

Directorate-General Statistics and Economic Information  
Statistics Division  
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## CONTINUOUS LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

### Special module 'Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants'

Second quarter 2008 (reference weeks 14 to 26)

#### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

##### The ad hoc modules

Every second quarter (reference weeks 14 to 26) a "special module (or "shorter module) is added to the individual questionnaire (first survey). This module consists in a few questions asked to a definite part of the population.

##### The 2008 ad hoc module:

The topic chosen by Eurostat for 2008 is "labour market situation of the migrants and their immediate descendants". This module is based on the Commission Regulation (EC) N° 102/2007 of 2 February 2007 which is directly applicable to all Members States and establishes a common framework for the production of statistics on this subject.

##### The following persons are concerned :

- the persons aged between 15 and 74 (for the *first two questions*)

For the *third question* only, you should verify (in the individual questionnaire) whether

- M\_ has a job

After *question 3* it is necessary to verify for every person aged between 15 and 74 whether:

- M\_ was born in Belgium or not
- M\_ has the Belgian nationality or not

The most frequent answer will be: was born in Belgium and has the Belgian nationality.

In this case, the number of questions to be asked is very limited: 3 or 4

In the other cases (not born in Belgium and/or has another nationality than the Belgian nationality) the number of questions depends on the filters.

The results of the ad hoc module should allow having a clear idea at European level of the factors that influence the labour market situation of the migrants and their immediate descendants.

**Please indicate in the box, the group/household number (5 digits / 2 digits), as well as the name and first name of every member of the household aged between 15 and 74.**

### **Phone interview**

As you know, “proxy interviews” (questions answered by another household member ) are allowed for the initial questionnaire (questions 1 to 93). However, for this **ad hoc module**, it is essential that the **person provides the information by her/himself (questions 94 to 104)**. If the person is absent when the investigator comes to interview her/him, the questions may be asked later by phone. Please indicate in the adequate box the telephone or mobile number of the person and the most suitable moment (day, hour) to contact her/him in order to complete the module.

Just like for the individual questionnaire, phone interviews are tolerated for households that are exclusively made up of persons older than 64 (possibly – including children younger than 15) and which have no active person (having a job).

### **QUESTIONS**

94. Which is the country of birth of M\_'s father?

95. Which is the country of birth of M\_'s mother?

This question is asked to all persons aged between 15 and 74.

The preprinted information in the household questionnaire only contains information about the parentage with the reference person and is therefore limited to 'who is whose parent'. Moreover, this information is only available when M\_'s parents live in the interviewed household.

This is the reason why questions 94 and 95 have to be asked.

#### Purpose of the question:

to be able to give a better description of the labour market integration.

The country of birth of both parents is important information because there may be a difference between children with only one parent born abroad and children whose both parents were born abroad.

#### The way this question is answered:

- In doubtful cases, the country of birth is defined as the country where the mother was living when M\_ was born. This approach can be applied to persons who were born abroad in exceptional circumstances. (For example, born abroad during the holidays)
- The current country borders or names should be used and not those applicable when M\_ was born.
- For European countries, it is not necessary to indicate the individual country. For non-European countries, mention the country if possible; if it is not possible please use one of the general groupings (North America, North Africa, etc.). You will find enclosed the list of countries and groupings.
- We mean the legal parents. In case of adoption, we mean the adoptive parents

#### Code 0:

For European countries: country

Non-European countries: country if possible, if not → grouping (see annex)

#### Code 1:

Country unknown but born abroad

#### Code 2:

Does not know whether it is Belgium or abroad (try to avoid using this code, it should only be used when the person really doesn't know).

96. From whom in Belgium did M\_ receive the main help in finding the current job or setting up his/her own business

This question has to be asked to all persons aged between 15 and 74 and having a job (has answered question 5 of the individual questionnaire).

Purpose of the question:

- To get information about the way the person has found the current job (networking, employer's associations, etc.).

The purpose is to identify the ways that are used to find a job and to examine if the number of years spent in Belgium plays a role.

The way this question is answered:

If the person received support from several persons or organizations, the most important one should be mentioned.

