

Agricultural Secondary School

Activity report July 2013 - June 2014



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Forward

The LAP has been open for 3 school years. There were 168 students at the beginning of school year 2013-2014. We are planning 217 students for school year 2014-2015.

Infrastructure keeps on being built. Funding for new infrastructure of the school is getting more and more challenging to obtain.

The number of permanent teachers went from 2 to 4. The challenge is to find teachers with initiative who are willing to participate to the creation of this school using a participative and appreciative approach.

We have not been able so far to link our school with a similar school in a French speaking country. It is still an important objective.

This school year we have used tests from another secondary school in order to evaluate the level of competence of our students.

As mentioned already there are still major challenges ahead of us. However, we are very motivated to meet them based on the feedback we have from the students and their parents.

A huge thanks to all who have made this possible.

Sincerely,

Hervé Millet

1. General information:

- The secondary agricultural school called LAP is part of the ASAP foundation. It has been opened in October 2011.
- Location: located on 48 hectares of land in the village of Oualana in Burkina Faso. It is at 52 km from Bobo Dioulasso



- Officially approved by the ministry of education
- All students come from the 10 villages the ASAP foundation is working with.

2. Objectives of the LAP:

- Offer quality education to children coming from poor families
- Offer an education adapted to the need
- Offer an education which helps identify and develop the strength of the students
- To be sustainable with the donation of the sponsors and the fees paid by the parents

3. Realized infrastructure between July 2013 / June 2014

Girl's foyer additions



Blackboard for studies



Completion of the showers and toilets



Additional dormitory

Technical infrastructure:



