

NEETs

ZOOM

Are defined as Neither in employment, education or training (NEETs): unemployed or inactive persons, in the ILO's[□] sense, who do not pursue their initial studies and who have stated they have not followed formal or non-formal education in the four weeks preceding the survey (LFS[□]). The NEET indicator compares this population for a certain age group to the entire population of the same age (population on January 1st, Demographic Statistics of Eurostat). It thus focuses on the person's situation in terms of employment rather than on their level of qualification.

THE TRANSITION BETWEEN TRAINING AND THE LABOUR MARKET IS NOT UNIFORM IN EUROPE

On average in the 28 countries of the European Union in 2016 the transition between training and the labour market differed according to gender (6.1.1). Although there was no difference between the genders in the 15-19 year-old age group, the next age group (20-24) showed men as more often employed than women (a 7-point difference), and women had a greater tendency to extend their education. In the 25-29 and 30-34 year-old age groups there was a majority of employed persons of both genders, but also and most notably high rates of NEETs, especially among women (26% of NEET women between 30 and 34 as opposed to 13% for men). Finally there was a high portion of persons in "training and employment" (a combination of apprenticeship or work during studies), and this in all age groups.

Graph 6.1.1 also shows that the transition into the labour market was not uniform between countries. Each of the three countries presented here shows a different profile. First of all the German profile shows a considerable use of apprenticeship in the 15-19 age group and a very high employment rate[□] for both genders in the 30-34 age group. France, the second profile, was typified by a later entry into the labour market, with French students systematically entering higher education following their secondary schooling. And lastly the United Kingdom differed by its relatively early access to the labour market (an employment rate of over 40% for both genders in the 20-24 year-old age group) and a very wide gap between the genders of NEETs for the two latter age groups.

THE EDUCATION LEVEL ATTAINED WAS SYSTEMATICALLY AN IMPORTANT DETERMINING FACTOR IN ACCESSING EMPLOYMENT

The risk of unemployment among young adults from 25 to 39 was all the lower as their level of educational attainment increased. In the EU-28 in 2016 the unemployment rate[□] of young adults with a higher education degree was 6%, whilst it reached 20% among those without a degree (6.1.2). With the exception of

Denmark and Portugal, unemployment fell as the ISCED level increased in each of the EU-28 countries, whatever the average national unemployment rate. However, the differences in unemployment rates between ISCED levels varied according to the country. In Slovakia, this difference was 29 points between those with higher education degrees and those without degrees (average unemployment rate: 12%). The differential was 6 points in the Netherlands and United Kingdom (respective average unemployment rates: 6% and 5%), and 19 points in France (average unemployment rate: 9%). In Slovakia's case the gap was made greater by the fact that the "low education levels" were in fact "very low".

THE LEAST SECURE POPULATION LAY ON THE CUSP BETWEEN THE NEETs AND THE EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

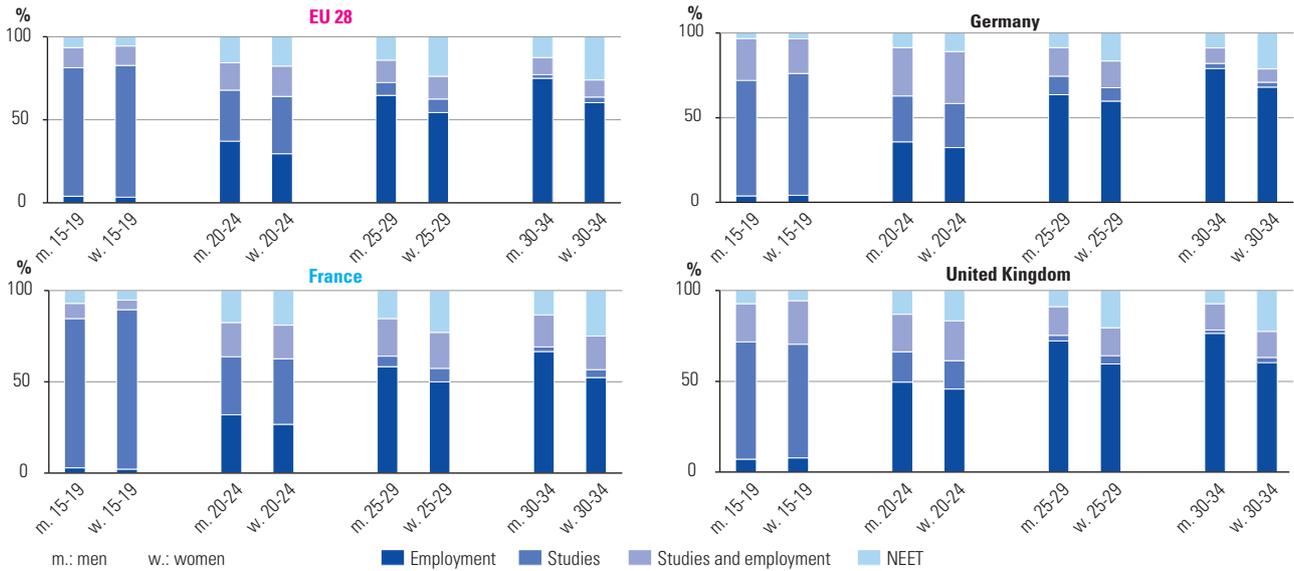
The two indicators – early school leavers (here called ESL – cf. 5.2) and NEETs – denote young people who had left the educational system and were not doing any training. The first term however includes only those without degrees, whatever their status in the labour market, whereas the second term only refers to young people without employment, whether or not they had a degree. So they are complementary indicators, the first replying more to the challenges of guiding educational policies, and the second to employment policies.

Graph 6.1.3 shows the situation of young people from 18 to 24 regarding these two indicators. Thus in the EU-28 9% of young people in this age group were NEETs with degrees and 6% were NEETs without degrees. Still in the EU, 5% of young people in the same age group were early school leavers in employment, whereas 6% were early leavers without employment. These 6% corresponded to the NEETs without degrees. In France and Italy about a third of the early leavers were employed, whereas this portion came close to 50% in all of the EU-28 and Germany. It therefore appears that for degreeless early leavers in France and Italy it was harder to gain access to employment than in Germany and for the EU average. Conversely in France and Italy some two-thirds of the NEETs held degrees, whereas this portion was less than 50% in Germany. ■

[□] See definition p. 74.

