



**Youth**Partnership

# **FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN BELGIUM**



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



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## 1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006	Less than 18	15,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>work income</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		37,40
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Unemployment benefit</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		26,10
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Family allowance</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		20,30
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		40,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		40,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		33,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		7,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Single parent with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		33,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household without dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		16,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		13,00

## 2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	<b>Annex 5</b>
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## 3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	<b>Annex 6</b>
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## ANNEX 5

### Social Substances/Protection

In Belgium the social security system is financed by contributions from employees and employers and subsidies from state. The amounts are calculated based on the gross salary and are paid to the National Office of Social Security. Self-employed persons have to join social insurance. Benefits extend to family members. Social security system includes the systems which provide replacement incomes unemployment, retirement of the inability to work, support for financing costs such as child support, health care, family benefits and annual paid holidays. People who are not included in the social security system can be helped by social assistance. Social assistance is responsibility of the Social Assistance Centre, a body which is present in each municipality. It helps people by providing them with an integration income or by helping them to find work. Guaranteed family benefits, income for the elderly and disability benefits are also included under social assistance. (<http://www.diplomatie.be/EN/belgium/belgiumdetail.asp?TEXTID=49097.>)

#### Short description and a list of social protection for young people (15-34 years)

- Young until the age of 25, are entitled to family benefits when they belong to one of the following categories: apprentice boys or girls, children who go to school or follow a training period for appointment in a function (candidate-bailiff), students who prepare a paper at the end of their college studies, during the waiting period, i.e. the period between the diploma and the first unemployment allowance (you have to be registered as unemployed)

- Children from 0 to 18 (in case in vocational training or further education they will receive the benefit until the age of 25 years) years are allowed to child benefit

- Public and private schools are available to all children between the ages of 4 and 18, at little or no cost.

- Student (without diploma) financial aid depends on the income of the student's family, and other familial circumstances. ([http://www.diplomatie.be/EN/belgium/belgiumdetail.asp?TEXTID=49097,Belgium\\_alwa2008\\_en.pdf](http://www.diplomatie.be/EN/belgium/belgiumdetail.asp?TEXTID=49097,Belgium_alwa2008_en.pdf); [http://www.oecd.org/topicdocumentlist/0,3448,en\\_33873108\\_33873261\\_1\\_11\\_1\\_37419,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/topicdocumentlist/0,3448,en_33873108_33873261_1_11_1_37419,00.html).)

- Pregnant women are entitled to 15 weeks of maternity leave (19 weeks in case of a multiple birth). Women receive maternity benefit while on maternity leave. The amount of maternity benefits depends on women's situation (employment contract or unemployed).

Situation of the entitled person	During the first 30 days of the maternity leave	As from the 31st calendar day of the period of maternity leave
With employment contract	82% of the non-ceiled gross salary	75% of a non-ceiled gross salary
Incapacity for work and no employment contract	79.5% of the ceiled lost salary	75% of the ceiled lost salary
Unemployed	60% (= basic allowance (*)) + 19.5% (additional allowance) = 79.5%	60% (= basic allowance (*)) + 15% (additional allowance) =

Self-employed women and helpers are entitled to an uninterrupted maternity leave of 8 weeks (9 weeks in case of a multiple birth). It is not obligatory to take all the weeks, but a minimum of 6 weeks (7 weeks in case of a multiple birth) has to be taken. During that period they are entitled to a lump-sum amount of 354.06 EUR per week (amounts on 1 January 2008). The maternity benefit is paid out in one time by the health insurance fund, within one month after the end of the maternity leave. Father has right to ten days paternity leave after the birth. (<http://www.diplomatie.be/EN/belgium/belgiumdetail.asp?TEXTID=49097.>)

#### Sources:

<http://www.diplomatie.be/EN/belgium/belgiumdetail.asp?TEXTID=49097>

[http://www.oecd.org/topicdocumentlist/0,3448,en\\_33873108\\_33873261\\_1\\_11\\_1\\_37419,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/topicdocumentlist/0,3448,en_33873108_33873261_1_11_1_37419,00.html).

## ANNEX 6

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### Education

Equality between women and men is one of the fundamental values of the European Union. Women are higher educated than men and their employment rate is lower than men. Women record a higher educational attainment than men in all Member States. On average, 80.7% of young women (20-24) reached at least upper secondary school in the EU in 2006, against only 74.8% on young men. In Belgium these numbers are 85% (w) and 79 % (m). ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342).)

#### Employment

The European Strategy for Jobs and Growth set the target of reaching an employment rate for women of 60% (men 70%) by 2010. Year 2006 employment rates in Belgium (women and men aged 15 – 64) was 52% (w) and 63% (m). Women's participation in the labour market is still largely characterised by a high and increasing share of part-time work. In 2007, the share of women employees working part-time was 31.4% in the EU-27 while the corresponding figure for men was 7.8%. In Belgium the share of female part-timers is 40% and men 7,5%. Interesting thing is also parenthood and how it act on women's employment. In year 2006 employment rate of women with children under 12 was 69,5% and without children 75%. Same numbers to men was with children 91% and without children 81% ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342), [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/gender\\_equality/publications\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/gender_equality/publications_en.cfm).)

#### Study of Discrimination and Inequality

European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities sorted out discrimination and inequality in Europe. Survey was carried out in the 25 Member States of the European Union and in the two acceding countries between 7 June and 12 July 2006. According to the survey Belgians are significantly more likely to know a homosexual person (50%) than the average European Union citizen (35%). Six Belgian respondents out of ten (60%) report that they have friends or acquaintances with a different ethnic origin to theirs and 62% say that they know a disabled person. ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342).)

Eighty per cent of studying people (over 20 years) in Belgium believe that discrimination based on ethnic origin is widespread in their country. This is 11 percentage points above the EU average (69%). Linked to this, 61% of Belgian people also think that religious discrimination is widespread, this figure being 15 points higher than the EU average (46%). On the other hand, discrimination based on age ( BE 45% EU 47 %) or gender (BE 35 % EU 44 %) is perceived to be less common than in the EU in general. Also discrimination based of disability is less common in Belgium than in the EU in general ( BE 53 % EU 55 %)

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342)

As in the EU as a whole, Belgian women perceive each form of discrimination to be more widespread than Belgian men do, with the exception of discrimination based on age. Education also plays a role in this respect: Students and those with a higher level of education more often tend to think that discrimination is widespread than do Belgians who ended their education at the age of 15 or below.

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342)

**Knowlegde of rights:** In Belgium the low level of awareness of rights in the event of discrimination cuts across socio-demographic categories. Those who spent less time in education tend to be even less familiar with these rights. Belgians who do not have friends of another origin or disabled friends tend to be less aware of their rights in the event of becoming a victim of discrimination or harassment than their fellow EU citizens. [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342)

**Combating of discrimination:** While the majority of Belgian studying men (53%) say that enough effort is being made to fight all forms of discrimination, the majority of Belgian studying women (51%) feel the opposite. Furthermore, in Belgium, as in the EU as a whole, young people, students, the highly educated and those who have friends with a different ethnic origin or disabled friends are more likely to claim that not enough is being done. [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page\\_id=342](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?page_id=342)

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