



# **European Semester 2021-2022 country fiche on disability equality**

Italy

*March 2022*

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Directorate D — Social Rights and Inclusion

Unit D3 — Disability & Inclusion

*European Commission*

*B-1049 Brussels*

# **European Semester 2021-2022 country fiche on disability equality**

With comparative data Annex provided by EDE

## **Italy**

Elena Vivaldi  
Paolo Addis

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.<sup>1</sup>

---

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

## LEGAL NOTICE

Manuscript completed in March 2022

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2022

© European Union, 2022



The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented based on Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). Except otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

## Table of contents

1	Executive summary and recommendations .....	4
1.1	Key points and main challenges for Italy in 2022 .....	4
1.2	Recommendations for Italy .....	5
2	Mainstreaming disability equality in the Semester documents .....	6
2.1	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Italy (RRP) .....	6
2.2	Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans.....	7
3	Disability and the labour market - analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies .....	9
3.1	Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities .....	9
3.2	Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester .....	10
4	Disability, social policies and healthcare – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies .....	13
4.1	Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities .....	13
4.2	Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester .....	15
5	Disability, education and skills – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies .....	18
5.1	Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities .....	18
5.2	Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester.....	19
6	Investment priorities in relation to disability.....	22
6.1	Updates on use of existing EU funds (up to 2021) .....	22
6.2	Priorities for future investment (after 2021) .....	23
7	Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester .....	24
7.1	Data relevant to disability and the labour market.....	25
7.1.1	Unemployment.....	26
7.1.2	Economic activity .....	27
7.1.3	Alternative sources of labour market data in Italy .....	28
7.2	EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2019) .....	28
7.2.1	Alternative sources of poverty or health care data in Italy .....	29
7.3	EU data relevant to disability and education.....	30
7.3.1	Alternative sources of education data in Italy .....	30

## **1 Executive summary and recommendations**

### **1.1 Key points and main challenges for Italy in 2022**

#### **Disability and the labour market**

In the last 22 years, Italy adopted a system of targeted employment for person with disabilities, with the approval of Law No. 68 of 12 March 1999. The results obtained are a mixed picture, with some relevant problems for an effective inclusion of persons with disabilities on the national labour market; in particular, data show that the number of inactive persons with disabilities has been progressively increasing and that job dissatisfaction is much more frequent among persons with severe disabilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency measures prohibited individual or collective dismissal until 1 July 2021. So, the effects of the pandemic on employment levels have not yet manifested.

#### **Disability, social policies and healthcare**

The analysis of the social situation of people with disabilities shows that it is necessary to reduce the risk of financial poverty, including by modifying the eligibility and means test requirements for access to the citizenship income (*reddito di cittadinanza*).

In addition, people with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 epidemic and those living in institutions are more likely to contract the virus, have higher mortality rates. It is therefore necessary to review the protocols of care for effective and efficient management of emergency situations in residential facilities.

#### **Disability, education and skills**

The analysis highlights two major challenges: the accessibility of school buildings, which is very uneven in the various geographical areas of the Country, and the guarantee of the right to study for pupils with disabilities, due to the pandemic emergency. Distance learning has had a negative impact especially on students with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Students lack relationships with peers, the support of competent figures, the possibility of using adequate technologies.

#### **Investment priorities for inclusion and accessibility**

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) presents a big opportunity to enhance accessibility, mainly with regards to public buildings (as educational buildings and transport infrastructures). Moreover, Italy is facing problems during the digital transformation process; investments are needed to include persons with disabilities, improving their digital skills and guaranteeing digital accessibility.

## 1.2 Recommendations for Italy

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

**Recommendation:** Mainstream disability in every relevant measure of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, involving persons with disabilities and their organisations.

*Rationale:* In Italy, participation of persons with disabilities in resources allocation processes is often lacking: 'Nothing about us without us' is not just a slogan, but a political statement.

**Recommendation:** Pay greater attention to active labour policies suitable for persons with disabilities and ensure the effectiveness of sanctions for employers. Active labour policies could be supported using EU funds.

*Rationale:* Job inclusion is fundamental to guarantee autonomy, but data shows the employment gap is widely evident. Often, firms prefer to be sanctioned rather than be compliant with the Law No. 68 of 12 March 1999.

**Recommendation:** Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of schools and the presence of qualified support teachers. Develop digital skills for persons with disabilities.

*Rationale:* The Italian model of 'integrazione scolastica' (educational inclusion) has long been regarded as a leader in the field of inclusive education, but there are still many school buildings with architectural barriers. Furthermore, the number of support teachers is insufficient and support teachers are often poorly trained.

**Recommendation:** Improve measures to combat poverty of persons with disabilities and review the care protocols, also to limit the use of residential services as much as possible and to favour home care, inclusive interventions and independent living paths.

*Rationale:* The data show that disability exposes people to the risk of poverty. The legislation that introduced measures to combat poverty did not adequately take disability into account in the definition of access criteria. The COVID-19 epidemic has shown how people with disabilities living in institutions are more likely to contract the virus, have higher mortality rates and are at greater risk of developing more serious health conditions.

**Recommendation:** Pay attention to persons with psychosocial disabilities' needs, taking into account their specific situation, particularly having regards to the right to education and to the labour market inclusion process.

*Rationale:* As remarked by WHO and confirmed by many scientific studies, during the COVID-19 pandemic many persons are facing new or worse mental health issues. Moreover, in Italy, there are still deep territorial inequalities in mental health services.

## 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 Italy (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.

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)<sup>2</sup> is divided into 16 components, grouped into six missions (in line with the six pillars identified by the EU institutions):

- 1) Digitisation, innovation, competitiveness, culture and tourism (EUR 40.32 billion);
- 2) Green revolution and ecological transition (EUR 59.47 billion);
- 3) Infrastructures for sustainable mobility (EUR 25.4 billion);
- 4) Education and research (EUR 30.88 billion);
- 5) Cohesion and inclusion (EUR 19.81 billion);
- 6) Health (EUR 15.63 billion).

Attention to people with disabilities characterises all 6 missions, in line with the CRPD. To this end, it is useful to refer to the summary scheme in Figure 41 of the Plan, which clarifies which measures envisaged by the individual missions are aimed at improving the condition of people with disabilities. This seems a good example of mainstreaming.

*Accessibility of Italian cultural heritage.* Mission 1) provides for specific interventions aimed at removing architectural and sensory barriers in museums, libraries, and archives.

*Mobility and public transport.* The interventions envisaged in the NRRP are aimed at strengthening mobility, local public transport, and railway lines to facilitate the improvement and accessibility of infrastructures and services for all citizens and refers also to people with disabilities. The Plan, in fact, highlights that only 14.4 per cent of people with disabilities travel by urban public transport, against 25.5 per cent for the rest of the population (see p. 40). To this end, in Mission 3)<sup>3</sup> investments are planned on high-speed networks and on national, regional, and metropolitan areas railway intersections. Particular attention is paid to the South of the Country, with the aim of 'making railway stations accessible' (p. 162). These interventions,<sup>4</sup> making city centres

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph "M3C1: Investimenti sulla rete ferroviaria" (M3C1: Investments in the railway network), in particular p. 158.

<sup>4</sup> These measures represent a response to the specific Recommendations for Italy 2020 and 2019 in which the Commission noted the need to "focus investments on the green and digital transition, in particular [...] on sustainable public transport". The Commission also stressed that "investments are needed to increase the quality and sustainability of the country's infrastructure" and that "in the transport sector, Italy has not implemented its infrastructure investment strategy". See paragraph



more accessible and improving the quality of life of people who use public transport to go to work, are closely linked to the intervention envisaged in Mission 2) relating to the strengthening and sustainable modernization of local public transport (p. 135).<sup>5</sup>

*Schools.* There are two main axes of intervention. On the structural side, Mission 2 provides for replacement of obsolete school building stock with the aim of creating modern and sustainable structures to favour 'the design of school environments through the involvement of all those with the aim to positively influence the teaching and learning of teachers and students' and sustainable development (p. 140).<sup>6</sup>

*Social inclusion and health.* Mission 5 provides for extraordinary investment in social infrastructures, community-based health and social services, and home-based services to improve the autonomy of people with disabilities (p. 211).<sup>7</sup> In this context, the reform of the legislation on non-self-sufficiency and the approval of the framework law on disability (see section 5.2) is announced (p. 212).<sup>8</sup>

## 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. In Italy, this refers to The Second Action Programme. A process of biennial action programmes on disability rights was developed in 2009, with the most recent legislated in 2017.

Italy's Stability Programme 2021,<sup>9</sup> in its abridged version translated into English, does not mention disability or the CRPD or the Second Action Programme. The Italian version (*Documento di Economia e Finanza 2021*; hereinafter, DEF 2021),<sup>10</sup> having a greater breadth, mentions disability incidentally, with regards to deinstitutionalisation and care at home (p. 120), caregiving and families of employees with disabilities (p. 140), the assistance for persons with disabilities (p. 146), and the funding of inclusion policies for persons with disabilities (p. 152). It does not mention the CRPD or the Second Action Programme. The Government affirms that one of the relevant bills linked to the 2022-2024 budget planning is a 'Bill regarding a Framework law on disability' (p. 14).

---

"M2C2.4 Sviluppare un trasporto locale più sostenibile (Developing a more sustainable local transport)".

<sup>5</sup> See paragraph "M2C2.4 To develop more sustainable local transport" (Sviluppare un trasporto locale più sostenibile).

