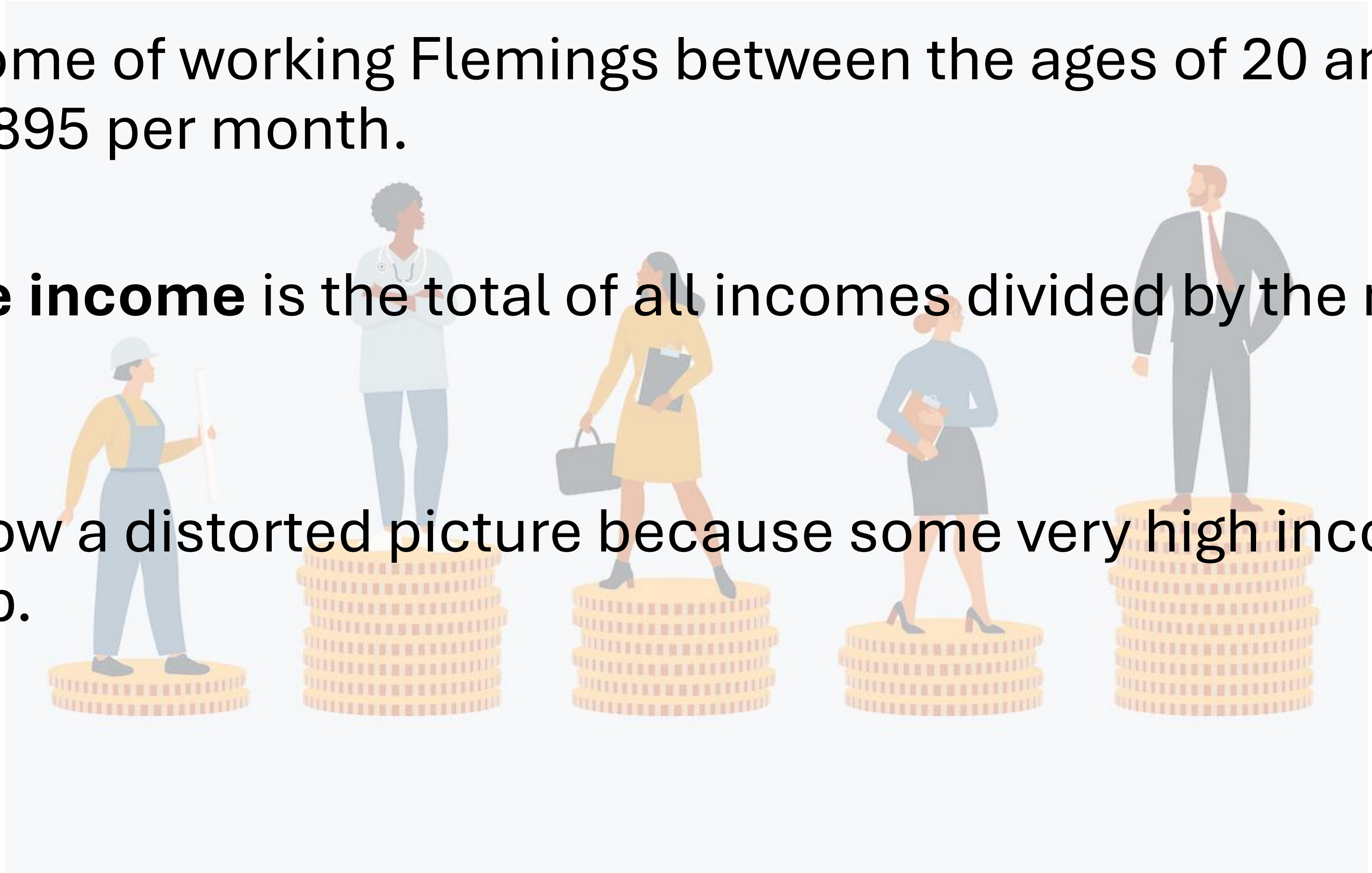
A Flemish employee earns €2.895 net per month

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.

