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| **European Semester 2015/2016 country fiche on disability** | |
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| With comparative data provided by the ANED core team |

The [Academic Network of European Disability experts](http://disability-europe.net/) (ANED) was established by the European Commission in 2008 to provide scientific support and advice for its disability policy Unit. In particular, the activities of the Network support the development of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and practical implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People in the EU.

This country report has been prepared as input for the European Semester from a disability perspective.

*Note:*

*The statistics provided in October 2015 are based on the EU-SILC 2013. This is the most recent microdata available to researchers for analysis from Eurostat. This report may be updated as new data becomes available.*

 

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# Summary of the overall situation and challenges

In Italy 13,177,000 of persons live in a condition of disability and 3 million of these persons need more intensive support.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Austerity measures which were adopted in 2011 entailed thorough cuts in social services, which were already poorly funded in Italy. The national fund for social policies was reduced from 2,527 million Euros in 2008 to 545 million in 2011. According to Eurostat data, in 2009, Italy spent 438 Euros per capita/ year for disability, compared to 531 Euros per capita / year on average in the 27 EU Member States. Compared with the other big EU countries (France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain), only Spain spent less than Italy for disability (395 euro per capita/year). Above all, only 23 euro per capita/year, representing less than 1/5 of the EU average (125 euro) and less than half that of Spain (55 euro) were allocated to services for persons with disabilities.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Only in the 2015 law of stability is there a limited augmentation of funds addressed to persons with disabilities.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Because of the austerity policies, almost all measures foreseen in the Biannual Action Plan on Disability (Programma d’Azione sulla Disabilità - PAB)[[4]](#footnote-4) are without any allocation of funds for the implementation of the CRPD, but € 3.2m was allocated in 2013 to test intervention models of independent living and living in the community of persons with disabilities; in 2014 and 2015 was allocated € 10m. No funds have been allocated to support the empowerment and participation of representative DPOs in designing, implementing and monitoring legislation, policies and actions concerning persons with disabilities. The National Operational Plan (Piano Operativo Nazionale, PON) 2014-2020 on the use of the European Social Fund (ESF), recognizes the ex-ante conditionality G.3 “Existence of the administrative capacity for implementing the UN CRPD”. Nevertheless, it does not mention explicitly persons with disabilities among the investment priorities under the Axis 3 “Systems and models of social intervention”, to which G.3 conditionality applies to, while mentioning other discriminated populations. As a consequence, the great majority of the actions foreseen in the Biannual Action Plan to implement the CRPD have not been implemented.

# Assessment of the situation of disabled people with respect to the Europe 2020 headline targets

## Strategic targets

Table 1: Europe 2020 and agreed national targets for the general population

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Europe 2020 targets | National targets[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| Employment | 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed | 67-69% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed |
| Education | Reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10% | he rates of early school leaving 17,0%, i20,2% for men and 13,7% from women,[[6]](#footnote-6) no data about student with disabilities |
| At least 40% of 30-34–year-olds completing third level education | 26-27% of 30-34–year-olds completing third level education |
| Fighting poverty and social exclusion | At least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion | At least 2,200,000 fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion |

Relevant disability targets from national strategies or sources:

ISTAT develop research in 2013 based on the ICF approach, which indicates the prevalence of impairment/disability in the population and includes indicators of education and income, although no targets are included.

Table 2: Persons from 15 to 64 years with functional limitations, invalidity or hard chronic condition on the degree of functional limitations for sex, age, study degree, geographical distribution and economical incomes year 2013, absolute value in thousands and for 100 persons with the same characteristics (ISTAT 2013)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Persons with disabilities that need more intensive supports** | | **Persons with low level of functional limitations, invalidity or chronic conditions** | | **Total** | | |
|  | **v.a.** | **%** | **v.a.** | **%** | **v.a.** | **%** |
| **SEX** | | | | | | |
| Male | 1,019 | 33.0 | 4,944 | 49.0 | 5,963 | 45.3 |
| Female | 2,066 | 67.0 | 5,147 | 51.0 | 7,213 | 54.7 |
| **AGE GROUPS** | | | | | | |
| 15-34 | 90 | 2.9 | 594 | 5.9 | 684 | 5.2 |
| 35-54 | 244 | 7.9 | 1,950 | 19.3 | 2,194 | 16.6 |
| 55-64 | 215 | 7.0 | 2,033 | 20.1 | 2,247 | 17.1 |
| 65-74 | 458 | 14.8 | 2,680 | 26.6 | 3,137 | 23.8 |
| 75-84 | 1,117 | 36.2 | 2,256 | 22.4 | 3,373 | 25.6 |
| 85 years and more | 963 | 31.2 | 578 | 5.7 | 1,541 | 11.7 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | |
| University Degree, diploma of high school | 355 | 11.5 | 2,579 | 25.6 | 2,934 | 22.3 |
| Degree of secondary school | 591 | 19.1 | 3,310 | 32.8 | 3,900 | 29.6 |
| Degree of primary school or not degree | 2,140 | 69.3 | 4,203 | 41.6 | 6,342 | 48.1 |
| **GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION** | | | | | | |
| North-west | 682 | 22.1 | 2,697 | 26.7 | 3,379 | 25.6 |
| North-east | 546 | 17.7 | 1,932 | 19.1 | 2,478 | 18.8 |
| Centre | 610 | 19.8 | 1,942 | 19.2 | 2,552 | 19.4 |
| South | 828 | 26.8 | 2,352 | 23.3 | 3,180 | 24.1 |
| Island | 419 | 13.6 | 1,168 | 11.6 | 1,588 | 12.0 |
| **ECONOMICAL INCOMES** | | | | | | |
| Good conditions | 1,539 | 49.9 | 5,683 | 56,3 | 7,223 | 54,8 |
| Bad conditions | 1,546 | 50.1 | 4,408 | 43,7 | 5,954 | 45,2 |
| **TOTAL** | **3,086** | **100.0** | **10,091** | **100.0** | **13,177** | 100.0 |