3rd Chicken coop



3rd Vegetable garden

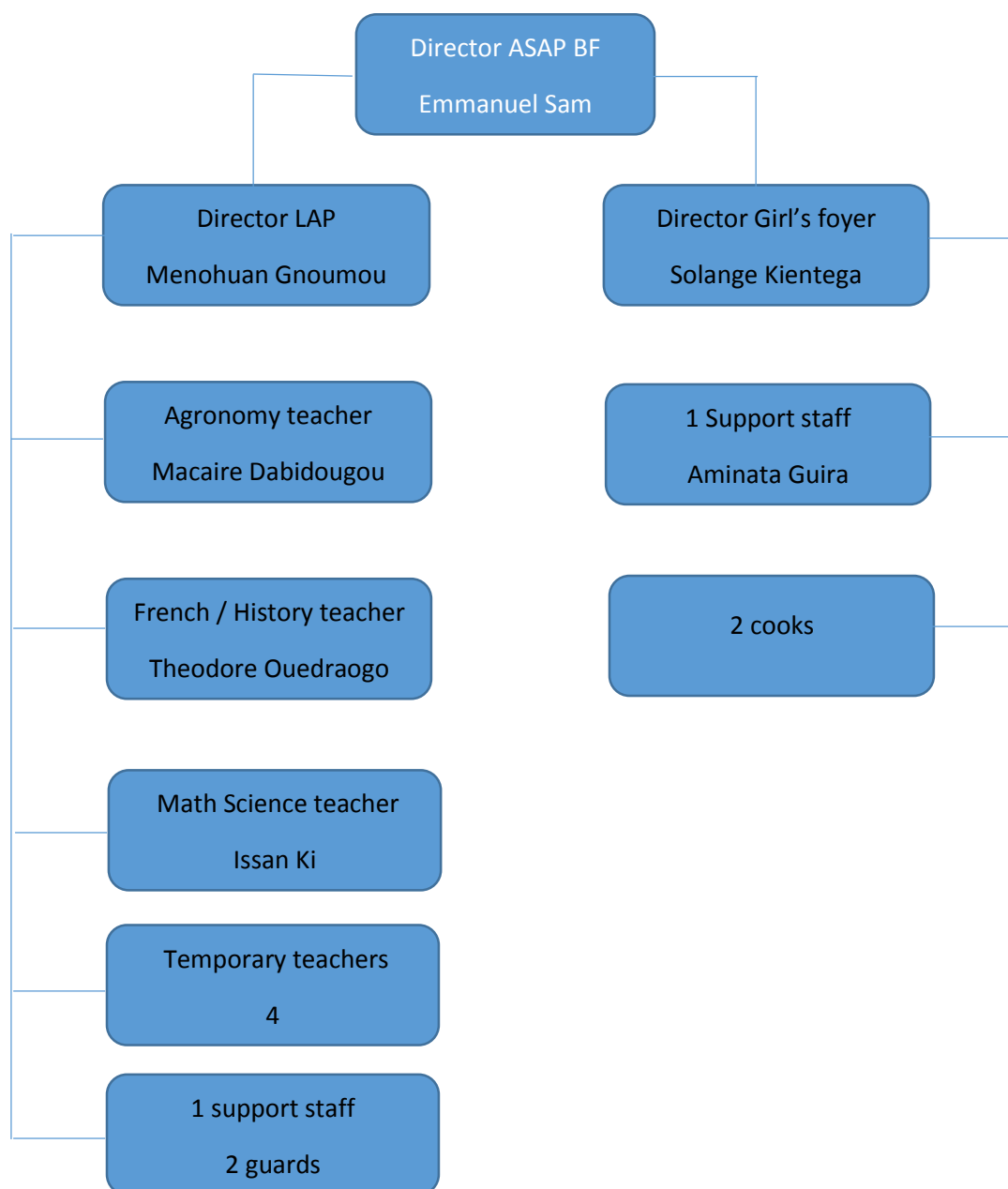


3rd Class room



Class of agronomy

4. Personnel year 2013-2014



We have added 2 new permanent teachers for Math and French. The math teacher did not perform as expected and we will have to replace him for the year to come.

Comments on teachers: the school is rather remote (50km from the city of Bobo Dioulasso). Permanent teachers have to live in a type of compound. It is not easy to find experimented teachers who accept to come to the LAP as permanent teachers.



5. Program:

We are encouraging a participative approach in the teaching of the students. Local teachers are not used to such an approach. A link with a French speaking secondary school could help us train our teachers for this.

Students have 37 hours of school per week. A general secondary school has around 27 hours per week.

The technical subjects (agronomy and animal husbandry) come in addition to the general subjects (Math/ Physics / Chemistry, French, Sciences, History/Geography, English, Physical Education).

Some other matters are in the program for which there is no grading: computer science, animation, civic instruction, drawings, masonry.

School year starts at the end of September and finishes mid-July.



States exams: Students of the LAP can attend to get two diplomas: BEPC (Brevet Education Premier Cycle) or CAP (certificate aptitude professionnelle en agriculture). Both exams are on the same date. With the BEPC the students can have a much larger choice for further studies, with the CAP he will be restricted to agricultural curriculum. A possible solution is to have students passing the BEPC in 4th year of the LAP and if they keep with agricultural studies, to pass the CAP the following year.

6. Students:

Students are selected via test from the villages where ASAP is active.

Evolution of the number of students

Year	2011-2012			2012-2013			2013-2014			Planned 2014-2015		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
First Year	34	36	70	32	38	70	20	38	58	32	38	70
Second year				30	33	63	21	34	55	18	37	55
Third year							29	26	55	21	33	54
Fourth year										26	22	48
Total	34	36	70	62	71	133	70	98	168	97	130	227

Comments on number of students:

1-Number of students starting at the LAP in 2013 was well below our plan (58 instead of 70). After analysis we have seen that a negative image of the LAP was given in the villages by expelled students or their parents. This explains in part the low numbers of candidates for the LAP. We have asked teachers of primary schools to help us change this perception of the LAP.

For the recruiting in July 2014, there were 220 candidates which is 150% of last year. This is however still only 60% of the total potential candidates. The villages close to the LAP did not send all the eligible children. We have realized that the reputation of the LAP in those villages was not very good. We are looking at this situation and will take some actions to change it.