Code 1 to 5 mean support received from persons or organizations established in Belgium, even if M\_ received this support before he/she came to live in Belgium.

Code 1: relatives/friends

Code 2: Public employment offices such as VDAB in Flanders (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding), ACTIRIS (the former BGDA/ORBEM) in Brussels, Forem (Office Communautaire et Régional de la Formation Professionnelle et de l' Emploi) in the Walloon Region or ADG (Arbeitsamt der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft) in the German speaking region.

Code 3: welcome offices

. Welcome offices have been created in Flanders and the bilingual Brussels Capital Region. The municipality where the person registers provides her with information about the integration policy and refers her to the welcome office.

The task of the welcome office is to assist the persons – recently established in Belgium – in their integration pathway. The proposed training programmes deal with social orientation, Dutch as a second language and career orientation (in cooperation with VDAB) The migrant obtains an integration certificate if he/she regularly follows the training programme or if he/she already has the required knowledge. (Some migrants are exempted from the obligation of following an integration pathway.)

Code 4: private employment agencies

The private employment agencies are intermediaries whose purpose is 1° to assist workers (jobseekers or self-employed) in finding a new job and 2° to assist employers in finding workers and 3° to hire workers for temporary labour.

Examples of such private services are: temporary employment agencies, outplacement agencies, selection agencies, secondment agencies, headhunter agencies...

Code 5: Migrant organisations

Migrant organisations established in Belgium are concerned here. Several communities (for example the Italian, Spanish... communities) have organised themselves in Belgium and created their own organisations which are active in integration, language courses, training, and issues related to youth and women.

Code 6: Public social assistance centre

Code 7: other.

E.g.: trade unions, business network, municipalities, Participation Fund for the self-employed...

Code 8: none or none from Belgium

Are included in this answer:

- The person who didn't get any help or didn't need/ask any help.
- The persons who didn't get any help from Belgium but from persons or organisations from their country of origin.

## 97. For how long has M\_ been living in Belgium?

This question is asked to everyone aged between 15 and 74 and who was not born in Belgium. (See household questionnaire)

Purpose of the question:

The purpose is to measure how long the migrant has been residing in Belgium in total. It is important to know something about possible earlier migrations to Belgium because this can have an influence on the migration (For example previous knowledge of the language, culture, earlier work experience...). Moreover, circular migration (coming to the country, leaving the country, coming back to the country,) is expected to become more and more frequent.

The purpose of this question is to have an estimate of the number of years the person has spent in Belgium.

The way this question is asked:

The whole duration, all periods together from the first arrival in Belgium.

- the number of years the person has been residing in Belgium. (Short tourist stays or visits to the family are excluded)
- Interruptions exceeding 1 year (more than 1 year out of Belgium) are left aside of the reckoning.

Examples:

- a person has established in Belgium for 6 months and then returned to his/her country for 2 years and then came back to Belgium 2 years ago: whole duration 2 ½ years.

A person has established in Belgium for 6 months and then returned to his/her country for 9 months and then came back to Belgium 5 years ago: whole duration 6 years and 3 months.

## 98. What was the main reason you had for migrating (last migration)?

This question is asked to persons aged between 15 and 74 if M\_ wasn't born in Belgium **and** if M\_ was 15 or older at the moment of his/her last arrival.

Purpose of the question:

This purpose is to distinguish the various kinds of migration: persons who migrate for their job, their studies or the family... This is important in order to have an idea of the composition of the migrating population by country. The reason for migrating will probably reveal differences between the Member States as regards the composition of the migrating population. This difference in composition may be an explanation for the differences in employment between the Member States.

The way this question is asked:

- Before he answers, the respondent should first know the various possible answers (read them aloud or let him read them) so that the answers are more harmonised.
- The main reason for the last (most recent) migration is asked.

