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France

Serge Ebersold
Carole Nicolas
Christophe Zander

European Disability Expertise (EDE) provides independent scientific support to the Commission's policy Unit responsible for disability issues. It aims to mainstream disability equality in EU policy processes, including implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This country report has been prepared as input for the European Semester in 2022.¹

¹ For an introduction to the Semester process, see <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/european-semester/how-european-semester-works/>.

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1 Executive summary and recommendations

1.1 Key points and main challenges for France in 2022

Disability and the labour market

In spite of a narrower disability gap in France than the European average, persons with disabilities whose proportion in the overall population might be a little bit overestimated in comparison with the overall situation in Europe, especially as far as strongly limited persons are concerned remain disadvantaged as regards the overall population in France. A recent decrease in the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities should not be interpreted as a progress in the access of persons with disabilities to the labour market as it is linked with a decrease in the activity rate due to COVID-19 crisis. Moreover, the duration of unemployment remains above that of the overall population and persons with disabilities more often work part-time. The age and qualification of persons with disabilities present barriers to the labour market.

The support provided by employment agencies in job retention, recruitment and company setting, as well as workplace accessibility, are of major importance. Measures have been taken to favour transfers of workers with disabilities from adapted companies to mainstream companies and to incite those companies to employ persons with disabilities.

Disability, social policies and healthcare

The access to financial allowances was made simpler and aims at improving protection against poverty in view of a greater risk than the overall population. However, persons with disabilities remain at risk of exclusion as regards access to health care, personal support in daily life and access to social life in spite of their willingness to be involved in citizenship. The enhancement of professionals' skills in providing services and goods in a mainstream environment, in the analysis of the needs of persons with disabilities, is supported by cooperation with the socio-medical sector.

Disability, education and skills

In spite of continuous progress in access of children with disabilities and teenagers to an improving level of qualification in a more accessible mainstream environment, disability gaps remain, in relation with the difficulties they have, which leave them at risk of unemployment and social exclusion.

Investment priorities for inclusion and accessibility

The enhancement of persons with disabilities's skills is a priority to accessing the labour market as well as participation in society as a whole and to give everybody the same chances to progress in society.

1.2 Recommendations for France

These recommendations are based on the evidence and analysis presented in the following chapters of our report.

Recommendation: Improve employment opportunities by increasing persons with disabilities' access to vocational training.

Rationale: The under qualification of persons with disabilities is a main barrier to employment in a context where employers are increasingly seeking for high qualified workforce and where an increasing part of jobs offered do not meet the adequate competences

Recommendation: Encourage inclusive education by improving teacher training opportunities in inclusive education as well as in the use of digital technologies.

Rationale: in 2018, most of the primary school teachers declared a need for training as regards teaching to children with specific educational needs. Compared to other European countries, French teachers face more difficulties in using digital tools in their teaching practices as a result of insufficient high quality training opportunities.

Recommendation: Support independent living by developing inclusive housing opportunities.

Rationale: The constraint of economies of scales may drive to gather medico-social support and shared services. It is important to ensure that these services can be accessible in an inclusive environment.

Recommendation: Demanding specialist provision to empower mainstream stakeholders in acting inclusively on a daily basis and to enable persons with disabilities and their families to meet their rights and to be included in society.

Rationale: Current support mechanisms fail to empower persons with disabilities and their relatives to have the same participation opportunities as their peers without disabilities.

2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the Semester documents

Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendation of direct relevance to disability policy were not published in this exceptional policy cycle. For a commentary on the last published documents please see our country fiche for the previous Semester 2020-21.

2.1 Recovery and Resilience Plan for France (RRP)

The following key points highlight where the situation of persons with disabilities or disability policies was considered in these plans. We address the most relevant of these and other issues arising from the RRP/NRP in the next chapters.

Persons with disabilities are identified as at risk of social exclusion, especially as regards the labour market and education. They are addressed as people sharing characteristics with young people, whose qualification may be inadequate for the needs of the labour market. They are also addressed alongside people who may be prevented from social participation because of family-related constraints or geographical constraints. Moreover, disability is considered as a factor that may limit access to employment opportunities, like gender or geographical or social origin. Persons with disabilities are additionally addressed as a population requiring specific care and support in favour of their autonomy.

However, specific policies have been settled in relation to:

- social inclusion (p. 40), linked with access to employment;
- access to the labour market (p. 476, pp. 557-566);
- development of professional skills (p. 477, p. 563);
- access to transport (p. 252) and to the impact of the transfer of competences from the State to local authorities (p. 456).

2.2 Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans

Relevant recommendations and issues arising from participation in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are highlighted in each chapter.

It is also important that Semester plans align with national disability strategy too. In France, this refers to the Interministerial policy priorities 2018-2023. An inter-ministerial strategy was adopted for the period 2018-2023, developed in five working groups.² Policy responsibility is devolved to each Ministry under co-ordination of a Interministerial Committee (CIH), which means that there is no single disability policy document of reference.³ Disability policy is not considered as a specific policy but as a cross-ministry responsibility.

² Comité interministériel du handicap (Interministerial Committee on disability), Press kit 2017, <https://handicap.gouv.fr/presse-actualites/nos-publications/dossiers-de-presse/article/comite-interministeriel-du-handicap-20-septembre-2017> subsequent mentions: CIH 2017.

³ CIH web page, <https://handicap.gouv.fr/le-comite-interministeriel-du-handicap-cih>.

3 Disability and the labour market - analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies

In 2021, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to France:

[Article 27 UN CRPD](#) addresses Work and Employment.

55. The Committee recommends that, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

(a) Move towards eradicating all forms of segregated work, strengthen measures to effectively abolish sheltered employment and adopt a time-bound policy and benchmarks to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market, regardless of the type of impairment or level of support required, and their meaningful inclusion in work environments, in the private and public sectors;

(b) Review the labour conditions of all persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities are not paid below the minimum wage;

(c) Promote the employment of women with disabilities in the open labour market, ensuring that they are informed about and can effectively seek individualized support through the provision of reasonable accommodation, and have access to effective measures to balance work and family life;

(d) Develop awareness-raising campaigns aimed at promoting the participation of women with disabilities in employment and at shifting attitudinal barriers to the recognition of the capacities of women with disabilities and their contribution to all domains of work in the open labour market, on an equal basis with others;

(e) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, vocational and continuing training, and to guidance towards employment on an equal basis with others, and adopt measures to support the careers of persons with disabilities who wish to work as researchers through multi-year planning in research establishments;

(f) Ensure that the right to seek individualized support through the provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace is recognized by employees in the public and private sectors, and strengthen measures to inform and facilitate the recognition of reasonable accommodation for employees in the workplace.

3.1 Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate an employment rate for persons with disabilities in France of 56.9 % in 2019, compared to 75.1 % for other persons against a national employment target of 75 % and approximately 5.6 points above the EU27 average. This results in an estimated disability employment gap of approximately 18 percentage points (EU27 average gap 24.2, see Tables 2-4) or an employment chances ratio of 0.8.

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 16.9 % and 8.7 %, respectively in 2019 (see Tables 5-7) and the economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in France was 68.4 %, compared to 82.3 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10). These indications are broken down by gender and age in the respective tables in annex.

Compared to the figures for Europe, the activity rate of persons with disabilities is higher than the average rate for Europe and despite this, the unemployment rate is slightly lower than the one for Europe, which shows a better access to the labour market than in Europe as a whole; this translates into a higher level of employment.

The gap in the employment rate between the overall population and the population of persons with disabilities is lower in France than in overall Europe.

This has to be analysed in light of the prevalence of disability (Table 1) and of the criteria for it. The prevalence based on European criteria tends to be over-reported in comparison with the data for overall EU average, especially as concerns strongly limited persons but the difference in the prevalence data is not significant enough to explain the gap between France and Europe in the employment rates.

Despite progress and better access to the labour market than the EU average and a decrease in the disability gap, persons with disabilities's access to the labour market in France remains lower than for the overall population; their activity rate keeps much lower than that for the overall population (table B). In addition, even if the unemployment rate has been slightly decreasing since 2010, as in the population of persons without disabilities, the disability gap has worsened and the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities with an administrative recognition remains twice as high as for non-persons with disabilities according to EU-SILC data for the year 2019 (table 7) and that for people in a 'disability situation'⁴ is twice as high as that of persons without disabilities according to national data for the same year (table A). Persons with disabilities benefiting from the legal employment obligation of workers with disabilities represent 6.7 % of the total population aged 15-64 while those being employed represent less than 4 % of the overall employed population and those being unemployed represent more than 8 % of the overall unemployed population⁵ in 2020. However, progress in the disability gap can be noticed in view of unemployment national data for 2020 (Table A). Finally continuous progress in the employment rate of persons with disabilities can be noticed (Table 4) and the disability gap tends to decrease even it is still a concern.

The gaps between men and women in the activity rates (Table 8) and employment rates (Table 2) have narrowed over years in the population but are far lower than for the population without disabilities (Table 10) or for the overall population (Table B). The gaps between men and women in the activity rates and in the employment rates have worsened in 2020 according to national data (table B).

The difference in access to the employment relates to the lower level of qualification of persons with disabilities. In 2018, according to Insee data, 29 % of people with a 'disability situation' aged 16 to 64 years living in mainstream conditions had no qualification, against 13 % in the overall qualification (see table G).

The situation of persons with disabilities as regards activity and employment is different depending on whether they have an administrative recognition or not. According to chances ratios calculated by the Directorate for Research, Studies and

⁴ People declaring, they have an administrative recognition and people declaring they have a durable or chronic disease or health problem and they have been limited for at least 6 months in usual activities because of a health problem. Source: Drees.

⁵ Source: Agefiph, April 2021, *Emploi et chômage des personnesshandicapées, Tableau de bord national 2020 (Employment and unemployment of persons with disabilities, National Overview)*, <https://www.agefiph.fr/actualites-handicap/publication-des-tableaux-de-bord-emploi-chomage-pour-lannee-2020>.
Subsequent mentions: Agefiph TB April.

Statistics (Direction de l'animation, de la recherche, des études et des statistiques, Dares, Ministère du travail, Ministry of Work) (see table D) from 2015 data, whereas people with an administrative recognition had a 72 % chance to be employed compared to people with no administrative disability recognition, people in a 'disability situation' had only a 41% chance less to be employed compared to those who are not.

Progress since 2015 can be analysed in light of Agefiph's⁶ data:

The number of unemployed people benefiting from the obligation to employ workers with disabilities has slightly decreased (507,559 in June 2019; 493,156 in June 2020, -3 %; and, 476 853 in December 2020, -3,8 %) but the total number of persons with disabilities aged 15-64 has also slightly decreased (-2 %) as well as the activity rate.^{7 8} In percentage, the activity of persons with disabilities has decreased after an increase between 2017 and 2019. This decrease, linked with the crisis context, is noticeable in the overall population but it is more significant in the population of persons with disabilities, due to a slight decrease in the number of employed people as well as in the number of unemployed people (many people had stopped looking for a job during the crisis). Finally, the disability unemployment rate has continued to decrease, while it has slightly increased in the overall population after years of decrease, but it does not necessarily illustrate an improvement in the access to employment of persons with disabilities. The number of persons with disabilities who have gone back to work during 2020 has decreased more significantly (-24 %) than in the overall population (-11 %).

According to Agefiph data, the median duration of unemployment keeps above that of the overall population and has increased (883 days at the end of June 2020 against 668 days in the overall population), as well as the share of unemployed people who are long-term unemployed: 61 % of unemployed persons with disabilities were long-term unemployed (64 % at the end of December 2020, against 50 % in the overall population, 57 % in at the end of December 2017). More than one in four had been unemployed for more than three years at the end of December 2020 (stable proportion).

