



# Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor 2015

## Executive Summary

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flanders is characterised by increasing diversity. The foreign population and population of foreign origin is growing. In addition, there is increasing internal diversity among these groups. Aligning a policy with this super-diversity starts with knowing and understanding it. The Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor 2015 was compiled with the aim to bring together and interpret administrative and other statistical information about migration and integration processes of foreigners and the population of foreign origin in Flanders within a Belgian and European framework. Gathering and disclosing figures at the Flemish level is necessary, given the different migration realities the Regions are faced with. The consequences of migration are also dealt with regionally, including through Flanders' integration and civic integration policy. Data on migration movements, residence and the socio-economic position and social participation of foreigners and persons of foreign origin in Flanders constitute important information for the planning, development and evaluation of this policy. Since migration and integration are transversal themes relating to various social areas, this report also serves as a useful tool for other policy areas, such as work, education, welfare or housing. This monitor does not only target policy makers and administrations, but also universities and research institutions, civil society organisations and the general public. Below, the main findings of this monitor are summarised.

### MIGRATION

#### International immigration

In 2014, 46,811 foreigners from abroad entered the Flemish Region for a long-term stay (strict international immigration). This number is slightly higher than in 2013 and corresponds to 7 immigrating foreigners per 1,000 inhabitants. In 2014, there was an inflow of 110,201 immigrants in the whole of Belgium. The number of foreigners immigrating from abroad to the Flemish Region has doubled compared to 2000 and peaked in 2011.

Of the EU15 countries, Germany, the UK, Italy and Spain are experiencing the largest inflow in absolute terms. In proportion to the population size, Luxembourg leads the ranking with 37 immigrating foreigners per 1,000 inhabitants, followed at a distance by Austria, Ireland and Sweden. With 9 immigrants per 1,000 inhabitants, Belgium takes the 5<sup>th</sup> place in the ranking. Within Belgium the highest relative inflow is reported in the Brussels-Capital Region (33 per 1,000).

International immigration into the Flemish Region shows a strong concentration in the larger cities in absolute terms. In 2014, the largest international immigration flows of foreigners were reported in Antwerp, Ghent and Leuven, whereas Leuven, Baarle-Hertog and Hoogstraten had the largest inflow in proportion to the population figure.

Generally speaking, the Flemish Region and Belgium in general are characterised by high immigration from other EU countries. In 2014, the share of EU citizens in the total number of immigrants amounted to 69% in Belgium and 67% in Flanders. It is therefore no surprise that there are 8 EU nationalities in the top 10 of nationalities of foreigners immigrating to Flanders: The Netherlands (17%), Romania (11%), Poland (10%), Bulgaria (6%), Spain (5%), Italy (3%), France (3%) and Portugal

(3%). The only non-EU nationalities in the top 10 are Moroccan (3%) and Indian (3%). Especially the number of immigrants from the South EU15 countries and EU13 countries increased strongly over the past decade. The inflow from the neighbouring countries as well continues to account for a relatively large share in the immigration figures.

There are slightly more men (51%) than women (49%) among the international immigrants who moved to the Flemish Region in the course of 2014. Generally speaking, international immigrants have a younger age profile than the total population. 40% of the immigrants is aged between 18 and 29 and 23% between 30 and 39, whereas these age categories represent a share of respectively 14% and 13% in the total Flemish population. On the other hand, the 50 to 64-year-olds (21%) and plus-65-year-olds (19%) are the largest groups in the total Flemish population.

EU citizens immigrating to the Flemish Region enjoy freedom of movement in the Union. Approximately half of the first residence permits issued to immigrating non-EU citizens in Belgium in 2013 concerned family reunion (52%). In addition, 14% of the first residence permits were issued for educational reasons and 10% for work-related reasons. The total number of issued first residence permits was clearly lower in 2013 than in 2010. This is mainly due to the decrease in residence permits for family reasons.

On an international level the reasons of stay of non-EU immigrants strongly vary between EU Member States. In the United Kingdom and Ireland the share of family reasons is very low, whereas in Greece, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg this share represents more than 50%. The share of work as reason of stay is lower than one quarter in nearly all EU15 Member States, except in Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain.

In the Flemish Region, workers originating from outside the European Economic Area and from new EU Member States who are subject to transitional arrangements must apply for a work permit to be able to be employed. However, a whole range of categories is exempted from this requirement. In 2014, 173 Work permits A, 6,699 Work permits B and 10,164 Work permits C were issued. The number of B permits strongly decreased compared to the year before. This was due to the fact that transitional arrangements no longer applied to Romanian and Bulgarian workers who now have free access to the Flemish labour market. In 2014, highly-educated employees and managers accounted for the largest share (together 64%) in the total number of issued Work permits B in the Flemish Region. The number of registrations of posting of employees and self-employed workers from both European and non-European companies in the LIMOSA database indicates that, in 2014, the main country of origin (country of residence of the employer of posted worker) for posting to Belgium was the Netherlands, followed by Poland, Germany, France and Romania.

