European comparative data on persons with disabilities

Equal opportunities, fair working conditions, social protection and inclusion, health analysis and trends

Data 2020

Stefanos Grammenos

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Stefanos Grammenos

Centre for European Social and Economic Policy

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Table 1: Synopsis of main statistical indicators for the EU[1]

The table presents persons with disabilities (Dis.) and total (Tot.)

The indicators follow the definitions adopted in the framework of Europe 2020 Strategy

	2012	2013	2014	2015[2]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Disability prevalence (Age: 16+), %								
Dis.	26.1	26.9	27.1	25.3	24.1	24.4	24.7	24.1	24.9
	2012	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016[2]**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
	Adult participation in learning (Age: 25-64), %								
Dis.									3.3
Tot.									5.0
	Early school leavers (Age: 18-24), %								
Dis.	21.8	21.5	22.5	22.0	23.6	21.8	20.3	21.8	22.9
Tot.	11.2	10.7	12.2	12.5	12.0	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.3
	Young people neither in employment nor in education and training								
Dis.									30.6
Tot.									14.1
	Tertiary education (Age: 30-34), %								
Dis.	27.8	28.0	29.7	29.4	30.3	31.7	29.4	32.5	33.5
Tot.	38.1	39.3	41.2	41.6	42.2	40.8	42.3	42.5	44.1
	Disability pay gap (Age: 15-74), age adjusted; gap as a % of non-disabled person's pay								
								9.6	
	Employment rate (Age: 20-64), target: 78% of the population								
Dis.	47.9	48.5	48.7	47.4	48.1	50.2	50.8	51.3	50.7
Tot.	67.0	66.9	67.8	68.4	69.3	69.5	70.7	71.5	70.8
	Unemployment rate (Age: 20-64), % of population in the labour force								
Dis.	18.1	19.0	19.6	20.2	19.6	18.4	18.6	17.3	17.7
Tot.	12.2	12.9	12.6	12.1	11.4	11.1	10.1	9.5	9.9
	Youth unemployment rate (Age: 16-24), % of population in the labour force								
Dis.									31.3
Tot.									21.5
	Long term unemployment (Age: 20-64), % of population in the labour force								
Dis.									10.9
Tot.									5.4
	Activity rate (Age: 20-64), % of population in the labour force								
Dis.	58.5	59.8	60.6	59.5	59.7	61.5	62.4	62.0	61.6
Tot.	76.3	76.8	77.5	77.8	78.2	78.1	78.7	79.0	78.6
	Disability employment gap (Age: 20-64) in percentage points								
Dis.									24.4
	Very low work intensity (Age: 16-59), %								
Dis.	23.9	24.1	25.1	25.6	25.8	23.2	22.6	22.8	22.4
Tot.	10.8	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.0	10.1	9.5	8.9	9.0

	At risk of poverty after social transfers (Age: 16+), %								
Dis.	19.1	18.7	19.7	20.0	20.2	20.1	20.9	21.1	20.9
Tot.	16.1	15.9	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.5	16.5	16.2	16.4
	Severely materially deprived (Age: 16+), %								
Dis.	12.8	12.6	12.1	11.3	10.8	10.4	9.0	8.9	8.6
Tot	9.5	9.0	8.6	7.7	7.3	6.9	5.8	5.5	5.8
	At risk of poverty or exclusion (Age: 16+), %								
Dis.	30.3	30.1	30.1	30.2	30.1	28.9	28.6	28.4	28.6
Tot	24.1	23.8	23.8	23.2	23.1	22.4	21.3	20.8	21.2
	General health and unmet medical needs (Age: 16+)								
	General health: Good or Very good, %								
Dis	19.7	20.2	20.2	19.3	18.9	21.0	20.5	20.5	22.3
Tot	67.3	66.5	67.2	66.8	67.5	68.9	68.6	68.5	69.5
	Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination, %								
Dis	8.2	8.4	8.2	7.5	6.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
Tot	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.2	2.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7

1: EU 28 until 2016, EU 27 for 2017 and later. 'Health and unmet medical needs' covers the EU 27.
2: The data are not strictly comparable with 2014 data due to a change in the definition of 'activity limitations'. There was a change in definitions concerning education in 2014.

Source of data: Eurostat and EU-SILC UDB. See the report for more information.

INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) is strongly committed to ensuring equal opportunities and removing economic and social barriers for people with disabilities, as demonstrated by, among other measures, the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the EU Disability Action Plan 2003-2010 and the multi-annual European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

The European Commission furthermore aims, and is bound by Article 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, to mainstream disability issues into all policies and actions that might affect the lives of people with disabilities, such as the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

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

Task 2.1 aims to collect, analyse and provide independent data, information and analysis on the situation of persons with disabilities. It is important to note the power of quantitative indicators in convincing people, as personal perceptions and attitudes may be resistant to change. However, this requires high-quality statistical data and related estimates.

1. European and international policy context

The UN CRPD is an important tool in guiding the collection of quantitative data, the development of indicators and the analysis of these data.

In Article 31, the UN CRPD states that statistical and research data need to be collected to help policymakers to develop policies relevant to the Convention. Furthermore, it adds that the proposed quantitative indicators ought to help policymakers to monitor and assess the various policies.

As a party to the UN CRPD, the EU has periodically to inform the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities about the measures taken to implement the UN Convention, and it has also to provide statistical indicators of the extent to which the needs of persons with disabilities are being met.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UN General Assembly has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 underlying indicators.[1]

In May 2017, the Commission published the 'EU SDG Indicators set: Indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an EU context'. This set of

[1] See http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/.

indicators includes most of the indicators in the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

The European Commission, in its Communication concerning the 'Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030', notes that 'monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities, and information on national policies and practices complementing reporting by the Member States to the dedicated UN Committee. A new dashboard will present progress made in implementing the activities at EU level under this Strategy as well as those in which the Commission calls on Member States for action'.[2]

The Strategy highlights the need to 'develop a strategy for data collection, steer Member States accordingly and provide an analysis of existing data sources and indicators including administrative data'.

Europe 2020 and Joint Employment Report

Under the Europe 2020 framework, the Commission monitors the situation in the Member States each year. To this end, Eurostat has created quantitative indicators to monitor progress towards the targets, notably in the areas of employment, education, poverty and social exclusion.

EDE continues to assess the situation of persons with disabilities with regard to the Europe 2020 headline targets on employment, poverty and education, using EU comparative data. The quantitative indicators enable us to identify any gaps between persons with and without disabilities and reveal any convergence or divergence in relation to the targets. An increasing gap or divergence ought to signal a need for new initiatives. The indicators cover the years from 2010 to 2019 and are not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Joint Employment Report is an EU policy document that analyses employment and social trends and presents the policy responses deployed by Member States to improve employment and social performance. It also contains a scoreboard for key employment and social indicators.

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[2] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.
Furthermore, the Commission notes that the resilience and recovery plans should identify relevant indicators to monitor the contribution of the facility to the reduction of disparities. The indicators can be chosen among those regularly used to report on cohesion policy as a whole, such as: the unemployment and employment rate, including youth unemployment and employment, the EU social scoreboard and indicators on performance of education and training system. (See European Commission (2020), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Statistical Annex', accompanying the document 'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank and the European Economic and Social Committee: Alert Mechanism Report 2021 (prepared in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011 on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances), {COM(2020) 745 final}', SWD(2020) 275 final, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/16624/9862137/2021_statistical_annex_en.pdf.

The Joint Employment Report accompanies the Annual Growth Survey.

Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy

The European Commission has set out strategic guidance for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility in its 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS).[3] The Facility is the key recovery instrument at the heart of the NextGenerationEU plan, which will help the EU to emerge stronger and more resilient from the current crisis.

Commission recommendations require specifically that Member States should outline the most important national challenges in terms of gender equality and equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission notes that everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services available to the public (principle 3 of the European Pillar of Social Rights).

It adds that Member States should explain how the reforms and investments supported by the plan will be instrumental in overcoming the equality challenges identified, specifically by replying to the following question: how does the plan ensure respect for the rights of people with disabilities in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the rights of other disadvantaged and marginalised populations? In this regard, Member States are, for example, invited to explain how the plan ensures disability inclusive (and otherwise inclusive) reforms of education, the labour market and the health sector; accessibility of buildings, services and websites; and transition from institutional to community-based services.

In addition, Member States are invited to disaggregate the data they present by gender, age, disability and racial or ethnic origin wherever possible,[4] in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

It may be noted that, within the framework for the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances, the Alert Mechanism presents the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) scoreboard indicators.[5] The MIP scoreboard includes indicators including employment; young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET); people at risk of poverty or social exclusion; people at risk of poverty after social transfers; severely materially deprived people; and people living in

[3] The 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS) was published in September 2020. This frames the context for strategic development in relation to green transition, digital transition and fairness (as well as macroeconomic stability). European Commission (2020), 'Communication from the Commission – Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021', COM/2020/575 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?qid=1600708827568&uri=CELEX:52020DC0575.

[4] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, p. 11, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/692a886f-7cfc-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

[5] European Commission (2020), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Statistical Annex', SWD(2020) 275 final, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/16624/9862137/2021_statistical_annex_en.pdf.

households with very low work intensity.

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the Directorate General (DG) for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion has specified how it will contribute to the Commission's priorities.[6] It defines a set of impact indicators which are relevant to the socio-economic field. In this report, we focus on the following indicators: digital skills; people at risk of poverty and social exclusion; in-work at-risk-of-poverty rate; employment rate for persons aged 20 to 64; young people neither in employment nor in education and training; adult participation in learning; and the gender employment gap. The DG also aims to pursue economic and social inclusion for persons with disabilities, free them from discrimination and ensure full respect for their rights in the EU.

The DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion notes that developing an action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights is among the priorities.

European Pillar of Social Rights

In the wider EU policy context, EU disability policies should support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights,[7] notably in relation to equal treatment and the inclusion in society of persons with disabilities.

The Pillar is supported by a scoreboard of key indicators to screen employment and social performances of participating Member States. The scoreboard serves as a reference framework to monitor 'societal progress'. Twelve areas have been selected, with a corresponding set of quantitative indicators.

In March 2021, the Commission presented the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.[8] The Action Plan presents three targets to be achieved by 2030: 1. At least 78 % of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030; 2. At least 60 % of all adults should participate in training every year; 3. The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million by 2030.

Together with a revised social scoreboard, those targets will allow the Commission to monitor Member States' progress under the European Semester.

The Porto Declaration (May 2021)[9] endorsed the EU-level 2030 headline targets and confirmed the European Semester as the main tool to monitor progress toward the targets. In addition, it welcomed the proposal for a revised social scoreboard (taking into account different national circumstances).

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6 European Commission (2021), *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/strategic-plan-2020-2024-employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en.

7 European Commission, 'Commission Staff Working Document – Social Scoreboard', accompanying the document 'Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Establishing a European Pillar of Social Rights', 26 April 2017, SWD (2017) 200 final.

8 European Commission (2021), *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

9 See https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/05/08/the-porto-declaration/.

Finally, the renewed list of headline indicators was endorsed by the Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs of the European Union in June 2021.

2. Objectives of the study

As noted, in the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion defined a set of impact indicators which are relevant to the socio-economic field.

Furthermore, the recovery and resilience plans[10] ought to identify relevant indicators to monitor the contribution of the Facility to the reduction of disparities. The indicators can be selected from among those regularly used to report on cohesion policy overall, such as: the unemployment and employment rate, including youth unemployment and employment, the EU social scoreboard and indicators on the performance of education and training systems.

In the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure scoreboard, auxiliary indicators include: employment; long-term unemployment rate; activity rate; youth unemployment rate; young people neither in employment nor in education and training; people at risk of poverty or social exclusion; people at risk of poverty after social transfers; severely materially deprived people; and people living in households with very low work intensity. The next harmonised benchmark revisions are planned for 2024.

It is important to assess the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to these quantitative indicators. The indicators ought to identify any gap between persons with and without disabilities and reveal any convergence or divergence in relation to the targets. An increasing gap or divergence ought to signal the need for new initiatives. In its capacity, EDE presents and analyses data in order to understand and illustrate the situation of persons with disabilities in Europe.

This statistical analysis could be used as an instrument to monitor the effectiveness of national and European policies; assess the situation of persons with and without disabilities; and identify areas where the gap between persons with and without disabilities is decreasing (or increasing).

This report complements previous annual ANED reports on Europe 2020.[11] A Statistical Annex and a Methodological Annex present, respectively, the statistical data and the metadata concerning the indicators discussed in this report.

[10] 1. European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, p. 11, document_travail_service_part1_v2_en.pdf (europa.eu).
2. European Commission (2020), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Statistical Annex', SWD(2020) 275 final, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/16624/9862137/2021_statistical_annex_en.pdf.

[11] In 2020, following the Commission call for tenders VT/2020/001, the new project European Disability Expertise (EDE) replaced the Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED); see: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=624&langId=en&callId=593&furtherCalls=yes.

Presentation of the results

The output format for each Europe 2020 indicator and other related indicators includes:

1. Its relevance to EU policy/strategy;
2. Methodological issues;
3. Main findings by Member State;
4. Analysis of the evolution since 2005; and
5. Comments on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report presents an analysis of the latest available European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) microdata. The data cover 2019; a detailed description of the EU-SILC survey can be found in the Methodological Annex.

The historical data cover the years from 2010 (or earlier) to 2020. However, the data for 2020 do not reflect the global situation during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain Member States implemented the surveys on which this report draws (e.g. EU-SILC) early in 2020, before the start of the pandemic. In such cases, the 2020 data were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary and Lithuania, more than 80 % of interviews were undertaken during the first quarter of 2020. The implications of this are indicated in each chapter where such information is useful.

Another impact concerns changes in timing and the effect of seasonality. If a survey usually takes place in the first quarter of the year, whereas in 2020, due to lockdowns, it was organised in the third quarter, the change in the labour market indicators from 2019 to 2020 will be affected, and will not be comparable to the change from 2018 to 2019. The EU-SILC data are not annual averages, but present a snapshot at a certain point in the year (except for income-related values). Labour market indicators, however, present seasonal fluctuations, and this issue is highlighted in our discussion of the evolution of these indicators.

Concerning labour characteristics, this report focuses on the 20-64 age group in order to stick closely to the relevant Europe 2020 and 2030 indicators.

The metadata and the sources used are presented in the Annex to this report.

It is important to note that statistical indicators are extracted from the EU-SILC survey. However, for the monitoring of Europe 2020 and later Europe 2030, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used. Since the goals of the two surveys are different, the questions included and the nomenclatures used are not the same in both surveys. Consequently, the statistical indicators drawn from the two surveys are not identical. The full report analyses in depth these differences, notably for training, employment and unemployment indicators.

The LFS plans to include GALI (Global Activity Limitation Indicator) in its 2022 round and future reports ought to include more precise indicators for labour market issues in the future.

This report presents statistical indicators for 2020 which is the last year of Europe 2020 Strategy. The new Europe 2030 strategy redefined a certain number of indicators (e.g., low work intensity, material deprivation and consequently people at risk of poverty and social exclusion). The following data help to assess realisations in 2020 given Europe 2020 targets. Data according to the new definitions, adopted by Europe 2030, were not available at the time of elaborating this report.

PART I: Population of persons with disabilities

1 Number of persons with disabilities

1.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 31 of the UN CRPD, on 'Statistics and data collection', states: '1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention.'

The UN Declaration on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' stipulates that: 'People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities … people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants.'