<sup>6</sup> See paragraph "Investment 1.1: Plan for the replacement of school buildings and energy requalification" (Investimento 1.1: Piano di sostituzione di edifici scolastici e di riqualificazione energetica).

<sup>7</sup> See paragraph "Investment 1.2: Autonomy paths for people with disabilities" (Investimento 1.2: Percorsi di autonomia per persone con disabilità).

<sup>8</sup> See paragraph "Reform 1.1: Framework law for disabilities" (Riforma 1.1: Legge quadro per le disabilità).

<sup>9</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/2021-italy-stability-programme\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/2021-italy-stability-programme_en.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/2021-italy-stability-programme\\_it.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/2021-italy-stability-programme_it.pdf).

The NRRP, in contrast, recalls explicitly the CRPD (see p. 40), affirming that 'Awareness towards persons with disabilities characterizes the entire PNRR, in line with the Convention of the United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'. Moreover, it affirms that the Framework law will be a priority for the Italian government and that it 'aims to fully accomplish the principles of the UN CRPD, according to an approach consistent with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and with the recent 'Strategy for the rights of people with disabilities 2021-2030' presented in March 2021 by the European Commission' (p. 41; see also p. 209). In particular, the reform will simplify access to services, improving the mechanisms of assessment of disabilities and enhancing the definition of tailored interventions for persons with disabilities (see section 4.2).

The NRRP emphasises the relevance of deinstitutionalisation, underlining the importance of the enhancement of autonomy for persons with disabilities (p. 212), as key points for the CRPD implementation in Italy.

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

In 2016, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Italy:

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

'70. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 27 of the Convention in implementing targets 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals; and that it ensures the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. In addition, the State party must implement special measures to address the low level of employment for women with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party remove any legislation limiting the rights of persons with disabilities to perform any profession on the grounds of their disability.'

#### 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 Italy of 51.6 % in 2019, compared to 68.6 % for other persons against a national employment target of 67 % and approximately 0.3 points above the EU27 average. This results in an estimated disability employment gap of approximately 17 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 16.8 % and 11.5 %, respectively in 2019 (see Tables 5-7) and the economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Italy was 62.0 %, compared to 77.6 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10). These indications are broken down by gender and age in the respective tables in annex.

In the last 20 years, Italy adopted a system of targeted employment for person with disabilities, with the approval of Law No. 68 of 12 March 1999<sup>11</sup>. As pointed out<sup>12</sup>, the results obtained are a mixed picture, with some relevant problems for an effective inclusion of persons with disabilities on the national labour market; some recent data confirm such evaluation.

In January 2021, the Italian government presented to the Parliament the 9<sup>th</sup> Report on the implementation of the Law No. 68/1999 (IX Relazione sullo stato di attuazione della Legge 12 marzo 1999, n. 68 'Norme per il diritto al lavoro dei disabili').<sup>13</sup> The report provides the most up-to-date scenario of the targeted placement system in Italy prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to have a more solid multi-year comparison framework with regard to data, an analysis of the main trends in targeted placement from 2006 to 2018 was carried out, making it possible to associate the most significant

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:1999-03-12:68!vig>.

<sup>12</sup> See G. Griffo, *La l. n. 68/1999, un bilancio dopo vent'anni*, in S. Bruzzone (ed.), *Salute e persona: nella formazione, nel lavoro e nel welfare*, Adapt University Press, 2017, pp. 19-39; see also M. Giovannone, *Il collocamento dei disabili nel mercato del lavoro post-emergenziale: criticità e prospettive*, *Federalismi*, 10, 2021, pp. 100-124.

<sup>13</sup> See, <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/disabilita-e-non-autosufficienza/focus-on/norme-sul-collocamento-al-lavoro-delle-persone-disabili/Documents/Relazione-diritto-lavoro-disabili-2016-2018.pdf>.

trends with the recent economic and employment cycle, as well as the evolution of the legal framework.

The data show a steady increase in the number of persons with disabilities listed in the registrar for targeted placement. In 2006, persons enrolled in the registrar of targeted placement were 700 000; in 2018, they were 900 000. Over the last three years, the increase has been constant. Most of the people who registered come from Southern Italy (about 60 % of the total).

As remarked by the report, the trend for the period 2014-2015 seems to be positive, in line with the general employment trend; the report points out that it could be the result of some general reforms regarding the labour market made in 2015 (but see below). Moreover, data show that the job insertions are easier in the Northern part of the country (50 % - 60 % of the total). The trends of job insertions and hirings are diverging; hirings have a more positive trend. Partially, this could be dependent on some changes in the regulation of targeted employment: since 2015, employers may add up different benefits that were previously not cumulable; in addition, since 1 January 2017, it became mandatory to hire a worker with a disability within the staff, even for companies providing jobs for a number of employees between 15 to 35 persons.

The report remarks on the territorial inequalities, depending on social and economic factors; the report also highlights the progress achieved over the last few years in terms of labour demand, both public and private, as well as for intermediation services. The executive summary, *'confirms a growth in employment throughout the territory'*; but this is *'accompanied by still widespread infrastructural gaps and governance systems'*; where the social players *'strive to approach the problem with models of integration of services and financial resources, they manage to obtain discrete results'*.<sup>14</sup>

Gian Carlo Blangiardo, president of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), during a hearing at the National Observatory on the condition of persons with disabilities, underlined that, persons with disabilities have a serious disadvantage with regards to employability: 'in fact, in 2019, considering the population between 15 and 64 years, only 32.2 % of those suffering from severe limitations are employed, compared to 59.8 % of people without limitations'.<sup>15</sup>

Finally, there is a lack of data regarding the pandemic period. The Ministry of Labour, in 2020, announced that the annual survey was postponed to 2021.

### **3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester**

---

<sup>14</sup> See <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/disabilita-e-non-autosufficienza/focus-on/norme-sul-collocamento-al-lavoro-delle-persone-disabili/Documents/Executive-summary-IX-Relazione-Legge-68-99.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> See Audizione dell'Istat presso il Comitato Tecnico Scientifico dell'Osservatorio Nazionale sulla condizione delle persone con disabilità, 24 March 2021, available at [https://www.istat.it/it/files//2021/03/Istat-Audizione-Osservatorio-Disabilit%C3%A0\\_24-marzo-2021.pdf](https://www.istat.it/it/files//2021/03/Istat-Audizione-Osservatorio-Disabilit%C3%A0_24-marzo-2021.pdf).

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) for Italy and the Second Action Programme.

The RRP contains some provision regarding the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. In the part dedicated to active labour market policies, the plan affirms that the Italian government will define, in close coordination with the Regions, essential levels of training activities for the most vulnerable categories; and among the latter, people with disabilities can be included.

In particular, Mission 5 provides for an investment to strengthen the Public Employment Services - PES (*Centri per l'impiego*), also through the promotion of capacity building interventions. The aim is to improve the provision of the following services: analysis of skills needs, definition of individual training plans, effective reception services, guidance and taking charge. These are very important elements for enhancing the individual skills of people with disabilities and promoting the full implementation of Law No. 68/99.<sup>16</sup>

The reform, which has an amount of EUR 4.4 billion for the three-year period 2021-2023, provides the adoption, in agreement with the Regions, of the National Program for Employability Guarantee (*Programma Nazionale per la Garanzia Occupabilità dei Lavoratori - GOL*), as a program for taking charge, providing specific services and personalised professional planning. The GOL Program intends to deal with the excessive heterogeneity of the services provided on a territorial level. Specific attention is announced for the job placement of people with disabilities.

It will be essential to reconnect the point 17 of the European Social Pillar and the part of 'Italia domani' regarding the already mentioned training activities and the strengthening of the Public Employment Services. As underlined by the European disability strategy, 'Having the right skills and qualifications is a prerequisite for accessing and succeeding in the labour market. As set in the European Skills Agenda, this requires national skills strategies that should also cover the specific needs of persons with disabilities. Equal access to education and labour-market oriented training at all levels has to be ensured'. Implementation of the NRRP will need to intertwine the education of persons with disabilities<sup>17</sup> and the mechanisms of targeted placement defined by Law No. 68/1999: in the absence of an action of this type, the labour inclusion of people with disabilities will always be unsatisfactory, relegating them to a secondary role. Moreover, during the implementation process of the RPP it would be appropriate rationalizing some placement services, eliminating some duplications and overlaps.

Finally, the financial resources funded by EU can be used to make more effective some provisions of the Law No. 68/1999.<sup>18</sup> Law Decree No. 77 of 31 May 2021,<sup>19</sup> provided that 'To pursue the goals related to equal opportunities, [...] and to promote

---

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:1999-03-12;68!vig>.

<sup>17</sup> See S. Nocera, *Il Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza e l'inclusione scolastica*, available at <https://www.superando.it/2021/04/30/il-piano-nazionale-di-ripresa-e-resilienza-e-linclusion-e-scolastica/>.

<sup>18</sup> See 6.6.

<sup>19</sup> Converted into Law 108, 29 July 2021; see <http://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2021-07-29;108!vig=2021-08-26>.

the working inclusion of persons with disabilities, in relation to procedures [...] financed, in whole or in part, with the resources provided for by Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 and by Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021', all contractors and subcontractors will need to be compliant with the Law No. 68/1999, presenting a report regarding the settlement of the obligations referred to in the same law, mentioning any related sanctions arranged against them in the three years prior to the deadline for submitting offers.