Generally speaking, according to Agefiph's data for 2019, persons with disabilities aged over 50 are overrepresented in the population of persons with disabilities aged 15-64 and benefiting from the obligation to employ workers with disabilities, in comparison with the overall population (46 % against 30 %), but in addition people aged over 50 are overrepresented amongst unemployed people with disabilities(51 %) benefiting from the obligation to employ workers with disabilities in comparison with employed persons with disabilities. Age is a general barrier to the access to the labour market. At the same time, persons with disabilities are less

⁶ Organisation in charge of collecting the tax paid by companies not fulfilling their quotas of persons with disabilities and of supporting professional insertion through its partners.
Agefiph TB April 2021

⁸ Agefiph, November 2020, *Emploi et chômage des personneshandicapées, Tableau de bord national (Employment and unemployment of persons with disabilities, National overview)*
<https://www.agefiph.fr/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2020-12/Tableau%20bord%20emploi%20chomage%20nov%202020.pdf>.
Subsequent mentions: Agefiph TB November 2020.

qualified than the overall population (as shown later in chapter 5). The under qualification of persons with disabilities is a main barrier to employment in a context where employers are increasingly seeking for high qualified workforce. According to a survey dealt with by Pôle emploi, the National Agency for Employment, an increasing part of jobs offered do not meet the adequate competences in France, which confers particular importance to vocational training as a short-term solution in a context where the proportion of jobs requiring high qualification has increased and where the proportion of jobs requiring low qualification has decreased.⁹ In spite of the development of vocational training in France over the last past years, underqualified people also have a lower access to it, and people aged over 50 sharing the same employment characteristics have a lower access than the youngest ones, so that persons with disabilities are particularly at risk of unemployment.

One third of employed persons with disabilities were working part-time in 2020, against 17 % in the overall French population, 11 % were managers, which represented constant progress in comparison with the preceding years, but remained far below the rate of managers in the overall French population (20 %).

In 2020, there were 118 480 places for persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops.

In 2018, 800 adapted companies were employing 32 000 persons of whom 26 000 had disabilities. 75 % of them had no qualification.¹⁰ Adapted companies benefited from a financial support in 2020 that made it possible to support 500 of them; they engaged to create 11 500 jobs (6 500 in 2021) in the textile, digital and automobile sectors, considers as jobs of the future.

The number of apprentices with disabilities increased by 71 % between 2019 and 2020.

3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) for France and the Interministerial policy priorities 2018-2023.

The situation of low-skilled workers in general has been a particular concern in recent labour market policies. The Interministerial priorities for 2018-2023 were the decrease of disability gaps in unemployment, support to employment and job retention, reform of the legal employment obligation of workers with disabilities, the social responsibility of companies and their efficiency, improvement of the qualifications of workers and of transitions from school to the labour market.

⁹ Le FSE et la sécurisation des parcours professionnels au service des transitions professionnelles (EFS and securing professional pathways in favor of professional mobility), http://www.fse.gouv.fr/dossiers-thematiques/le-fse-et-la-securisation-des-parcours-professionnels-au-service-des-transitions-professionnelles#_ftn1.

¹⁰ <https://www.unea.fr/chiffres-cles>.

In the Recovery and resilience plan, access to the labour market is linked with the financial support to companies in the employment of persons with disabilities, with access to services in support to it and to specific measures in favour of the equality of chances to access jobs in public services. They can be summarised as follows:

A reform of the financial contribution due by companies not meeting the legal employment obligation to employ at least 6% of persons with disabilities came into force in 2020. The aim is to make the collection of the financial contribution simpler and to favour the employment of persons with disabilities by mainstream companies.

Financial support

A specific tool was created to support the employment of persons with disabilities: the allowance to the mobilisation of employers for employing persons with disabilities (Aide à la mobilisation des employeurs pour l'embauche des travailleurs handicapés, AMEETH). It takes the form of a financial allowance to private companies employing a person with disabilities. It amounts to a maximum of EUR 4 000 per contract signed with a person with disabilities between 1 September 2020 and 30 December 2021¹¹ for a period of at least 3 months. This subsidised contract can be cumulated with the services and financial help provided by Agefhiph but not with other supports provided by the State like the course 'skills-employment' (see later). On 26 June, 13 800 contracts had mobilised this allowance, 65 % of which corresponded to long-term contracts, 83 % with SMEs, 35 % with 25-39 years old people, 30 % with 40-49-years old people, 28 % with people over 50.¹²

Support for access to the labour market and specific services

The accessibility of services offered by Pôle Emploi, the National Agency for Employment, is expected to be improved thanks to public transportation, videoconferencing and the accessibility of digitalised services. Among these services, some are specifically dedicated to persons with disabilities like the measure called 'supported employment', which was launched in 2018 and which is evaluated in the RRP. This consists of a medico-social support to occupational integration and takes the form of an evaluation of the situation of a person with disabilities, professional goals and competences, the elaboration of a professional plan in favour of insertion into an ordinary work environment, support in job-seeking, and a follow-up of the person at work (in order to secure his/her career path by facilitating access to training, competences and favour accommodations of work conditions).¹³ State financial support allocated to this measure is said to have doubled between 2018 and 2020 in the RRP (p. 563) and to be increased again in 2021 and 2022 in response to the consequences of the crisis. Its access has also been made simpler thanks to the fact that it is no longer conditioned by the decision of the Commission for the rights and autonomy of persons with disabilities (Commission pour les droits des personnes handicapées, CDAPH, p. 561).¹⁴

¹¹ The limit date of the measure has been extended, see <https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F15204>.

¹² Comité interministériel du handicap (Interministerial Committee on disability), Press kit 2021, <https://handicap.gouv.fr/presse-actualites/nos-publications/dossiers-de-presse/article/dossier-de-presse-comite-interministeriel-du-handicap>.

Subsequent mentions: CIH 2021.

¹³ See Semester 2018.

¹⁴ See report on "Assessment method" and Article R241-24 of the Health insurance code.

At the same time, Pôle emploi and specialised agencies have got closer in order to offer synergies between their know-hows. In its 2021 press kit, the Interministerial Committee on disability (Comité interministériel du handicap, CIH)¹⁵ specified that it was to be done by 1 May 2022. Also, the administrative recognition of disability is now delivered without any time limit in order to improve the access to these services. Measures in favour of the access to the labour market are also considered as being in favour of equality in opportunities in the RRP (p. 558).

Specific measures in favour of equality of access to jobs in public services

Favouring an equal chance to the access to some jobs in public services aims the contribution of public services in progress of civil society as an inclusive society. In order to contribute to the inclusivity of society, administration favours the equality of chances to the access to same jobs in public services.

The course 'skills-employment' (Parcours emploi compétences, PEC)¹⁶ is a tool aimed at supporting the employment of people by the non-market sector. It combines financial support, access to training and human support in the inclusion by the employer as well as by public services and is mentioned as a lever for durable inclusion of people who are far from the labour market, among which persons with disabilities. The financial support rate has been raised where it addresses people aged under 26 and persons with disabilities aged under 31 (pp. 552-553).

Reform of adapted companies

The reform announced in the 2018 Semester Country fiche is mentioned in the RRP. It was adopted in September 2018 in the scope of the law on freedom to choose one's professional pathway¹⁷ and came into force in 2019.¹⁸ It aims at making transfers to mainstream work environment easier and establishes the principle of the combination of training and support, like the course 'skills-employment'.¹⁹ In its 2021 press kit, CIH specified that transfers would be supported by short-term contracts until the end of December 2023.

Measures tend to concentrate on long-term employment, which is a major challenge. Indeed both support to insertion and support to job retention in mainstream companies are part of the mission of Cap emploi, which gathers specialised employment agencies. In 2020, according to Agefiph, Cap emploi enabled 60 023 recruitments and 17 595 job retentions in the private sector.²⁰ Measures also concentrate on the development of an inclusive work environment. They include the support of employers and awareness campaigns addressed to employees if required.²¹ CIH had pointed out the necessity to support companies and managers in

¹⁵ CIH 2021.

¹⁶ <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/emploi-et-insertion/parcours-emploi-competences/pec>.

¹⁷ Law n°2018-771 on the « *freedom to choose once professional pathway* », Semtempber 2018 (Loi n° 2018-771 du 5 septembre 2018 "*pour la liberté de choisir son avenir professionnel*"), <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000037367660/>.

¹⁸ The new reference frame of adapted companies was specified in a circular dated 21the February 2019 (DGEFP/METH/2019/42) available on <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/circulaire/id/44443>.

¹⁹ <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/emploi-et-insertion/emploi-et-handicap/article/emploi-et-handicap-les-entreprises-adaptees-ea>.

²⁰ Agefiph TB April 2021.

²¹ For example, financial support to the insertion and the evolvement, <https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F15204>.

the employment of persons with disabilities and in job retention, and to make employees aware of disability.

The 'supported employment' (Semester 2018) measure, which establishes these principles, and concerns 3 835 persons with disabilities,²² was assessed in the RRP (p. 561). It is said to have good results both in professional inclusion and in job retention: 59 % of the unemployed people who entered the measure found a job, in less than 6 months in half the cases. Most of them were young and underqualified. More than 60 % were still employed 2 years later. CIH announced an increase of the budget aiming at making possible to support 10 000 persons with disabilities at the end of 2022.²³ The intensity of the support is adapted to the phase of the process. The investment in the global process was planned to be reinforced in 2021 and 2022.

Measures also deal with the support to create companies (3 099 companies were created with the support of Cap emploi in 2020 according to Agefiph).²⁴

An action plan aiming to secure the pathways of people being employed by specialised workshops should be implemented by 1 January 2022. 'Impact Handicap' Platform aims at making it possible for companies to raise awareness of employment of persons with disabilities.²⁵

Other measures mentioned in the RRP but not specifically targeted to persons with disabilities may impact them disproportionately, like the reform of apprenticeship, as apprenticeship is accessible to persons with disabilities without any age limit. Access to apprenticeship in general has been simplified and made more flexible.²⁶ The financial support allocated to companies employing apprentices has been extended to the end of 2021.²⁷ The financial support allocated to vocational training centres (Centres de formation des apprentis, CFAs) is to be reinforced. Investment plans in skills (Plans d'investissement dans les compétences, PIC) are also mentioned by CIH. The aim is to train a million underqualified unemployed people, including persons with disabilities and people living in disadvantaged area.²⁸ According to CIH, 85 000 persons with disabilities benefited from the measure in 2020 against 71 000 in 2018.²⁹

Measures to address the disability gap in the access to employment have recently been reinforced through financial resources that were allocated to companies as well as through the development of services aiming at supporting the employment of persons with disabilities. At the same time, measures have been taken to improve persons with disabilities's access to the open market and to offer a transition towards eradicating segregated work.

²² CIH 2021.

²³ CIH 2021.

²⁴ Agefiph TB April 2021.

²⁵ CIH 2021.

²⁶ <https://www.cci-paris-idf.fr/fr/entreprises/developpement/apprentissage/comprendre-reforme-apprentissage>.

²⁷ CIH 2021.

²⁸ <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/le-ministere-en-action/pic/>.

²⁹ CIH 2021.

4 Disability, social policies and healthcare – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies

In 2021, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to France:

[Article 28 UN CRPD](#) addresses adequate standard of living and social protection.

57. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Assess the implementation of disability legislation and policies at the national and regional levels with the aim of ensuring equal access to support for persons with disabilities regardless of their age, and streamline procedures at the municipal level to provide persons with disabilities with support. The State party should provide persons with disabilities with information about their rights and entitlements in accessible formats, including Easy Read;
- (b) Review the provisions concerning the allocation and the amount of the adult disability allowance in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Streamline social security support systems to ensure that they are accessible to all persons with disabilities, as a measure to tackle poverty;
- (d) Design and implement programmes to establish accessible housing and reinforce human rights-based support schemes for all persons with disabilities to cover disability-related expenses and to enable them to gain access to an adequate standard of living.

[Article 19 UN CRPD](#) addresses Living independently in the community.

‘41. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) End the institutionalization of children and adults with disabilities, including in small residential homes, and launch a national strategy and action plans to end the institutionalization of persons with disabilities, with time-bound benchmarks, human, technical and financial resources, responsibilities for implementation and monitoring, and measures to support the transition from institutions to life in the community;
- (b) Ensure the implementation of the agreement concerning the moratorium on placing persons with disabilities in Belgian institutions, and strengthen measures to support families of children with disabilities and to uphold the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and in the community;
- (c) Recognize the right to live independently and to be included in the community in legislation and take measures to implement it, and develop awareness-raising measures, including campaigns, about it and about the harmful effects of institutionalization on persons with disabilities;
- (d) Ensure the availability of support to live independently and in the community, such as user-led budgets and personalized support, and enable persons with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives and to make decisions concerning where and with whom to live, as outlined in general comment No. 5 (2017);
- (e) Adopt measures to ensure the access of persons with disabilities to affordable and accessible housing on the basis of individual choice and outside any type of congregated premises;
- (f) Establish a time frame and benchmarks for achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities to mainstream community services, such as education, health, work and employment.

