

## A brand new publication from Eurostat

# What it means to be young in the European Union today

## Facts and figures on youth and children in the EU

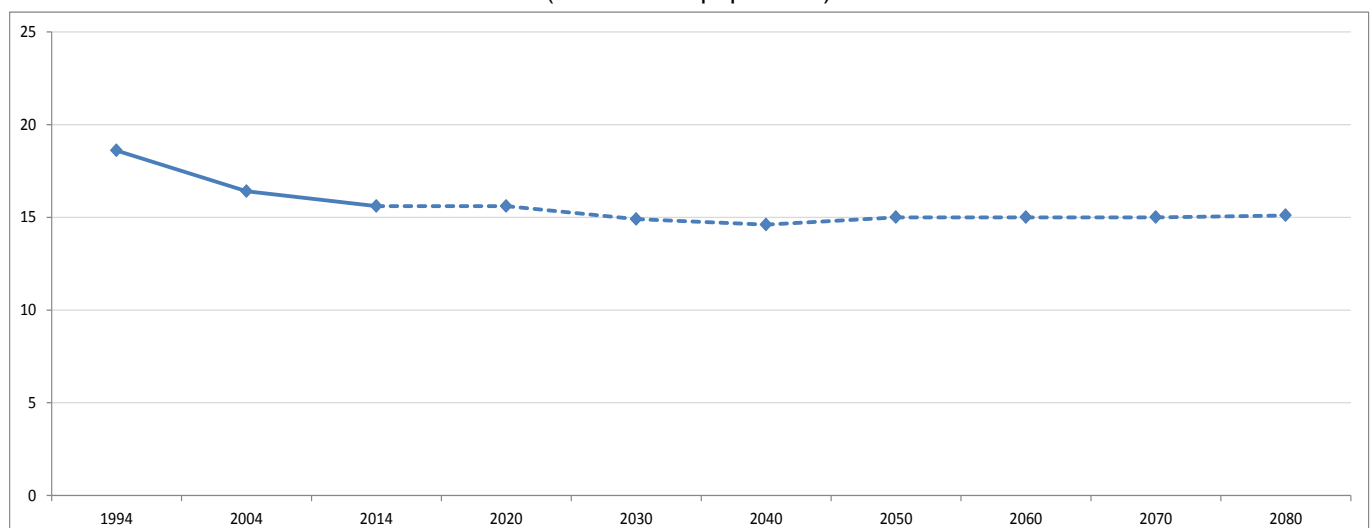
How many children live in the **European Union** (EU)? And how has their share in the population evolved and is expected to change in the future? Are the youngest children in your country cared for more often by their parents, relatives, a child-minder or through a day-care centre? How do young people make the switch from school to work? How are they affected by information and communication technologies in their everyday lives? Answers to these questions and many more can be found in the flagship publication<sup>1</sup> “Being young in Europe today”<sup>2</sup> issued by Eurostat.

This new Eurostat publication provides an overview of the wealth of information<sup>3</sup> related to children (those aged 0-14) and young people (15-29) that is available on Eurostat’s website. These statistics play an important role in evaluating progress toward the EU Youth Strategy<sup>4</sup>. As Mariana Kotzeva, Deputy Director-General and Chief Editor of **Eurostat**, says in the foreword of the publication: “*This flagship publication on children and young people, focusing on their concerns and interests, also illustrates Eurostat’s efforts to be closer to EU citizens by addressing specific themes that are highly relevant for the general public. It aims to provide an insight into the past, current and future situation of our youngest fellow citizens. The objective is to shed light on what it means ‘to be young in Europe today’, ranging from attending school and participating in sport and leisure activities, to leaving the parental home and entering professional life*”.

“Being young in Europe today” is divided into seven chapters covering demography, family and society, health, education, access to and participation in the labour market, living conditions and the digital world. This publication is released together with an interactive infographic<sup>5</sup> on young Europeans. This playful tool can be accessed on the Eurostat website.

On the occasion of the launch of “Being young in Europe today”, a few days before the start of the 2015 European Youth Week<sup>6</sup>, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, presents in this News Release a small selection of the indicators about children and youth in the EU that can be found in the publication.