### A note on the use of EU data

Unless specified, the summary statistics presented in this report are drawn from 2013 EU-SILC micro data.[[7]](#footnote-7) The EU-SILC sample includes people living in private households and does not include people living in institutions. The proxy used to identify people with disabilities (impairments) is whether ‘for at least the past 6 months’ the respondent reports that they have been ‘limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do’.[[8]](#footnote-8) Responses to this question vary between countries and national data sources are added for comparison, where available.

Table 3: Self-reported ‘activity limitations’ as a proxy for impairment/disability (EU-SILC 2013)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

It is relevant to observe that Italian estimates of impairment prevalence are above the EU average for older people, which may affect estimations of equality gaps.

In subsequent tables, these data are used as a proxy to estimate ‘disability’ equality in the main target areas for EU2020 – employment, education and poverty risk.[[9]](#footnote-9) The tables are presented by disaggregating the estimated proportion of people who report and do not report limitations for each indicator (e.g. among those who are employed, unemployed, at risk of poverty, etc.).

## Employment data

Table 4: Most recent employment data, aged 20-64

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 5: Employment rate data, by age group

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 6: Trends in employment by gender and disability (aged 20-64)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015 (and preceding UDBs)

The table above shows a comparison of national employment trends for disabled and non-disabled women and men, and compares this with the EU2020 headline indicator for the EU as a whole.

Alternative data on disability and employment provided by the national expert:

The statistics on employment and disability in Italy are based on administrative data or data collected by ISTAT, the national statistical agency. In the field of employment there are two data sources: the data for Ministry of Labour and social policies,[[10]](#footnote-10) which are uncomplete and do not present the rate of unemployment of persons with disabilities. The data available show that at the end of 2013 the number of working places available in the quota system (law 68/99) was 41,238, equivalent to only 6.1% of the number of disabled persons registered unemployed, 676,775 (which 319,673 were women, 49.6% of total). Only 40.5% of persons with disabilities employed in the 2013 were women (7,453 out of 18,295).

The ISTAT data[[11]](#footnote-11) stress that 44.0% of persons with disabilities from 15 to 64 years were employed in comparison with 55.1% of the total of population of the same range of age. This percentage reduced to 19.7% for persons with severe functional limitation in comparison with 46.9% of persons with low functional limitation. This indicates that less of 1 persons in 5 with severe functional limitation works.

About job placements the national data shows that women represent 41.5% of the entries created in 2012 (W 7,941; 11,173 M) coming down to 40.5% in 2013 (W 7,453; 10,842 M). The value of the gender gap in 2012 was 29% and in 2013 31% again to the detriment of women. The percentage of resolutions of contract sees unchanged percentages referring to women with disabilities (43%).

The ISTAT National Institute for Statistics (*Persons aged 15 years and over by presence of disability and self-declared employment status (per 100 persons with the same characteristics by gender*),[[12]](#footnote-12) reported 2013 data indicating among males (aged 15-44) without disabilities an occupancy rate of 62.7% and among males with disabilities an occupancy rate of 24.8%, while among males (45-64) without disabilities an occupancy rate of 71.2% and 23% among males with disabilities. As regards women (15-44) without disabilities the survey reported an occupancy rate of 46.3% and for women with disabilities a rate of 20.4%. For women (45-64) without disabilities an occupancy rate of 46.7% while for women with disabilities a rate of 14%.[[13]](#footnote-13) This is shown in the table below.