[Article 25 UN CRPD](#) addresses Health.

53. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure priority and equal access for persons with disabilities and their networks to vaccines against COVID-19 and the accessibility of health services for persons with disabilities, particularly by developing public health programmes to reach out to the most marginalized persons with disabilities and by providing accessible transportation to health-care centres, including vaccination centres;
- (b) Ensure the development of and promote investment in universal design of medical devices, equipment and health-care facilities and reinforce measures to provide persons with disabilities with information about health care in accessible formats;
- (c) Ensure that plans for recovery include measures to guarantee the access of persons with disabilities to health care, paying particular attention to persons still in institutions and those in penitentiary facilities;
- (d) Provide women and girls with disabilities with appropriate and accessible sexual and reproductive health care, and consult with organizations of women with disabilities about gaps and measures to ensure progress in this regard;
- (e) Develop awareness-raising and training programmes, including in health-related higher education curricula, for medical and health administrative staff about diversity and the rights of persons with disabilities, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC 2019 indicate the poverty risk rate for working age persons with disabilities in France was 17.5 % in 2019, compared to 12.6 % for other persons of similar age - an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 5 percentage points (see Table 14). For people aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 6.6 points (13.2 % for older persons with disabilities and 6.6 % for other persons of similar age). The tables in annex also indicate the respective rates of risk of poverty or social exclusion and break these down by gender as well age.

For persons with disabilities of working age in France (age 16-64) the risk of poverty before social transfers was 48.5 % and 17.5 % after transfers. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities aged under 60 was 9.2 %.

EU-SILC data show a disability gap in the risk of poverty or social exclusion (see table 12). The risk of poverty or social exclusion increases with the severity of impairment, it is more significant for women, like in the French population of persons without disabilities. The disability gape in the risk of material deprivation is higher in France than EU average whereas the disability gap in the risk of low income is lower (see table 11).

The risk of poverty after social transfers has increased more significantly in the population of persons with disabilities aged 16-64 since 2017 than in the population of persons without disabilities of the same ages but this disability gap stabilised in 2019 and the increase of the risk was far under the one for the population of persons with disabilities aged over 65, which has increased much more than in the population of persons without disabilities aged over 65 (see table 14).

Of interest to health policy are the data on self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (too expensive or too far to travel or waiting list). Disability equality gaps

are evident here too and, on this basis, the rate for persons with disabilities in France was 2.0 %, compared to 0.9 % for other persons, which is above the EU27 average of 1.7 %. The disability gap in self-reported unmet need for medical examination is much lower than EU average (see table 15).

According to a study carried out by the Directorate of Research, Surveys, Assessment and Statistics (Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques, DREES) in 2021,³⁰ based on 2018 Insee data, 63 % of people in a disability situation aged 16-64 were getting salaries, against 82 % of the population of the same age, whereas 15% of them were getting unemployment benefit and 26 % were getting housing benefit, which is a contributory means-testing financial support, against 11 % and 17 % in the overall population of the same age. People in a disability situation receive financial revenues and rents less often than the overall population, and 28 % of them have no savings against 14 % of the overall population.

Both medium and median incomes were lower than those of the overall population and a higher proportion of people in a disability situation are considered as poor. Persons with disabilities were twice as often at risk of poverty or social exclusion as the overall population. On the basis of the Eurostat criteria of poverty that measures poverty relating to 'living conditions' (material deprivation),³¹ 29 % of people in a disability situation were poor in 2018 against 12 % in the overall population. 14 % of the people in a disability situation declared housing difficulties such as deteriorations of heating difficulties against 8 % of the overall population. Whereas 50 % people in a disability situation declared themselves in very bad health conditions, against 6 % in the overall population, 5 % had not seen any general practitioner during the year against 19 % in the overall population (see table E). The disability gap in access to dental care is rather weak. 16 % of people in a disability situation who declared they had not benefited from home human support during 2017 declared they required it but had renounced to it; 24 % declared they were lacking financial means to cover related expenses (see table F).

Persons with disabilities continue to be at risk of exclusion. The proportion of people with disabilities who declared they had taken part in cultural activities or in sport activities in 2018 was twice less than in the overall population of the same age group. But one third of them declared they belonged to an association and 21 % declared they were volunteering for an association, against 39 % and 23 % in the overall population. 23 % declared they had taken part in a citizenship activity during the year, against 73 % in the overall population; 40 % declared they had voted compared to 35 % in the overall population. Disability gaps remain in terms of

³⁰ Drees, February 2021, Eva Baradji, Laurence Dauphin, Jean-Sébastien Eidelilman, *Comment vivent les personnesshandicapées (How do persons with disabilities live)*, Les dossiers de la Drees: <https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/publications/les-dossiers-de-la-drees/comment-vivent-les-personnes-handicapees-les-conditions-de>.

³¹ State of economic strain and durables, defined as the enforced inability (rather than the *choice* not to do so) to pay unexpected expenses, afford a one-week annual holiday away from home, a meal involving meat, chicken or fish every second day, the adequate heating of a dwelling, durable goods like a washing machine, colour television, telephone or car, being confronted with payment arrears (mortgage or rent, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments).

contacts with friends. Persons with disabilities declared less often than the overall population that they feel integrated in society.

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) for France and the Interministerial policy priorities 2018-2023.

The Interministerial priorities were housing accessibility, access to social housing, inclusive housing, the externalisation of services provided by the socio-medical sector, the prevention of placement departures to Belgium due to the lack of appropriate education environment in France, and enhancement of health prevention.

There is no specific measure described in the RRP as concerns social policies in favour of persons with disabilities. The accessibility of transportation is alluded to on p. 252 as well as the impact of the transfer of competences from national to local authorities on persons with disabilities (p.456).

There were Interministerial priorities to:

- enhance the Allowance for adults with disabilities (Allocation aux adultes handicapés, AAH),³² aimed at guaranteeing a minimum income to people whose capacity at work is strongly reduced when they are not entitled to any pension, or to supplement a pension which is below a certain amount);
- improve the services of departmental offices for persons with disabilities (Maison départementale des personnes handicapées, MDPHs);³³
- enhance persons with disabilities's access to rights in disadvantages areas, as well as to citizenship and to digital services;
- improve the accessibility of information provided by public services.

In its last press kit dated 5 July 2021, CIH declared an increasing number of people being lifelong entitled to the benefit for adults and of children entitled to the Education allowance for a child with disabilities (Allocation d'éducation de l'enfant handicapé, AEEH)³⁴ until the age of 20. There was an increase in the number of lifelong 'mobility-inclusion' cards delivered³⁵ and a decrease in the duration of average waiting time for the assessment of rights. CIH also announced plans to allocate the Disability Compensation Benefit (Prestation de compensation du handicap, PCH)³⁶ without any duration limit for people whose disability is not subject

³² <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F12242>.

³³ Organisations in charge of the assessment of disability needs.

³⁴ It is a non-contributory entitlement paid by the Social Welfare Family Allowance (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales-CAF) and is non means-testing, <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14809>.

³⁵ Three different CMI exist, one is related to invalidity (CMI invalidité, Invalidity-CMI, see example 6), one is related to a priority access to public services, event and places and another one is related to parking. See Assessment method.

³⁶ Created in the scope of the 2005-102 Law of 11 February 2005, a personalised non-contributory, non means-testing budget meant to compensate for additional living costs in terms of human

to any evolvement. It announced another reform of PCH: the time for the preparation for meals and dishes has been integrated into the services covered by the financial support and people who have benefited from the support will be able to continue to get it after the age of 75 years.

It also announced an increase of the budget allocated by the national solidarity agency for autonomy (Caisse nationale de solidarité pour l'autonomie, CNSA), which is in charge of implementing the national plan of medico-social services, to the departmental offices for persons with disabilities in order to reduce instruction times and improve the access to rights and to implement the digitalisation of the services offered by MDPHs.

Between January 2019 and May 2021, 135 000 people were allocated the AAH long-life. The instruction time has been reduced by 13 % since 2019. A reform of the calculation of the right to AAH for people who live as a couple has been made; it is said by CIH to be in favour their situations. CIH also declared improvement in the consideration of support needs in autonomy development of people with mental of cognitive troubles.

As around 172 000 adult people and 4 000 children were living in specialised institutions in 2014, measures have been taken to support independent living and personal assistance to persons with disabilities at home, like the Disability Compensation Benefit and the support allocated by local authorities.³⁷ Government has engaged in a transformation of the socio-medical offer to develop synergies with mainstream provision and converting the offer into support to independent living. At the same time, it favours housing accessibility, shared and independent living and shared services at home. It seeks to improve the allocation of social housing to persons with disabilities too. In its 2021 press pack, the CIH declared the development of an interministerial plan for the development of inclusive housing³⁸ in which these measures were described together with the implementation of an 'Observatory of inclusive housing' (observatoire de l'habitat inclusif) aimed at supporting the development of inclusive housing 'thanks, among others, the diffusion of inspiring practices or to the design of tools intended to project initiators'. CIH mentioned a target of 10 000 persons living in such conditions by the end of 2022. Inclusive housing is also intended to make it possible for persons with disabilities to take part in mainstream social life.

Support (financial support and training) is also provided to people providing care and help to relatives with disabilities.

As far as access to health care is concerned, CIH declared that specific financial resources had been allocated to make it possible for health professionals to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities in terms of time or adapted care environment. Telemedecine is also intended to become more accessible. CIH also

assistance, technical aids, adaptation of home, vehicle and extra-costs for transportation, animal assistance, and exceptional expenses, <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14202>

³⁷ See Living independently.

³⁸ https://www.unapei.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/20210219_PPT-Observatoire-Habitat-Inclusif1-Lecture-seule.pdf.

mentioned measures for access to technical devices. Measures aim to make the evaluation of needs more efficient and to support persons with disabilities in the use of technical devices. Occupational therapists can now prescribe such devices to persons with disabilities. Financial support is also being made more efficient thanks to co-ordination between stakeholders (providers, users, prescribers, retailers and health care insurance funds). The development of Augmentative and Alternative Communication tools is encouraged and the access to them will be supported.

The accessibility of establishments open to the public remains a point at stake in social life and citizenship. In addition to the development of digital tools, 'accessibility ambassadors' are being employed to improve the access to the services they offer. Citizenship is to be reinforced through the accessibility of electoral information and financial support to cover expenses linked with political activity of persons with disabilities. From 21 September, skills linked with the disability accessibility of services and goods will be inserted in the skill reference data of recognised professional certifications. Legal measures were taken to improve the accessibility of audio-visual offer. Measures were taken to improve the accessibility of culture (for adapted communication channels) and the access to sport (For example Handiguide) for persons with disabilities.³⁹ CIH declared that the accessibility of online administrative procedures and of information provided by government keeps improving.

A campaign will be launched in October 2021 to change people's representations of disability.

In summary, the access to financial support aimed at fighting against poverty of persons with disabilities and at covering addition costs due to impairment was made easier and more adequate to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Housing accessibility, access to housing, including to social housing, shared and independent living, and service at home are being tackled: improvement of the allocation process of social housing, 'Observatory of inclusive housing', transformation of the medico-social offer into services provided in the mainstream environment, support to family caregivers etc.

The Government has engaged into a transformation of the socio-medical offer aiming at developing synergies with the mainstream environment. It looks to transform the offer into a support opportunity for independent living and mainstream schooling. Support (financial support and training) is also provided to people providing care and help to relatives with disabilities.

Measures are aimed at making the evaluation of needs more efficient and to support and persons with disabilities in the use of devices. Financial support is also being made more efficient thanks to a consultation between stakeholders. The development of Augmentative and Alternative Communication tools is encouraged and access to them will be supported.

³⁹ See country report on Digitalisation 2021 (forthcoming).

CIH declared that specific financial resources had been allocated to make it possible for health professionals to meet specific needs of persons with disabilities in terms of time or adapted care environment. Telemedicine is also intended to become more accessible.