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

In 2016, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Italy:

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

‘72. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite constitutional reform to homogenize social protection interventions and policies throughout the national territory; expedite the adoption and implementation of the Minimum Standards of Social Assistance; conduct assessments of the impact of austerity measures on children and adults with disabilities; and prevent any further reduction in resources that could increase levels of poverty. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 28 of the Convention in implementing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by mainstreaming disability in its poverty reduction policies.’

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

‘48. The Committee recommends that the State party implement safeguards to retain the right to autonomous independent living across all regions, and redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services and increase budget support to enable persons with disabilities to live independently across the country and have equal access to services, including personal assistance.’

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

‘62. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities and particularly those representing women with disabilities, ensure accessibility to facilities and equipment, information and communications regarding sexual and reproductive health services, and that it provide training to health personnel about the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party strengthen mechanisms to combat discrimination and stereotyping in line with its general comment No. 3.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish all laws that permit medical treatment, including sterilization, consented by a third party (parent or guardian) without the free and informed consent of the person, and that it provide related high-quality training to health professionals.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the adoption, funding and implementation of Minimum Standards of Health Care so all children have access to early identification and intervention according to their requirements. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account article 25 of the Convention while implementing targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.’

##### **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 Italy was 25.4 % in 2019, compared to 20.0 % 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 4.8 points (18.5 % for older persons with disabilities and 13.7 % 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 Italy (age 16-64) the risk of poverty before social transfers was 45.9 % and 25.4 % after transfers. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities aged under 60 was 14.1 %.

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 Italy was 3.9 %, compared to 1.1 % for other persons, which is above the EU27 average of 1.7 %.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the condition of people with disabilities, both from a social and health point of view, including major institutionalisation and segregation risks. Healthcare facilities have witnessed an increase in separateness from society and have often been associated with lethal viral transmission.<sup>20</sup> From a health point of view, the condition of disability has represented a factor of greater risk of contagion, mainly because of difficulties in implementing social distancing due to the constant needs for support.

The risk of developing the disease and therefore of mortality was also greater, due to the frequent presence of previous pathologies.<sup>21</sup> The epidemiological investigations return a concerning picture: a high percentage of total deaths in Italy from COVID-19 (about 20 %) occurred among people with dementia,<sup>22</sup> while mortality among people with Down Syndrome was ten times greater than the general population, and in younger people on average (52 versus 78 years).<sup>23</sup> Available data, however, are only partial: only seven Italian Regions have joined the surveillance conducted by the Italian Higher Institute for Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS), aimed at monitoring the spread of the infection and mortality in residential facilities<sup>24</sup> and the total participating in the survey varies from 22 % to 92 % of those surveyed at the regional level.

From a social point of view, the emergency response to the pandemic has favoured the health protection needs of people with disabilities, rather than their full inclusion, according to a perspective that has considered them more as objects of care than as subjects of law. There is a lack of specific surveys and data that provide a complete picture of the social impact of the pandemic on people with disabilities. However, some studies conducted at the regional level have highlighted considerable difficulties encountered by care and assistance services in coping with the pandemic, as

---

<sup>20</sup> See M.G. Bernardini, S. Carnovali (eds.), *Diritti umani in emergenza. Dialoghi sulla disabilità ai tempi del COVID-19*, IF Press, 2021, p. 4 ff.

<sup>21</sup> WHO, *Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak*, 26 marzo 2020, available at <http://disabilita.governo.it/media/1365/who-english-covid-19-disability.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> ISS, *Indicazioni ad interim per un appropriato sostegno alle persone con demenza nell'attuale scenario della pandemia di COVID-19*, 23 ottobre 2020, available here: [https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/Rapporto+ISS+COVID-19+61\\_2020.pdf/c2f4f7b5-68e9-849b-0071-f36d4560d83f?t=1603878366209](https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/Rapporto+ISS+COVID-19+61_2020.pdf/c2f4f7b5-68e9-849b-0071-f36d4560d83f?t=1603878366209).

<sup>23</sup> Aa. Vv., *Clinical characteristics of individuals with Down syndrome deceased with COVID-19 in Italy - A case series*, in *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, 182, 12, 2020.

<sup>24</sup> ISS, *Sorveglianza strutture residenziali socio-sanitarie nell'emergenza COVID-19. Andamento temporale dell'epidemia di COVID-19. 5 ottobre 2020 – 13 giugno 2021*, available here: [https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/pdf/REPORT%20STRUTT%20RES\\_5OTTOBRE2020\\_13GIUGNO2021\\_30GIU2021.pdf](https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/pdf/REPORT%20STRUTT%20RES_5OTTOBRE2020_13GIUGNO2021_30GIU2021.pdf).



demonstrated by the generalized closure of day centres in the first months of 2020 and frequent interruption of home care.<sup>25</sup>

## 4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) for Italy and The Second Action Programme.

Based on the analysis outlined above, it seems important to focus attention on some interventions already highlighted in the previous Report.<sup>26</sup> These, also due to the pandemic emergency, need to be implemented shortly.

*Disability, dignity and fighting poverty: many persons with disabilities living in Italy are at risk of poverty.*

These interventions are closely linked to what is planned in the labour market (see section 3.2).

RRP Mission 5 provides the adoption of the National New Skills Plan (*Piano Nazionale Nuove Competenze*), promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in collaboration with the ANPAL and in agreement with the Regions, aimed at strengthening the professional training system and defining essential quality levels for upskilling and reskilling activities in favour of the beneficiaries of income support instruments and citizenship income.

As we reported last year, the Reddito di Cittadinanza ('citizenship income') was introduced by the decree law of 28 January 2019, No. 4, linked to participation in training or employment integration and subject to a means test. There is still no reference to modification of the eligibility requirements for people with disabilities, which is needed to address the treatment of welfare payments in the income (such as carer's allowance, contributions to independent living or service vouchers).

### *Independent living and right to health of persons with disabilities*

As stated above, persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and those living in institutions are more likely to contract the virus, have higher rates of mortality and are at greater risk of developing more severe health conditions and dying from COVID-19. Both the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda call for

---

<sup>25</sup> Regione Toscana – Osservatorio Sociale Regionale, *Di fronte alla pandemia: tutele, difficoltà, vita quotidiana delle persone con disabilità, Quinto Rapporto della Disabilità in Toscana 2020/2021*, pp. 23-31 (available here: <https://www.regione.toscana.it/documents/10180/13837719/disabilita2020-IV-web.pdf/e05dee03-6bfa-703b-51f1-9c37d135e6db?t=1613728452506>), in which it is highlighted how, in the face of the suspension of the activities of the semi-residential centers arranged pursuant to art. 47 of Legislative Decree 17 March 2020 n. 18, out of 28 facilities operating in the Region, only 14 managed to guarantee alternative home care, while the rest provided only remote services or no service.

<sup>26</sup> See E. Vivaldi, P. Addis, *European semester 2020-2021 Country fiche on disability equality – Italy*, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2021, p. 1 - 46 [http://publications.europa.eu/resource/ellar/e0678c0a-a71b-11eb-9585-01aa75ed71a1.0001.01/DOC\\_1](http://publications.europa.eu/resource/ellar/e0678c0a-a71b-11eb-9585-01aa75ed71a1.0001.01/DOC_1).

placing persons with disabilities at the centre of efforts, as agents of planning and implementation.<sup>27</sup>

The NRRP emphasizes the need to carry out interventions ‘to promote socialization, support independent life paths, also with the renovation of housing that exploit innovative technologies to overcome the physical, sensory and cognitive barriers that hinder the autonomous development of acts of everyday life’ (p. 199). It also aims to ensure continuity of care, enhancing home care, in order to make the home one of the most important places of care, thanks to telemedicine, home automation, monitoring activities achievable with new technologies.<sup>28</sup>

The aim is to strengthen local and home health services, to ensure health care that is closer to the most vulnerable, thus reducing the need to institutionalize them, but guaranteeing them all the necessary care in an autonomous and socially adequate context. These objectives will be achieved through two reforms announced in the NRRP:

- The reform of the system of interventions in favour of the not self-sufficient elderly, which aims at a progressive strengthening of the territorial home care services, while at the same time providing for the progressive requalification of residential facilities, when living in a family context is no longer possible or appropriate.
- The Framework law on disability,<sup>29</sup> which aims at de-institutionalization and the promotion of the autonomy of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the provisions of the UN CRPD and with the recent ‘Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021- 2030’, presented in March 2021 by the European Commission.

In particular, the reform, for which the 2020 budget law established the Disability and not self-sufficient fund (with a total of EUR 800 million for the three-year period 2021-2023), provides for:

- the strengthening and qualification of the offer of social services by the territorial areas;
- simplification of access to social and health services;
- the revision of the procedures for the assessment of disabilities;
- the promotion of independent life projects and the promotion of multidimensional evaluation units on territories, capable of defining individual and personalised

---

<sup>27</sup> Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19, United Nations, available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2020/05/Jointstatement-Disability-inclusive-response-to-COVID-19.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup> See “Reform of local health services” (Riforma dei servizi sanitari di prossimità) and “Investment Home as the first place of care” (Investimento Casa come primo luogo di cura), p. 209.