- The individual reasons of the persons are asked. The members of the household may have different reasons (e.g. father: job/intra-corporate transfer. Mother and child: family reunification.)
- If there are several reasons, the most important one should be given (the most spontaneous answer). It is the main reason at the moment of the migration.
- It is the actual reason (not the legal reason).
- Codes 1, 2 and 3:  
Entering the country with or without a job probably makes a difference on the labour market integration. It is important to distinguish three situations.  
Code 1:  
Employment, intra-corporate transfer
- Code 2:  
Job found in Belgium before migrating
- Code 3:  
Employment may be the reason for coming to Belgium. The person may have a job at present but also "be looking for a job" or intend to create his/her own business.
- Code 4:  
Persons who migrate for their studies or to work as an apprentice or a trainee.  
This code includes persons who came to Belgium to study but who also have to work to pay these studies.
- Code 5:  
This code concerns "enforced migration".  
Examples: humanitarian migration (political refugees, asylum seekers, other protected population groups)  
It is the main reason at the moment of the migration.
- Code 6:  
Example: the spouse or the children who accompanies an immigrated worker/student or inhabitant.  
We mean here the existing nuclear family such as the husband/wife en the child(ren) but also the dependent relatives such as parents or parents-in-law or other dependent close relatives.  
The main criterion is the degree of dependence.
- Code 7:  
Family formation (marriage). This is different from family reunification (code 6) where the family already exists.
- Code 8:  
Other: other voluntary migration.  
Examples: retired persons who came to the host country for their retirement, migration because of the climate, for health reasons, for a (better) medical care, less uncertainty (other than code 5), housing reasons for frontier workers...

99. Did M\_ use the services for labour market integration in the two years following your last arrival?

This question is asked to persons aged between 15 and 74 if M\_ wasn't born in Belgium **and** if M\_ was 15 or older at the moment of his/her last arrival **and** if M\_ has been living for ten years or less in Belgium (since last arrival)

Purpose of the question:

There are two purposes:

1. to analyse the use of the services for labour market integration and particularly to know if these services reach the migrants
2. to examine to what extent these measures (services) contribute to labour market integration

The following measures can be distinguished:

- intense counselling and job search assistance
- professional labour market trainings (including: vocational training, on-the-job-training, job experience plans and special support of apprentices)
- education or training: learn to speak, read and write one of the Belgian languages (Dutch, French or German)

The purpose is to know if the person used these services and, if so, which one.

The way this question is asked:

IF YES

- Go through all possibilities
- Multiple answers are possible
- Public as well as private services are taken into account.

See question 96 for examples of public services:

“Public employment offices such as VDAB in Flanders (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding), ACTIRIS (the former BGDA/ORBEM) in Brussel, Forem (Office Communautaire et Régional de la Formation Professionnelle et de l' Emploi) in the Walloon Region or ADG (Arbeitsamt der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft) in the German speaking region”.

*Private services* have also been mentioned in question 96:

This activity is carried out by an intermediary whose purpose is 1° to assist workers (jobseekers or self-employed) in finding a new job and 2° to assist employers in finding workers and 3° to hire workers for temporary labour.

Examples of such private services are: temporary employment agencies, outplacement agencies, selection agencies, secondment agencies, headhunter agencies...

Also services of employers, trade unions, welcome offices.

- Using labour market integration services also includes: job experience plans, vocational training schemes, integration programmes, training programmes/measures to assist in integration on the labour market.
- Take part to host language tuition (Dutch, French or German): read/write/speak/understand
- Code 3: take part to host country language tuition through the labour market integration services read/write/speak/understand
- Code 4: one or several of those services have been organized within an integration programme. In that case, the welcome offices (see question 96 code 3) refer the person and ensure individual coaching

IF NO

- Code 5 or 6: e.g. students who were still at school and who didn't make use of the labour market integration services don't belong to the codes 1 to 4.
- Code 6: e.g. people who were already working and who didn't need labour market integration services.

100. Did M\_ take part to host country language tuition in order to learn one of the languages of the host country without using the labour market integration services?

This question is asked to persons aged between 15 and 74 if M\_ wasn't born in Belgium **and** if M\_ was 15 or older at the moment of his/her last arrival **and** if M\_ has been living in Belgium for ten years or less (since last arrival) **and** if M\_ didn't take part to host country language tuition through services for labour market integration (answered code 3 to question 99)

Purpose of the question:

The purpose of the question is to know whether the person followed language tuition in order to learn one of the host country languages without using labour market integration services. The person may have followed the language tuition at his/her own initiative, on the advice of the employer or someone else.

