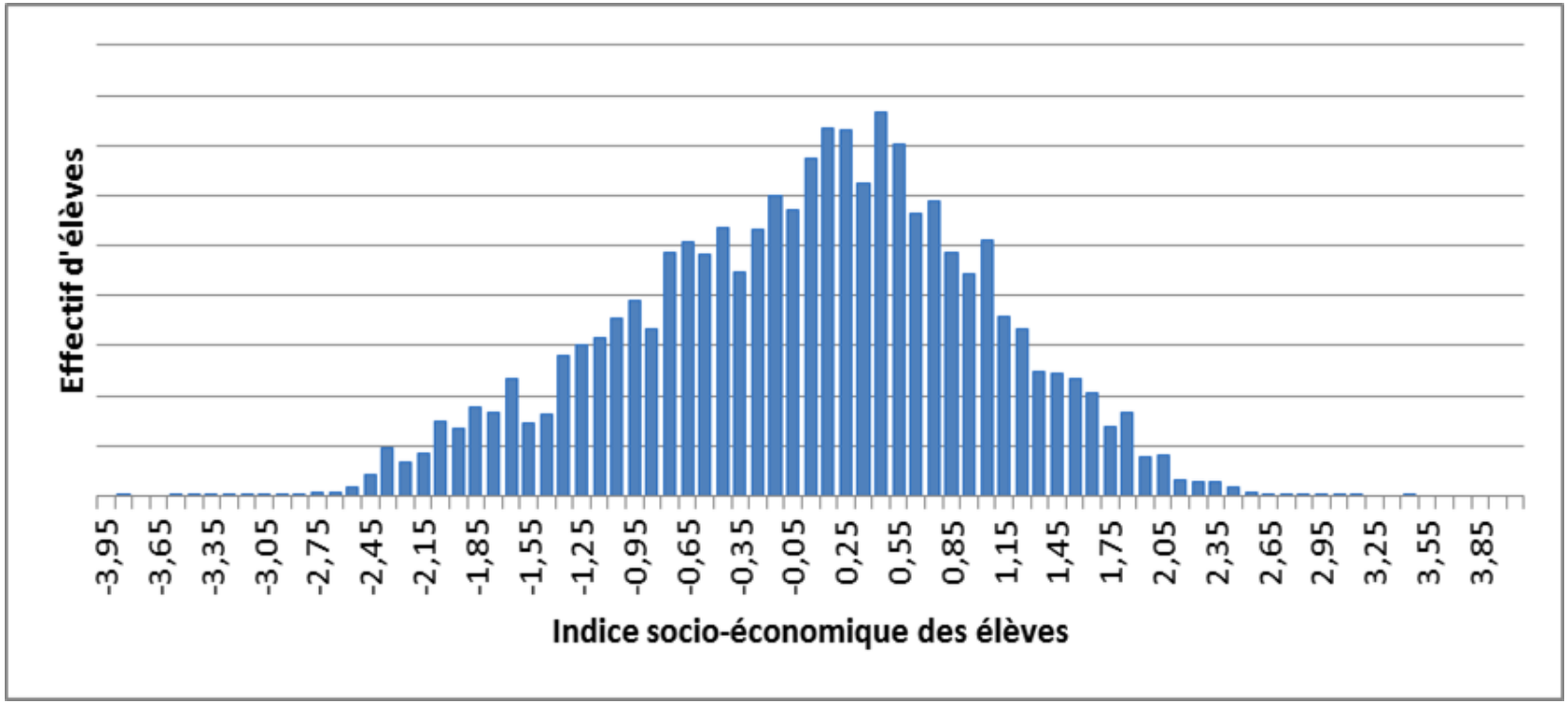

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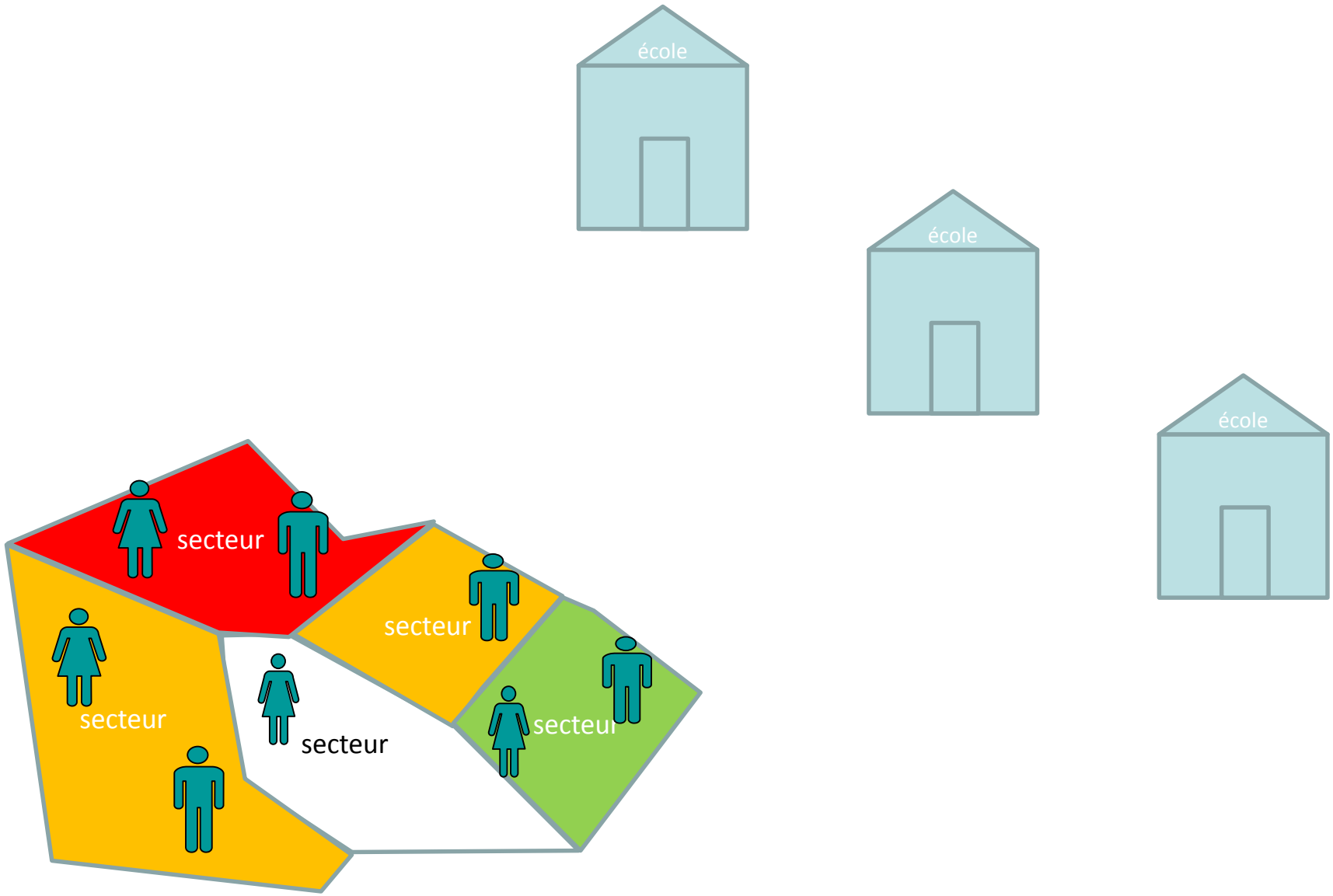