## Asylum

In 2014, 17,213 asylum applications (dossiers) were submitted in Belgium. This is a slight increase compared to 2013. However, the number is substantially lower than the peak in 2000 (42,691). In the course of 2015, the number of asylum applications has strongly risen again, amounting to 22,266 in the first 9 months of the year. As far as the absolute number of asylum applicants is concerned, Belgium ranked 8<sup>th</sup> of the EU15 Member States in 2014. Of all the asylum seekers that submitted an application in the EU15 in 2014, 4% were registered in Belgium. Just over 202,000 asylum seekers

arrived in Germany in 2014, which is by far the highest number within the EU (36%). This number was 4 times higher than in 2011. In proportion to the population the number of asylum seekers was highest in Sweden in 2014 (8 asylum seekers per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by Austria, Denmark, Germany and Luxembourg. With 2 asylum seekers per 1,000 inhabitants, Belgium is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the EU15.

The countries of origin of asylum seekers in Belgium vary strongly throughout time. In 2014, the top 10 consisted of Afghans, (11%), Syrians (11%), Iraqi (7%), Guineans (6%), Russians (6%), Eritreans (4%), Congolese (4%), Kosovars (3%), Albanians (3%) and Ukrainians (3%). The number of applications of Afghan asylum seekers was almost one third lower in 2014 than in 2011. On the other hand, the number of applications of Syrian citizens was relatively limited until recently, but more than tripled in 2014 compared to 2011. The figures for the first 9 months of 2015 indicate that, since recently, Iraq and Syria are the main countries of origin (respectively 28 and 19 per cent).

In 2014, the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons recognised asylum seekers involved in 4,805 asylum dossiers as refugees. This corresponds to 37% of all the decisions on the merits taken by the Office that year. In 1,341 asylum dossiers the Office granted the subsidiary protection status, which represents another 10% of the decisions. The total number of approvals increased by 25% compared to 2013 (with an increase in recognitions as refugee and a decrease in the number of applicants being granted a subsidiary protection status). However, on the basis of these numbers of approvals per year, no statements can be made on the percentage of asylum seekers that are recognised.

## Regularisation

The Foreigners Act provides for a regularisation procedure for granting temporary or permanent right of residence in 'exceptional circumstances' on humanitarian or medical grounds (for instance for reasons of health, an unreasonably long asylum procedure or sustainable local integration). In 2014, 9,867 regularisation applications were submitted in Belgium, of which 6,789 on humanitarian grounds (Article 9bis) and 3,078 on medical grounds (Article 9ter). The number of regularisation applications fluctuated strongly over the past decade, with a remarkable increase in the period 2009-2010 and a decrease in the most recent years. In 2014, 996 regularisation dossiers were approved, resulting in the regularisation of 1,548 persons. This is the lowest number of regularised persons in the past decade.

## International emigration

In 2014, 15,898 foreigners emigrated from the Flemish Region to a country abroad (emigration in the strict sense). Over the past years, the number of emigrations of foreigners from the Flemish Region revealed a general rising trend: the number of emigrations was 1.5 times higher in 2014 than in 2000. The relative number of emigrating foreigners stays more or less constant at 2 emigrating foreigners per 1,000 inhabitants. In proportion to the population, emigration is highest in the Brussels-Capital Region (about 10 emigrants per 1,000 inhabitants).

Within the EU15 the largest number of foreigners are emigrating, in absolute terms, from Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany and France. In proportion to the population size, Luxembourg has the

highest emigration rate, followed by Spain and Ireland. However, Spain has since recently been faced with a remarkably strong increase in the outflow of foreigners. The number of emigrants was 10 times higher there in 2013 than in 2004.

The top 10 of emigrating nationalities is headed by the Netherlands (27%), followed by Poland (7%), Germany (5%), India (4%), France (4%), Spain (4%), the United Kingdom (4%), the United States (4%), Italy (3%) and Romania (3%). In 2014, 69% of the foreigners emigrating from the Flemish Region were EU citizens. The fact that mainly EU citizens leave Flanders to go abroad illustrates a growing mobility within the European Union. In 9 of the 15 EU Member States the share of EU citizens represents 50% or more of the emigrating foreigners.