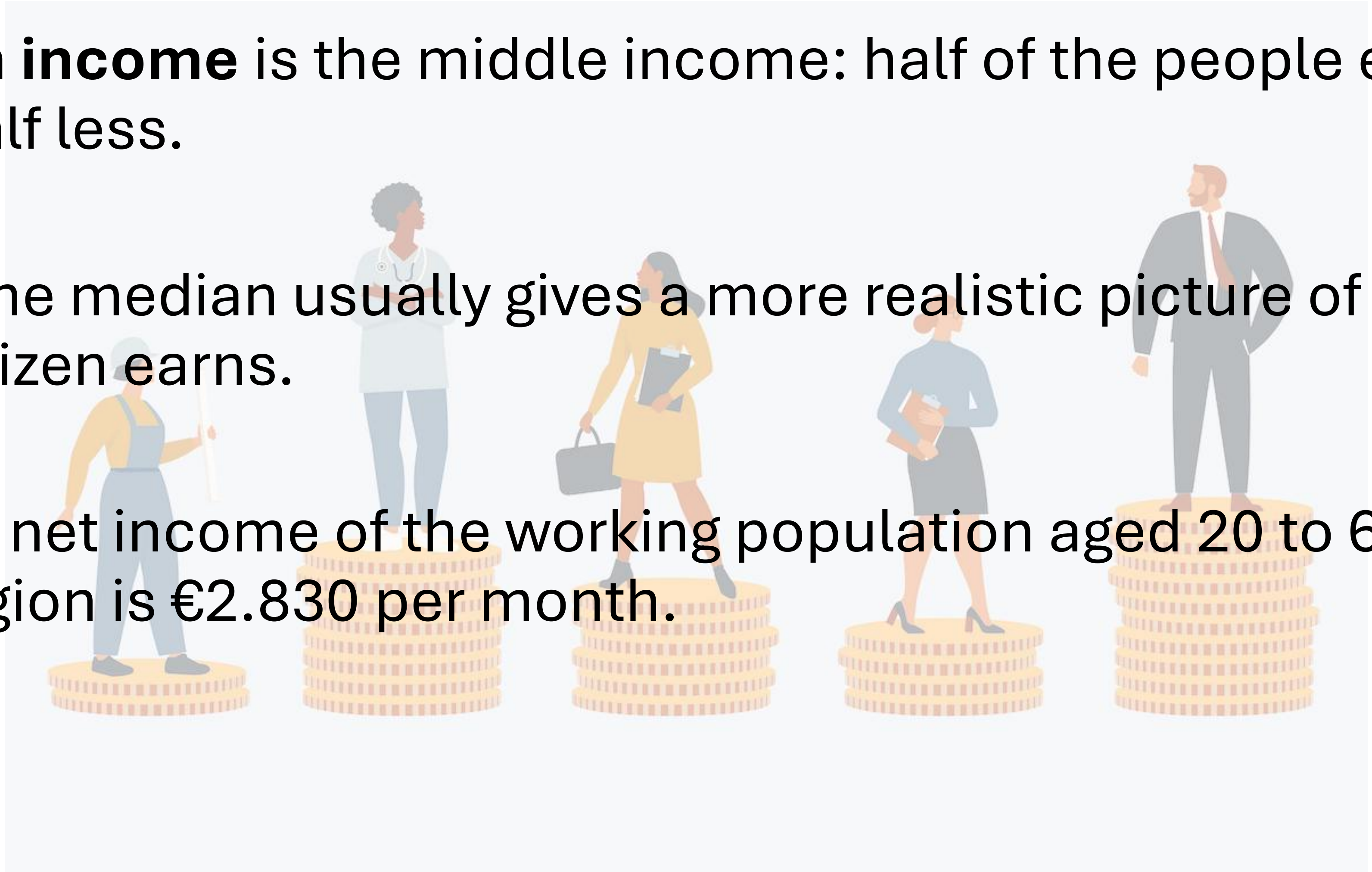
This can show a distorted picture because some very high incomes pull the figure up.

