

**A Flemish
employee earns
€2.895 net per
month**



The net income of working Flemings between the ages of 20 and 64 is on average €2.895 per month.

The **average income** is the total of all incomes divided by the number of people.

This can show a distorted picture because some very high incomes pull the figure up.



The **median income** is the middle income: half of the people earn more, the other half less.

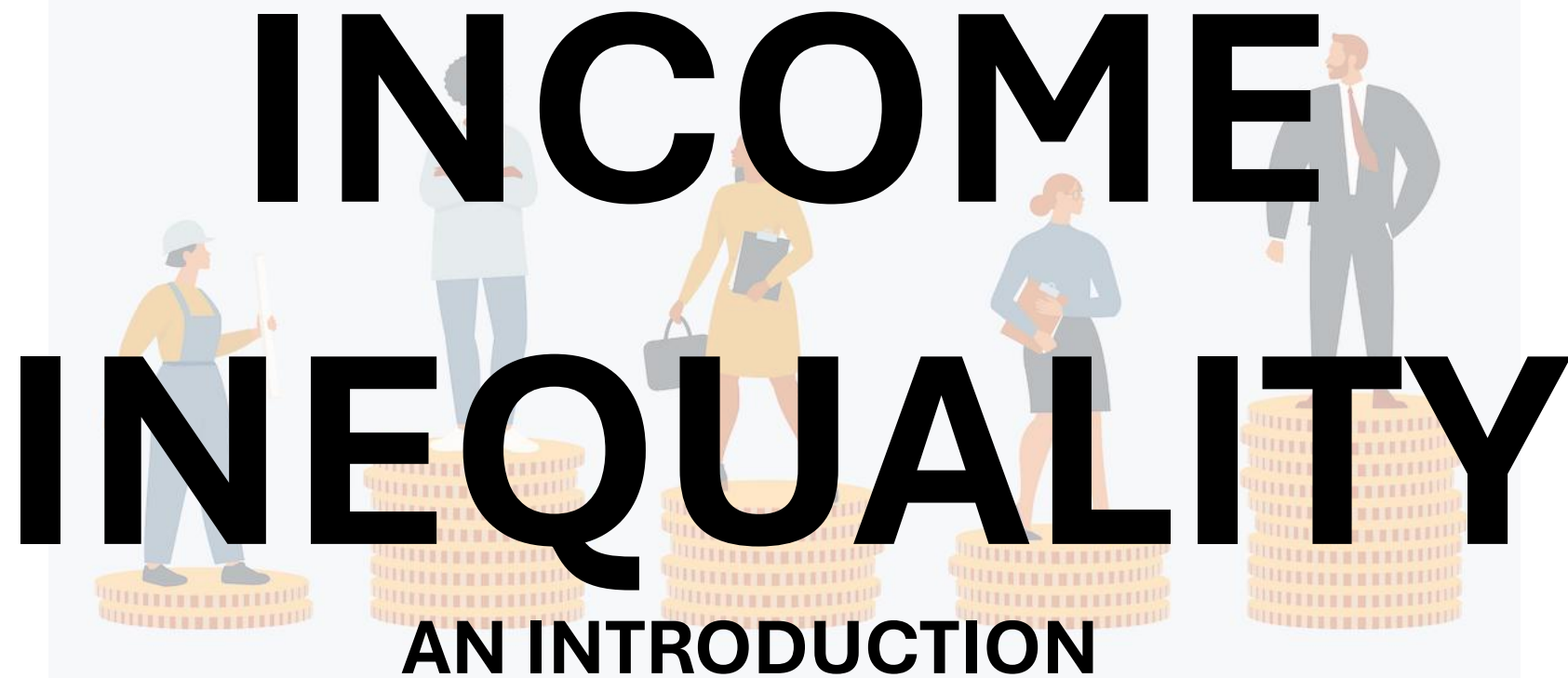
Therefore, the median usually gives a more realistic picture of what an 'average' citizen earns.

The median net income of the working population aged 20 to 64 in the Flemish Region is €2.830 per month.