**Table 7: - Persons aged 15 years and over by presence of disability and self-declared employment status by gender ANNO 2013 (employed/ not employed)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | Women with disabilities | Men with disabilities | Women without disabilities | Men without disabilities |
| 15 and 44 years | 20.4% | 24.8% | 46.3% | 62.7% |
| 45 and 64 years | 14% | 23% | 46.7% | 71.2% |
| National data | 2.3% | 6.3% | 36.5% | 54.3% |

*Source: ISTAT, Disabilità incifre, 2013*

### Unemployment

National administrative rules and definitions of ‘unemployment’ vary, and these may affect the way in which disabled people are categorised in different countries. The following tables compare national data with the EU2020 headline indicator for the EU.

Table 8: Most recent unemployment data, aged 20-64

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 9: Unemployment rate data, by age group

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 10: Trends in unemployment by gender and disability (aged 20-64)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015 (and preceding UDBs)

*Fluctuations in the gendered trends of unemployment for people with impairments at national level should be treated with some caution. A trend line is added for disabled men purely for illustration but should be regarded with caution.*

Alternative data on disability and unemployment from national sources:

The number of unemployed people registered in the provincial list in 2013 was 676,775 (which 319,673 are women, 49.6% of total). This number does not represent the real number of persons with disabilities unemployed, because in the last years the registered number in the provincial list was reduced for administrative reasons (from 2010 to 2013 changing from 743,623 to 676,775 - a reduction of 9%). Officially the VII report on implementation of law 68/99[[14]](#footnote-14) does not include the rate of unemployment. The FISH (Italian federation to overcome handicap) suggests that the rate of unemployment for disabled people in Italy is over 80%.[[15]](#footnote-15)

### Economic activity

Table 11: Most recent economic activty data, aged 20-64

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 12: Activity rate data, by age group

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 13: Trends in activity rates by gender and disability (aged 20-64)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015 (and preceding UDBs)

Alternative data on disability and economic activity provided by the national expert:

The number of inactive persons with disabilities has grown in the last years. The administrative reform of the law for support employment of persons with disabilities (L 68/99) in 2010 no longer asks about beneficiaries of pensions on the basis of disability to be registered in the provincial unemployment lists (from 2010 to 2013 the reduction was from 743,623 registered to 676,775, with a reduction of registered of 9%).

## Education data

EU statistical comparisons are more limited concerning the education of young disabled women and men in the EU2020 target age groups. Data is available from EU-SILC (annually) as well as the Eurostat Labour Force Survey ad-hoc disability module (for 2011), but with low reliability for several countries on the key measures.[[16]](#footnote-16) Using a wider age range can improve reliability but estimations by gender remain indicative. EU trends are evident but administrative data may offer more reliable alternatives to identify national trends, where available.

### Early school leavers

The EU-SILC sample for the target age group (aged 18-24) includes the following number of people reporting activity ‘limitation’ (as a proxy for impairment/disability).

Table 14: EU-SILC sample size in the target age group 18-24 versus 18-29

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Age 18-24 | | Age 18-29 | |
|  | No activity ‘limitation’ | Activity ‘limitation’ | No activity ‘limitation’ | Activity ‘limitation’ |
| EU sample | 34,413 | 2,728 | 56,461 | 4,916 |
| National sample | 2,761 | 206 | 4,181 | 351 |

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 15: Early school leavers aged 18-24 (indicative based on above sample size)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Alternative data on disability and early school leavers provided by the national expert:

Early school leaving of students with disabilities is higher compared to other students, and even higher for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and for girls with disabilities. As a result, persons with disabilities have a lower level of education compared to the general population. Only 17% of persons with disabilities in Italy have the middle school diploma, compared to 31% of the general population, 8% of persons with disabilities have higher diploma compared to 28% of the general population.[[17]](#footnote-17) In 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 girls with disabilities represented 32.6% of pupils with disabilities enrolled in primary schools and 37.3% of students with disabilities enrolled in secondary school. In 2009 16.3% of women with disabilities had no educational qualification, compared to 12.6% of men with disabilities, 25.7% of girls held a diploma or graduated compared 39.6% of boys.

### Tertiary education

The EU-SILC sample for the target age group (aged 30-34) includes the following number of people reporting activity ‘limitation’ (a proxy for impairment/disability) although the number of missing observations is larger than the number of observations for activity limitation.