**101. Did M\_ use facilities for establishing what highest qualification equates to in the Belgian system?**

M\_ was not born in Belgium **and**

M\_ has a job (everyone who answered question 5)

OR

M\_ has found a job that starts within 3 months or not (answered 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 to question 45)

OR

M\_ is looking for a job (question 44 = 1)

OR

M\_ is not looking for a job but would like to have one (question 44 =2 en question 46 =1)

Purpose of the question:

Qualification recognition constitutes one of the greatest barriers for migrants who want a job or a job that correspond to their skills or level of education. The purpose of this question is to know if migrants have already tried to obtain a certificate (or another document) that establishes their highest qualifications in the host country.

The way this question is asked:

- "Use facilities": all authorized national and international institutions delivering certificates that establish the equivalency in the host country of the qualifications (obtained abroad). E.g.: the public authorities, professional organizations, universities, NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre), ...
- Qualifications: education (see ISCED codes) or professional qualifications
- Code 1:  
The person obtained a certificate/document establishing the equivalency of his/her qualifications in the host country
- Code 5:  
e.g. the person didn't need to have such a certificate for his/her job or for the job he/she intends to do.
- Code 6:  
e.g. the person was not informed about this possibility or the person thought the procedure was too long, too complicated or too expensive or would last too long...

**102. Was it necessary to improve host country language skills to find an appropriate job?**

This question is asked to persons aged between 15 and 74.

M\_ was not born in Belgium **and**

M\_ has a job (everyone who answered question 5)

OR

M\_ has found a job that starts within 3 months or not (answered 0,1,2,3,4 or 5 to question 45)

OR

M\_ is looking for a job (question 44 = 1)

OR

M\_ is not looking for a job but would like to have one (question 44 =2 en question 46 =1)

Purpose of the question:

A poor command of the host country language constitutes an important barrier to the labour market integration. Language knowledge is one of the greatest barriers for migrants who want a job or a job that corresponds their skills or experience. The purpose of this question is to know if language knowledge is barrier to labour market integration or not.

The way this question is asked:

- All national languages have to be taken into consideration (Dutch, French and German)
- Period: the current situation
- "Appropriate job": a job that the person would normally do/seek if language knowledge wasn't a problem.
- "Was it necessary": the necessity for the respondent and not his willingness
- Code 1: The respondent finds (found) it necessary to improve his language knowledge but this doesn't necessarily imply that the person intends to learn or has learnt one of the languages.
- Code 2: no because the person has a sufficient command of (one of) the languages.
- Code 3: it is (was) not necessary for example because the person has already an appropriate job and finds that he/she didn't need to improve the knowledge of one of the host country languages for that or because the person finds that improving his/her language knowledge has no influence on the fact of finding an appropriate job.

**103. In which year did M\_ acquire Belgian citizenship?**

This question is asked to persons aged between 15 and 74 and who have Belgian nationality. The nationality is mentioned in the household questionnaire.

Purpose of the question:

With this information it is possible to check whether having the Belgian nationality has an impact or not on labour market integration. Thanks to this variable, it is also possible to identify Belgians who were born abroad, e.g. because their parents were working abroad.

The way this question is asked:

We mean with nationality the legal link between the person and the country. One can have the Belgian nationality

- By birth
- By acquiring Belgian nationality, through one of the 4 following procedures:

1. Nationality through declaration (foreigners who have their legal residence in Belgium for more than 7 years and, at the moment of the declaration, are allowed to stay in Belgium for an unlimited duration)
2. By opting for the Belgian nationality (children who were born in Belgium)
3. Marriage (marriage with a Belgian citizen. The intending husband and wife must have been cohabiting for at least 3 years).
4. Naturalisation (e.g. if the person has had his/her main place of residence in Belgium for at least 3 years (2 years for stateless persons and recognised refugees)).

If the respondent has a double nationality, he has to answer the question concerning the Belgian nationality.

The interview ends here for people having the Belgian nationality.

**104. Is the duration of the current residence permit/visa/certificate limited?**

This question is asked persons aged between 15 and 74 and who have another nationality than the Belgian nationality.

