

## Figures on Living Together in Diversity

This brochure brings together the most striking figures from the [Vlaamse Migratie- en Integratiemonitor 2018 \(Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor 2018\)](#) and the results from the survey [‘Samenleven in Diversiteit 2017 \(‘Living Together in Diversity 2017’\)](#) (SID survey). Both instruments contribute to a better understanding and knowledge of the diversity that characterises Flanders. The [Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor 2018](#) gathers administrative and other statistical data on migration and integration processes of foreign nationals and persons of foreign origin in Flanders, within a Belgian and European framework. The SID survey was conducted on a large scale in 2017 among nearly 4,500 people in Flanders of Belgian, Moroccan, Turkish, Polish, Romanian and Congolese origin, paying particular attention to the aspects of living together in diversity that often remain underexposed in administrative data and general population surveys. The complete version of both instruments can be consulted at [www.samenleven-in-diversiteit.vlaanderen.be](http://www.samenleven-in-diversiteit.vlaanderen.be). In the future, the more in-depth analyses of the SID survey results will also be published here.

### Flanders is diverse

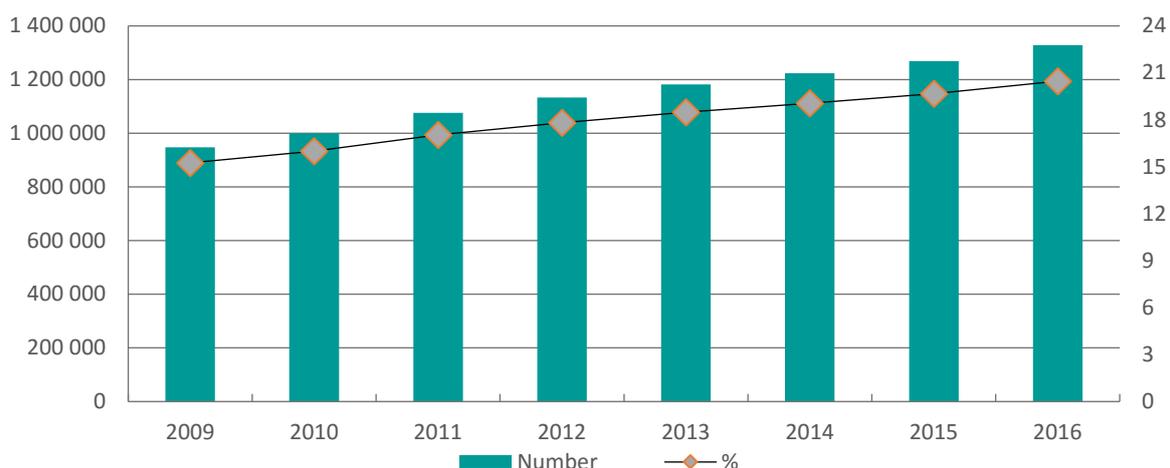
Flanders is characterised by growing diversity. The number of foreign nationals and persons of foreign origin is rising. In addition, there is increasing internal diversity among these groups.

#### Persons of foreign nationality and persons of foreign origin

On January the 1st of 2017, 548,910 persons of foreign nationality lived in the Flemish Region, representing 8.4% of the total population. In 2000, this share was just under 5%. Nearly 2 out of 3 foreign nationals are EU citizens. In terms of nationality, the Dutch constitute by far the largest group of foreign nationals (25%). They are followed by the Poles (7%), the Romanians (5%), the Moroccans (5%) and Italians and Bulgarians (each 4%). The general increase in the number of foreign nationals since 2000 has not been evenly distributed among all nationalities. In the top 10 of nationalities, the relative increase is the highest among Poles, Romanians and Bulgarians.

The total number of persons of foreign origin is the sum of the number of persons currently holding a foreign nationality (foreign nationals), the number of persons who had a foreign nationality at birth, but who in the mean time have acquired the Belgian nationality, and the number of persons born as Belgian citizens of whom at least one parent had a foreign nationality at birth. In early 2016, 20.5% of the population in the Flemish Region was of foreign origin. This share is 5 percentage points higher than in 2009. In a limited number of Flemish municipalities the share of persons of foreign origin exceeds 50%, notably. Baarle-Hertog (68%), Maasmechelen (57%), Genk (56%), Machelen (52%), Drogenbos and Vilvoorde (50% each). The population of foreign origin is on average significantly younger than the population of Belgian origin. This younger age profile means that the share of persons of foreign origin in the youngest age groups is higher than the general percentage of 20.5%. In early 2016, 37% of the 0 to 5-year-olds in the Flemish Region are of foreign origin. This is 34% among the 6 to 11-year-olds and 30% among the 12 to 17-year-olds.

Number and share (in %) of persons of foreign origin, Flemish Region, 2009-2016, beginning of the year



Source: DWH AM&SB KSZ, processed by Flanders Statistics.

The persons of non-EU origin constitute the largest group among the persons of foreign origin. Split by country of origin, the persons of Dutch origin form the largest group of foreign origin (17%). They are followed by persons of Moroccan origin (14%), Turkish origin (10%), Italian origin (5%), Polish origin (4%), French origin (4%) and Russian origin (including USSR) (4%).

The total number of persons of foreign origin in the Flemish Region is 2.5 times higher than the number of persons who currently hold a foreign nationality. Particularly striking here is the big difference among persons of Turkish and Maghreb origin. The number of persons of Turkish origin is 6.6 times higher than the number of persons who currently have the Turkish nationality, whereas the number of persons originating from the Maghreb is 5.5 times higher. This means that a large number of people in these groups of origin have acquired Belgian nationality themselves or were born as Belgian citizens. The number of changes in nationality peaked in the years 1985, 1992 and 2000-2001 due to changes in the procedures. After the number of successful Belgian nationality applications fell below 10,000 in 2014, recent years saw this figure rising again. In 2016, 17,460 foreign nationals in the Flemish Region acquired Belgian nationality.