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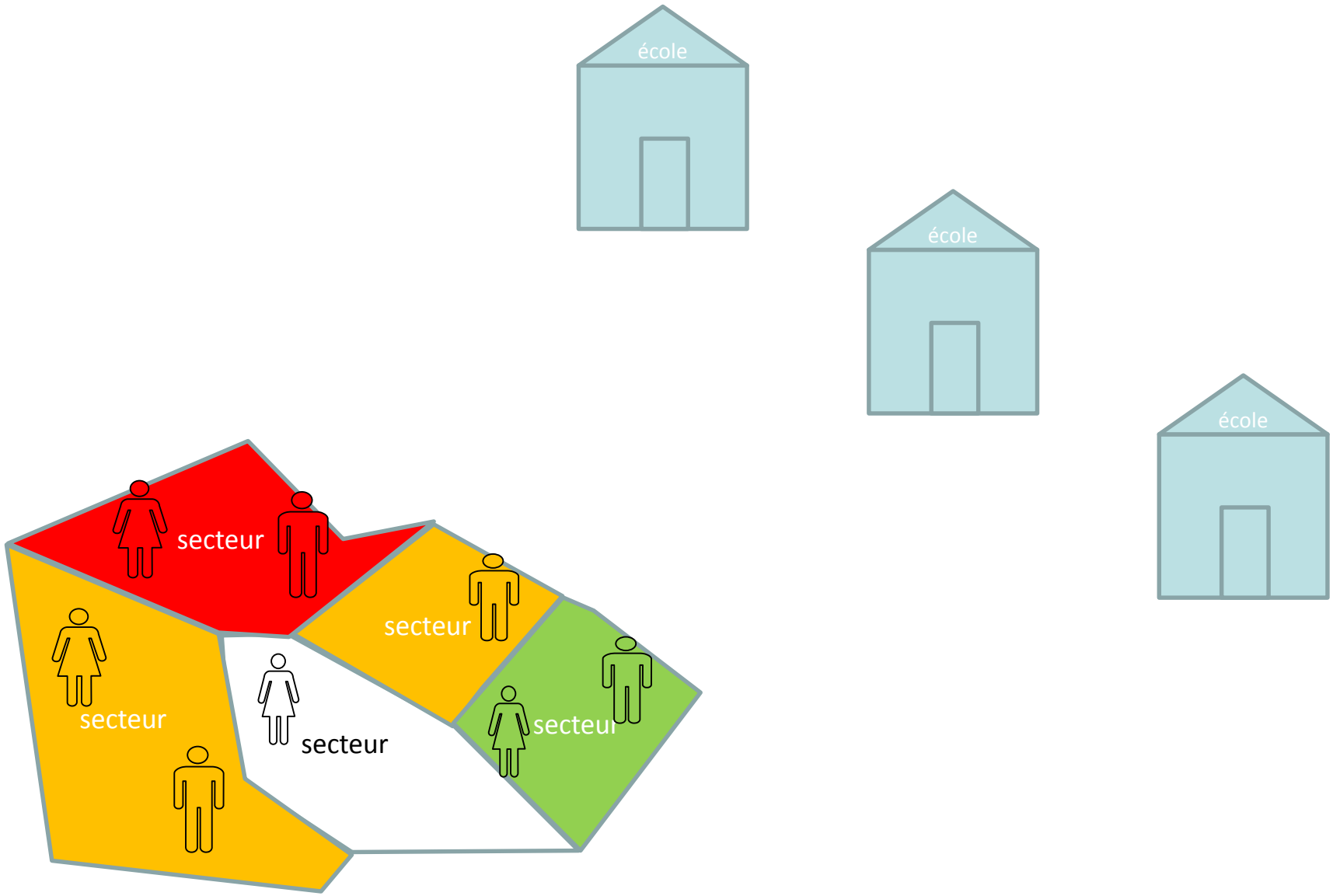

