

International student mobility and professional integration : the case of Congolese in Belgium

Andonirina RAKOTONARIVO

Sophie VAUSE

Université catholique de Louvain

Workshop Pôle Suds. 17-18 December 2010

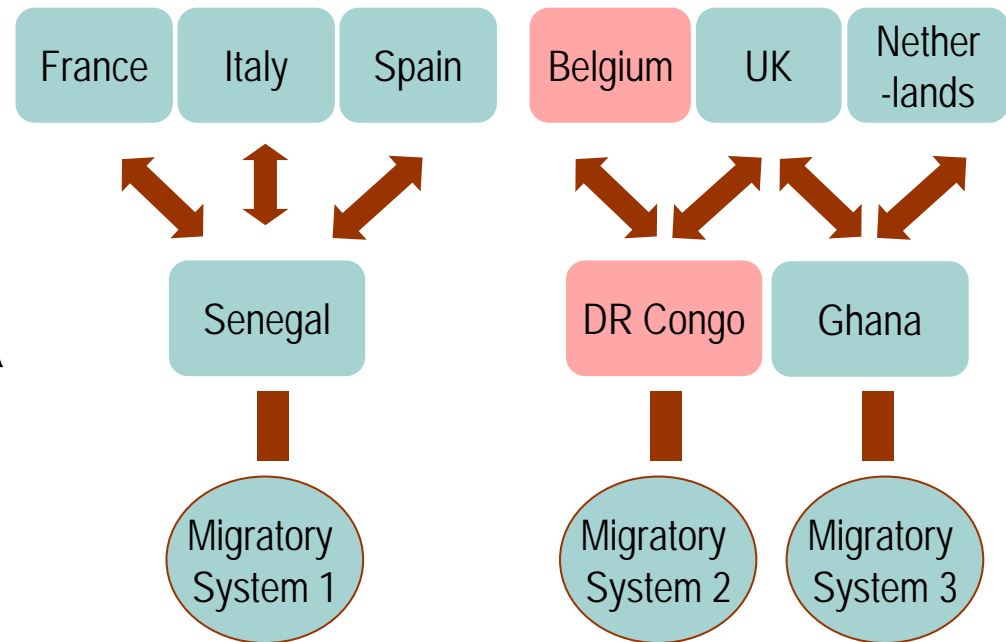


*Funded under the
Socio-economic
Sciences & Humanities
Theme*



Data from the Belgian MAFE survey

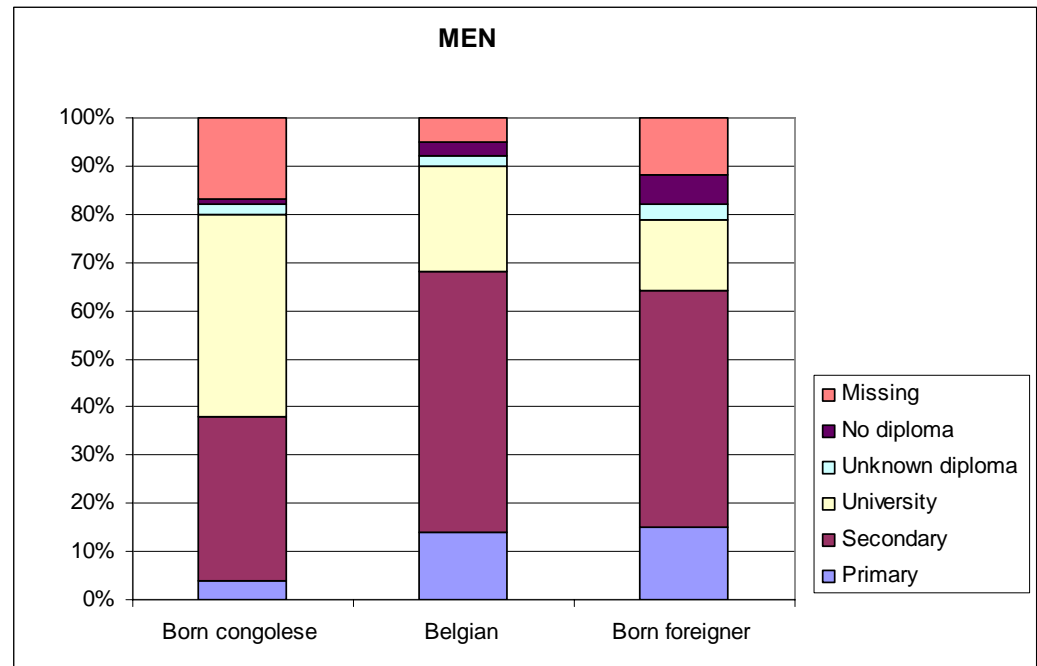
- MAFE:
Migration
between Africa
and Europe