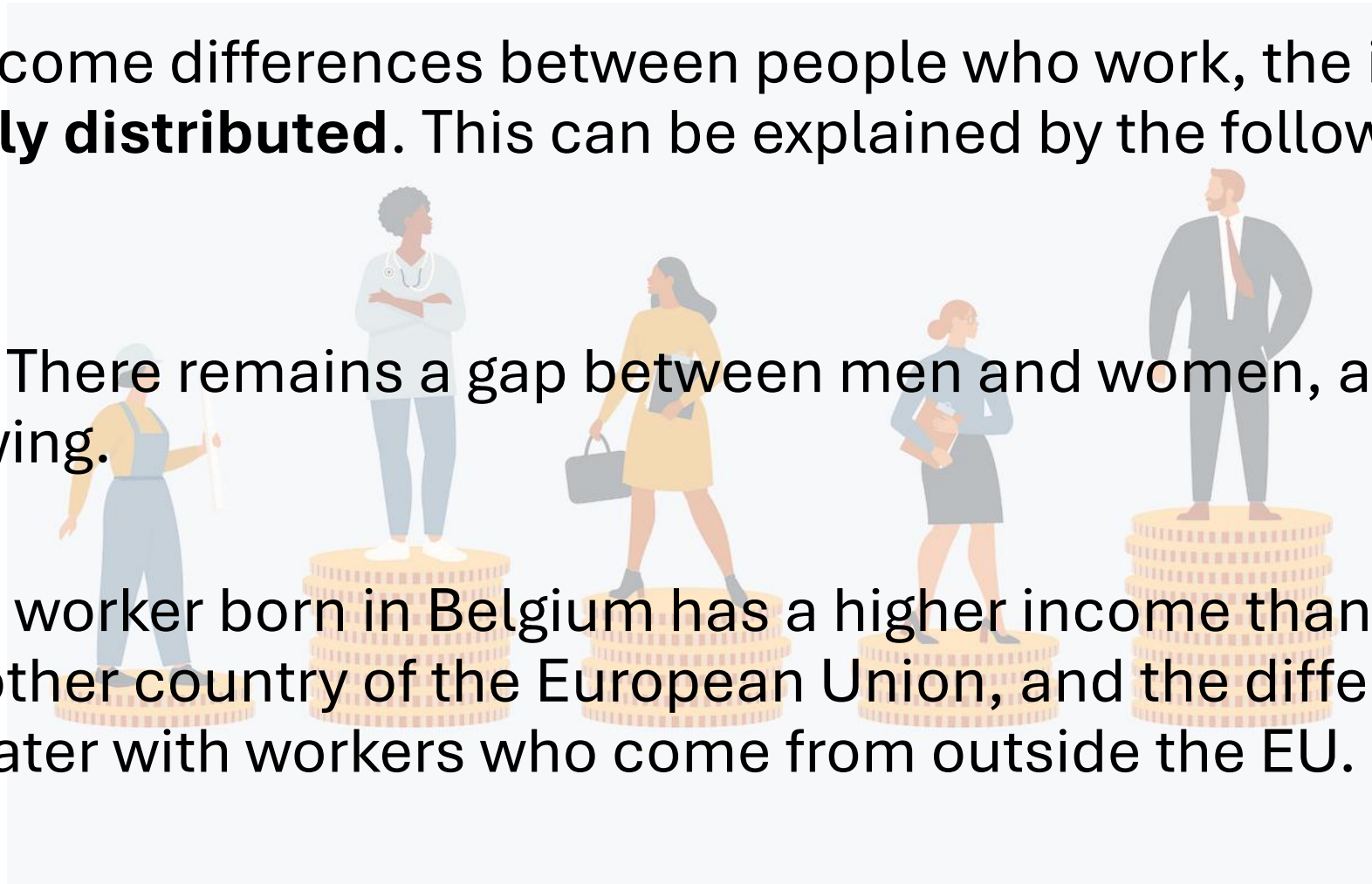
INCOME INEQUALITY

AN INTRODUCTION

An illustration depicting income inequality. Five stylized human figures are shown standing on stacks of gold coins. From left to right: a construction worker in a hard hat and overalls on a single coin; a person in a grey sweater on a stack of two coins; a woman in a yellow dress on a stack of three coins; a woman in a blue shirt on a stack of four coins; and a man in a grey suit on a stack of five coins. The height of the stacks increases from left to right, corresponding to the perceived social or economic status of the figures. The background is a light blue-grey gradient.