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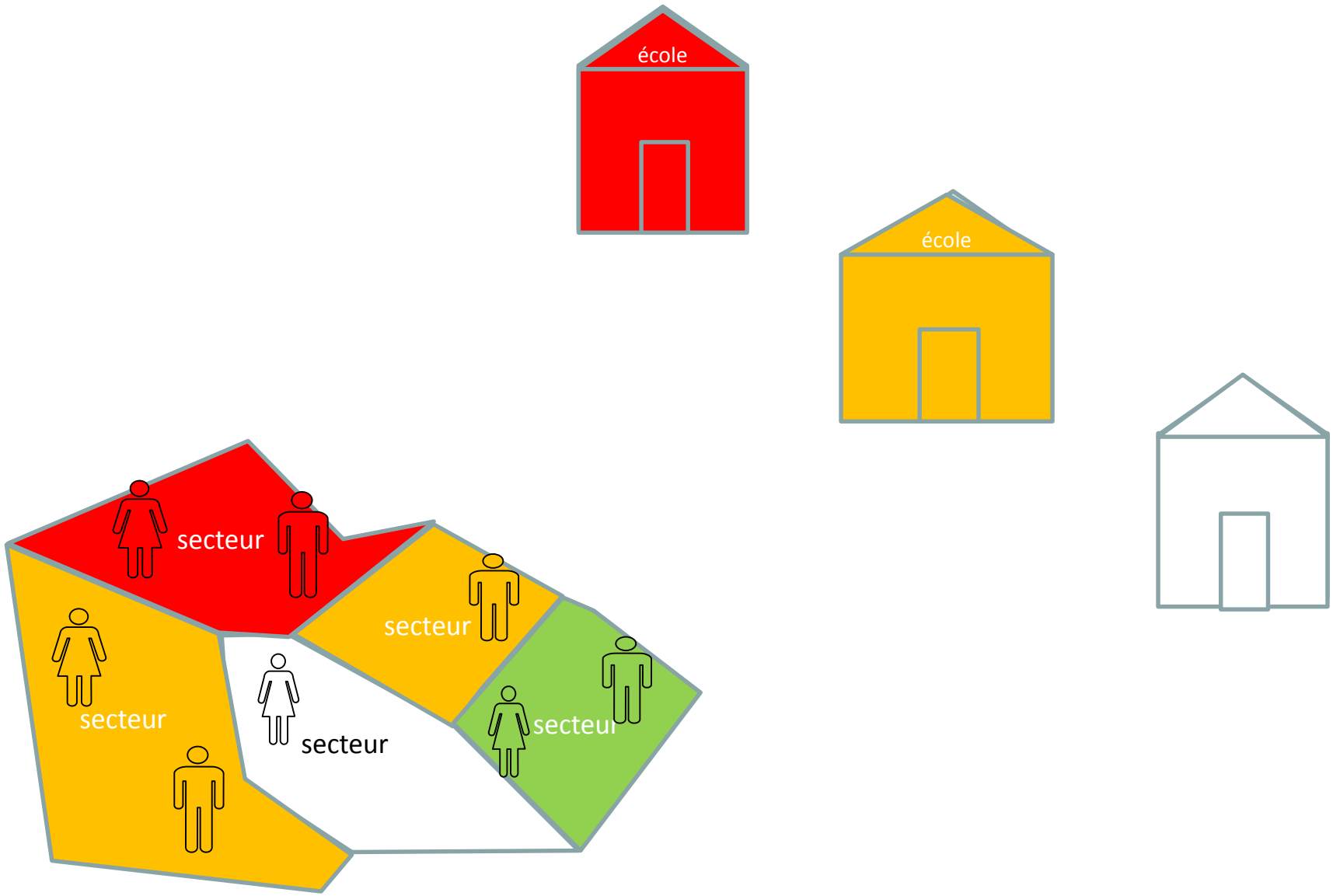
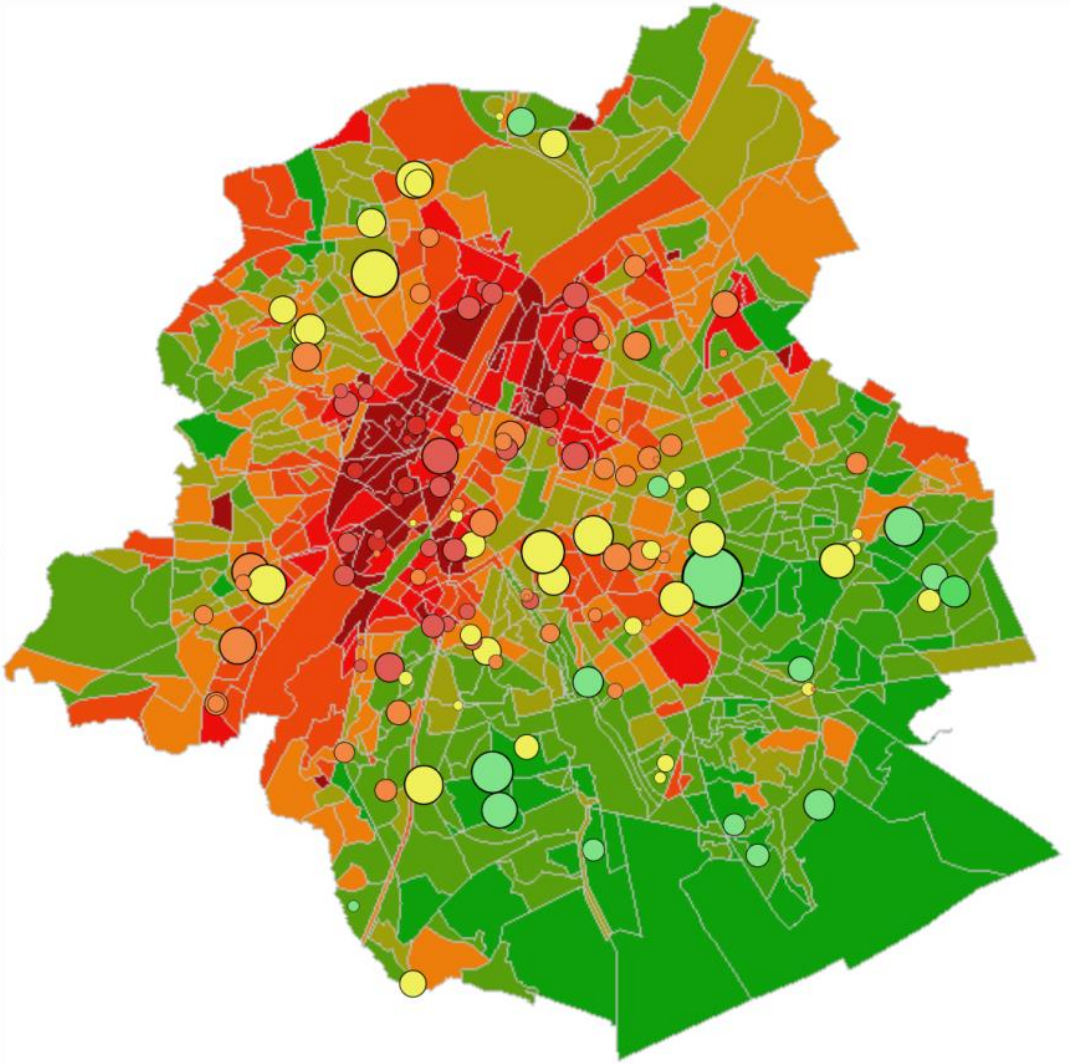
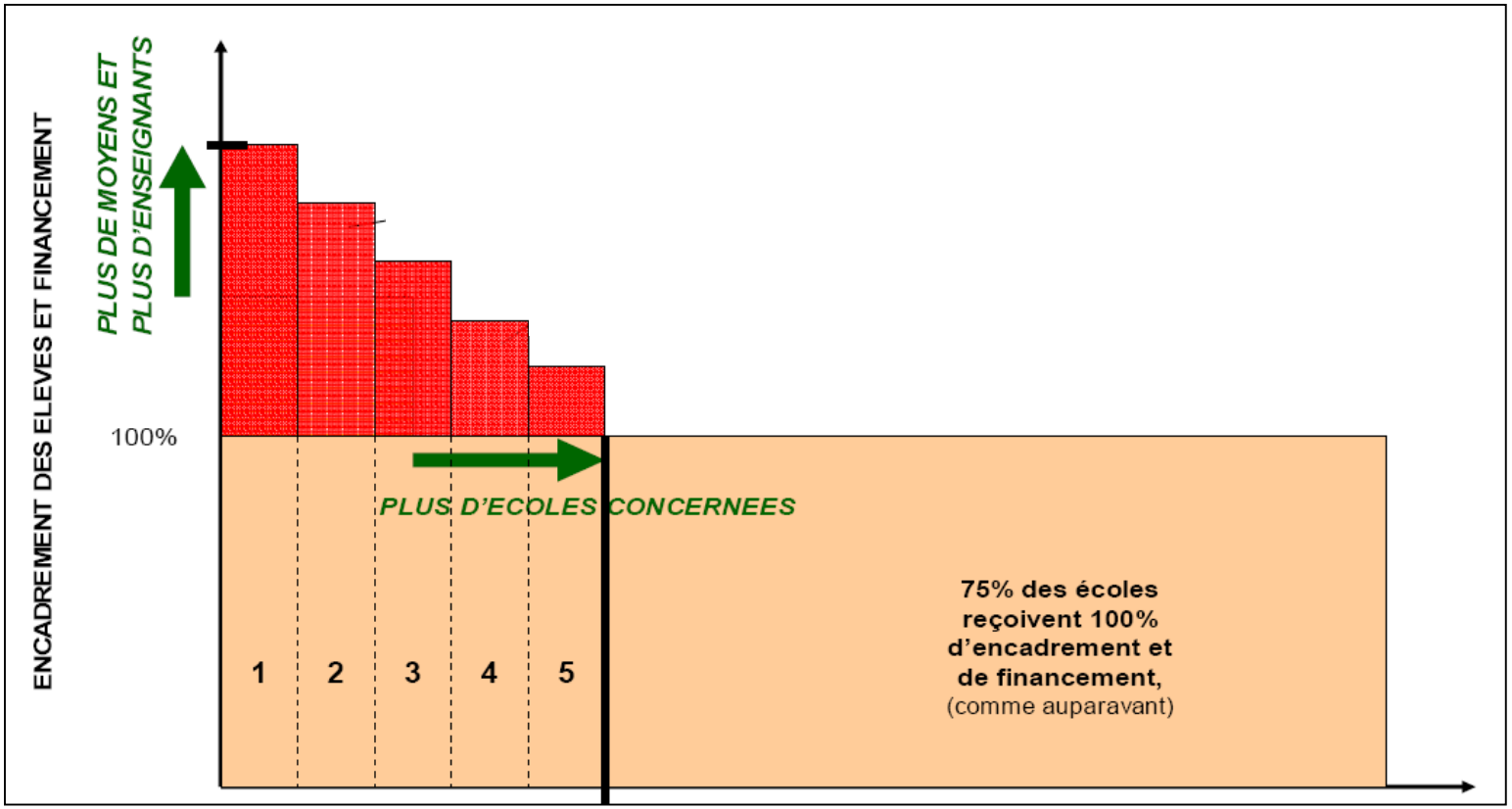