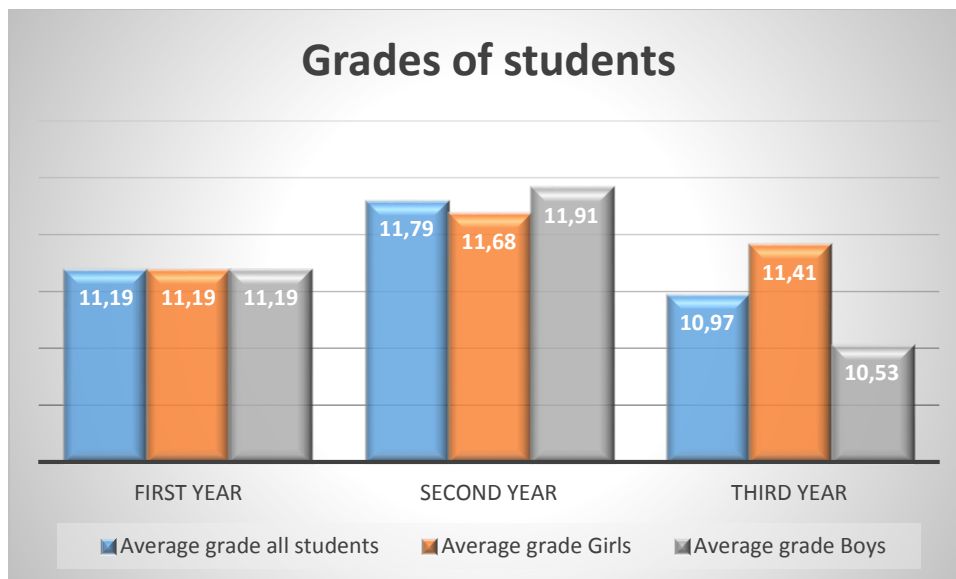
2- Attrition of students is rather high. This can be explained in part by a lack of follow up of the students in difficulties, by the teachers.



We have also seen that discipline is not good for all students. Three girls from the third year went out at night from the foyer to their village to participate at some festivities without authorization. They had already done the same the previous year. After discussion with the parents, they have decided to stop at the LAP.

Results of students end of school year 2013-2014

Grades at the LAP are over 20 and includes grades for both technical and general subjects.



Comments on the results:

The main difference from the previous year comes from the girls who have increased their grade. One of the explanations could be the better conditions in which the girls are living with the opening of the foyer.

Health of the students:

All the students are vaccinated against meningitis.

The head of the girls' foyer is also a nurse. The main health issues she has seen in the last year were wounds of the students (mainly feet and legs), malaria (mainly from the boys, girls are well protected at night with mosquito netting at the windows and doors and by mosquito nets on each bed), cough from allergy or cold and stomach problems from food or water quality mainly from the boys.

Main actions to be taken to improve the health of the students:

- 1-Wounds: most of them come from the sports field which need to be completely cleared of stones. Students play bare foot.
- 2-Malaria: we will look for the test "goutte epaisse" to have a better and faster diagnostic, we will also start with an experiment with the plant artemesia. When the boys will be in their own foyer, it will also help decrease the cases of malaria.
- 3-Cough: it is now treated mainly with antibiotics!! We will have to find other means of diagnostic and treatment.
- 4-Stomach problems: with the foyer of the boys this will decrease automatically.



