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EUROPEAN COMPARATIVE DATA ON THE SITUATION OF DISABLED PERSONS

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TASK objective

…to identify the opportunities for national comparisons between European countries regarding quantitative data on the situation of disabled people, through an annotated review of existing relevant data sources…

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SEARCH for quantitative, EU comparative disability data

Fields Situation of disabled people	Key words	Sources
• Education • Work and employment • Income and social protection • Mobility • Information and communication • Political participation • Cultural participation • Discrimination	Accessibility Blind Deaf Disab* Hamper* Handica* Health Illness Impair* Incapacit* Restricted/limited mobility Sick* Sign language Restriction (of activity) Functional limitation (Reduced) mobility Braille	•Data websites (N=175) •EU comp. surveys (N=30) •Eurobarometers (1962-2008) •Journals (N=12, 1995-2008) •Organisations (N=50) •ANED network members

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TWO MAIN TYPES of available data

Social surveys
(often basis for production of national and EU statistics)
- opinion surveys (EVS, ESS, Eurobarometer etc.)
- socio-economic surveys (ECHP, EU-SILC, LFS, etc)

Statistical data bases

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FINDINGS - Social surveys
(fields of participation, disability identification questions, disability issue questions)

Fields
- Work, income, education: reasonably covered
- Political participation, discrimination: fragmented
- Mobility, communication, cultural participation: hardly any data

Disability identification
- No EU comparative surveys with disability definition questions that closely match the UN definition
- Fragmented use of types of identification questions
- MEHM module in ESS, LFS ad hoc, EU-SILC

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FINDINGS - Social surveys continued

Disability issues
- Non-issue in non-Eurobarometer EU comp. surveys
- Fragmented issue in various Eurobarometers

European Social Survey stands out
- EU comparative, all countries, bi-annual since 2002, all fields (except mobility), MEHM module
  (but no analyses yet)

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FINDINGS – Statistical databases

Socio-economic situation
- Reasonably covered in reports and online databases
- Problem: various mother sources (social surveys) with varying definitions of disability, varying country participation

Discrimination
- Reasonably covered by Eurostat data

Other fields
- Hardly any data

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GAPS in EU comparative data

- **Fields of participation**
  Only socio-economic participation reasonably covered

- **Units of measurement**
  Only individual level data, with lack of meso-level data regarding e.g. libraries, public buildings/transport, media, rehabilitation services, etc. (social model based 'quality of environment' indicators)

- **Lack of** (non-medical) **samples of disabled persons**

- **Lack of adequate time series**

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Systematically analyze and use data that is available**

  (e.g. ESS, EU-SILC)
- **Create EU-comparative data matrix on the basis of available data**
- **Create European Data Center for Disability Data**

  (c.f. EU Gender Mainstreaming Data base, or EDACwowe)
- **Stimulate use of MEHM in all EU comparative surveys**
- **Extend data production in other than socio-economic fields**

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MEHM: Minimum European Health Module

1. **How is your health in general?**
   Very good / Good / Fair / Bad /Very bad

2. **Do you have any long-standing illness or health problem?**
   Yes / No

3. **For at least the past 6 months, have you been limited in activities people usually do because of a health problem?** *Yes, strongly limited / Yes, limited / No, not limited*

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