Purpose of the question:

The period of validity of a residence permit can be important for the kind of work contract a migrant can conclude. The period of validity may also influence the willingness of the employer to invest in the migrant or to give him a responsible job.

When studying the social inclusion policy, it is important to know if the person has a temporary or a permanent residence permit.

The way this question is asked:

- This question concerns residence permits, visa and certificates
- Whole duration means the total duration and not only the remaining period.
- It is the current permit
- If the duration of some permits is formally limited but automatically extended in the practice, the formal duration should be taken into account.

You don't need to know the nature of the permit but only its validity period. You will find enclosed information on the various residence statuses. This information could help you determining the validity period if the person spontaneously declares which document he/she has.

Code 1: less than 1 year

*Remarks:*

- *Foreigners who live in Belgium for less than one year may ask – but are not obliged to – to be registered in the foreigner register. Doing this, they also get registered in the national register.*
- *Some people are still going through a certain procedure and have therefore a “less strong” certificate, looking forward to getting a better residence permit.*

ex. Orange card for non-EU citizens, purple card for EU/EEA foreigners.

Code 2: 1 to 5 years

E.g. visa D, certificate of registration in the foreigner register of limited duration (= white card of limited duration which is an authorisation for temporary stay)

Code 3: longer than 5 years

e.g. visa D, certificate of registration in the foreigner register of unlimited duration (= white card of unlimited duration which is an authorisation to reside in Belgium for an unlimited duration). This card is valid for 5 years and has to be extended every year.

Code 4 is meant for EU citizens and others who are authorized to reside in Belgium for an unlimited duration.

E.g. yellow card (identity card for foreigners) or blue card (residence card for a national of a EEC member state) that is valid for 5 years but automatically and unconditionally extended)

The yellow and blue cards are authorizations to establish in Belgium for an unlimited duration.

Are covered by the principle free movement of persons within the EU:

- the citizens (not the inhabitants) of the following EU countries: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands.

The citizens of the new member states: Poland, Hungary, Czechia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Malta, Bulgaria and Romania but with a restriction on the access to the labour market (this restriction is only relevant for question 105)

Thus, since 1 May 2004, every national – excepting workers – of a new member state may, just like any other European citizen, come and settle down in Belgium on presentation of an ID or passport.

Remark: only the persons who are registered in the national register (excepting the waiting register) are interviewed

## 105. Is the (legal) access to the labour market restricted?

This question is asked to persons aged between 15 and 74 and who have another nationality than the Belgian nationality.

**and**

M\_ has a job (everyone who answered to question 5)

OR

M\_ has found a job that starts within 3 months or not (answered 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 to question 45)

OR

M\_ is looking for a job (question 44 = 1)

OR

M\_ is not looking for a job but would like to have one (question 44 = 2 en question 46 = 1)

### Purpose of the question:

When analysing the barriers to labour market integration, it is important to know the possible restrictions on work permits.

With this question, we try to identify the legal restrictions.

### The way this question is asked:

REMARK: QUESTION 105 DOESN'T CONCERN RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO CIVIL SERVICE.

Non-European workers (non-EEA) do not qualify for statutory civil service (excepting recently at the Brussels Capital Region and the Commission of the French-speaking Community)

! We don't ask any question about this restriction as the respondent's nationality is already mentioned in the household questionnaire.

The restrictions that are taken into account in this question are the restrictions concerning employers/sectors/occupations or other. Restrictions on duration are not taken into account.

Overview of the legislation: (this information mostly comes from the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue)

Citizens (not the inhabitants but the citizens) of countries belonging to the European Economic Area have unrestricted access to the labour market. They are authorised, without restriction, to work as an employee or a self-employed.

The citizens of a Member State of the European Economic Area are:

- The citizens of the UE countries: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands.
- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

For the new EU Member States is a temporary restriction on labour as an employee applicable. They have limited access to the labour market. This procedure is eased only for a number of shortfall occupations. The citizens of the new Member States still need a work permit to work in Belgium as employees.

The new member states are: Poland, Hungary, Czechia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Malta, Bulgaria and Romania.