### Migration

In the course of 2016, 48,786 foreign nationals came from abroad to settle in the Flemish Region on a long-term basis. This number more than doubled between 2000 and 2016. In absolute terms, the international immigration of foreign nationals shows a high concentration in the larger cities. In 2016, the highest number of immigrants was recorded in Antwerp, followed by Ghent and Leuven. The top 10 of Flemish municipalities with the highest number of immigrants compared to the number of inhabitants is headed by Leuven. Overall, Flanders is characterised by strong immigration from the other EU countries, just like the other Regions and Belgium as a whole. In 2016, the share of EU citizens in the total number of immigrants in the Flemish Region was 63%. Among non-EU nationalities, the high number of Syrian immigrants stands out in 2016. In that year they, for the first time, ranked among the top 10 of nationalities who most commonly immigrate. Half of the residence permits issued to non-EU citizens entering Belgium in 2016 relate to family reunification (50%). Study and work account for 12% and 10% of the residence permits respectively, while the category 'Other reasons' represents 29%. The latter category mainly concerns the granting of refugee status and subsidiary protection. Internationally, the reasons for residence of non-EU immigrants vary greatly between EU Member States. Compared to the other

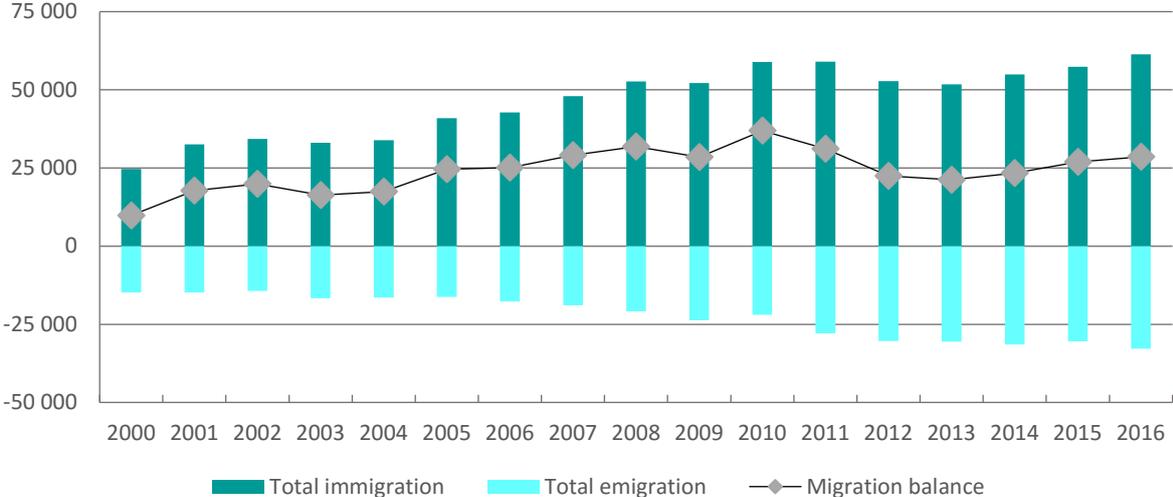
EU-15 countries, relatively few residence permits are issued in Belgium for the purpose of paid employment.

In 2016, 14,670 persons applied for the first time for asylum in Belgium. Compared to 2015, the number of asylum seekers has fallen sharply. In 2015, almost 3 times more persons applied for asylum for the first time than in 2016. In Belgium, asylum applications were mainly made by persons from Syria (18%) and Afghanistan (15%). Both the number of persons who have been recognised as refugees and the number of persons who have been granted subsidiary protection status have increased significantly in recent years.

In 2016, 17,411 foreign nationals emigrated from the Flemish Region to another country. This number increased almost continuously between 2000 and 2016. Generally speaking, Flanders is characterised by a strong emigration of persons holding EU nationality. Broken down by nationality, the Dutch form the largest group of emigrants. In 2016, they account for 25% of all foreign nationals emigrating from Flanders.

Flanders each time had a positive net migration balance for the period 2000-2016. This means that the number of foreign nationals immigrating (including re-entry in and changes to register) in all years exceeds the number of foreign nationals emigrating (including deletions from and changes to register).

*Total international immigration of foreign nationals, total international emigration of foreign nationals and difference between the two movements (balance), Flemish Region, 2000-2016, in the course of the year*



Source: Statbel, processed by Flanders Statistics.

In addition to international migration, Flanders is also confronted with migration of foreign nationals from the other Regions. In the course of 2016, 8,520 foreign nationals from the Brussels-Capital Region came to live in the Flemish Region. From the Flemish Region, 4,113 foreign nationals made the opposite move. The number of foreign nationals who migrated from the Walloon Region to the Flemish Region in the course of 2016 was lower: 4,049 persons. Conversely, 1,941 foreign nationals departed from the Flemish to the Walloon Region. The number of foreign nationals coming to the Flemish Region from the Brussels-Capital and Walloon Regions is growing year after year and increased over almost the entire period 2000-2016, with a notable rise in the most recent years.

## Equal participation in society?

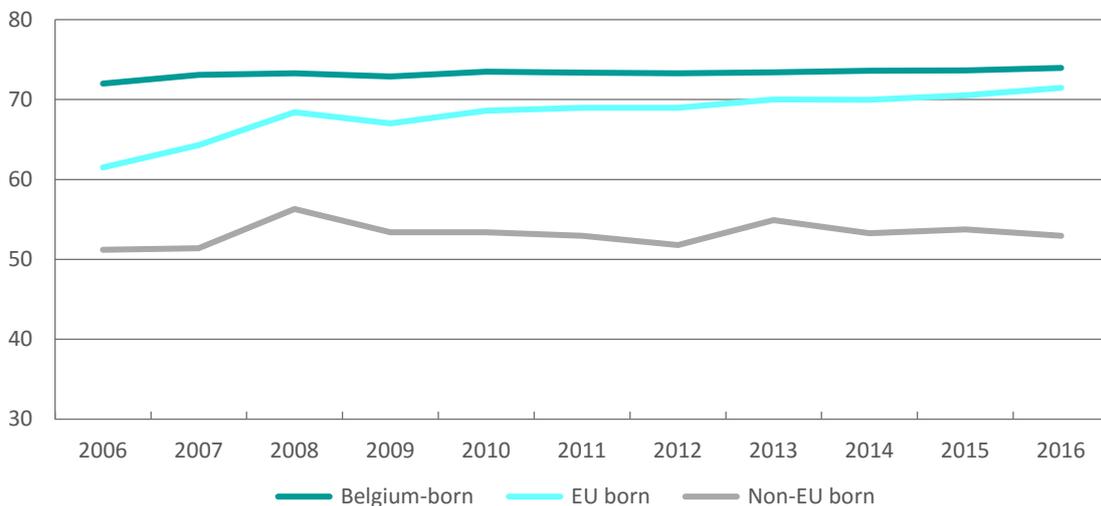
One way to map the fully fledged and proportional participation of persons of foreign origin in Flanders is to calculate the difference between persons of Belgian origin and persons of foreign origin on the basis of certain indicators relating to fundamental rights, as stated in Article 23 of the Belgian Constitution. The Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor has identified an ethnic gap in many areas. We will review the main findings and supplement them with some striking figures from the SID survey.