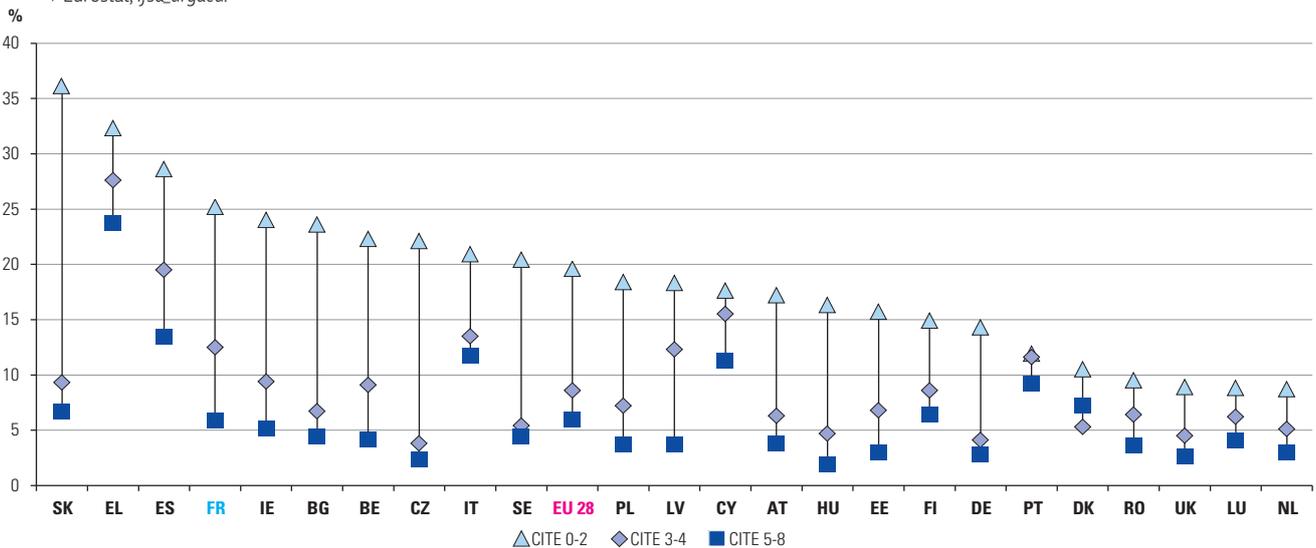
6.1.1 Young adults transition from studies to labour market by gender and age group in the European Union, in France, in Germany, and in the United Kingdom in 2016

Source: Eurostat, edat_lfse_18.



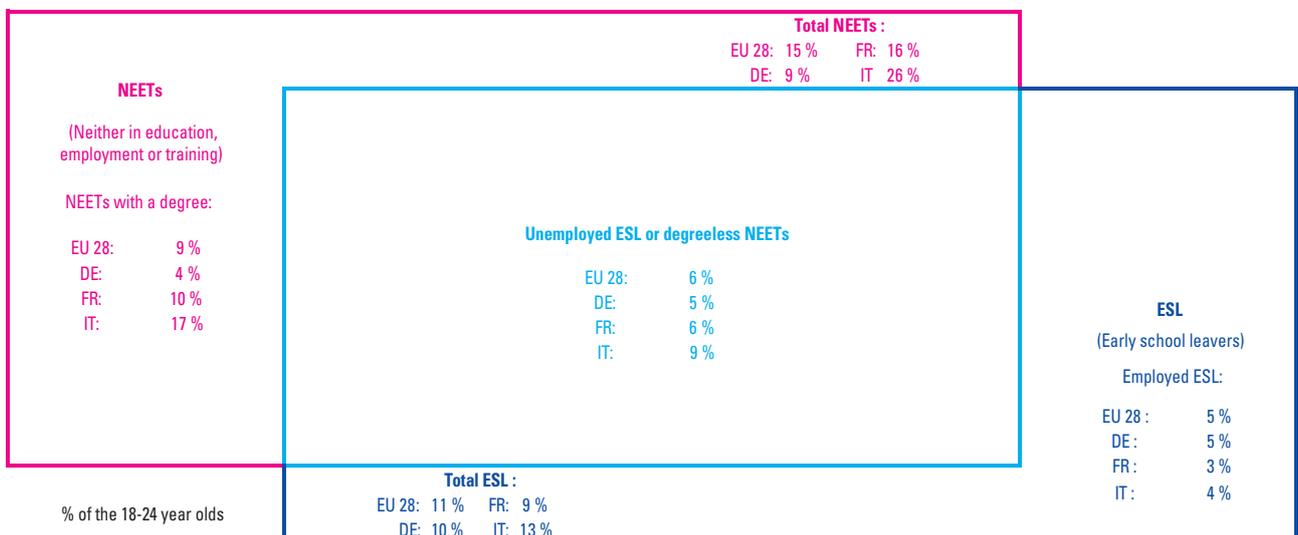
6.1.2 Unemployment rate of 25-39 year olds by educational attainment level in 2016

Source: Eurostat, lfsa_urgaed.



6.1.3 NEETs and Early Schol Leavers in the European Union, in France, in Germany and in Italy in 2016

Source: Eurostat, edat_lfse_14 et edat_lfse_21.



6.2 ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT ACCORDING TO GENDER AND ORIGINS

MEN LESS THREATENED BY UNEMPLOYMENT AT ALL EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

In 2016 on average in the 28 European Union countries men from 25 to 39 years old had a lower **unemployment rate**[□] than women with identical educational attainment levels (6.2.1). Although relatively contained in the specific age group of young adults, the difference between men and women, however, diminished as the educational level increased. Indeed, on average in the EU-28 the difference in the unemployment rate between men and women was 5 points at ISCED 0-2 levels whilst it was only 2 points at ISCED 5-8. The difference in the unemployment rate between men and women was the greatest in Greece (in the men's favour) for the two educational attainment levels presented here: 14 points for those without degrees and 10 points for those with higher education degrees. France's situation was close to the European average, although its unemployment rates for the two genders were among the highest for those with low levels of educational attainment.

It is interesting to note that, although on average in the EU-28 men were less often unemployed than women with an equivalent educational attainment level, there were five countries with atypical situations. The first four – Austria, Bulgaria, Germany and Romania – all had both a lower female unemployment rate than men among those without degrees and an identical rate between men and women for those with higher educational degrees. Sweden, the fifth country, was the only country where unemployment seemed to affect less women than men with ISCED 5-8 attainment levels with the statistically significant gap being 0.4 points in favour of the women.

WOMEN MORE AFFECTED BY INACTIVITY OR PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

In 2016 men in the EU-28 countries from 15 to 39 were employed more often than women, with 66% of men as opposed to only 57% of women in this status (6.2.2). The **percentages of unemployment**[□] being relatively close (8% for men and 7% for women), the difference of status was due to the higher rate of **inactivity**[□] among women (35%) than men (26%) in the age group under consideration. The status of inactivity covers both training without parallel employment (cf. 6.1, p. 58) and withdrawal from the labour market, each situation being impossible to differentiate here.

The percentage of inactive women in the age group under consideration was systematically higher to the percentage of inactive men. In Italy and the United Kingdom the inactivity rate

for women in this age group was at least 10 points higher than for men, whereas this difference was only 1 point in Portugal. The employment rate in the same age group was always symmetrically higher for men, with a 13-point difference in Italy and a 9-point difference in the United Kingdom but only 2 points in Portugal. The largely female part-time employment contributed to narrowing the employment-rate gaps between men and women. Part-time employment accounted for about 25% of women in the age-group in Germany and the United Kingdom and reached 53% in the Netherlands. Here again, Portugal was in an atypical situation with less than 10% of part-time employment among women.