## Return

In 2014, 3,664 persons left Belgium in the framework of an assisted voluntary return programme to return to their country of origin or to another country (including country of origin in the EU). 3,460 of them were assisted by the International Organisation for Migration (coordinated by Fedasil). The other 204 assisted voluntary returns were organised by the Immigration Office. As a result, the total number of people involved in a programme for voluntary return (in broad sense) is a bit higher than the 3,519 persons who were subject to forced removal. Most of the forced removals are repatriations. In 2014, 2,586 persons were forcibly repatriated, in addition to 673 Dublin transfers and 260 bilateral transfers. In 2014, Romania was the main country of destination for assisted voluntary return from Belgium, followed by Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and Serbia. Forced repatriations from Belgium (not including transfers) were mainly organised for people of Albanian, Moroccan, Brazilian, Kosovar or Serbian nationality.

## Migration balance

The migration balance of foreigners is the difference between the total number of international immigrations of foreigners and the total number of international emigrations of foreigners.

In the Flemish Region the immigrations 'in the strict sense' (46,811 persons in 2014) constitute the largest part of the total international immigration of foreigners. In addition, re-registrations in the population register after an administrative deletion (3,472 persons) and transfers from the waiting register to a regular population register (changes in register - inwards) (4,589 persons) are also taken into account in the total immigration rate. This brings the total number of foreigners immigrating to the Flemish Region to 54,872 persons. This total rate decreased between 2011 and 2013. However, during the most recent year it has slightly increased again.

Emigrations 'in the strict sense' also constitute the main component (15,989 persons in 2014) of the total emigration of foreigners. However, the number of administrative deletions of persons who are in practice no longer residing in Flanders - the second component of the total emigration rate - is not much smaller (14,891 persons). In addition, the number of transfers from a regular population register to the waiting register (changes in register - outwards) (673 in 2014) are counted as well. This brings the total number of emigrations of foreigners from the Flemish Region to 31,462 in 2014, which is a bit higher than the previous year. Over the past years, the total emigration rate mainly rose due to the growing number of administrative deletions .

Throughout the studied period the total number of immigrations of foreigners in the Flemish Region is larger than the total number of emigrations of foreigners. As a result, there is a positive migration balance of foreigners. This net inflow peaked in 2010. In 2013, it decreased and in 2014 it slightly increased again. In 2014, the migration balance (net inflow) in the Flemish Region amounted to 23,410.

Almost all EU15 countries had a positive migration balance (net inflow) of foreigners, with the exception of some countries that were strongly affected by the economic crisis (including Spain and Greece). This crisis effect is most striking in Spain which had a high positive migration balance in 2007 (721,560 net inflow), whereas in 2013 it had the highest negative balance of all EU15 countries (210,599 net outflow).

## **Internal migration of foreigners**

Apart from international migrations (from or to foreign countries) 26,068 internal migrations of foreigners took place within the Flemish Region in 2014. These are migrations between Flemish municipalities. In addition, 9,132 foreigners migrated from the other Regions to the Flemish Region, whereas 5,493 foreigners moved from Flanders to other Regions in Belgium. Internal migration of foreigners from the Brussels-Capital Region to the Flemish Region is clearly larger than vice versa. In 2014, there was a net inflow of 3,277 foreigners from the Brussels-Capital Region into the Flemish Region. Flows between the Flemish and Walloon Regions are more balanced.

In 2014, the Flemish municipality of Tervuren had the highest positive balance of internal migration of foreigners, followed by Zaventem, Oostende, Roeselare and Vilvoorde. Reversely, there are municipalities from which the outflow of foreigners to other municipalities is substantially higher than the inflow from other municipalities. The top 5 of Flemish municipalities with the highest negative balance of internal migrations is formed by Antwerp, Leuven, Ghent, Sint-Truiden and Kapellen.

## **FOREIGN POPULATION AND POPULATION OF FOREIGN ORIGIN**

### **Foreign population**

In early 2015, some 504,130 foreigners lived in the Flemish Region, which is 8% of the total population. Since 2000, the number of foreigners has continued to rise almost without interruption. The increase in the number of foreigners is especially large in the most recent years. Today, the Flemish Region is the Region in Belgium with the highest number of foreigners. However, the relative share of foreigners is clearly higher in the Brussels-Capital Region (34%) and the Walloon Region (10%).

In the Flemish Region the number of foreigners is highest in the border region with the Netherlands in the provinces of Antwerp and Limburg, in the periphery around Brussels, in the metropolitan cities of Antwerp and Ghent and in Central Limburg. The central cities score fairly high as well.

Almost 2 out of 3 foreigners are EU citizens. When broken down by nationality, the Dutch constitute by far the largest group of foreigners (26%). They are followed by the Polish (7%), the Moroccans (6%), the Italians (5%), the Romanians, the French and the Turks (each 4%).

The general increase in the number of foreigners was not spread evenly across nationalities. Within the top 10 of nationalities the relative increase is largest among Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian citizens. Since recently, the number of Spanish and Portuguese is slightly rising as well.

The age profile of foreigners in Flanders differs clearly from that of the total population. The age categories of 25 to 49 years are remarkably more represented among foreigners. The pattern is reversed for the age categories of 50 years and older. The number of plus-65-year-olds is twice as high in the total population (19%) as among foreigners (5%).