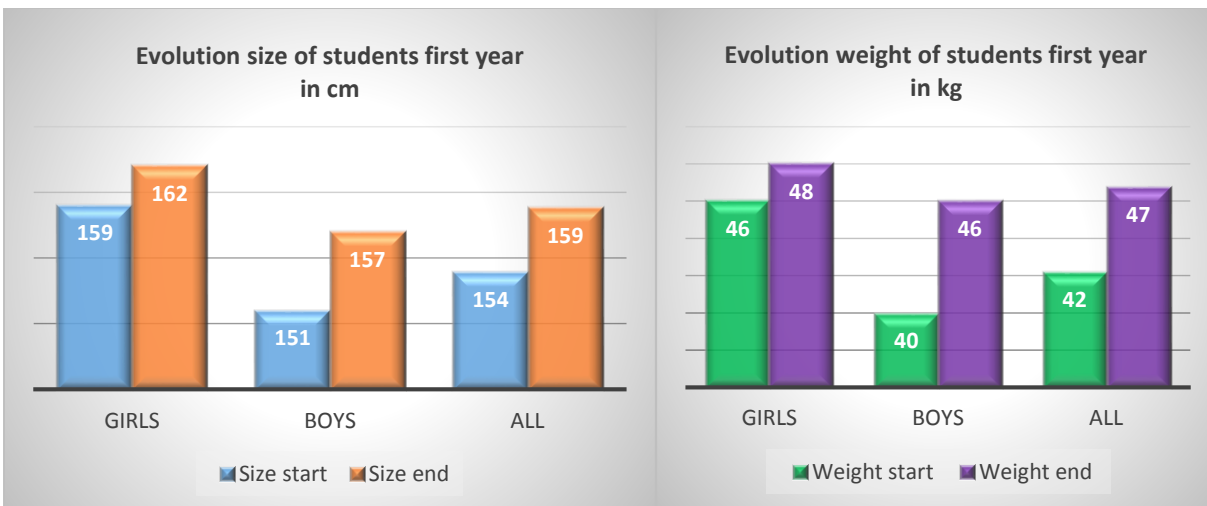


Girls in their dormitory



Putting nets on the windows

Evolution of the weight and size of the first year students during the school year:



7. Production of the LAP this school year:

The production comes from the vegetable gardens, the breeding of pigs, chickens and rabbits and beekeeping.

The purpose of these activities is mainly to teach the children how to grow vegetables and how to breed some animals.

a- Animals:

- **Pigs:** we started in 2012 with the breeding of pigs with one male and two females. Beginning 2014 we had 1 male, one female, seven 7 months old pigs and 7 newborns. In June 2014 we have 1 male, 2 females, seven 5 months old and 6 newborns. One of the females is also expecting piglets any time. We sold 4 pigs and 2 were used for the school



canteen.

Comments: breeding of the pigs is going well. However we are buying most of the food. This is not what the farmers are doing. They are collecting themselves a lot of the food. The main consequence is a loss for this activity money wise. We will adapt the food types for the pig to what is done by the local farmers.

- **Chickens:** There were 2 chicken coops with chickens. The main activity there is to breed chickens, not for the eggs. We started the year with 21 chickens and we now have 43. A total of 14 chickens were used in the food of the students and 8 for practical study work.

Comments: we do collect termites for the chickens every day on our grounds but the costs of breeding chickens still remains too high according to the numbers we have had. May be a lot of the eggs are used for another purpose than breeding chicks? The chickens are no doubt used for what they call "self-consumption"!!



- **Rabbits:** this activity was started in 2013 and will be stopped. Rabbits are not common in our areas and teaching kids how to breed rabbits does not make sense. It is part of the study program, but they can study the rabbit without having them.
- **Beekeeping:** unfortunately, a wild fire burned 2 of our hives and only 5 swarms out of the 12 stayed in their hives. We collected 17 liters of honey in April from those 5 hives.

Comments: bush fires are set up by game hunters in the area, it destroys a lot of trees besides our hives. We had cleaned the grass all around the hives, but this particular fire was very strong and reached the hives.

b- Agriculture and gardening:

- **Agriculture:** in July last year we prepared 6 hectares of land. We grew peanuts, beans, okra, corn, bissap and sorghum. All the production of the fields has been used for the student's canteen.

Comments on agriculture: the yields we have gotten from the various cultures, were low. This can be explained by a lack of follow up of the fields during the student's vacation. For the peanuts we have realized that a lot of the production ends up in the student's mouths even before the harvest.



- **Gardens:** we had 2 gardens (25mx25m each) producing onions, cabbages, salads, cucumbers, egg plants, zucchini and sorrel. Part of the production was sold, part of it used in the canteen of the students and some was used to feed the animals. Part of the garden was also used to grow small trees or plants which were used in other projects of ASAP: papaya, moringa, chili pepper.

Comments: the gardens have always looked very nice and the production was rather good. We are however still using too much chemical products (fertilizer, herbicide).