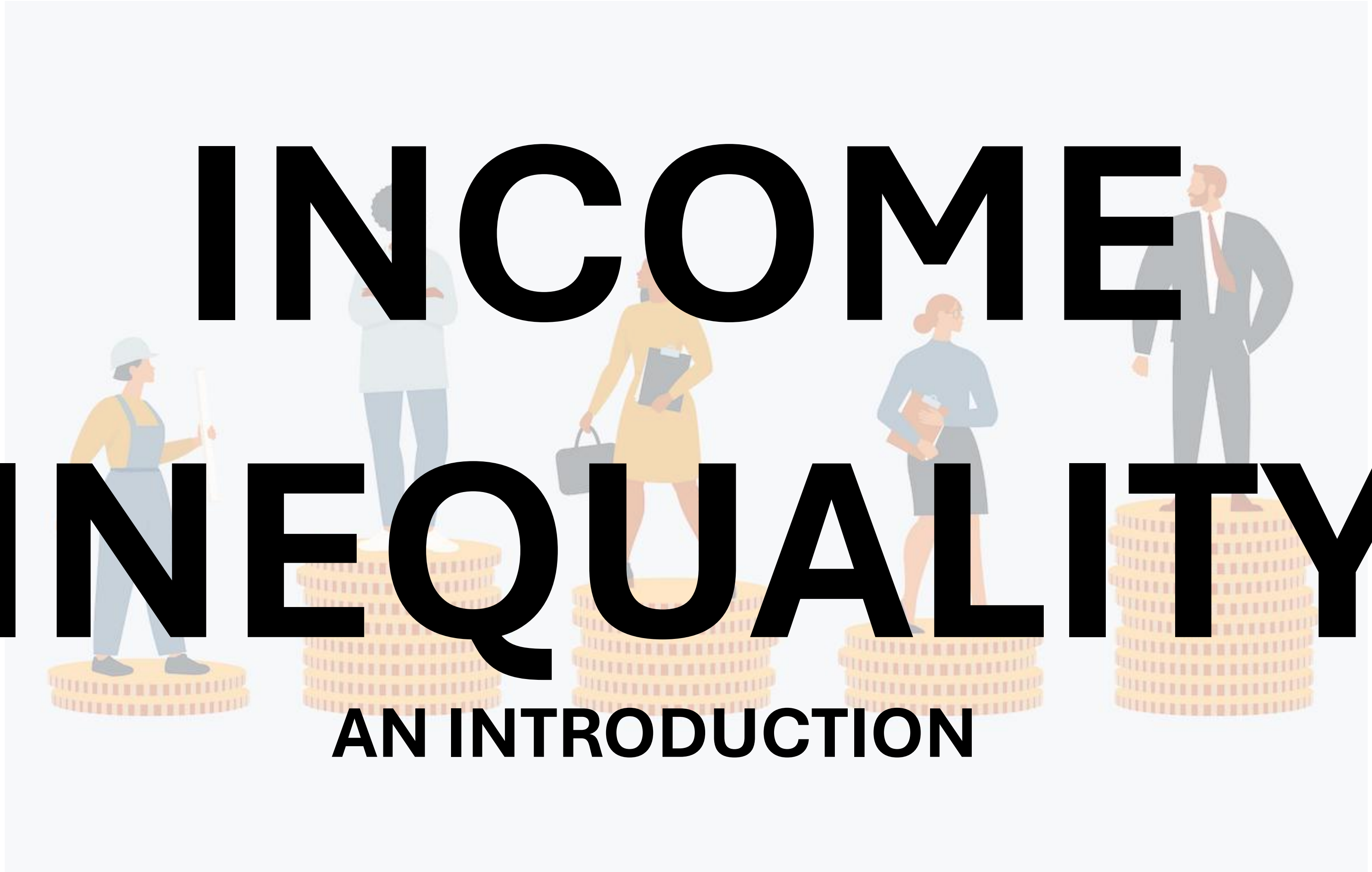


The **median income** is the middle income: half of the people earn more, the other half less.

