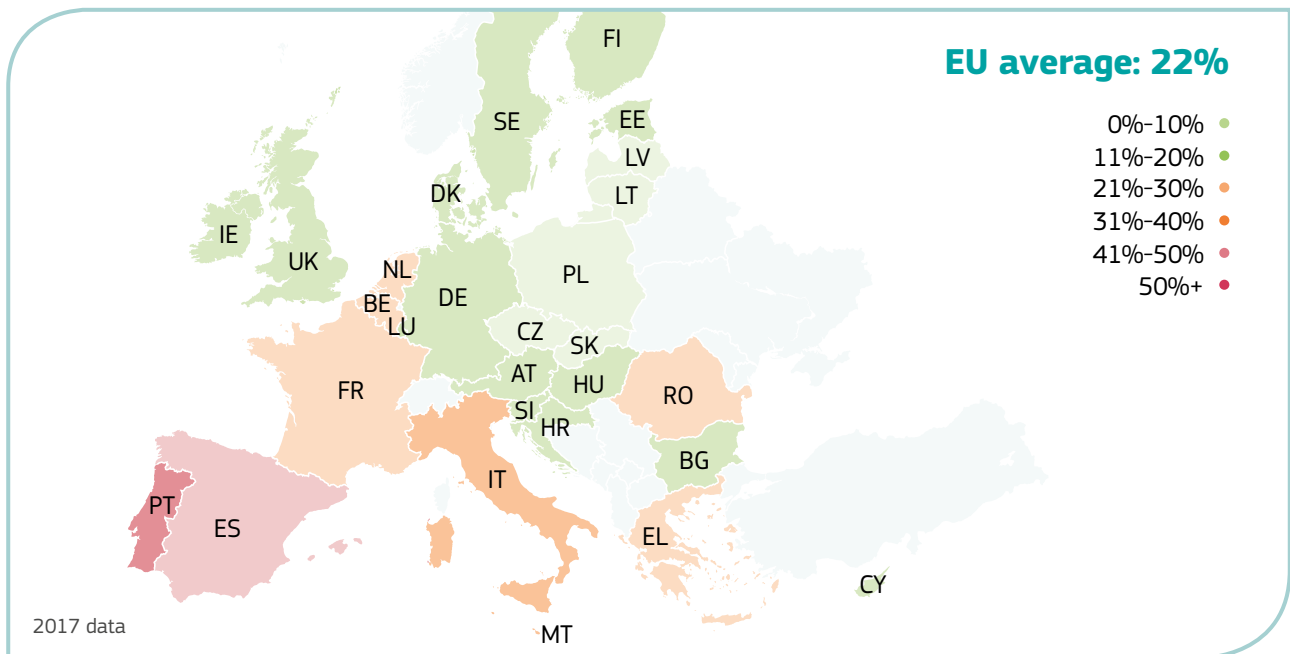


# Impact of education and skills on life chances

More than 1 in 5 adults in Europe (aged 25-64) struggle with basic literacy and numeracy skills and the use of digital tools in everyday life. In 2017, about the same amount of adult Europeans (61 million or 22%) only obtained a lower secondary education level at most. Without basic skills and with a low level of qualifications, adults are at a higher risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. Low skills levels negatively impact on economic productivity and long-term growth.



## Profile of low-qualified adults in the EU

### Age

There are more low-qualified adults among older than younger people.



**17%**

From 25 to 34 years

**22%**

From 35 to 44 years

**29%**

From 45 to 54 years

**32%**

From 55 to 64 years

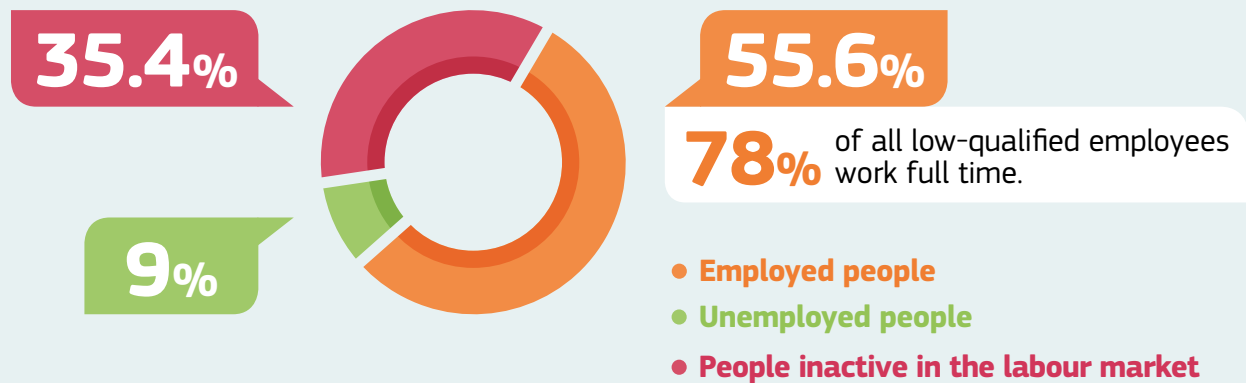


On average, **women** in the EU have higher qualifications than **men**, but there are significant differences between Member States.



Low-qualified people are often over-represented in **rural areas**.

## 1 in 3 of low-qualified adults are inactive and 1 in 2 are in employment



## Impact of education and skills on life chances

### Education and skills development have a positive impact on life chances:



#### Higher income

The annual EU average net income of low-qualified adults is **€14 513** compared to **€25 552** of high-qualified adults<sup>2</sup>.



#### Better chances on the labour market

In the EU, only **64.4%** of low-qualified adults are active on the labour market compared to **89.1%** of high-qualified adults.



#### Better health and wellbeing

Compared to high-qualified adults (**6.7%**), **twice as many** low-qualified adults (**12.7%**) perceive their health as bad or very bad.



#### Lower risk of poverty

**34.2%** of low-qualified adults are at risk of poverty compared to **10.9%** of high-qualified adults.

More than **60%** of children of low-qualified people are at risk of poverty, compared to around **9%** of children of high-qualified parents.



#### Increased participation in education and training

Only **4.3%** of low-qualified adults take part in education and training, compared to **18.6%** of high-qualified adults.



#### Higher participation in cultural activities

**52.3%** of low-qualified adults take part in cultural activities compared to **81.8%** of high-qualified adults.

Sources:

EU Labour Force Survey 2017 (25-64 years olds)

EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2017

The OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

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