

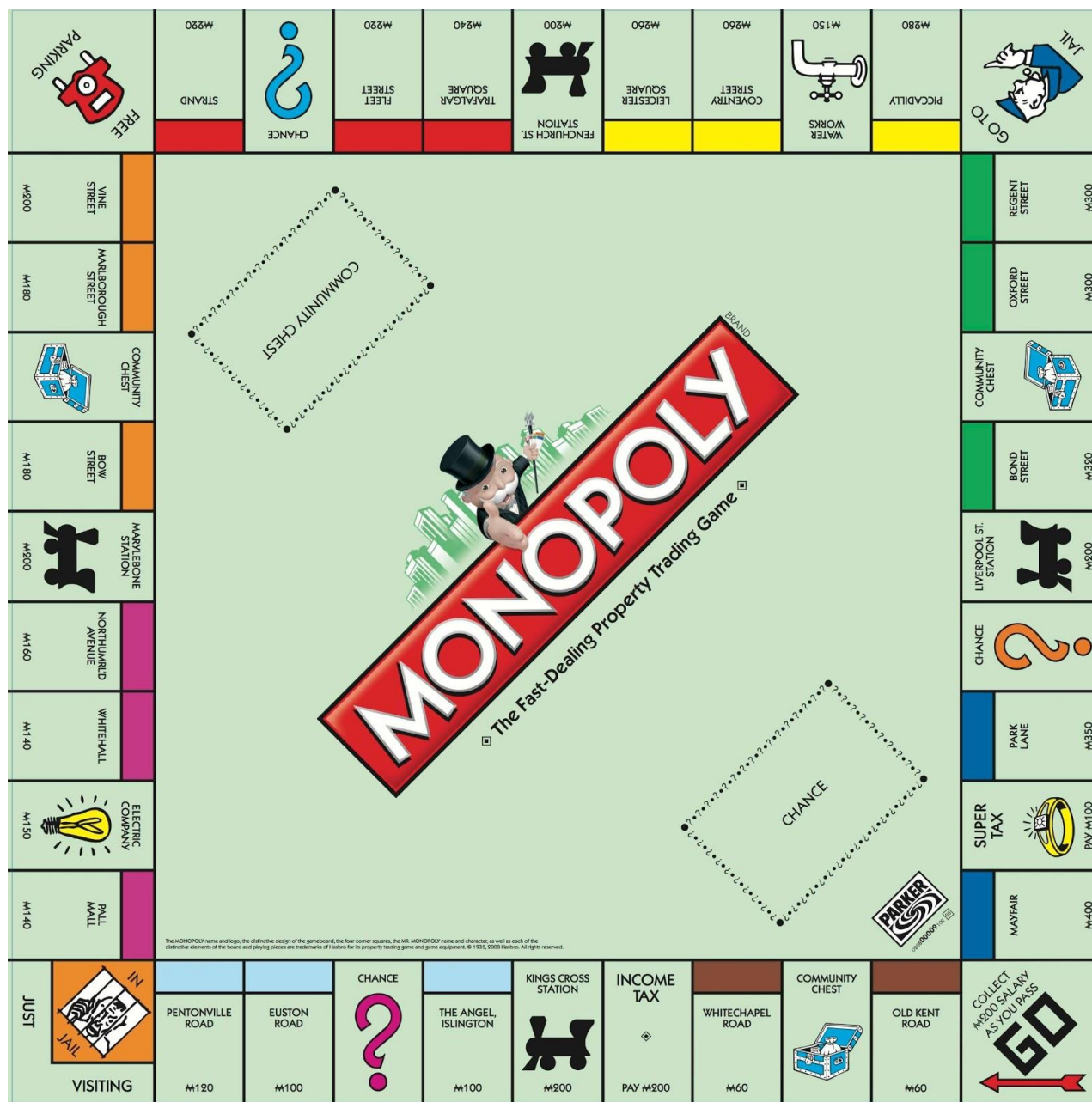
# Child poverty in Belgium: an accumulation of disadvantage

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*Research Institute for Social Policy, Social Work, Family and Population  
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# Exposure to poverty accumulates over time