Table 16: EU-SILC sample size for the target age group 30-34 versus 30-39

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Age 30-34 | | Age 30-39 | |
|  | No activity ‘limitation’ | Activity ‘limitation’ | No activity ‘limitation’ | Activity ‘limitation’ |
| EU sample | 23,851 | 2,866 | 50,496 | 6,732 |
| National sample | 1,987 | 240 | 4,445 | 615 |

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 17: Completion of tertiary or equivalent education (indicative based on above sample)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

The survey sample is not sufficient to provide robust trend data disaggregated by gender in the narrow EU2020 target age group. In only 11 out of 28 Member States are there more than 50 observations in the sample for both women and for men in aged 30-34 who also declare impairment/limitation.

The following table is indicative at the EU level but gender trends at the national level should be treated with caution. In all Member States except Austria the achievement of tertiary education was higher for women than for men in both groups.

Table 18: Trends in tertiary education by disability (aged 30-34)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015 (and preceding UDBs)

*Fluctuations in the trend for people with impairments at national level should be treated with some caution.*

Alternative data on disability and tertiary education provided by the national expert:

The data on students with disabilities registered at University indicates growth in recent years, although the data available are not disaggregated and not frequently up-dating. The last data show that in the years 2010-2011 there were 14,171 such students, about the disaggregated data (2006-2007), students with motor disabilities were the majority (27.5%), students with intellectual disabilities (3.5%) and with dyslexia (0.9%) (MUR-CINECA, 2007). The proportion recorded with dyslexia appear very low compared to other countries (where dyslexia is often the largest ‘disability’ group supported in universities).

The latest data available are for the years 2010-2011 (see table below), but the data is not disaggregated.

**Table 19: Number of students with disabilities at university (Years 2000/2001 to 2010/2011) (Ministry of education)**



## Poverty and social exclusion data

EU SILC data provides indicators of the key risks for people with disabilities. In addition to household risks of low work intensity, there are risks of low income (after social transfers), and material deprivation. These three measures are combined in the overall estimate of risk. The risks for older people do not include work intensity (Eurostat refers to the age group 0-59 for this measure). The survey does not distinguish ‘activity limitation’ (the proxy for impairment/disability) for children under the age of 16. Relevant data provided by the national expert is added where available.

Table 20: People living in household poverty and exclusion by disability and risk (aged 16-59)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 21: People living in household poverty and exclusion by disability and gender (aged 16+)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 22: Overall risk of household poverty or exclusion by disability and age (aged 16+)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015

Table 23: Trends in household risk of poverty and exclusion by disability and age (EU-SILC 2013)

Source: EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015 (and previous UDB)

**Alternative data on disability and risk of poverty or social exclusion provided by the national expert:**

Annual data published by ISTAT does not include information on the condition of persons with disabilities, compared to other citizens. The report on policies against poverty and social exclusion, published in 2012 by the Committee on Social Exclusion (CIES) is based on data collected in 2010.[[18]](#footnote-18) According to this survey, material deprivation affects persons with disabilities to a greater extent than the general population.[[19]](#footnote-19)

**Significant regional disparities** have been documented: the percentage of individuals with disabilities who live in deprived families reaches 38.6% in the South, 20.5% in the Centre and 15.5% in the North, against, respectively, to 23%, 12.2% and 8.5% of those without disabilities.[[20]](#footnote-20)

An Istat research shows that at 31.12.2013 there were 263,048, non-autonomous persons with disabilities in residential institutions, health and social care institutions (71.6% of total person in these institutions, 367,485). In this number, 2,658 were minors, 49,536 adults and 210,854 elderly non-autonomous people (80.1% of the total).[[21]](#footnote-21)

# Description of the situation and trends in relation to each target area

## Employment

The number of person with disabilities employed has been reduced during the crisis: According to the VII report to the parliament on the implementation of law 68/99 regarding the employment of persons with disabilities in the last years the annual employment of these persons has decreased by over 30% (to just 18,295, the lowest levels since 2005 when the number was 30,865). This number refers not to the total employment of persons with disabilities but to placements in the employment programme during the related year.

The pattern of overall employment rates for people with disabilities in Italy follows rather closely the EU average across the life course. However, it is further below the EU average for non-disabled people (i.e. the disability employment gap appears slightly smaller in Italy than the EU average, according to the EU-SILC data but some of the national data indicates wider gaps in reality).

On this indication, employment has begun to rise more rapidly for disabled men, as well as rising for disabled women, while it has been slightly falling for non-disabled men and women. Thus the data suggests that the disability employment gap narrows gradually since 2010.

At the same time unemployment rates have been rising steadily for both disabled and non-disabled men in particular. This can be explained by the sharp rise in economic activity among disabled men shown in the EU-SILC data, which may be due to an increase in employment activation policies, but not with specific attention to persons with disabilities. For example the programme “Garanzia giovani” addressed to young people not in education or employment permits young people with disabilities to register as potential beneficiary in the stages on the open market, but does not provide support to adapt working places or overcoming other barriers.