The Council of the European Union, in its conclusions of 20 June 2017, stressed the commitment of the EU and its Member States to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The Council called on the Commission to carry out detailed regular monitoring of the SDGs at EU level, including where relevant in the context of the European Semester, and to develop a reference indicator framework for this purpose drawing on existing indicators and data provided by the Member States, institutions and international organisations, and accompanied by a qualitative assessment of the progress made.

The European Commission, in its Communication concerning the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, notes that 'monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities'.

The European Commission set out strategic guidance for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility in its 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy. Commission recommendations state specifically that Member States should outline the most important national challenges in terms of gender equality and equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The European social dimension is an important part of the broader debate on the 'Future of Europe'. In this context, the European Pillar of Social Rights aims to build a more inclusive and fairer European Union. The Pillar builds on 20 key principles, and principle 17 covers 'Inclusion of people with disabilities'.

The following analysis aims to give an estimate of the numbers in the target group and outline its main characteristics.

1.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

1.2.1 The definition of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC survey[12] reports on activity limitation. The concept is operationalised by using the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) for observing limitation in activities that people usually do because of one or more health problems.[13]

The data on disability refer to self-evaluation by the respondents of the extent to which they are limited in doing activities that people usually do, because of health problems, for at least the past six months. The answers distinguish between 'strongly limited', 'limited' and 'not limited'. In the following analysis, the general term 'disability' is used in order to cover both 'strongly limited' and 'limited'.

Eurostat notes[14] that GALI is only one of several ways of measuring disability. Alternative approaches include the use of the concept of functional limitations (difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication), but that is difficult to implement in non-specialised surveys. Furthermore, GALI is closer to the EU policy target (participation) and provides several other advantages (for example, it enables the measuring of disability with a single-item instrument). In addition, GALI has an acceptable level of reliability.

The EU-SILC survey covers all individuals aged 16 years old and over who are living in private households. Persons living in collective households or in institutions are generally excluded from the target population. Below is an estimate of the numbers of persons with disabilities in institutions.

For comparison, it may be noted that the UN Convention states that 'persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'.

The EU-SILC definition does not consider any 'interactions with barriers', which is the basis of modern approaches to disability. However, it may be argued that the definition lies between the two major conceptual models of disability: the medical model, which views disability as a feature of the person, directly caused by disease (disability requires medical care), and the social model of disability, which sees disability as a socially created problem and not at all an attribute of an individual (disability demands a political response to correct an unaccommodating physical or social environment).[15]

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[12] European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological Guidelines and description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2020 operation (Version April 2020)*, DocSILC065 (2020 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life, 434b2180-33b3-0d8c-ed1e-2da912d6a685 (europa.eu).

[13] See 'Health variables of EU-SILC' at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/hlth_silc_01_esms.htm.

[14] Eurostat, 'Item 4.3: Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) as a core variable', Directorate F: Social Statistics, DSS/2015/Sept/04.3. Meeting of the European Directors of Social Statistics, Luxembourg, 15-17 September 2015.

[15] World Health Organization (WHO) (2002), *Towards a Common Language for Functioning, Disability and Health: ICF*, Geneva.

In a simplified representation running from 'Body Functions' to 'Activity' and to 'Participation', it may be advanced that the GALI definition focuses on activity (the execution of a task or action by an individual).

A possible improvement of the GALI question might be its extension in order to take into account interaction with barriers. The questionnaire could be adapted as follows: if a person says that he/she has been 'limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do', a possible further question might be: 'Do you consider that a "reasonable accommodation" may eradicate / decrease: 1. all limitations; 2. most limitations; 3. certain limitations; 4. some limitations; 5. none; 6. don't know'. In specific surveys that focus on, for example, employment, education or accessibility, the reference to 'reasonable accommodation' might take more concrete forms.

Eurostat has run complementary European surveys in which efforts have been made to develop and include this important dimension. In addition, various Eurobarometer surveys[16] have included a question on whether a person considers themselves to be part of a minority in terms of disability. However, this definition is different from the one adopted in the majority of other surveys and does not enable comparisons to be made with those surveys. The results of those surveys have been presented in previous ANED reports.

1.2.2 Prevalence of disability

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 24.9 % (24.1 % in 2019) of persons aged 16 and over declared a disability (activity limitation).

This represented about 92 million people with disabilities aged 16 and over living in private households. However, this number ought to be interpreted with caution. First, it includes elderly people with moderate or severe disabilities. Secondly, it should be seen as a target for prevention purposes. This number might indicate potential needs, and may therefore constitute a source of possible future demands for policy action. The distinction between moderate and severe disability, as highlighted below, might be more relevant for immediate policy initiatives.

Table 2: Persons with disabilities living in private households in the EU 27, aged 16+, 2020 (estimate)

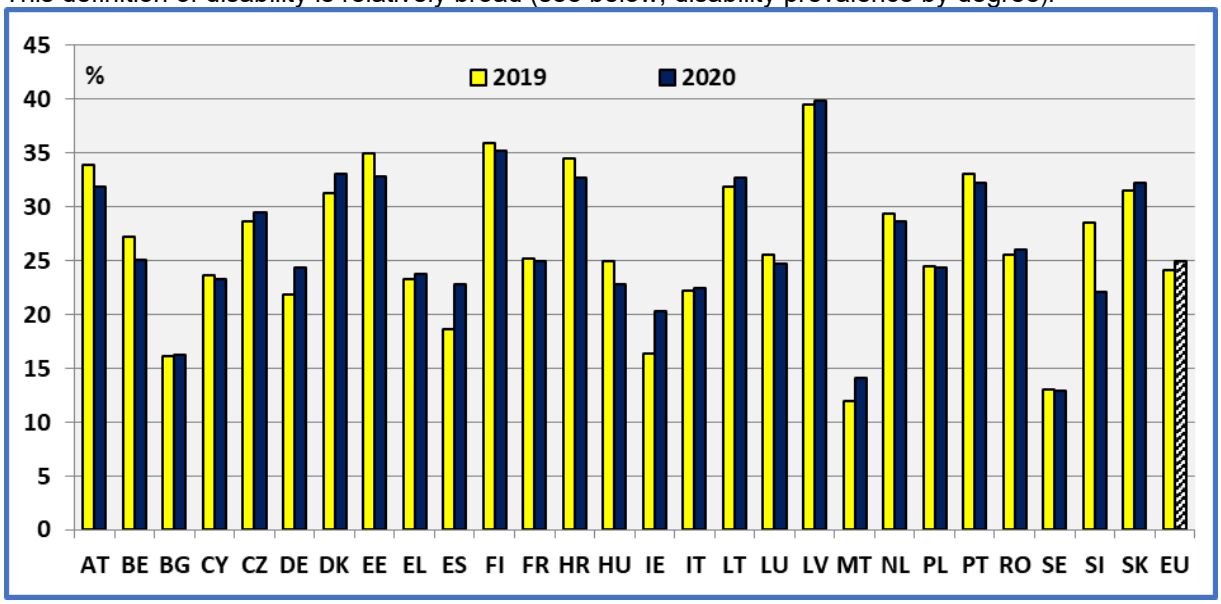
	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Total
	Number in Millions (1 000 000)		
Total	276.2	91.6	367.8
Women	138.2	51.6	189.8
Men	138.1	39.9	177.9
	Percent (%)		
Total	75.1	24.9	100.0
Women	72.8	27.2	100.0
Men	77.6	22.4	100.0

[16] Eurobarometer 83.4: 'Special Eurobarometer on discrimination 436 & 437 – Basic Bilingual Questionnaire', TNS Opinion, May-June 2015, ZA 6595/ICPSR.

Note: This definition of disability is relatively broad (see below, disability prevalence by degree). It excludes persons with disabilities in institutions. In previous reports, we have analysed the implications of a disability duration of more than one year. This led to a significantly lower disability rate.
Method: We have used two different sources for the estimation: Eurostat rates for disability prevalence and EU-SILC UDB for total population, aged 16+, living in private households. For Germany and Italy, we used total population, aged 16+, provided by the EU-SILC UDB 2019. This explains small differences in disability prevalence between the ones reported in the text and the ones implied by the table. See tables in the Statistical Annex.
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 14 April 2022; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

FIGURE 1: Percentage of persons with disabilities by Member State, 2019 and 2020

As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.
This definition of disability is relatively broad (see below, disability prevalence by degree).



Note: Changes in Spain, Ireland, Malta and Slovenia ought to be treated with care. In this context, 'EU' refers to 27 Member States. Disability is proxied by limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems. The supporting data are presented in the Annex (Statistical Tables).
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 14 April 2022.

The EU-SILC ad hoc module for 2017 indicated that disability prevalence among persons aged under 16 in the EU 27 was 4.0 %. This can be broken down as follows: 0.8 % with a severe disability (limitations) and 3.2 % with a moderate disability (limited but not severely).[17]

A recent EDE report[18] estimated that more than 1 million persons with disabilities aged below 65 were living in institutions in the EU 27. In the 65+ age group, more than 2 million persons with disabilities were living in institutions (including retirement homes). Persons with disabilities living in institutions (in a broad sense) represented about 0.8 % of the total population of the EU 27.

[17] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Health_statistics_-_children&oldid=508000.
[18] Grammenos, S. (2021), 'COVID-19 and persons with disabilities: Statistics on Health, Care, Isolation and Networking', European Disability Expertise, forthcoming.

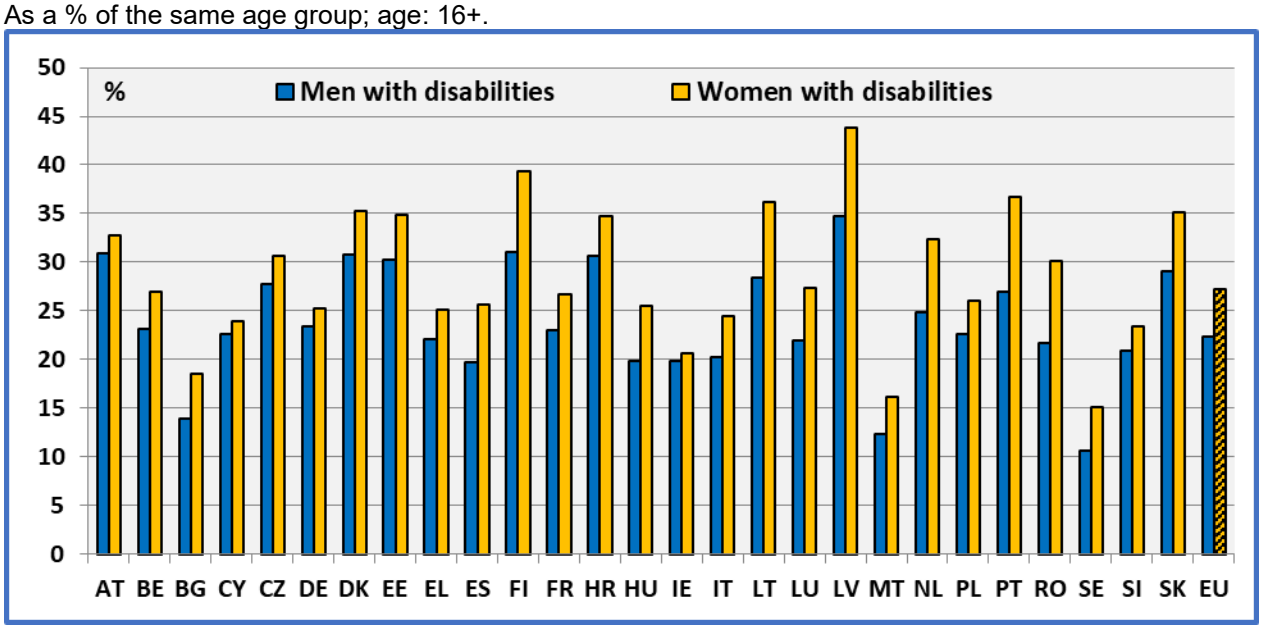
1.2.3 Prevalence of disability by gender

At the EU level in 2020, about 27.2 % of women aged 16 and over declared a disability (activity limitation) in comparison with 22.4 % of men in the same age group.

The prevalence of disability is higher among women, mainly due to the age composition: disability prevalence increases with age, and women have a longer life expectancy. However, other personal factors and socio-economic characteristics may also contribute to explaining the difference between men and women.

Figure 2: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and degree of disability, 2020

As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.



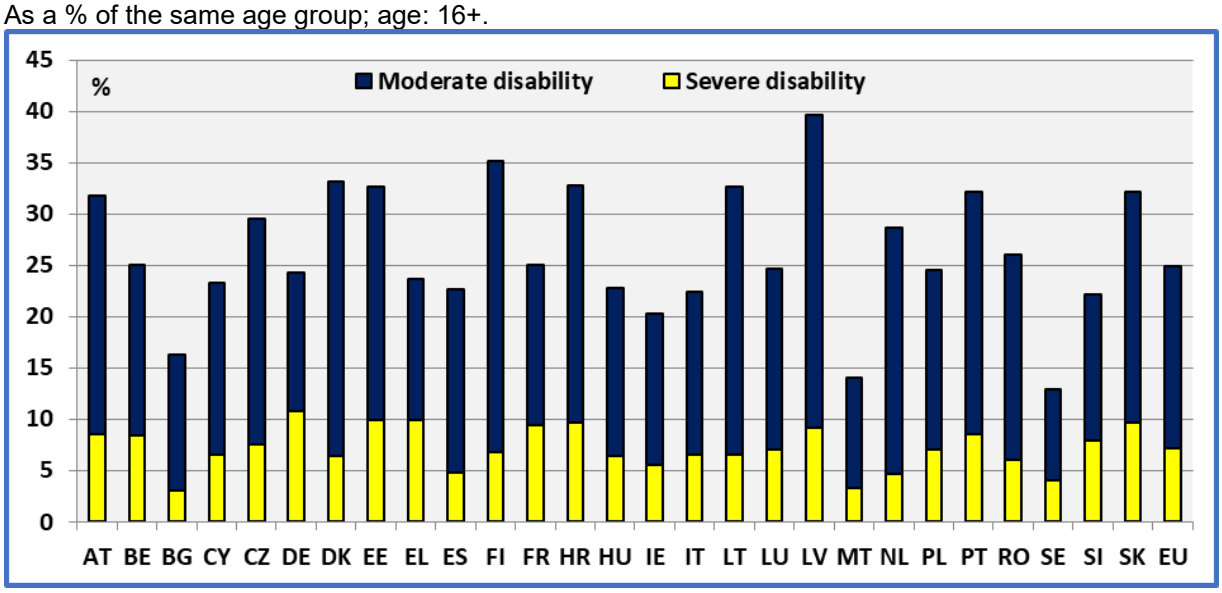
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 14 April 2022.

1.2.4 Degree of disability

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 7.2 % of persons aged 16 and over declared a severe disability (strongly limited). About 17.7 % declared a moderate disability. This amounted to 64.7 million persons with a moderate disability aged 16 and over living in private households, and 27.3 million persons with a severe disability.

Figure 3: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and degree of disability, 2020

As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.