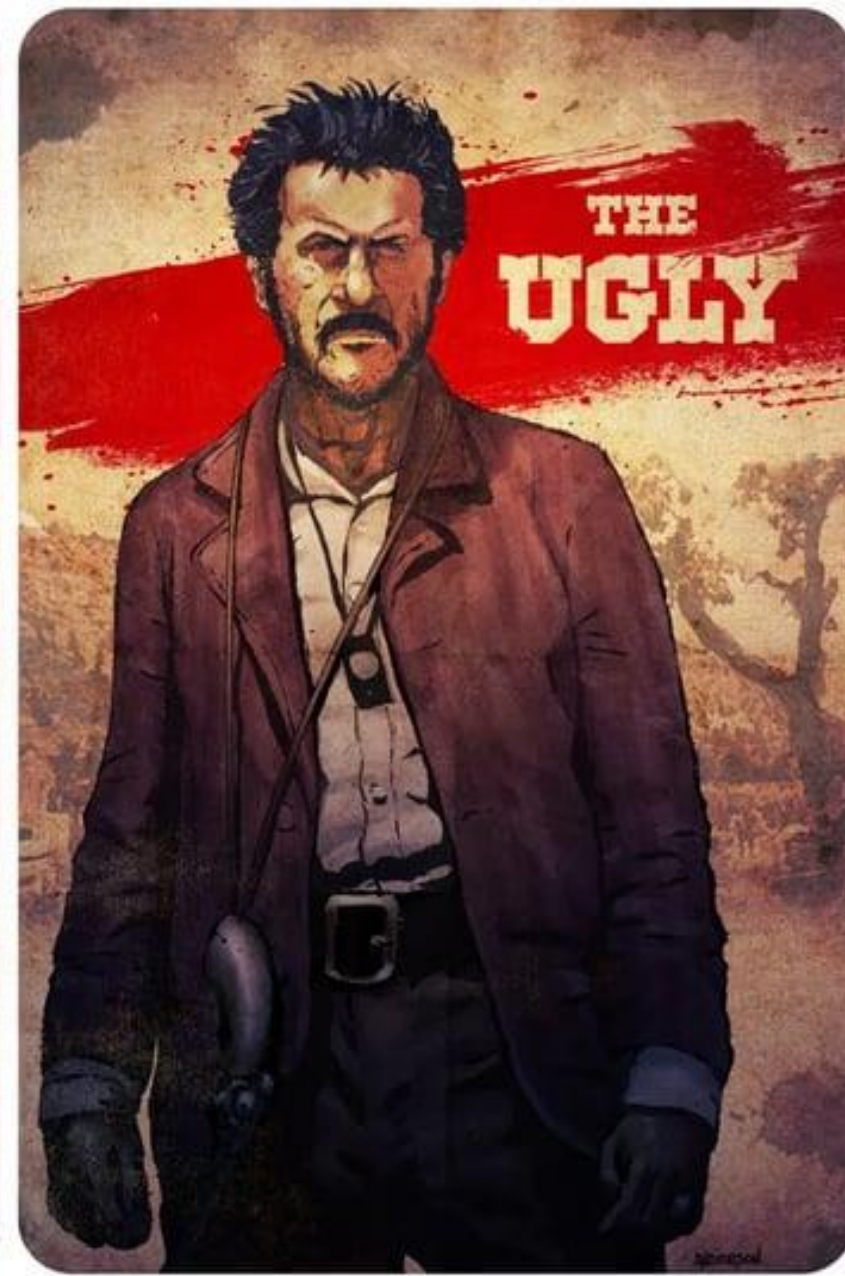
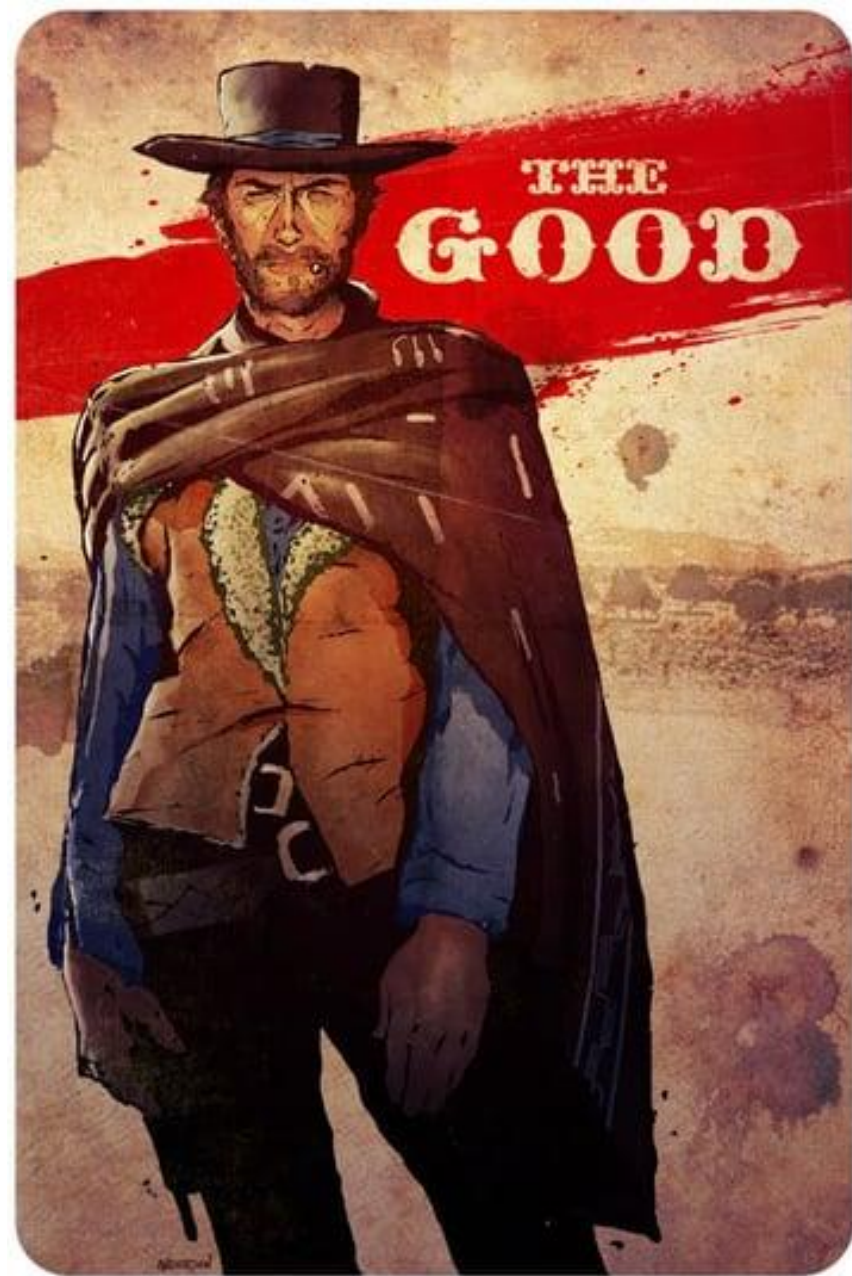
**“The poor stay poor, the rich get rich**