<sup>29</sup> For a first analysis of the context and possible contents, see E. Vivaldi, A. Blasini, Verso il “Codice per la persona con disabilità”. Analisi, indirizzi e proposte sul disegno di legge recante “Delega al Governo di semplificazione e codificazione in materia di disabilità”, 2021, p. 1 – 215, available here: <https://www.forumcostituzionale.it/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Estratto-Codice-disabilita.pdf>.

projects (already introduced first by Law no. 328 of 8 November 2000,<sup>30</sup> then by Law No. 112 of 22 June 2016I).<sup>31</sup>

*Accessibility of Italian cultural heritage.* NRRP Mission 1) provides for specific interventions aimed at removing architectural and sensory barriers in museums, libraries, and archives. According to the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica-Istat),<sup>32</sup> in 2018 only 53 % of museums, monuments, archaeological areas and state and non-state parks improved their facilities by removing physical barriers. Furthermore, only 12 % of them addressed the issue of perceptual, cultural, and cognitive barriers. The measures envisaged by the plan aim to remove the architectural, cultural, and cognitive sensory-perceptive barriers and, at the same time, to finance training activities for administrative staff and cultural operators, promoting the culture of accessibility and developing skills on legal aspects, reception, cultural mediation, and promotion (see Investment 1.2, p. 106).

All these measures appear very important to rationalise the sources of law in the field of disability, and consequently improve welfare measures, access criteria, coordination between territorial levels.

---

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2000-11-08:328>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2016-06-22:112>.

<sup>32</sup> [https://www.istat.it/it/files/2019/12/LItalia-dei-musei\\_2018.pdf](https://www.istat.it/it/files/2019/12/LItalia-dei-musei_2018.pdf).

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

In 2016, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Italy:

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

'56. The Committee recommends that the State party implement an action plan — with sufficient resources, timelines and specific goals — aimed at monitoring the implementation of laws, decrees and regulations to improve the quality of inclusive education in classrooms, support provisions and teacher training across all levels. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 24 of the Convention, including its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, in implementing targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training, and build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party monitor and provide highly qualified sign language interpreters for any deaf child who requests such assistance, and to desist from recommending general communication assistants as an exclusive alternative.

60. The committee recommends that the State party undertake, through legislative and other measures, including the newly drafted decree on education, to guarantee the availability of accessible learning materials and the provision of assistive technology in a timely manner in order to ensure inclusive and quality education in the mainstream setting.'

### 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 Italy. Youth with disabilities (aged 18-24) tend to leave school significantly more than peers without disabilities of the same age groups (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).

According to the latest available Istat<sup>33</sup> data, just over 284,000 pupils with disabilities attend school (3.3% of students). The number has grown by approximately 91,000 in the last 10 years. Almost all of them (98.4 %) have a certification according to Law No. 104 of 5 February 1992.<sup>34</sup> Although this certification is necessary for the provision of services for school support, there remains a marginal share, of students (1.6 %) who do not have any certification (0.5 % in the northern regions and 4 % in the Centre). The most important critical issues to be addressed concern the accessibility of school buildings, and the problems related to the guarantee of the right to study for pupils with disabilities due to the pandemic emergency. Both of these challenges are exacerbated by a marked territorial gap in the enjoyment of this right between geographical regions of the country.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2020/02/Alunni-con-disabilita-2018-19.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:1992;104~art3-com3>.

The Istat data<sup>35</sup> indicates that, although during the 2018/2019 school year 15 % of schools carried out works aimed at removing architectural barriers, only one in three schools is accessible for pupils with motor disabilities. The removal of architectural barriers is very uneven among the Italian regions. In the North, there are values higher than the national average (38 % of compliant schools) but in the South the figure drops considerably (29 % of compliant schools in Southern Italy). The most common barrier is the lack of an elevator (46 %); followed by lack of ramps (33 %) or bathrooms in accordance with the law (29 %). The overall picture is also critical concerning sensory disabilities. Only 2 % of schools have all the sensory-perceptive aids intended to facilitate the orientation within the school building, and only 18 % of schools have at least an aid.

Istat data, updated in December 2020,<sup>36</sup> clearly shows how the health emergency, and the consequent generalized use of distance learning (didattica a distanza; DAD), has made the educational inclusion process more difficult. The inclusion policies implemented over the years favoured a progressive increase in pupils with disabilities who attend school. In the school year 2019/2020 the students were over 13 000, more than the previous year, with a constant percentage increase of 6 %. However, with distance learning, the levels of participation greatly decreased: between April and June 2020, over 23 % of pupils with disabilities (about 70 000 children) did not take part in lessons (in Southern Italy this percentage grows up to 29 %). The other students who did not participate, on the other hand, make up 8 % of the students.

The reasons that have made it difficult for pupils with disabilities to participate in distance learning are multiple:

- the severity of the condition (27 %);
- the difficulty of family members to collaborate (20 %);
- socioeconomic hardship (17 %);
- the difficulty in adapting the Education Plan for Inclusion (IEP) to distance learning (6 %);
- the lack of technological tools (6 %);
- the lack of specific teaching aids (3 %).

Failure to attend classroom lessons makes the inclusion process very difficult. Students lack relationships with peers, support from competent figures, the possibility of using adequate technologies.

## 5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) for Italy and the *Second Action Programme*.

Mission 4 in the NRRP is dedicated to education and research, funded with EUR 11 billion. The mission is divided in four parts, and does not mention the second biennial program, nor the EU Disability Strategy 2021.

---

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2020/12/Report-alunni-con-disabilit%C3%A0.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2020/12/Report-alunni-con-disabilit%C3%A0.pdf>.

The first part ('Qualitative improvement and quantitative expansion of education and training services') is broken down into 7 reforms and into 7 investment lines. The investment line 1.3 is dedicated to increasing sport activities at school. Such investment needs to consider inclusion and even Paralympics sport activities, aligning the plan implementation with Article 29 CRPD.

Investment line 1.7 is dedicated to university scholarship programs: 'The measure aims to finance the increase in the number of scholarships for the right to study, for students who are deserving and disadvantaged. With this measure comes the integration of contribution policies with those for the right to education, by increasing scholarships and extending them a larger share of subscribers'. Higher education is often denied to persons with disabilities (see Table 25 in annex) and a dedicated scholarship scheme could be very useful.

The second part is entitled 'Improvement of teacher recruitment and training processes' and it is not directly relevant from a disability perspective, but it does not mention training courses for teachers aimed at responding to educational needs of children with disabilities or promoting educational inclusion and accessibility.

Investment Line 2.1 promotes the development of digital skills of school staff to promote an accessible, inclusive, and smart approach to digital education.

The third part regards 'Expansion of skills and enhancement of infrastructures'. Disability is not mentioned but the development of new and advanced skills is very relevant, preventing persons with disability to access high-level education could mean perpetuating a condition of exclusion and making employability harder.

Investment line 3.3 provides that 'The main objective of the measure is to allow the safety of a part of the school buildings, also favouring a progressive reduction of energy consumption and therefore also contributing to the climate recovery process'. This refers to carbon reductions but it is surprising that the plan does not specifically consider the accessibility of education buildings. As pointed out by Istat, 'In the school year 2019-2020 there are still too many physical barriers present in Italian schools: only one in three schools is accessible to pupils with motor disabilities. As identified in the Second Action Programme, accessibility of school building is a key issue (see chapter 2.1 earlier).

Furthermore, Mission 4 aims to reduce territorial gaps in higher secondary school. In particular, a pilot project was expected in the first half of 2021 to support students with disabilities. The project, funded by the National Operational Program (PON) of the Ministry of Education, University and Research, with the resources already available, will be implemented by the Ministry of Education, with the support of the National Institute for the Evaluation of the Education and Training System (Istituto nazionale per la valutazione del sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione - INVALSI), schools, Territorial Support Centers (p. 180).<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>37</sup> See paragraph "Investment 1.1: Plan for the replacement of school buildings and energy requalification" (Investimento 1.1: Piano di sostituzione di edifici scolastici e di riqualificazione energetica).

It is worth noting that Mission 2 envisages a line of intervention aimed at the progressive replacement of part of the obsolete school building stock with the aim of creating modern and sustainable structures 'to favour the design of school environments through the involvement of all subjects interested, with the aim of positively influencing the teaching and learning of teachers and students'.

Finally, the part dedicated to 'Support for innovation and technological transfer processes' could mention a specific support for the development of innovative assistive technologies, aligning the NRRP and the CRPD, where it provides that 'States Parties shall also take appropriate measures: [...] *To h) promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.*' (Art. 9; italics added).

## 6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

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

Italy benefits from EU funds in several sectors. With regards to disability, in recent years the main sources of financing have been the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement (*Accordo di partenariato 2014-2020*) and the Operative National Programs funded by the European Social Funds (Piani Operativi Nazionali, hereinafter PON). In particular, the financing through the PON Inclusion (PON Inclusionione) is particularly relevant for persons with disabilities. In June 2019, the Italian government published a report regarding the enactment of the above mentioned PON,<sup>38</sup> but the report does not mention actions regarding persons with disabilities.

PON Inclusion funds 21 Operative regional programs (*Programmi operativi regionali; POR*), one for each Region and Autonomous Province. So, it is not easy to identify and assess the utilisation of structural funds on a national and regional level, considering the lack of a consistent global evaluation by public players. Unfortunately, at the end of the 2014-2020 funding period, the dedicated official webpages of the PON Inclusion did not contain significant updates regarding the impact of EU funds on persons with disabilities’.