PARENT ORIGINS INFLUENCED ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

Migratory origins, the methodological choices

ZOOM

The choice here was to consider individuals born in the focus country in the 20-64 year-old age group and born either of native-born parents or parents of mixed origins (one foreign-born parent) or of foreign origins (both parents born elsewhere). All of these descendants therefore theoretically attended the country's educational system. Considering people born abroad and having immigrated to the focus country carries the risk of including people who did not attend the focus country's educational system, which leads to a serious limitation for comparison.

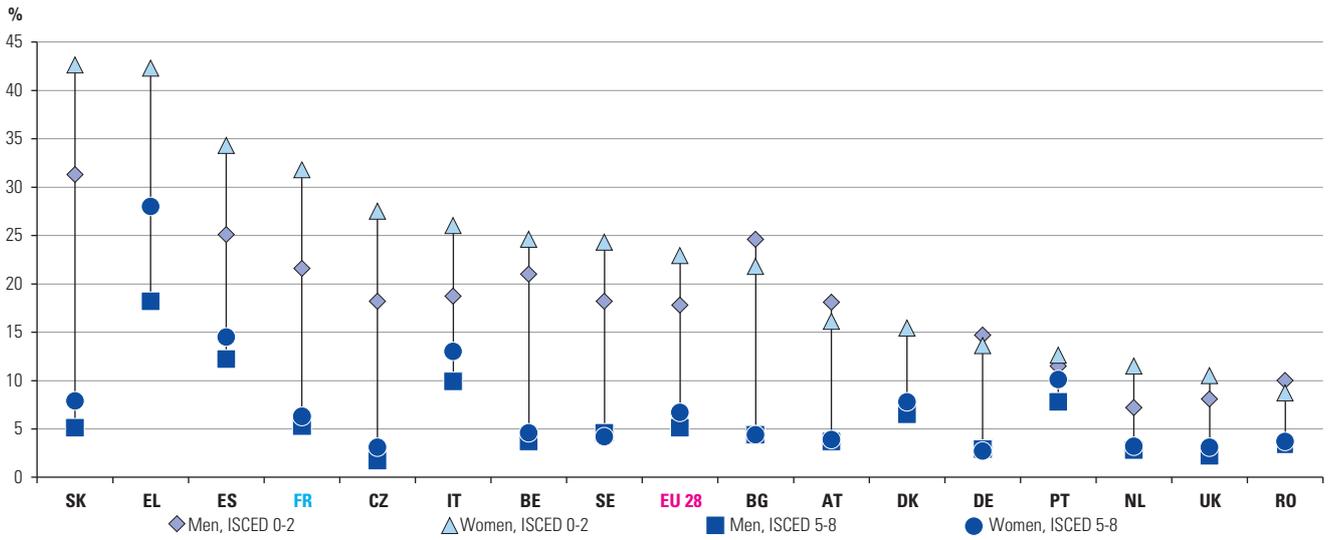
Observed in certain European countries with a history of immigration, in 2014 the 20-64 year old population born in the country and having parents of mixed or foreign origins was, in a nearly totally systematic way, less often in employment than the population with native parents (6.2.3). However, for people with an ISCED 0-2 level degree or an ISCED 5-8 level degree, the employment-rate differences with an equal educational attainment level were relatively contained.

ISCED 3-4 was the educational attainment level that presented the biggest employment-rate differences between 20-64 year-olds with native-born parents and those of parents with mixed or foreign-born origins (in favour of the former) with the exception of Germany where this difference was only two points. In Spain the difference was 22 points and in France, 10 points. The difference observed for those with higher education degrees was on average narrower for those with ISCED 3-4 levels of educational attainment. It varied by 4 points in favour of the native-borns (Spain) to 4 points in favour of children born to foreign or mixed-origin parents (Germany). ■

[□] See definition p. 68.

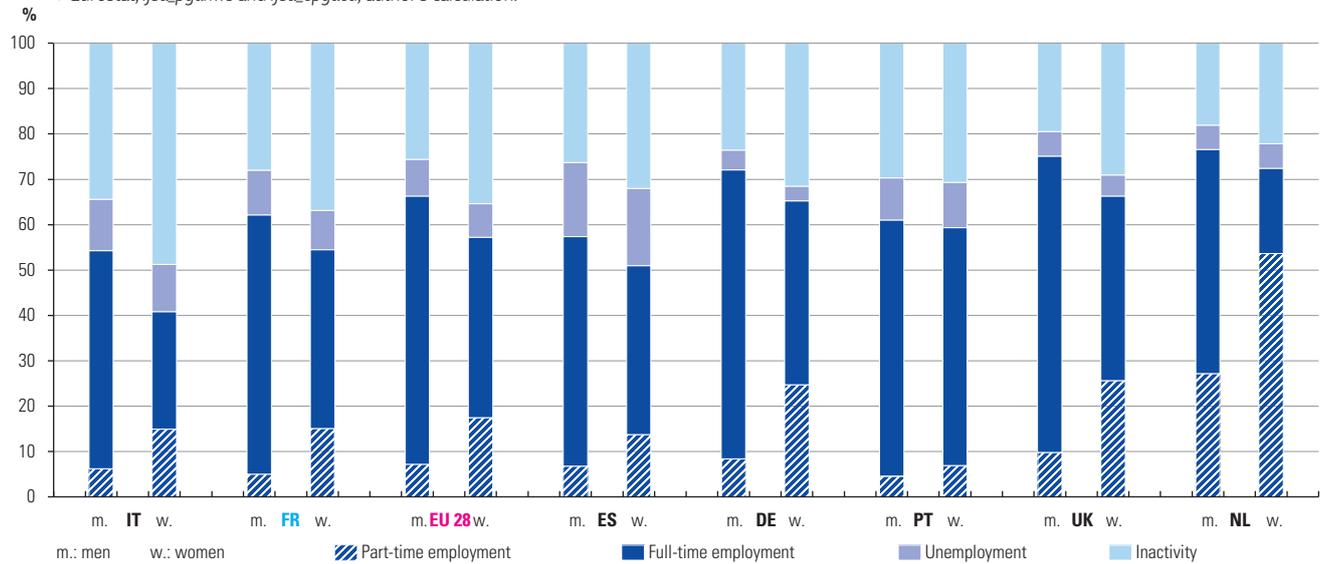
6.2.1 Unemployment rate of the 25-39 year olds by gender and educational attainment level in 2016

↳ Eurostat, *lfsa_urgaed*.