### Employment and labour

The Flemish labour market is becoming increasingly diverse. However, the available data show that the socio-economic position of persons of non-EU origin is clearly worse than that of persons of Belgian or EU origin. This is reflected, among other things, in a lower employment rate among persons of non-EU origin. According to the LFS survey, 74% of the persons aged between 20 and 64 who were born in Belgium were employed in 2016. This is 2 percentage points higher than the employment rate of EU born persons. However, the gap with non-EU born persons is much higher at 21 percentage points.

In addition, the employment rate in all groups of origin is significantly lower for women than for men. According to the administrative data from the Crossroads Bank for Social Security, the biggest difference can be found among the groups of non-EU origin, where the employment rate of women is only 44% in 2016. The gap between the employment rates of men and women is the largest among persons of Turkish and Maghreb origin (25 and 23 percentage points respectively). In the period 2009-2016, however, the gender gap decreased for all groups. International comparison shows that in all EU-15 countries the employment rate of non-EU born persons is higher than in Flanders. Only in Belgium as a whole is this not the case.

*Employment rate by country of birth, aged 20 to 64, Flemish Region, 2006-2016, annual average, in %*



Source: Statbel, LFS survey, processed by Work Research Centre/Department of Work and Social Economy.

In terms of employment regime, there are remarkable differences between the groups of origin, especially among wage earners in short and irregular contracts. The share of employees in this regime is four times higher among persons of non-EU origin than among persons of Belgian origin. Wage earners can also be broken down by daily wage category. The share of the lowest daily wage category is significantly higher among the EU-13 and non-EU groups than among the Belgian and EU-15 groups.

In the SID survey, too, various elements point to a less favourable labour regime. 51% of women of Polish origin and 36% of women of Romanian origin indicate that they are over-qualified for their current job. This is also indicated by 39% of men of Congolese origin. It is also striking that among respondents of Congolese origin, 75% of the working men and 63% of the working women do shift work. Among respondents of Moroccan and Turkish origin, this percentage is much lower, but still higher than among persons of Belgian, Polish and Romanian origin.

The precarious position on the labour market of non-EU persons is also reflected in the unemployment rates. The unemployment rate based on the LFS survey is more than 4 times higher among non-EU born persons than among Belgium-born persons and almost 3 times higher than among EU born persons.

Finally, there is a difference in work intensity at household level. According to the EU-SILC survey, in 2016, 31% of non-EU born persons (up to 60 years of age) lived in a household where the adults do not or barely work. Among persons born in Belgium and in the EU, this percentage is 8% and 10% respectively.

The SID survey reveals that more than 7 in 10 households among the respondents (aged 20 to 64) of Polish and Belgian origin are dual-earner households, whereas among the groups of Romanian and Congolese origin this percentage is 63% and 54% respectively. 49% of the respondents of Moroccan and Turkish origin live in single earner households. Moreover, approximately 2 out of 10 respondents in these groups belong to a household without an adult in employment.

### Education

The share of pupils of foreign nationality in mainstream pre-primary and primary education in the 2016-2017 school year was 11% and 9% respectively. This is more or less similar to the share of foreign nationals in the corresponding age groups. In special needs pre-primary and primary education, the share of pupils of foreign nationality is respectively 6 and 3 percentage points higher than the share of foreign nationals in the corresponding age groups. The share of pupils with a non-Dutch home language in pre-primary and primary education is higher than the share of pupils of foreign nationality. In mainstream pre-primary and primary education, it concerned 21% and 19% of the pupils respectively at the beginning of 2016.

In full-time mainstream secondary education, 7% of the pupils had a foreign nationality and 14% had a non-Dutch home language in the 2016-2017 school year. However, there do appear to be differences in the share of foreign nationals by discipline. The share of foreign nationals is lower (respectively 4% and 6%) in general secondary education and technical secondary education and higher in vocational secondary education (13%) and special needs secondary education (11%). The share of foreign nationals is even much higher in part-time vocational secondary education (23%). In 2017, 71% of the pupils of foreign nationality had built up a delay of one or more years in the last year of secondary education. This is more than twice as many as pupils of Belgian nationality (31%). The 2015 PISA results indicate a difference of just over 80 points on the scientific literacy scale between pupils of Belgian origin and pupils with a migrant background. This is a considerable difference, considering that one year of schooling equates to about 30 points. This is the second largest difference among all the EU-15 countries surveyed.

Ultimately, young people of a foreign nationality or with a non-Dutch home language more frequently leave secondary education without a diploma. In 2015, this was the case for 24% of

pupils holding EU nationality and for 38% of pupils of non-EU nationality. Among pupils of Belgian nationality this share was 10%. When broken down by home language, this share is 22% for persons with a non-Dutch home language compared to 7% for persons with Dutch as their home language.

Over 7 in 10 pupils of Belgian nationality who obtained a secondary education diploma in Flanders in 2015 followed a professional or academic bachelor's programme in the subsequent academic year. Among non-Belgians this number amounted to just under 50% of the pupils.