At subnational level, in the last year some Regions approved EU funded projects regarding the condition of persons with disabilities. Here are some examples:

- Lazio Region approved a project related to the right to education of persons with disabilities, aimed at improving their active participation in learning processes;<sup>39</sup>
- Apulia Region funded vouchers regarding home care services for the elderly and people with disabilities;<sup>40</sup>
- Tuscany Region funded a project aiming at improving the work placement of people with disabilities;<sup>41</sup>
- Lombardy Region approved the funding of personalized educational courses for children with disabilities;<sup>42</sup>
- Veneto Region funded social services for persons with disabilities.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>38</sup> See Rapporto di verifica di efficacia dell’attuazione. Servizio di valutazione di efficacia di attuazione del programma attraverso l’analisi degli indicatori del Performance Framework, 30 June 2019,

<https://poninclusionione.lavoro.gov.it/programma/Documents/Executive%20Summary%20IT%20ENG%20-Rapporto%20di%20verifica%20di%20efficacia%20dell%e2%80%99attuazione.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> See

[http://lazioeuropa.it/bandi/por\\_fse\\_integrazione\\_e\\_inclusione\\_scolastica\\_e\\_formativa\\_degli\\_allievi\\_con\\_disabilita\\_o\\_in\\_situazioni\\_di\\_svantaggio\\_2021\\_2022-794/](http://lazioeuropa.it/bandi/por_fse_integrazione_e_inclusione_scolastica_e_formativa_degli_allievi_con_disabilita_o_in_situazioni_di_svantaggio_2021_2022-794/).

<sup>40</sup> See

[https://www.regione.puglia.it/documents/63821/0/146\\_DIR\\_2020\\_00761\\_Determina\\_signed\\_signe\\_d\\_signed.pdf/69369cdc-81e4-65b5-4470-7c2d894f38b6?t=1600078723025](https://www.regione.puglia.it/documents/63821/0/146_DIR_2020_00761_Determina_signed_signe_d_signed.pdf/69369cdc-81e4-65b5-4470-7c2d894f38b6?t=1600078723025).

<sup>41</sup> See <https://www.regione.toscana.it/-/por-fse-2014-2020-servizi-di-accompagnamento-al-lavoro-di-persone-disabili-e-vulnerabili>.

<sup>42</sup> See [https://www.fse.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/18d1aa89-c69c-49b3-ba2b-f2ac49e7f57d/DGR+2997\\_30\\_3\\_2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT\\_TO=url&CACHEID=RO\\_OTWORKSPACE-18d1aa89-c69c-49b3-ba2b-f2ac49e7f57d-nevUWzM](https://www.fse.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/18d1aa89-c69c-49b3-ba2b-f2ac49e7f57d/DGR+2997_30_3_2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=RO_OTWORKSPACE-18d1aa89-c69c-49b3-ba2b-f2ac49e7f57d-nevUWzM).

<sup>43</sup> See <https://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurVServices/pubblica/DettaglioDgr.aspx?id=424167>.



## 6.2 Priorities for future investment (after 2021)

The NRRP envisages investments and a reform package, with EUR 191.5 billion in resources being allocated through the Recovery and Resilience Facility and EUR 30.6 billion being funded through the Complementary Fund established by Italian Decree-Law No. 59 of 6 May 2021, based on the multi-year budget variance approved by the Italian Council of Ministers on 15 April.

The total amount of funds envisaged amounts to EUR 222.1 billion. A further EUR 26 billion has been earmarked for the implementation of specific works and for replenishing the resources of the Development and Cohesion Fund by 2032. A total of EUR 248 billion will thus be available. In addition to these resources, there are also those made available by the REACT-EU programme, which will be spent in the years 2021-2023 in accordance with EU regulations. These funds amount to a further EUR 13 billion.

### Investments related to disability

Where	What	How much
<b>Mission 1</b>	Removal of physical and cognitive barriers in museums, libraries and archives to allow wider access to and participation in culture	EUR 300m
<b>Mission 3</b>	Improvement (even with regards to accessibility) of railway stations	EUR 700m
<b>Mission 4</b>	Safety plan and redevelopment of school buildings	EUR 3 900m
<b>Mission 5</b>	Autonomy paths for persons with disabilities	EUR 500m
	Support for vulnerable people and prevention of the institutionalization of non self-sufficient elderly persons	EUR 500m
<b>Mission 6</b>	'Community houses' (Case della comunità) and taking care of people	EUR 2 000m
	Home as the first place of care and telemedicine	EUR 4 000m
	Strengthening intermediate health care and its facilities (community hospitals)	EUR 1 000m

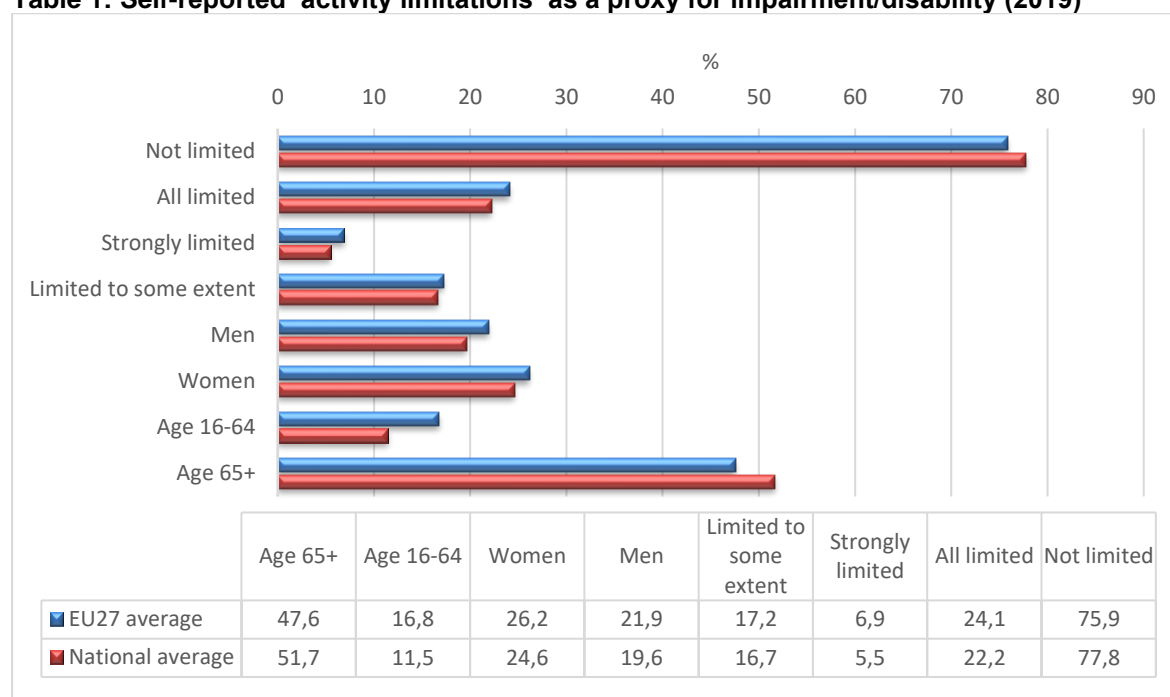
## 7 Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database<sup>44</sup> and statistical reports.<sup>45</sup>

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’.<sup>46</sup>

**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’.<sup>47</sup> National estimates for Italy are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Eurostat health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

<sup>45</sup> Eurostat (2019) *Disability Statistics* [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics).

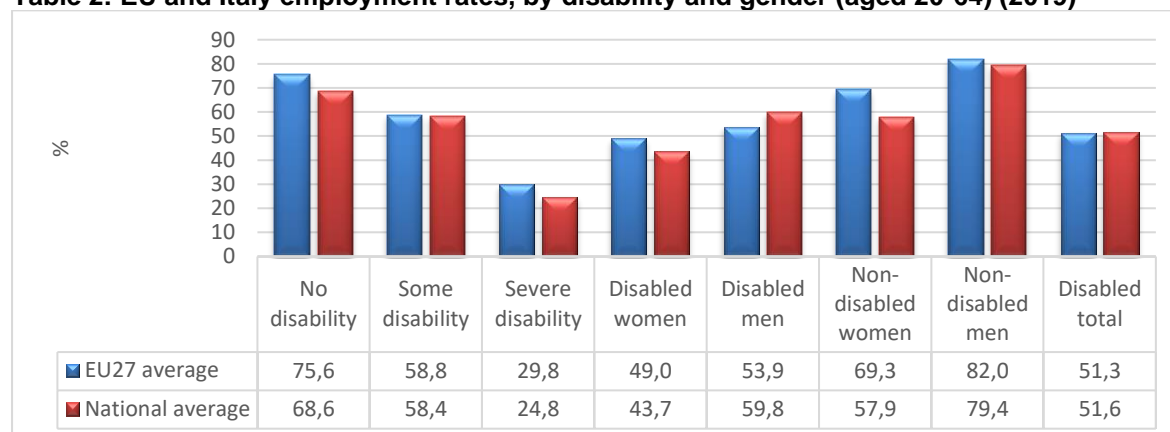
<sup>46</sup> The SILC survey questions are contained in the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum\\_European\\_Health\\_Module\\_\(MEHM\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_(MEHM)).