Socioeconomic index (SEI)



2010 – on differentiated funding



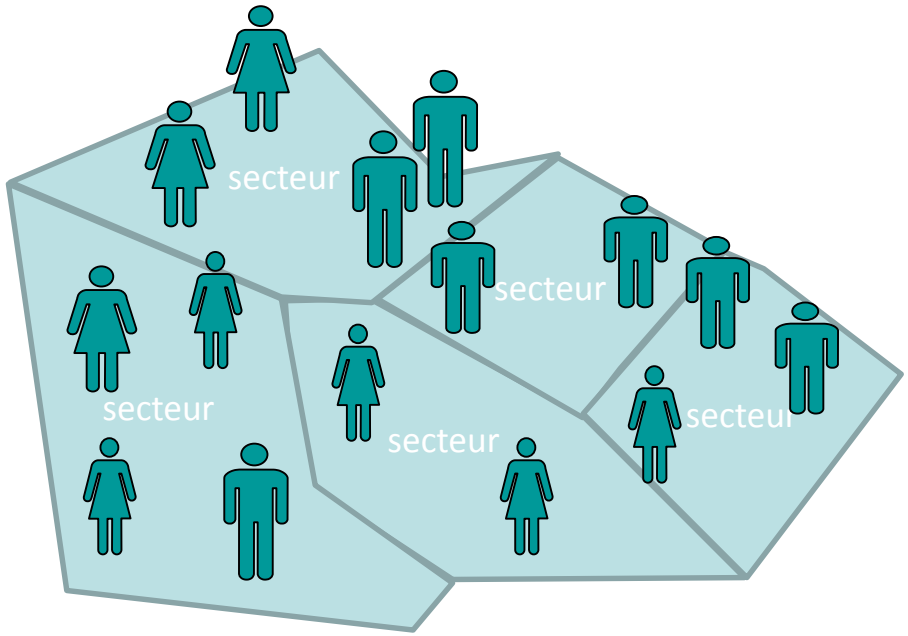
2010 – on differentiated funding

- Same principle as positive discrimination
- More means
- More progressiveness
- « Robin hood » idea: taking from the most advantaged schools.
  - Limited budget
  - Impossible

Some characteristics of the targeting method

- Solution to avoid any permanent labelling of schools
- Easy but is it accurate?
- No « ethnic » nor linguistic targeting
  - Political arguments: no labelling
  - Scientific arguments: do not add any information to the identification of the target group