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

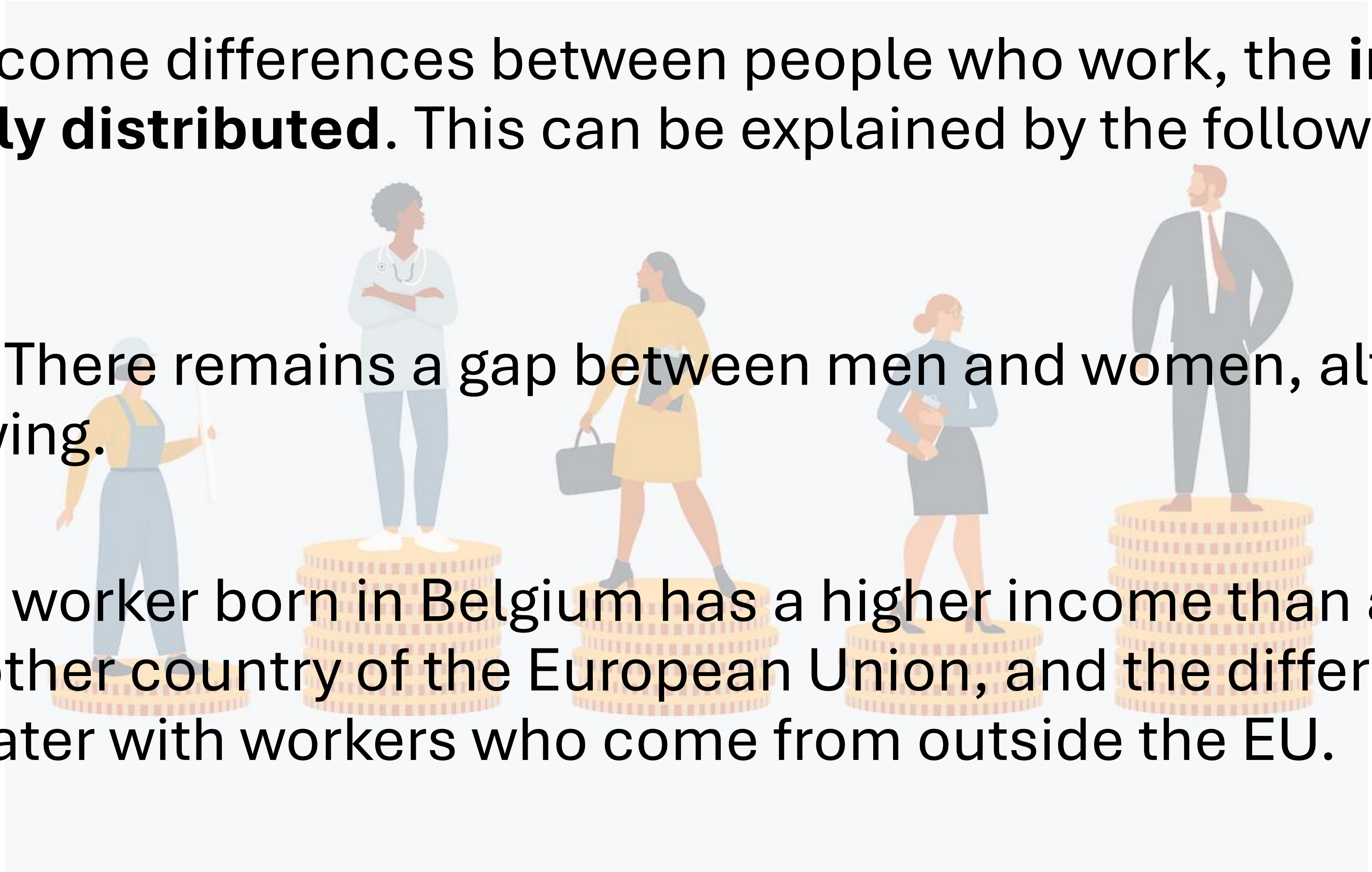
The median net income of the working population aged 20 to 64 in the Flemish Region is €2.830 per month.