- Belgian survey:
July 2009 – February 2010
279 migrants all over Belgium
Biographic questionnaire

High level of education of Congolese migrants

- Census 2001:



- MAFE survey:
 - 60% reached university level in Belgium
 - 49% reached university level in UK
- Studies : Main reason for migration to Belgium

... but high level of unemployment

- 39% of born Congolese
70% of Belgians
56% of born foreigners } employed
(Census 2001)
- ▶ Does education in Belgium make any difference for professional integration?
 - Profile of the « student migrants »
 - Comparison of professional integration of students/non students

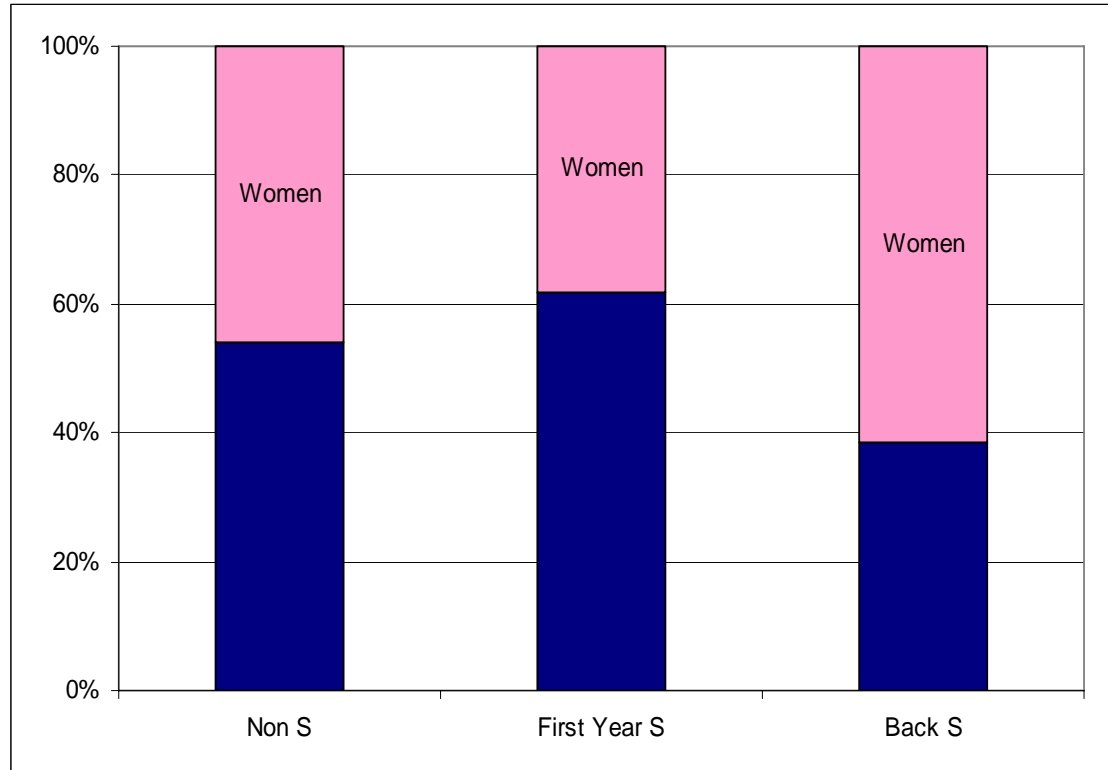
3 groups of migrants

1. « Non students » 39%
never studied in Belgium

2. « First year students » 45%
undertook studies upon the first year of arrival

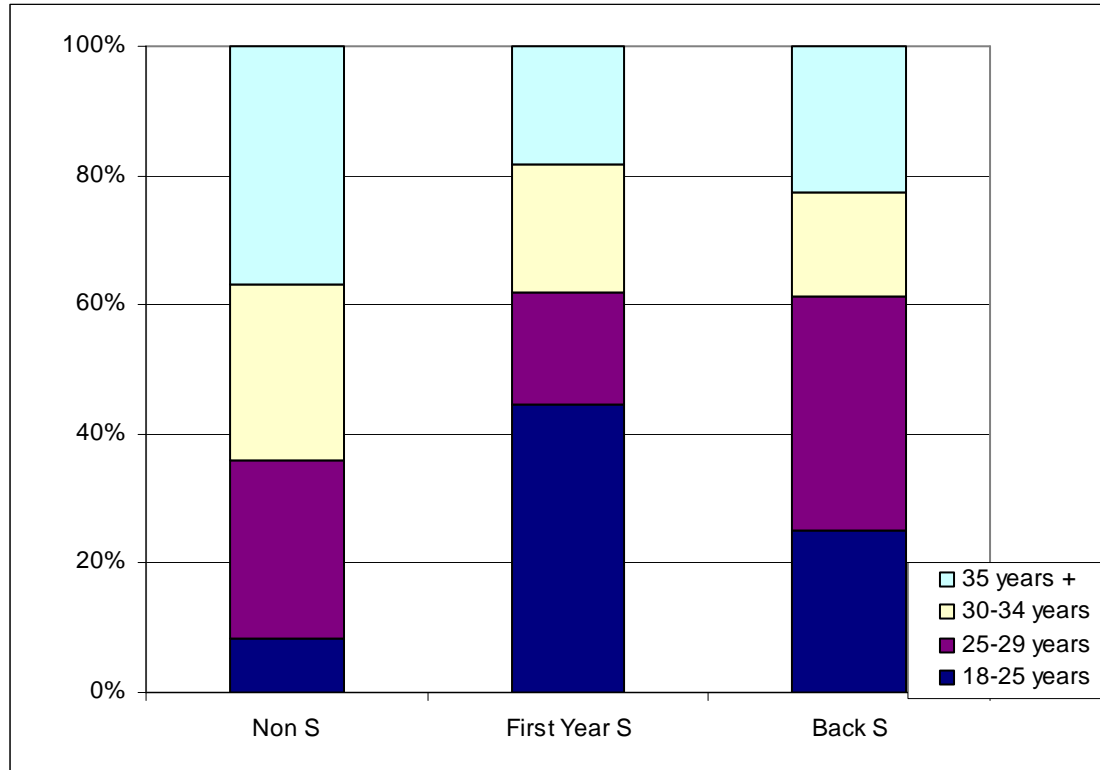
3. « Back to studies » 16%
returned to studies after one year or more
upon arrival

Different profiles



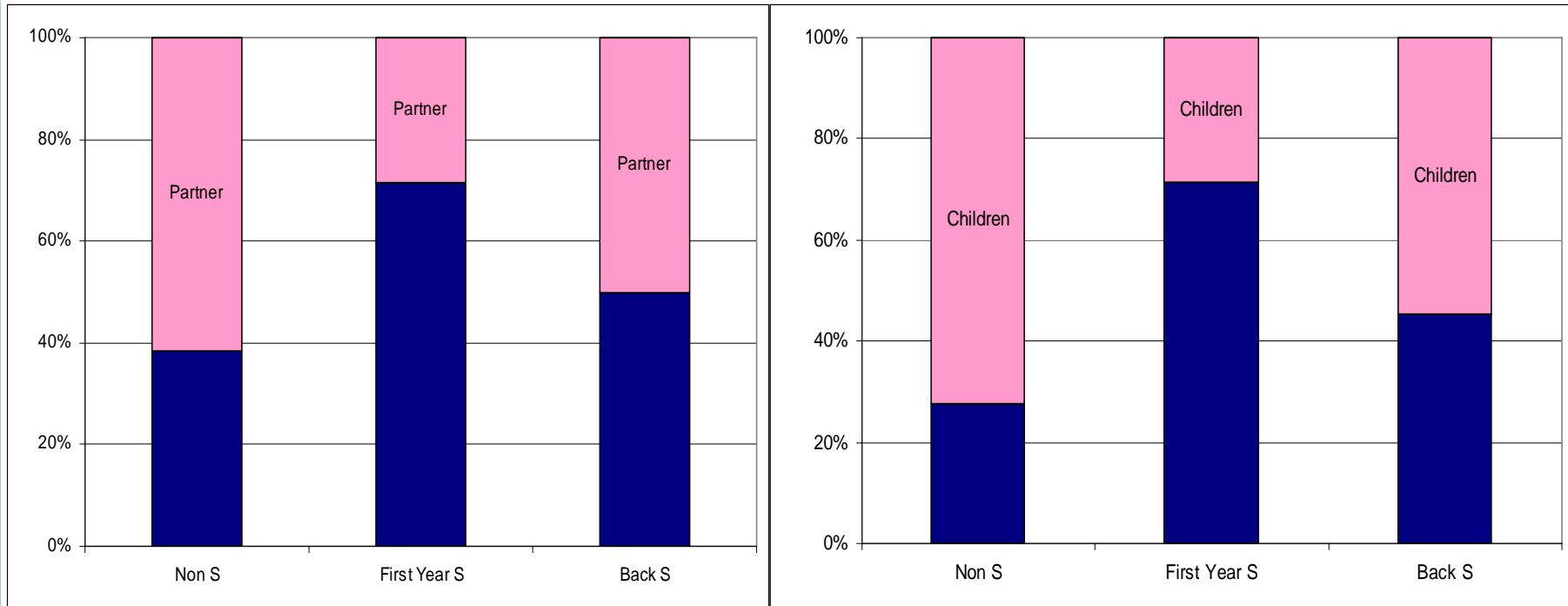
- More men in the First year S. group
- More women in the Back to S. group