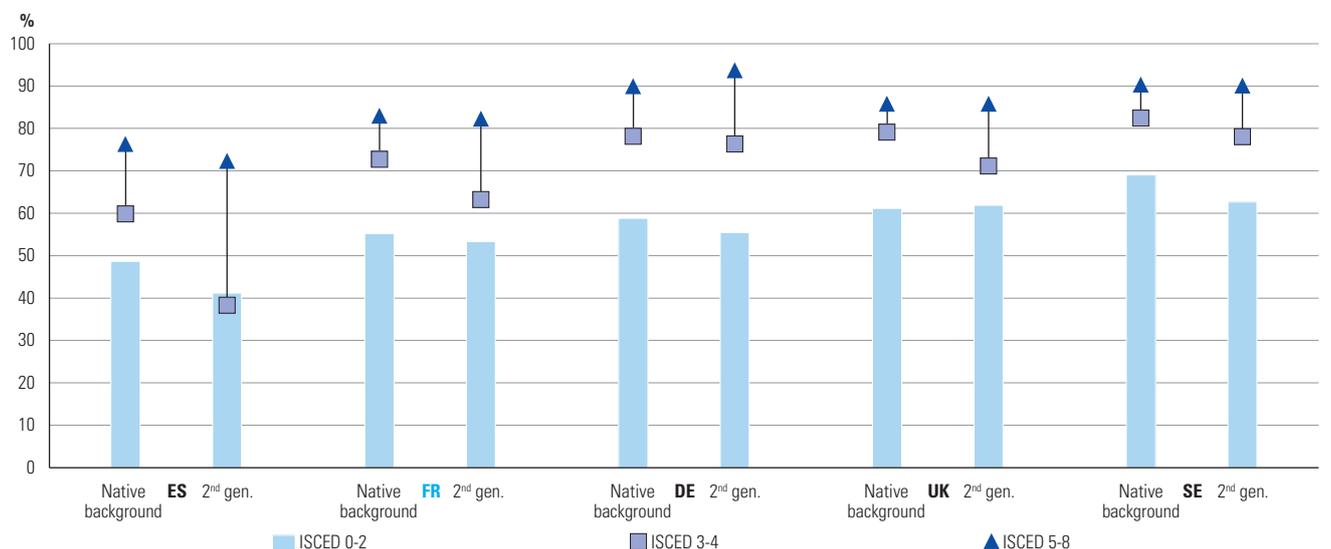
6.2.2 Distribution of the 15-39 year olds by gender and work status in 2016

↳ Eurostat, *lfsa_pganws* and *lfsa_epgaed*, author's calculation.



6.2.3 Employment rate of the 20-64 year olds born in the country by educational attainment level and parents' citizenship in 2014

↳ Eurostat, *lfsa_14lel*.



6.3 INCOME ACCORDING TO THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL AND GENDER

Income according to EU-SILC

ZOOM

The Eurostat EU-SILC survey (*Statistics on Income and Living Conditions*) provides European statistics on the gross disposable income of households, i.e. the income remaining to households after deduction of tax and benefits contributions. Included in the calculation is all income from work and capital, transfers between households and social transfers (excluding rents paid to owners for housing). The median income indicates the value at which the population is split into two equal parts, i.e. those with incomes above the median and those with incomes below it.

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL ON INCOME

In all the 28 European Union countries in 2016 the gross disposable income of people of 18 and over grew with the level of educational attainment. Nonetheless the amount varied palpably depending on the level of GDP per head in each country and the distribution of income within each country. Whether it was for ISCED 0-2 or for ISCED 5-8, the extreme values were in Romania (lowest incomes) and Luxembourg (highest incomes). The median annual incomes per country (in PPS equivalent) among people with ISCED levels 0-2 varied from 3,730 PPS to 24,030 PPS, and for those with ISCED levels 5-8 from 8,700 PPS to 36,050 PPS (6.3.1 and 6.3.2). Whatever the ISCED level considered, France was among the countries where annual median income was the highest.

In 2016 the ratio between the median annual income of higher education-attainment levels and those with lower-level degrees varied from 1.42 in Denmark (the lowest ratio) to 2.47 in Bulgaria (the highest ratio). The relative advantage provided by a higher education-attainment level was therefore considerable in Bulgaria. This ratio was 1.47 in France, 1.61 in Germany, 1.60 in the United Kingdom and 1.67 in Italy.

WOMEN WERE LESS WELL PAID ON EQUIVALENT EDUCATION-ATTAINMENT LEVELS

In the 22 OECD-member countries of the EU in 2016 full time employed women systematically earned less income than men with equivalent qualifications (6.3.3). On average in the 22 countries women with low education-attainment levels received income equivalent to 80% of men's. This ratio varied from 60% in

Estonia to 91% in Sweden. For ISCED 5-8 levels the average was 74% and varied from 67% in Estonia to 86% in Luxembourg. In France where the ratio corresponded respectively to 75% and 71% of the income earned by men for ISCED 0-2 and ISCED 5-8, women's income was close to the European average.

It should be noted that, with only two exceptions (Estonia and Spain), the gap in earned income of women compared to men narrowed as their ISCED level rose. However this observation does not take into account the dispersion of incomes within an ISCED level for the entire population.

Earned income according to the OECD

ZOOM

The OECD's indicator of earned income used here (6.3.3 and 6.3.4) applies to full-time workers, paid throughout the entire year of reference. It is gross earned income. The sources for the European countries may come from the EU-SILC survey (the case for France), the LFS⁴¹ survey or national sources. Countries not providing full statistics per ISCED have not been considered.

HIGHER EDUCATION: THE "NEXT DEGREE" IS ALWAYS PROFITABLE

In the average of the OECD-member European countries in 2016 for which data were available, receiving a higher degree in higher education was as ever profitable, given the increased earnings that were associated with the degree (6.3.4). Indeed, on average, compared to active workers from 25 to 64 with an ISCED level 3, those of the same age with an ISCED 5 level earned 24% more; those with an ISCED 6 level earned 38% more, and those with ISCED 7 and 8 earned 77% more. With the exception of Austria, Denmark and Estonia, incomes in each country grew with the educational level attained. In Hungary a Master's or PhD carried the greatest relative benefits compared to degrees on the ISCED 3 level.

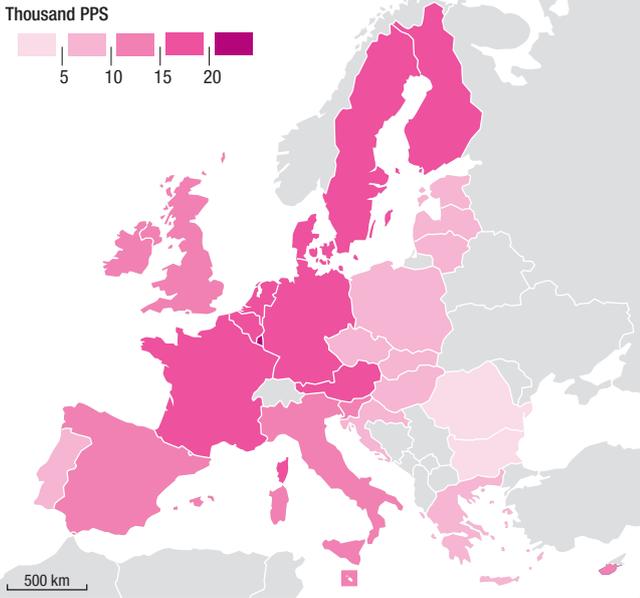
In certain countries, such as Germany, Hungary and the United Kingdom, the increased income linked to a higher ISCED level was linear. In other countries, such as Denmark and Finland, going from ISCED levels 5 to 6 created a limited increase of income with the relative benefit being higher for ISCED levels 7 and 8. France illustrated this situation especially well, as obtaining a Master's degree there provides a noticeable raise in earnings. ■

⁴¹ See definition p. 74.

6.3.1 Median income of the 18 years old or over with an ISCED 0-2 educational attainment level in 2016, PPS equivalent

↳ Eurostat, *ilc_dio8*.

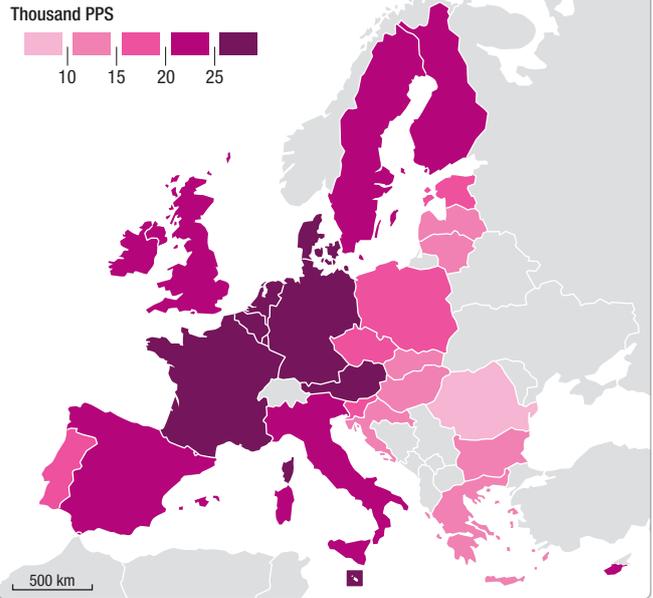
Thousand PPS



6.3.2 Median income of the 18 years old or over with an ISCED 5-8 educational attainment level in 2016, PPS equivalent

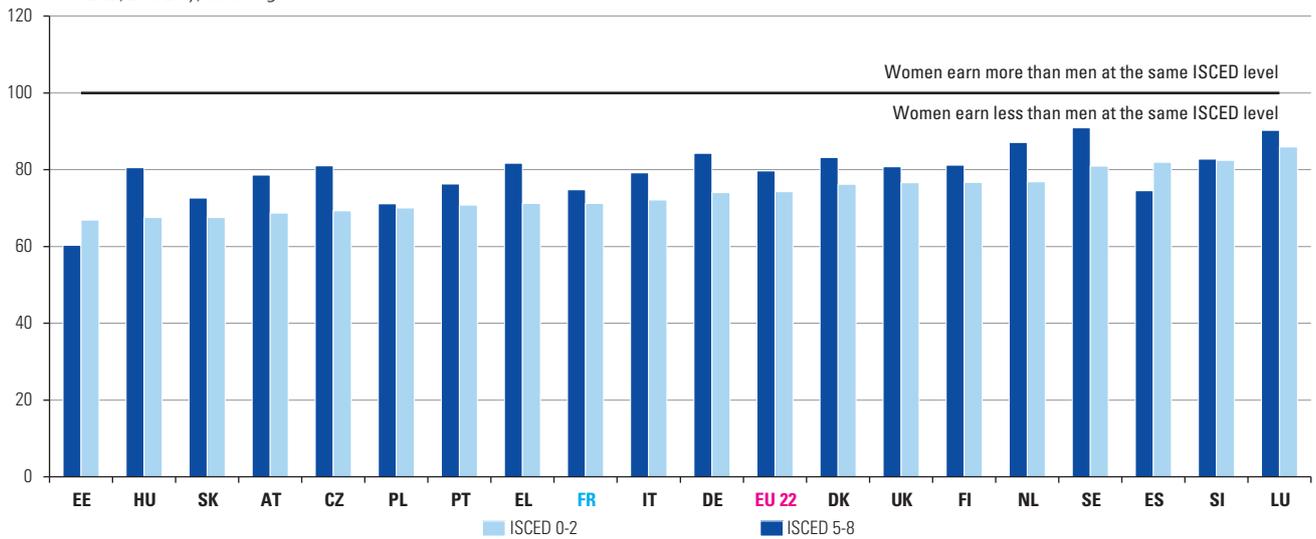
↳ Eurostat, *ilc_dio8*.

Thousand PPS



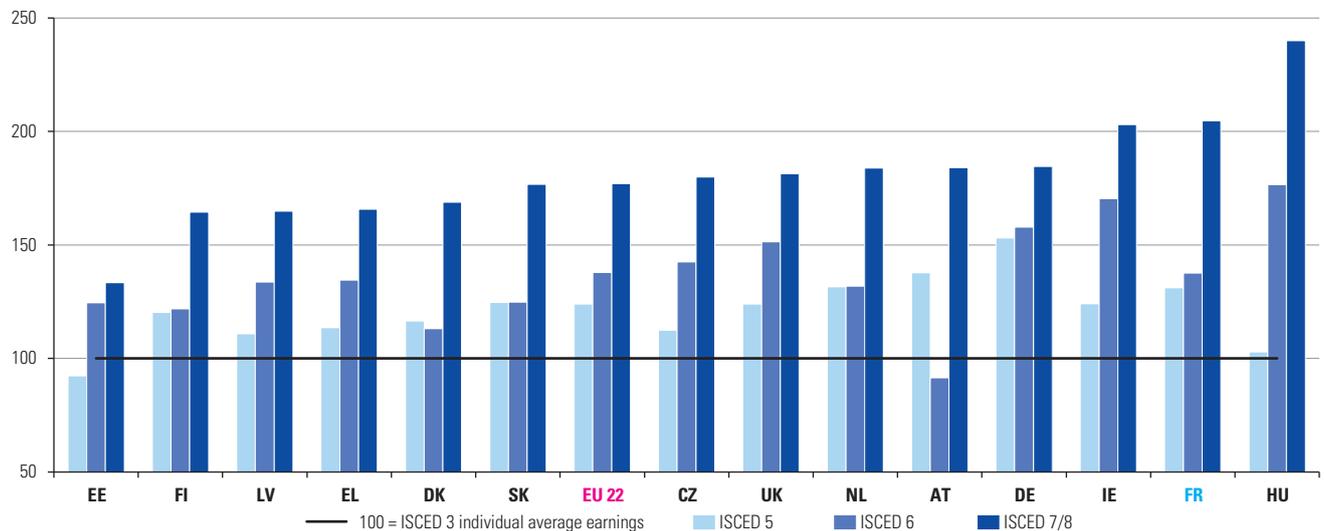
6.3.3 Difference in earnings between female and male workers (full-time employment) by educational attainment level in 2015

↳ OECD, *EAG 2017, table A6.3*.



6.3.4 Relative earnings of adults working full-time by educational attainment level in 2015

↳ OECD, *EAG 2017, table A6.1*.



IS HEALTH LINKED TO THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ATTAINED?

The Minimum European Health Module (MEMH)^[1] of the EU-SILC survey^[2]

ZOOM

The EU-SILC survey gathers data on the health of people 16 and over in Europe. It considers only 3 specific concepts: self-perceived health, chronic morbidity and activity limitation (partial or total). These data are based on statements by respondents. Graph 6.4.1 presents the data of the first two concepts. The data of self-perceived health came from answers to the following question: "How is your health in general? Very good, good, fairly good, poor or very poor?" The graph shows an aggregate of the percentage of individuals who stated they were in good or very good health. The question asked for chronic morbidity was the following: "Do you have any longstanding illness or health problem (of at least six months)? Yes, no?"

In 2016 on average 80% of people 16 and over with higher education-attainment levels in the European Union 28 stated they were in good or very good health. Such was the case for only 56% of people with ISCED levels 0-2 (6.4.1). France's rates were near those of the EU-28 average, 77% and 53% respectively. Although the level of self-perceived health grew systematically with the level of education, the differences between low levels of education and higher education varied according to the country. The gap was the widest in Portugal (a 41 point gap), and in Denmark the narrowest with a 16 point gap. There were only 6 countries where at least 60% of individuals with ISCED levels 0-2 stated they were in good or very good health.

Longstanding illness or health problems were less often declared by people with a high level of education. In the EU-28 in 2016 43% of people of 16 or over with a low level of education declared a health problem lasting more than 6 months, whereas it was the case in only 29% of people with ISCED levels 5-8. Here too the gaps between ISCED levels varied widely according to the country. The widest gaps were observed in Croatia and Lithuania with a spread of 31 points, whilst the narrowest gap was seen in Germany (6 points).

OCCASIONAL SMOKING MORE FREQUENT AMONG PEOPLE WITH DEGREES

Although smoking-related habits differ per country in the EU, they seem to be linked to the person's educational level. In 2016 the EU-28 average was 24% of people with low educational-

attainment levels stated they smoked (occasional and daily smokers combined) as opposed to 19% of the ISCED 5-8 level individuals (6.4.2). Moreover habits differed according to the ISCED level, i.e. the percentage of occasional smokers among all smokers was greater among people with higher education-attainment levels (about 30% with ISCED 5-8 levels) than among those with low education-attainment levels (about 13%).

However this European average is not reflected in every country. For example, the gap between the percentage of smokers per ISCED level was highest in Estonia (a difference of 16 points). Moreover among the countries presented here, only France, Portugal and Romania had more smokers among the higher education-attainment levels than among the lower education-attainment levels. However France and the Netherlands stood out by their high rates (8%) of occasional smokers among people with ISCED levels 5-8.

THE RISK OF OBESITY DECREASED WHEN THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL INCREASED

The body mass index

ZOOM

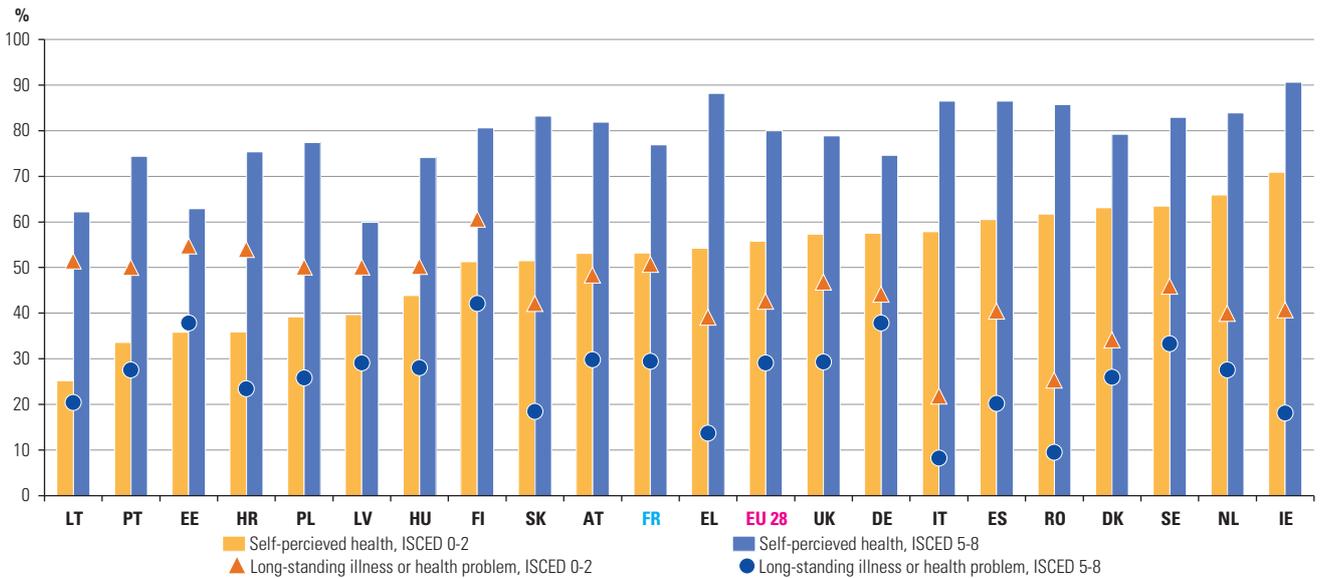
The World Health Organisation (WHO) has adopted the body mass index (BMI) to observe excess weight and obesity in populations. The BMI is calculated by dividing the mass in kilogrammes by the height in metres squared (kg/m^2). The WHO has set BMI thresholds to define different situations: a "normal" BMI is located between 18.5 and 25 kg/m^2 , a threshold beyond and below which the risk of mortality is significantly increased: overweight is located between 25 and 30 kg/m^2 , beyond which is becomes obesity. These data come from the EHIS^[1] survey (European Health Interview Survey), the 2nd edition of which was carried out between 2013 and 2015.

In 2014 the average proportion of obese individuals in the 26 countries participating in the EHIS survey decreased quasi-systematically as the level of education rose (6.5.4). In 2014 In the vast majority of countries participating in the survey (20 of 26) over 20% of the population with low educational levels were obese. In Malta obesity affected over 30% of the population with low educational levels and more than 20% of the population with higher educational levels, which corresponded to the EU's upper extreme. In France the proportion of the population with obesity was slightly higher than the EU-28 average for ISCED levels 0-2 and slightly lower for the other two ISCED levels attained. ■

^[1] See definition p. 74.

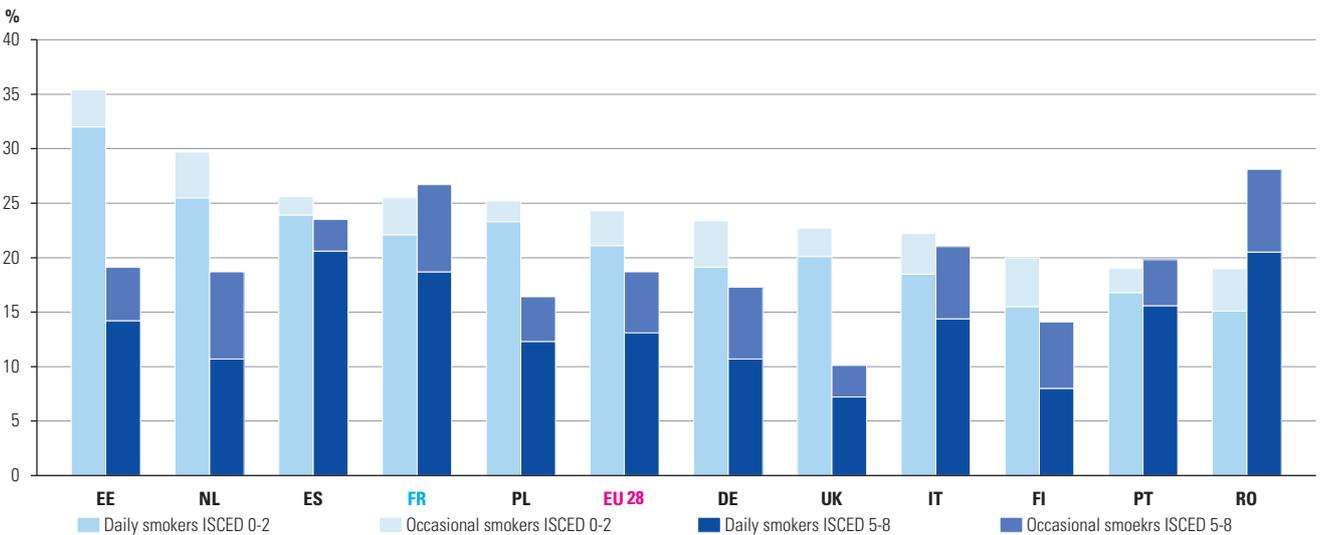
6.4.1 Proportion of the 16 years old or over declaring being in good or very good health and declaring having a long-standing illness or health problem among by educational attainment level in 2016

↳ Eurostat, *hlth_silc_o2* et *hlth_silc_o5*.



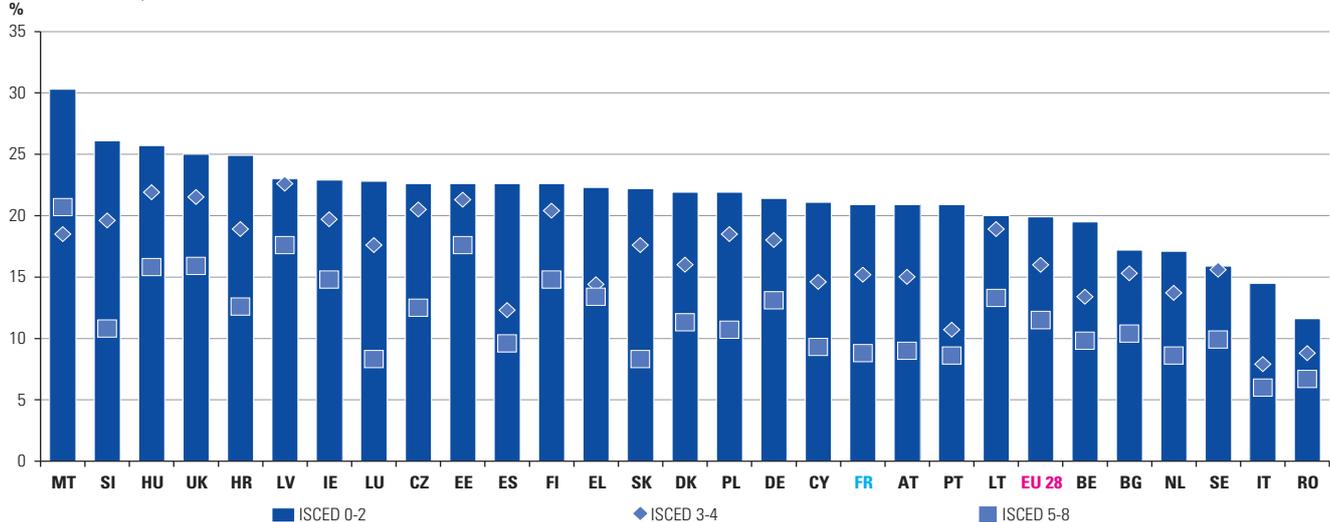
6.4.2 Tobacco usage among the 18 years old or over by educational attainment level in 2014

↳ Eurostat, *hlth_ehis_sk1e*.



6.4.3 Proportion of the population with obesity among the 18 years old or over by educational attainment level in 2014

↳ Eurostat, *hlth_ehis_bm1e*.



THE CONSUMPTION OF CULTURAL GOODS IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THOSE WITH HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The impact of a person's educational level on their cultural practices

ZOOM

In 2015, the **EU-SILC** [□] survey included an ad-hoc module on social and cultural participation and material deprivation. It made it possible to relate individuals' cultural practices to the educational level they attained. Graph 6.5.1 charts 16 year-olds and over who had participated in a cultural activity (cinema, live performances or cultural sites) at least once over the previous twelve months according to the ISCED level they had attained.

In the 28 European countries in 2015 it was observed that participation in cultural activities was highly variable according to the educational level attained. More than half of the 28 EU countries showed differences in rates of participation greater than 40 points between people with low levels of education and those with higher educational levels. However, whilst the rate of participation among those with higher educational levels surpassed 80% in the vast majority of European countries, the participation varied considerably within the population with ISCED levels 0-2. It ranged from 11% in Bulgaria to 76% in Denmark. With high rates for both sectors, France was in a relatively advantageous position.

THE USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS IS NOT YET UNIVERSAL IN EUROPE

Digital use

ZOOM

So as to measure digital use by households and companies Eurostat has implemented an annual survey about Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This survey collects data on the 16 to 74 year-old population and its access to the ICTs, as well as how it uses them. The survey also makes it possible to breakdown households and individuals per ISCED level attained.

In the 28 EU countries in 2015 the portion of the population using a computer daily varied widely according to the educational level. On average in the 28 countries only 39% of people with low educational attainment aged 16 and over used a computer

on a daily basis, whilst this rate reached 87% among those with higher educational attainment (6.5.2). Here too there was a relative uniformity among the more highly educated. The daily use of a computer systematically surpassed 80% for the population with ISCED 5-8 levels in the EU countries.