INCOME INEQUALITY

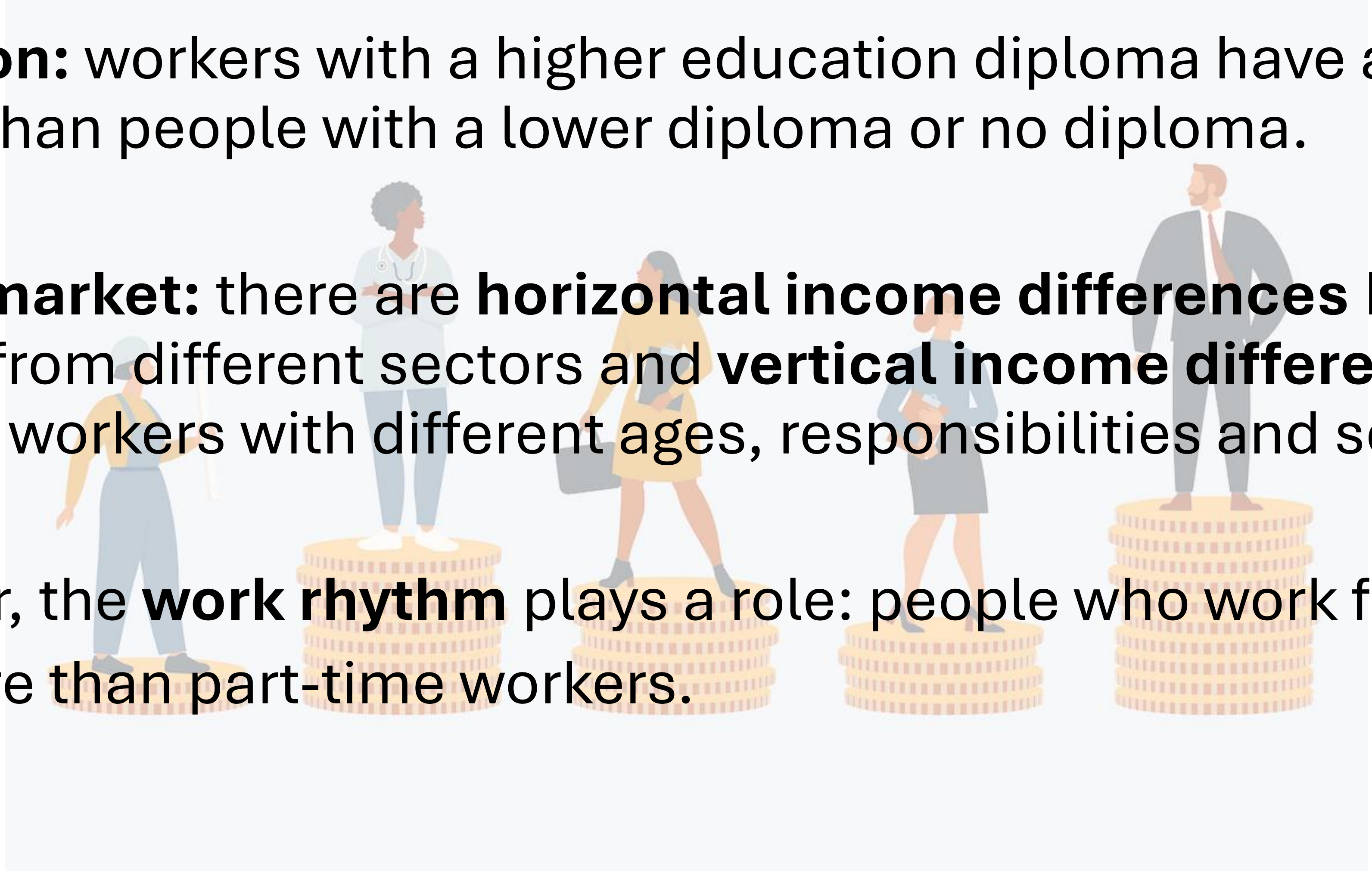
AN INTRODUCTION



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.