8. LAP structural costs:

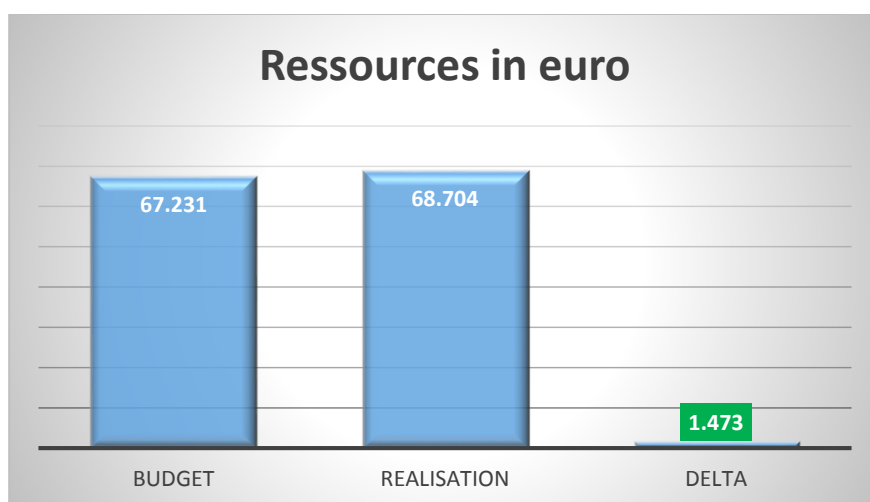
The structural costs are supported by:

- The parents: € 52 per year in cash plus 2,5 bags of corn for the girls and 1,5 for the boys (girls are staying at the foyer and the boys do not).
- The sponsors: € 360 per year. The first group of sponsors is paying € 240. The increase comes from the addition of the foyer for the girls and of providing 3 meals per day for all students.

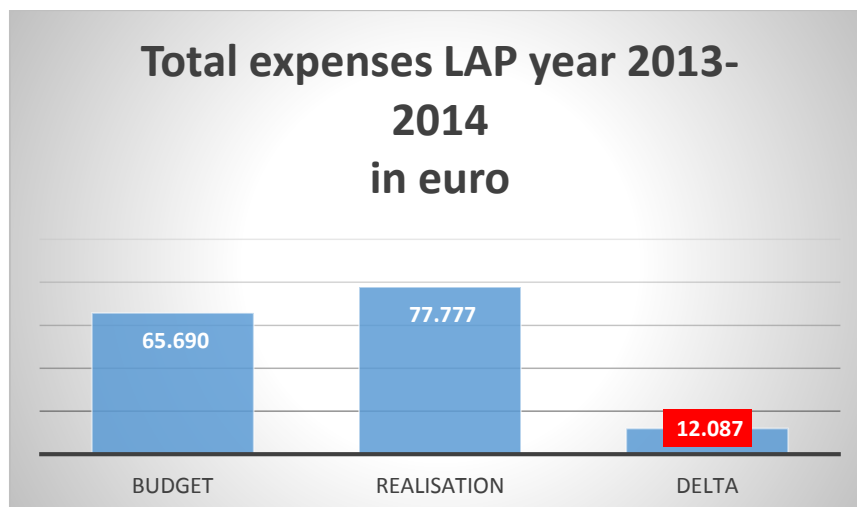
Half of the sponsors are found via A Petits Pas (a French association) and half from ASAP Nederland.

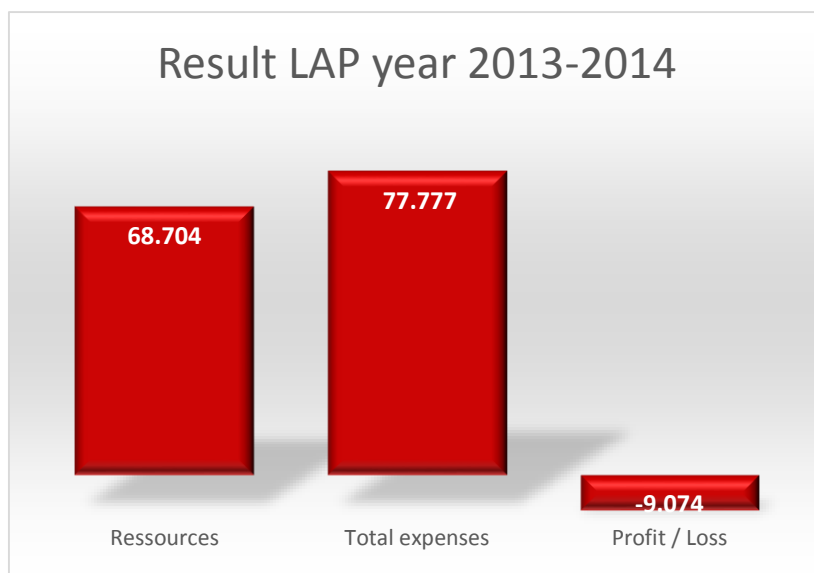
Structural costs realization comparison with budget of June 2013

Parents paid initially 35.000 CFA in 2011-2012, sponsors € 240 per child (those sponsors keep paying this amount for the 4 years of the scholarship). New sponsors for the period 2012-2013 are paying € 360 and the parents are paying 35.000 CFA plus 1,5 bags of corn for the boys and 2,5 for the girls (girls are in the foyer).