Different profiles (2)



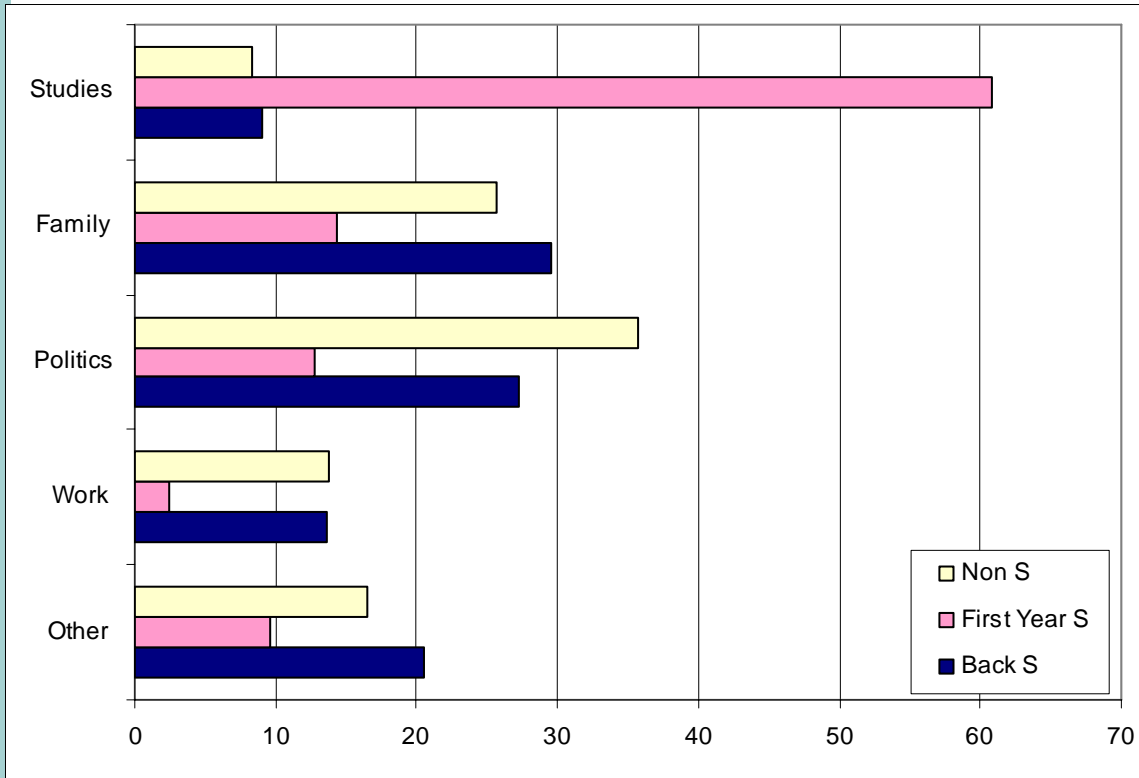
- Most Non S. arrived at older ages (35 +)
- Most First year S. arrived at young ages (18-25)
- Most Back to S. arrived at medium ages (25-29)

Different profiles (3)



- Most Non S. and Back to S. already have a family (partner/children) at arrival
- Most First year S are single or without children

Reasons for migration



Family reasons and political problems are main migration reasons for Non S. and Back to S.

Most of Non S. and Back to S. :

- had a period without legal residence permit
- Were asylum seekers

Different profiles (4)