## Acquisition of nationality

In 2014 9,492 foreigners in the Flemish Region acquired the Belgian nationality. Following changes in the procedures, the number of foreigners acquiring nationality peaked in the years 1985, 1992 and 2000-2001. In 2014, the number of people acquiring the Belgian nationality fell again below 10,000 for the first time since 1999. This is due to the fact that the conditions for acquiring the Belgian nationality have been tightened since 2013. Since then knowledge of one of the national languages and the degree of social integration have been taken into account as conditions for citizenship acquisition.

## Population of foreign origin

In early 2013 1,180,617 persons of foreign origin lived in the Flemish Region, which is 18% of the total population. This is the sum of residents who currently have a foreign nationality, residents with a foreign nationality at birth who have meanwhile acquired the Belgian nationality and residents who currently have the Belgian nationality and had the Belgian nationality at birth, but have at least one parent who had a foreign nationality at birth. In early 2013, the number of persons of foreign origin was 2.5 times higher than the number of persons who currently have a foreign nationality. Especially striking is the large difference among people originating from Turkey, the Maghreb and the European countries outside the EU. The number of persons of Turkish origin is almost 7 times higher than the number of persons who currently have the Turkish nationality. This is 6 times higher in the Maghreb and 3 times higher in the European non-EU countries. This means that, over the years, a large number of people in these origin groups have acquired the Belgian nationality or were born Belgian.

The relative share of residents of foreign origin is even much higher in the other Regions than in Flanders. In the Brussels-Capital Region it concerns almost 7 out of 10 inhabitants; in the Walloon Region 3 out of 10 inhabitants. In total, the population of foreign origin represents more than a quarter of the Belgian population.

On average, the population of foreign origin is clearly younger than the total population. As a result of the younger age profile of the foreign population the share of people of foreign origin in the youngest age categories is even higher than the general percentage of 18%. In early 2013, 34% of the



0 to 5-year-olds in the Flemish Region had a foreign origin. Among the 6 to 11-year-olds this is 31% and among the 12 to 17-year-olds this is 26%.

In early 2013, just under half of the population of foreign origin in the Flemish Region was born in Belgium (46%). This share is clearly higher among people originating from the South-EU15 countries, Turkey and the Maghreb, and clearly lower among people originating from the EU12 countries and Europe outside the EU. This difference is related to the different times at which major migration flows from these countries took place. Among the residents originating from the EU12 countries and Europe outside the EU it rather concerns persons who migrated to Belgium themselves, whereas among the residents of South-EU15, Turkish or Maghreb origin it rather concerns persons whose parents or grandparents migrated to Belgium and who were themselves born in Belgium.

## **CIVIC INTEGRATION**

### **Inflow of new persons integrating**

Every month, a list of newcomers in Flanders is extracted from the State Register on the basis of the target group criteria of Flanders' civic integration policy. In 2014, 33,903 adult newcomers in Flanders qualified for a civic integration programme. This number is a bit higher than in 2013, but clearly lower than in the period 2010-2011 when the number of adult newcomers exceeded 40,000.

The most striking trend in the period 2009-2014 is the rising number of newcomers (within the target group of Flanders' civic integration policy) from EU countries. In 2009, 47% of the newcomers originated from an EU country. This percentage rose to 66% in 2014. In 2014, the Dutch headed the top 10 of largest inflowing nationalities (15%). They were followed by the Romanians (11%), the Polish (10%) and the Bulgarians (6%).

When broken down by reasons of stay, the migrant workers form the largest group of newcomers within the target group of Flanders' civic integration policy (36%). They are followed by the family migrants (26%). The third largest group is formed by the asylum seekers and recognised refugees (10%). There are more male migrant workers, asylum seekers and recognised refugees, but more female family migrants. In total, 53% of the newcomers are men.

All newcomers are entitled to participate in a civic integration programme. However, for certain groups this programme is mandatory. The share of persons integrating who are obliged to follow a civic integration programme in the total number of newcomers decreased in 2014 compared to the previous years. In 2010, this share still amounted to 35%, whereas in 2014 it was 15%. The declining share of persons integrating who are obliged to follow a civic integration programme can be explained by the stronger inflow of citizens from EU countries who are exempt from this obligation.

### **The civic integration programme**

Persons integrating who start a civic integration programme sign a civic integration contract. For persons integrating who belong to the obliged group, signing a civic integration contract is mandatory. Persons who are entitled to do so, can choose whether or not to sign a contract. The obligation does not exist in the Brussels-Capital Region.



In the period 2009-2014, a total of 105,329 persons signed a civic integration contract. In almost every region, the number of signed civic integration contracts peaked in 2011 and fell in subsequent years. An exception to this is the Brussels-Capital Region which reported an increase in the number of contracts after 2011 as well.