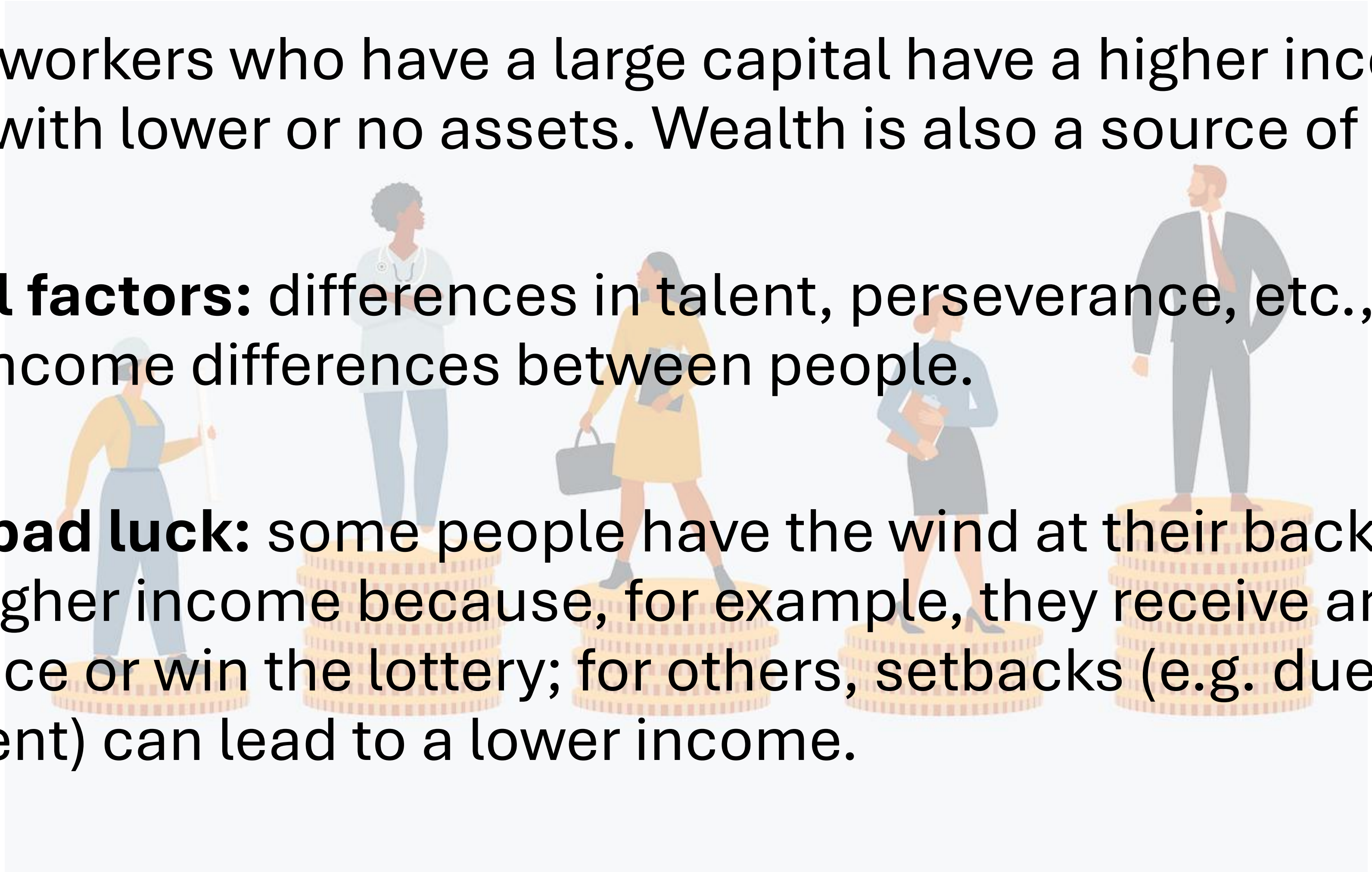
- **Labour market:** there are **horizontal income differences** between workers from different sectors and **vertical income differences** between workers with different ages, responsibilities and seniority.