When looking at the general educational attainment level of the population, we see that the share of low-educated persons amounts to 44% among non-EU born persons, 19% among Belgian-born persons and 25% among EU born persons. Compared to the EU-15 countries, the share of low-skilled persons is relatively high among non-EU born persons in Flanders and significantly higher than the EU-15 average.

### Living and housing

EU-SILC data indicate that the share of owners among persons of Belgian nationality is 3 times as high as the share of owners among persons of non-EU nationality. There is also a very clear gap by country of birth: 8 out of 10 of the Belgium-born persons own the house they live in, whereas among non-EU born persons this is 4 in 10. Conversely, the share of private tenants is significantly larger among foreign nationals or foreign-born persons, with the highest shares being recorded among non-EU citizens and non-EU born persons. It is a known fact that in the private rental market the situation in terms of affordability and quality is not as good as in the ownership market and the social rental market.

The share of persons living in a household with housing deprivation (poor quality housing) varies greatly as well. Among persons of non-EU nationality, this share is almost twice as high as among persons of Belgian nationality (32% compared to 17%).

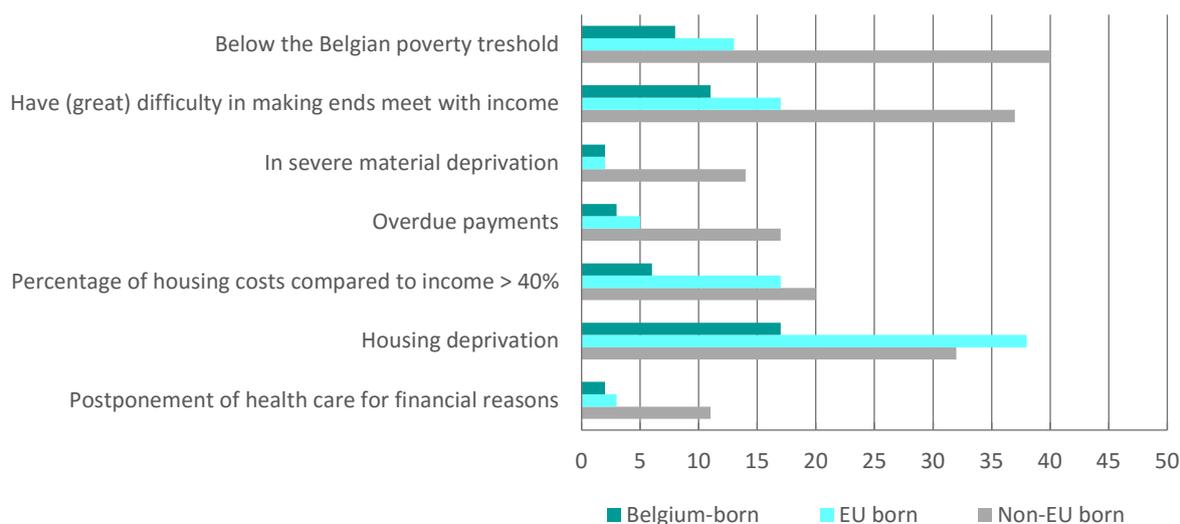
In the survey 'Living Together in Diversity' we find that mainly respondents of Belgian, Turkish (79% and 74%) and, to a lesser extent, Moroccan (56%) origin own the house they live in. The other three groups of origin more often rent a house. Persons of Polish and Romanian origin mainly rent on the private rental market. Among the groups of Moroccan and Congolese origin, just under 2 in 10 respondents are social tenants.

### Income and poverty

The data from the 2016 EU-SILC survey clearly show that the median income of persons of non-EU nationality and non-EU born persons is lower than the median income of the other groups. In terms of nationality, there is a difference of just over 10,000 euros per year between Belgians and non-EU citizens. The distribution of incomes between the 5 income quintiles also reveals a large difference in income position. Approximately two-thirds (64%) of persons of non-EU nationality belong to the lowest income group. The other nationality and country of birth groups (Belgian/EU) are much more evenly spread between the 5 income quintiles.

The share of persons living on an income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold varies greatly from one country of birth to another. It is 4 times higher among non-EU born persons than among Belgium-born persons. Non-EU born persons also perform significantly worse than the other groups on other indicators relating to social position.

*Position of persons by country of birth in terms of income, housing and health, in 2016, in %*



Source: Statbel, EU-SILC survey, processed by Flanders Statistics.

In terms of poverty risk among non-EU born persons, Flanders is in 12th position in the ranking of EU-15 countries and the Belgian Regions. Only in the Walloon Region, Belgium, Greece, Spain and Luxembourg is the at-risk-of-poverty rate for this group even higher. Finally, the weaker socio-economic position of persons of foreign origin is also evidenced by the Child and Family (Kind en Gezin) statistics on births in disadvantaged households. Nearly 2 in 3 of the children who were recently born in the Flemish Region in disadvantaged circumstances have a mother who had a foreign nationality at birth.

In the SID survey more than half of the group of Congolese origin indicate that it is (very) difficult to make ends meet with the household income. Among the other groups of origin, this group is much smaller (15% to 27%). Respondents of Belgian and Romanian origin succeeded most often in making ends meet (comfortably) (85% and 80% respectively), and respondents of Congolese origin the least often (47%).

### Health

There is little difference between the different nationality groups when it comes to the share of persons describing their own health as good or very good. However, there is a clearer difference when looking at the share of persons in (very) poor health. This share is lower among persons of Belgian and EU nationality (7% and 6% respectively) than among persons of non-EU nationality (17%). In terms of access to health care, striking differences continue to exist as well, related to income. The share of persons living in a household that has to postpone medical care for financial reasons is 2% among Belgium-born persons and 11% among non-EU born persons.

### Levers for equal participation?

The overview above shows that persons of foreign origin - and especially persons of non-EU origin - currently do not participate fully in our society. A number of levers can ensure better participation.

For newcomers, a civic integration policy is in place which aims to help them on their way. In the period 2012-2017, a total of 118,075 persons signed a civic integration contract. In 2016, the number of contracts rose sharply, mainly as a result of the increased influx of asylum seekers and refugees.