In most regions more than 60% of the contracts are signed by persons integrating who are entitled but not obliged to follow a civic integration programme. When broken down by reason of stay, family migrants are the largest group of people integrating who sign a civic integration contract (43%). They are followed by the migrant workers (16%) and the asylum seekers and recognised refugees (15%). 54% of all the persons who signed a contract are women.

Between 90% and 95% of the persons integrating who are obliged to follow a civic integration programme signed a civic integration contract in the year of arrival or in one of the subsequent years. Among the persons integrating who are entitled to a civic integration programme, this share varies between 21% and 25%.

In 2014, 14,815 civic integration certificates were obtained. This number is slightly higher than in previous years. In the period 2011-2013, the number of issued certificates amounted to 13,000 on an annual basis. In 2009 and 2010, it varied between 8,000 and 9,000.

## **SOCIAL COHERENCE**

### **Intercultural contact**

Nearly 2 out of 3 Flemish residents indicate that they personally know someone of a different origin or culture. 'Knowing personally' is interpreted broadly: it concerns a person with whom they had contact at least once during the past year. People who indicate knowing someone of a different origin or culture describe that person as a friend or acquaintance in almost 6 out of 10 cases. In 4 out of 10 cases it concerns a colleague or neighbour. In 2 out of 10 cases it concerns a member of an association of which the respondent is a member.

The degree of contact is systematically lower among older age groups. The level of education too is related to intercultural contact: the share is clearly lower among low-educated people than among high-educated people. It also turns out that the more urbanised the living environment, the more often people have personal contact with someone of a different origin or culture.

When asked about the population composition of the neighbourhood they live in, half of the Flemish respondents indicate living in a neighbourhood with almost exclusively inhabitants of Belgian origin. Compared to 2011, the share of respondents indicating that they live in a neighbourhood with almost exclusively inhabitants of Belgian origin has clearly decreased. The composition of the neighbourhood varies strongly by degree of urbanisation. In the metropolitan cities only 1 in 10 inhabitants live in a neighbourhood with almost exclusively residents of Belgian origin. In the central cities this is 3 out of 10. In the countryside this even increases to 7 in 10.

## Attitude towards foreigners and migration

As far as the attitude towards foreigners and migration is concerned, it turns out that almost half of the population regards the presence of other cultures as an enrichment for our society. On the other hand, almost a quarter of the population does not trust migrants and more than 4 out of 10 believe that migrants take advantage of our social security system. Nearly 4 in 10 respondents believe that migrants pose a threat to our culture and customs.

Generally speaking, the attitude of Flemish residents towards foreigners did not remarkably change between 1998 and 2013. Intolerance towards migration increases in older age groups and decreases the higher people are educated. Inhabitants of the metropolitan cities are the most tolerant. The composition of the neighbourhood is also linked to the attitude towards migration: people living in a mixed neighbourhood are more tolerant than people living in a neighbourhood with almost exclusively inhabitants of Belgian origin.

An international comparison reveals that the position of Flanders in terms of the attitude towards foreigners and migrants depends on the questioned topic. When asked about the extent to which migrants are an enrichment for the culture, the Flemish Region performs averagely. When asked if migrants are beneficial for the economy, the Flemish Region sinks back to the bottom of the EU15 countries.

## Discrimination

Only limited figures are available on discrimination experiences. However, several sources suggest that discriminatory practices are taking place. It concerns, among other things, reports of discrimination to the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities. In 2014, the Centre received a total of 1,421 Dutch-language reports on discrimination on the basis of race or religion/creed. This is an increase compared to 2013 when 1,276 reports were filed and is mainly due to the growing number of reports relating to discrimination in the media and on the Internet. However, for the interpretation of these figures one should take account of the fact that a lot of discriminatory practices are not reported to the Centre and that not every report concerns an actual discriminatory practice.

In the Youth Research Platform survey, 4 out of 10 young people born outside Belgium reported having been treated badly at some time because of their religion, the language they speak or their skin colour. One in ten claim that this happens frequently.

## SOCIAL POSITION OF THE POPULATION OF FOREIGN ORIGIN

### Employment and labour

According to the EAK survey the total population of working age has grown by 4.5% over the past decade. However, this increase is many times higher among non-EU citizens (+66%) and EU citizens (+46%) than among Belgian citizens (+2%). The administrative data of the Crossroads Bank for Social Security even reveal a negative growth among of the population of Belgian origin for the most recent years (-2.2% between 2009 and 2013). Among the population of EU origin a 17% increase is reported

and among the population of non-EU-origin a 27% increase. This shows the increasing diversity that characterises the Flemish labour market. In this respect, it is important to closely monitor the labour market position of foreigners and the population of foreign origin. It is apparent from the available data that non-EU foreigners and population groups originating from outside the EU clearly still have a poorer socio-economic position than people of Belgian or EU origin.