**Evolution of the share of children aged less than 15 in the EU, 1994-2080**  
(in % of total population)



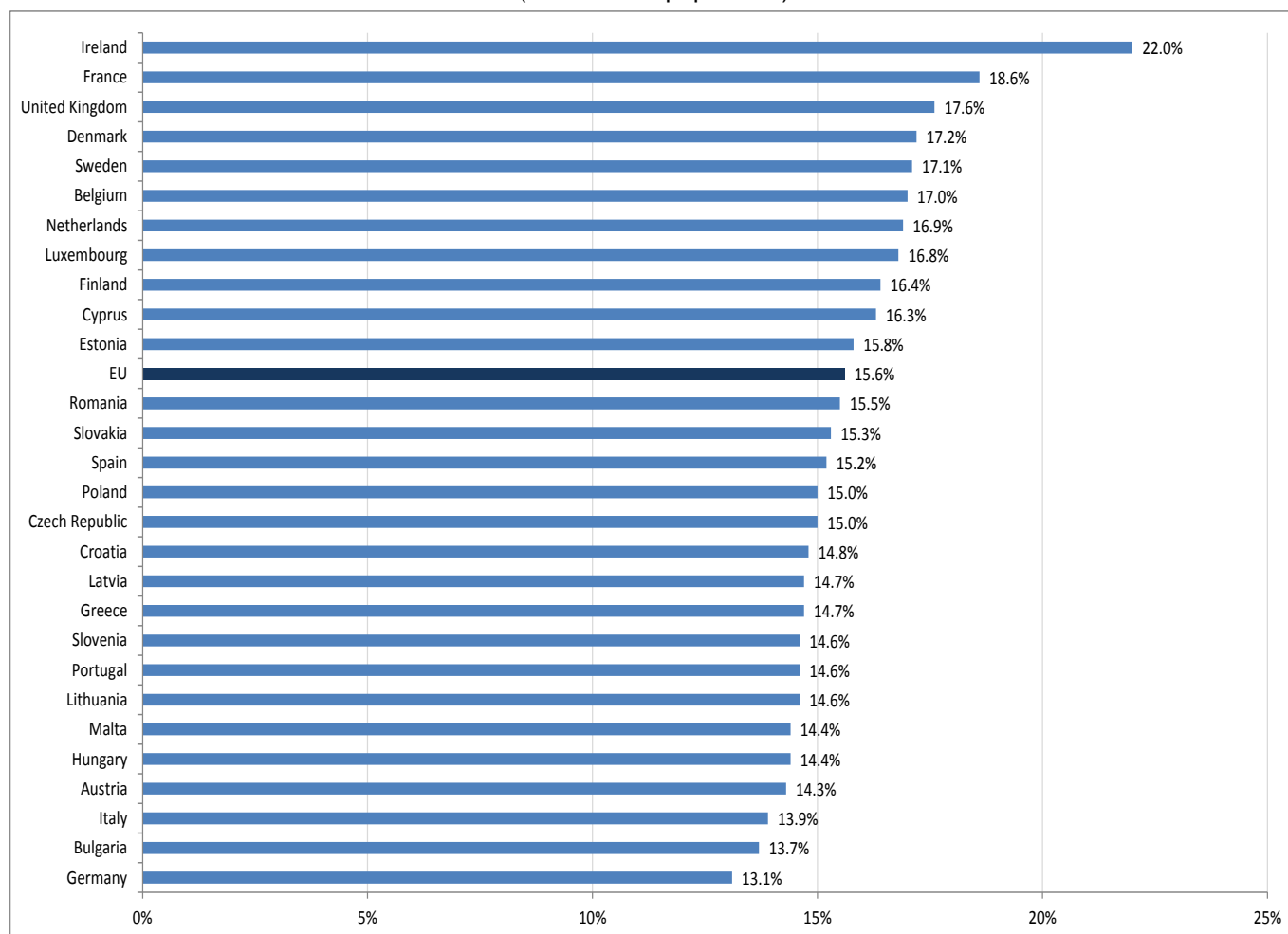
## Largest share of children in Ireland, lowest in Germany

In 2014, the **EU** registered 10 million fewer children aged less than 15 than in 1994. The share of children in the total population decreased over the last twenty years in all Member States, except **Denmark**. The largest reductions in the proportion of children in the population were observed in **Cyprus** (from 25.2% in 1994 to 16.3% in 2014, or -8.9 percentage points), **Poland** (-8.7 pp), **Slovakia** (-8.2 pp) and **Malta** (-8.0 pp).

In 2014, **Ireland** (22.0%) recorded by far the largest proportion of children, followed by **France** (18.6%), the **United Kingdom** (17.6%), **Denmark** (17.2%), **Sweden** (17.1%) and **Belgium** (17.0%). In contrast, in 2014 the lowest shares of young people were observed in **Germany** (13.1%), **Bulgaria** (13.7%) and **Italy** (13.9%).

At **EU** level, children accounted for 15.6% of the total population in 2014, down from 18.6% in 1994.