A criticism of the targeting method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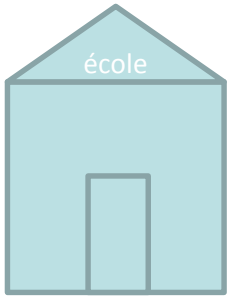
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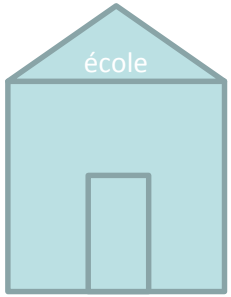
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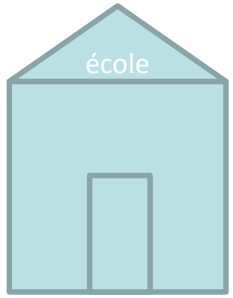
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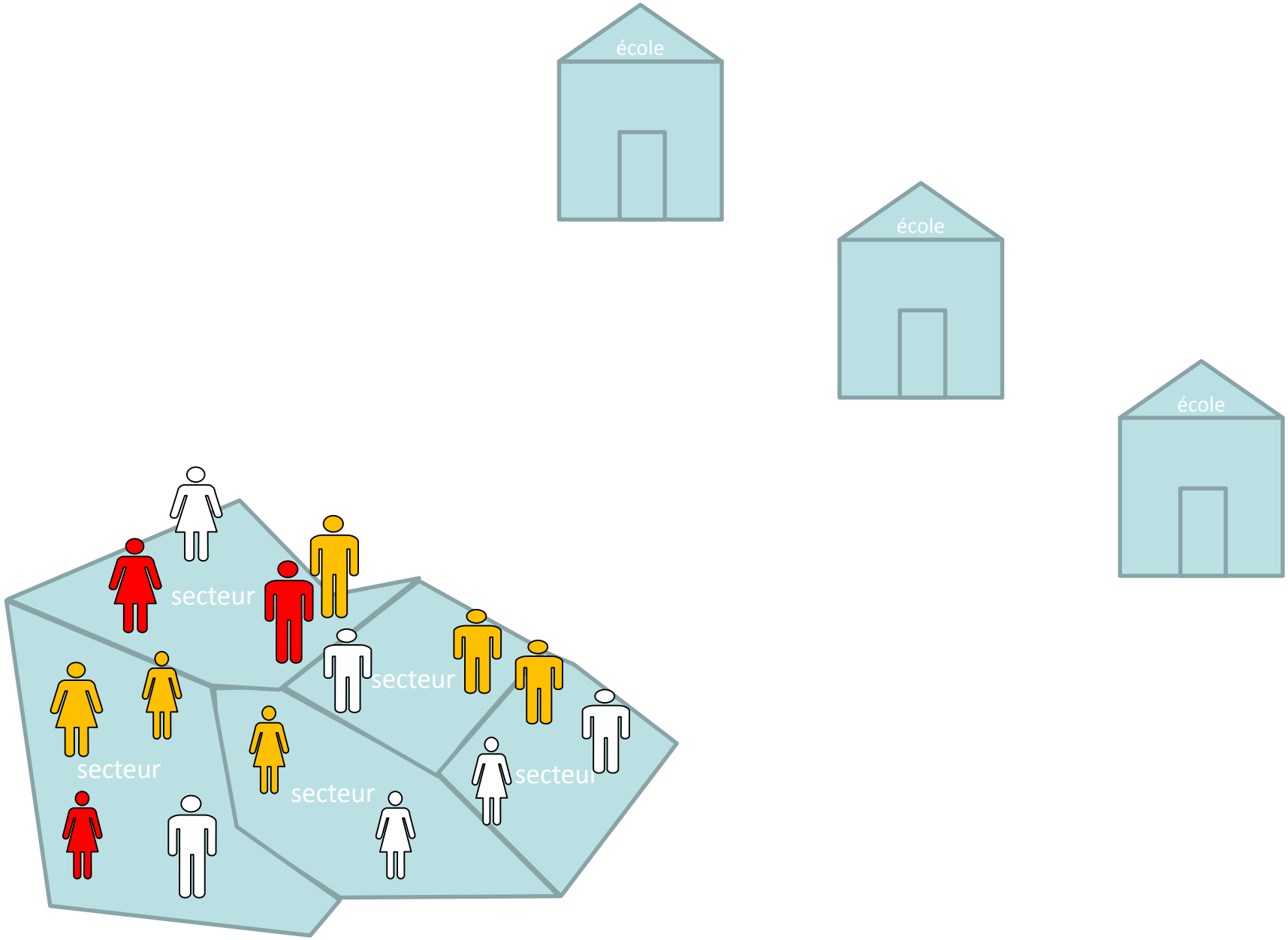
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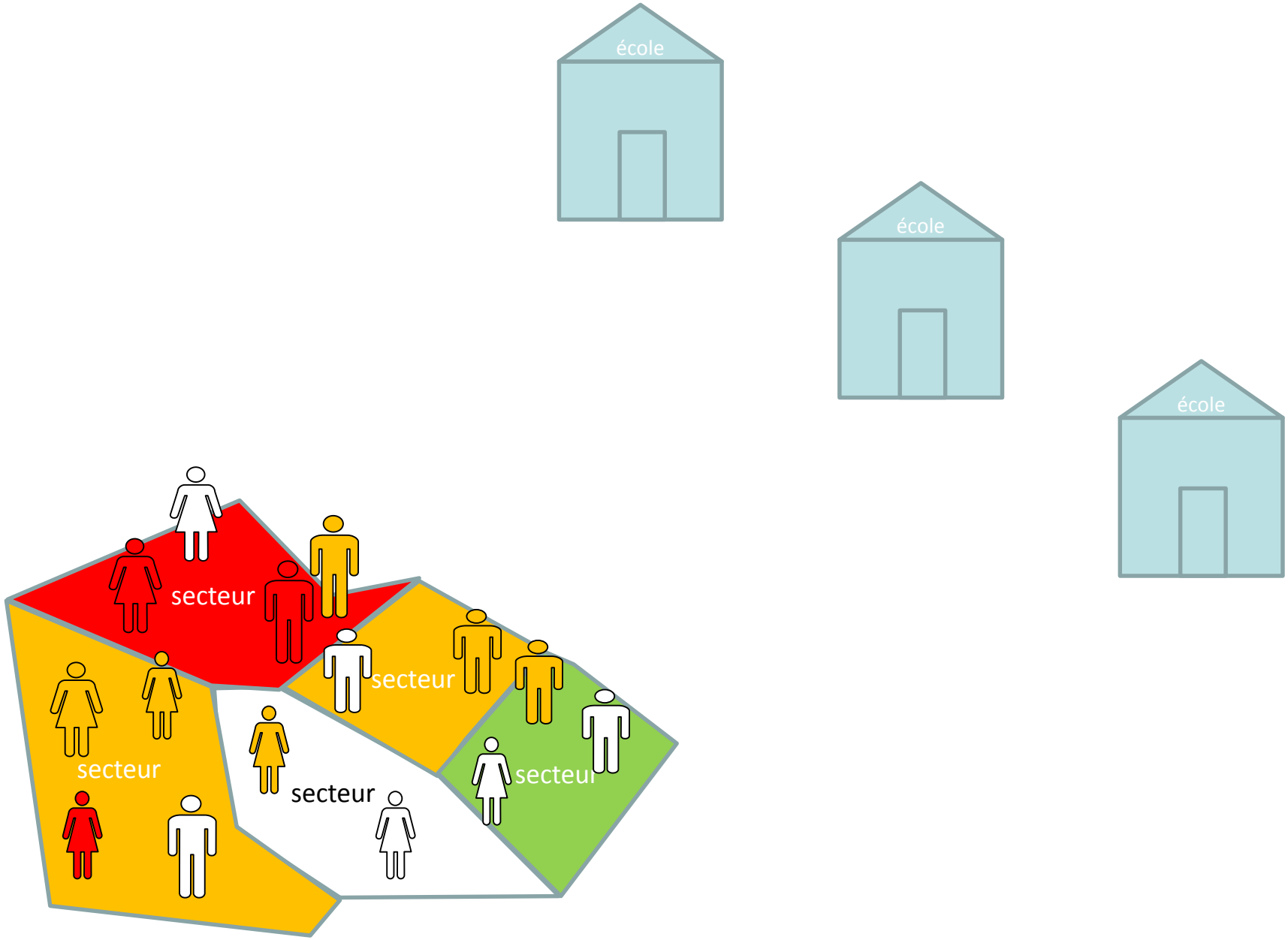
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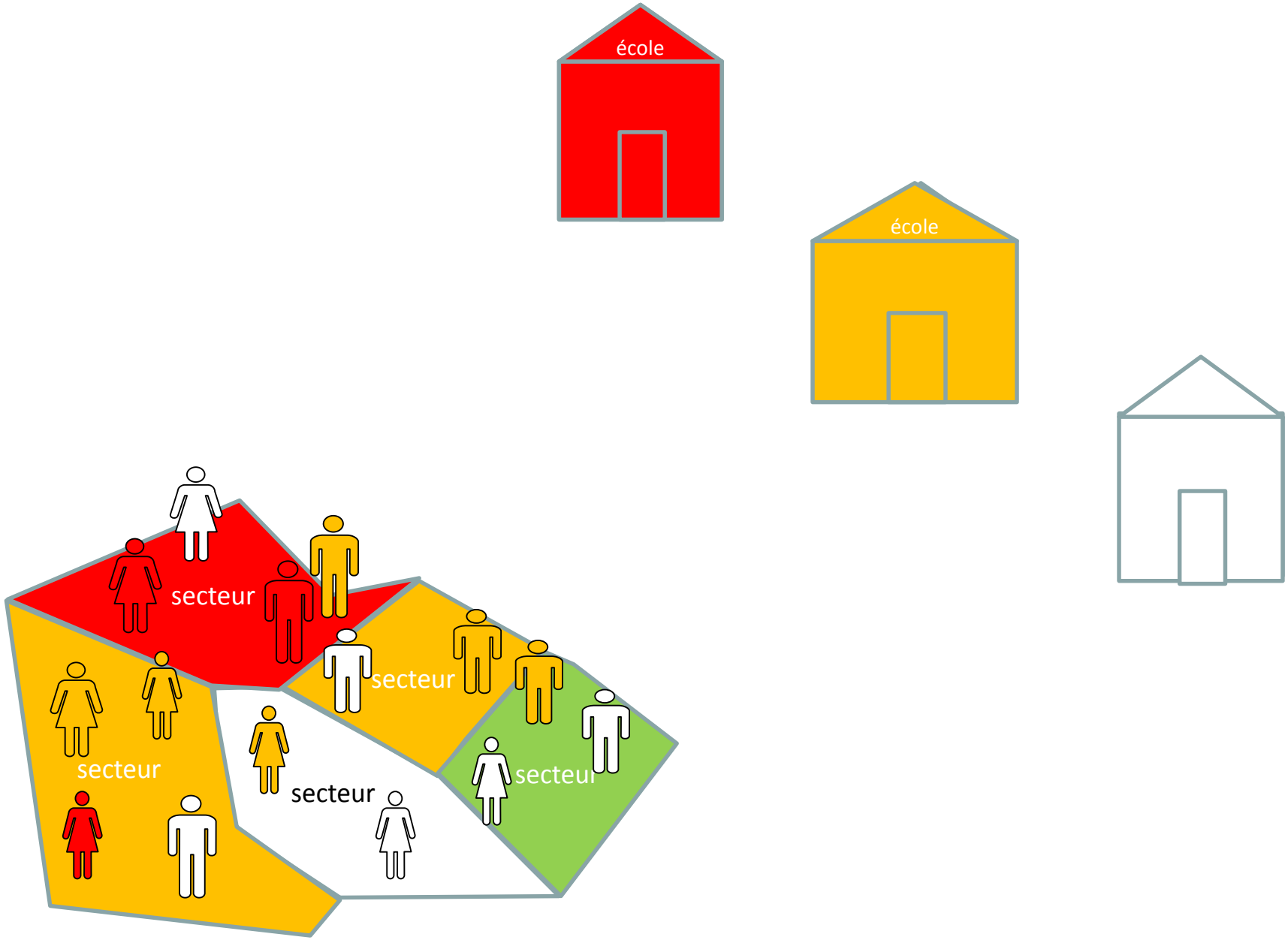
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A criticism of the targeting method