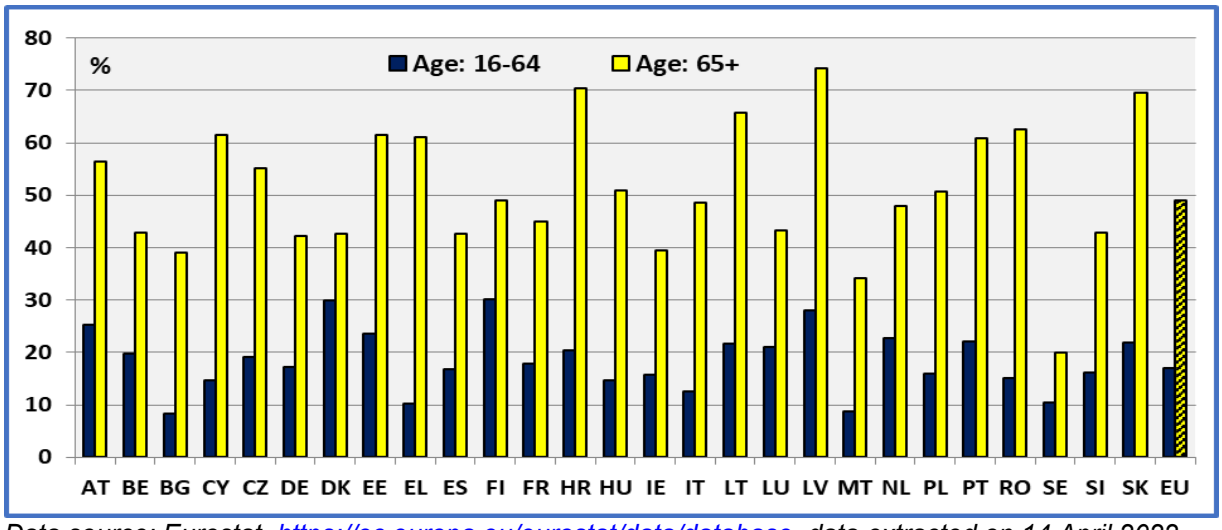
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 14 April 2022.

Concerning the degree of disability, it may be noted that the variation in the percentages covering severe disability across Member States in a given year is smaller in comparison with the variation in moderate disability prevalence.[19]

1.2.5 Population of persons with disabilities by age group

In the EU 27 in 2020, persons with disabilities represented 17.0 % of persons aged 16-64 and 49.0 % of persons aged 65 and over. In total, there were around 47 million persons with disabilities aged 16-64 and about 45 million persons with disabilities aged 65 and over.

Figure 4: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and age group, 2020



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 14 April 2022.

[19] The standard error for national severe disability rates is 2.1 in comparison with 5.5 for national moderate disability rates.

1.2.6 Population of persons with disabilities by age group and degree

The EU-SILC 2020 survey covered 367.8 million people aged 16 and over living in private households in the EU 27.

In the 16-64 age group, there were about 35.2 million persons with moderate disabilities and 12.0 million with severe disabilities.

In the 65+ age group, there were about 29.5 million people with moderate disabilities and 15.3 million with severe disabilities.

Table 3: Persons with disabilities by degree of disability and age group in the EU, 2020

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with moderate disabilities	Persons with severe disabilities	Total
	Number in Millions (1 000 000)			
Total 16+	275.8	64.7	27.3	367.8
Age: 16-64	228.1	35.2	12.0	275.4
Age: 65+	47.6	29.5	15.3	92.4
	Percent (%)			
Total 16+	75.1	17.5	7.4	100
Age: 16-64	82.8	12.8	4.4	100
Age: 65+	51.5	31.9	16.5	100

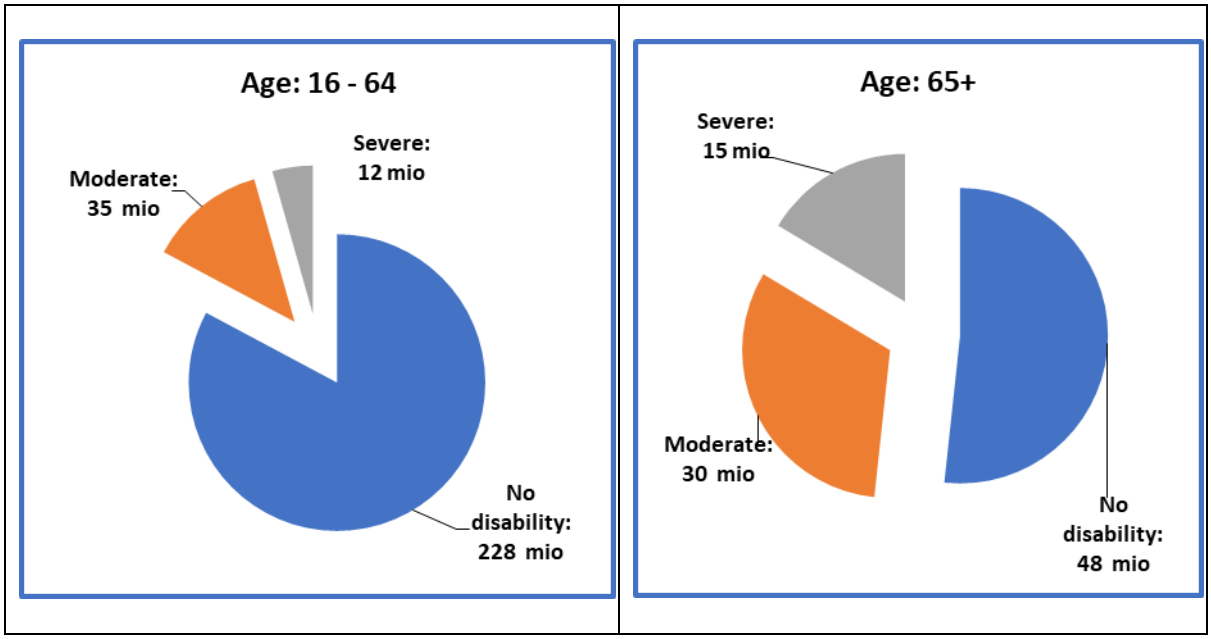
Note: Persons living in private households. The data have not been adjusted for missing values.
Method: We used two different sources for the estimation: Eurostat data for disability prevalence and EU-SILC UDB for total population, aged 16+, living in private households. For Germany and Italy, we used total population, aged 16+, provided by the EU-SILC UDB 2019. Rounding errors and the use of different sources might explain certain marginal discrepancies between absolute and percentage data.
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 14 April 2022; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

The following graph presents the distribution, by degree and age group, of the number of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over living in private households.

Figure 5: Population of persons with disabilities by degree of disability and age group, EU, 2020

Persons living in private households.

Data rounded to millions



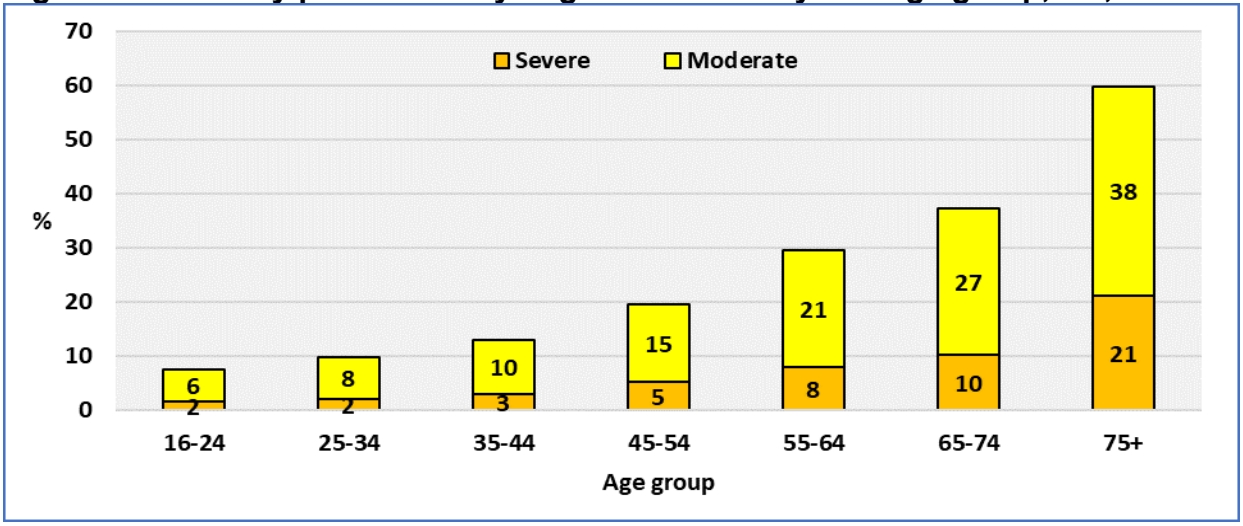
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, extracted on 14 April 2022; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

Among people with disabilities, elderly disabled people represented 48.6 % of all people with disabilities (aged 16 and over living in private households).

The following figure presents, in more detail, the disability prevalence, by age group (of 10 years) and degree, in the EU 27 in 2020. Among persons aged 16-24, there were 2 % (1.7 %) with severe disabilities and 6 % (5.7 %) with moderate disabilities. At the other extreme, in the 75+ age group, the respective rates were 21 % (21.2 %) and 38 % (38.5 %).

It may be noted that the proportion of persons with severe disabilities among all persons with disabilities increases with age. Persons with severe disabilities represented about 22.9 % of all persons with disabilities aged 16-24, while in the last age group, those aged 75 and over, they represented 35.5 % of all persons with disabilities.

Figure 6: Disability prevalence by degree of disability and age group, EU, 2020



Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022. For Germany and Italy, 2019 data were used.

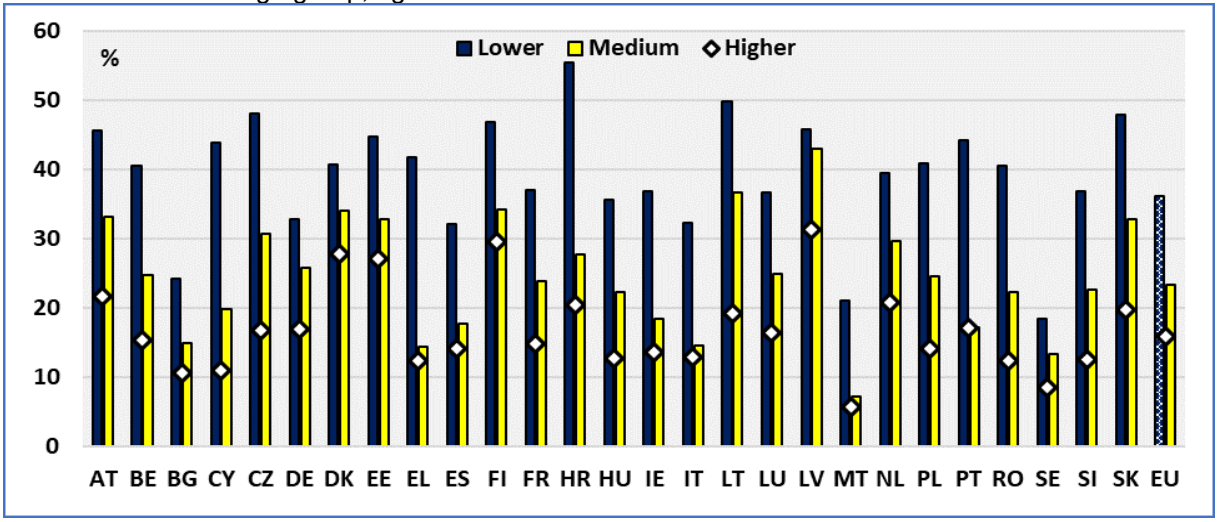
1.2.7 Population of persons with disabilities by education level

In this section, we present some statistics on the relationship between disability prevalence and education level. The goal here is not to establish any causal link, but rather to identify any systematic correlation. The educational achievements of persons with disabilities will be studied in depth in a later chapter of this report dedicated to education. Our aim here is to identify the main characteristics of persons with disabilities.

The following figure indicates that in all Member States, disability prevalence was higher among persons with a lower level of education in comparison with persons with a higher level of education.

In the EU 27 in 2020, disability prevalence was 36.1 % among persons with less than a primary or lower secondary education. For comparison, disability prevalence was 15.8 % among persons with a tertiary education. For the moment, it can be maintained that education appears to be a significant dimension that needs further study.

Figure 7: Disability prevalence by education level, 2020
As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.



Note: Lower = less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (ISCED levels 0-2); Medium = upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4); Higher = tertiary education (levels 5-8).
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, extracted on 14 April 2022.

1.2.8 Population of persons with disabilities by income level

In this section, we study the relationship between disability prevalence and income level.

The direction of causality between disability on the one hand and income or wealth on the other is an issue for debate. On the one hand, disabilities may lead to unemployment and poverty; on the other hand, income may affect chronic illness and disability through direct effects (low income increases stress) and wealth effects (low income increases malnutrition and unmet medical needs). All these factors increase a person's vulnerability to chronic illness, which in turn might lead to disabilities. This process might take some time (one to three years) before its impact can be fully appreciated (see previous ANED reports).

However, as above, we focus on the characteristics of the target group and do not aim to establish any causal relation between disability and income. Disability and poverty will be discussed in depth later in the report.

A simple way to proceed is to divide the population in five equal groups (quintiles) and to order the groups by income level.[20]

[20] Eurostat uses total equivalised disposable income attributed to each member of the household. The data (of each person) are ordered according to the value of the total equivalised disposable income. Four cut-point values (the so-called quintile cut-off points) of income, dividing the survey population into five groups equally represented by 20 % of individuals each, are found: The first quintile group represents 20 % of population with lowest income and the fifth quintile group 20 % of population with highest income. See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/hlth_silc_01_esms.htm.

In the EU 27 in 2020, among the 20 % of the population with the lowest incomes, about 32.1 % consisted of persons with disabilities. In the fifth quintile, which includes persons with the highest incomes, only 17.3 % were persons with disabilities.

At this stage, it can be maintained that the area of disability and income requires further analysis.

Table 4: Share of persons by disability status and income quintile, EU 27, 2020
As a % of the same quintile; age: 16+.

	Total population	First quintile (Lowest)	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile (Highest)
Disabled	24.9	33.2	30.1	25.1	20.6	16.5
Non-disabled	75.1	66.8	69.9	74.9	79.4	83.5

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, extracted on 14 April 2022.

It may be noted that since 2016, the proportion of persons with disabilities in the lowest income quintile has been increasing.

1.2.9 Population of persons with disabilities by wealth level

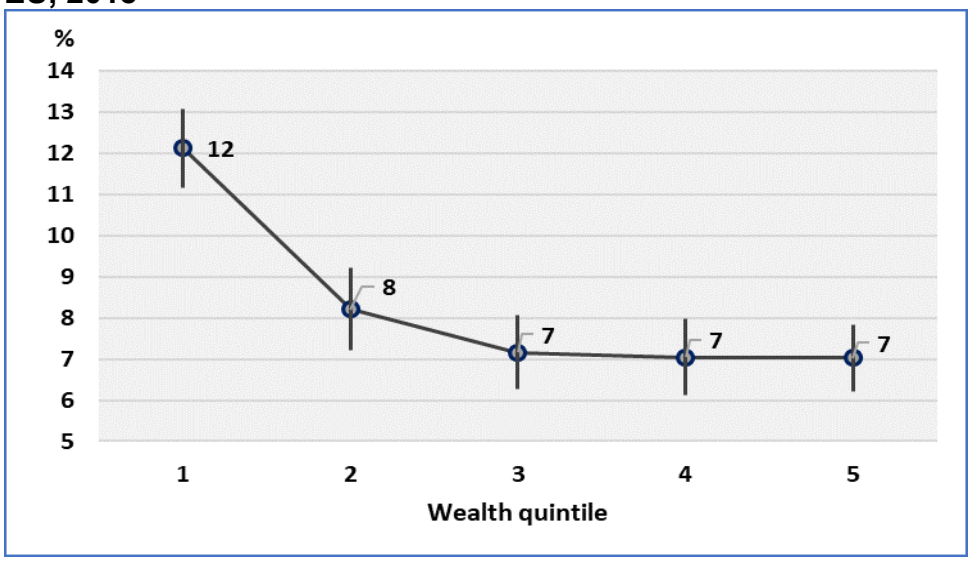
In this section, we attempt to assess whether there is any correlation between disability prevalence and wealth level. It should be acknowledged that this relationship is partly integrated with the previous relationship between income and disability prevalence; if available wealth provides any remuneration (interests, rents, etc.), this will be included in disposable income. For this reason, we focus on persons younger than 25 years. This restriction substantially eliminates any causality running from disability to income and wealth since, at this age, the proportion of persons entering the labour market is relatively small. Consequently, the process running from disability to unemployment and to poverty is limited. Furthermore, for this age group, 'net wealth' refers mainly to the wealth of the family rather than an individual's own personal accumulated wealth.