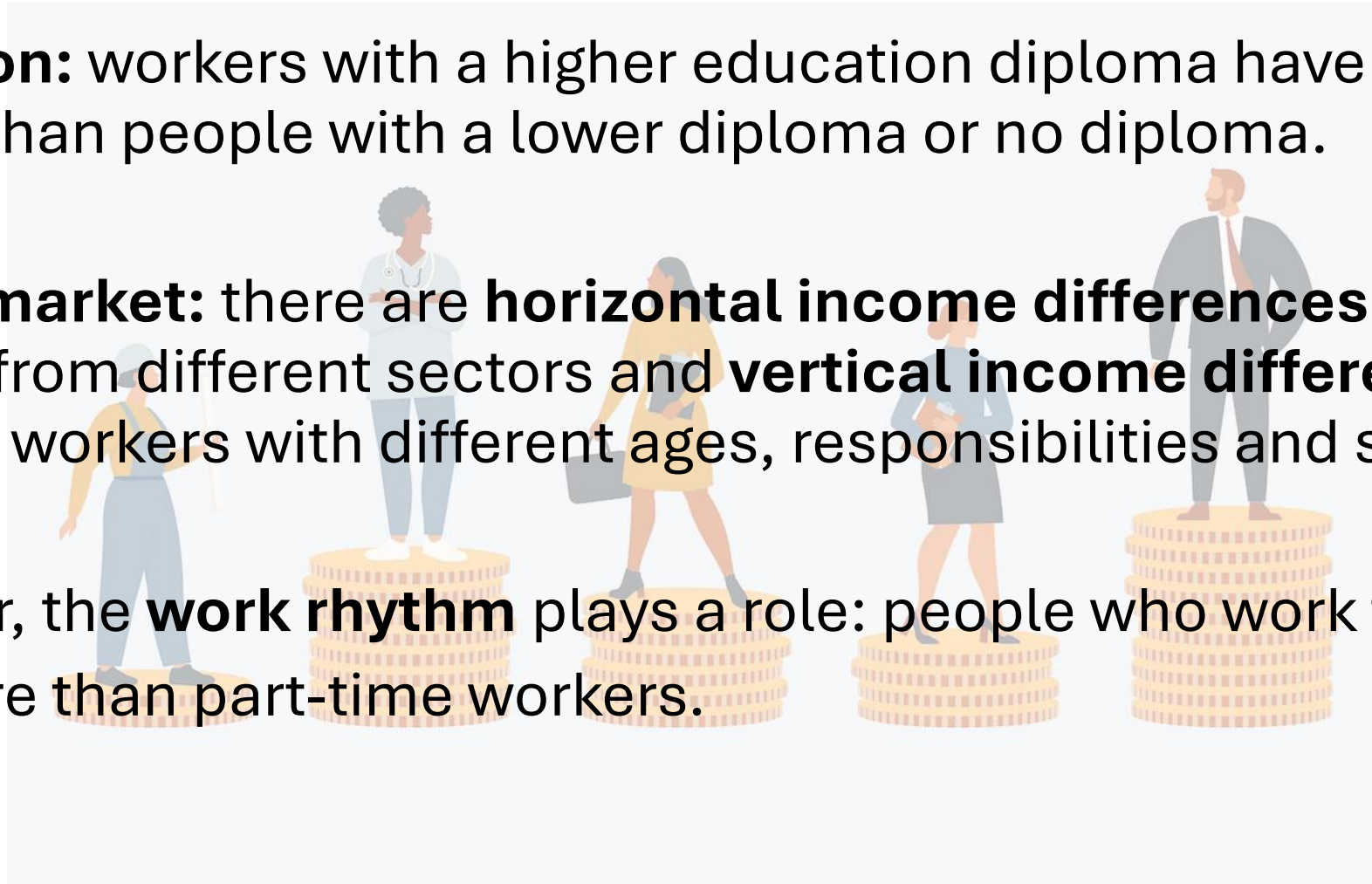
There are income differences between people who work, the **incomes are unevenly distributed**. This can be explained by the following factors:

- **Gender:** There remains a gap between men and women, although it is narrowing.
- **Origin:** a worker born in Belgium has a higher income than a worker from another country of the European Union, and the difference is even greater with workers who come from outside the EU.