## Education

Early school leaving appears to be higher, and tertiary educational achievement lower, than the EU average for young people with disabilities according to the EU-SILC data. There is a general trend of improvement on these measures but there is no evidence that the disability gap is narrowing, and tracks well below the achievement of non-disabled young people.

The number of student with disabilities in ordinary settings grew in the last years (in 2011 the number of students with disabilities was **198,672, in 2014** it was 209,814).[[22]](#footnote-22) The funds for the schools and for the universities were also reduced in the same period.

## Poverty and social inclusion

The presence of one or more persons with a disability in a family represents one of the main causes of poverty. The lack of a job or difficulties in accessing the labor market, high costs of the social and health services, lack of assistive care, the overhead for families who eventually resort to the private market or take on the care-giving role, with significant impact on the career path of caregivers, are all factors affecting the family income.

Half (50.1%) of persons with a severe level of functional limitation declare to not have sufficient household economic resources in comparison with 39.3% of the non-disabled population.[[23]](#footnote-23)

# Assessment of policies in place to meet the relevant headline targets

## Employment

Even though there exists legislation on employment of persons with disabilities, there are not enough policies in Italy that promote the employment of persons with disabilities. No reliable data on the rate of unemployment are available and no monitoring system is produced as an evaluation of policies in this issue. The quota system (L.68/99) is unable to cover all the persons registered unemployed. More mainstreaming policies are needed to support active employment policies for persons with disabilities. One limitation of the existing policy system is that a person must be officially registered as disabled in order to access employment support.

The Italian parliament has recently approved a law on the reform of employment legislation (Legislative Decree 151/2015) that introduced some adaptations of the legislation in favour of persons with disabilities, in particular a digital data collection system; however these do not seem to be sufficient in guaranteeing a policy that supports the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labor market. The engagement to define reasonable accommodation in employment in the new law is not yet supported with appropriate funds (Italy introduced the legislation as a consequence of EU intervention concerning failure to transpose Directive 78/2000EC on non-discrimination on employment). Many regions have chosen to make use of the new structural funds (2014-2020) to support the employment of persons with disabilities, but in the past this has not produced significant effects on the level of employment.

According to the VII report to the parliament on the implementation of law 68/99 regarding the employment of persons with disabilities in the last years the annual employment of these persons has decreased by over 30% (just 18,295, the lowest levels since 2005); the statistics on the subject are only made available every two years and, on the contrary to those regarding ordinary occupation, which are made available every three months. Among the collected data the total unemployment rate of persons with disabilities is missing (according to one estimate by the Italian Federation for Overcoming Handicap) the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities stands at over 80%[[24]](#footnote-24) in view of an unemployment rate of 12% in the ordinary market); a reduction of financial endowment of about 70%; just about 40.7% are women employees. A legislation that has positively reformed law 68/99 has recently been approved; but, being based on the quota system restricted to persons with disabilities in public and private firms, it turns out to be completely inadequate (in 2013, the places available in firms were a total of 6.1% of the unemployed signed up in the unemployment registers). In addition to a lack of accessibility in employment agency buildings (in 2008, 25% of the employment agencies had physical obstacles),[[25]](#footnote-25) many provincial services are not capable of dealing with disability recruitment targets (art 2 of the law), integrating the right person with disabilities in the right working position, that is a working position compatible with their skills and abilities. Recently the legislative decree 150/2015 has transferred the competences on employment of persons with disabilities from the provinces to the national agency on employment, but this change of competences is not yet regulated.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **VII Report to the Parliament on the status of the law enforcement containing the norms for the right to work of persons with disabilities (Years 2012 and 2013)**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Number of persons with disabilities registered in the provincial lists 2013 | 676,775 | | women | 319,673 that is 49.6% of the registered members | | Workers employed in 2013 | 18,295 that is 2.7% of the registered members | | women | 7,453 that is 40.7% of the employed people | | Number of places available reserved for internal job posting in 2013 | 41,238 that is 6.1% of the registered members |   **Employed workers (2004-2013)**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **2004** | **2005** | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | | 27,287 | 32,157 | 31,093 | 30,017 | 28,305 | 20,418 | 21,833 | 22,023 | 19,114 | 18,304 |   Since 2004 there has been a decrees of workers’ employment by 33%  **Financial enownment of law 68/99 (2009-2013) in milion €**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | | 42 | 42 | 2,725 | 2,429 | 12,590 | |

Therefore, in Italy there is no national policy that adequately supports the employment of persons with disabilities, firstly because the available (and incomplete) data is administrative data and it is not gathered and elaborated by the National Institute of Statistics, resulting therefore separate from the data regarding national unemployment; and secondly because the active labour policies, nowadays the most efficient to support employment in Europe, do not include persons with disabilities.

|  |
| --- |
| **“Garanzia giovani”**  The recent European initiative to support juvenile employment, “Garanzia giovani”, has not found in Italy a regulation that allows persons with disabilities to take advantage of this opportunity, in fact, despite a general reference in the national regulation, most regional websites where all unemployed persons had to sign up proved not to be respectful of the regulation on accessibility as stated on law 4/2004 (WAI), adequate support for persons with disabilities that signed up was not foreseen in the budget (tutoring, reasonable agreements). |

Particularly penalized are persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, especially where there are no adequate competences in the services and employment agencies.