There is an exception for Cyprus and Malta: The citizens of these countries have full and unrestricted access to the Belgian labour market and are exempt from work permit.

Non-European workers (non-EEA = European union + Iceland + Liechtenstein + Norway + Switzerland) intending to work in Belgium need a work permit to work as an employee or a self-employed permit to work as a self-employed.

Code 1: "access restricted for specific employers / sectors / occupations"

Holders of a category B or C working permit are in this situation.

Code 2: Persons who are only authorized to work as a self-employed and hold a self-employed permit

Code 3: The person is authorized to work as an employee (category A working permit, if holder of a category B or C working permit, please indicate code 1) but not as a self-employed.

Code 4: combination of code 1 and 2

Code 5: combination of code 1 and 3

Code 6:

- includes persons who have no legal access to the labour market
- as well as persons who have no other restrictions on labour market access. This survey focuses on legal restrictions and not on discrimination.
- In some cases the person has all the necessary documents but the administration doesn't have a thorough knowledge of the specific legislation with the result that the person still faces restrictions. These cases are not taken into consideration.
- Restrictions on duration are not taken into account under question 105, e.g. when the duration of the category C working permit depends on the duration of the residence permit. This kind of restrictions is not taken into account here as it is about restriction on the validity of the residence permit that has already been mentioned under question 104.

Code 7: no restriction at all.

E.g. persons who are exempt from working permit or self-employed permit, citizens of the old UE Member States, Cyprus and Malta. Restrictions are still applicable to the new member states (see above).

Overview: RESIDENCE STATUSES/certificates:

Short stay: maximum three months in Belgium

For example: tourists, UE workers having a contract for less than three months, people on business trip

Temporary or limited stay: Three months or more and extendible.

Orange card = Category A registration certificate

*Validity: 3 to 9 months, extendible in some cases.*

It may be granted within a family reunification procedure with a non-EU citizen.

The person may be entered in the national register (excepting: asylum seekers who are entered in the waiting register. This register is not included in then population figures. Therefore asylum seekers are not included in the surveyed population).

Purple card = Registration certificate (A.v.l. or A.I), model B

- Validity: 5 months and renewable for 1 month
- Granted for example to: EU/EEA citizens who come to work as an employee or a self-employed for at least one year but whose applications for permanent residence permit are left undecided.

White card

A person may come to Belgium with a visa D (stay in Belgium for less than 3 months) and then register in the foreigner register. The person obtains a certificate of registration in the foreigner register (= white card),

*\*white card of limited duration*

*This card is valid for one year and is renewable in some cases.*

*This card is delivered within procedures of regularisation or family reunification, to non-EU/EEA students or non-EU/EEA foreigners who are working in Belgium...*

*\* white card of unlimited duration*

*This card is valid for 5 years and is renewable.*

The foreigner has a "certificate of registration in the foreigner register". He has an unlimited right of residence.

This document is delivered within numerous residence procedures of non-EU citizens. This card is granted to a foreigner when he went through the whole procedure and obtained an unlimited right of residence.

*\* Yellow card = identity card for foreigners*

*They are authorized to reside in Belgium for an unlimited duration. This card is valid for 5 years and is unconditionally renewable.*

For example, this card may be delivered to non-EU/EEA foreigners who have the right of permanent residence in Belgium (who have a "white card" of unlimited duration) whose application has been approved.

*These persons are entered in the population register. The Swiss nationals are not registered in the foreigner register.*

*\* Blue card = in fact a residence card for citizens of EEC member states.*

*They have an unlimited right of residence. This card is valid for 5 years and is unconditionally renewable. For students, this card is valid for 1 year and is renewable per academic year.*

This card is for example delivered to: a EU/EEA citizen who has been working in Belgium as an employee or a self-employed for at least one year and whose application to permanent residence has been approved or a EU/EEA citizen who has been residing in Belgium for at least one year as a 'person of private means', a pensioner, a disabled or incapacitated person or a EU/EEA citizen who is studying in Belgium.