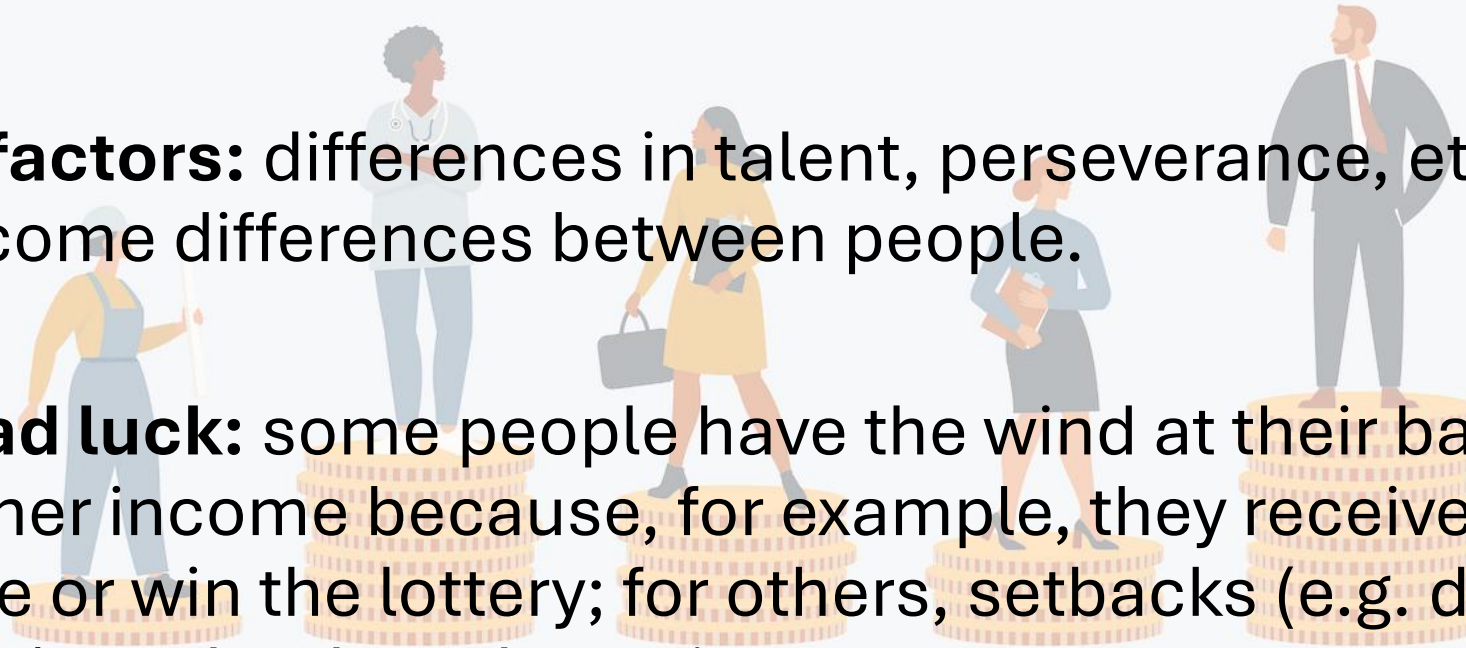


- **Education:** workers with a higher education diploma have a higher income than people with a lower diploma or no diploma.
- **Labour market:** there are **horizontal income differences** between workers from different sectors and **vertical income differences** between workers with different ages, responsibilities and seniority.

Moreover, the **work rhythm** plays a role: people who work full-time earn more than part-time workers.



- **Wealth:** workers who have a large capital have a higher income than workers with lower or no assets. Wealth is also a source of income.
- **Personal factors:** differences in talent, perseverance, etc., can also explain income differences between people.
- **Luck or bad luck:** some people have the wind at their backs and have a higher income because, for example, they receive an inheritance or win the lottery; for others, setbacks (e.g. due to illness or accident) can lead to a lower income.



If we look at the picture more broadly, there are of course the **income differences between working and non-working people**, namely people who live on social benefits.

An economy with high income inequality is confronted with high **poverty**.

The most common and universally accepted measure of income inequality is the **Gini index**. This makes income inequality between countries comparable.