In order to increase the coherence of the data, total net household wealth was estimated first (see Annex) and the ratio of total net household wealth to the national mean was then taken. Finally, as above, the population was divided into five equal groups (quintiles) and ordered by household wealth ratio.

In the EU 28 in 2018, disability prevalence among persons aged 16-24 in the lowest household wealth group was 12.1 %, in comparison with 7.0 % in the upper-level wealth group.

Keeping in mind the remarks concerning the direction of causality, one may note a significant inverse relation between disability prevalence and household wealth.

Figure 8: Percentage of persons with disabilities by wealth quintile, aged 16-24, EU, 2018



Wealth quintile: ratio of total net household wealth to the national mean net wealth ordered in five equal groups (quintiles). See the Annex for the methodology.
Note: In 2018, 'EU' covers 28 Member States. Confidence intervals 95 %.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2018.

1.2.10 Evolution of disability prevalence

Disability prevalence varies sharply across Member States, but at the EU level, the variation across time is relatively small. A small increasing trend from 2007 to 2014 may be observed. The decrease in 2015 and 2016 was mainly the result of changes concerning the definition of 'disability' in a number of Member States, notably Germany and Italy.

From 2016 to 2019, a variation in the total rate may be noted, which was mainly the result of changes in the rate of people with moderate disabilities. This latter rate is more volatile in comparison with the rate of severe disability.

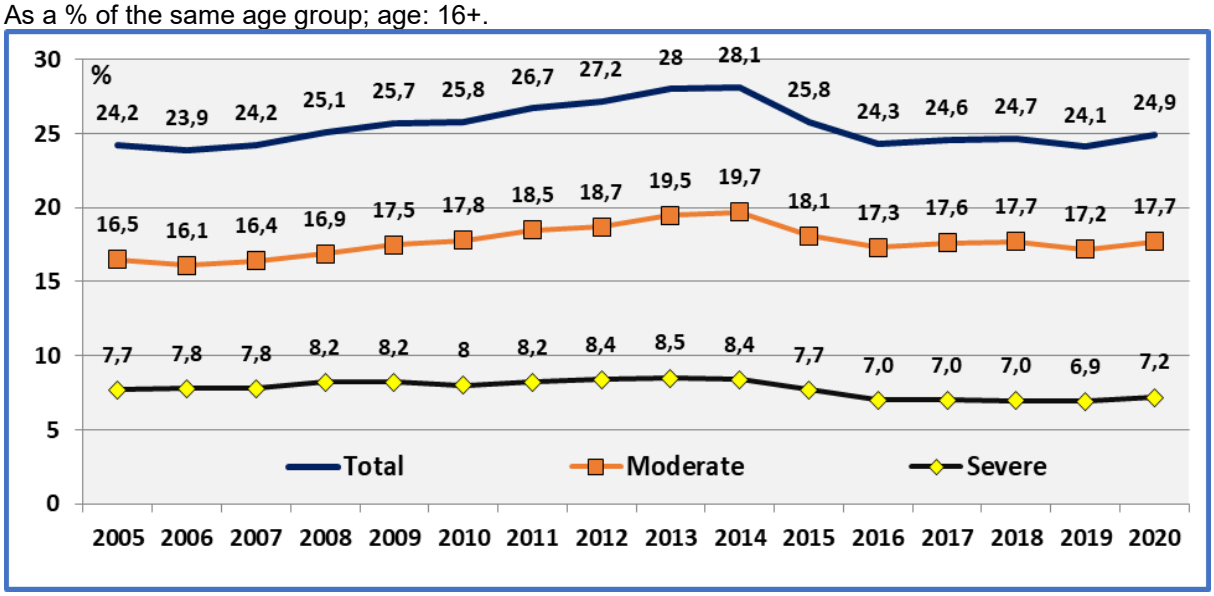
In general, one could expect a decreasing trend over the medium and long term due to technological progress. However, the rates reported here are crude rates and are not standardised by a reference age-structure for the population. Consequently, an increasing trend at least partly reflects an ageing population. This latter factor dominates any technological and medical innovation. This issue was discussed in previous ANED reports.

Another factor that may affect disability prevalence would be the socio-economic deterioration following a financial crisis, specifically that which occurred in 2008-2009. The economic deterioration might have adversely affected living conditions and health. In particular, an economic crisis may affect morbidity and chronic illness through direct effects (it might increase stress); income effects (malnutrition and unmet medical needs); education and lifestyle effects (risky behaviours); and social capital (isolation and reduction of external resources).

COVID-19 might be another factor affecting disability prevalence through different channels (see below).

Figure 9: Evolution of disability prevalence, percentage of people with disabilities by degree, EU 27

As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.



Note: The decrease in 2015 and 2016 is mainly the result of changes concerning the definition of 'disability' in a number of Member States, notably Germany and Italy. Data for 2005-2009 cover the EU 28.

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, extracted on 14 April 2022.

1.2.11 COVID-19 and persons with disabilities

The COVID-19 pandemic might have affected persons with disabilities through various channels. One effect of the pandemic may have been to increase the number of persons with disabilities. Indeed, it is known that COVID-19 may become a chronic illness and generate long-lasting impacts on health. Persistent health problems have been reported following acute COVID-19 infection, including respiratory symptoms and conditions, cardiovascular symptoms and disease, mental health, fatigue, liver and kidney dysfunction.[21] [22] These chronic illnesses may lead to activity limitations and disabilities.[23] Indirect effects might stem from the saturation of hospitals and the healthcare system. The most recent studies have shown that there was a disruption in healthcare services (including the diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases) during the pandemic.[24]

It may be noted that people have reported experiencing long COVID following infection. In most cases, these long COVID symptoms adversely affect a person's day-to-day activities. Notably, the prevalence rates of self-reported long COVID were

[21] Public Health England, 'Guidance – Coronavirus (COVID-19): long-term health effects', published on 7 September 2020 (withdrawn 1 April 2022), https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-long-term-health-effects/covid-19-long-term-health-effects.

[22] Chung, T., Hosey Mastalerz, M., Kole Morrow, A., Venkatesan, A., and Pfeil Brigham, E., 'Long COVID: Long-Term Effects of COVID-19', Johns Hopkins Medicine, 1 April 2021 (updated 14 June 2022), https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-long-haulers-long-term-effects-of-covid19.

[23] Du, L., 'Virus Survivors Could Suffer Severe Health Effects for Years', *Bloomberg UK*, 12 May 2020, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-12/covid-19-s-health-effects-can-last-long-after-virus-is-gone.

[24] UN News, 'COVID-19 impact on treatment for chronic illness revealed', 4 September 2020, https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1071732.

greatest among people living in the most deprived areas; those working in health or social care; and those with a pre-existing, activity-limiting health condition.[25]

1.3 Statistical tables

Table 5: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State, 2020
The data include only persons living in private households (see note).

	2020						
	Total	Gender		Degree		Age group	
	% of the same age group						
	Total	Men	Women	Severe	Moderate	Total	Total
	16+					16-64	65+
AT	31.8	30.9	32.7	8.5	23.3	25.3	56.4
BE	25.0	23.1	26.9	8.4	16.6	19.8	42.8
BG	16.3	13.9	18.6	3.1	13.2	8.4	39.0
CY	23.3	22.6	23.9	6.6	16.7	14.7	61.6
CZ	29.5	27.7	30.7	7.5	22.0	19.1	55.1
DE	24.4	23.4	25.3	10.8	13.5	17.3	42.2
DK	33.1	30.8	35.3	6.4	26.7	30.0	42.7
EE	32.8	30.2	34.9	9.9	22.8	23.5	61.6
EL	23.7	22.1	25.1	9.9	13.7	10.2	61.1
ES	22.8	19.7	25.7	4.8	17.9	16.9	42.6
FI	35.2	31.1	39.4	6.8	28.4	30.1	48.9
FR	24.9	23.0	26.7	9.4	15.6	17.9	45.0
HR	32.7	30.7	34.7	9.7	23.1	20.4	70.4
HU	22.8	19.8	25.5	6.4	16.4	14.6	51.0
IE	20.3	19.9	20.7	5.6	14.7	15.8	39.5
IT	22.4	20.3	24.4	6.6	15.8	12.6	48.6
LT	32.7	28.4	36.2	6.6	26.0	21.7	65.7
LU	24.7	21.9	27.4	7.0	17.7	21.1	43.2
LV	39.8	34.7	43.8	9.2	30.5	28.1	74.2
MT	14.1	12.3	16.1	3.3	10.8	8.8	34.2
NL	28.6	24.9	32.3	4.7	23.9	22.8	48.0
PL	24.4	22.6	26.0	7.0	17.5	16.0	50.7
PT	32.2	26.9	36.7	8.6	23.6	22.1	60.8
RO	26.0	21.7	30.1	6.1	19.9	15.2	62.6
SE	12.9	10.6	15.1	4.1	8.8	10.5	20.0

[25] Long COVID consists of symptoms persisting for more than four weeks after the first suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) episode that are not explained by something else. This analysis was based on data from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey (CIS), run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). See ONS, 'Statistical bulletin – Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK: Estimates of the prevalence of self-reported "long COVID", and the duration of ongoing symptoms following confirmed coronavirus infection, using UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey data to 6 March 2021', 1 April 2021, https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletin/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/1april2021.

SI	22.1	20.9	23.4	7.9	14.2	16.1	42.9
SK	32.2	29.1	35.1	9.7	22.5	21.9	69.6
EU	**24.9**	**22.4**	**27.2**	**7.2**	**17.7**	**17.0**	**49.0**

Note: All EU-SILC estimates cover only persons living in private households.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 6: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State, 2019
The data include only persons living in private households (see note).

	2019						
	Total	**Gender**		**Degree**		**Age group**	
	% of the same age group						
	Total	**Men**	**Women**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	**Total**	**Total**
	16+					**16-64**	**65+**
AT	33.9	32.7	35.1	9.1	24.9	27.3	59.0
BE	27.2	25.3	29.0	9.2	18.0	21.7	46.2
BG	16.1	13.9	18.2	3.2	13.0	8.5	38.8
CY	23.6	22.9	24.2	6.9	16.7	15.5	59.9
CZ	28.6	25.9	30.5	7.8	20.8	18.9	52.7
DE	21.8	21.1	22.5	7.1	14.7	17.5	36.0
DK	31.3	29.2	33.3	5.8	25.5	27.9	41.6
EE	35.0	32.0	37.6	11.5	23.5	26.3	62.7
EL	23.3	21.2	25.3	9.6	13.7	10.5	59.6
ES	18.6	16.5	20.5	3.8	14.7	11.7	41.9
FI	35.9	32.0	39.7	7.5	28.3	30.3	51.2
FR	25.2	23.2	27.0	9.3	15.9	18.3	46.1
HR	34.5	32.3	36.6	10.7	23.9	22.3	72.7
HU	24.9	22.1	27.3	7.1	17.8	16.1	55.8
IE	16.4	16.0	16.7	5.1	11.2	12.8	32.0
IT	22.2	19.6	24.6	5.5	16.7	11.5	51.7
LT	31.8	27.6	35.2	6.6	25.2	21.1	65.1
LU	25.5	23.3	27.7	7.6	17.9	21.0	47.0
LV	39.5	34.9	43.2	8.7	30.8	28.1	73.6
MT	11.9	10.5	13.3	2.6	9.2	7.8	26.8
NL	29.3	25.7	32.8	5.0	24.3	23.6	48.6
PL	24.5	22.8	25.9	7.7	16.8	16.5	50.6
PT	33.1	27.4	38.0	8.0	25.1	22.6	63.4
RO	25.5	20.8	29.8	6.0	19.4	15.5	60.2
SE	13.0	10.6	15.5	4.0	9.0	10.6	20.5
SI	28.5	26.2	30.7	8.8	19.6	21.4	53.7
SK	31.5	28.0	34.8	9.2	22.3	22.1	71.1
EU	**24.1**	**21.9**	**26.2**	**6.9**	**17.2**	**16.8**	**47.6**

Note: All EU-SILC estimates cover only persons living in private households.
Data source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 1 2021.

Table 7: Population of people with disabilities by Member State, 2020

The data include only persons living in private households.

	1 000 (Thousands)								
	Disability			Men			Women		
	No	Disabled	Total	No	Disabled	Total	No	Disabled	Total
	16+								
AT	5 038	2 349	7 387	2 492	1 114	3 606	2 544	1 236	3 781
BE	6 891	2 297	9 187	3 469	1 042	4 512	3 418	1,258	4,676
BG	4 926	959	5 885	2 429	392	2 821	2 494	570	3,063
CY	561	170	731	275	80	355	286	90	376
CZ	6 102	2 553	8 656	3 024	1 159	4 182	3 100	1,373	4,473
DE	52 061	16 803	68 864	25 807	7 884	33 690	26 275	8 899	35 173
DK	3 186	1 576	4 763	1 618	720	2 339	1 568	856	2 424
EE	729	356	1 084	352	152	504	378	203	580
EL	6 809	2 115	8 924	3 355	952	4 306	3 459	1 159	4 618
ES	30 510	9 011	39 520	15 429	3 785	19 214	15 087	5 219	20 306
FI	2 929	1 591	4 520	1 522	687	2 209	1 400	910	2 310
FR	39 126	12 972	52 098	19 212	5 739	24 951	19 899	7 248	27 147
HR	2 239	1 088	3 327	1 109	491	1 601	1 127	599	1 726
HU	6 188	1 828	8 015	3 023	746	3 769	3 163	1 083	4 246
IE	3 090	787	3 877	1 528	380	1 907	1 562	408	1 970
IT	39 947	11 531	51 478	19 773	5 036	24 809	20 162	6 507	26 669
LT	1 579	767	2 346	770	305	1 075	811	460	1 271
LU	366	120	486	189	53	242	177	67	244
LV	941	622	1 563	460	244	704	483	376	859
MT	370	61	430	196	27	223	174	33	207
NL	10 163	4 071	14 234	5 284	1 752	7 036	4 873	2 325	7 198
PL	23 371	7 543	30 914	11 418	3 334	14 752	11 960	4 202	16 162
PT	5 963	2 832	8 794	2 992	1 101	4 093	2 976	1 725	4 701
RO	11 925	4 190	16 115	6 110	1 693	7 804	5 809	2 502	8 311
SE	7 295	1 080	8 376	3 747	444	4 192	3 552	632	4 184
SI	1 327	377	1 704	675	178	853	652	199	851
SK	3 042	1 445	4 486	1 538	631	2 169	1 504	813	2 317
EU	**276 671**	**91 093**	**367 800**	**137 795**	**40 124**	**177 919**	**138 894**	**50 952**	**189 846**

Method: We have used two different sources for the estimation: Eurostat data for disability prevalence and EU-SILC UDB for total population, aged 16+, living in private households. For Germany and Italy, we used total population, aged 16+, provided by the EU-SILC UDB 2019. This explains small differences in disability prevalence between the ones reported in the text and the ones implied by the table.

Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, extracted on 14 April 2022 and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

Table 8: Population of people with disabilities by Member State, 2019

The data include only persons living in private households.