*These persons are registered in the population register while students are registered in the foreigner register.*

*This card can be renewed if the person can demonstrate that he/she has been working during this period.*

*For example: stay as a student, within a durable relationship, as an employee or a self-employed.*

#### Unlimited duration:

- *Foreigners who are allowed to stay in Belgium for an unlimited duration. They have a "certificate of registration in the foreigner register" (= white card but of unlimited validity). This status is no so strong as the previous one because the white card has to be renewed every year.*

*e.g.: some categories of migrant workers who have been staying temporarily in Belgium for some years, recognised refugees, foreigners who have been regularised for an unlimited duration, the relatives of EU/EEA citizens having a fixed residence in Belgium.*

- *Foreigners who are allowed to establish in Belgium for an unlimited duration. They are holder of either an identity card for foreigners (= yellow card) or of a residence card for citizens of EEC member states (= blue card). The yellow and the blue card are valid for 5 years and are automatically renewed.*

*For example for: relatives of Belgians or EU/EEA foreigners that have followed a procedure of family reunification and who are already holder of a white card (for an unlimited duration).*

#### People following a procedure:

*Examples of possible certificates:*

*registration certificate (model A, orange card for non-EU/EEA foreigners; model B, purple card, for EU/EEA foreigners). This certificate is valid for 5 months to 1 year.*

*Annex 35 for people following a family reunification procedure and whose application has been provisionally refused: temporary certificate that can be renewed every month pending final decision.*

Persons without legal residence:

*Clandestine migrants or people having unsuccessfully followed all the possible procedures are not interviewed in this survey. They are not registered in the national register.*

#### Category A working permit:

The category A working permit allows foreign workers to exercise any activity as an employee, for any employer and this for an unlimited duration. In principle the candidate employee applies himself for this card.

From 2003, this card is delivered to non-Belgians who have been working for 3 to 4 years under a category B working permit.

#### Category B working permit:

With this card the foreign worker is authorized to work for a definite period of maximum 12 months (extendible) for a definite employer who previously obtained a permit. This permit is granted to a single employer if a labour market survey demonstrates that no Belgian or European employee is available for the job. Moreover this permit is only delivered for employees coming from countries with which Belgium has concluded an international agreement. (Algeria, ex-Yugoslavia, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and the new EU member states)

The category B working permit is limited to a single job for a single employer. (category A and C working permits not)

#### Category C working permit:

These cards are valid for 1 year maximum (extendible) and for any employer, sector and profession. They are delivered to foreigners who are legally and temporary residing in Belgium and who obtained a right of residence for another reason than their job. (For example, asylum seekers whose application has been allowed or students wishing to work during the school year)

The validity of the category C working permit depends on the duration of the residence permit and can therefore be shorter than 1 year if the residence permit is valid for less than 1 year.

#### Exemptions of working permit:

- as mentioned before, the citizens of the EEA members states + Cyprus and Malta.
- provided that they establish with him, their dependent spouse, children, parents or grandparents
- the spouse a Belgian
- the foreign citizens who a holder of a residence permit. These persons are registered in the foreigner register and are holder of an identity card for foreigner ("yellow card").
- foreign citizens who are holder of a "certificate of registration in the foreigner register" that doesn't mention any restriction.
- a.o.

#### Self-employed permit

Every foreigner (non-EEA citizen) who wants to exercise a self-employed economic activity has to be holder of a self-employed permit. The FPS Economy, SME's, Self-employed and Energy delivers the self-employed permit for a maximum duration for 5 years (renewable). This permit is limited to one person and mentions the specific activity that the holder is allowed to exercise.

The validity of the self-employed permit is linked with the right of residence.

Exemption from the self-employed permit:

- The foreigners who are holder of a valid identity card for foreigners or of a valid certificate of registration in the foreigner register for an unlimited duration.
- The citizens of EEA countries + Cyprus and Malta and, provided they establish in Belgium, their spouse, children, parents...
- The spouse a Belgian
- The refugees recognised by Belgium
- The spouse who supports or replaces his/her spouse in his/her self-employed economic activity
- a.o.

