
CULTURAL PARTICIPATION IN BELGIUM

A first glance at regional divides

John Lievens & Jessy Siongers

The Social Study Kick-off Conference - 9 December 2025



UNIVERSITEIT
GENT



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

01

Do differences in cultural participation exist between the three regions of Belgium?

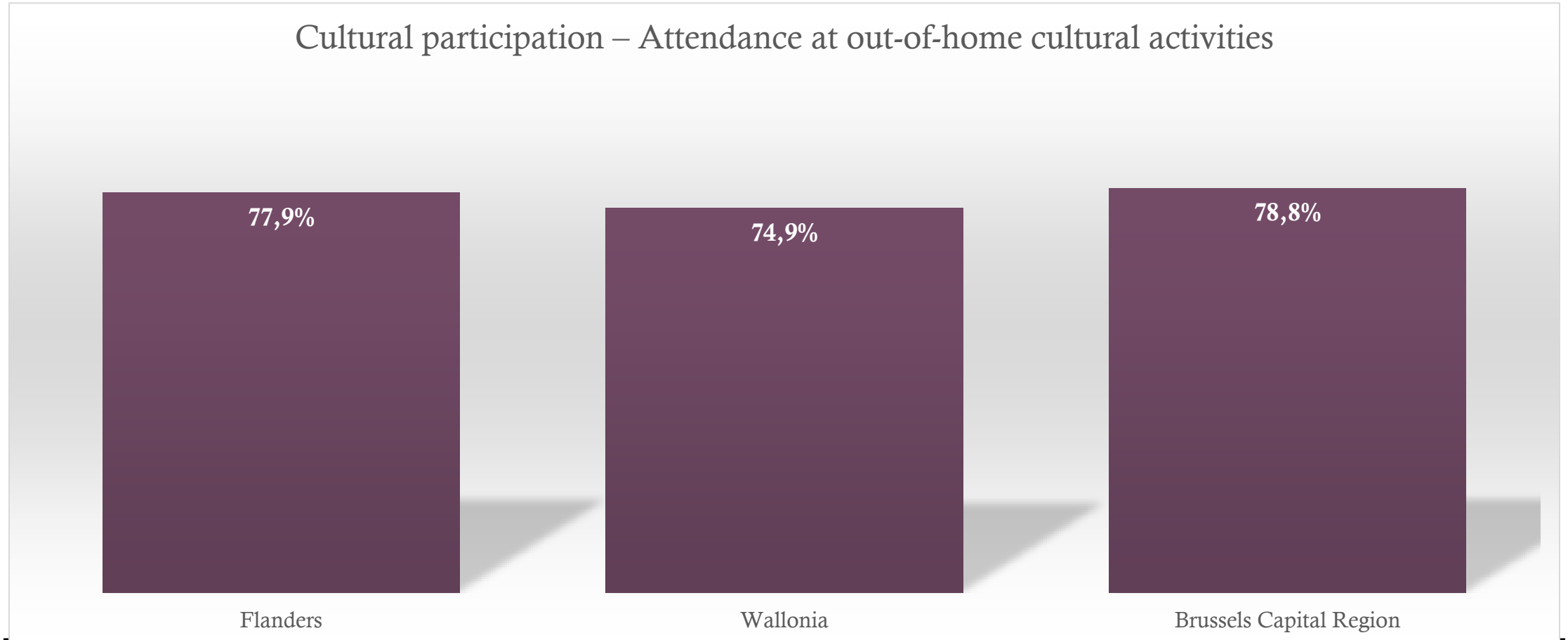
02

Can these differences be attributed to socio-demographic variations in the population composition of these regions?