5 Disability, education and skills – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies

In 2021, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to France:

[Article 24 UN CRPD](#) addresses Education.

'51. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party strengthen measures to attain quality, inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including in the overseas territories. The State party should promptly implement the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities in this regard. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop systems to collect data on children with disabilities disaggregated by age, place of residence, sex and ethnic background, including information about the percentage of enrolment in and attendance at school, and ensure that Roma, asylum-seeking and refugee children with disabilities and children with disabilities who are in an irregular migration situation have effective access to education;
- (b) Adopt systems for parents and legal tutors to complain and seek redress in cases of refusal to admit their children to a school on the basis of disability;
- (c) Develop a framework recognizing the right of children with disabilities to seek individualized support through the provision of reasonable accommodation to meet their individual educational requirements, including accommodations in the context of examinations for children with disabilities, particularly autistic children and children with Down syndrome;
- (d) Adopt programmes at the municipal level and involving public and private actors to provide support for children with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (e) Ensure that education in French Sign Language is provided at early stages of education and promote the deaf culture in inclusive educational environments;
- (f) Ensure the effective learning, teaching and use of Braille and Easy Read for persons who are blind and visually impaired and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (g) Take measures to eliminate abuse against and bullying of children with disabilities in schools;
- (h) Adopt programmes with specific goals and time frames in order to promote the access of persons with disabilities to higher education, ensuring that young persons with disabilities can seek individualized support through the provision of reasonable accommodation in tertiary education, including to facilitate their international mobility, and access to sign languages.'

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC 2019 estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with additional caution due to relatively wide confidence intervals, but they consistently indicate disability equality gaps (an average of 2-3 years provides a more stable indication). Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in France. Youth with disabilities (aged 18-24) tend to leave school significantly more than peers of the same age groups without disabilities (and this is reinforced by widening the sample size to age 18-29). Table 17 shows completion rate of tertiary education disaggregated by disability and age group. Persons with disabilities (age 30-34) are less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (and this is reinforced in the wider age range 30-39).

Data provided by DEPP show a continuous increase (between 2 % and 5 % per year since 2005) in the number of schooled children with disabilities to 427 822 in 2019-2020 (+4.9 %), including those who are schooled in specialised institutions. This increase is mainly due to an improvement of the detection of difficulties implying the necessity to adapt the educational environment to the specificities of the child.

At the age of 16, 36 % of schooled teenagers with disabilities from a panel of children with disabilities born in 2001 were in professional secondary schools, and 11 % in upper secondary mainstream general or technological courses (against 68 % and 27 % in the overall population).⁴⁰ According to DEPP data for 2018-2019, one child with disabilities in 10 had been enrolled in a class were pupils prepare for the first diploma of schooling (Diplôme national du brevet), 33 % had not taken the exam (25 % of those educated in mainstream schools, 37 % being schooled in special classes).⁴¹ Most of the children who had not been enrolled in a class were pupils were preparing for the first diploma of schooling were educated in specialised institutes. 85 % of those who had taken the exam succeeded, with variations by difficulty (71 % of those with intellectual impairments, 76 % of those with emotional and behavioural difficulty). The success rate is similar to the overall population but 28 % of the teenagers with disabilities who succeeded had been enrolled in the professional route against just 9 % for the overall population.

Children considered 'without a solution' (out of education) remain a concern. The latest data available on children with disabilities educated in specialised institutes are dated 2014.⁴² 4 to 76 % of children aged 6-16 in these institutes, depending on the type of impairment, were not schooled. This had not significantly changed since 2010 except for children with multiple impairments. There are no recent and reliable data on the number of children staying at home and not being schooled, around 1 500 (1 413 on 31 December 2019)⁴³ have a placement in Belgium. This has been raised as a specific concern by the UN CRPD Committee.

DEPP data, based on a panel of children born in 2001, show that when the children are 14 their situation is unknown in 3 % of the cases; the number of children with disabilities schooled belonging to the same birth classes whose data can be observed has decreased after the age of 14, especially after the age of 15 years, more than for the overall population. The observation of the 2001 panel reveals a rate of school leaving of 4 % between the ages of 13 and 16.

⁴⁰ Ministry of education, Les panels d'élèves de la DEPP : source essentielle pour connaître et évaluer le système éducatif (*The DEPP panel: essential source to know the education system*), Education et Formation n°95, <https://www.education.gouv.fr/revue-education-formations-89606> Subsequent: EF-95

⁴¹ <https://www.education.gouv.fr/17-ans-quatre-eleves-sur-dix-en-situation-de-handicap-nes-en-2001-ont-passe-le-diplome-national-du-5510>.

⁴² Les personnes accueillies dans les établissements et services médico-sociaux pour enfants ou adultes handicapés en 2014. Résultats de l'enquête ES-Handicap 2014 (*People admitted in specialised insititutes and medico-social services for children with disabilities and adults in 2014, 2014 survey results*), Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques, Ministère des solidarités et de la Santé (*Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics, Ministry of Solidarity and Health*), July 2018, N°28.

⁴³ Source: State secretary in charge of persons with disabilities, <https://handicap.gouv.fr/presse-actualites/nos-publications/communiques-de-presse/article/moratoire-des-places-en-belgique-et-acceleration-de-la-creation-de-solutions-d>.

There are no data available on early school leaving for persons with disabilities from national sources. The ratio between the number of people aged over 18 in education in the overall population and in the population of children with disabilities and teenagers can be calculated from:

- data about the overall schooled population by age produced by DEPP every year: 2 966 776 people over 18 schooled in 2019-2020, whatever the type of scholarship and the level; ⁴⁴
- data about the population of persons with disabilities schooled in mainstream primary and secondary schools by age produced by DEPP every year: 8 080 people aged over 18 for the year 2019-2019 (see table J);
- data about the schooled population of persons with disabilities by age produced by DEPP for the year 2010-2011 and 2013-2014 (see figure A) which enables us to estimate the number of people aged over 18 being schooled in specialised institutes; around 10 000;
- data about the population of persons with disabilities studying at a tertiary level produced by the Ministry for tertiary education and research 37 502 students in 2019-2020.⁴⁵

In the population of persons with disabilities, the number of people aged over 18 is 1.5 times the one for the general population, which represents a permanent progress over years in terms of disability gap. However, 1.69 % of students in tertiary education were recognised as having disabilities in 2019-2020 whereas pupils with disabilities were 3.7 % of the class age of 11 in 2013-2014 when they were at school, which has increased over the years. This may illustrate an increase in the disability gap in chances to be in education with the age but it may also illustrate a decrease in the recognition of disability with the age even if over time disability identification has been increasing inside all the age groups.

Indeed, the number of students with disabilities has been increasing over years; the number of students with disabilities identified in universities (see table K) has increased by 7.5 % between 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. 1.2 % of them were doctorate students against 3.8 % in the overall population. They are more often enrolled in humanities, in sciences and in technology than the overall population (see table L), with differences by type of impairment.

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) for France and the Interministerial policy priorities 2018-2023, which were to improve the accessibility of mainstream education environment and access to tertiary education.

One of the levers for supporting the social participation of persons with disabilities is the detection of impairment. In 2021, CIH insisted on the development of means for the early detection and of the care for impairment. It announced that, during the

⁴⁴ <https://www.education.gouv.fr/reperes-et-references-statistiques-2020-1316>.

⁴⁵ https://publication.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/eesr/FR/EESR14_ES_14/les_etudiants_en_situation_de_handicap_dans_l_enseignement_superieur/.

summer 2021, 63 new platforms were to be created to organise early detection regarding neurological development.

As an illustration, the number of children for whom parents get AEEH has increased by 90 % between 2011 and 2019.⁴⁶ Most of the time, the detection of impairment takes place in primary school (the number of children whose difficulty has been detected no longer increases at secondary level), so that the proportion of children benefitting from specific support is more significant at primary level than at secondary level but the number of pupils benefiting from a diagnosis has been increasing more rapidly at secondary level than at primary level because of the arrivals of children who had been detected in primary schools and whose number has been increasing over years (see tables H, I and J).

Some breaks in education can be observed between pre-elementary and elementary levels, as well as between elementary and secondary levels. These trends vary with type of impairment. In particular, the proportion of children with intellectual disabilities born in 2001 who have stayed full-time in a mainstream class between the ages of 6 and 10 is weaker than for others. In addition, the proportion of those learners with an autism spectrum diagnosis who have spent these years in specialised institutes is more than for children with other difficulties. When they were 11, more than half the children born in 2001 were still in a primary school and almost 20 % were in a specialised institute. 31 % of the children on the autism spectrum were in an institute. Teenagers' chances to be schooled in ordinary classes at the age of 14 were far better for those with visual, hearing, language and speech impairments than for those with other impairments.⁴⁷ These break tendencies have weakened when we consider the number of schooled children by age and schooling environment over time.

In 2019, 84 % of children with disabilities were schooled in mainstream schools, 18 % in specialised institutes, 2 % in both systems (see table H). The number of children being schooled in specialised institutes has varied between 77 000 and 80 000 since 2005. It is important to note that an increasing proportion of children schooled in these institutes are also enrolled in mainstream schools. The number of children being schooled in both systems has increased by 72 % since 2008 (42 % since 2013), which illustrates the current policy consisting of partnerships between the medico-social sector and the mainstream environment to promote an inclusive society.

Inclusive school is also promoted through support systems consisting in special classes (Ulis) managed by special teachers who give special teaching and support to children, aiming at making it possible for them to spend as much time as possible in mainstream classes. The number of children schooled thanks to this setting has increased by 12 % since 2013 in primary schools and by 66 % in secondary schools. So, the decrease observed in the proportion of children with disabilities being

⁴⁶ Source : CNSA, *Chiffres clés 2021 (Key figures)*, CAF, (family allowance fund) Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, 2012, *Note de conjoncture sociale (Sectoral report)* <https://www.cnsa.fr>.

⁴⁷ EF - 95.

schooled in mainstream schools, and the increase in the proportion being schooled in specialised institutes, tends to weaken with age.⁴⁸

According to the DEPP, most children with disabilities who were born in 2005 have been schooled in mainstream ordinary pre-schools, which had not been the case for those born in 2001.⁴⁹

in 2018, most of the primary school teachers declared a need for training as regards teaching to children with specific educational needs.⁵⁰ Compared to other European countries, French teachers face more difficulties in using digital tools in their teaching practices as a result of insufficient high quality training opportunities.⁵¹

As far as children for whom France did not offer any appropriate solution, an agreement was signed in 2011 between the two countries for the payment of living and care expenses in Belgium.⁵² However, 21 % of the children educated in Belgium were not schooled in 2016.⁵³ In March 2021, the State secretary in charge of persons with disabilities declared France would enable persons with disabilities to live inside or close to their families without imposing breaks in education.⁵⁴

Generally speaking, the measures described in the RRP also deal with the vocational/professional training of people facing difficulties to meet the needs of the labour market.

In summary, the proportion of children with disabilities and teenagers being schooled in a mainstream environment keeps increasing. Levers for education of children with disabilities in the mainstream educational system are an early detection and care of troubles, cooperation between the medico-social sector and the mainstream environment and the development of classes (Ulis) managed by specialised teachers inside mainstream schools, especially secondary schools recently. Support given is intended to empower children with disabilities and teenagers to make it possible for them to spend as much time as possible in mainstream classes. Teachers need to

⁴⁸ Source : DEPP, repartition of schooled children by age and schooling mode, https://www.cnis.fr/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/DC_2012_1re-reunion_COM_Services_publics_Depp_scolarisation_%C3%A9%C3%A8ves_handicap%C3%A9s.pdf

⁴⁹ https://www.cnis.fr/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/DC_2017_2eReunion_COM_SERPU_Depp.pdf.

⁴⁹ EF – 95.

⁵⁰ DEPP, June 2019, Axelle Charpentier, Rizlaine Embarek, Christelle Raffaëlli, Anaëlle Solnon, Pratiques de classe, sentiment d'efficacité personnelle et besoin de formation : une photographie inédite du métier de professeur des écoles début 2018 (Class practices, feeling of personalefficiency and training need: a new picture of the schoolteacher occupation) Note d'information N° 19.22, https://archives-statistiques-depp.education.gouv.fr/Default/doc/SYRACUSE/44123/pratiques-de-classe-sentiment-d-efficacite-personnelle-et-besoins-de-formation-une-photographie-ined?_lg=fr-FR.