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

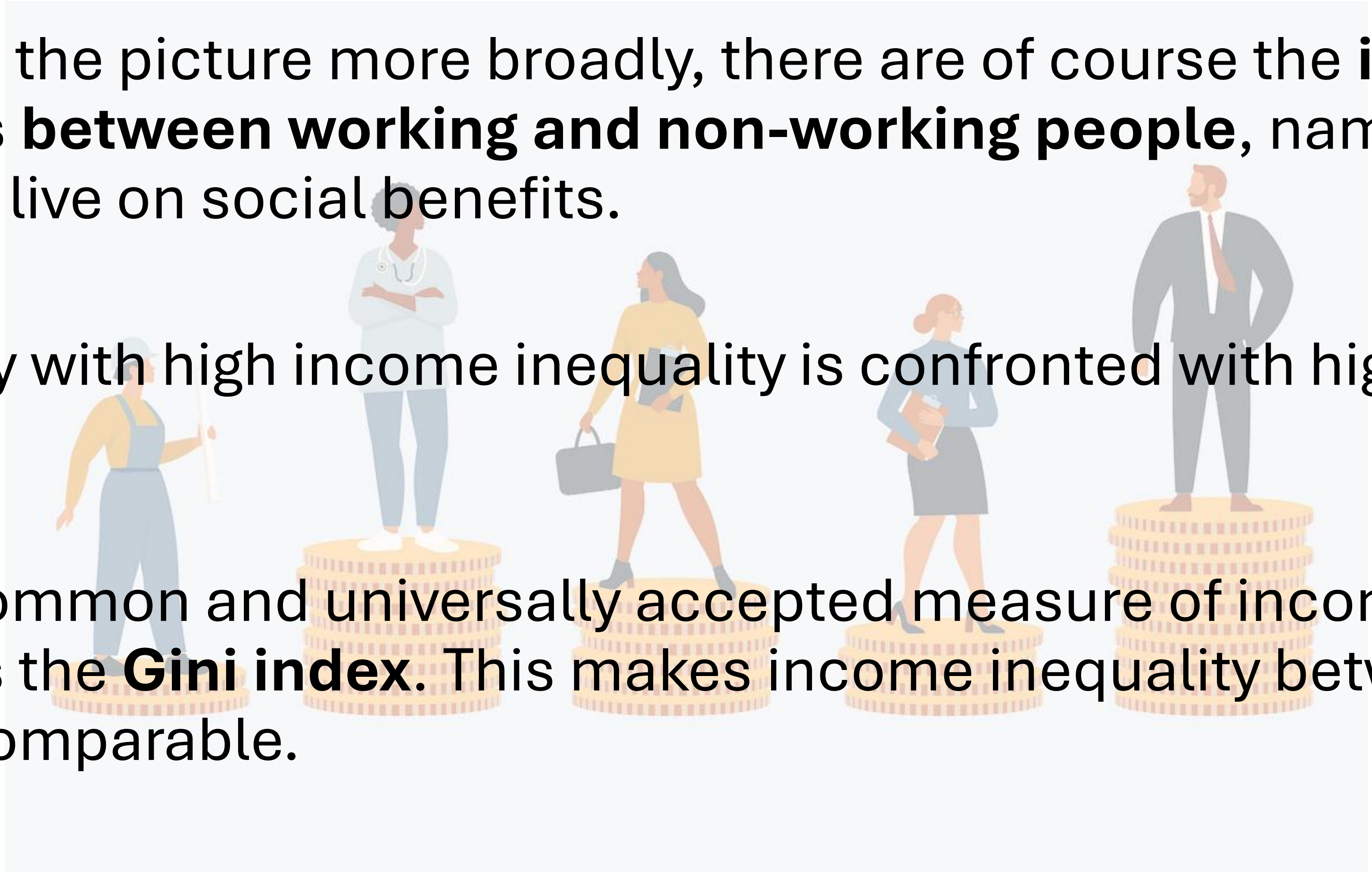
- **Wealth:** workers who have a large capital have a higher income than workers with lower or no assets. Wealth is also a source of income.

- **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.