- Selective recruitment: schools recruiting in the same neighbourhood may select different types of pupils
- We have shown that this selective recruitment exists according to
  - Grade repetition
  - Educational delay
  - An individual socioeconomic index

The new targeting method (2017)

- SEI at an individual (household) level
  - Household revenue
  - Part of adults who have a professional activity
  - Part of blue collar workers
  - Part of white collar workers who work in the lower segment of this activity sector
  - Having benefitted from social assistance (or not)
  - Part of high diplomas (levels 5 and 6)
  - Part of low diplomas (levels 1 and 2)
- Directly aggregated at the school level for data protection

The new targeting method (2017)

- A more accurate measure of socioeconomic disadvantage
  - Better correlation with grade repetition at the school level
  - Better correlation with external evaluation results at the school level
- But a better evaluation of this accuracy requires data at an individual level that are not yet available for juridical reasons
  - Actual individual SEI
  - External evaluation results at the individual level
  - A procedure for linking both information

The new targeting method (2017)

- A complex procedure
  - Data at the household level are available from the Crossroads Bank for Social Security (CBSS)
  - But these data are protected
  - Using a common ID code these data have to be directly aggregated at the school level in the CBSS databases
  - No one has access to SEI of any individual pupil: the information is directly aggregated at the school level.
- Missing data
  - New migrants are given a very low SEI (average of the 2000 lowest calculated SEI)

The new targeting method

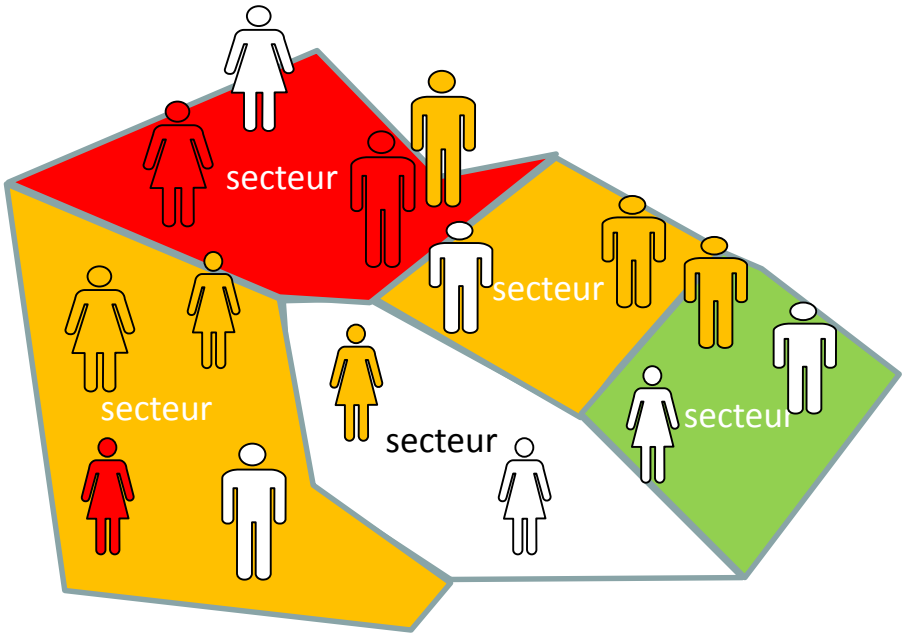
- Some problems
  - Some areas at the border with France or Luxemburg where some schools have a substantive number of French or Luxemburgish pupils or pupils whose parents work in France or Luxemburg (we have no data for them)
  - Other school-related policies used the area-based socioeconomic index and are thus impacted by this change: school enrolment procedure.

School enrolment procedure

- This procedure used the old area-based SEI to give priority to some pupils to enrol in schools where there are more demand than supply
- Pupils from low-SEI neighbourhood had thus priority to enrol to highly demanded schools.
- We still need to calculate an area-based index based on the same procedure but with an aggregation at the neighbourhood level.

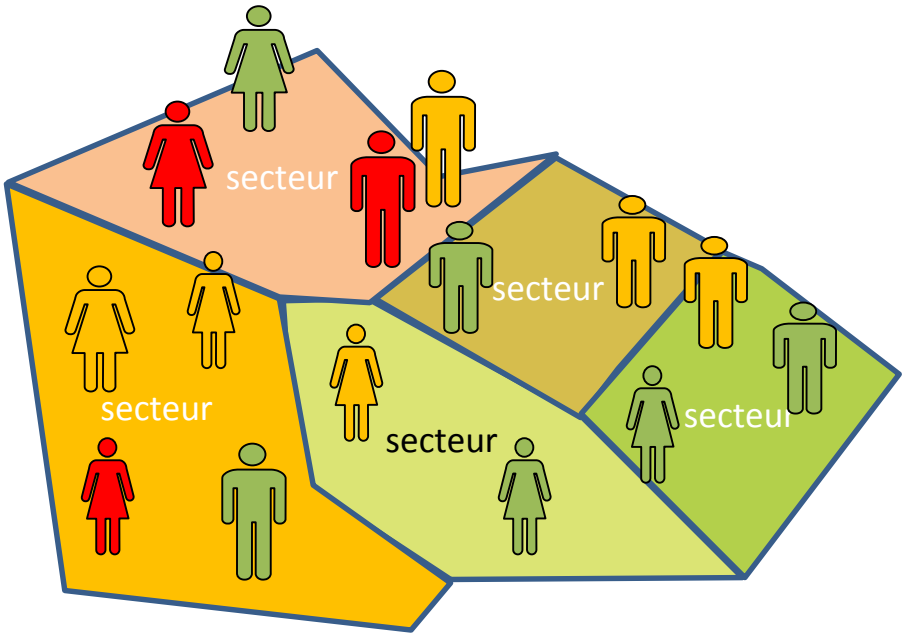
Area-based SEI

Our previous neighbourhood variables depended on the characteristics or the whole population of each neighbourhood



