

Belgium

According to a report drafted by the [Belgian EU Presidency in 2010](#), the Flemish and French Communities define youth as 0 to 30 years old. The German-Speaking Community refers to an age group between 12 and 26 years old in its youth work legislation.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Marriageable Age



Candidacy Age



Criminal Responsibility



Majority Age

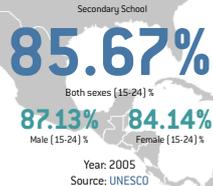


Voting Age



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Net Enrolment Rates



Literacy Rates



Youth Development



Tobacco Use

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once during the 30 days prior to the survey.



Prevalence of HIV



YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

As described in the [report drafted by the Belgian EU Presidency in 2010](#), Belgium has three youth policies (Flemish Community, French Community and German-speaking Community). The [3rd Flemish Youth Policy Plan](#) includes strategic goals connected to the European Youth Strategy 2010-2018, grouped in areas such as participation & information, education and employment. According to a [2012 Council of Europe report](#), the French Community is undergoing a reform of youth policy and preparing an integrated "Youth Plan". Currently it has decrees for the implementation of youth policy at the local level, such as youth centres and youth organisations. The approach of youth policy in the German-speaking community is also cross-sectoral, with a large focus on youth work, rather than a singular comprehensive policy.

YOUTH POLICY FACT SHEET

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/BELGIUM](http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/belgium)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 43,398.69

Year: 2012, Source: World Bank

HDI

0.897¹

17 out of 187 countries.

Year: 2012, Source: UNDP

GINI

26.20²

Year: 2010, Source: OECD

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

75³

15 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2013, Source: Transparency International

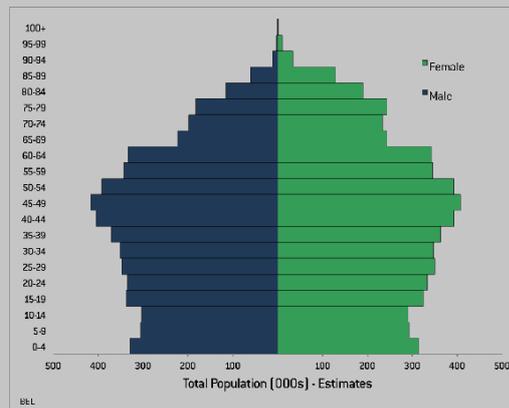
PRESS FREEDOM

12.94⁴

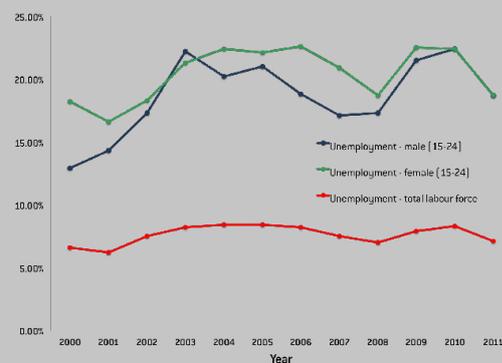
21 out of 179 countries.

Year: 2013, Source: Reporters Without Borders

Population by Age and Sex 2010



Youth Unemployment (share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment)



Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

Youth Policy in Belgium is regionally organised, a [briefing](#) explains how. A review was conducted in 2012.

YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Agency for Socio-Cultural Work for Youth and Adults](#) in the [Ministry of Culture, Youth Sports and Media](#) is responsible for the coordination of youth and children's policy in the Flemish Community. For the French Community, youth falls under [Youth Service](#) in the [Ministry for Culture](#), promoting participation and citizenship, as well as providing support to youth organisations and centres. The [Ministry for Culture, Media and Tourism](#) for the German-Speaking Community contains a [Youth Affairs office](#), providing support for youth work and running youth centres.

YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

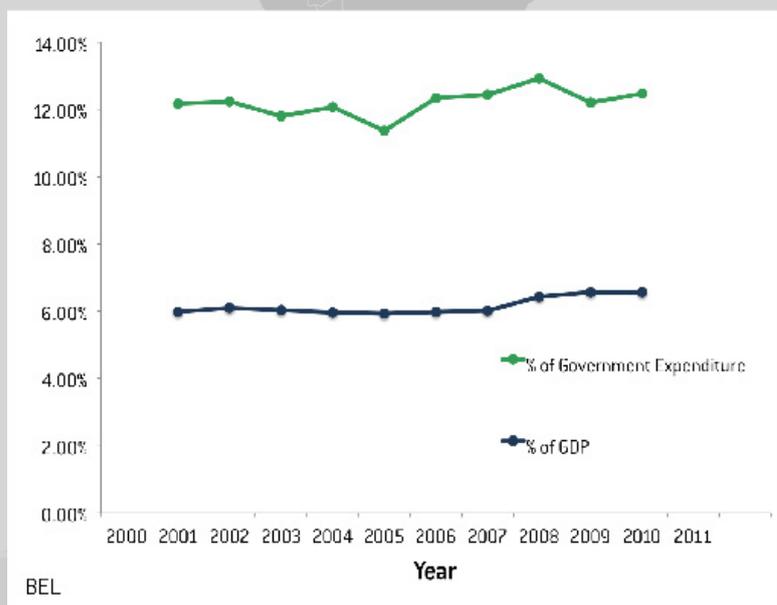
According to the [Flemish Youth Council](#) is an official advisory body that defends the interests of youth in Flanders. The [Youth Council of the French Community](#) has a similar role, and lobbies the government through the issuance of "official notices" stating its policy positions. The [Council of German-Speaking Youth](#) is a federation of youth organisations and local youth councils, and like the Flemish and French youth councils, is governed by a General Assembly comprised of young people.

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

The Flemish [Agency for Socio-Cultural Work for Youth and Adults](#) budget for 2013 was EUR 70.7 million (USD 97.4 million). For the French Community, the budget for youth within the [Ministry for Culture](#) was EUR 33 million (USD 45.5 million). For the German-speaking Community, the budget in 2013 for youth within their [Ministry for Culture, Media and Tourism](#) was EUR 5 million (USD 6.9 million).

According to the [World Bank](#), Belgium spent 12.47% of its government expenditure and 6.57% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

Total Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Government Spending and GDP



Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013)

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

Does the country have a national youth organisation/association (council, platform, body)?

Yes

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

EUR 109 million
USD 150 million

Publications & Reviews

Visit our library for further reading:
<http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/belgium>

Footnotes

- 1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)
- 2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)
- 3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)
- 4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)
- 5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)



For full citation list & more information, visit:

<http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/belgium>

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