<sup>47</sup> This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

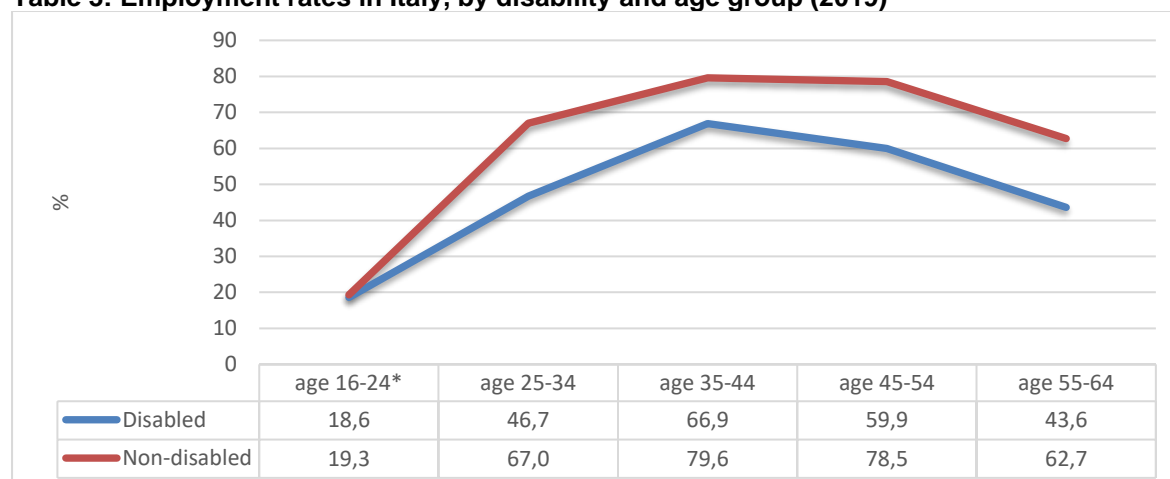
<sup>48</sup> The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU changes the EU average. Averages were also affected in 2015 by a discontinuity in the German disability data due to a definitional change.

## 7.1 Data relevant to disability and the labour market

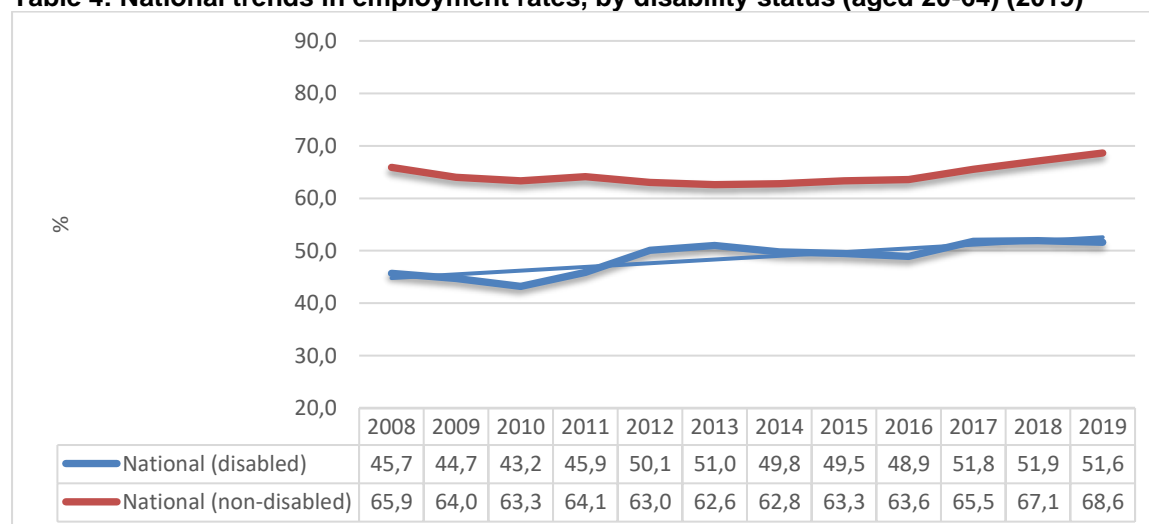
**Table 2: EU and Italy employment rates, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)**



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



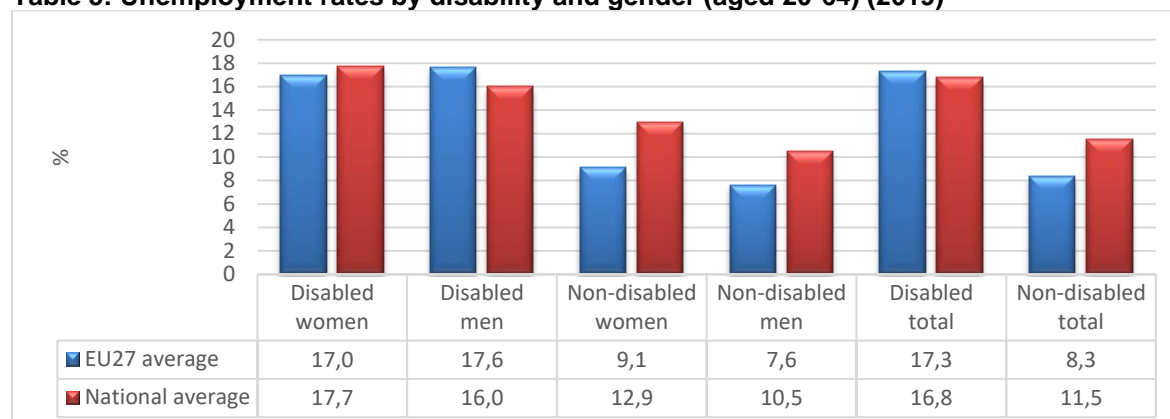
**Table 4: National trends in employment rates, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)**



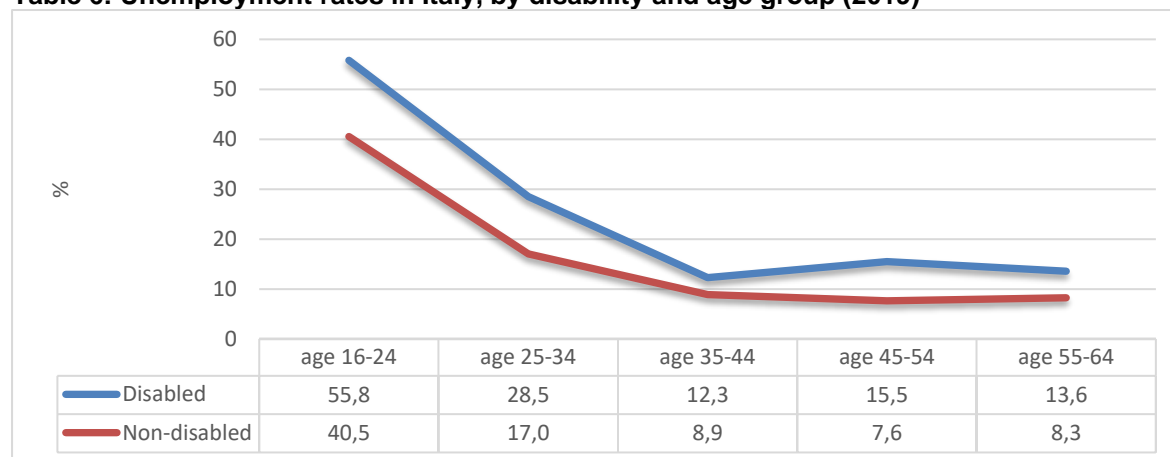
Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

## 7.1.1 Unemployment

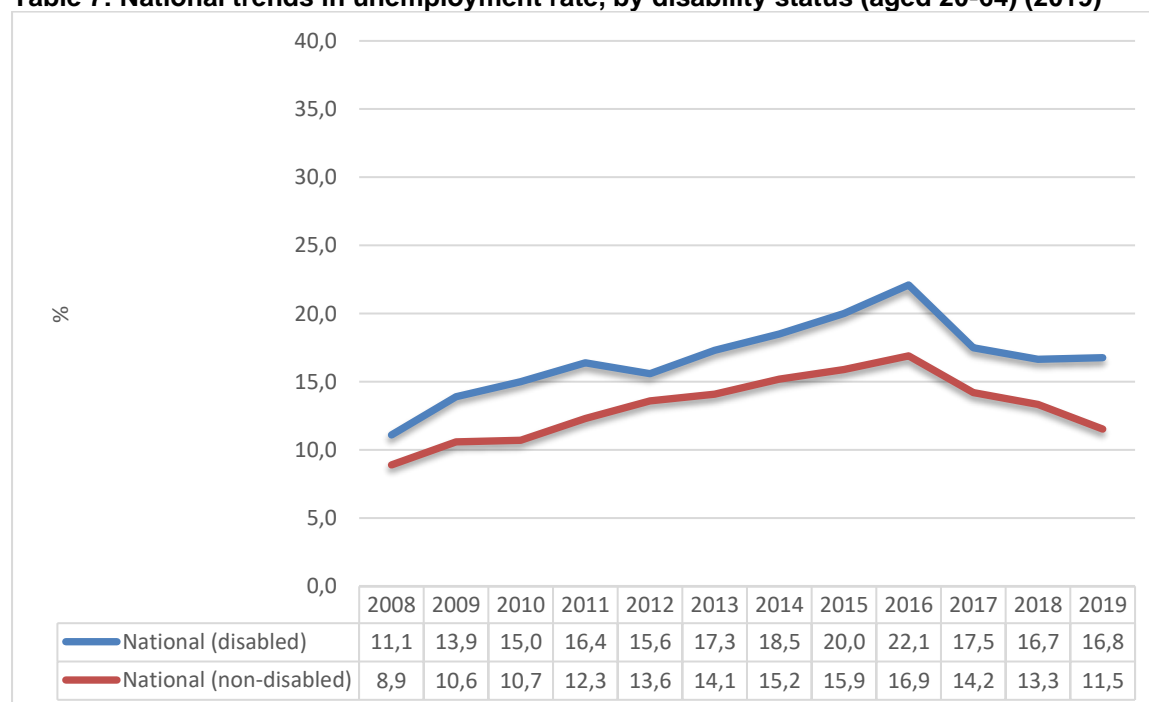
**Table 5: Unemployment rates by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)**