**Share of children aged less than 15 in the EU Member States, 2014**  
(in % of total population)



## The share of children in the EU population is expected to slightly decrease in the future

Based on population projections, the share of people aged less than 15 is expected to rise by 2050 in nine Member States compared with 2014, with the highest increases being projected for **Lithuania** (from 14.6% in 2014 to 16.6% in 2050, or +2.0 percentage points) and **Latvia** (+1.2 pp). On the other hand, **Slovakia** (from 15.3% in 2014 to 11.8% in 2050, or -3.5 pp), **Portugal** (-3.1 pp) **Ireland** (-2.6 pp), and **Spain** (-2.0 pp) could register the largest decreases in the share of children in their total population.

At **EU** level, the share of children is expected to slightly decrease in the future, from 15.6% in 2014 to 15.0% by 2050.

### Children aged less than 15 in the EU Member States

	1994		2014		2050	
	In thousand persons	Share in total population	In thousand persons	Share in total population	In thousand persons	Share in total population
<b>EU*</b>	<b>88 628</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>79 092</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>78 643</b>	<b>15.0%</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	1 831	18.1%	1 906	17.0%	2 541	17.2%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1 573	18.6%	996	13.7%	813	14.1%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2 010	19.4%	1 577	15.0%	1 748	15.8%
<b>Denmark</b>	889	17.1%	969	17.2%	1 057	16.5%
<b>Germany</b>	13 308	16.4%	10 607	13.1%	9 456	12.7%
<b>Estonia</b>	314	21.2%	208	15.8%	176	15.6%
<b>Ireland</b>	903	25.2%	1 013	22.0%	962	19.4%
<b>Greece</b>	1 888	18.0%	1 598	14.7%	1 175	12.9%
<b>Spain</b>	6 874	17.5%	7 067	15.2%	6 027	13.2%
<b>France</b>	11 819	20.0%	12 222	18.6%	12 963	17.4%
<b>Croatia</b>	:	:	628	14.8%	531	13.9%
<b>Italy</b>	8 495	14.9%	8 448	13.9%	9 153	13.6%
<b>Cyprus</b>	160	25.2%	140	16.3%	153	14.8%
<b>Latvia</b>	536	21.1%	294	14.7%	231	15.9%
<b>Lithuania</b>	814	22.2%	430	14.6%	316	16.6%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	73	18.1%	93	16.8%	183	17.4%
<b>Hungary</b>	1 930	18.6%	1 426	14.4%	1 336	14.3%
<b>Malta</b>	82	22.4%	61	14.4%	70	14.9%
<b>Netherlands</b>	2 816	18.4%	2 850	16.9%	2 643	15.2%
<b>Austria</b>	1 413	17.8%	1 219	14.3%	1 355	13.9%
<b>Poland</b>	9 111	23.7%	5 719	15.0%	4 583	13.2%
<b>Portugal</b>	1 836	18.4%	1 522	14.6%	1 023	11.5%
<b>Romania</b>	4 878	21.4%	3 095	15.5%	2 728	15.2%
<b>Slovenia</b>	379	19.1%	301	14.6%	307	14.8%
<b>Slovakia</b>	1 256	23.5%	830	15.3%	577	11.8%
<b>Finland</b>	971	19.1%	895	16.4%	1 009	16.4%
<b>Sweden</b>	1 636	18.7%	1 646	17.1%	2 186	17.6%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	11 268	19.5%	11 333	17.6%	13 341	17.3%
<b>Iceland</b>	66	24.8%	67	20.5%	76	18.7%
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	6	19.3%	6	15.2%	:	:
<b>Norway</b>	836	19.3%	931	18.2%	1 340	17.4%
<b>Switzerland</b>	1 224	17.6%	1 212	14.9%	1 664	15.3%