⁵¹ TALIS (Teaching And Learning International Survey) 2018 https://www.education.gouv.fr/talis-teaching-and-learning-international-survey-2018-9815#Premiers_resultats_de_l_edition_2018.

⁵² <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/> -.

⁵³ Source : Prévention des départs non souhaités en Belgique, https://handicap.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/rapport_gt_4_cnh_belgiquev6d.pdf.

⁵⁴ <https://www.vie-publique.fr/discours/279494-sophie-cluzel-30032021-prise-en-charge-personnes-autistes-en-belgique>.

be trained to improve the mainstream schooling of children with disabilities. Vocational training also aims at tackle qualification gaps.

As far as people considered 'without a solution' are concerned, in March 2021, the State secretary in charge of persons with disabilities declared France would enable persons with disabilities to live inside or closed to their families without imposing breaks in courses.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ <https://www.vie-publique.fr/discours/279494-sophie-cluzel-30032021-prise-en-charge-personnes-autistes-en-belgique>.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

6.1 Updates on use of existing EU funds (up to 2021)

93 % of the EUR 27.5 bn ESIF for the period 2014-2020 had been allocated on 31 March 2021, 103 % as concerns ESF.⁵⁶ At the end of 2019, 30.1 % of the EUR 6.5 billion ESF (EUR 1.9 billion) were devoted to vocational training, 29.7 % to social inclusion. 43 % of the people who benefited from the ESF were benefiting from minimum welfare payments, 60 % were unemployed and 58 % had a level of qualification inferior to the secondary level. The training and the support to persons with disabilities is not a strategic priority as such in the EFS operational programs but persons with disabilities are considered a targeted population in 3 of its specific objectives.⁵⁷ In 2017, 6.4 % of the people who were taking part in a supported action had disabilities and this proportion tended to decrease. 2.1 % of the Funding of the Employment initiative had disabilities. 8.8 % of the unemployed participants had disabilities, which was equivalent to the part of the unemployed persons with disabilities in France.⁵⁸ 9.1 % of supported employment covered by ESF had disabilities. The proportion of unqualified people and of people benefiting from minimum welfare payments was much more significant among participants with disabilities than among all the participants and women were under-represented among participants with disabilities. After operations, employment is less frequent among persons with disabilities than among all the participants and persons with disabilities get subsidised contracts more often. 6 months after the operations, 47 % of the participants with disabilities were employed, which is 9 points less than for all the participants. Social inclusion to which EUR 3.1 bn ESIF were allocated as a whole,⁵⁹ included the implementation of a public infrastructure in charge of supporting persons with disabilities, of fighting against discrimination and of French teaching.⁶⁰

6.2 Priorities for future investment (after 2021)

The ad equation between the competences of active people and the needs of the labour market are a major challenge for France, especially as concerns persons with disabilities (p. 476). The plan highlights the fact that monetary redistribution, which is important in France, does not replace emancipation, nor social mobility. Skills in relation to digitalisation and ecology are of major importance.

Considering the challenges linked to relative inaccessibility of digital information that was pointed out in the report on digitalisation, European funds should be used not only for infrastructures but also for adequate training of people playing a role in the production process (from the conception of information to the production of digital tools) and adequate support to persons with disabilities in the use of digital tools.

⁵⁶ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/ressources/avancement-de-la-programmation-2014-2020>.

⁵⁷ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/infographies/bilan-de-la-mobilisation-du-fse-en-france-2014-2020>.

⁵⁸ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/search/site/handicap>.

⁵⁹ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/objectifs-thematiques/inclusion-sociale>.

⁶⁰ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/objectifs-thematiques/inclusion-sociale>.

7 Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database⁶¹ and statistical reports.⁶²

Unless specified, the summary statistics are drawn from the most recent EU-SILC data available to researchers from Eurostat. The EU-SILC sample includes people living in private households and does not include people living in institutions (congregative households). The sampling methods vary somewhat in each country.

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’.⁶³

Table 1: Self-reported ‘activity limitations’ as a proxy for impairment/disability (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1.

In subsequent tables, these data are used to indicate ‘disability’ equality gaps and trends relevant to the analytical chapters – for the labour market, social policies and healthcare, and education – by comparing outcomes for persons who report and do not report ‘activity limitations’.⁶⁴ National estimates for France are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.⁶⁵

⁶¹ Eurostat health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁶² Eurostat (2019) *Disability Statistics* https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

⁶³ The SILC survey questions are contained in the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_\(MEHM\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_(MEHM)).

⁶⁴ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

⁶⁵ The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU changes the EU average. Averages were also affected in 2015 by a discontinuity in the German disability data due to a definitional change.

7.1 Data relevant to disability and the labour market

Table 2: EU and France employment rates, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)

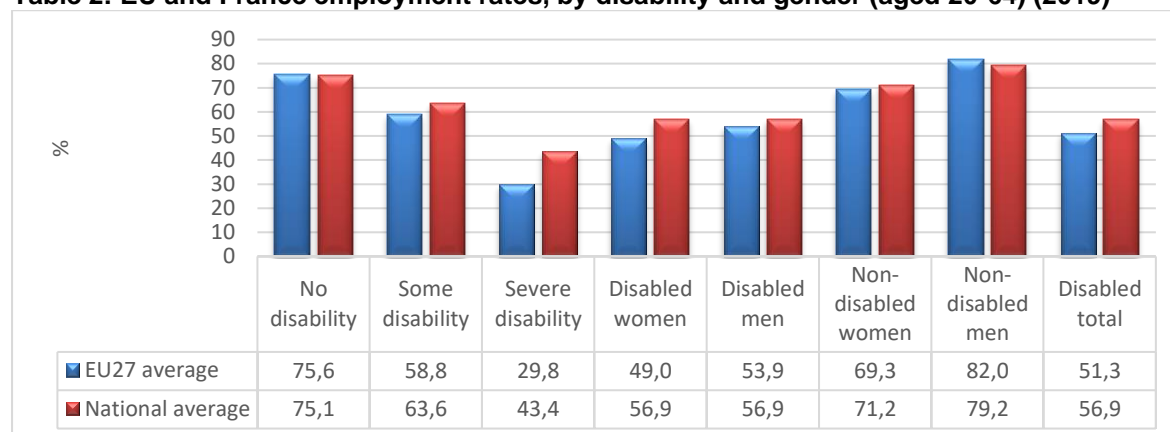


Table 3: Employment rates in France, by disability and age group (2019)

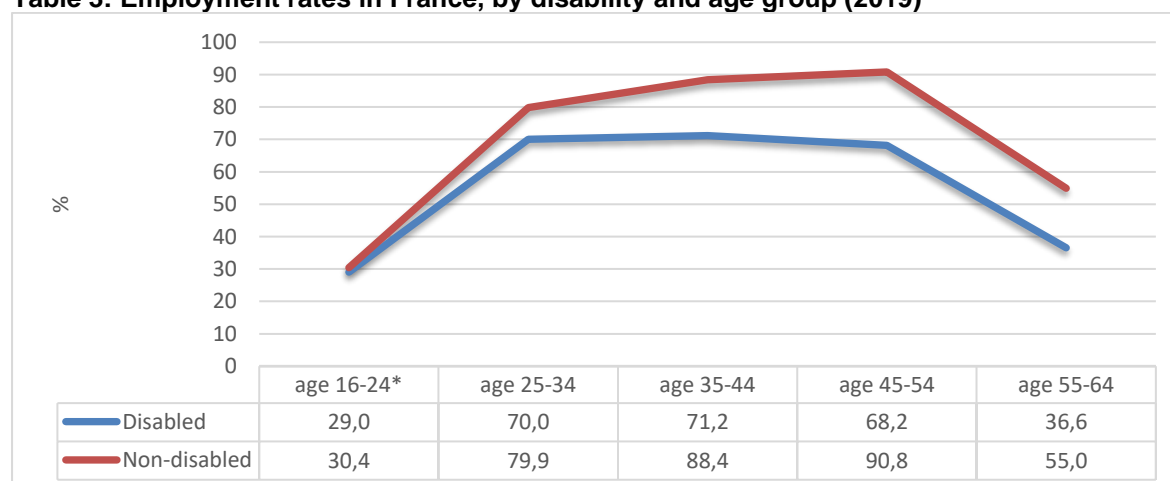
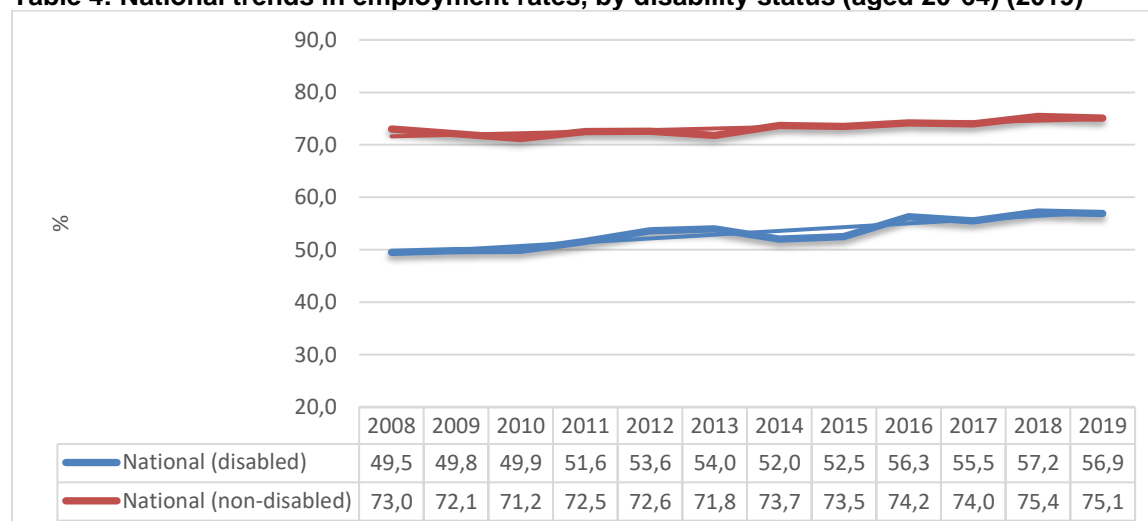


Table 4: National trends in employment rates, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

7.1.1 Unemployment

Table 5: Unemployment rates by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)

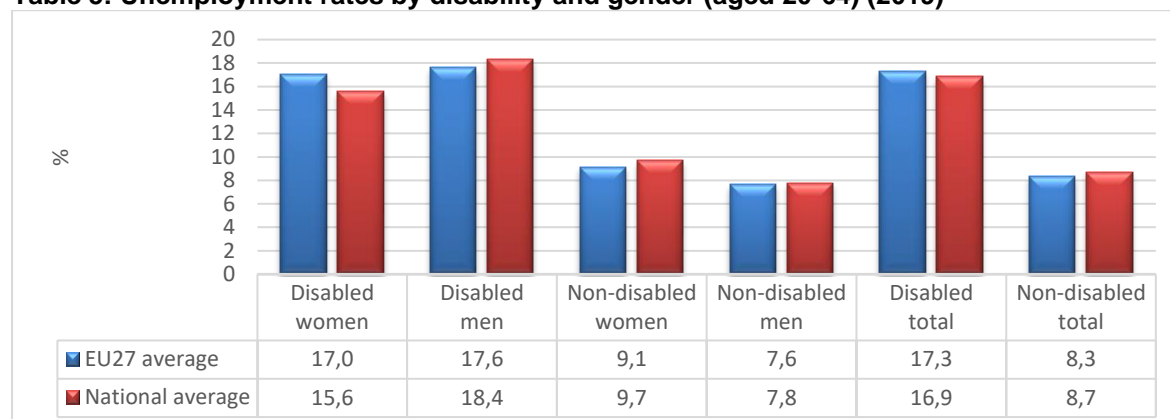


Table 6: Unemployment rates in France, by disability and age group (2019)