	1 000 (Thousands)								
	Disability			Men			Women		
	No	Disabled	Total	No	Disabled	Total	No	Disabled	Total
	16+								
AT	4 845	2 488	7 333	2,414	1,173	3,586	2,431	1,315	3,746
BE	6 572	2 450	9 022	3,298	1,117	4,415	3,274	1,334	4,607
BG	4 977	955	5 933	2,452	395	2,847	2,526	560	3,086
CY	551	169	720	269	80	349	282	90	371
CZ	4 204	1 681	5 885	1 820	637	2 457	2,384	1 044	3 428
DE	53 058	14 928	67 985	26 189	7 091	33 280	26,869	7 837	34 706
DK	3 248	1 464	4 712	1 649	673	2 322	1,599	791	2 390
EE	684	368	1 052	329	156	485	354	213	567
EL	6 869	2 065	8 934	3 398	906	4 304	3,470	1 160	4 630
ES	31 901	7 213	39 114	15 909	3 109	19 018	15,992	4 104	20 096
FI	2 858	1 587	4 445	1 516	709	2 225	1,342	877	2 220
FR	38 643	12 887	51 530	18 857	5 642	24 498	19,787	7 245	27 032
HR	2 209	1 156	3 365	1 093	517	1 610	1,116	639	1 755
HU	5 921	1 948	7 869	2 882	817	3 699	3,039	1 131	4 170
IE	3 199	625	3 824	1 577	300	1 877	1 622	326	1 947
IT	38 524	10 951	49 475	19 173	4 670	23 843	19 351	6 281	25 632
LT	1 521	706	2 228	722	274	996	799	432	1 232
LU	361	123	484	184	56	240	176	67	244
LV	916	597	1 512	436	233	670	479	363	842
MT	362	48	411	188	22	210	174	27	200
NL	9 712	4 016	13 728	5 066	1 749	6 814	4 646	2 267	6 914
PL	19 095	6 167	25 262	8 781	2 584	11 365	10 314	3 583	13 897
PT	5 862	2 891	8 753	2 959	1 117	4 076	2 903	1 774	4 677
RO	12 095	4 122	16 217	6 216	1 632	7 848	5 879	2 490	8,369
SE	7 182	1 081	8 262	3 733	441	4 174	3 449	639	4 088
SI	1 217	484	1 702	623	221	843	595	264	858
SK	3 035	1 391	4 425	1 537	597	2 134	1 497	794	2 291
EU	**269 600**	**84 562**	**354 200**	**133 271**	**36 916**	**170 200**	**136 300**	**47 646**	**184 000**

Note: The estimates have not been adjusted for missing values. This affects estimates for Germany (marginally) because information concerning age is missing.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

Table 9: Disability prevalence by education level, 2020

As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.

	Lower	Medium	Higher
AT	45.6	33.1	21.6
BE	40.4	24.6	15.3
BG	24.1	14.8	10.5
CY	43.8	19.8	10.9
CZ	48.0	30.7	16.7

DE	32.8	25.8	16.9
DK	40.6	34.0	27.7
EE	44.7	32.8	27.1
EL	41.7	14.3	12.3
ES	32.1	17.7	14.1
FI	46.8	34.2	29.5
FR	37.0	23.8	14.7
HR	55.3	27.6	20.4
HU	35.6	22.3	12.6
IE	36.7	18.4	13.6
IT	32.3	14.5	12.9
LT	49.8	36.6	19.1
LU	36.6	24.8	16.3
LV	45.7	42.9	31.2
MT	21.0	7.2	5.7
NL	39.5	29.5	20.7
PL	40.9	24.5	14.1
PT	44.2	17.1	17.1
RO	40.4	22.3	12.3
SE	18.3	13.2	8.5
SI	36.7	22.6	12.5
SK	47.9	32.8	19.6
EU	**36.1**	**23.2**	**15.8**

Note: Lower = less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (ISCED levels 0-2); Medium = upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4); Higher = tertiary education (levels 5-8).

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, extracted on 14 April 2022.

PART II: Equal opportunities

2 Adult participation in learning

2.1 Relevance to EU policy/strategy

Continuous education and training is considered essential for a high-quality labour force. It is important for people in keeping a job and meeting new technological skill requirements. In addition, lifelong learning contributes to a better career, job promotion, gains in productivity and higher wages.

Article 24 of the UN CRPD, which covers 'Education', notes that, 'States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity. States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning'.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Goal 4 seeks to ensure access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life as well as to increase the number of young people and adults having relevant skills for employment. It seeks, notably, to 'ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities' (4.5) and 'Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all' (4.a).

The European Disability Strategy[26] notes that the European Skills Agenda requires national skills strategies that should also cover the specific needs of persons with disabilities. It adds that equal access to education and labour-market oriented training at all levels has to be ensured. Member States are responsible for adapting education and training policies to the needs of persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the UN CRPD. Furthermore, it reiterates that the European Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience invites Member States to design vocational programmes such that they are inclusive and accessible for vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities.

The European Pillar of Social Rights,[27] under the broad dimension of 'Education, training and lifelong learning', states that everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and successfully manage transitions in the labour market. Furthermore, in the 'Equal opportunities' field, it notes that regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding education. A set

[26] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.

[27] European Commission, 'The European Pillar of Social Rights in 20 principles', https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en.

of indicators have been developed in order to monitor progress in the application of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The revised social scoreboard[28] presents a set of headline and secondary indicators. In the 'Equal opportunities' field, 'Adult participation in learning' during the past 12 months constitutes a secondary indicator. The Commission notes that less than 40 % of adults participate in any form of training each year.

The EU target for 2030 requires that at least 60 % of all adults should participate in training each year. Efforts must therefore be strengthened to increase adult participation in training and to improve the levels of achievement in initial education and training.

2.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

2.2.1 Interpreting the EU-SILC data

Eurostat has developed an indicator covering all persons. It measures the proportion of people aged 25 to 64 who stated that they received formal or non-formal education and training in the four weeks preceding the survey (numerator). The denominator consists of the total population of the same age group. 'Adult learning' covers both general and vocational formal and non-formal learning activities, and usually refers to learning activities after the end of initial education. Eurostat uses data from the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS).[29]

The EU-SILC survey includes a question (PE010) on current education activity. The question concerns whether the person is currently participating in a formal educational programme. An 'educational programme' is defined under the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 as, 'A coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed and organized to achieve pre-determined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period.' (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012, p. 8). The person's participation in this programme may be on a full-time or part-time attendance basis or by correspondence course.

The proposed proxy for adult participation in learning is very restrictive in comparison with the EU-LFS, used by Eurostat, or the larger one underlying the Commission objective ('Adult participation in learning during the last 12 months'). However, it must be borne in mind that, currently, only the EU-SILC survey includes a question on disability.

2.2.2 Adult participation in learning

As noted above, the proposed indicator here is not comparable to the one based on the EU-LFS survey. The EU-SILC indicator covers only persons who are 'currently' participating in a formal education programme.

[28] European Commission (2021), *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

[29] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_04_60/default/table?lang=en.

The concept proposed by the Commission is 'Adult participation in learning during the last 12 months'. In order to improve the coverage of the proxy, this report includes persons who attained their highest education level in 2020 and 2019 (EU-SILC, question PE030). This might extend the time horizon over the past 12 months, but it does not include informal learning, which might be important in certain Member States. It must be borne in mind that the frontier between formal and informal learning is fluid and varies across countries.

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 3.3 % of persons aged 25-64 were currently participating in an education programme or had recently attained their highest education level. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 5.4 %. The total rate was 5.0 %.

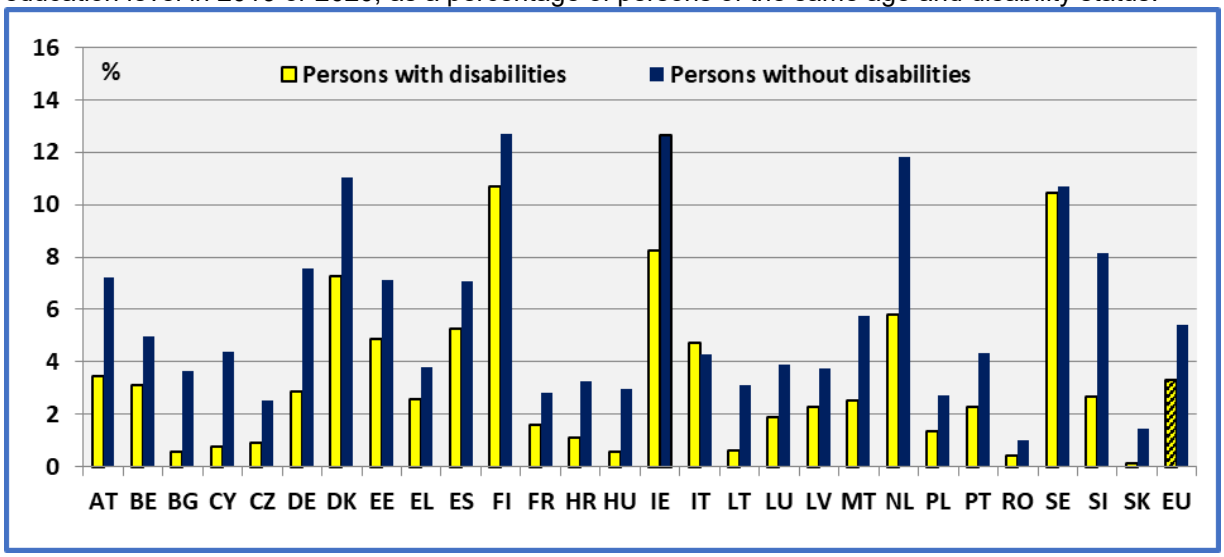
For comparison, the wider definition in the indicator based on EU-LFS presents a rate of 9.1 %.[30] The national indicators presented here and the ones based on EU-LFS are well correlated (R^2=0.62, n=27).

Around 2.4 % of persons with disabilities declared that they were currently participating in an education programme and 0.9% had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020. The equivalent rates for persons without disabilities were 3.9 % and 1.5 % respectively.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the lowest rates could be found in Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria, in ascending order. The highest rates could be found in Ireland, Sweden and Finland, in ascending order.

Figure 10: Adult participation in learning by disability status and Member State, age 25-64, 2020

Number of persons aged 25 to 64 who were in an education programme or had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020, as a percentage of persons of the same age and disability status.



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

[30] Data extracted on 17 May 2022 [ESTAT], Dataset: Adult participation in learning by sex [SDG_04_60]; see Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_04_60/default/table?lang=en.

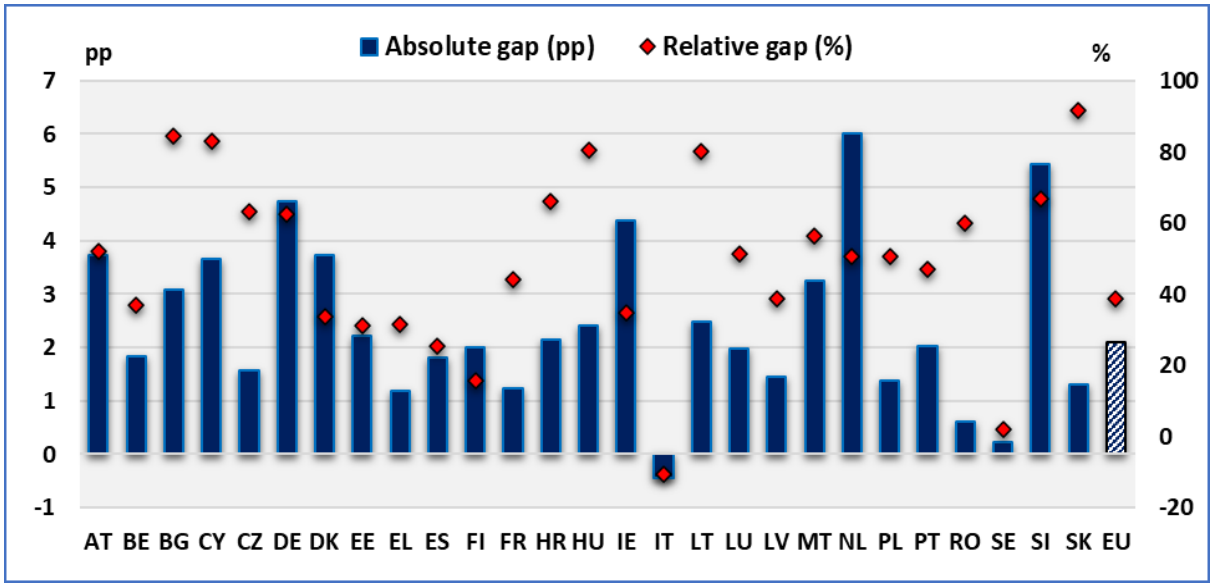
2.2.3 Disability gap in adult participation in learning

The following figure indicates that in the EU 27 in 2020, the absolute disability gap was 2.1 percentage points (relative gap: 38.8 %).

The smallest absolute gaps could be found in Italy, Sweden and Romania. On the other hand, the largest gaps could be found in Germany, Slovenia and the Netherlands.

Figure 11: Disability gap in adult participation in learning by Member State, age 25-64, 2020

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities
Relative gap = 100*(% persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.



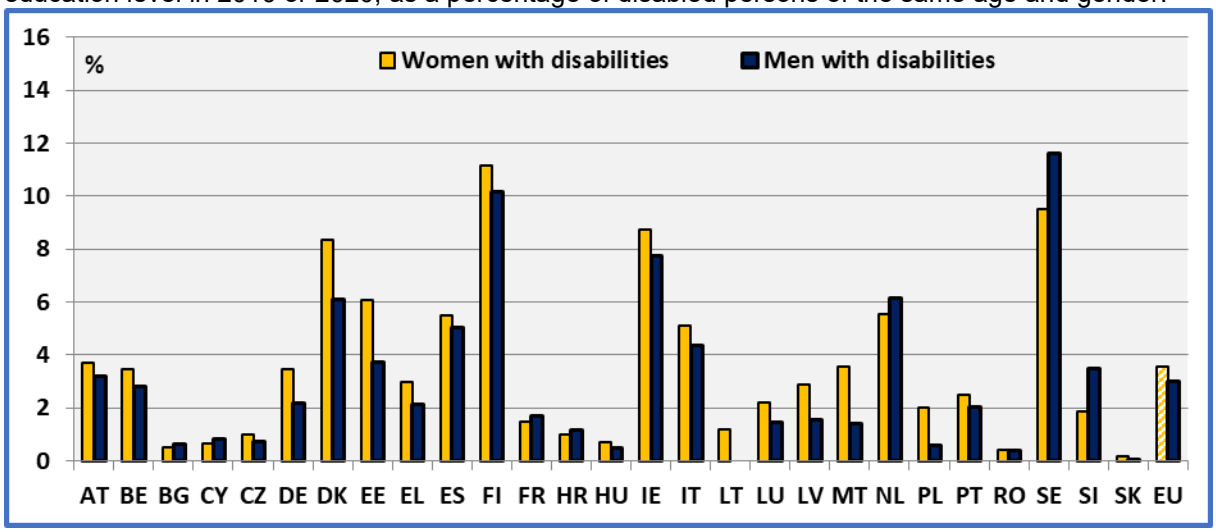
Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

2.2.4 Adult participation in learning by gender

In the following figure, it may be noted that in the EU 27 in the 25-64 age group, about 3.6 % of women with disabilities declared that they were currently participating in an education programme or had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020, in comparison with 3.0 % of men with disabilities.

