

2018 Country Report for Belgium

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Despite substantial job creation, Belgium will not meet its national targets under the Europe 2020 strategy.
- The employment rate is well below the EU average.
- Unemployment has declined to pre-crisis levels. Nevertheless, the employment rate remains low and a relatively large proportion of the labour force is inactive.
- **Inactivity and unemployment are largely concentrated among low-skilled, young, people with a migrant background, older workers and people with disabilities.**
- Youth unemployment is falling.

II. Education Policy

- **Belgium combines good overall education performance with high educational inequalities.**
- Growth in the school population is one of the highest in the EU.
- The share of disadvantaged groups will increase, making challenges in education more difficult to address.
- **Children with a disadvantaged background including those with a migrant background do not have equal opportunities to access quality education.**
- The proportion of tertiary graduates is high. Yet, educational inequalities, skills shortages and regional disparities are observed.
- **The educational attainment gap between people with disabilities and those without far exceeds the EU average.**
- Large performance gaps between schools go hand-in-hand with unequal educational opportunities.
- Both the Flemish and the French Communities have embarked on major reforms of their education systems. The implementation of the reforms and measures is at an early stage.
- New quality assurance and school governance measures are designed to reduce inequalities between schools.
- The need to adapt teachers' **continuous professional development** is recognised.



III. Social Policy

- Belgium has one of the largest gaps between the risk of poverty or social exclusion for persons with disabilities and those without.
- The level of unmet needs for medical care is high in the lowest income quintile compared to other EU countries and has been rising in recent years.

IV. Anything else?

- Belgium has good outcomes in terms of gender equality and childcare.
- While a relative high share of women is engaged in the labour market, the share of part-time work of women is high as well. In addition, women are more likely to work with flexible contracts than men.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Belgium](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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