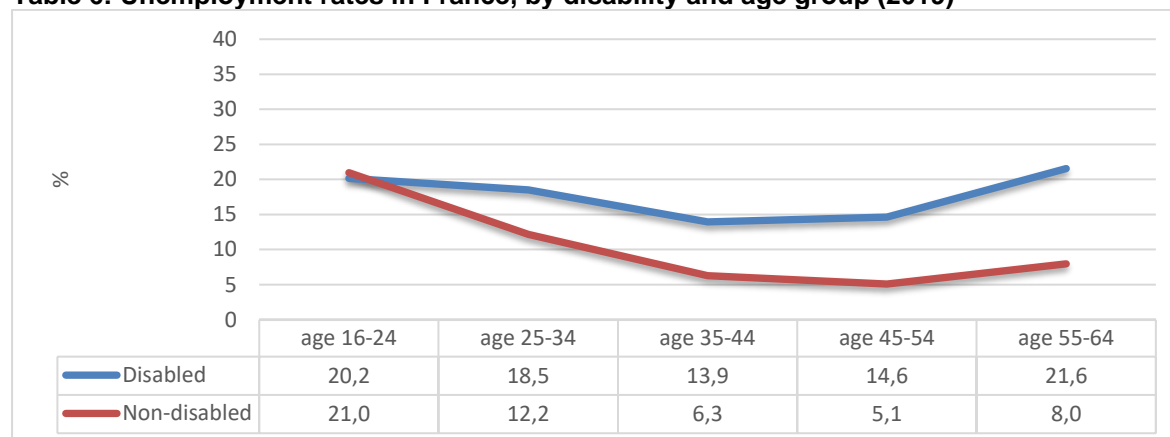
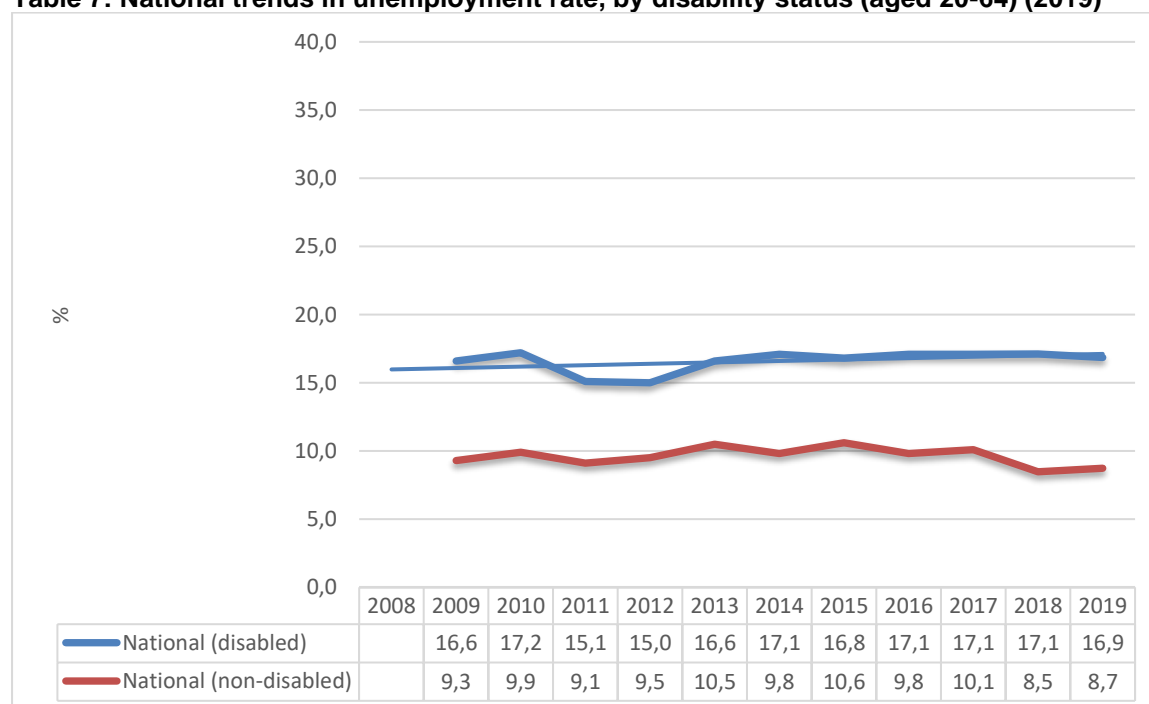


Table 7: National trends in unemployment rate, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

7.1.2 Economic activity

Table 8: Activity rates in France, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)

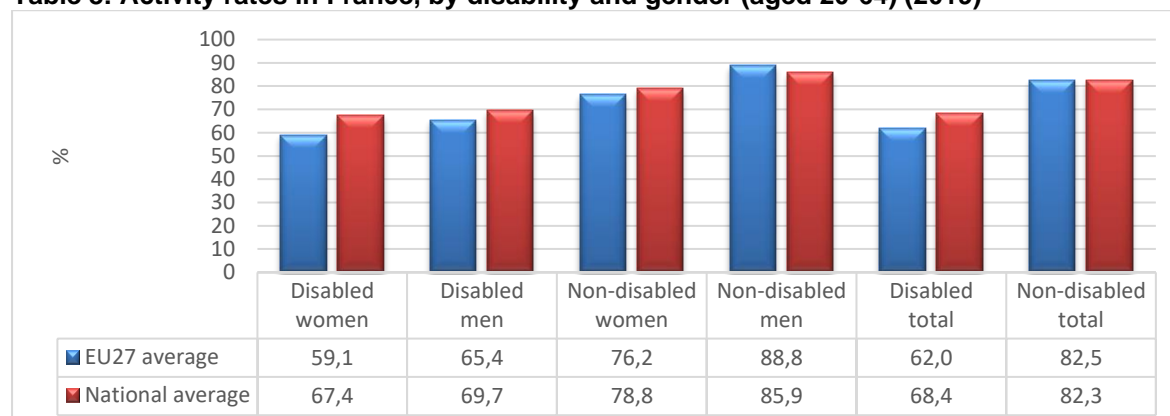


Table 9: Activity rates in France, by age group (2019)

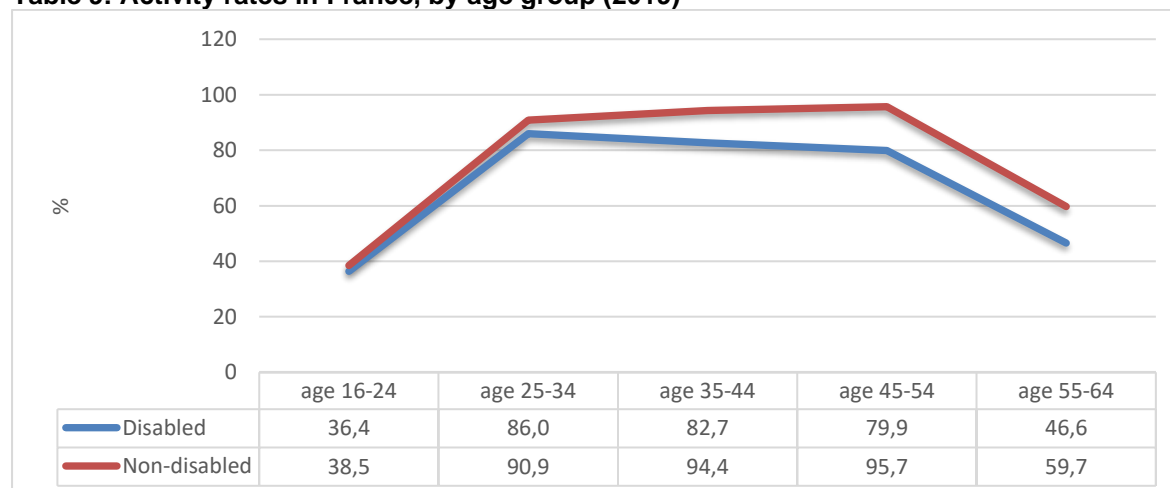
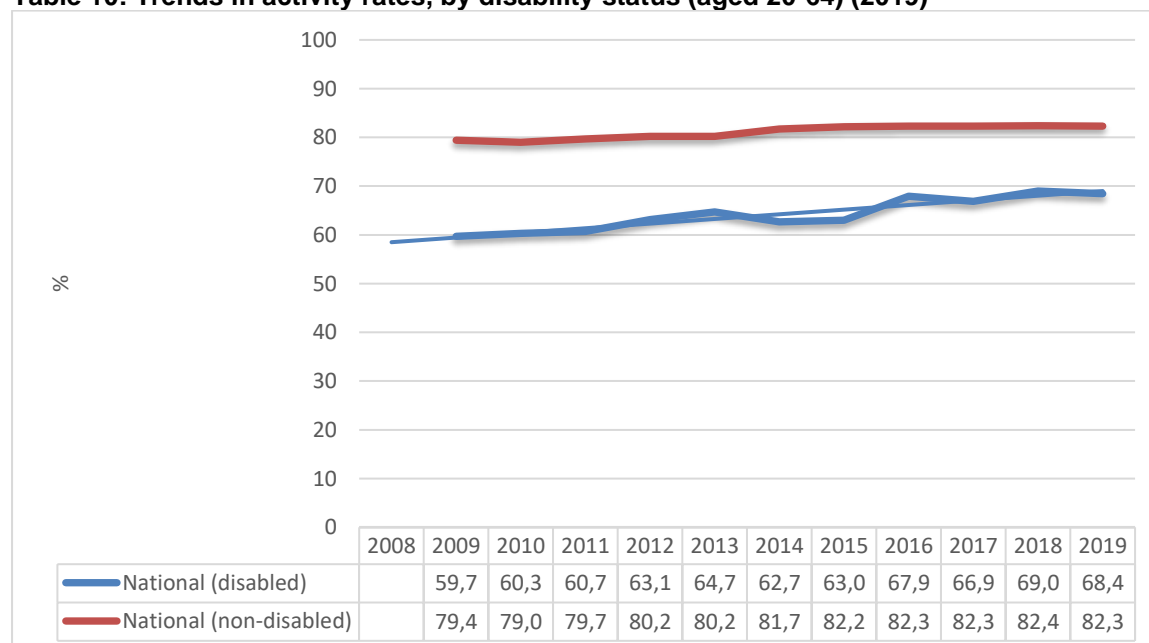


Table 10: Trends in activity rates, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

7.1.3 Alternative sources of labour market data in France

Disability data is not yet available from the core European Labour Force Survey but labour market indicators for France were disaggregated from ad modules conducted in 2001 and 2011. These can be found in the Eurostat disability database.⁶⁶

Table A: Characteristics of the employed with disabilities in 2020

	Administrative situation	"Disability situation"	Overall employed population
Number (thousands)	955	2,570	26,562
Women (in %)	49	54	49
Men (in %)	51	46	51
15-24 years (in %)	3	4	8
25-39 years (in %)	20	21	35
40-49 years (in %)	32	29	27
10-64 years (in %)	45	46	30
Famersa, artisans, merchants and business owners	6	8	8
Executive	11	13	20
Intermediate professions	22	24	26
Employees	33	32	26
Worders	28	23	19
Full time	68	73	83
Part time	32	27	17

Source: Insee, enquête Emploi 2020 (Employment survey 2020).

Table B: Activity rate, employment rate and unemployment rate of persons with disabilities in 2020

2020	With administrative recognition			In situation of disability			Overall population		
	Women	Men	All	Women	Men	All	Women	Men	All
Activity rate	41	43	42	50	53	52	68	75	71
Employment rate	35	36	36	45	47	45	62	68	65
Unemployment rate *	13	15	14	11	13	12	8	8	8
Total 15-64			2,660			5,649			40,692
* The unemployment rate is calculated in reference to the population aged over 15.									
Field : France excluding the Department of Mayotte, population aged 15-64 living in mainstream housing									

Source: Insee.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ Eurostat Health Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁶⁷ Insee, 2021, *Chômage, revenus du travail* (Employment, unemployment, labour income), Insee référence, p.141, <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/5392045>.