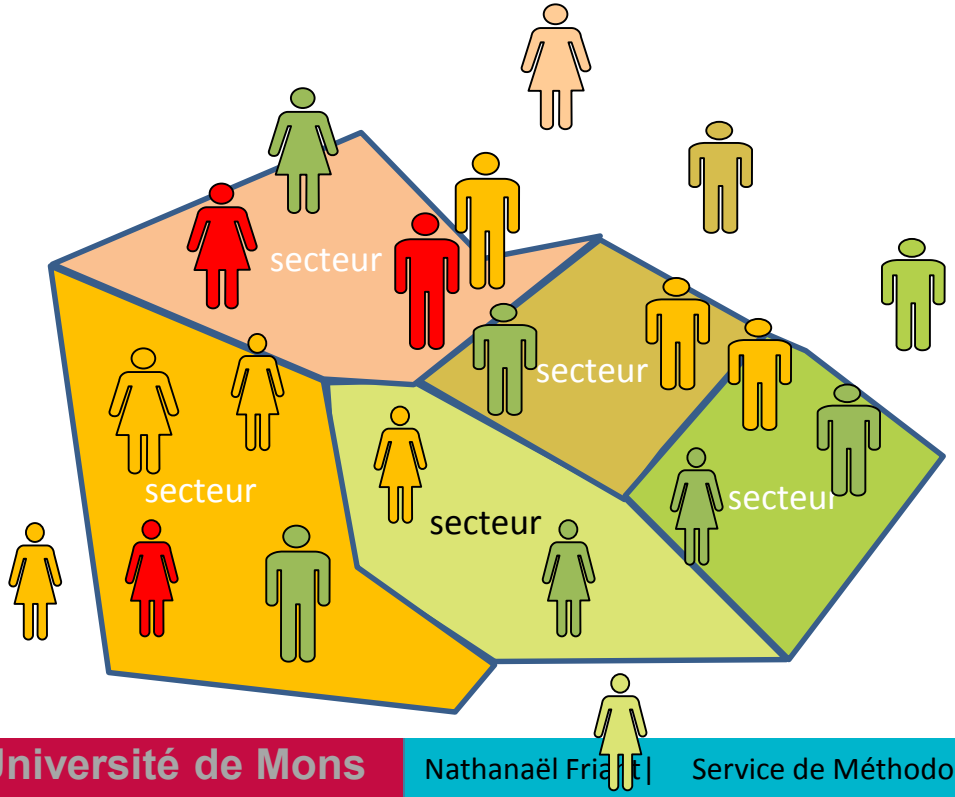
Area-based SEI

Our new neighbourhood variables depend on the characteristics of the pupils living in this neighbourhood.



Area-based SEI

Each individual receives the value calculated for his/her neighbourhood



Thank you for your attention

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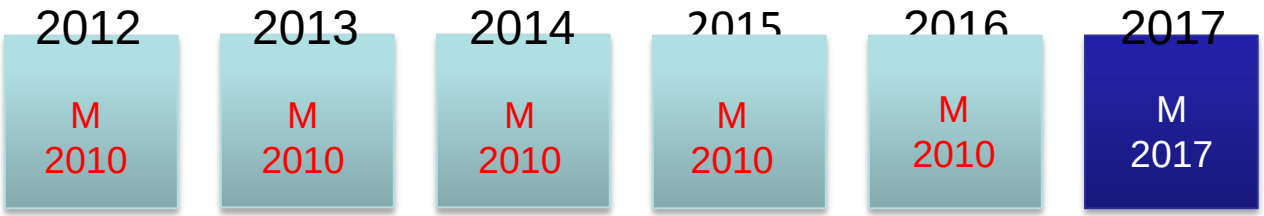
Annex – how the transition between the two SEI will be managed