Annex: ISO country classification

### **EUROPEAN UNION**

BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
GR	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovak Republic
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
BG	Bulgaria
RO	Romania

### **CANDIDATE COUNTRIES**

HR	Croatia
TR	Turkey
MK	FYRMacedonia

### **EFTA**

CH	Switzerland
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway

### **OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

AD	Andorra
AL	Albania
BA	Bosnia Herzegovina
BY	Belarus
MC	Monaco
MD	Republic of Moldova
RU	Russian Federation
SM	San Marino
UA	Ukraine
VA	Vatican City
XK	Kosovo (UNSCR1244)
XM	Montenegro
XS	Serbia

**05 NORTH AFRICA**

DZ	Algeria
EG	Egypt
LY	Libya
MA	Morocco
TN	Tunisia

**06 OTHER AFRICA**

AO	Angola
BF	Burkina Faso
BI	Burundi
BJ	Benin
BW	Botswana
CD	Republic Democratic of Congo
CF	Central African Republic
CG	Congo
CI	Ivory Coast
CM	Cameroon
CV	Cape Verde
DJ	Djibouti
ER	Eritrea
ET	Ethiopia
GA	Gabon
GH	Ghana
GM	Gambia
GN	Guinea
GQ	Equatorial Guinea
GW	Guinea-Bissau
KE	Kenya
LR	Liberia
LS	Lesotho
MG	Madagascar
ML	Mali
MR	Mauritania
MU	Mauritius
MW	Malawi
MZ	Mozambique
NA	Namibia
NE	Niger
NU	Nigeria
RW	Rwanda
SC	Seychelles
SD	Sudan
SL	Sierra Leone
SN	Senegal
SO	Somalia
ST	Sao Tome and Principe

SZ	Swaziland
TD	Chad
TG	Togo
TZ	Tanzania
UG	Uganda
ZA	South Africa
ZM	Zambia
ZW	Zimbabwe

**07 NORTH AMERICA**

BM	Bermuda
CA	Canada
GL	Greenland
PM	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
US	United States of America

**08 CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN**

AG	Antigua and Barbuda
AN	Netherlands Antilles
BB	Barbados
BS	Bahamas
BZ	Belize
CR	Costa Rica
CU	Cuba
DO	Dominican Republic
DM	Dominica
GD	Grenada
GT	Guatemala
HN	Honduras
HT	Haiti
JM	Jamaica
MX	Mexico
NI	Nicaragua
PA	Panama
PR	Puerto Rico
SV	El Salvador
TT	Trinidad and Tobago

**09 SOUTH AMERICA**

AR	Argentina
BO	Bolivia
BR	Brazil
CL	Chile
CO	Colombia
EC	Ecuador
GY	Guyana
PE	Peru
PY	Paraguay
SR	Surinam
UY	Uruguay
VE	Venezuela

**10 EAST ASIA**

CN	China
JP	Japan
TW	Taiwan

**11 NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST**

AE	United Arab Emirates
AM	Armenia
AZ	Azerbaijan
BH	Bahrein

GE	Georgia
IL	Israel
IQ	Iraq
IR	Iran
JO	Jordan
KG	Kyrgyzstan
KW	Kuwait
KZ	Kazakhstan
LB	Lebanon
OM	Oman
PS	Palestine
QA	Qatar
SA	Saudi Arabia
SY	Syria
TJ	Tajikistan
TM	Turkmenistan
UZ	Uzbeksitan
YE	Yemen

**12 SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA**

AF	Afghanistan
BD	Bangladesh
BN	Brunei
BT	Bhutan
ID	Indonesia
IN	India
KH	Cambodia
KP	Dem. People's Republic of Korea(North)
KR	Republic of Korea (South)
LA	Laos
LK	Sri Lanka
MM	Myanmar
MN	Mongolia
MV	Maldives
MY	Malaysia
NP	Nepal
PH	Philippines
PK	Pakistan
SG	Singapore
TH	Thailand
TL	East Timor
VN	Vietnam

**13 AUSTRALIA, OCEANIA AND OTHER TERRITORIES**

AU	Australia
FJ	Fiji
FM	Micronesia
NC	New Caledonia
NZ	New Zealand
PF	French Polynesia
PG	Papua New Guinea
SB	Solomon Islands
VU	Vanuatu

**14 OTHER + STATELESS**

Blank	No answer
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