In 2017, the number of contracts dropped again. However, the number of contracts in 2017 (21,725) still exceeded the number during the period 2012-2015. In 2017, 16,982 civic integration certificates were obtained, which is more than in previous years. In the period 2011-2016, between 12,000 and 14,500 certificates were awarded each year.

The respondents of the SID survey who followed a civic integration programme are (very) satisfied with this programme. Among the groups of Moroccan and Turkish origin more than 9 out of 10 persons are satisfied; among the other groups of origin more than 8 in 10. Only the group of Polish origin is slightly less satisfied. 76% of this group of origin is (very) satisfied with the civic integration course. Of almost all the groups of origin surveyed, 7 to 8 out of 10 persons indicated that the civic integration programme helped them (very) well in getting to know Belgium. The lowest share was recorded for the group of Polish origin (57%). Slightly fewer persons (6 to 7 out of 10, Polish origin 5 out of 10) believe that the civic integration programme has helped them (a lot) to establish contacts with other people. Civic integration programme participants are less often of the opinion that the civic integration programme helps them find (better) work. In addition, 7% to 24% of the respondents answered with regard to the various items that the civic integration programme was 'reasonably' helpful.

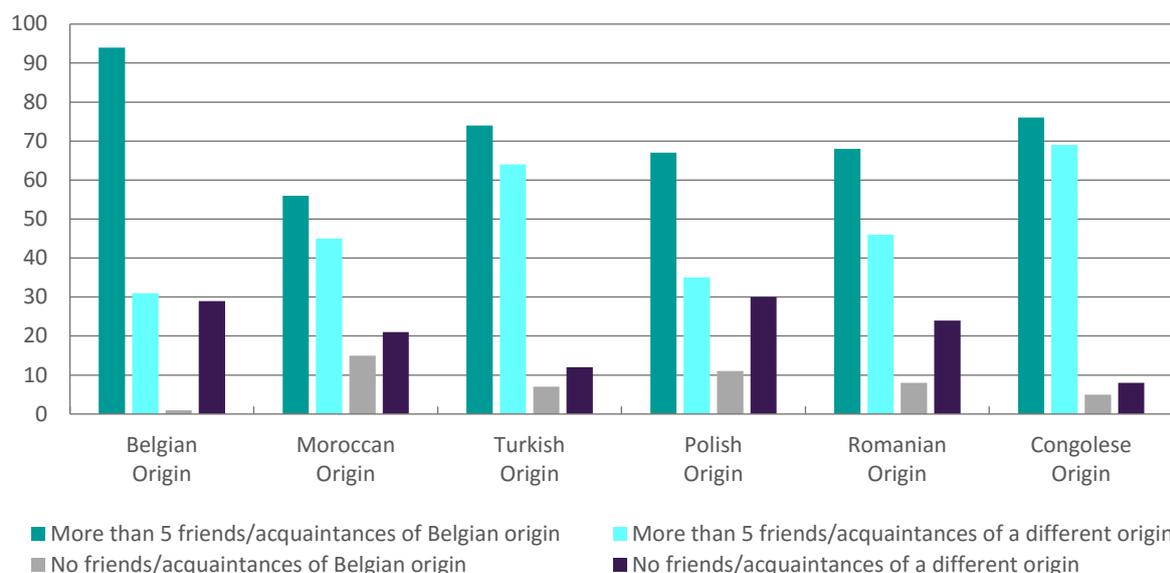
Knowledge of Dutch can also contribute to better participation. The SID survey results indicate that Dutch is the best known language for 47% of the group of Moroccan and 45% of the group of Turkish origin. Within the groups of Polish and Congolese origin Dutch is the best known language for 25% and 22%. The group of Romanian origin has the lowest share (11%). Respondents for whom Dutch is not the best known language were asked to self-assess their Dutch knowledge. Among the groups of Moroccan and Turkish origin, more than 4 in 10 persons indicate that they understand Dutch (very) well. In the groups of Polish and Congolese origin, this percentage is 39% and 33% respectively, and 22% for the group of Romanian origin. The shares of respondents who indicate that they read, speak and write Dutch (very) well are each time slightly lower. The group that claims not to understand Dutch is very limited (5% to 8%, except 16% for persons of Romanian origin). This share increases when it comes to speaking, reading and, especially, writing Dutch.

In a rapidly evolving and increasingly digitised society, access to the Internet is a prerequisite for social participation. The vast majority of SID survey respondents use the Internet on a daily basis. Nevertheless, 12% of the respondents of Belgian and Turkish origin and 9% of the respondents of Moroccan origin indicate that they never use the Internet. For the other 3 groups of origin this is maximum 3%.

### Living together in diversity

Approximately 7 out of 10 respondents of Turkish, Polish, Romanian and Congolese origin indicate having more than 5 friends/acquaintances of Belgian origin. This number is slightly less for the group of Moroccan origin where just over half have more than 5 friends/acquaintances of Belgian origin. In addition, two-thirds of the respondents of Congolese and Turkish origin have more than 5 friends/acquaintances from a different group of origin. Only one third of the persons of Belgian origin have more than 5 friends/acquaintances of a different origin; one third do not have any friends or acquaintances of a different origin. The respondents of Polish and Romanian origin mainly have friends and acquaintances in their own group of origin or the group of Belgian origin.

*Share of respondents with more than 5 friends/acquaintances an no friends/acquaintances of Belgian and different origin, 2017, in %*



Source: SID survey 2017.

The extent to which one visits or is visited by neighbours, friends or acquaintances of Belgian origin is almost the same for all groups of foreign origin: approximately 4 out of 10 respondents visit or are visited by neighbours, friends or acquaintances of Belgian origin at least once a month. The share of persons who never visit or are never visited does vary, however: 4 in 10 persons of Moroccan and Turkish origin never visit or are never visited by persons of Belgian origin. Among persons of Congolese origin this share is 20%. The share of persons who visit or are visited by persons of a different origin at least once a month varies between 16% (Polish origin) and 30% (Congolese origin). The share of persons who never visit or are never visited by persons of a different origin is highest among respondents of Polish origin (57%). Among respondents of Belgian, Turkish, Moroccan and Romanian origin this share is just under 50% and among persons of Congolese origin 29%.