To begin with, all sources point to a clearly lower employment rate among foreigners and the population of foreign origin, especially among the non-EU population. According to the data of the aforementioned Crossroads Bank the employment rate of all the non-EU groups is below 50%. Among groups of Turkish and Maghreb origin this is 48%; among persons originating from a European country outside the EU this is 45%. By way of comparison: the employment rate of the population of Belgian origin is 72%.

Still, a positive element is that after a small decrease between 2009 and 2010 the employment rate of nearly all the groups of foreign origin has risen more than among the population of Belgian origin in the subsequent years. As a result, the gap with the population of Belgian origin is reduced.

Another striking element is that the employment rate is considerably lower for women than for men in all origin groups. The largest difference can be observed in the groups originating from outside the EU. In these groups the employment rate of women is only 40%. Women of Turkish origin have the lowest employment rate, namely 35%.

An international comparison shows that the employment rate of the population born outside the EU is higher in most EU15 countries than in Flanders.

The Crossroads Bank data also give information about the sector of employment, the working arrangements and the daily wage category of each origin group. This shows that the distribution of the different origin groups across the 4 economic sectors is clearly different. In nearly all the groups the share of salaried employees in the primary sector is approximately 1%. This share is only remarkably higher (4%) among persons originating from the EU12 countries. The share in the secondary sector is clearly higher among the population of Turkish origin than among the other origin groups. Whereas the share of salaried employees in the tertiary sector is substantially lower among the population of Belgian origin than among the other origin groups, this is just the opposite in the quaternary sector.

In terms of working arrangements striking differences can be observed, especially among salaried employees with short/irregular contracts (temporary agency work, seasonal work, occasional work in agriculture and horticulture or in the hotel, restaurant and catering industry). The share of employees in this regime is 4 times higher among the population of non-EU origin than among the population of Belgian origin. Persons originating from the EU12 approach the high level of the non-EU groups.

Salaried employment can also be broken down by daily wage category. This shows a clear division between the groups originating from Belgium, from neighbouring countries or from the other West- and North-EU15 countries on the one hand and the groups originating from the EU12 or from outside the EU on the other hand. The share of the lowest daily wage category is substantially higher among the EU12 and non-EU groups. On the other hand, the share of the highest daily wage category is

clearly higher among the population of Belgian origin and the population originating from the neighbouring countries or from other West- and North-EU15 countries.

The precarious position on the labour market of the population of non-EU origin is also apparent from the unemployment rates. The unemployment rate on the basis of the EAK survey is 5 times higher among non-EU citizens than among Belgians and 3 times higher among residents of EU nationality. A similar difference can also be observed by country of birth. The data of the Crossroads Bank for Social Security indicate that the unemployment rate is highest among groups of Maghreb origin (18% in 2013), Turkish origin (17%) and European non-EU origin. The unemployment rate is lowest (4%) among residents of Belgian origin.

Finally, the difference in labour status at individual level between the different origin groups also leads to a difference in work intensity at the household level. These Crossroads Bank data reveal that in early 2013, 7% of the population of Belgian origin lived in a household with a very low work intensity. These are households where the adults do not or hardly work. This share amounts to 22% among the population of EU origin and to 27% among the population of non-EU origin. An international comparison reveals that Flanders does not perform well with regard to the very low work intensity of households of residents born outside the EU. The Flemish Region is at the tail end of the ranking.

## Education and training

In the school year 2013-2014, the share of pupils of foreign nationality in mainstream kindergarten and primary education amounted to 9% and 8% respectively. This more or less corresponds to the share of foreigners in the corresponding age groups on the total population. In non-regular kindergarten and primary education the share of pupils of foreign nationality is 3 to 5 percentage points higher than the share of foreigners in the corresponding age group.

The share of pupils with a non-Dutch home language in kindergarten and primary education is clearly higher than the share of pupils of foreign nationality. In early 2014, this concerned respectively 20% and 17% of the pupils in mainstream kindergarten and primary education.

Generally speaking, there were 7% pupils of foreign nationality and 12% pupils with a non-Dutch home language in full-time mainstream secondary education in the school year 2013-2014. However, there are clear differences in the share of foreigners by course of study. In general secondary education and technical secondary education the share of foreigners is lower (respectively 4% and 5%). This share is clearly higher in vocational secondary education (11%). This is also the case in non-regular secondary education (11%). The share of foreigners is even higher in part-time vocational secondary education (22%). A similar difference can be observed by course of study when considering the home language of the pupils.

In 2014, 41% of the pupils of foreign nationality had an educational delay of one or several years in the last year of mainstream primary education. Among pupils of Belgian nationality this amounts to 13%. In the last year of secondary education this concerns 71% of pupils of foreign nationality and 33% of pupils of Belgian nationality.

