



Department of Health Sciences

**Opportunities for statistical indicator  
development relevant to measuring  
disability equality in Europe**

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**Sources of disability statistical  
indicators**

- Survey of Income and Living Conditions
  - Limitations in daily activities associated with a health problem, in relation to income
- European Health Interview Survey
  - Basic activity limitations, ADL/IADL limitations, in relation to use of health and social services
- Labour Force Survey – Disability Module
  - Limitations in work activities in relation to health
- European Health & Social Integration Survey
  - Designed to focus on disability equality issues



## Principles in EHSIS construction

- Measurement of disability informed by the biopsychosocial model of the ICF
- Difficulties in participation as starting point
- Incorporating Environmental factors as topics in their own right plus barriers to other activities
- Trying to obtain comparable statistics from participation questions
- Focusing on barriers rather than facilitators
- Being cognisant that several barriers can operate at once
- Sacrificing level of detail to achieve greater applicability
- Possibility of producing Indicators



## Content of EHSIS questionnaire

### *TEN SECTIONS*

1. *Mobility*
2. *Transport*
3. *Accessibility to buildings*
4. *Education and training*
5. *Employment*
6. *Internet use*
7. *Social contact and support*
8. *Leisure pursuits*
9. *Economic Life*
10. *Negative attitudes and behaviour*



## Focus of EHSIS section

Mobility	Barriers to mobility
Transport	Barriers to using private vehicle
Transport	Barriers to using other forms of transport
Accessibility to buildings	Barriers to accessing buildings
Education and Training	Barriers to education and training
Employment	Barriers to Employment
Internet use	Barriers to using the Internet
Social contact and support	Barriers to speaking with people feel close to
Leisure pursuits	Barriers to pursuing hobbies or interests
Leisure pursuits	Barriers to attending cultural events
Economic life	Barriers to paying for the essential things in life
Attitudes and behaviour	Reasons for feeling treated unfairly



## Start off with participation

- Within each section we start off asking about participation; not asking about health or impairments
- For those not participating or with limited participation we identify the barriers:
  - Personal (heath conditions, impairments)
  - Environmental factors (Finances, Convenience, lack of assistive devices or personal help)



## Getting comparable statistics indicators from participation questions

- Participation is context-specific (e.g. opportunities for work, availability of services, location of leisure facilities)
- Family, economic and geographical factors influence participation
- Participation (in either work or social life) requires a degree of volition.
  - People vary in the desire for participation
  - Capacity measures what people can do
  - Performance measures what people actually do
  - Participation includes what people can do, what they actually do what they want or need to do (and are allowed to do).



## Getting comparable statistics from participation questions (cont.)

- In EHSIS, participation is measured according to what respondents want to do taking account of capacity and performance



### **Structure of sections**

- Do you do X as much as you want to?
  - IF YES, do you want to do more X?
  - IF NO, why do not do X?
- What is preventing you from doing X or not doing X more
  - Multi-coded items (personal and env.)
- If health given as reason inter alia..
  - Lack of disability equipment or personal assistance



### **Response categories to question on barriers to participation in hobbies/interests**

- Financial reasons (lack of money, can't afford it)
- Too busy (with work, family, other responsibilities)
- Lack of knowledge or information (about what is available)
- A longstanding health condition, illness, or disease
- Longstanding difficulties with basic activities (such as, seeing, hearing, concentrating, moving around)
- Lack of convenient or available transport
- Distance (to venue)
- Difficulties accessing or using buildings
- Lack of self confidence or attitudes of other people or no-one to go with
- Other reasons



## Domain-specific disability indicators for example, employment (1)

1. Those who report no barriers to employment.
  2. Those who have experienced barriers to employment related to a health condition, illness or disease or basic activity limitation only.
  3. Those who have experienced barriers to employment related to environmental factors only.
  4. Those who have experienced barriers to employment related to a health condition, illness or disease or basic activity limitation AND to an environmental factor.
- The last 3 can be grouped to represent any barrier.



## Domain-specific disability indicators for example, employment (2)

1. No barriers to employment.
2. Barriers to employment associated with arthritis and difficulty in reaching, stretching, holding, gripping and turning only.
3. Barriers to employment associated with caring responsibilities only.
4. Barriers to employment associated with diabetes, difficulty in seeing and restricted by lack of skills, lack of opportunities and transport problems



## Domain-specific severity of disability indicators

- Only applies when there is health or basic activity limitation associated with the participation restriction
- Three levels of severity
  
- Lacks no specialised equipment or personal assistance.
- Lacks specialised equipment only OR lacks personal assistance only
- Lacks both specialised equipment AND personal assistance



## Disability indicators across the 10 domains

- Sum the number of domains where there is a restriction in participation
- Sum the number of domains where there is a restriction in participation associated with health problem or impairment
- Sum the number of domains where there is a restriction in participation associated with health problem or impairment and a lack of disability equipment or personal assistance