**That’s how it goes**

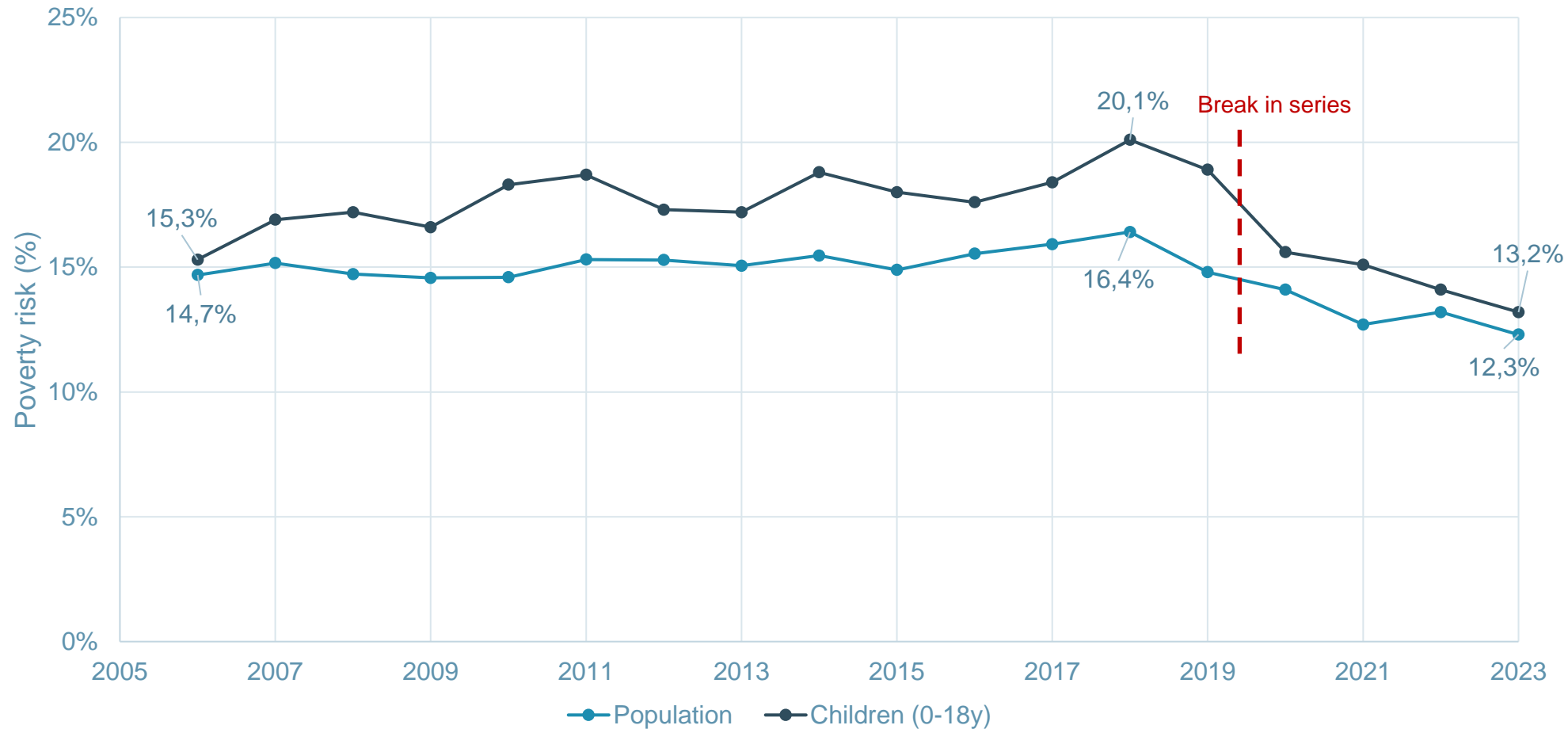
**Everybody knows.”**

(Leonard Cohen – ‘Everybody Knows’)