The Flemish results of the PISA survey into the skills and knowledge of 15-year-olds show that indigenous pupils perform much better than pupils who were born abroad or whose both parents were born abroad. The 2012 results for mathematics literacy report a difference of almost 100 points between indigenous pupils and pupils of foreign origin. This is the largest difference of all surveyed EU15 countries.

Finally, young people of foreign nationality or with a foreign home language leave secondary education much more frequently without a diploma. In 2013, this was the case for 26% of the pupils of EU nationality and for 46% of the pupils of non-EU nationality who were no longer obliged to attend school. This share amounts to 10% among pupils of Belgian nationality. When broken down by home language, it concerns 25% of the people with a foreign home language compared to 8% of the people with Dutch as home language.

The share of foreigners in Flemish higher education amounted to 7% in the school year 2013-2014. However, a considerable part of the foreigners who are registered in Flemish higher education come here specifically to study and leave again afterwards. When only considering the participation in higher education of people who followed secondary education in Flanders, a clear difference can be observed by nationality. 7 out of 10 pupils of Belgian nationality who obtained a secondary education diploma in Flanders in 2013 followed a professional or academic bachelor programme in the subsequent academic year. Among non-Belgian pupils this number amounted to 50%.

Participation in lifelong learning is highest among the group of non-EU nationality (18%). This is twice as high as among residents of Belgian and EU nationality (respectively 7% and 9%). When considered by country of birth, this difference between the groups clearly diminishes. The relatively high score of non-EU citizens may be related to the fact that language courses are also taken into account.

From a European perspective, lifelong learning in Flanders is relatively low and below the EU15 average among the population born outside the EU.

Finally, when looking at the population's general level of education, residents of non-EU nationality and residents born outside the EU are clearly lagging behind. In 2014, 46% of the non-EU citizens aged between 20 and 64 were lowly educated. Among Belgians and EU citizens this is respectively 22% and 27%. A similar gap can be observed by country of birth: among the population born outside the EU the share of low-educated persons is 44%. This is 21% among the population born in Belgium and 26% among the population born in another EU country.

## Living and housing

Survey results show that among the population of foreign nationality a smaller share of the households owns the house they live in than among the population of Belgian nationality. Among non-EU citizens the share of owners amounts to 21%, which is the lowest. Among EU citizens this is 54%. This is respectively 51 and 18 percentage points lower than the share of owners among Belgians. When considering the country of birth instead of nationality, a gap also seems to exist, although it is slightly smaller than on the basis of nationality.

The situation is the opposite for tenants: the share of tenants is substantially larger among the foreign population or the population born abroad. The largest shares are each time observed among non-EU citizens and persons born outside the EU.

Administrative data from the Flemish Social Housing Company show that the share of people renting a social housing property strongly differs by nationality group. Among Belgians it concerned 2% of the population and among non-EU nationals 7% in late 2013. There is even a larger difference among candidate social tenants: in late 2013, 12% of the non-EU citizens were registered as candidates for renting a social housing property compared to 1% of the Belgian population.

In the Flemish Region 1 in 5 Belgian households spend more than 30% of the disposable income purely on housing costs (rent or instalment). This is the case for almost one third of the EU citizens and almost half of the non-EU citizens. That the gap with the Belgian population is largest among the group from outside the EU also shows when breaking down the respondents by country of birth.

Also, the share of households which consider the physical state of their house to be poor to very poor is clearly higher among non-EU citizens or people born outside the EU. Among these groups this share is around 20%, which is twice as high as among Belgians or people born in Belgium. The share of houses that is regarded as inadequate in terms of technical structure is highest among these groups. Among non-EU citizens it concerns 1 in 3 houses; among Belgians just over 1 in 10 houses.

## Income and poverty

Survey results reveal that the median income of the population of non-EU nationality and the population born outside the EU is clearly lower than the median income of the other groups. According to nationality there is a difference of just over 10,000 euro between Belgians and non-EU citizens. When looking at the country of birth, this difference is a bit smaller.

The distribution of incomes over the 5 income quintiles shows that non-EU nationals and residents born outside the EU have a remarkably more insecure income position than the other groups. 62% of the population of non-EU nationality are in the lowest income group. Among the population of Belgian and of EU nationality this is respectively 19% and 28%. In 10 of the 15 EU15 countries the median income of people born outside the EU is higher than in Flanders and Belgium. The median income of this group is only lower in the South-EU15 countries.

To gain an insight into the poverty situation of a country or region it is traditionally indicated how many people must survive on an income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. The at-risk-of-poverty percentage (this is the share of people below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold) differs strongly by nationality and country of birth. Among non-EU citizens this share is over 5 times higher than among Belgians. Among residents born outside the EU it is 4 times higher than among residents born in Belgium.