The respondents have the most diverse contacts through work. More than 4 out of 10 respondents of Belgian origin who are in employment have daily contact with someone of a different origin through work, while 7 in 10 respondents have at least weekly contact. Among the groups of foreign origin, 8 to 9 out of 10 working respondents have daily contact with someone of Belgian origin. 4 to 5 out of 10 respondents also have daily contact with someone of a different origin.

Diverse encounters through associations remain relatively limited, on the one hand because of the limited participation in associations by respondents of foreign origin and on the other hand because the associations are rather homogeneous. The participation in associations differs strongly between the groups of origin. Respondents of Belgian (62%) and Congolese (55%) origin indicate most often that they participated in at least one activity of one of the associations surveyed during the past year. Among the respondents of Turkish, Moroccan and Romanian origin this is 36%. The lowest participation rate was recorded for the respondents of Polish origin (26%). Half of the respondents of Polish and Romanian origin indicate that at least one association of which they attended an activity, mainly consists of persons of Belgian origin. Among the respondents of Moroccan, Turkish and Congolese origin, this share is around 35%. 29% of the

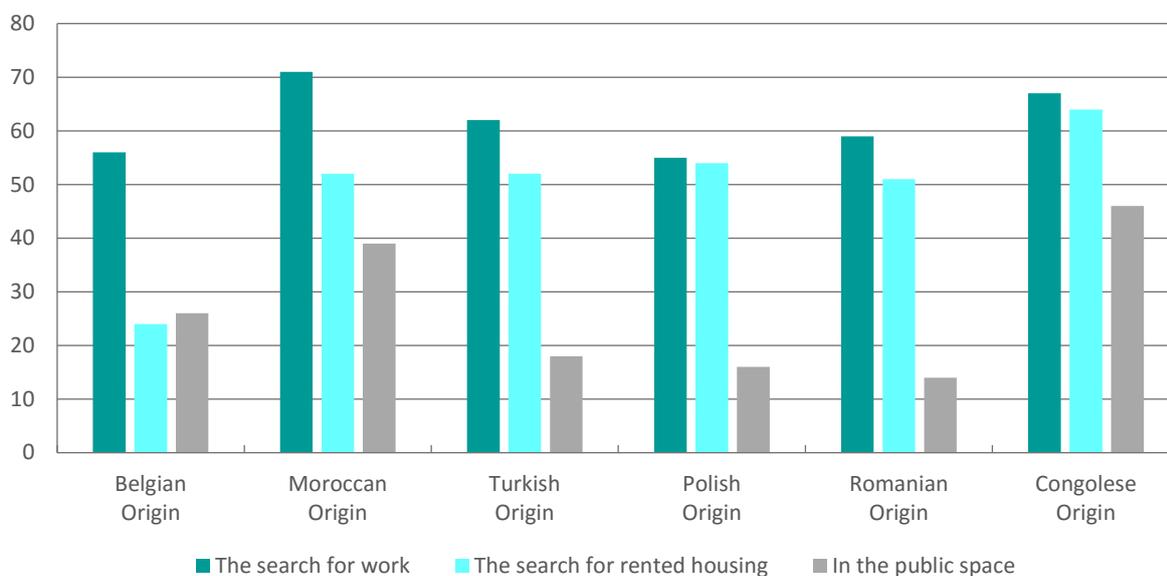
respondents of Belgian origin indicate that at least one association of which they attended an activity is a mixed association.

Religious meetings have the lowest degree of diversity. Among almost all the groups of origin, religious meetings are mainly attended by persons of one's own group of origin, except for religious meetings attended by persons of Congolese origin and, to a somewhat lesser extent, religious meetings attended by persons of Moroccan origin. More than 6 in 10 respondents of Congolese origin state that their religious meetings have a mixed audience. Among the respondents of Moroccan origin, just under 4 in 10 indicate that the audience is mixed.

Respondents of Romanian and Congolese origin declare remarkably more often than the other groups of origin that they want to get to know more people of Belgian origin (more than 7 out of 10). This is about 50% among the respondents of Turkish, Polish and Moroccan origin. Respondents of Congolese origin also indicate more often that they would like to meet more persons from a different group of origin (more than 6 out of 10). About half of the respondents of Romanian origin as well want to get to know more people of a different origin. Around 4 in 10 of the respondents of Turkish and Moroccan origin want to get to know more people from a different group of origin. Among the respondents of Polish and Belgian origin this is 3 in 10.

In the SID questionnaire, several situations were described for each theme, in which the respondents could indicate whether they had had a negative experience during the past 12 months. Various concrete situations were presented for each theme. The following themes were addressed: children's school experiences, their own education, the search for work (question for jobseekers), at work (question for workers), the search for rented housing (question for those who had been looking for a house) and public space. Respondents experience the most negative experiences during the search for work, followed by the search for rented housing. Persons of Congolese origin are most often faced with negative experiences in each of the topics surveyed, except in the search for work. In this respect, respondents of Moroccan origin state slightly more often that they have had negative experiences. The biggest differences between the groups of origin can be found in the search for rented housing. Whereas one quarter of the respondents of Belgian origin indicate having had a negative experience in this respect, this was two-thirds in the group of Congolese origin. In the other groups of origin, just over half indicate having had a negative experience in the search for rented housing. There are also big differences in negative experiences in the public space. Respondents of Turkish, Polish and Romanian origin state remarkably less often than the other groups of origin that they have had negative experiences in the street or neighbourhood.

Share of respondents who had at least 1 negative experience during the past 12 months, 2017, in %



Source: SID survey 2017.