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



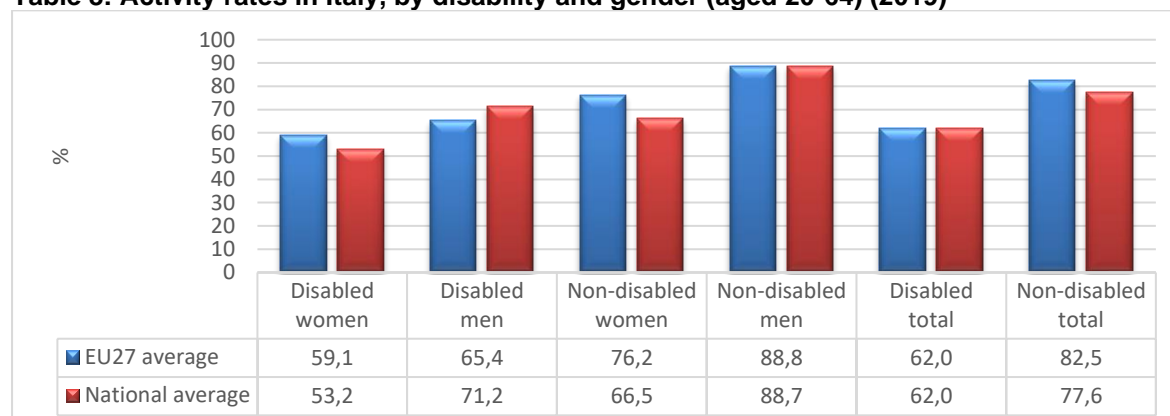
**Table 7: National trends in unemployment rate, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)**



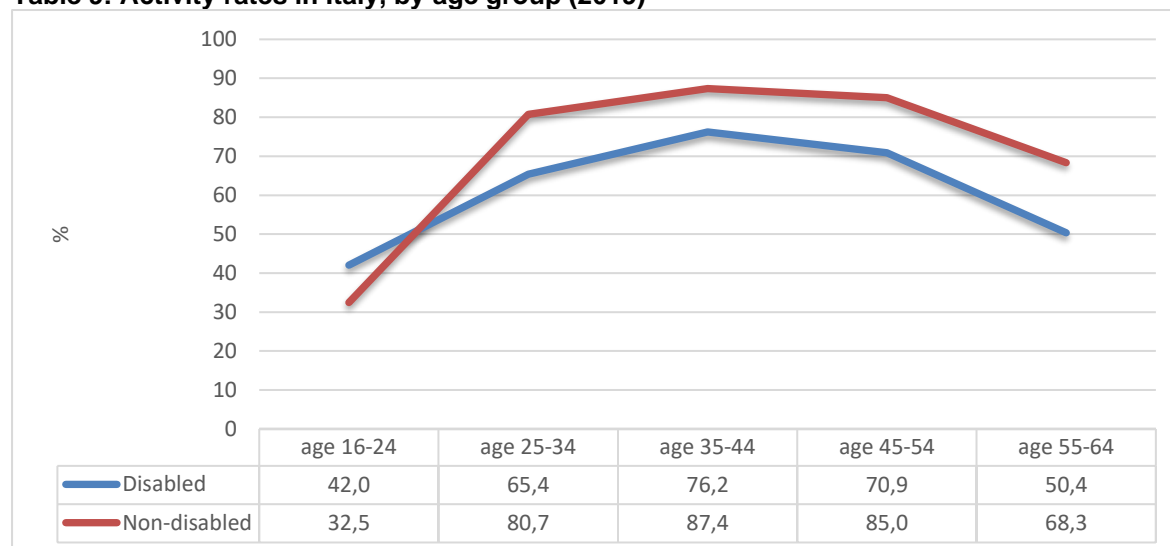
Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

## 7.1.2 Economic activity

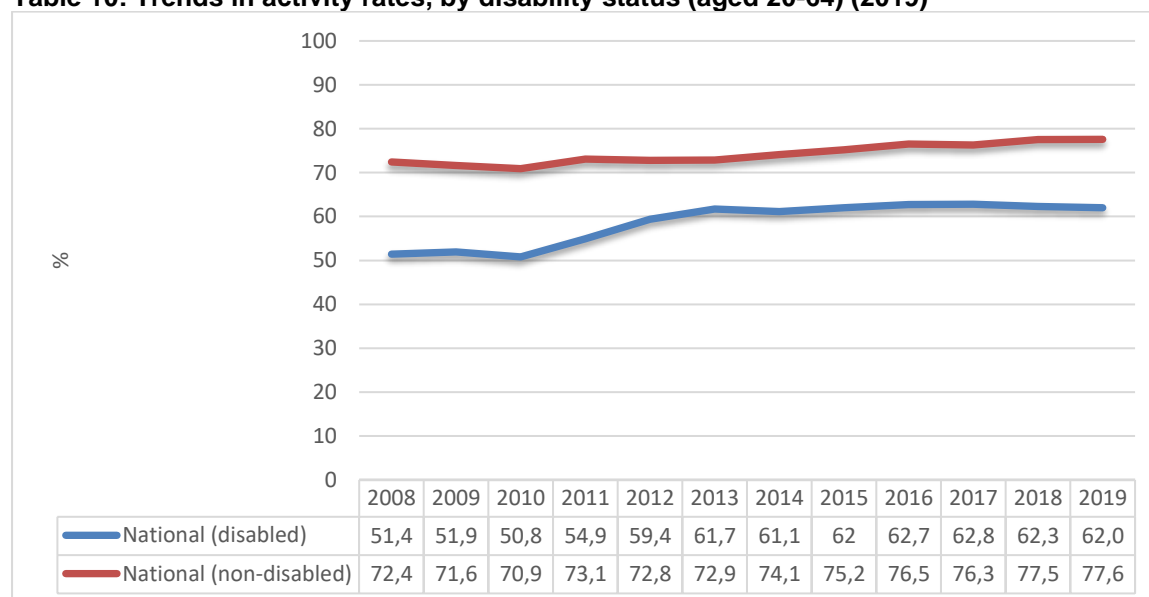
**Table 8: Activity rates in Italy, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)**



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



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



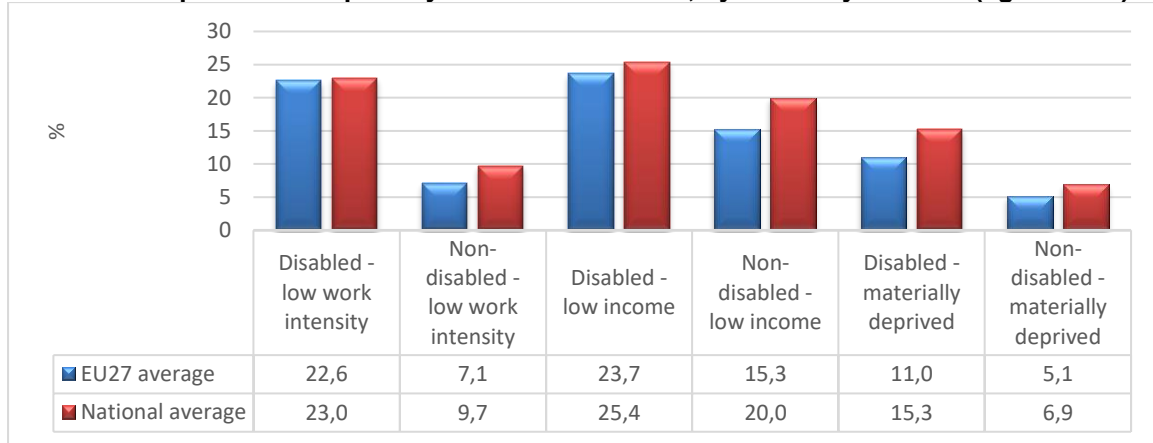
Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

### 7.1.3 Alternative sources of labour market data in Italy

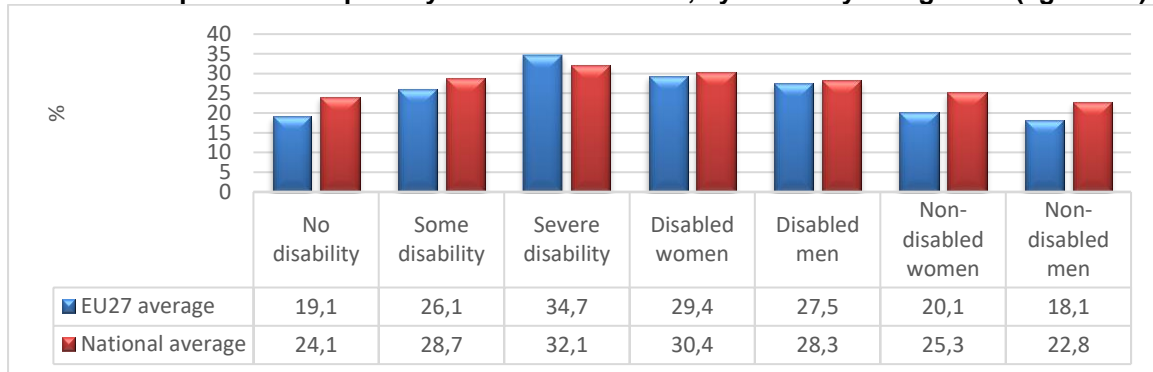
Disability data is not yet available from the core European Labour Force Survey but labour market indicators for Italy were disaggregated from ad modules conducted in 2001 and 2011. These can be found in the Eurostat disability database.<sup>49</sup>