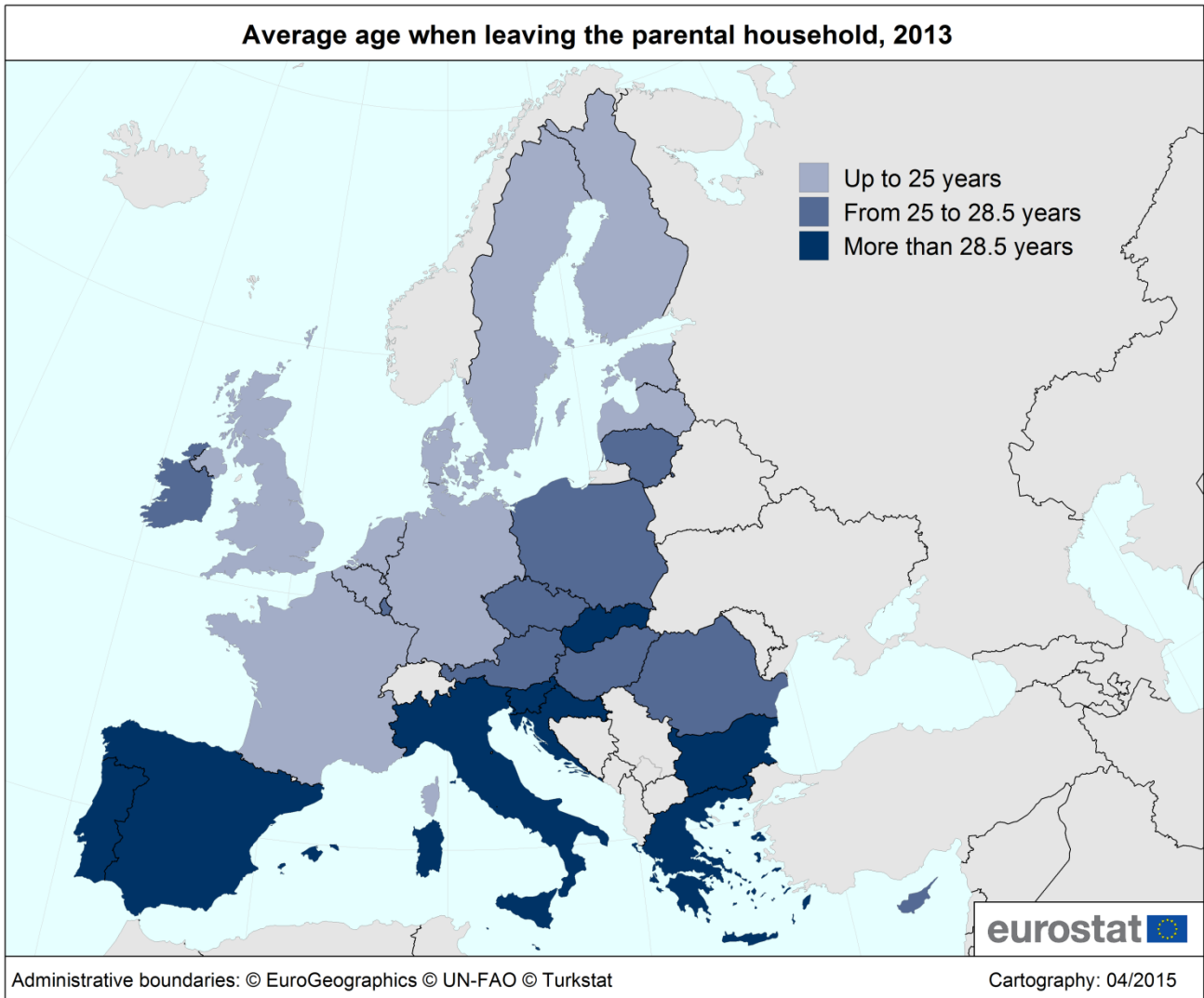
\* EU refers to EU27 (without Croatia) for 1994 and to EU28 for 2014 and 2050.

: Data not available

## Young people leave the parental household earlier in the Nordic EU Member States

In the EU, the average age of young people leaving the parental household stood at 26.1 in 2013.

Significant differences can be observed across Member States. In 2013, the three Nordic Member States were, by far, the countries where young people left home earliest: at 19.6 years in **Sweden**, 21.0 years in **Denmark** and 21.9 years in **Finland**. They were followed by the **Netherlands** (23.5), **France** (23.6) and **Germany** (23.9). At the opposite end of the scale, young people in **Croatia** remained the longest in the parental household, with an average age of 31.9, ahead of **Slovakia** (30.7), **Malta** (30.1), and **Italy** (29.9).



It should also be noted that in every EU Member State, young women tend to leave the parental household earlier than men, the highest differences between the genders being registered in **Bulgaria** (26.8 years for women, compared with 31.3 for men), **Romania** (26.2 vs. 30.7) and **Croatia** (30.2 vs. 33.7).