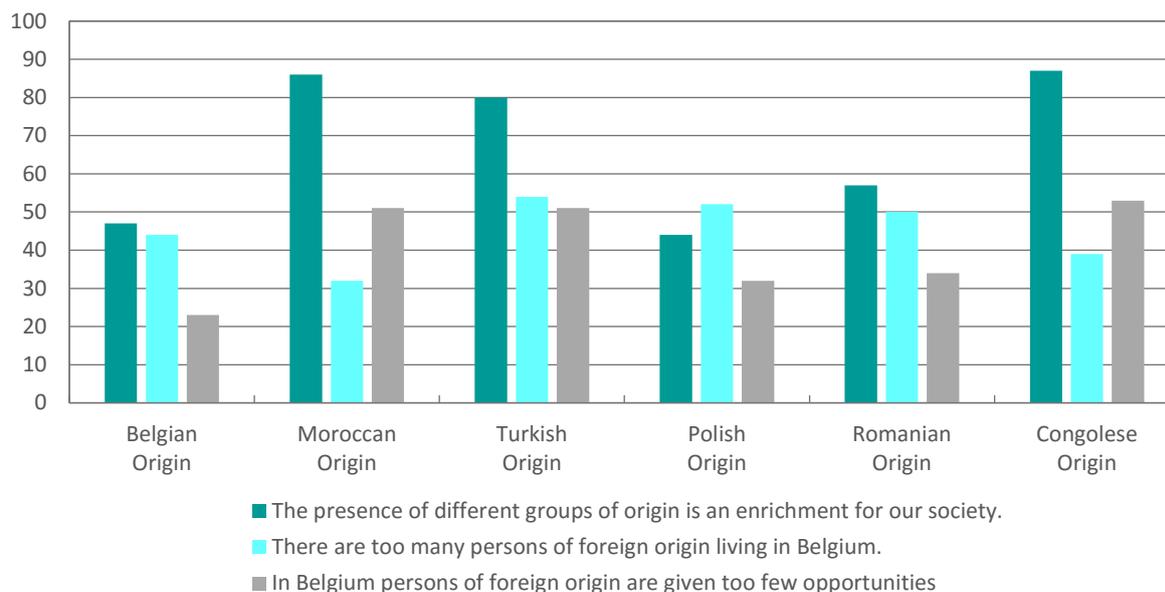
Respondents were asked not only about negative experiences, but also about the underlying reason(s) for these experiences. Especially with regard to their search for rented housing, all groups of foreign origin often indicate that they think their origin is the reason behind the negative experience. Moreover, respondents of Congolese origin remarkably often also tick 'skin colour'. With regard to the other situations, apart from origin and skin colour, respondents often also indicate that they do not know why they have experienced that situation.

Finally, respondents without the Belgian nationality were asked whether they would vote in the next municipal elections. The Turks and the Congolese indicate most often that they will vote (about 4 out of 10). Less than 3 in 10 Romanians, Moroccans and Poles say they will vote. Those who will not vote mainly indicate that they do not know whether they are allowed to vote (this share is particularly high among Moroccans). Furthermore, it is striking that Poles and, to a lesser extent Romanians, often respond that they are not interested in politics or that voting is pointless. A minority of respondents also indicate that they have not been in Belgium long enough.

### Attitudes towards society and identity

According to the SID survey, more than 8 out of 10 persons of Moroccan, Turkish and Congolese origin consider the presence of different groups of origin to be an enrichment for our society. This share is significantly lower among the persons of Belgian, Polish and Romanian origin. More than half of the persons of Turkish, Polish and Romanian origin feel that there are too many persons of foreign origin living in Belgium. Half of the persons of Moroccan, Turkish and Congolese origin believe that persons of foreign origin are given too few opportunities. This share is lower among the other groups of origin and the smallest among the group of Belgian origin.

Share of respondents who (fully) agree with a number of statements about diversity, 2017, in %



Source: SID survey 2017.

In each origin group, at least 6 out of 10 respondents feel that persons of foreign origin should be able to retain their own culture and way of life at home. They believe that they should be able to do so to a lesser extent at work or at school. Especially persons of Turkish (47%) and of Moroccan origin (37%) feel this should also be possible at work or at school. The shares in the other groups of origin are lower (10% to 22%).

More than 7 in 10 persons of Belgian origin worry about violence against persons of their own origin committed by other groups of origin. In the other groups of origin, these shares are around 50% or lower. The shares of persons who worry about violence committed by persons of their own origin against others are in the same order of magnitude. In each group of origin, about 8 out of 10 persons are afraid of persons using violence in the name of extremist groups. The share of persons who have an understanding for people who use violence in the name of extremist groups varies between 2% and 7%.

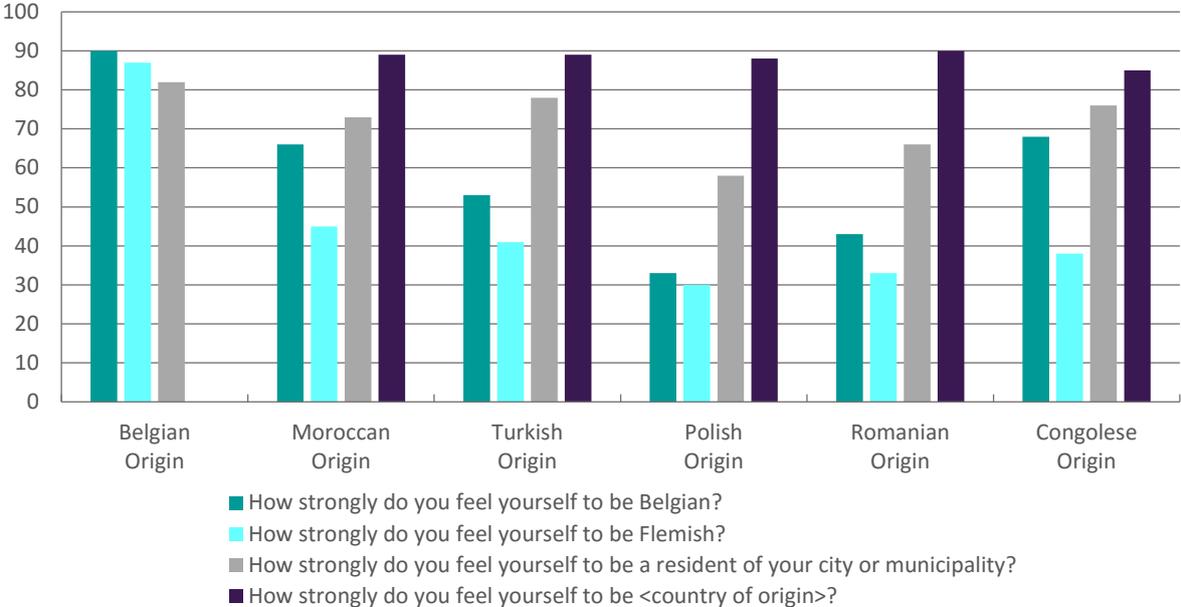
As far as gender equality is concerned, almost everyone thinks that studying and obtaining a good diploma are equally important for women and men. Slightly fewer persons consider it normal for women to be in charge of men at work. This share varies from 91% for persons of Belgian origin to 77% for persons of Congolese origin. Only 14% of the group of Belgian origin believe that it is mainly men who should earn the family income. This share is higher for the other groups of origin. Respondents of Moroccan origin agree (48%) with this most often. Among the group of Turkish origin, 28% are of the opinion that if there are children in the household, the woman should preferably stay at home instead of going to work. Two out of ten persons of Moroccan origin agree with this. The groups of Congolese and Belgian origin agree the least with this.