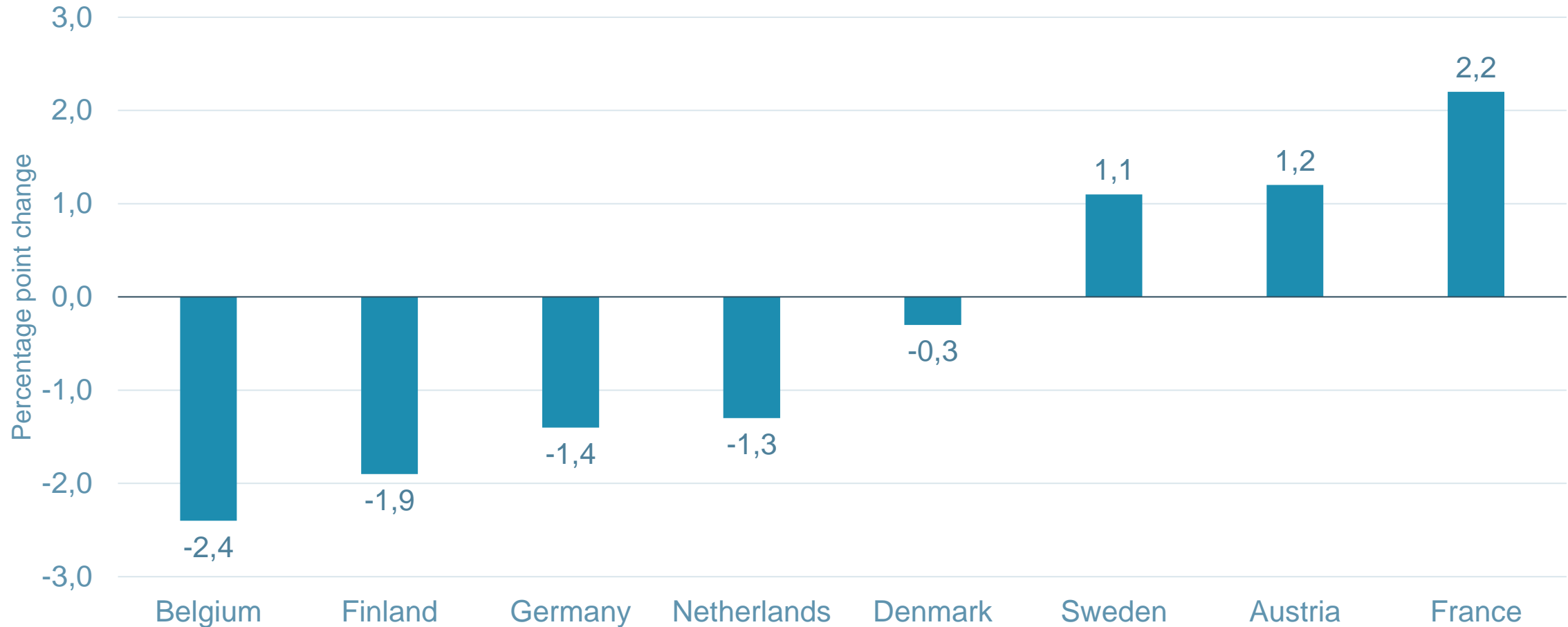


# Poverty is declining



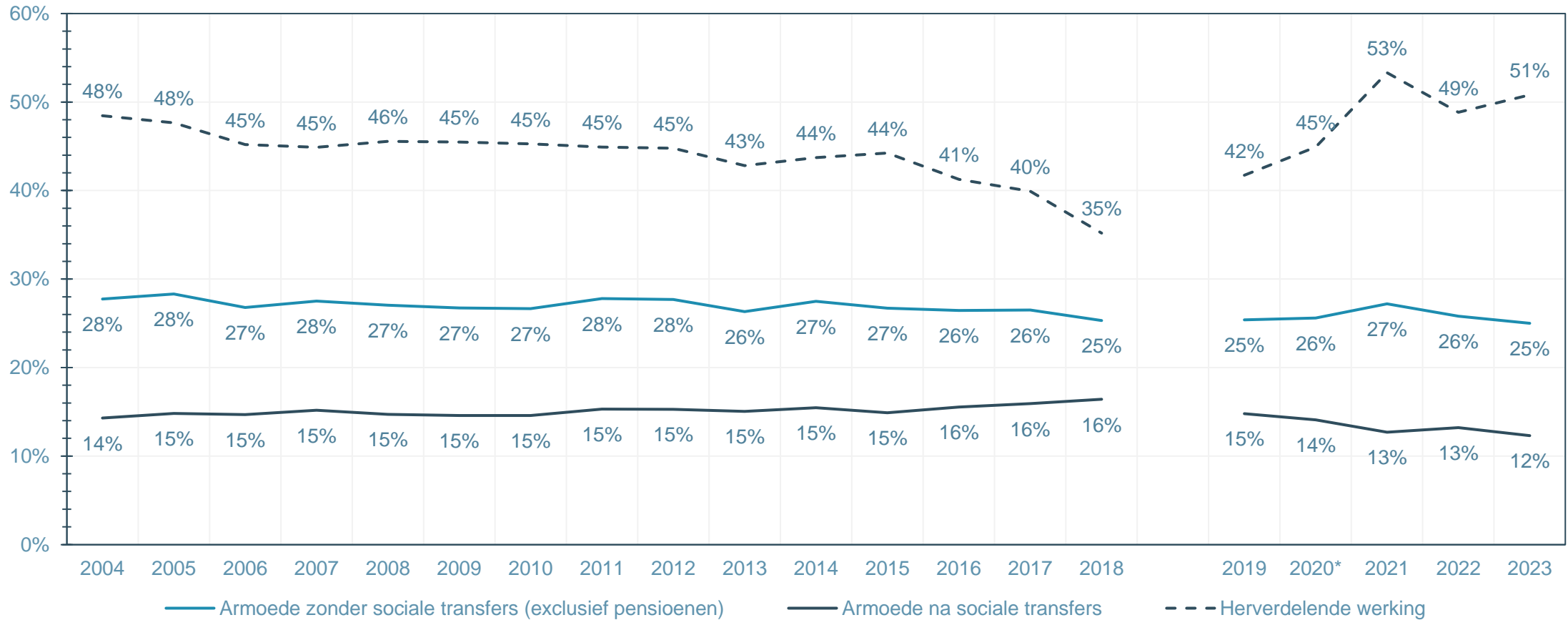
**Poverty** defined as the share of individuals living in a household with an equivalized household income below 60% of median equivalized household income  
**Source:** EU-SILC