### Average age of young people leaving the parental household in the EU, 2013

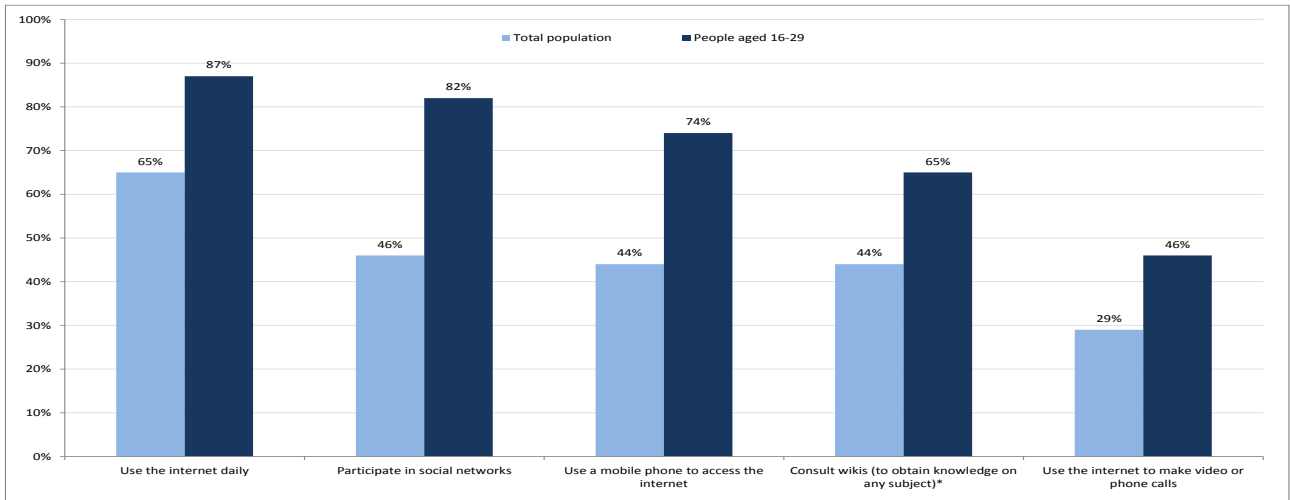
	Total	Males	Females
<b>EU</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>25.0</b>
Belgium	24.9	25.8	24.1
Bulgaria	29.1	31.3	26.8
Czech Republic	26.7	27.8	25.6
Denmark	21.0	21.4	20.5
Germany	23.9	24.8	22.9
Estonia	24.3	25.1	23.5
Ireland	25.6	26.5	24.8
Greece	29.3	30.7	27.9
Spain	28.9	29.8	27.9
France	23.6	24.5	22.8
Croatia	31.9	33.7	30.2
Italy	29.9	31.0	28.7
Cyprus	27.8	28.9	26.7
Latvia	24.5	25.2	23.7
Lithuania	25.9	27.0	24.8
Luxembourg	26.4	27.0	25.9
Hungary	27.8	29.0	26.6
Malta	30.1	31.0	29.2
Netherlands	23.5	24.3	22.6
Austria	25.4	26.6	24.2
Poland	28.2	29.3	27.0
Portugal	29.0	30.0	28.0
Romania	28.5	30.7	26.2
Slovenia	28.8	30.1	27.5
Slovakia	30.7	32.1	29.3
Finland	21.9	22.8	21.1
Sweden	19.6	19.9	19.3
United Kingdom	24.1	25.0	23.1

### More than 80% of young people in the EU participate in social networks

In 2014, almost 9 out of 10 persons (87%) aged 16-29 used the internet on a daily basis in the **EU**, while this proportion fell to 65% for the total population. Moreover, almost three-quarters (74%) of young people in the **EU** used a mobile phone to access the internet, compared with less than half (44%) of the total population. Regarding on-line activities, young people in the **EU** were more likely to use the internet to make phone or video calls (46% of people aged 16-29, compared with 29% for the total population), to participate in social networks (82% compared with 46%) and to consult wikis for reference (65% compared with 44% in 2013).

### Youth and the internet in the EU: a way of life, 2014

(in % of population)



\* 2013 data instead of 2014.

1. In late 2013, Eurostat introduced a new type of publication, the 'flagship publication', with the aim of providing statistical analyses relating to important social, economic or environmental phenomena. The aim of these publications is to address specific, highly relevant themes for the general public and European Union policy-making. *Being young in Europe today* is part of this new breed of publications.
2. Eurostat publication "**Being young in Europe today**". PDF-version available on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=KS-05-14-031>. It can also be found in Statistics Explained: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Being\\_young\\_in\\_Europe\\_today](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Being_young_in_Europe_today)
3. Many indicators on youth in the EU are available on the dedicated section of the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/employment-and-social-policy/youth>
4. For further information on the EU Youth Strategy, please see: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth\\_strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth_strategy/index_en.htm)
5. A selection of interactive infographics primarily developed for young people but also for parents and teachers, is available on the Eurostat website: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/youth/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/youth/index_en.html). They cover four main areas: family, work, free time & studies and the internet.
6. Countries across Europe will be celebrating European Youth Week with hundreds of events and activities, from the 27<sup>th</sup> of April to the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2015: [http://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/50/23771\\_en](http://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/50/23771_en)

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