## Education

Recently the Italian government has approved the law on the “Good school” (L 13 July 2015 n° 107), the effect of which is not yet able to be evaluated.

## Poverty and social inclusion

Italy has a high level of the funds allocated in pensions (17.17% of the GDP in 2014) and among these only 7.2% are addressed to person with disabilities.[[26]](#footnote-26) There are other tax facilities that reduce cost in various areas (reduction of IVA on some products, possibility to reduce the total amount of taxes for cost related to disability, etc.). There are no particular national policies in Italy that address the impoverishment of persons with disabilities because of the crisis. The main responsibility lies with the Municipalities. The only national action against poverty is the Social Card. There are two types of measures to enface the poverty: the pensions scheme (280 euro/month) and the exemption or reduction of the taxes (until a maximum of 6.500 €uro). In general these benefits do not reduce the condition of impoverishment of persons with disabilities due to obstacles, barriers and discrimination.

As for the cash transfers in support of disability it should be noted that according to ISTAT in Italy there are 3,086,000 people with severe disabilities while the INPS (National Social Security Institute) declares to deliver the “accompaniment allowance” to 1,933,000 people with severe disability, so 1,153,000 persons with severe disabilities do not receive this allowance. The amount of this allowance (€508.55) remains below the absolute relative poverty line that in 2014[[27]](#footnote-27) for a non-disabled adult (18-59 years) living alone was less than or equal to €816.84 monthly if he/she lives in a metropolitan area of the North, to €732.45 if living in a small town in northern and € 548.70 if he/she lives in a small town in southern Italy.

In the Italian reform programmes during these years no funds were directed to persons with disabilities to reduce the condition of poverty. In the recent stability law (public budget of the state) 600 million euro are addressed to minors in poverty, but no specific references are include in the law (now in discussion in parliament) to children with disabilities.

|  |
| --- |
| **EXPENDITURE FOR DISABILITY IN RELATION TO GDP IN ITALY (2009)**[[28]](#footnote-28)  Total expenditure for the social sector in Italy (28.4% GDP) is in the average of 27 EU countries (28.9%).  Expenditure for pensions: in Italy (17.1%, GDP) is much higher than the average of 27 EU countries (13.1%).  Expenditure for disability in Italy (1.7% GDP), is 18.3% lower than the average of 27 EU countries (2.3%). It is higher only than in Spain.  Expenditure for disability in Italy is mainly represented by economic support.  Expenditure for services represents 5.8% of expenditure for disability, less than 1/5 of the EU average. It is lower even than in Spain. |

To policies related to disability is devoted the 24.3% of the municipality social funds (1,694,995,506 euro), increasing of 4.0% from the 2011 (1,630,043,404 euro), for a value of 2,990 euro for inhabitant with disabilities (it was 2,886 euro in the 2011).

In the 2012 Italian municipalities spent for intervention and social services about 7 billion euro (6,982,391,861 euro), a reduction from the last two years (7,027,039,614 euro in the 2011 and 7,126,891,416 euro in 2010). To this, financed at 67.2% from the funds of Municipalities, must be added the participation of the users to the costs of the services (993,490,531 euro) and the contribution to the costs of the National Health Service (SSN) (1,171,498,752 euro). This is shown in the table below.

**Table 24: Social funds in Italy (2012)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **Variation 2010-2012** |
| Municipality social funds | 7,126,891,416 | 7,027,039,614 | 6,982,391,861 | -2.0% |
| Contribution of the users | 966,862,361 | 965,170,740 | 993,490,531 | +2.8%P |
| Contribution of the SSN | 1,220,840,949 | 1,179,962,175 | 1,171,498,752 | -4.0% |
| **TOTAL** | **9,314,594,726** | **9,172,172,529** | **9,147,381,144** | **-1.8%** |

*Source:* [*www.condicio.it*](http://www.condicio.it/) *elaboration on ISTAT data*

The distribution of the funds related to the types of services is shown in the table below.