Table C: Employment rate of persons with disabilities according to their characteristics⁶⁸

	With administrative recognition	In "disability situation"
Age		
15-24	21	29
25-49	47	81
50-64	29	63
Degree of qualification		
Secondary level	24	40
Professional qualification under O'level	39	70
O' level	46	64
Tertiary level	54	83
Chronic disease		
With	32	62
Without	56	66
Degree of limitation		
Weak	43	60
Strong	21	44
Without	57	67
All	36	65
Total in units	2,700	39,800

Source : Dares, piled up data for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Table D: Probability to be employed in 2015 in function of characteristics of the persons and their disabilities⁶⁹

Administrative recognition	Chances ratio
Yes	0.28
No	Ref.
In disability situation	
Yes	0.59
No	Ref.
Gender	
Man	1.45
Woman	Ref.
Age	
under 25	0.12
25-39	Ref.
40-49	1.67
over 50	0.66

⁶⁸ Dares, 2020, Valérie BernardiBertrandLhommeau, *Quelles sont les spécificités des professions occupées par les personnes handicapées ?(which are the characteristics of the employments of persons with disabilities ?)* 30 septembre 2020, Dares Analyses N°031, p.2
<https://dares.travail-emploi.gouv.fr/publications/quelles-sont-les-specificites-des-professions-occupees-par-les-personnes>.

⁶⁹ Dares, 2017, MeriamBarhoumi, *Travailleurs handicapés: quel accès à l'emploi en 2015 ? (Workers with disabilities:which access to employment in 2015 ?)*, Dares Analyses N°032, p.3
<https://dares.travail-emploi.gouv.fr/publications/travailleurs-handicapes-quel-acces-a-l-emploi-en-2015>.

Qualification	
Secondary school	0.48
Professional secondary degree	Ref.
O'level	1.19
tertiary level	2
Type of household	
One person	1.17
Monoparental family	1.03
Couple	Ref.
Couple with children	1.39
Others	1.01
Place of living	
Rural town	1.05
Urban area under 20 000 inhabitants	0.88
Urban area 20 000-200 000 inhabitants	0.8
Urban area over 200 000 inhabitants	0.79
Paris urban area	Ref.
Sensible urban area	
Yes	
No	0.64
Géographical origin	
French (native from native)	Ref.
Immigration descendant	0.82
Immigrated	0.6

Source: Dares.

7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2019)

Table 11: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and risk (aged 16-59)

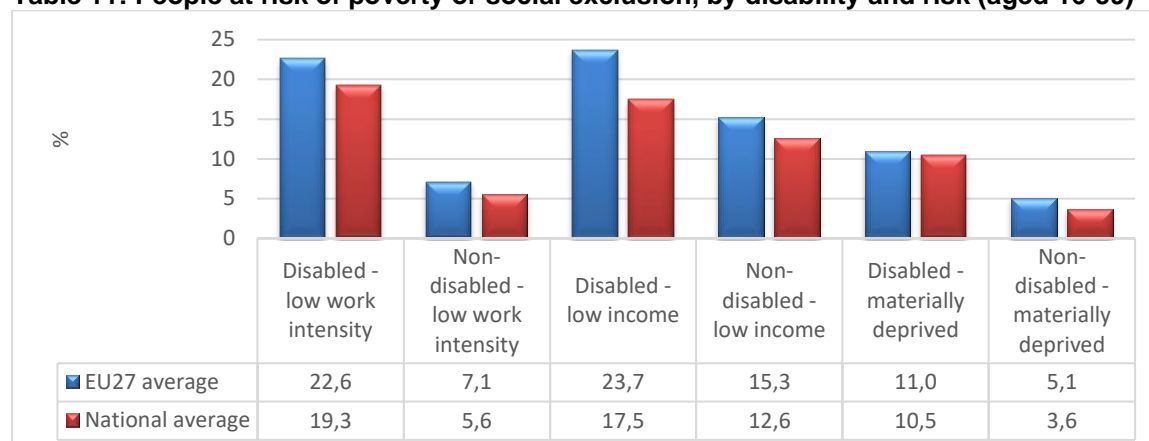


Table 12: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and gender (aged 16+)

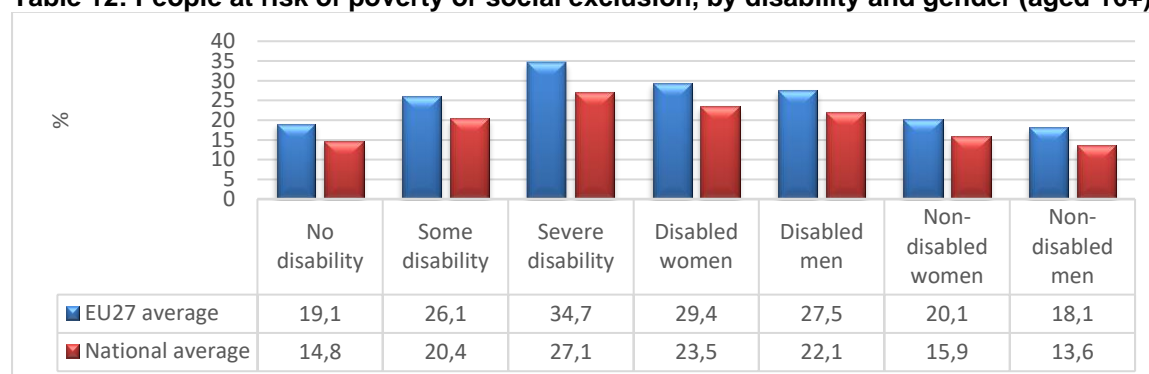
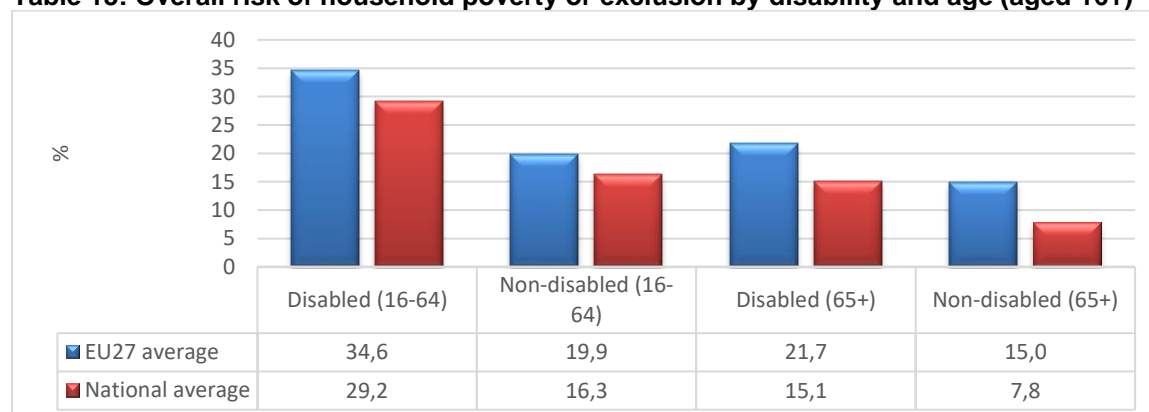
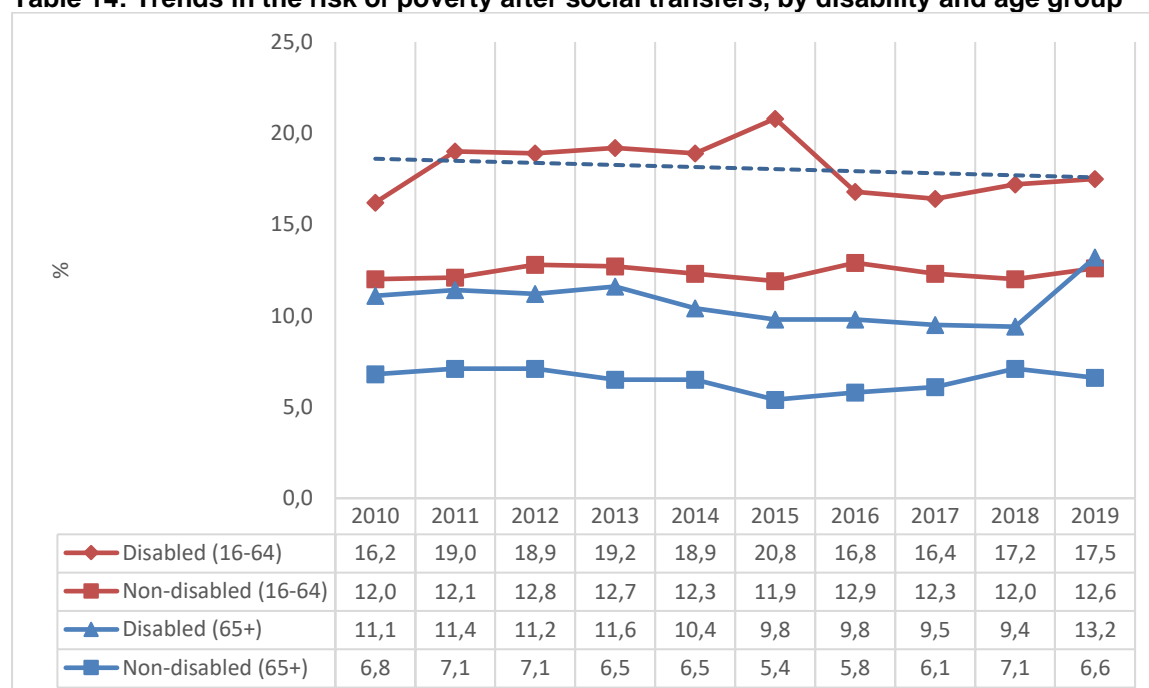


Table 13: Overall risk of household poverty or exclusion by disability and age (aged 16+)

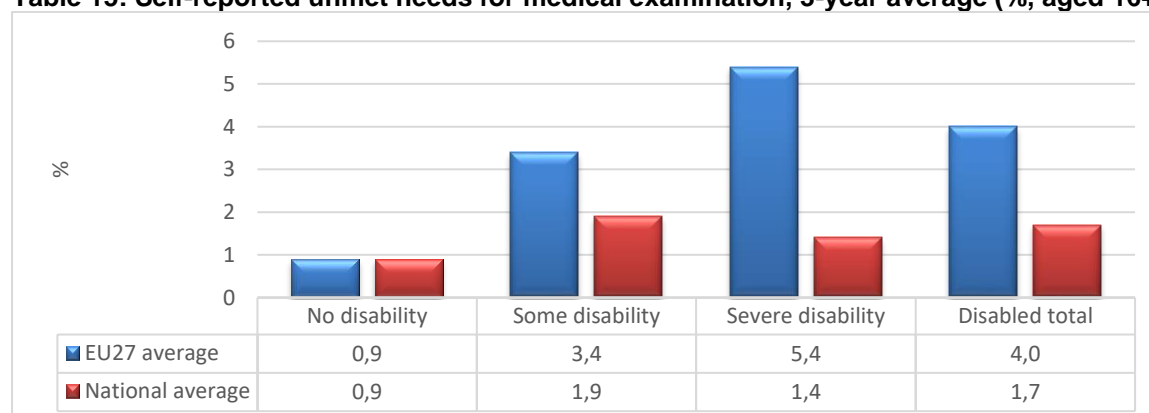


Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and previous UDB).

Table 14: Trends in the risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability and age group

Source: Eurostat Health Database [[hlth_dpe020](#)] - People at risk of poverty.

Note: this table shows national trends in financial poverty risk, rather than the general AROPE indicator (which is not as comparable between age groups due to the effect of paid employment); the survey does not distinguish 'activity limitation' for children under 16.

Table 15: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination, 3-year average (%), aged 16+

Source: Eurostat Health Database [[hlth_dh030](#)] - 'Too expensive or too far to travel or waiting list'.

Note: due to large variations an average of three years is indicated. EU mean averages are also skewed by high values in a minority of countries within disability groups but median averages for the total disability and no disability groups in 2019 are consistent with the 3-year mean values.