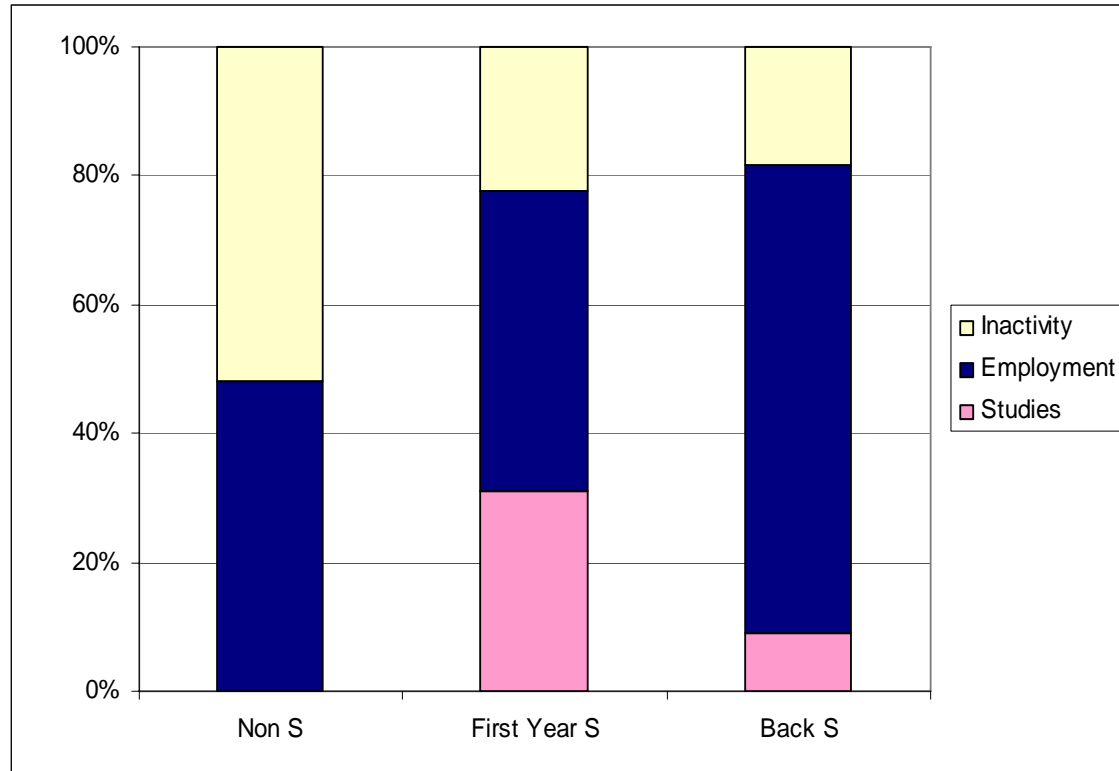
Migrants in 3 groups:

- were at different stages of their life
- have different migration careers

Different length of studies: Long studies for First year S. - Short studies for Back to S.