**Table 25:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Main services offered** | **Municipality expenditure** | **Distribution**  **%** |
| Socio-educational Support in the schools | 361,332,815 | 21.3 |
| Day centre (managed by municipalities or by private financed by municipalities) | 340,387,375 | 20.1 |
| Residential services (managed by municipalities or by private financed by municipalities) | 282,840,596 | 16.7 |
| Social Domestic Assistance | 142,358,118 | 8.4 |

*Source:* [*www.condicio.it*](http://www.condicio.it/) *elaboration on ISTAT data*

## Synergies between developments in the different areas

There are very few synergies between the policies in place to address employment, education and poverty risk for people with disabilities.

# Review of the European Semester from a disability perspective

## Progress on disability-specific Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)

Table 26: Policy measures related to achieving Recommendation

|  |
| --- |
| **Policy Measure** |
| DECRETO LEGISLATIVO 14 settembre 2015, n. 151  Disposizioni di razionalizzazione e semplificazione delle procedure e degli adempimenti a carico di cittadini e imprese e altre disposizioni in materia di rapporto di lavoro e pari opportunità, in attuazione della legge 10 dicembre 2014, n. 183.[[29]](#footnote-29) |
| **Exact date of adoption** |
| 14/09/15 |
| **Budget allocation –** |
| Not yet clear |
| **Stage of implementation –** |
| The law is in the start up period |
| **Is an independent evaluation planned?** |
| Not |
| **Assessment of impacts in relation to the CSRs** |
| The most important issue is the engagement on produce the Guide lines on the employment service devote to persons with disabilities, a definition of reasonable accommodation on employment and a digital system to collect data on employment of persons with disabilities (that now don't exist). |
| **Ambition sufficient to meet CSRs?** |
| Partially |
| **Credibility?** |
| Almost good because some provisions asked for by organisations of persons with disabilities and families are include in the law. |

## Progress on other CSRs from a disability perspective

Disability is not mentioned in the 2015 Council Recommendations. The five specific recommendations address mainly the fiscal and budget situation in Italy, as well as governance issues. Recommendation 5 deals with ‘legislative decrees on the design and use of wage supplementation schemes’ as well as ‘the strengthening of active labour market policies’. These have more direct implications for people with disabilities. In addition, this recommendation highlights the ‘efforts to tackle youth unemployment’ and urges implementation of the ‘school reform’ (noted earlier) and the expansion of ‘vocationally-oriented tertiary education’. Again, these implementations have some implications for disabled children and young people that will need to be carefully monitored.

## Assessment of disability issues in the Country Report (CR)

The Country Report makes very limited reference to action related to support for persons with disabilities rights. The only explicit reference (on p. 67) refers to resource transfers away from social services towards (institutional) care of dependent elderly and disabled people. There are no references to implementation of the CRPD or the related National Biannual programme for persons with disabilities.

# Assessment of the structural funds ESIF 2014-2020 or other relevant funds in relation to disability challenges

**Use of funds in relation to disability challenges**

In the national Agreement on the EU Structural funds (Page 229)

The PwD and vulnerable persons are include in the national thematic objective 9 (promote social inclusion and combat the poverty and any discrimination, through active policies) and in the thematic objective 8 (promote a quality and sustainable employment and support the worker mobility, with measures addressed to all employees, the PwD too).

Page 256 - Specific funds are devoted to remove the architectural barriers in the schools.

The funds are mainly managed by the 21 regions and it is difficult to monitor or report on these individually. Frequently, it is not clear whether the regions respect Article 9 of the EU Regulation (R 1303/2013) that requires that all fund use guarantees accessibility for persons with disabilities. Some regions are addressing their funds towards employment of persons with disabilities in the context of the 8 Thematic Objective.

# Recommendations

The suggestion for the implementation of policies on disability are the following:

* Finance with national funds the Biannual National Action programme on disability (2014-2015) in all actions.
* Increase the social fund for non-autonomous persons in the direction of the independent living (actually only 10 million Euro per year for experimentation in the field of independent living).
* Define reasonable accommodation, not only in the employment context, and provide to allocate specific funds to ensure its realisation.
* Include persons with disabilities in ordinary policies on employment and active policies for employment.
* Include children with disabilities in the action to reduce child poverty.