Figure 12: Adult participation in learning of persons with disabilities by Member State, age 25-64, 2020

Number of persons aged 25 to 64 who were in an education programme or had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020, as a percentage of disabled persons of the same age and gender.



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

2.2.5 Adult participation in learning by age

The following figure indicates that there is a disadvantage for persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities in the 25-34 age group. However, for the other groups, the rates are similar, at least under the definition used here.

The difference between persons with and without disabilities reported above, for all persons by disability status or by gender, can be attributed, at least in part, to an age composition effect.

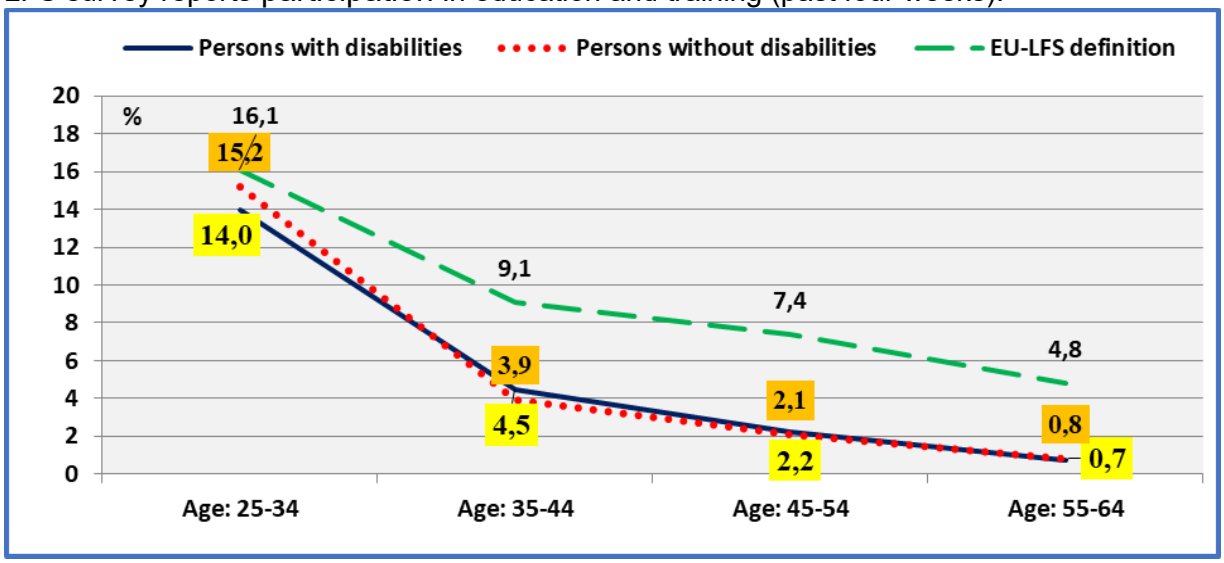
The following figure indicates that, for both groups, adult participation in learning decreases sharply with age. As persons with disabilities are concentrated in higher age groups, participation rates for persons with disabilities tend to be lower in comparison with rates for persons without disabilities.

In summary, disability plays a role in younger age groups, but globally, low participation is associated with older age groups, at least under the definition used here.

For comparison, the figure includes estimates based on EU-LFS survey data. Although the survey uses a different definition, the interest here concerns evolution by age.

Figure 13: Adult participation in learning by disability status and age group, EU 2020

Number of persons in an education programme or had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020, as a percentage of persons of the same age and disability status. The EU-LFS survey reports participation in education and training (past four weeks).



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.
Colours: Yellow marks stand for persons with disabilities and red for persons without disabilities. Both stem from the EU-SILC survey. The EU-LFS indicator covers all persons (with and without disabilities).
EU-LFS data: Data extracted on 18 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/TRNG_LFSE_01__custom_2744176/default/table?lang=en.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022, EU-SILC UDB 2019 and Eurostat.

2.2.6 Adult participation in learning by degree of disability

In the EU 27, the rate of persons aged 25-64 who declared that they were participating in an education programme or had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020 decreased as the degree of disability increased. The rate was 5.4 % for persons without disabilities, 3.8 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 1.8 % for persons with severe disabilities.

2.3 Statistical tables

Table 10: Adult participation in learning by disability status, age 25-64, 2020

Number of persons who were in an education programme or had attained their highest education level in 2019 or 2020, as a percentage of persons of the same age, sex or disability status.

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Disability gap in pp	Women with disabilities	Men with disabilities
AT	3.5	7.2	6.2	3.7	3.7	3.2
BE	3.1	5.0	4.6	1.8	3.4	2.8
BG	0.6	3.7	3.4	3.1	0.5	0.6
CY	0.8	4.4	3.8	3.7	0.7	0.8
CZ	0.9	2.5	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.8

DE	2.8	7.6	6.7	4.7	3.5	2.2
DK	7.3	11.0	9.9	3.7	8.3	6.1
EE	4.9	7.1	6.6	2.2	6.1	3.7
EL	2.6	3.8	3.6	1.2	3.0	2.2
ES	5.3	7.1	6.8	1.8	5.5	5.0
FI	10.7	12.7	12.1	2.0	11.2	10.2
FR	1.6	2.8	2.6	1.2	1.5	1.7
HR	1.1	3.3	2.8	2.2	1.0	1.2
HU	0.6	3.0	2.6	2.4	0.7	0.5
IE	8.3	12.6	11.9	4.4	8.7	7.8
IT	4.7	4.3	4.4	-0.5	5.1	4.4
LT	0.6	3.1	2.5	2.5	1.2	0.0
LU	1.9	3.9	3.5	2.0	2.2	1.5
LV	2.3	3.7	3.3	1.5	2.9	1.5
MT	2.5	5.8	5.5	3.3	3.6	1.4
NL	5.8	11.8	10.4	6.0	5.6	6.2
PL	1.4	2.7	2.5	1.4	2.0	0.6
PT	2.3	4.3	3.8	2.0	2.5	2.0
RO	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.4
SE	10.5	10.7	10.7	0.2	9.5	11.6
SI	2.7	8.1	7.2	5.4	1.9	3.5
SK	0.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	0.2	0.1
EU	**3.3**	**5.4**	**5.0**	**2.1**	**3.6**	**3.0**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.

Gap: the gap is the difference between persons with and without disabilities, and it is expressed in percentage points.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

3 Early leavers from education and training

3.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 24 of the UN CRPD, which covers 'Education', notes that, 'States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity. States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning'.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The Declaration stipulates that people who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include, notably, persons with disabilities. Goal 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

On 30 September 2020, the Commission adopted two initiatives to strengthen the contribution of education and training to the EU's recovery from the coronavirus crisis. They are aimed at achieving a European Education Area by 2025 and resetting education and training for the digital age.[31] The Communication on the European Education Area clearly states that, 'Education systems at all levels should comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'.

It includes two initiatives: 1) The Communication outlines how cooperation can further enrich the quality, inclusiveness and digital and green dimension of Member State education systems; and 2) The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) proposes a set of initiatives for high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education in Europe.

The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, in addressing inclusive and accessible education, notes that more young persons with disabilities leave school early and fewer learners with disabilities complete a university degree.[32] Furthermore, it adds that 'monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities'.

In addition, the Commission, in its guidance to Member States on recovery and resilience plans, notes that these plans should identify relevant indicators to monitor the reduction of disparities. The indicators could include, notably, education and training.[33]

[31] See https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1743.

[32] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.

[33] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/692a886f-7cfc-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

The revised social scoreboard[34] presents a set of headline and secondary indicators. In the 'Equal opportunities' field, 'Early leavers from education and training' constitutes a headline indicator.

The EU target for 2030 requires that this rate be brought down to under 10 %. This indicator covers the population of those aged 18-24 with, at most, a lower secondary education level who are not in further education or training.

3.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

3.2.1 Comparison between EU-SILC and LFS estimates

The indicator presents the percentage of the population of those aged 18-24 with the lowest secondary education who are not engaged in further education or training. Eurostat[35] and the Member States use the LFS survey in order to monitor the percentage of early school leavers. The LFS survey (except in certain Member States) does not provide information on disability status; however, it is expected to include the GALI indicator in its 2021 run.

Eurostat noted that from 2014, the educational attainment level in the LFS survey was to be coded according to the ISCED 2011. The classification of early school leavers refers to ISCED 2011 levels: 'Less than primary education' (0), 'Primary education' (1) and 'Lower secondary education' (2). Similarly, for the EU-SILC survey, the classification to be used for the highest ISCED level attained is ISCED 2011.

Following this harmonisation, both surveys have used the same ISCED 2011 classification since 2014. In 2019, the LFS survey and the EU-SILC data provided an estimate for the EU 27 of 10.2 % and 10.6 % respectively. National estimates may differ due to sampling differences. Despite these differences, however, there is a good correlation between national estimates across the two surveys (R^2=0.80). Data from 2019 were used for comparison because the available EU-SILC 2020 microdata, at the time of producing this report, did not include Germany and Italy.

As the available LFS data did not provide information on persons with and without disabilities, we used the EU-SILC data in the following analysis.

3.2.2 General comments

According to human capital theory, high educational achievements increase knowledge and skills. This, in turn, improves the chances of finding a job. In addition, higher educational levels favour higher productivity and thus higher earnings.

Early school leavers may lack the minimum prerequisites that would enable them to meet market needs and changing technological skills. Consequently, the proportion of early school leavers is a good indicator of expected success for young jobseekers in the labour market.

[34] European Commission (2021), *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

[35] See Eurostat: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/t2020_40_esmsip.htm.

At the EU 27 level in 2020, about 22.9 % of young disabled aged 18-24 were early school leavers in comparison with 9.3 % for non-disabled young persons. The EU total average rate was 10.3 %, in comparison with a target of less than 10 %.

In 2020, early school leavers with disabilities aged 18-24 who were living in private households represented about 0.5 million persons out of approximately 2.2 million young disabled persons aged 18-24 living in private households.

Table 11: Early school leavers aged 18-24, EU, 2020

	Not Early School Leavers	Early School Leavers	Total
	1 000 000		
Persons without disabilities	25.4	2.6	28,0
Persons with disabilities	1.7	0.5	2,2
Total	27.1	3.1	30,2
	%		
Persons without disabilities	90.7	9.3	**100**
Persons with disabilities	77.1	22.9	**100**
Total	89.7	10.3	**100**

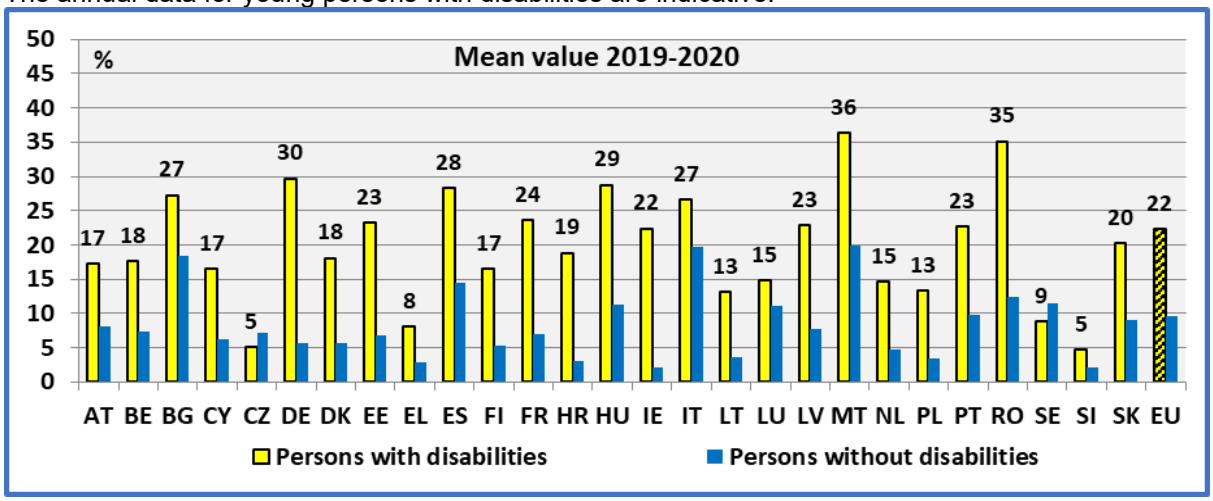
Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used as a correction factor the percentage change drawn from the LFS survey; consequently, the indicators are indicative. This affected the EU 27 aggregate. The data have not been adjusted for missing values.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

In several countries, the number of observations concerning persons with disabilities (activity limitations) aged 18 to 24 in the sample for which the relevant information was available was less than 50. As outlined in previous annual reports, the confidence intervals are large, and any conclusion for persons with disabilities aged 18-24 based on annual averages might lead to erroneous conclusions. For this reason, the following graph presents the average value for the past two years.

In the EU 27, the percentage of early school leavers was 22.9 % in 2020 and 21.8 % in 2019, giving an arithmetic mean (or arithmetic average) for 2019-2020 of 22.3 % (rounded to 22 %; see following figure). Regarding the national means of the past two years, the lowest rates can be found in Slovenia, Czechia and Greece. On the other hand, the highest rates can be found in Germany, Romania and Malta, in ascending order.

Figure 14: Share of early school leavers by disability status, age 18-24

The annual data for young persons with disabilities are indicative.



Note: For clarity in the figure, we report only the percentages for young persons with disabilities. In the figure, we report mean values for 2019-2020. Detailed annual data are presented in the Statistical Annex. The arithmetic mean (or mean) is the sum of the two years divided by the number of years.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019-2020 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

The high rates of early school leavers among young disabled persons might indicate problems relating to accessibility and an absence of adapted programmes. Physical and architectural barriers might present important obstacles, in addition to methods and instruments that do not meet the abilities of young disabled persons.

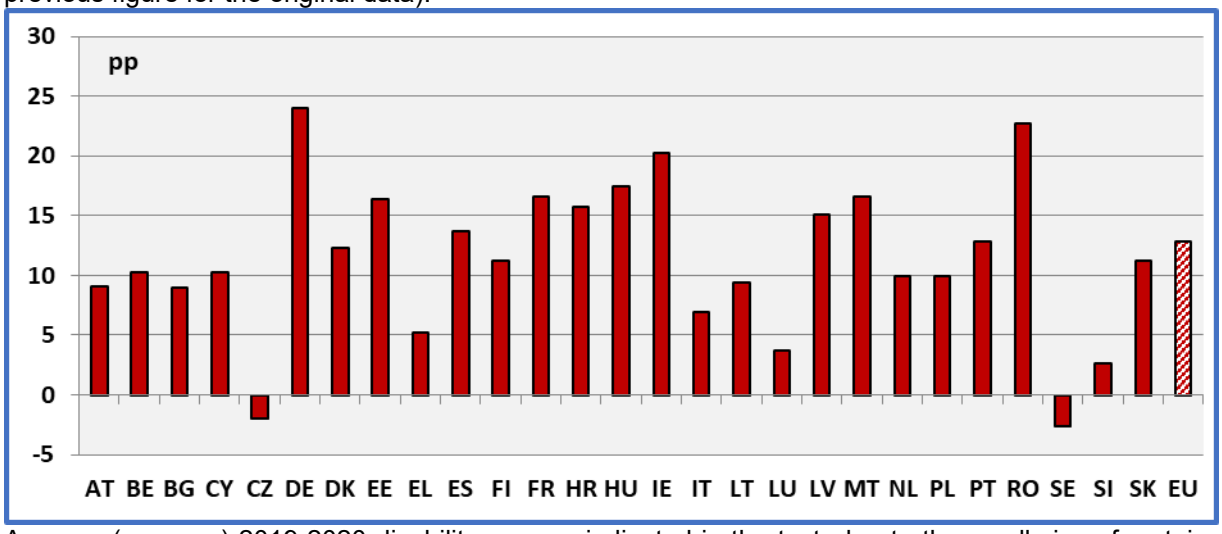
3.2.3 Disability gap in early school leaving

The disadvantage for young persons with disabilities in comparison with young persons without disabilities can be measured by the difference in the respective proportions of early school leavers. As noted, the estimates for the 18-24 age group are cautious, due to a relatively small sample size in several Member States. In order to minimise these problems, we present the average gap for the years 2019-2020.