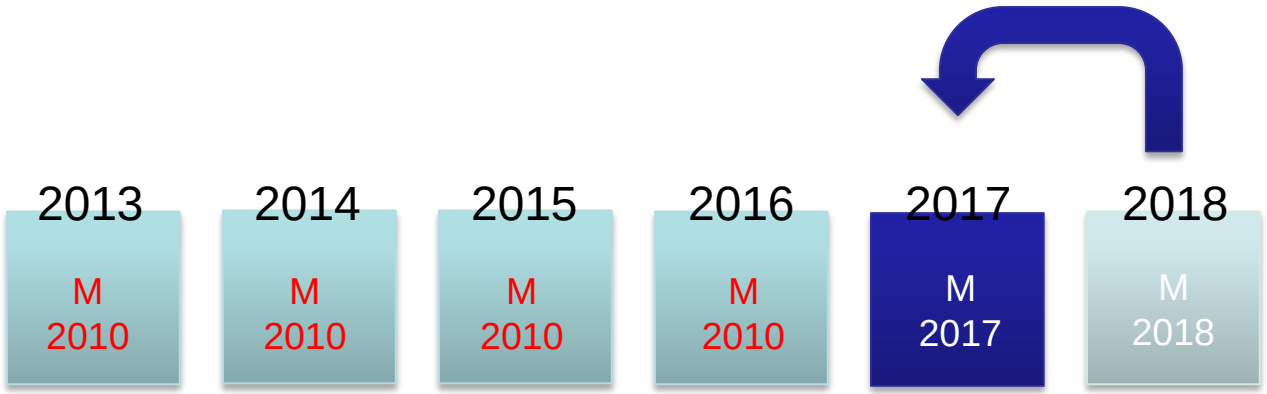
September 2017



Means(M) 2017= [(M 2017 *1)+ (M 2010 *5)]/6

Annex – how the transition between the two SEI will be managed

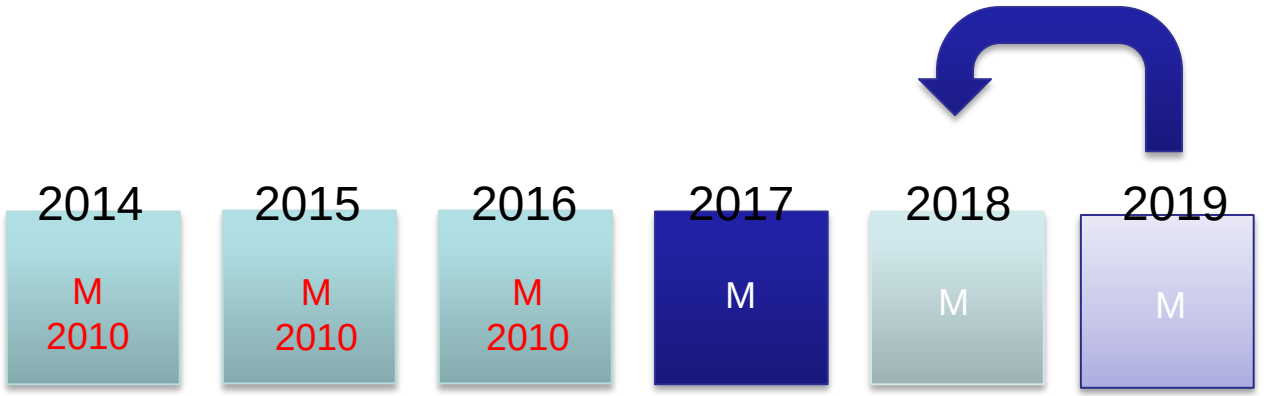
September 2018



Means(M) 2018= [(M 2017 *1) + (M 2018*1)+(M 2010 *4)]/6

Annex – how the transition between the two SEI will be managed

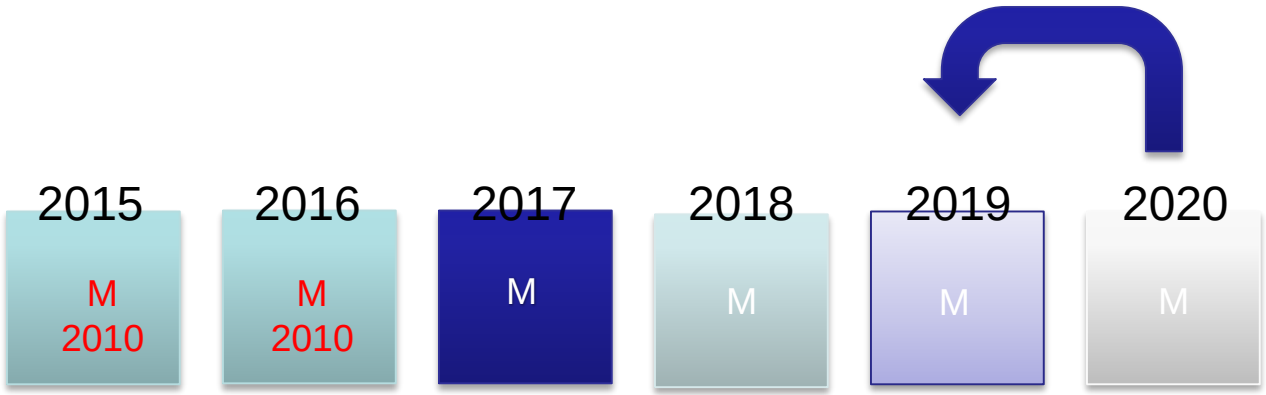
September 2019



Means 2019= [(M 2017 *1) + (M 2018*1) + (M 2019*1)+(M 2010 *3)]/6

Annex – how the transition between the two SEI will be managed

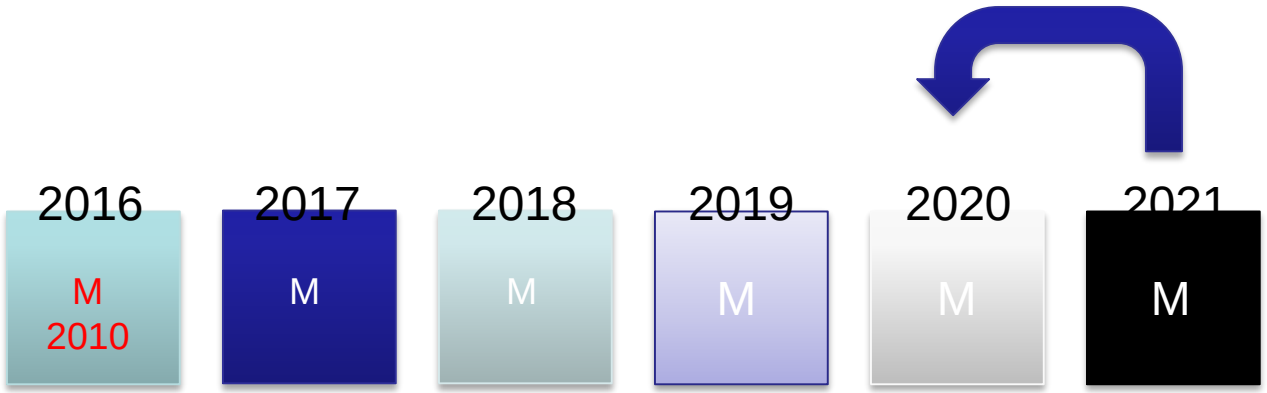
September 2020



Means 2020= [(M 2017 *1) (M 2018 *1) + (M 2019*1)+ (M 2020*1)+ (M 2010 *2)]/6

Annex – how the transition between the two SEI will be managed

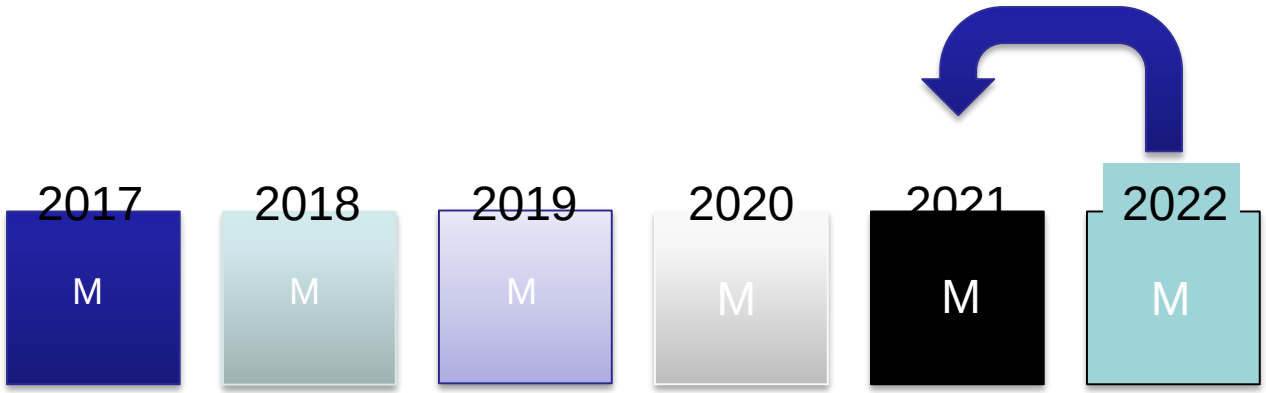
September 2021



Moyens 2021= [(M 2017 *1)+ (M 2018 *1) + (M 2019*1)+ (M 2020*1)+(M 2021*1) +(M 2010 *1)]/6

Annex – how the transition between the two SEI will be managed

September 2022



Moyens 2022= [(M 2016*1) (M 2017 *1) + (M 2018*1)+ (M 2019*1)+(M 2020*1)+(M 2021)]/6

ČŠI | Česká školní inspekce

Nathanaël Friant, Université de Mons

Prezentace byla využita na mezinárodní konferenci **Spravedlivost ve vzdělávání**
Na kontextu záleží aneb možnosti zjišťování kontextu vzdělávání pomocí indikátorů
v rámci Individuálního projektu systémového Komplexní systém hodnocení.

Praha | 9. listopadu 2017

EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání

MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ, MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY