

Annex to the report “Study on self-identification of origin in Belgium”: full survey

Context

This annex is linked to the **report “[Study on self-identification of origin in Belgium](#)”**, which is part of the second edition of the project 'Improving Equality Data Collection in Belgium' (IEDCB)¹, funded by the Equal Opportunities Department (FPS Justice) and implemented by Unia. This project aims to improve the collection and use of data about (in)equality and discrimination (i.e., equality data) in Belgium. The second edition and the study on self-identification ran from January 2023 to June 2024.

The study focused on the **principle of self-identification of origin and its use in equality data in Belgium**. In this annex, you can find the **full English version of the online survey** that was carried out from 14 November 2023 to 22 December 2023 as part of this study, entitled “*Measuring discrimination and inequality through self-identification of origin in equality data in Belgium?*”

Please note that the study report contains only a selection of all analyses that were carried out. An additional annex containing more elaborate analyses is available, but only [in French](#) or [in Dutch](#).

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or remarks: equality.data@unia.be

¹ Unia, [Data on discrimination and \(in\)equality: project equality data](#)

Full English version of the survey

Measuring discrimination and inequality through self-identification of origin in equality data in Belgium?

In this survey, we will be asking for your views on the different ways in which information about your origins can be collected.

In order to combat racial discrimination and inequality, it is important to have data on the origins of people who suffer discrimination, so that discrimination and inequality can be identified, measures can be taken and the impact of these measures, assessed. This is the aim of the project 'Improving Equality Data Collection in Belgium (IEDCB)', executed by Unia.

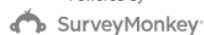
Self-identification is one of the methods used to collect this information. This means that the information relating to personal characteristics (such as origin) is filled in - or not - by the persons themselves. This method is recommended by various international human rights bodies, but is little used in Belgium, where the nationality and the nationality of (grand)parents is often used to determine the origin. However, nationality does not always reflect the reason why a person is discriminated against, or does not correspond to the way in which the persons themselves would have defined their origins. For example: "I am of Belgian nationality as are my parents, but I am of ... origin and therefore I am discriminated against". Through this survey, we are seeking to assess whether the self-identification method is appropriate, by gathering the opinions of people of various origins.

This survey is based on exchanges with people from different backgrounds. On the basis of that information and the results of this survey, Unia will publish a note in which we will try to answer the following questions: is self-identification desirable in the fight against discrimination and inequality in Belgium? If so, in what contexts and what are the minimum conditions and good practices if one chooses to use it?

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, by email (equalitydata@unia.be) or by telephone (02 212 30 41).

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Informed consent

This survey is aimed at people aged 18 and over, living in Belgium.

This survey is anonymous. No identifiable data (surname, first name, email address, IP address, etc.) **is collected through this survey.**

It takes about 15 minutes to complete this survey.

In several questions, you will be asked to enter data about yourself and your experience without any obligation. **For each question, you may choose not to answer by selecting the "I prefer not to answer" option.** The purpose of these questions is (1) to gain an insight into the diversity of the profiles of the people participating in this survey, and (2) to gain an insight into the different ways in which people respond to questions relating to their origin. Trends in the answers given will be analysed and summarised. As a national human rights institution, Unia guarantees the anonymity of the results and the compliance with applicable data protection legislation.

Please indicate that you agree to participate under the following conditions:

- I obtained all the information I needed about the study.
- I am taking part in the survey voluntarily.
- I know that I have the right to withdraw my consent and stop taking part in the survey at any time without giving any reason.
- I know that I can always decide not to answer questions without giving a reason.
- I consent to the researchers processing, storing, analysing and reporting on the information I provide anonymously.
- I am aware that I can contact Unia's Data Protection Officer if I want more information on the protection of data collected through this survey (email: dpo@unia.be / telephone: 02 212 30 55)

* 1. Do you agree to participate under the above conditions?

Yes

No

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Personal information

* 2. What is your year of birth?

* 3. Where is your home located?

* 4. You feel

Woman

Man

I don't know

None of the above, I feel

I prefer not to answer

* 5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

**Indicate the equivalent diploma if obtained abroad*

No diploma

Primary education

Lower secondary education (up to secondary 4)

Upper secondary education (up to secondary 6)

Higher education: Bachelor

Higher education: Masters

I don't know

Other education

I prefer not to answer

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Definition of origin

Belgian society is diverse, made up of people from different backgrounds and origins. Traditionally, this diversity is measured by the nationality or country of birth of individuals or their (grand)parents. We want to look at other ways of collecting this information in order to better identify the discrimination and inequalities that people face because of their origin.

To do this, we are asking you a few questions about how you define your origin. Origin can be understood, amongst other things, as ethnic origin, national origin, so-called 'race', ancestry or skin colour. **Several questions and response categories are provided. Answer these questions if you wish. In the last part of the survey, give your impressions on their relevance or their ability to reflect the way you define yourself in terms of origin.**

It is possible that these suggestions do not fully reflect the way in which you define your identity, as we are only trying here to observe one aspect of it. In this sense, your answers to the different questions may vary.

* 6. How do you define your origin(s)?

**The (alphabetical) list is made up of the six national origins most present in Belgium as well as the different continents.*

**You can select up to 4 answers, and/or add your own if none of the options suit you.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asia | <input type="checkbox"/> North Africa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belgium | <input type="checkbox"/> North America |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Europe in the European Union | <input type="checkbox"/> Oceania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Europe outside the European Union | <input type="checkbox"/> South / Central America |
| <input type="checkbox"/> France | <input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Saharan Africa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Italy | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morocco | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Near/Middle East | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Netherlands | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would rather/also identify myself as | |
| <input type="text"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer | |

* 7. From our exchanges with people of various origins it emerged that more ethnic or cultural elements also play a role in the discrimination experienced by people.

Which of these groups do you consider yourself to belong to?

**You can select up to 4 answers, and/or add your own if none of the options suit you.*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic | <input type="checkbox"/> Roma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Slavic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berber | <input type="checkbox"/> Travellers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maghrebi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would rather/also identify myself as | |
| <input type="text"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer | |

8. How do you yourself usually define your origin(s)?

* 9. In this question, we are considering how you think you are perceived by others, even if this is not how you feel. Discrimination is often based on how a person is perceived by others.

How do you think others see you?

**You can select up to 4 answers, and/or add your own if none of the options suit you.*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic | <input type="checkbox"/> Roma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Slavic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berber | <input type="checkbox"/> Travellers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maghrebi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other people see me rather / also as | |
| <input type="text"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer | |

Experiences of discrimination

* 10.

Equality is a fundamental right. Unfortunately, some people are subject to racial discrimination. Discrimination is the unfair or unequal treatment of a person on the basis of personal characteristics. Among other things, the law prohibits behaviours that target certain people or groups of people on the basis of their nationality, so-called "race", skin colour, ancestry, national origin or ethnic origin.

Discrimination is often experienced by people who are perceived as non-white, foreign or of foreign origin. Have you ever been treated in a discriminatory way on the basis of these characteristics?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I prefer not to answer

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* 11.

Intersectional discrimination occurs when different characteristics interact (i.e. intersect) and become inseparable. For example, a black woman - because of her female gender and her skin colour - faces a different type of discrimination than a black man, but also a different kind of discrimination than a white woman (intersection of origin and gender).

Have you ever experienced discrimination based on the **intersection of your origin and another characteristic**? If so, which one(s)?

**Multiple answers possible*

- Gender
 - Age
 - Sexual orientation
 - Disability
 - Social origin / social condition
 - Fortune
 - Another characteristic
 - Marital status or composition of household
 - Political or trade union beliefs
 - State of health
 - I have not experienced this type of discrimination.
 - I don't know
-
-
-
- I prefer not to answer

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Nationality and migration history

* 12. What is your current nationality?

**If you have a second nationality, you can indicate this in the next question.*

13. If applicable: what is your current second nationality?

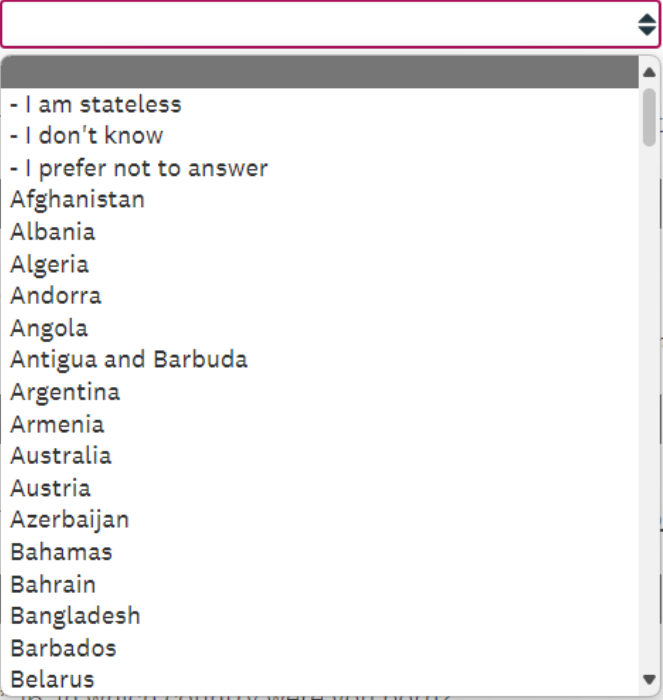
* 14. What was your nationality at birth?

**If you had a second nationality at birth, you can indicate this in the next question.*

15. If applicable: what was your second nationality at birth?

* 16. In which country were you born?

***Note: Questions about nationality were accompanied by a list of different nationalities:**



The screenshot shows a dropdown menu with the following options:

- I am stateless
- I don't know
- I prefer not to answer
- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus

The next questions are about the nationalities at birth of your parents.

* 17. What was the nationality at birth of parent 1?

**If parent 1 had a second nationality at birth, you can indicate this in the next question.*

18. If applicable: select the second nationality at birth of parent 1.

* 19. What was the nationality at birth of parent 2?

**If parent 2 had a second nationality at birth, you can indicate this in the next question.*

20. If applicable: select the second nationality at birth of parent 2.

The next questions are about the nationalities at birth of your grandparents.

* 21. On the side of parent 1, what was the nationality at birth of grandparent 1?

* 22. Still on the side of parent 1, what was the nationality at birth of grandparent 2?

* 23. On the side of parent 2, what was the nationality at birth of grandparent 1?

* 24. Still on the side of parent 2, what was the nationality at birth of grandparent 2?

* 25. Do you or your family have a migration background?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I prefer not to answer

* 26. How would you describe your migration history?

- 1st generation: I wasn't born in Belgium and neither were my parents I don't know
- 2nd generation: I was born in Belgium, but at least one of my parents was not born in Belgium
- 3rd generation: I was born in Belgium and both of my parents were also born in Belgium, but at least one of my grandparents was not born in Belgium
- A different migration history

- I prefer not to answer

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Perception of the different questions

The questions that have just been asked may provoke different feelings in everyone. We would like to ask you about your reactions to some of these questions. Please feel free to add comments in the text box at the bottom, whether critical or positive. If this method of self-identification proves relevant, it will help us to recommend the kinds of questionnaires that best reflect your perceptions.

* 27. On the scale provided, rate how you feel about each question and the response categories proposed.

	Very comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Somewhat uncomfortable	Very uncomfortable	I don't know
"How do you define your origin(s)?" (Asia, Belgium, Europe in the European Union, ...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"Which of these groups do you consider yourself to belong to?" (Arabic, Asian, Berber, Black, ...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"How do you yourself usually define your origin(s)?" (open answer)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"How do you think others see you?" (Arabic, Asian, Berber, Black, ...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"Discrimination is often experienced by people who are perceived as non-white, foreign or of foreign origin. Have you ever been treated in a discriminatory way on the basis of these characteristics?" (yes, no, I don't know, ...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If 'yes': "To what elements do you think this was linked?" (skin colour, wearing convictional/religious signs, religion, ...)

"What is/are your current nationality(ies)?" (lists of countries)

"What were the nationalities at birth of your parents?" (lists of countries)

"What were the nationalities at birth of your grandparents?" (lists of countries)

Additional explanations (optional)

* 28. Data on people's origins may be collected in different contexts in order to measure diversity and inequality and to combat discrimination.

Select the statement(s) corresponding to your impressions on the possibility of collecting data on people's origin in these different contexts.

If needed, you can find a clarification of the contexts below the question.

	I would be happy to answer the question about my origins	I would only answer if I had more information about the use of the data	I would only answer if the confidentiality of the data was guaranteed	I would only answer if the collection was supervised by an independent body	I would not answer the question about my origins	I don't know
Population census	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scientific surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversity monitoring by your employer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justice and police	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional explanation (optional)

Clarification of the contexts:

- *Scientific surveys: survey published by a university, research institute, etc.*
- *Administrative purposes: at your commune, at a public service, etc.*
- *Diversity monitoring by your employer: your employer asks all staff members about their origins in order to measure diversity within the workforce, etc.*
- *Education: during school enrolment, etc.*
- *Employment: during a selection procedure or a job interview, etc.*
- *Health care: at the doctor's, in a hospital or another health care establishment, etc.*
- *Housing: at estate agencies, when visiting properties to rent or buy, etc.*
- *Justice and police: appearances before the police, police checks or arrests, court records, etc..*
- *Media: a radio station, a newspaper, a television channel surveys its listeners/readers, etc.*

29. Are there any other conditions that you consider essential for the collection of data relating to origin?

30. Do you have any specific comments to make following this survey?

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End of survey

Thank you for taking part in this survey. Please note that this survey is anonymous. A final report of this study will be published on the website of Unia in June 2024. It will contain the results of the conducted group discussions, the present survey as well as recommendations and good practices. If you would like to receive this report by email, please contact us at equalitydata@unia.be

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Prev.

Complete