At the EU 27 level in 2019-2020, the gap between persons with and without disabilities was about 12.8 percentage points. The gap between young persons with and without disabilities was small in Sweden, Czechia and Slovenia. On the other hand, the gap was relatively high in Ireland, Romania and Germany, in ascending order.

Figure 15: Disadvantage for young persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, average 2019-2020

Disability gap = Percentage of persons with disabilities – Percentage of persons without disabilities (see previous figure for the original data).



Average (or mean) 2019-2020 disability gap: as indicated in the text, due to the small size of certain national samples, the standard errors (variability) of the means are relatively high. In order to attenuate this problem, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2019-2020 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.

Data source: EU-SILC 2019-2020 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

Concerning early school leavers by disability and gender in the EU, the rates were 16.7 % for young women with disabilities and 27.0 % for young boys with disabilities.

3.2.4 Early school leavers by gender

The following table indicates that at the EU 27 level in 2020, the proportion of early school leavers among young women with disabilities was 20.6 %, in comparison with 25.9 % among young men with disabilities.

Table 12: Share of early school leavers by disability status and gender, age 18-24, EU, 2020

Early school leavers, aged 18-24, as a percentage of all persons of the same sex, age and disability status.

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	No	Early school leavers	Total	No	Early school leavers	Total
Men	74.1	25.9	100	88.7	11.3	**100**
Women	79.4	20.6	100	92.6	7.4	**100**
Total	**76.9**	**23.1**	**100**	**90.6**	**9.4**	**100**

Note: Data for Germany and Italy refer to 2019 and were not corrected for 2019-2020 change. This explains small differences in the EU aggregate compared with previous tables.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

3.2.5 Evolution at the EU level

A persistent high level of early school leavers means that these persons enter the labour market without sufficient skills. This constitutes an important barrier to their

integration into the labour market and their capacity to adapt to technological change. This disadvantage is notably high for young disabled persons.

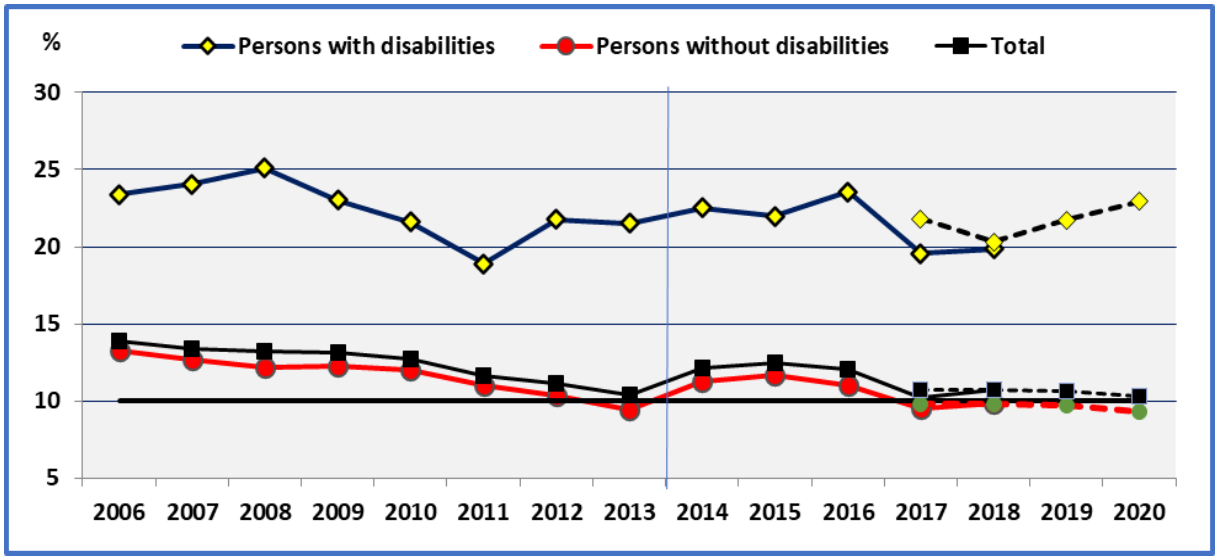
For young persons without disabilities, a long-term downward trend may be observed, bearing in mind that the years 2013-2014 are not comparable due to a change in the definitions used for education levels.

The evolution for persons with disabilities is more erratic; however, one may observe a declining trend with some fluctuations. This may be due to sampling errors and changing definitions. There was a discontinuity of series in 2015 in Germany, in 2016 in Italy and in 2017 in the United Kingdom. These countries have an important weight in the EU aggregate.

The gap between young persons with and without disabilities remained high, and the first results for 2020 indicated that the gap might have increased. However, only the final results may confirm this trend.

Figure 16: Evolution of the shares of early school leavers, EU, aged 18-24

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: Break in time series due to a new classification since 2014. Change in the definition of 'disability' in Germany and Italy in 2015 and 2016. Data for 2020 are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

The new EU initiatives (European Education Area by 2025) stress the need to enrich the quality, inclusiveness and digital dimension of Member States' education systems. However, young persons from disadvantaged backgrounds may face barriers (accessibility of programmes, lack of technical equipment, low preparatory digital skills, etc.) that may preclude them from participating in these new educational programmes. This means that the new programmes ought to provide the necessary adaptations and technical aids to persons with disabilities in order to make them accessible to this group of young people.

3.3 Statistical tables

Table 13: Share of early school leavers by disability status and Member State, aged 18-24

The EU-SILC estimators for young disabled people are indicative.
Percentage of the population aged 18-24 with 'at most' lower secondary education and not in further education or training. The EU-SILC data are not comparable with LFS data.
Due to the limited number of observations, estimates for persons with disabilities are indicative.

	2018			2019			2020			Mean disability gap, 2019-2020
	Disability			Disability			Disability			Gap
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	in pp
AT	23.5	8.6	10.7	15.4	8.1	9.0	19.1	8.2	9.6	9.1
BE	15.3	7.3	8.0	13.7	7.7	8.3	21.6	7.0	8.3	10.3
BG	(24.9)	17.0	17.3	(16.3)	19.0	18.9	(38.2)	17.6	18.2	9.0
CY	17.2	8.2	8.7	8.0	7.1	7.1	(25.1)	5.4	6.4	10.3
CZ	a	6.8	7.1	(8.2)	7.6	7.7	(1.9)	6.5	6.2	-2.0
DE	23.7	6.4	7.8	30.0	5.7	7.4	29.4	5.6	7.3	24.0
DK	11.5	11.1	11.2	18.0	6.4	8.9	18.2	5.0	8.1	12.3
EE	16.2	7.9	9.2	20.3	7.3	9.5	26.0	6.2	8.8	16.4
EL	18.5	3.3	3.8	(7.8)	2.9	3.0	(8.2)	2.7	2.9	5.2
ES	30.4	15.5	16.1	32.4	15.1	15.7	24.0	13.9	14.5	13.7
FI	16.4	2.7	5.6	20.3	4.6	8.5	12.8	6.0	7.6	11.2
FR	19.7	8.9	9.8	19.2	8.0	8.9	28.0	6.1	7.8	16.5
HR	21.7	3.5	4.5	18.4	2.8	3.7	19.3	3.3	4.2	15.8
HU	23.2	11.8	12.6	17.1	11.5	11.7	(40.4)	11.3	12.7	17.4
IE	10.7	3.5	4.0	(28.3)	3.2	5.2	16.5	1.0	2.9	20.3
IT	32.4	17.9	18.6	27.0	19.9	20.2	26.2	19.4	19.6	7.0
LT	17.9	4.9	6.3	15.9	3.3	4.6	(10.2)	4.0	4.4	9.4
LU	18.6	8.6	9.7	17.0	11.0	11.7	12.7	11.3	11.4	3.7
LV	17.2	9.7	10.6	16.6	7.8	8.8	29.1	7.6	9.5	15.1
MT	a	19.4	20.1	a	20.0	20.6	(28.3)	19.7	20.0	16.5
NL	7.7	3.1	3.9	15.4	4.4	5.9	14.0	5.1	6.3	9.9
PL	13.7	4.3	4.8	10.5	4.2	4.5	16.2	2.6	3.4	9.9
PT	21.9	12.4	13.5	23.2	11.1	12.3	22.1	8.5	9.7	12.8
RO	(29.8)	14.3	15.1	41.4	11.3	13.0	28.9	13.5	14.3	22.7
SE	a	4.7	5.3	(6.5)	7.4	7.3	(11.1)	15.6	15.3	-2.7
SI	5.8	2.9	3.4	5.7	2.0	2.3	(3.6)	2.0	2.1	2.6
SK	15.5	6.2	6.8	18.3	9.5	10.1	22.1	8.4	9.4	11.3
EU	**20.3**	**9.8**	**10.6**	**21.8**	**9.7**	**10.6**	**22.9**	**9.3**	**10.3**	**12.8**

Notes: (data in parenthesis): between 20 and 49 observations in the sample. 'a': Less than 20 observations.
Mean disability gap 2019-2020: As indicated above, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2019-2020 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy for 2020.

Table 14: Evolution of the shares of early school leavers, EU, aged 18-24

	EU 28			EU 27		
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Total**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**Total**
2006	23.4	13.2	13.9			
2007	24.0	12.7	13.4			
2008	25.1	12.2	13.2			
2009	23.0	12.3	13.1			
2010	21.6	12.0	12.7			
2011	18.9	11.0	11.6			
2012	21.8	10.3	11.2			
2013	21.5	9.4	10.4			
2014	22.5	11.2	12.2			
2015	22.0	11.7	12.5			
2016	23.6	11.0	12.0			
2017	19.6	9.5	10.3	21.8	9.8	10.7
2018	19.9	9.9	10.7	20.3	9.8	10.6
2019				21.8	9.7	10.6
2020				22.9	9,3	10.3

Data source: EU-SILC UDB. Data for 2020 are indicative.

4 Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)

4.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) are among the most vulnerable groups in the labour market. Over the long term, they could fail to adapt to new skill requirements and suffer from an erosion of competence, which might, in turn, lead to a higher risk of labour market and social exclusion.

The UN General Assembly Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' stipulates that people who are vulnerable must be empowered. Goal 8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG 8 draws particular attention to creating opportunities for youth who are not in education, employment or training in order to prevent future erosion of skills and discouragement in seeking work. In addition, SDG 4 seeks to ensure that people have access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life.

The 'Young people neither in employment nor in education and training' indicator is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals indicator set. Eurostat notes that it is used to monitor progress towards SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and quality education for all.

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030,[36] under the heading 'Developing new skills for new jobs', notes that, '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.'

The revised social scoreboard[37] presents a set of headline and secondary indicators. In the 'Equal opportunities' field, 'Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)' constitutes a headline indicator.

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan proposes to oversee a decrease in the rate of young people neither in employment nor in education and training aged 15 to 29 to 9 % by 2030.

4.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

4.2.1 General comments

In the EU 27 in 2020, the rate of young people aged 16-29 who were neither in employment nor in education and training was 14.1 %. The EU-LFS-based estimate

[36] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030', p. 12.

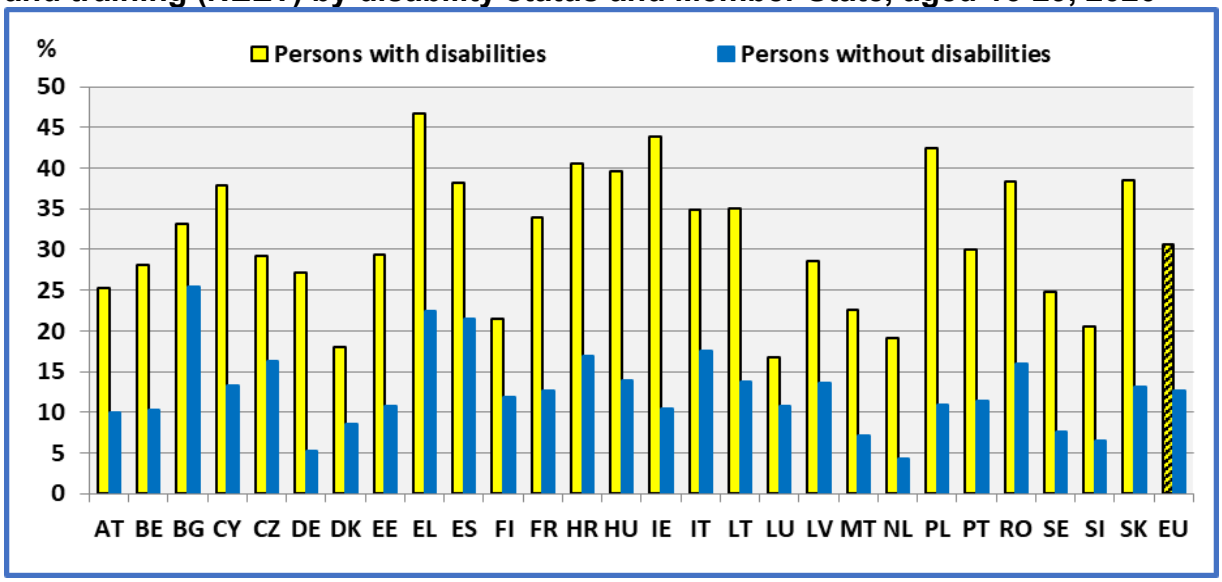
[37] European Commission (2021), *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

for the 15-29 age group was 13.8 %.[38] The EU-SILC survey covers persons aged 16 and over. There is a good correlation between the national estimates provided by the two surveys, although the timing of implementation was different (R^2=0.67, n=27).

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 30.6 % of young people aged 16-29 were neither in employment nor in education and training. This rate was 12.6 % for young persons without disabilities in the same age group.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the highest rates could be found in Poland, Ireland and Greece, in ascending order. Even for countries with low rates (Luxembourg, Denmark and Netherlands), the level of difference in comparison with persons without disabilities remained relatively high.

Figure 17: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and Member State, aged 16-29, 2020



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, the indicators are indicative. The LFS provides relatively stable estimates between 2019-2020 for Italy, but with an important increase for Germany (+ 1.5 percentage points). These LFS estimates refer to all persons (Data extracted on 21 May 2022 from [ESTAT].).
The sample for Bulgaria is relatively small and the estimate is indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019 for Germany and Italy.