Although digital use seems widely developed among more highly educated people across the EU-28, this use varied considerably for those with lower levels of educational attainment. In 13 countries (including Austria, Ireland and Spain) fewer than 40% of people with ISCED levels 0-2 used a computer daily, with the lowest being 20% in Bulgaria and Romania. However in 4 countries (Finland, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), this rate surpassed 60%. France had proportions near the European average for the two ISCED levels.

THE USE OF PUBLIC INTERNET SERVICES IS ALSO HIGHLY LINKED TO THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Digital use is particularly enlightening in the framework of government services made available and regulated on-line. This is notably the case of a certain number of public services such as filing out requests for social security benefits, enrolling children in schools or universities and declaring and paying taxes on-line, which pertained to a European directive (directive 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and the European Union Council in 2016).

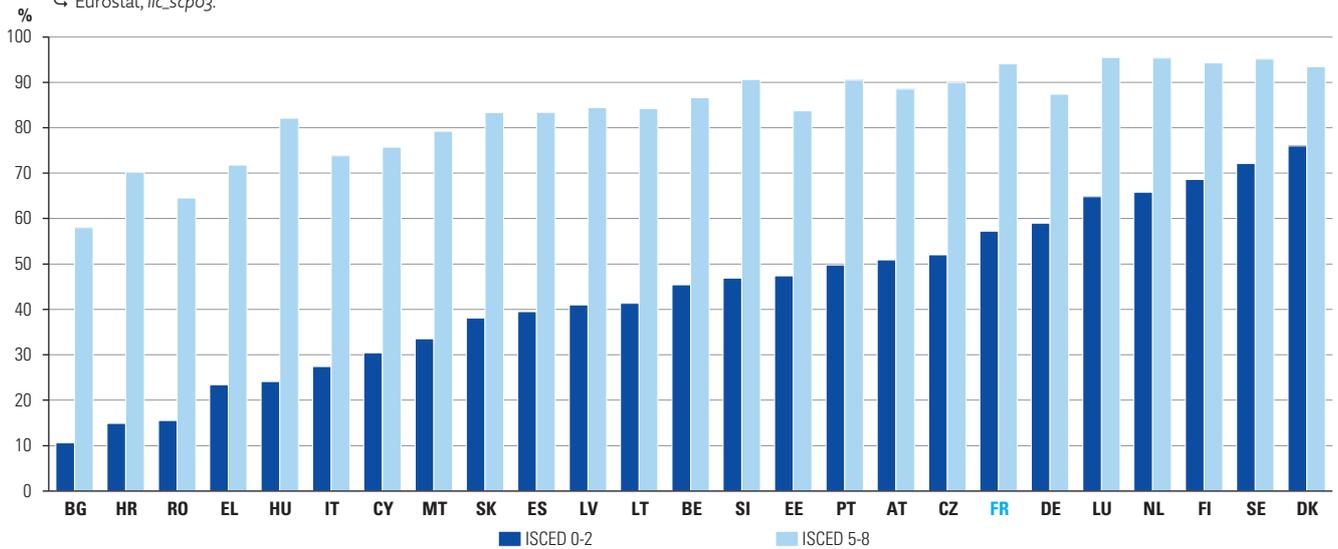
The data gathered by Eurostat's ad-hoc module of the ICT survey in 2013 made it possible to shed precise light on the use of on-line public services by the population according to the educational level attained. Graph 6.5.3 presents the findings for individuals having already made an income-tax declaration on-line, a service which to date is the most commonly available on the Internet in Europe. In 2013, if only 35% of those who attained higher education in the 28 EU countries declared their taxes via the Internet, the percentage of those with lower educational levels with access to the same services was much lower (7%). France was in a favourable position as it enjoyed some of the highest rates in Europe for each of the two ISCED levels.

Nonetheless it is advisable to consider these data cautiously, for this indicator may in fact be dependent on exogenous factors such as access to a computer and/or Internet in households, accessibility to and ease of use on destination sites, fiscal regulations, etc. ■

[□] See definition p. 78.

6.5.1 Frequency of participation in cultural activities (cinema, live performances or cultural sites) in the last 12 months by educational attainment level in 2015

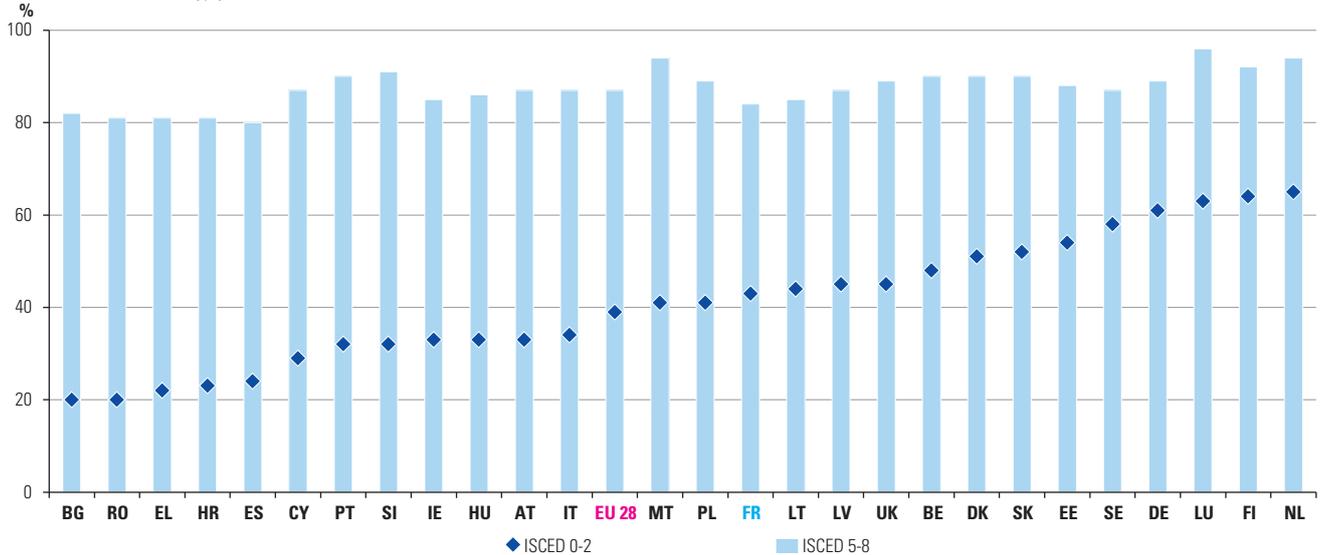
↳ Eurostat, *ilc_scp03*.



Note: In 2015 in France, 57% of the individuals that are 16 years-old and more and have an ISCED 0-2 educational attainment declare that they have participated at least once in a cultural activity over the course of the 12 last months; this rate is 94% for the individuals that have an ISCED 5-8 educational attainment.

6.5.2 Daily use of a computer by 16 year olds or over by educational attainment level in 2015

↳ Eurostat, *isoc_ci_cfp_fu*.



6.5.3 Proportion of the population that has submitted an income tax declaration via websites of public authorities by educational attainment level in 2013

↳ Eurostat, *isoc_ciegi_ac*.