- ▶ Return to studies: real adaptation to the labor market

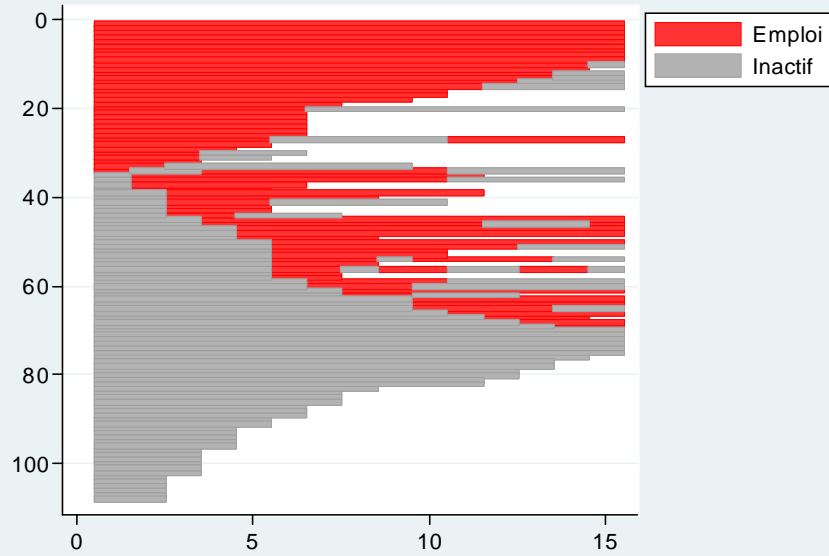
Professional status in 2010



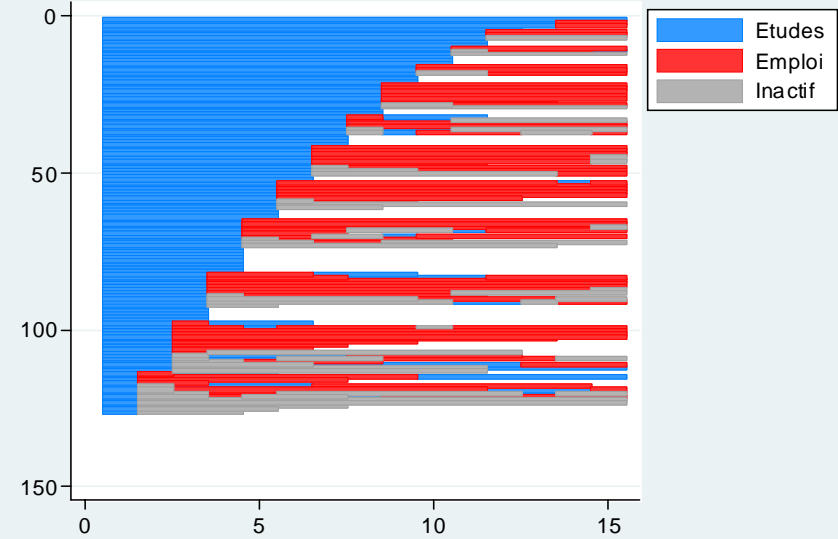
- Better employment rate of Back to S.