03

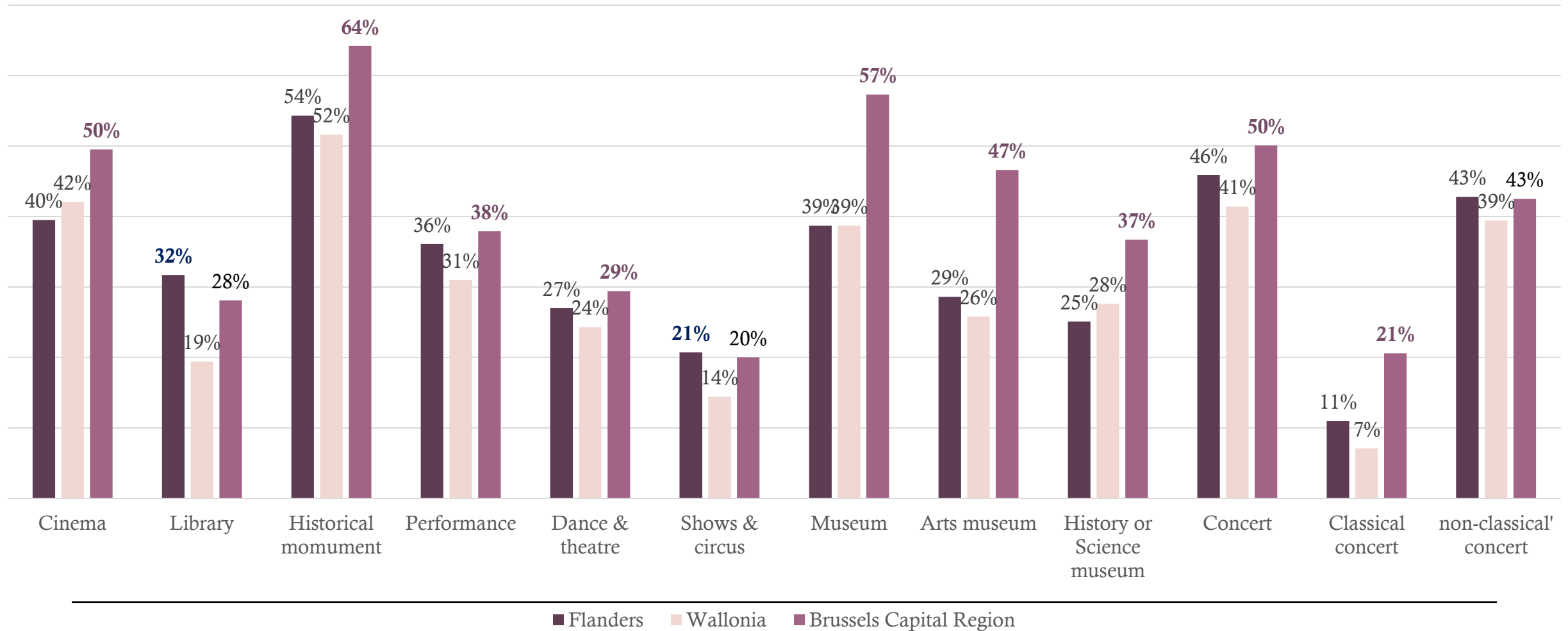
Are socio-economic disparities equally strong across the three regions?

1. REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN CULTURAL PARTICIPATION

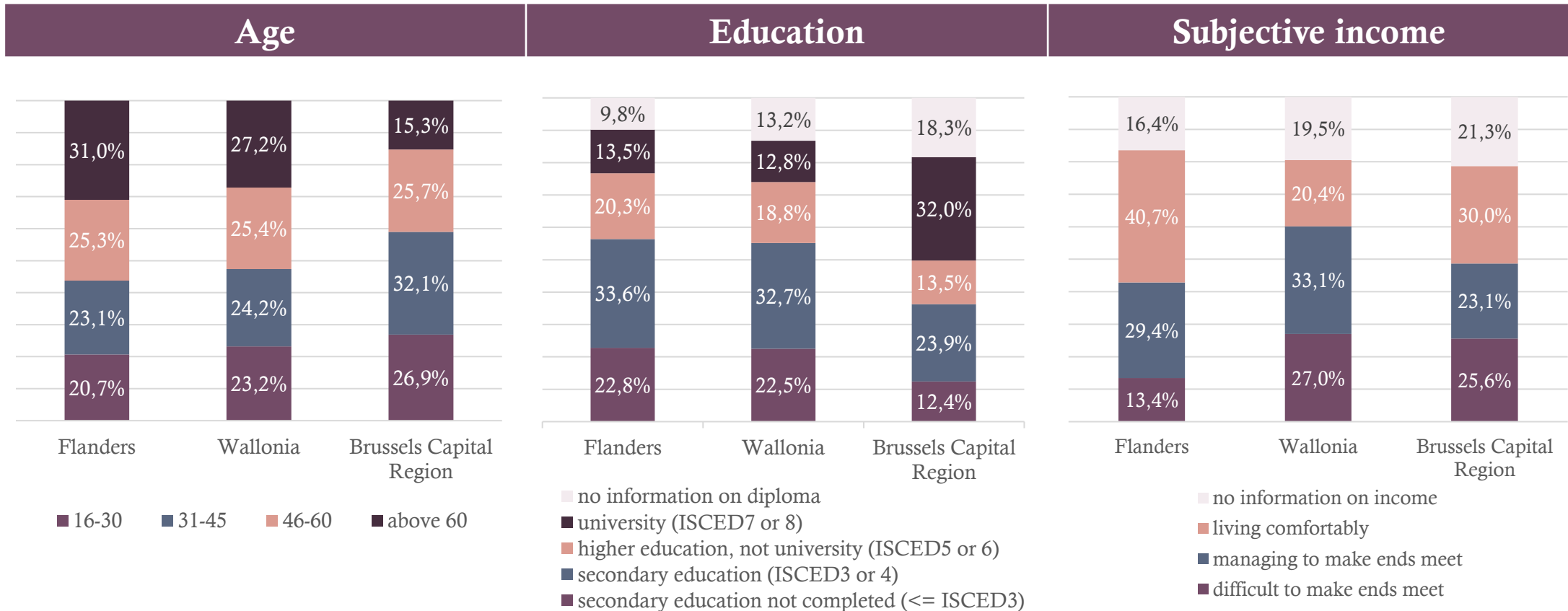


Pearson Chisq: 5,657; $p = 0,059$

1. REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN CULTURAL PARTICIPATION



2. IMPACT OF POPULATION COMPOSITION ON REGIONAL VARIATION



& controlling for gender

2. IMPACT OF POPULATION COMPOSITION ON REGIONAL VARIATION

*Cultural participation
(general)*

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.
<i>Constant</i>	3,533		4,902		4,421	
Region (ref.=Flanders)						
Wallonia	0,845 *		0,809 **		0,887	
Brussels Capital Region	1,048		0,893		0,822	
Age (ref.=31 to 45)						
16 to 30			1,328 *		1,619 ***	
46 to 60			0,692 ***		0,725 **	
above 60			0,440 ***		0,544 ***	
Gender (ref.=male)						
female			1,027		1,014	
Diploma (ref.= secondary education)						
secondary education not completed					0,597 ***	
higher education, not university					1,788 ***	
university					2,204 ***	
no information on diploma					0,507 ***	
Income (ref. = managing to make ends meet)						
difficult to make ends meet					0,778 *	
living comfortably					1,160 ***	
no information on income					0,736 **	
<i>Nagelkerke R²</i>	0,023		0,046		0,123	

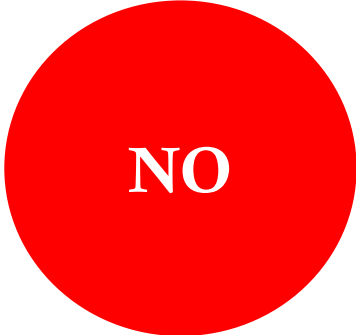
2. IMPACT OF POPULATION COMPOSITION ON REGIONAL VARIATION *(Discipline specific)*

	Film				Museum				Monuments			
	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.
<i>Constant</i>	0,652		0,729		0,632		0,482		1,189		1,006	
Region (ref.=Flanders)												
Wallonia	1,117		1,161 *		0,998		1,111		0,893		1,007	
Brussels Capital Region	1,483 ***		1,121		2,107 ***		1,775 ***		1,497 ***		1,238	
Age (ref.=31 to 45)												
16 to 30			2,408 ***				1,576 ***				1,495 ***	
46 to 60			0,673 ***				1,100				1,022	
above 60			0,381 ***				1,136				0,973 *	
Gender (ref.=male)												
female			0,977				0,858 *				0,911	
Diploma (ref.= secondary education)												
Secondary education not completed			0,732 ***				0,652 ***				0,654 ***	
higher education, not university			1,576 ***				1,644 ***				1,567 ***	
university			1,985 ***				2,880 ***				2,913 ***	
no information on diploma			0,850				1,105				1,096	
Income (ref. = managing to make ends meet)												
difficult to make ends meet			0,724 **				0,672 ***				0,634 ***	
living comfortably			1,026				1,177 *				1,266 **	
no information on income			0,861				0,902				0,780 *	
<i>Nagelkerke R²</i>	0,005		0,167		0,014		0,109		0,006		0,111	

2. IMPACT OF POPULATION COMPOSITION ON REGIONAL VARIATION *(Discipline specific)*

	Library				Performance				Concert			
	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.	Exp(b)	Sig.
Constant	0,464		0,395		0,566		0,396		0,849		0,759	
Region (ref.=Flanders)												
Wallonia	0,516	***	0,524	***	0,794	***	0,863	*	0,831	**	0,874	
Brussels Capital Region	0,826		0,654	**	1,077		1,031		1,183		0,914	
Age (ref.=31 to 45)												
16 to 30			1,335	**			0,843				1,371	***
46 to 60			0,526	***			0,972				0,962	
above 60			0,530	***			0,942				0,663	***
Gender (ref.=male)												
female			1,474	***			1,591	***			1,022	
Diploma (ref.= secondary education)												
Secondary education not completed			0,672	***			0,920				0,737	***
higher education, not university			1,599	***			1,502	***			1,490	***
university			1,818	***			1,750	***			2,374	***
no information on diploma			0,813				0,857				1,353	
Income (ref. = managing to make ends meet)												
difficult to make ends meet			0,863				0,757	**			0,789	*
living comfortably			1,337	***			1,246	**			1,182	*
no information on income			1,073				0,757	**			0,878	
Nagelkerke R ²	0,023		0,123		0,004		0,061		0,004		0,085	

3. ARE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISPARITIES EQUALLY STRONG ACROSS THE THREE REGIONS?



NO

Educational gap in participation higher in Brussels Capital Region than in Flanders & Wallonia

Income gap in participation only in Brussels Capital Region

TO BE CONTINUED

...

- Analyses on other cultural participation indicators (*reading, amateur arts, socio-cultural participation, festivals*)
 - Focus on the frequency of participation
 - Detailed multilevel analyses at municipality/postal-code level with data on the regional offer
 - Regarding Flanders: comparison with the results of the previous participation surveys
-

