

April 2026

Report of EEB1 Symphonic Orchestra's trip to Alicante

The EEB1 Symphonic Orchestra is grateful to APEEE for the 1000 EUR grant it received to help cover the expenses related to the trip to Alicante in April 2026.

The trip was organised from 5/6-12 April 2026, with accommodation in Villa Universitaria, Sant Vicent del Raspeig, flights on 6 and 12 April to Alicante with Transavia, and renting of a van for the transport of luggage and instruments conducted by voluntary parents. Also, for some of the rides in Alicante, a bus was organised for the children.

Detailed schedule of the week

Day	Activity	Travel in Alicante
Monday 6 April	Arrival 9.25 Installation Rehearsals	Bus to Hostal Casa Antonio , Sant Vicent del Raspeig, Alicante
Tuesday 7 April	Rehearsal day Visiting Sant Vicent del Raspeig	
Wednesday 8 April	Rehearsal day Visit to Ethnic Music Museum of Busot Concert at 19.00 in the Casa de Cultura, Busot	Bus to Busot at 15.30 Bus back to hostel after the concert
Thursday 9 April	IP masterclass by EUIPO experts 10.30 – 11.30 12:30 Concert in the EUIPO Auditorium Free afternoon in Alicante (including possibility to go to Postiguet beach)	Bus to EUIPO at 9.30 Return to hostel by public transport
Friday 10 April	Rehearsal day 17:00 open air concert in Saint Vincent el Raspeig, terrasse of the Hostal Casa Antonio	
Saturday 11 April	Free day - group activities	
Sunday 12 April	Departure flight 10.20	Bus to the airport

Concert programme: among others, Radetzky March by Johann Strauss, Overture to opera Carmen by Bizet, March from opera Aida by Verdi, Gopak from opera Sorochinsky Fair by Modest Mussorgsky, Conquest of Paradise by Vangelis, and baroque and classical pieces notably by Bach, Vivaldi, Haydn for chamber orchestra and soloists.

This eclectic programme valued string, woodwind, brass and percussion sections and was well received at the three different concerts in the cultural centre of Busot (Wednesday 8 April), in the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) (Thursday 9 April) and on the terrace of the Hostal Casa Antonio in Sant Vincent el Raspeig (Friday 10 April). The APEEE logo was always well visible in concert programmes, on posters and presentations (see examples below), and APEEE was thanked in an introductory speech by Elke Schmutterer, member of the parents' committee, at each concert.



The trip represented a big opportunity for the Orchestra to act as cultural ambassador of the European School of Uccle and the European educational and cultural project.

The finance of the project by the APEEE will help to partially finance the costs of transport and accommodation as well as related costs.

Financial report

accommodation and food	21 360 €
transportation	22 859.23 €
others	2 240.25 €
<i>Total</i>	<i>46 459.48 €</i>

A cookies sale has been organised to raise some funds (approx. 500€).

All other costs are supported by the parents.

Background: EEB1 Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra of the European School of Brussels I (EEB1), conducted by Arman Simonyan, brings together an eclectic and dynamic group of 56 young musicians aged 10 to 18. Most of them come from EEB1 Uccle, but some also from other European schools in Brussels and the primary section in Berkendael. The orchestra's main objectives are to give students the opportunity to make music of a high standard in a genuine orchestra setting and friendly atmosphere, where older musicians take care of the younger ones, and to encourage treasuring classical music. The Orchestra follows closely and promotes the values of respect, solidarity and mutual help, as enshrined in the Kiva project, endorsed by the School. It brings together children of many different language sections. The children learn the benefits of working and playing as a group, with an emphasis on inclusion and mutual respect, and enjoy this experience very much as the end result is very gratifying and of exceptional musical quality for a school orchestra, which makes the orchestra worthy cultural ambassadors of the European school. In the orchestra rehearsals and during the trips the mobile phone policy of the school is well implemented (no use of smartphones allowed), which has greatly helped to have real social interactions and friendships among children of different age and sections. The orchestra presents several concerts each year, including the Christmas concert, the Spring concert and in public events at School. The Orchestra enhances and deepens the existing music school programmes.