In terms of the poverty risk among the population born outside the European Union, Flanders is in 13<sup>th</sup> position on the ranking of the EU15 countries and Belgian Regions. Only Spain, the Walloon Region, Belgium and Greece score less.

The population of non-EU nationality and population born outside the EU more often lives in a household which indicates having (great) difficulty coping financially, suffering from serious material deprivation or having difficulty paying bills on time.

Administrative data reveal that, relatively speaking, residents of foreign origin more often receive (equivalent) living wages. Among the population of Belgian origin the share of people receiving (equivalent) living wages is limited to 0.3% of the people aged between 18 and 65. For the EU15 groups this share is approximately at the same level. Among the groups originating from the EU12 countries this share is clearly higher (1.1%). This is also the case for groups of Turkish and Maghreb origin (respectively 1.4% and 2.0%). The highest percentages can be found, however, among groups originating from the European countries outside the EU and the rest group 'Other Countries' (respectively 7.9% and 5.9%).

Finally, the weaker socio-economic position of the population of foreign origin also shows from the figures of the Child and Family Agency regarding births in disadvantaged households. Of the children who have a mother who was born Belgian, 1 in 20 is born in a disadvantaged household. Among the children with a mother who was not born Belgian, this increases to 3 in 10 children. As a result, 64% of the children born in disadvantaged households in the period 2012-2014 have a mother who had a foreign nationality at birth.

## Health

The share of residents in (very) good health is a bit higher among Belgian nationals (78%) than among EU nationals or non-EU nationals (respectively 72% and 73%). A similar difference can be found in the breakdown by country of birth. Reversely, the share of people in (very) poor health is lowest among Belgians or persons who were born in Belgium. Here, EU nationals or persons born in the EU hold an intermediate position between the 2 other groups. All in all, the differences in terms of subjective health between the groups remain limited.

The indicators relating to health behaviour give an ambiguous picture. As far as healthy nutrition is concerned, Belgians score better than the population of foreign nationality (respectively 11% and 6%). They more often eat the recommended daily amount of fruit and vegetables. However, this difference disappears when considering the country of birth. As far as smoking is concerned, remarkably high percentages are recorded for EU citizens (excluding Belgians) and persons born in the EU (outside Belgium). Finally, in terms of physical exercise Belgians and persons born in Belgium score a bit better than the other groups.

As for access to healthcare, clear differences still exist. The share of people living in a household which has to postpone medical care for financial grounds strongly differs by nationality and country of birth. Among Belgians it concerns only 3%; among non-EU citizens 23%. Among the population born in Belgium this share is at 2%; among the population born outside the EU at 15%. EU citizens (without Belgians) and persons born in the EU outside Belgium each time have a score in between the two other groups.



## Participation in society

In terms of contacts with neighbours, the differences between the groups of different origin are rather limited. On the other hand, the share of people who frequently have contact with friends is highest among people of non-EU origin. However, the differences between the origin groups are most visible in contacts with family members. Among the groups of foreign origin, the contact frequency with the family is clearly lower than among people of Belgian origin.

When asked about the quality of the social contacts, the differences between the origin groups remain limited. However, they each time reveal that people of foreign origin - and in particular people of non-EU origin - are a bit less satisfied with their social contacts.

As far as membership in associations is concerned, it turns out that people of non-EU origin are substantially less often an active member or board member. The sports associations are the most popular among all the origin groups. They each time head the top 5 of the associations of which people are most frequently an active member. Trade unions, trade federations or employers' organisations and hobby clubs also belong to the top 5 types of associations most popular among the groups of foreign origin. Among people of EU origin the top 5 is further supplemented with neighbourhood associations and religious associations. Among people of non-EU origin it concerns religious associations and migrants' associations. Cultural participation is clearly lower among people of non-EU origin than among other origin groups. This is indicated in responses to questions on participation in a whole series of cultural activities.

As for Internet participation, it seems that groups of foreign origin use the Internet a bit more often than people of Belgian origin. There seems to be no difference between EU and non-EU groups.

Finally, to illustrate the political participation of the different groups, the participation of non-Belgians in municipal council elections can first of all be considered. In October 2012, only 13% of the foreign residents who met the legal requirements registered as voter. This share is highest among residents with South-EU15 citizenship (18%) and nationals of the neighbouring countries (17%). Among residents who have a nationality of the EU12 countries this is only 4%. The share of registered voters with a foreign nationality was lower in 2012 than in 2006. It then concerned 16% of the potential voters. However, political participation can be interpreted much broader than just participation in elections. When asked about the participation in a whole list of potential political activities, it turns out that 4 out of 10 persons of Belgian origin can be regarded as political participants. This share is almost equally high among persons of EU origin. It is clearly lower (around a quarter) among groups of non-EU origin.

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