The positive result comes from the LAP animals and agricultural production.





Comments on the results:

The main expenses which went over budget are:

- *Temporary teachers:*

<i>In euro</i>	Budget	Realization	Delta
<i>Temporary teachers</i>	5.344	10.742	5.398

Main reasons are the increase of 30% of the hourly rate which came in effect nationwide end of school year 2012-2013 (full impact in school year 2013-2014) and tutoring hours given to some students before the start of the school year (not budgeted).

- *Canteen costs:*

<i>In euro</i>	Budget	Realization	Delta
<i>Canteen Costs</i>	11.384	14.405	3.021

The main reason is a too low budget for this expense mainly from wrong estimations of the transport costs of the goods used in the canteen between Bobo and the LAP.

- *Travelling costs*

<i>In euro</i>	Budget	Realization	Delta
<i>Travelling expenses</i>	1.069	2.595	1.526

We have underestimated the travel costs of the ASAP team to the LAP and the travel costs of the LAP personnel to Bobo.

- *Animal and agricultural production costs were much higher than expected. Even if the productions of the LAP brought some resources, the net result of those activities is a loss.*

Other remarks:

The amount coming from the first sponsors is 240 euro per year. Newest sponsors contribute 360 euro per year (this is to take care of the foyer costs which we did not have at the beginning). For the 55 students in the 3rd year this means 6.600 euro less income.

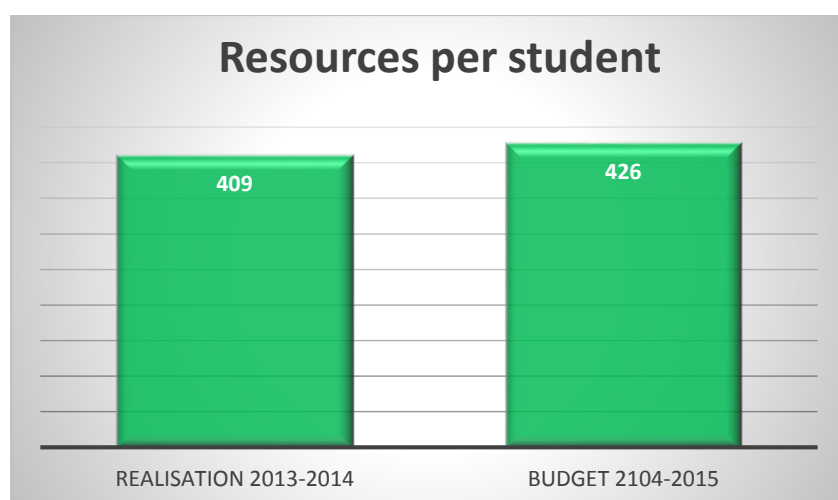
The number of students planned in year 3 was 190 and we had only 168. This meant less spreading of the fixed costs.