Occupational history

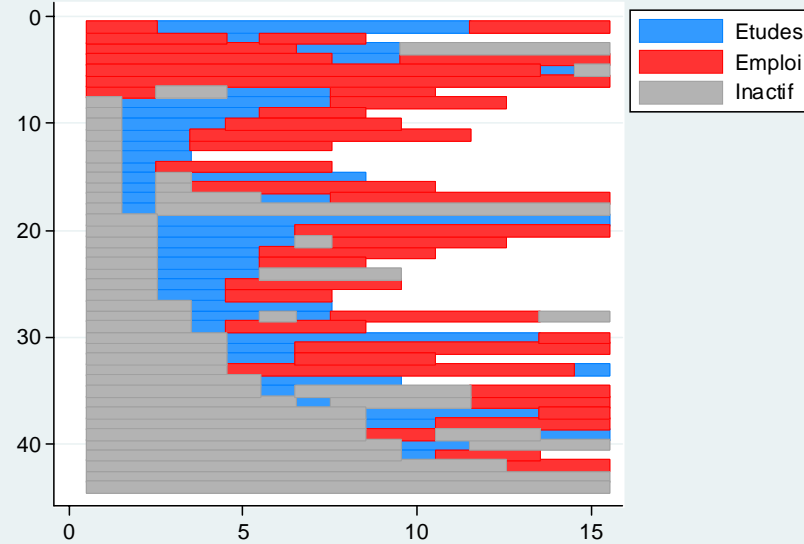
Non Students



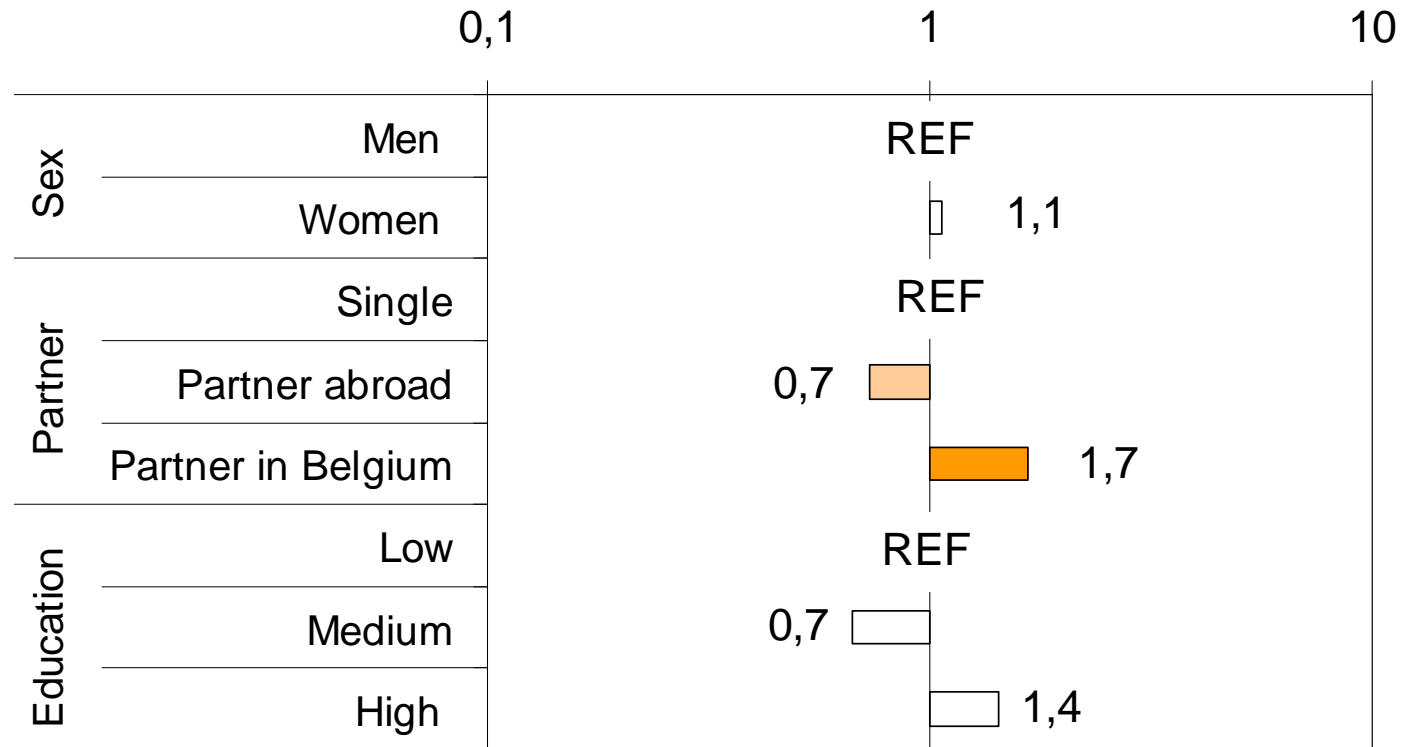
First year students



Back to studies



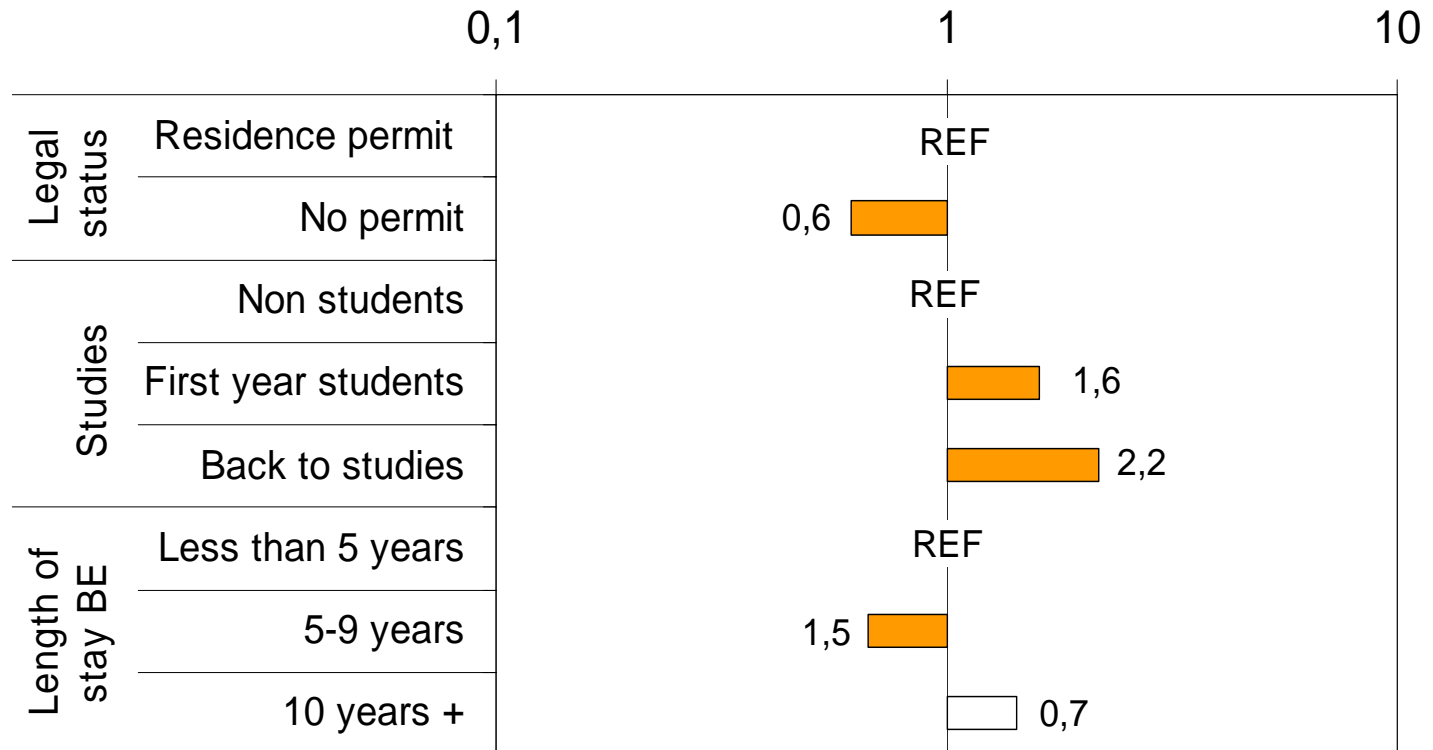
Probability of getting 1st job



- ▶ Having his partner in Belgium have positive effect

Other variables included: age, period, children under 6

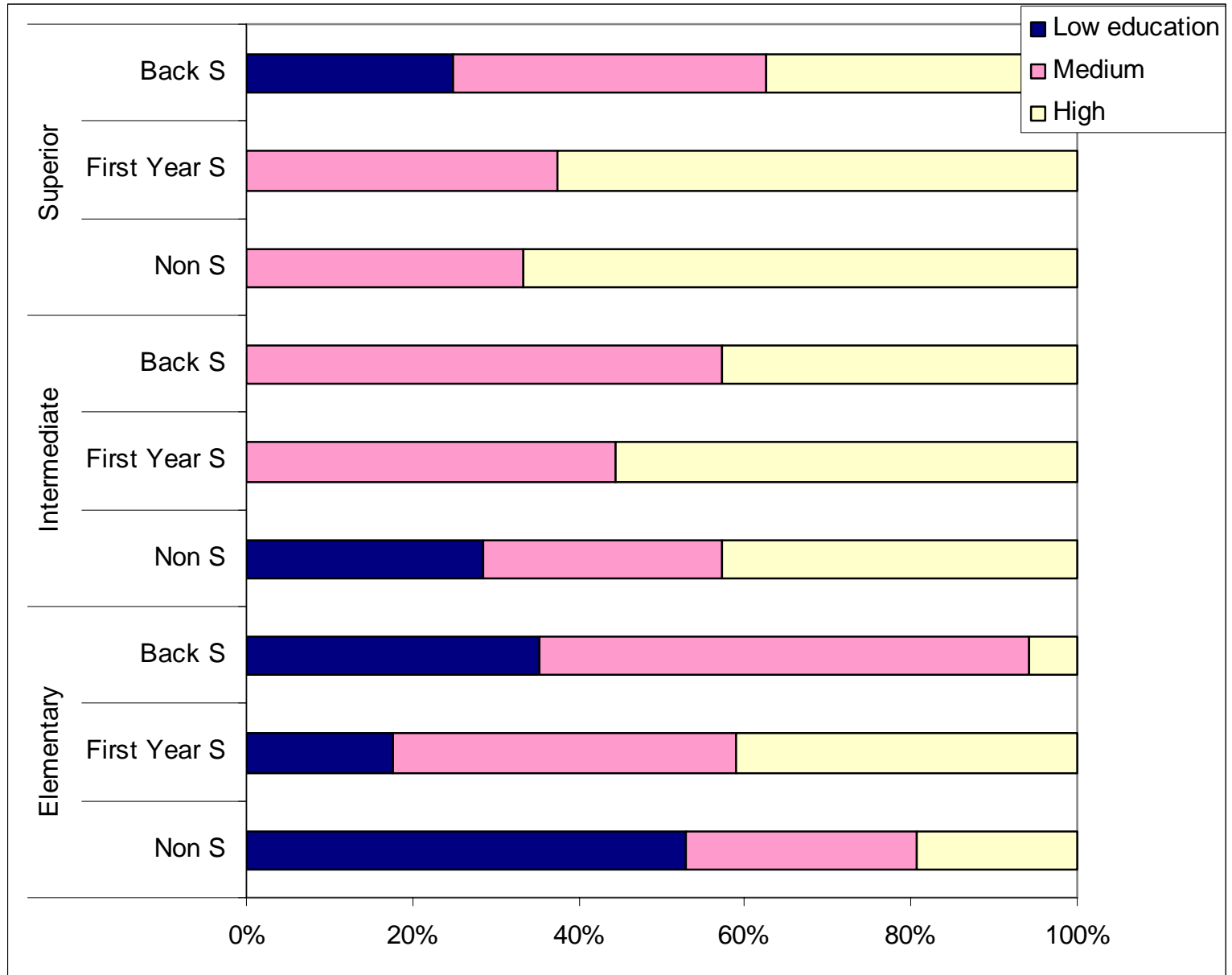
Probability of getting 1st job



- ▶ Studies in Belgium have a positive effect
Especially for Back to S.

Other variables included: age, period, children under 6

Is there brain waste?



Conclusion

- 2 very specific groups undertake studies in Belgium
- Short studies vs long studies
- Studies in Belgium make a difference
- Overqualification is less important for back to S.