1. The 21 July 2015, ISTAT has edited the study,  [“Inclusione sociale delle persone con limitazioni funzionali, invalidità o cronicità gravi”](http://www.condicio.it/allegati/186/TestoIntegrale_2013.pdf) realised in the project “Sistema di Informazione Statistica sulla Disabilità”, through an agreement (2011) between ISTAT and the Ministry of labour and social policies,

   [http://search.istat.it/search?q=+%E2%80%9CInclusione+sociale+delle+persone+con+limitazioni+funzionali%2C+invalidit%C3%A0+o+cronicit%C3%A0+gravi%E2%80%9D&output=xml\_no\_dtd&client=istat\_fe&proxystylesheet=istat\_fe&sort=date%253AD%253AL%253Ad1&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8&ud=1&exclude\_apps=1&site=istat\_it&submit.x=13&submit.y=15](http://search.istat.it/search?q=+). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Fondazione Serono, Censis, I *Bisogni ignorati delle persone con disabilità*, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 400 Million Euro for persons not autonome. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 4 ottobre 2013 Adozione *del programma di azione biennale per la promozione dei diritti e l'integrazione delle persone con disabilità, <http://www.osservatoriodisabilita.it/images/documenti/programma_d_azione.pdf>*. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. See ISTAT web site <http://noi-italia.istat.it/index.php?id=7&user_100ind_pi1%5Bid_pagina%5D=36>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. EUSILC UDB 2013 – version 2 of August 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The SILC survey questions are contained in the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_(MEHM)>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The methodology is further explained in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. VII Relazione al parlamento sullo stato di attuazione della legge recante norme per il diritto al lavoro dei disabili (legge 68/99, 2012-2013), CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI, Doc. CLXXVIII, n. 1, transfer to president 4.8.2015. (VII Report to the Parliament on the state of actuation of the law enforcement containing the norms on the right to employment of the disabled (Year 2012- 2013). Presented to the Ministry of labour and Social Policies (Poletti), transmitted to the presidency on the 4th August 2015. Italian Chamber of Deputies, DOC CLXXVIII, n. 1), <http://www.camera.it/_dati/leg17/lavori/documentiparlamentari/IndiceETesti/178/001/00000001.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. STAT [“Inclusione sociale delle persone con limitazioni funzionali, invalidità o cronicità gravi”](http://www.condicio.it/allegati/186/TestoIntegrale_2013.pdf) cit. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. ISTAT, Disabilità incifre, 2013, <http://dati.disabilitaincifre.it/dawinciMD.jsp?a1=u2i5Y4Y&a2=_-&n=$$$909$$$$$&o=1R1M&v=1UT0904M0ANE00000010000&p=0&sp=null&l=0&exp=0>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. ISTAT, National Institute for Statistics, delivers occupancy and uneployment rate on monthly base, the absolute value and the percentage of women and men rate for the two conditions. Unfortunately it is not cited the rates of women and men with disabilities.ISTAT, Disabilità in cifre, 2005, [http://dati.disabilitaincifre.it/dawinciMD.jsp?a1=uAmM8I8&a2=\_y&n=$$$909$$$$$&o=1R1M&v=1UL0904O0ANE0000000010000&p=0&sp=null&l =1&exp=0](http://dati.disabilitaincifre.it/dawinciMD.jsp?a1=uAmM8I8&a2=_y&n=$$$909$$$$$&o=1R1M&v=1UL0904O0ANE0000000010000&p=0&sp=null&l%20=1&exp=0). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. See note n 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. See website <http://www.superando.it>. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. For the LFS AHM data see, Early school leavers <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hlth_de010&lang=en> and tertiary. educational attainment <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hlth_de020&lang=en>. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Istat 2013, “L’integrazione degli alunni con disabilità nelle scuole primarie e secondarie di primo grado statali e non statali. Anno scolastico 2011-2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. [Rapporto sulle politiche contro la povertà e l’esclusione sociale](http://www.condicio.it/allegati/93/CIES_Rapporto_2011_2012.pdf). See here <http://www.condicio.it/allegati/93/CIES_Rapporto_2011_2012.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. They are living in a state of material deprivation 24.7% of individuals with severe limitations and 19.7% of non-severe, compared with 14.2% of persons without limitations. The same is recorded in the case of serious deprivation, which affects 11.9% and 8.6% of people with severe limitations and is non-severe, compared with 6.1% of those without limitations. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. The 47.9% of households with at least one person with disability claims not to be able to deal with an unexpected expense, compared with 32.3% of households without disabled members. In 2009, the average net household income of families with at least one person with disabilities was equal, in Italy, to 31.660 euro compared to 40.698 euro of households without disabled members. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. ISTAT, I presidi residenziali socio-assistenziali e socio-sanitari, <http://www.condicio.it/allegati/202/TestoIntegrale2013_NotaMetodologica.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. See <http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/anticipazione_alunni_con_disabilita2013_14.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. See note n. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. See the website [www.condicio.it](http://www.condicio.it/). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. V Report to the Parliament on the status of the law enforcement containing the norms for the right to work of persons with disabilities (Years 2008-2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. See <http://www.condicio.it/allegati/199/TrattamentiPensionisticiBeneficiari_2014.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. <http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/164869>. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. CENSIS – *Diario della transizione/3*, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. See <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2015/09/23/15G00164/sg>. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)