# Changes in child poverty, 2020-2023



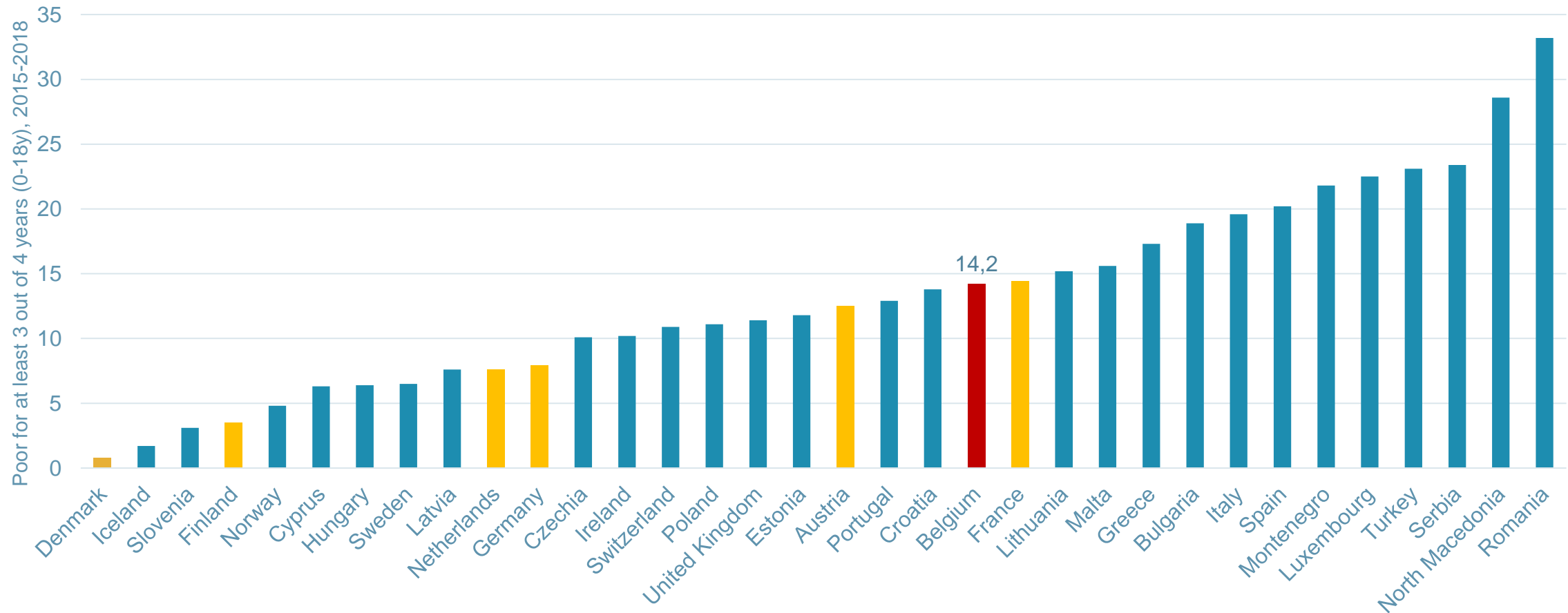


# ...explained by stronger redistribution



# Poverty in Belgium is persistent

Source: EU-SILC, figures refer to the period 2015-2018

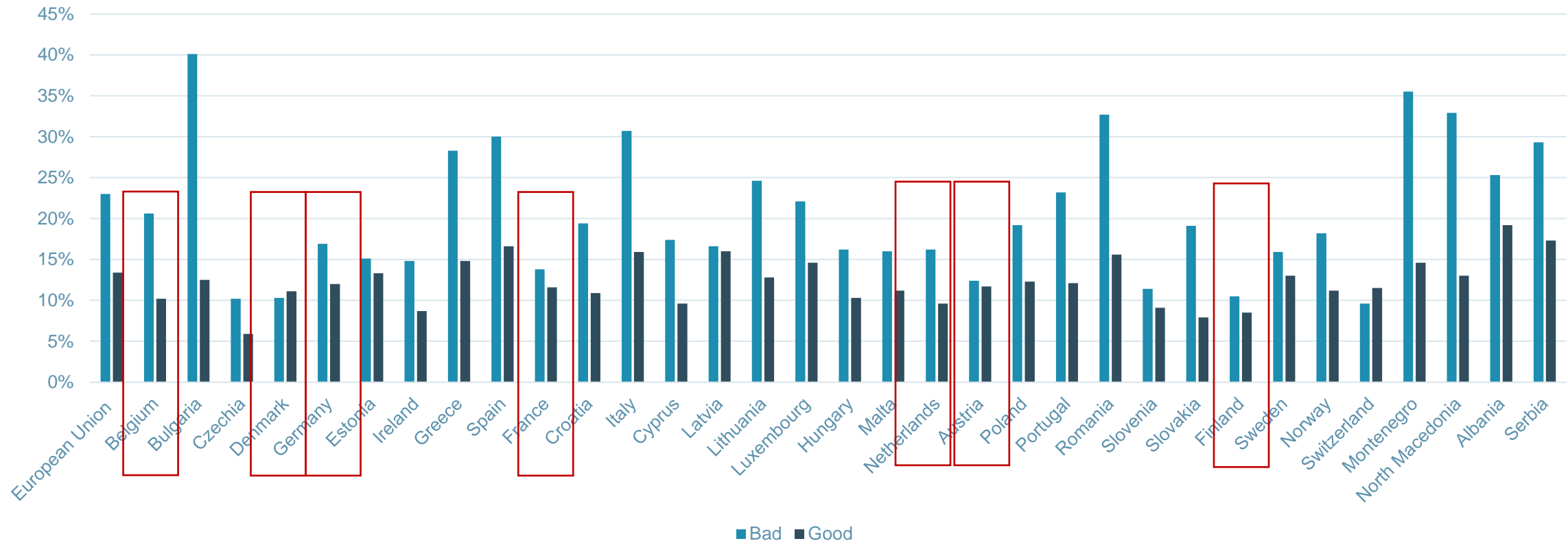




# Poverty is transmitted across generations



- Current poverty risk of adults (25-59yr) in relation to the financial situation of their parents, source: 2019 ad hoc module on the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage

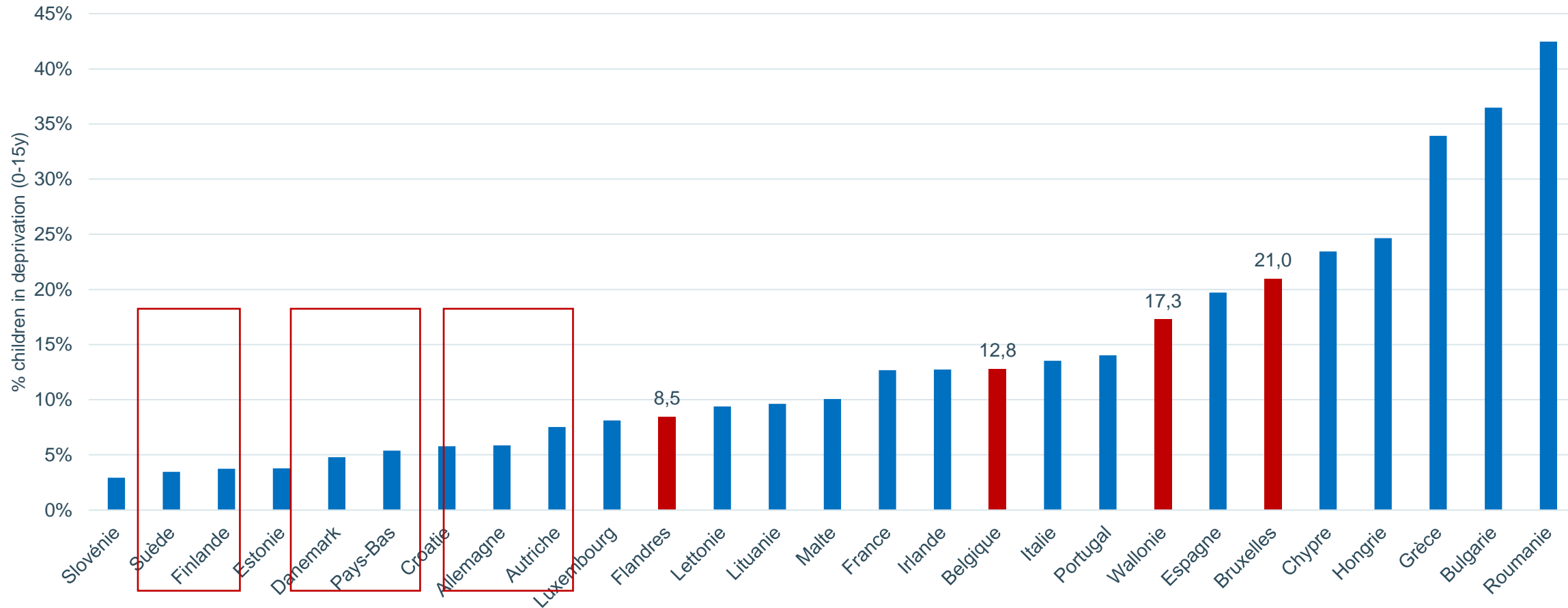


# A child perspective

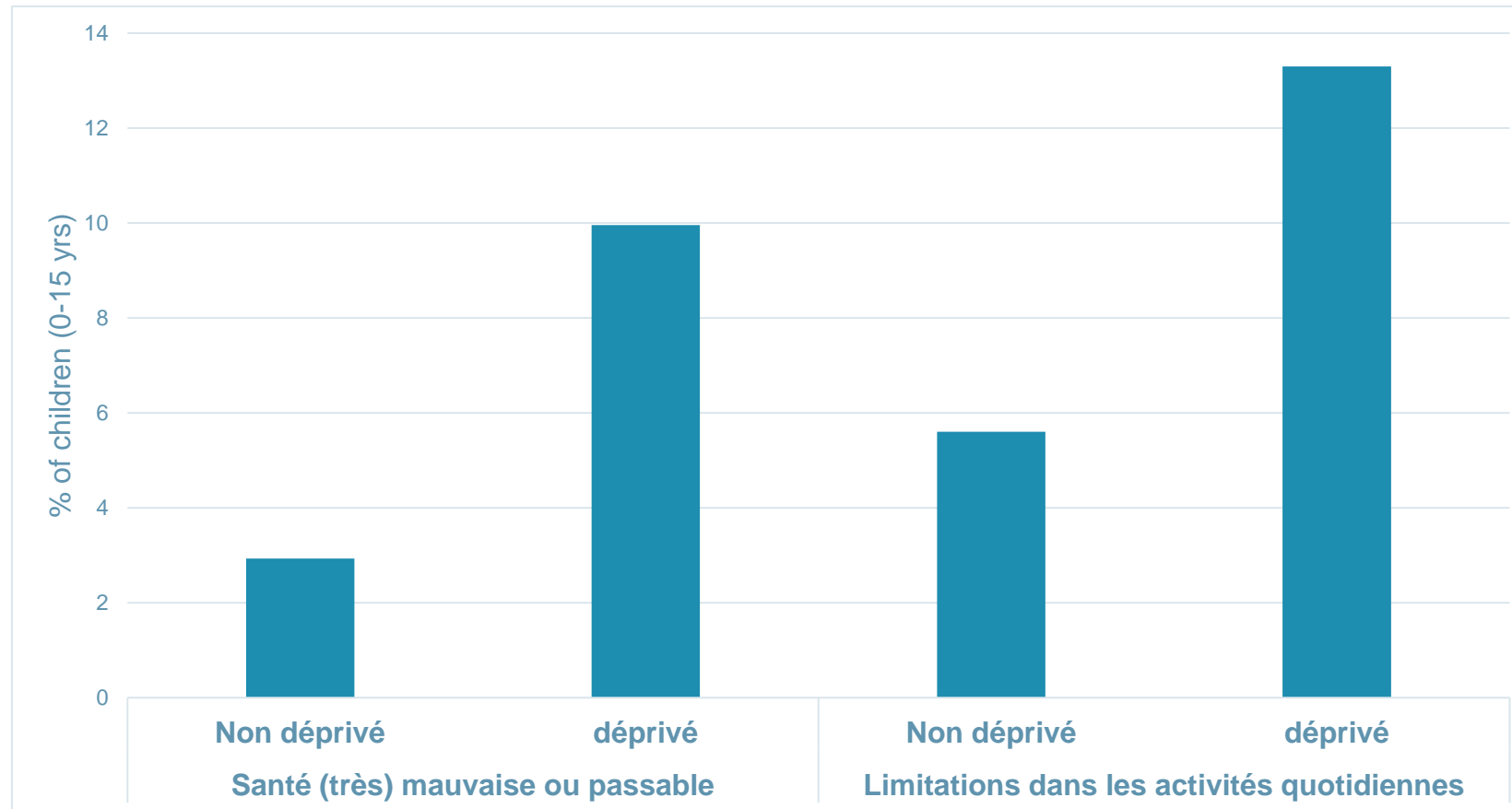


- Opening up the black box of household incomes
- What does growing up in poverty mean for children's lives?
- Measure of child deprivation: the percentage of children below 16 who suffer from the enforced lack of at least three items out of the 17 items, of which 12 are considered to be key for an advantageous childhood
  - Clothing (Some new clothes, two pair of shoes)
  - Food (fresh fruit and vegetables daily, meat chicken or fish daily)
  - Education (suitable books, internet, school trips)
  - Leisure and social participation (celebration of birthdays, invite friends, leisure activities, outdoor equipment, indoor games)
  - Material circumstances at household level (Arrears, yearly holiday, replace furniture, home adequacy warm, car)