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

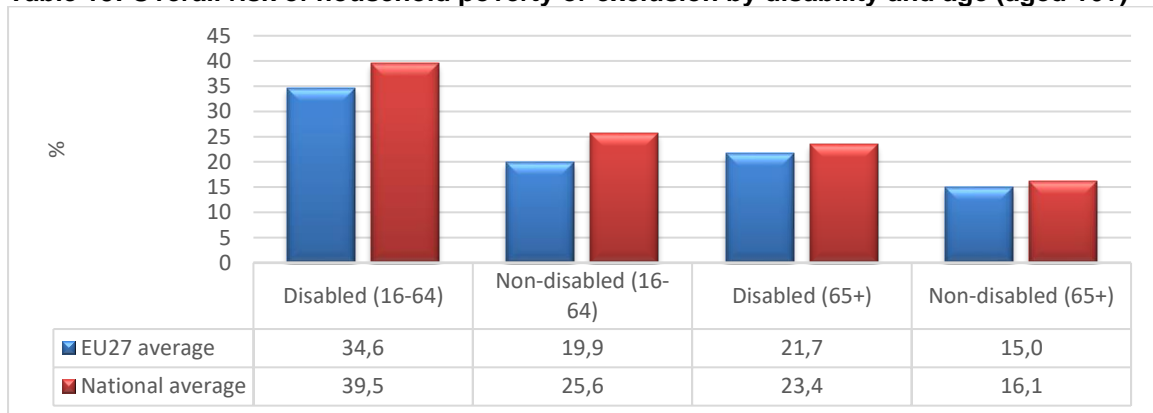
**Table 11: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and risk (aged 16-59)**



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

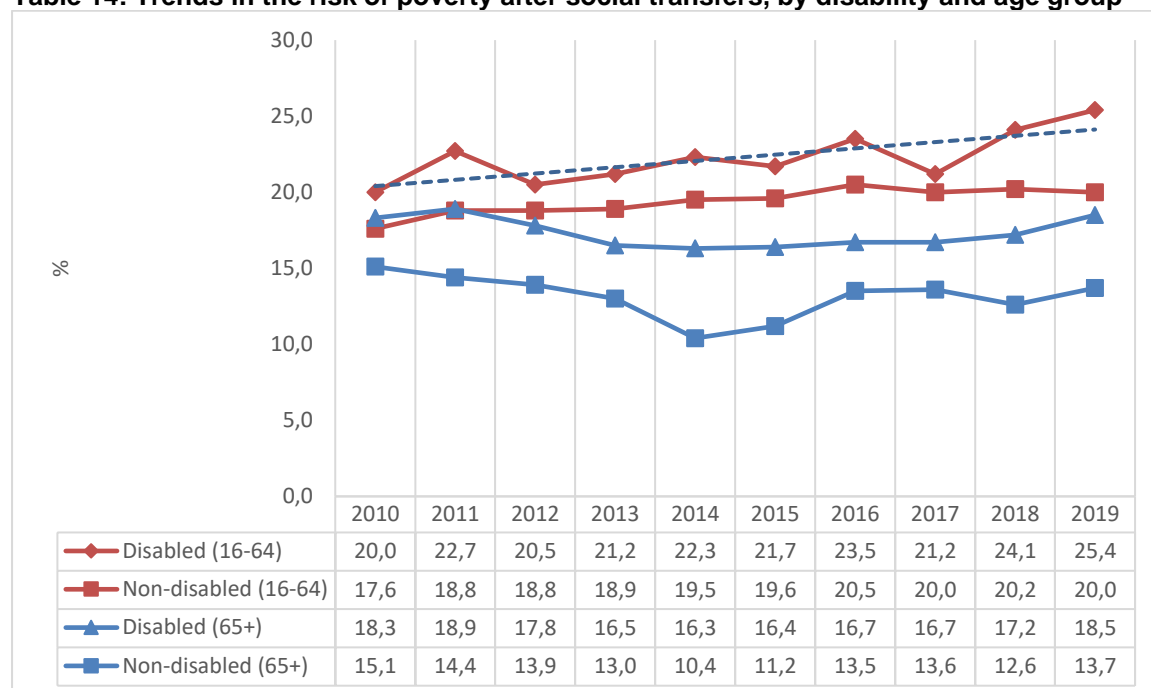


**Table 13: Overall risk of household poverty or exclusion by disability and age (aged 16+)**



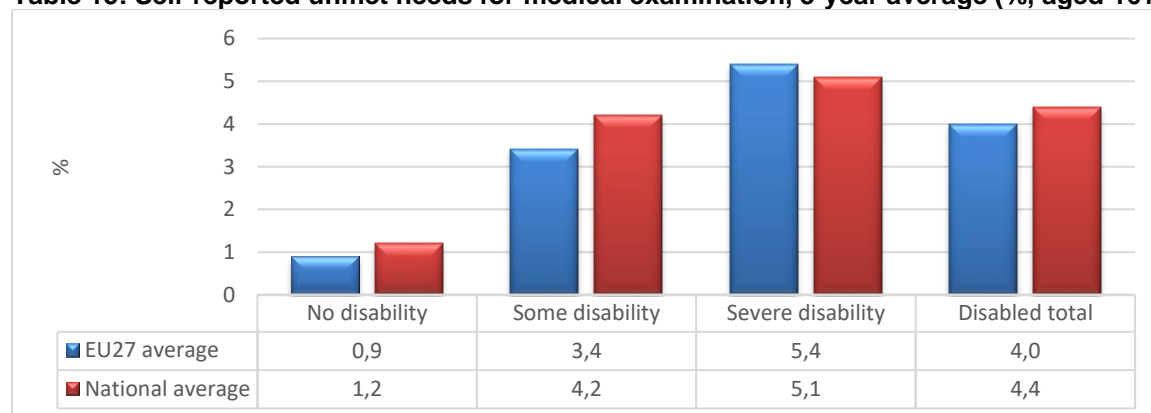
Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and previous UDB).

<sup>49</sup> Eurostat Health Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

**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.

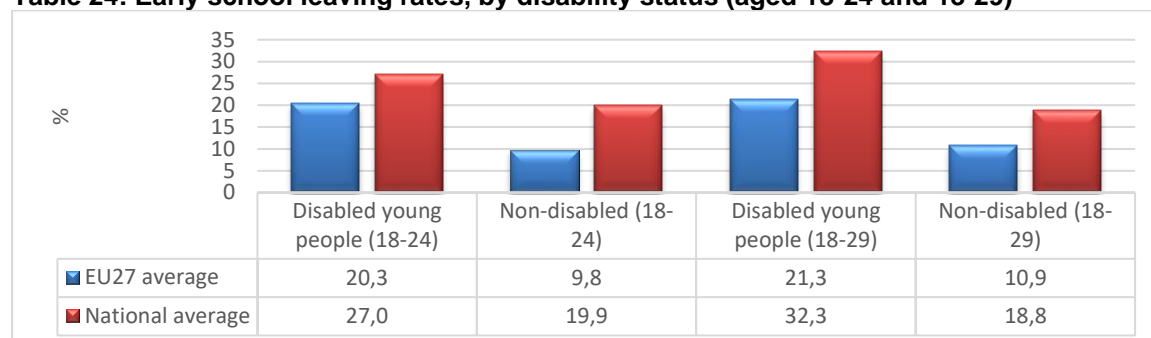
### 7.2.1 Alternative sources of poverty or health care data in Italy

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.<sup>50</sup>

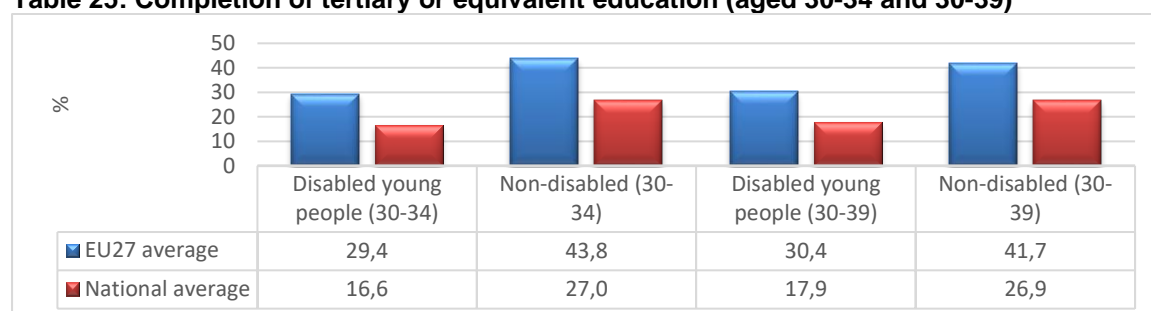
<sup>50</sup> Eurostat Health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

### 7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education

**Table 24: Early school leaving rates, by disability status (aged 18-24 and 18-29)<sup>51</sup>**



**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 Italy

The current situation is outlined in chapter 5.1.

<sup>51</sup> 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.



## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

### In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

### On the phone or by email

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696, or
- by email via: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

## FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

### Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the [EU is available on the Europa website at: https://europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en).

### EU publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications from: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)).

### EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>.

### Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