The groups of foreign origin find it more difficult to accept LGBT sexuality than to accept gender equality. 90% of the group of Belgian origin believe that gays and lesbians should be able to live their lives the way they want. In the groups of Polish and Romanian origin, just over 6 out of 10 respondents agree. Less than half of the groups of Turkish and Congolese origin agree with this. The share of persons agreeing with the statement that it is a good thing that two people of the

same sex can marry is lower. In the group of Belgian origin, almost 8 out of 10 respondents agree. In the group of Romanian origin, this is just under 5 out of 10. In the groups of Turkish and Congolese origin, 2 out of 10 respondents agree (completely). Finally, 7 out of 10 persons of Belgian origin would be ok with their child having a same-sex partner. This is also the case for almost 4 in 10 respondents of the group of Polish origin and less than 1 in 10 respondents in the groups of Moroccan and Turkish origin.

Persons of Belgian origin first and foremost feel Belgian (90%), whereas persons of foreign origin first and foremost feel Moroccan, Turkish, Polish, Romanian or Congolese (almost 9 out of 10 each). In the group of Belgian origin, people consider themselves practically to the same extent to be residents of Flanders (87%) and residents of their city or municipality (82%). In the other groups of origin, people mainly feel like residents of their city or municipality (78% for the group of Turkish origin to 58% for the group of Polish origin) after feeling Moroccan, Turkish, Polish, Romanian or Congolese. In third place they feel Belgian. The share that feels Flemish is even slightly lower (45% to 30%).

*Share of respondents responding reasonably to strongly to a number of statements about identity, 2017, in %*



Source: SID survey 2017, 'Flemish' only refers to residents of the Flemish Region.

Although a large proportion of the groups of foreign origin feel Belgian, only a minority indicate having the feeling that they are regarded as Belgian by others. This is 34% for the group of Polish origin and less for the other groups of foreign origin (up to 21% for the group of Turkish origin). More than half of the groups of Turkish and Romanian origin rarely to never feel that they are regarded as Belgian by others. However, most respondents feel at home in Belgium. In the groups of Moroccan and Turkish origin, 8 out of 10 always or often feel at home. This share is lower among the other groups of origin (up to 64% in the group of Polish origin).

**Practice of faith**

A large majority of the respondents of Moroccan, Turkish and Congolese origin indicate that their faith is an important part of themselves (9 out of 10 respondents each). This is around 70% for persons of Romanian and Polish origin. In the group of Belgian origin, this is 37%. The majority of

persons of Moroccan and Turkish origin also feel hurt (83% and 91%) when someone says something bad about their faith. In the other groups of origin, this share is much lower (up to 2 out of 10 in the group of Belgian origin).

The majority (80% to 98%) of all groups of origin indicate that they respect people who practise a different faith just as much as people who practise the same faith as themselves. Approximately 4 out of 10 respondents from the group of Turkish origin believe that the rules of their faith should always take precedence over Belgian law. In the groups of Moroccan and Congolese origin, about 2 out of 10 agree with this. In the groups of Moroccan and Turkish origin, 70% feel that people in Belgium are far too negative about Islam. In the groups of Congolese and Belgian origin, this is 49% and 36% respectively. Only in the group of Moroccan origin does a majority (60%) think that the Western way of life is compatible with the Muslim way of life. In the group of Turkish origin this share is 36%, in the other groups it is lower (up to 9% in the group of Romanian origin). More than half of the groups of Moroccan and Turkish origin do not agree (at all) with the statement that it is okay for their daughter to have a partner who practises a different faith. In the group of Polish origin this percentage is 29%, in the other groups of origin it is less than 25%. 50% of the group of Turkish origin and 42% of the group of Moroccan origin (totally) disagree with the statement that it is okay if the son has a partner who practises a different faith. In the other groups of origin, this is around 25% (Congolese and Polish) or lower. When asked about how the intensity of the practice of their faith evolves, the persons of Moroccan, Turkish and Congolese origin in particular indicate that their faith has become stronger over the past 10 years. For persons of Polish and Romanian origin, their faith has remained largely the same. In the group of Belgian origin, 40% indicate that their faith has weakened.

These were the main findings of the Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor and the survey 'Living Together in Diversity'. The data from the SID survey will be further analysed. These in-depth analyses will be published on the website [www.samenleven-in-diversiteit.vlaanderen.be](http://www.samenleven-in-diversiteit.vlaanderen.be).

**Contact:**

sid@vlaanderen.be

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**Websites:**

[www.samenleven-in-diversiteit.vlaanderen.be](http://www.samenleven-in-diversiteit.vlaanderen.be)

[www.integratiebeleid.vlaanderen.be](http://www.integratiebeleid.vlaanderen.be)

[www.statistiekvlaanderen.be](http://www.statistiekvlaanderen.be)