# Child-specific material deprivation



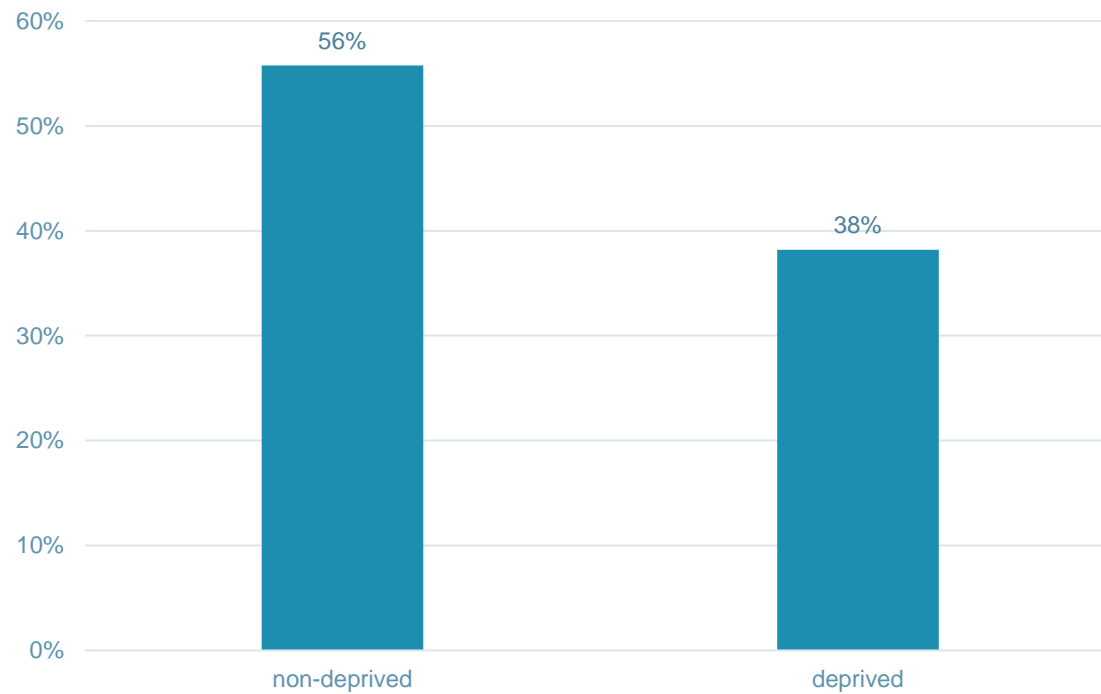
# Child deprivation is associated with poor health outcomes



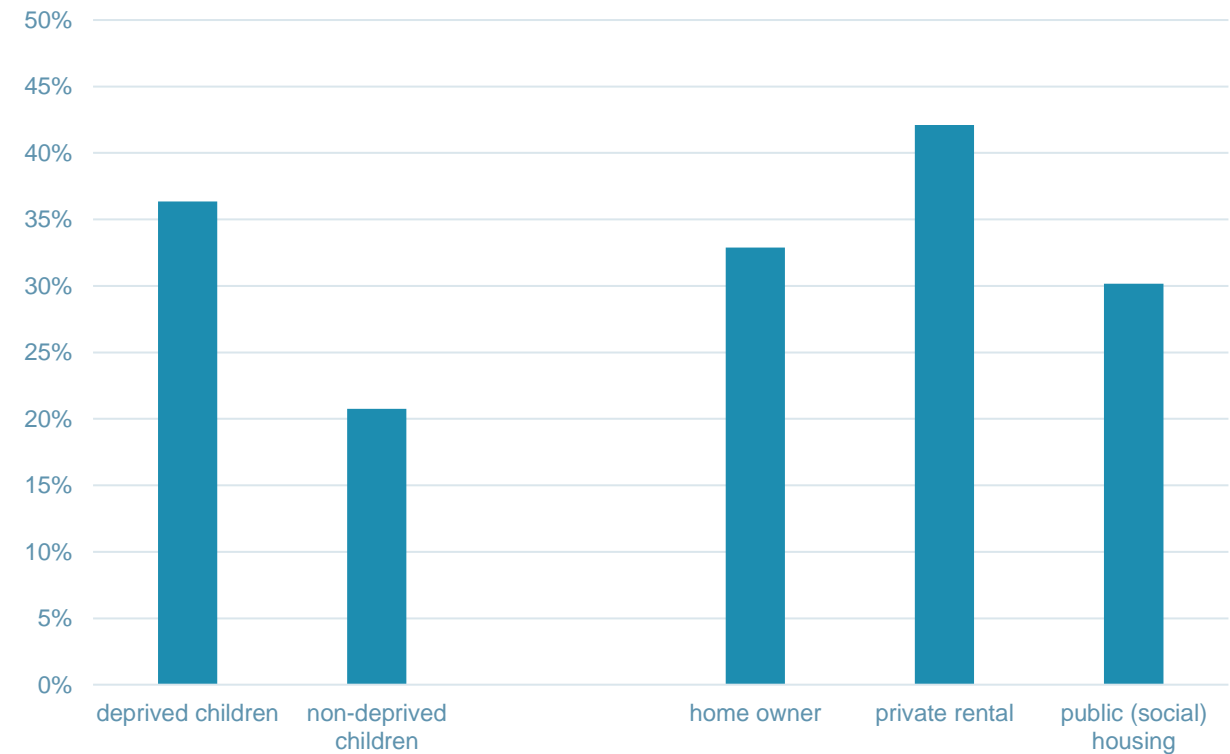
# Lack of basic services associated with child deprivation



## Formal childcare use



## Poor housing conditions





# Conclusion: the good, the bad and the ugly

- While child poverty rates have been declining in the last few years (the good)
- ...child poverty is persistent in Belgium (the bad)
- ...and it's not clear how permanent the poverty decline will be
- .At the same time, more children are living in deprivation compared with many other high-income countries (the ugly)
- ...which sets in motion a cycle of disadvantage which is not mitigated enough by the availability of basic, quality services such as housing and childcare
- ...at high levels of social spending