7.2.1 Alternative sources of poverty or health care data in France

The EU-SILC data provides a comprehensive and reliable source concerning poverty or social exclusion rates. In addition to the summary tables presented so far, the Eurostat disability database also contains breakdowns concerning disability and poverty before and after social transfers, as well as in-work-poverty.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Eurostat Health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

The Directorate of Research, Surveys, Assessment and Statistics (Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques, DREES) carried out a survey about the living conditions of persons with disabilities compared to the general population, including their access to health, support services and to social participation.⁷¹

Table E: Frequency of medical consultation

	General health-care practitioner		Dental practitioner		Specialist doctor	
	People in disability situation	All	People in disability situation	All	People in disability situation	All
Did not consult any	5	19	52	50	19	45
One or two times in the year	15	39	30	36	25	35
3 to 5 times times in the year	32	30	12	10	27	13
6 to 9 times in the year	21	7	4	2	14	4
10 times or more	27	5	2	1	15	3

Reading: In 2017, in France, 5 % of the persons with disabilities declared they had not consulted any general health-care practitioner during the year.

Field: metropolitan France, people aged 16-64 living in a mainstream environment.

Source: Insee, Statistical survey on resources and living conditions in 2017.

Table F: Resort to home help or care

	In disability situation	All
All	100	100
Resorted to home help or care	21	6
Did not resorted to home help or care	79	94
People who did not resort to any home help or care	100	100
Did not need home help or care	84	97
Needed home help or care	16	3
Reason for renouncing home help or care	100	100
Help or care provided by a relative	46	30
Lack of financial means	24	15
Other	29	56

Reading: In 2017, in France, 21 % of the declarants with disabilities have been resorted to home help or care during the year.

Field: metropolitan France, people aged 16-64 living in a mainstream environment.

Source: Insee, Statistical survey on resources and living conditions in 2017.

Drees, February 2021, Eva Baradji, Laurence Dauphin, Jean-Sébastien Eidelilman, *Comment vivent les personnes handicapées (How do persons with disabilities live)*, Les dossiers de la Drees, <https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/publications/les-dossiers-de-la-drees/comment-vivent-les-personnes-handicapees-les-conditions-de>. Subsequent Drees 2021.

7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education

Table 24: Early school leaving rates, by disability status (aged 18-24 and 18-29)⁷²

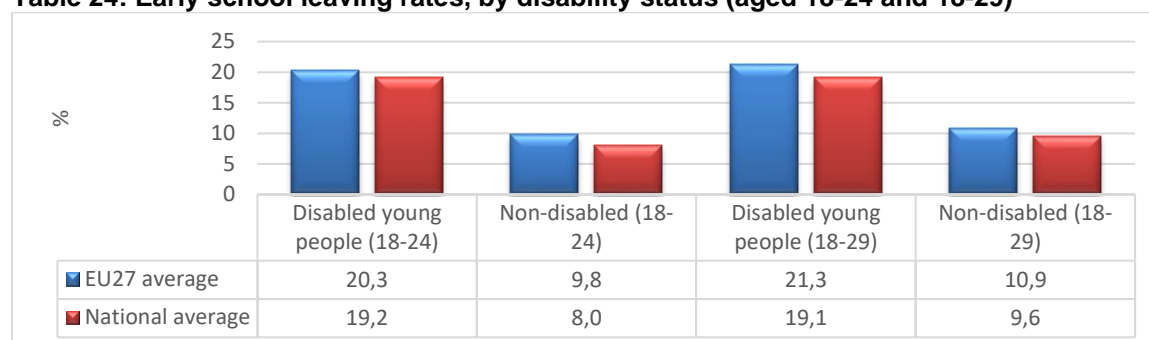
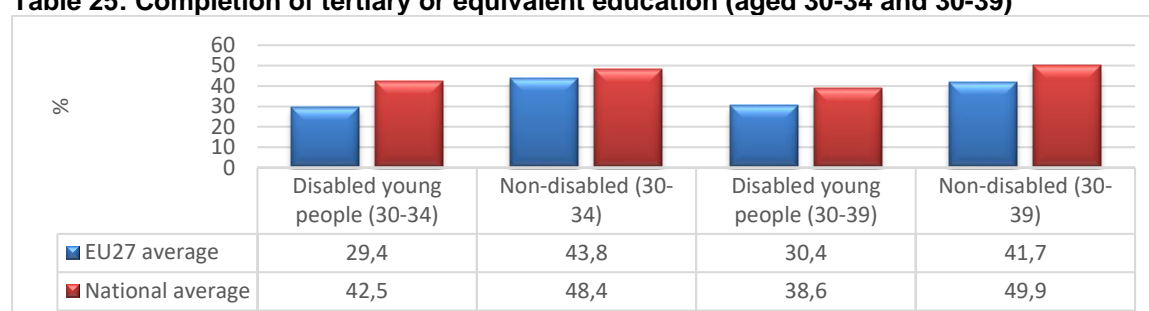


Table 25: Completion of tertiary or equivalent education (aged 30-34 and 30-39)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

Note: Confidence intervals for the disability group are large and reliability low (due to the small sample size in the target age group). An average of several years may be needed to establish trends or to compare breakdowns by gender.

7.3.1 Alternative sources of education data in France

Table G: Degree of qualification of persons with disabilities

	In disability situation	All
Bachelor and over	8	20
Higher education under Bachelor	9	14
O' level	14	21
Professional qualification under O'level	33	23
Secondary level	7	9
No qualification	29	13

Reading: In 2018, in France, 8 % of the persons with disabilities had level of qualification equivalent to Bachelor or upper.

Field: metropolitan France, people aged 16-64 living in a mainstream environment.

Source: Insee, Statistical survey on resources and living conditions in 2018.

⁷² There was a change from ISCED 1997 to ISCED 2011 qualification definitions in 2014 although some Member States continued to use the older definition after this time.

Table H: Schooled children with disabilities - Aggregated data for selected years

	2008	2014	2019
Primary school	114,482	151,412	194,494
Mainstream class	74,251	103,908	142,026
Specialised class	40,231	47,504	52,468
Secondary school	60,191	108,529	166,680
Mainstream class	45,697	75,941	118,310
Specialised class	14,494	32,588	48,370
Mainstream school	174,673	259,941	361,174
Specialised institutes	75,504	77,962	77,338
<i>shared schooling</i>	6,209	7,656	10,690
All	243,968	330,247	427,822

Field: France including overseas, public and private sector, data from DEEP-RERS files

Source: MENJS-MESRI-DEPP, MENJS-DGESCO.

Table I: Pupils with disabilities by schooling mode and age in 2019-2020 - primary school

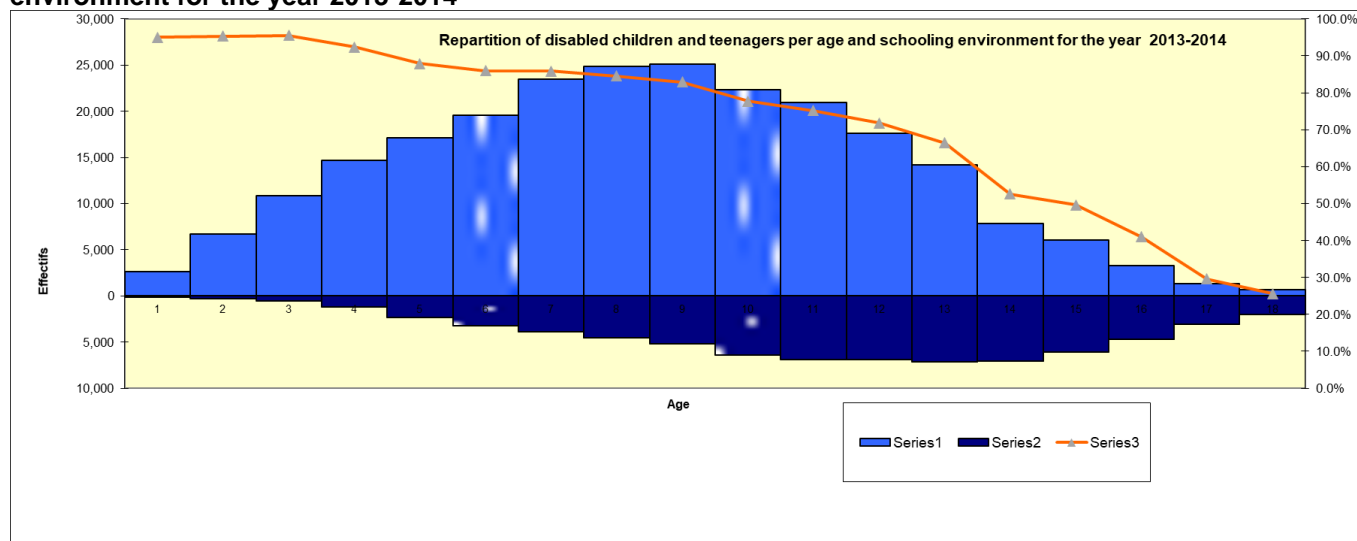
	Mainstream class			Ulis			Total		
	Total	%	Girls (%)	Total	%	Girls (%)	Total	%	Girls (%)
2 - 3	3,321	99.3	34.3	22	0.7	36.4	3,343	100	34.3
4	8,821	99.4	28.5	49	0.6	34.7	8,870	100	28.5
5	14,462	99.2	26.8	111	0.8	35.1	14,573	100	26.8
6	20,479	95.0	27.9	1,079	5.0	26.7	21,558	100	27.9
7	19,310	78.2	26.8	5,369	21.8	30.2	24,679	100	27.5
8	20,785	70.8	26.3	8,593	29.2	34.0	29,378	100	28.5
9	22,639	65.8	26.7	11,767	34.2	35.5	34,406	100	29.7
10	23,165	63.0	26.7	13,578	37.0	36.2	36,743	100	30.2
11	8,398	42.8	30.6	11,214	57.2	37.3	19,612	100	34.5
over 12	646	48.5	31.4	686	51.5	36.6	1,332	100	34.1
Total	142,026	73.0	27.4	52,468	27.0	35.1	194,494	100	29.5

Source: MENJS-MESRI-DEPP et MENJS-DGESCO.

Table J: Pupils with disabilities by schooling mode and age in 2019-2020 - secondary school

	Mainstream class			Ulis			Total		
	Total	%	Girls (%)	Effectifs	%	Girls (%)	Total	%	Girls (%)
under 11	15,973	86.5	25.2	2,490	13.5	32.5	18,463	100.0	26.2
12	23,756	71.8	27.5	9,316	28.2	35.5	33,072	100.0	29.7
13	20,929	66.8	25.8	10,421	33.2	35.8	31,350	100.0	29.1
14	18,231	64.9	25.4	9,844	35.1	35.3	28,075	100.0	28.9
15	14,232	63.6	25.4	8,158	36.4	37.0	22,390	100.0	29.6
16	10,290	73.6	27.9	3,682	26.4	37.1	13,972	100.0	30.3
17	8,441	74.8	30.0	2,837	25.2	39.6	11,278	100.0	32.4
18	4,326	79.3	30.0	1,126	20.7	40.5	5,452	100.0	32.2
19	1,498	80.8	33.7	355	19.2	43.7	1,853	100.0	35.6
over 20	634	81.8	37.9	141	18.2	43.3	775	100.0	38.8
Total	118,310	71.0	26.7	48,370	29.0	36.2	166,680	100.0	29.5

Source: MENJS-MESRI-DEPP et MENJS-DGESCO.

Figure A: Repartition of children with disabilities and teenagers per age and schooling environment for the year 2013-2014

Table K: Number of students with disabilities in universities between 1999 and 2019⁷³

Year	Number
1999-00	4,862
2000-01	5,083
2001-02	5,391
2002-03	5,844
2003-04	6,015
2004-05	5,930
2005-06	6,348
2006-07	7,261
2008-09	8,462
2009-10	9,291
2010-11	10,814
2011-12	12,373
2012-13	14,321
2013-14	16,567
2014-15	18,794
2015-16	21,254
2016-17	23,665
2017-18	26,740
2018-19	30,905
2019-20	33,218

Source: MESRI-DGESIP.

⁷³ https://publication.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/eestr/FR/EESR14_ES_14/les_etudiants_en_situation_de_handicap_dans_l_enseignement_superieur/.

Table L: Repartition of the university students with disabilities by field of study in 2019-20

	Persons with disabilities	All
Literature, language and social sciences	34.0 %	25.9 %
Law, economics, management	18.5 %	25.0 %
Sciences	26.4 %	23.0 %
Sport	3.6 %	3.2 %
Health	6.8 %	11.6 %
Paramedic	1.2 %	4.9 %
Technical studies	9.5 %	6.5 %

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