9. Budget year 2014-2015 structural costs

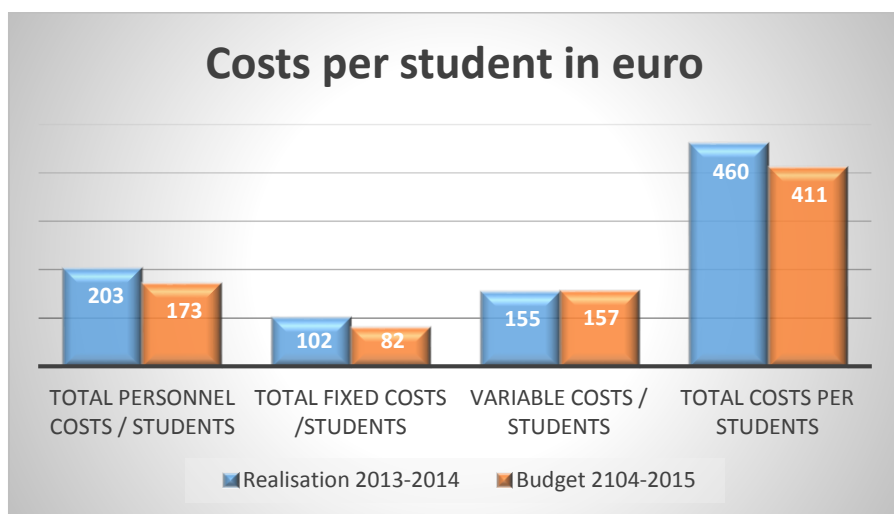
- Resources

	cap1	cap2	cap3	cap 4	Total
Number of students	70	55	54	48	227
Sponsors	16.506.000	12.969.000	12.733.200	7.545.600	49.753.800
Cash from parents	2.450.000	1.925.000	1.890.000	1.680.000	7.945.000
Bags of corn from parents	137	110	101	120	
Cash value of the corn	1.370.000	1.095.000	1.005.000	1.200.000	4.670.000
Animal production					400.000
Fields production					300.000
Gardens production					300.000
Total in cfa					63.368.800
Total in euro					96.746

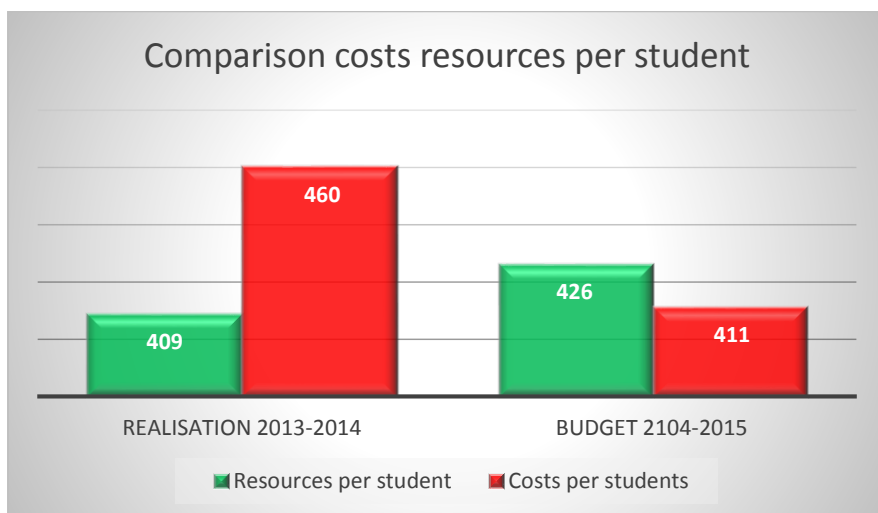


- **Expenses:**

<i>In euro</i>	Realization 2013-2014	Budget 2104-2015	Remarks
<i>Personnel costs</i>	34.161	39.166	Addition of 2 permanents teachers. Temporary teachers with a new contract saving 20% of their costs.
<i>Fixed costs</i>	17.135	18.585	Better control of the costs and less travelling cost
<i>Variable costs</i>	26.038	35.621	From 168 to 227 students
Total costs in euro	77.777	93.372	



	Realization 2013-2014	Budget 2104-2015
Total expenses	77.777	93.372
Total resources	68.703	96.746
Profit / loss euro	- 9.074	3.374



We realize that there is little margin of error in this budget 2014-2015. For the new sponsors we are asking in the Netherlands 420 euro per year instead of 360 euro.

10. Infrastructure planning:

For the year 2014-2015 we have planned the following buildings:

Already financed:

- Boys foyer : to be able to take 40 students
- Construction of a new class room for the 4th year students
- Construction of a dormitory room for the girl's foyer and addition of a latrines / shower block.

Still to be financed to complete the infrastructure of the first cycle studies:

- 5 dormitory rooms for the boys foyer
- Refectory / study room for the boys foyer
- House for the boys foyer supervisor
- Last rooms (teachers room and library) of the second pedagogic block
- Medical post
- Stable
- Silo