4.2.2 Disability gap in NEET rates

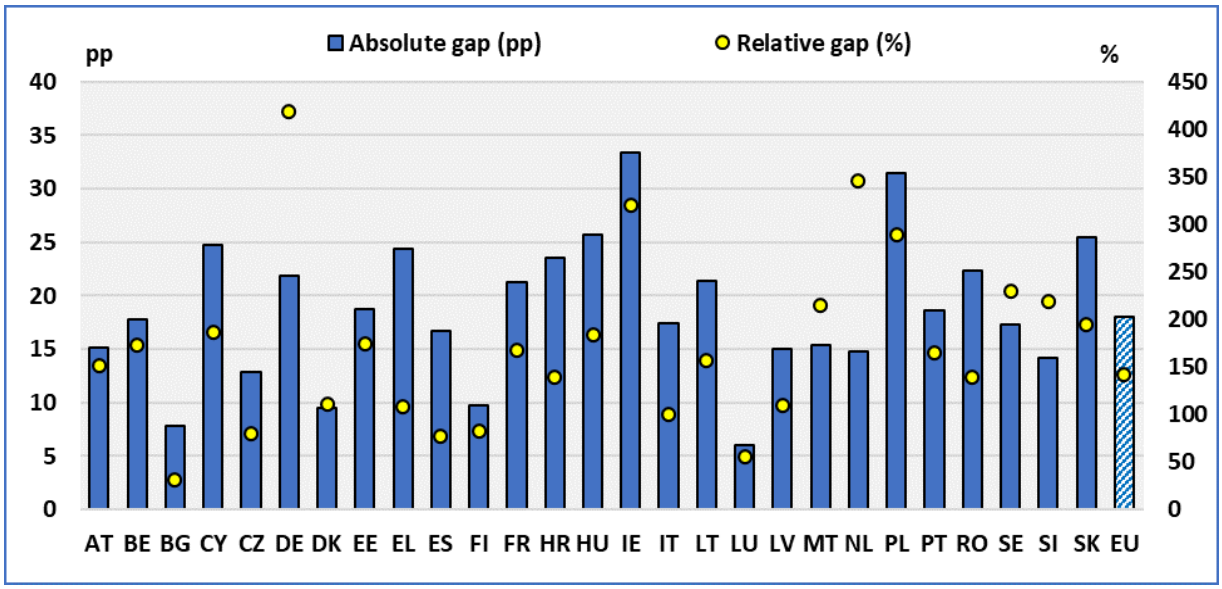
In the following figure, one may note that the absolute gap (difference) between persons with and without disabilities was 18 percentage points (142.3 % was the relative gap).

The highest absolute gaps could be found in Hungary, Poland and Ireland (in ascending order). The lowest absolute gaps could be found in Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Denmark.

[38] Data extracted on 21 May 2022 [ESTAT]: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_08_20/default/table?lang=en.

Figure 18: Disability gap among young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by Member State, aged 16-29, 2020

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities
Relative gap = 100*(% persons without disabilities - % persons with disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.



Note: The sample for Bulgaria is relatively small and the estimate is indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019 for Germany and Italy.

4.2.3 NEET by gender

The following table indicates that there is no gender gap among persons with disabilities. The percentage of young disabled men not in education, employment or training (32.0 %) was higher in comparison with the percentage for young disabled women (29.4 %). The situation was reversed among persons without disabilities.

Table 15: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and gender, aged 16-29, EU, 2020

	Persons with disabilities			**Persons without disabilities**		
	No NEET	NEET	Total	No NEET	NEET	Total
Men	68.0	32.0	100	88.9	11.1	100
Women	70.7	29.4	100	85.7	14.3	100
Total	69.4	30.6	100	87.4	12.6	100

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019 for Germany and Italy.

The sample of observations concerning young disabled persons aged 16-29 was relatively small in several Member States and did not enable us to study further gender issues.

4.2.4 NEET by degree of disability

An important lesson from our analysis concerns young persons with severe disabilities. It is evident that the rate of young people neither in employment nor in education and training increases sharply with the degree of disability.

The rates were 12.6 % for young persons without disabilities, 24.6 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 51.8 % for persons with severe disabilities.

A policy of inclusion requires more active policies in favour of young persons with severe disabilities. The high rate reported here reveals the high risk of socio-economic exclusion and marginalisation.

4.3 Statistical tables

Table 16: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and Member State, aged 16-29, EU, 2020

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Absolute gap (pp)	Relative gap (%)
AT	25.2	10.0	12.0	15.2	150.9
BE	28.0	10.3	11.8	17.7	172.4
BG	33.2	25.4	25.6	7.8	30.8
CY	38.0	13.3	14.7	24.7	186.2
CZ	29.1	16.2	17.2	12.9	79.4
DE	27.1	5.2	7.0	21.9	418.7
DK	18.0	8.6	10.7	9.4	110.3
EE	29.4	10.7	13.3	18.7	174.4
EL	46.8	22.4	23.2	24.4	108.8
ES	38.1	21.5	22.6	16.7	77.7
FI	21.5	11.8	14.1	9.7	82.6
FR	33.9	12.7	14.4	21.2	167.4
HR	40.5	16.9	18.2	23.6	139.6
HU	39.7	14.0	15.3	25.7	183.8
IE	43.8	10.4	14.1	33.4	320.7
IT	34.9	17.5	18.4	17.4	99.4
LT	35.1	13.7	15.9	21.4	156.7
LU	16.8	10.8	11.5	6.0	55.6
LV	28.6	13.7	15.0	15.0	109.4
MT	22.5	7.2	7.9	15.4	214.8
NL	19.1	4.3	6.3	14.8	345.8
PL	42.4	10.9	13.1	31.5	288.6
PT	30.0	11.3	13.2	18.6	164.3
RO	38.4	16.0	17.2	22.4	139.7
SE	24.9	7.6	8.9	17.3	229.4
SI	20.6	6.4	7.4	14.1	219.4
SK	38.5	13.1	14.7	25.4	194.1
EU	**30.6**	**12.6**	**14.1**	**18.0**	**142.3**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019 for Germany and Italy.

5 Tertiary education

5.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 24 of the UN CRPD, which covers 'Education', notes that, 'States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity. States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning'.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The Declaration stipulates that people who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include, notably, persons with disabilities. Goal 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

On 30 September 2020, the Commission adopted two initiatives to strengthen the contribution of education and training to the EU's recovery from the coronavirus crisis. They are aimed at achieving a European Education Area by 2025 and resetting education and training for the digital age.[39] The Communication on the European Education Area clearly states that 'Education systems at all levels should comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'.

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, in addressing inclusive and accessible education, notes that more young persons with disabilities leave school early and fewer learners with disabilities complete a university degree.[40] Furthermore, it adds that 'monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities'.

In addition, the Commission, in its guidance to Member States on recovery and resilience plans, notes that these plans should identify relevant indicators to monitor the reduction of disparities. The indicators could include, notably, education and training.[41]

The Europe 2030 target aims to increase the share of the population aged 30-34 who have completed tertiary education to more than 40 % at the EU 27 level. Consequently, this chapter presents the share of the population aged 30-34 who have successfully completed university or similar (tertiary level) education.

[39] See https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1743.

[40] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.

[41] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/692a886f-7cfc-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

The revised social scoreboard[42] presents a set of headline and secondary indicators. In the 'Equal opportunities' field, 'Tertiary educational attainment' among the 30-34 age group constitutes a secondary indicator.

5.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

5.2.1 Comparison between EU-SILC and LFS estimates

Eurostat and the Member States use the LFS survey in order to monitor the percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education. Currently, the LFS survey does not distinguish between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities (except in a limited number of Member States). However, this survey is expected to include the GALI indicator in its 2021 run.

The following analysis used the EU-SILC survey. In order to assess the strength of this indicator, the results were compared for all persons in both surveys (see below).

The two estimates might be different due to sampling characteristics, the structure of the relevant questions (nomenclature of educational levels) and implementation practices (even if classifications are similar). In addition, the timing of the implementation of the surveys was different.

First, a comparison of the results of the two surveys for all persons aged 30-34 at the EU level found that both surveys presented similar results through time, but the EU-SILC survey tended to provide an estimate that was higher in comparison with the LFS. In 2019, a year for which full data was available at the time of producing this report, the difference was about 2 percentage points, despite efforts to harmonise classifications. However, the timing of implementation of the two surveys was different. In addition, the EU-SILC estimate presented a higher variability.

Secondly, a comparison of the national estimates found that the two surveys provide similar figures in that regard. Specifically, there is a high correlation (R^2=0.86, n=27) between EU-SILC and LFS national estimates in 2019, a year for which data was available for all Member States. However, big differences can be observed for certain Member States. This requires further analysis and comparison of the methodologies used by the two surveys.

Thirdly, the LFS estimates are annual averages while the EU-SILC estimates are based on a specific period: in general, the first two quarters of the year, except in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As indicated below (see Methodology) the two surveys used different classifications for educational curricula prior to 2014. Furthermore, the LFS used a much more detailed classification in comparison with EU-SILC.

[42] European Commission (2021), *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

For the EU 27 Member States, the LFS survey indicated that in 2020, 41.1 % of the population aged 30-34 had successfully completed university or similar (tertiary-level) education. The equivalent rate for the EU-SILC survey was 44.1 %.

In the following analysis, we used EU-SILC data, as it enables a distinction to be made between persons with and without disabilities.

5.2.2 General comments

The EU considers that education has a central role in this important strategy in fostering both societal and economic progress across the EU. It notes that education is crucial for young people's transition from education into the labour market and for their successful integration into society. Higher educational attainment levels increase employability and reduce poverty in the context of a knowledge-based economy.

This indicator presents a specific problem for persons with disabilities. In several Member States, the number of observations in the EU-SILC survey concerning persons with disabilities aged 30-34 was relatively small. In order to solve this problem, we present an average for the past two years. The EU annual estimate is still robust.

In the EU 27 in 2020, the rate of persons with disabilities aged 30-34 who had completed a tertiary or equivalent education was 33.5 %. The rate was 45.3 % for persons without disabilities, while the rate for all persons aged 30-34 was 44.1 %.[43] The target for Europe 2020 was 40 %. The new target is to increase further the rate of persons who have completed a tertiary education.

At the EU 27 level, about 0.9 million persons with disabilities (aged 30-34 and living in private households) had acquired a tertiary or equivalent education, out of 2.6 million disabled persons with the same age and housing conditions.

Table 17: Persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education, aged 30-34, EU, 2020

	Less than tertiary	Tertiary or equivalent	Total
	1 000 000		
Persons without disabilities	13.0	10.7	23.7
Persons with disabilities	1.7	0.9	2.6
Total	14.7	11.6	26.3
			%
Persons without disabilities	54.7	45.3	100
Persons with disabilities	66.5	33.5	100
Total	55.9	44.1	100

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change

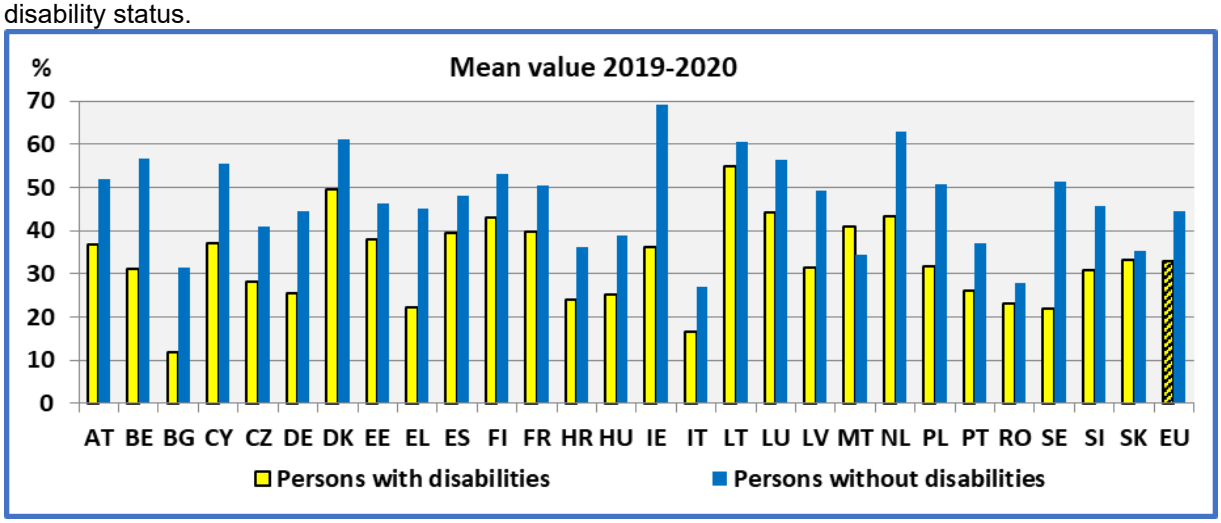
[43] This rate covers only persons for whom we have information on disability status.

drawn from the LFS survey; consequently, the indicators are indicative. This affects the EU 27 aggregate. The data have not been adjusted for missing values.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

Given the low number of observations in the sample of persons with disabilities in the 30-34 age group, we present below the mean value for the past two years. This does not change significantly the picture provided by the annual data.

The lowest rates for persons with disabilities can be found in Bulgaria, Italy and Sweden. The highest level of achievement for persons with disabilities can be found in Luxembourg, Denmark and Lithuania, in ascending order.

Figure 19: Percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by Member State and disability status, aged 30-34
Share of the population who has completed a tertiary or equivalent education of the same age and disability status.



Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

5.2.3 Disability gap in tertiary education

The disadvantage of people with disabilities may be measured in different ways. One method consists of measuring the difference between the percentage of people with and without disabilities who have completed a tertiary education.

During 2019-2020, at the EU 27 level, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities aged 30-34 was 11.5 percentage points. It was 11.1 percentage points in 2019 and 11.8 percentage points in 2020.

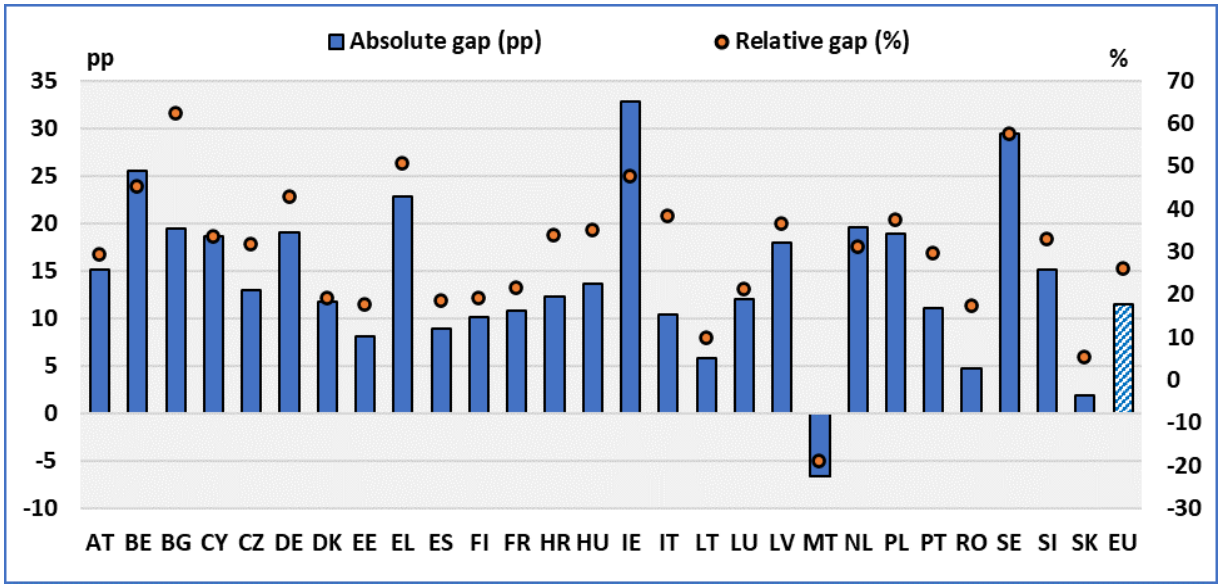
The annual estimates for the EU 27 are robust, but this is not the case regarding the annual estimates for a number of Member States. As noted, the sample size of persons with disabilities aged 30-34 is relatively small for several Member States. Consequently, for country comparisons, we prefer to use the mean of two consecutive years.

The average education gap is high in the majority of Member States. One may note small absolute gaps in Malta and Slovakia, but they are characterised by a high degree

of variability. On the other hand, significant gaps are found in Belgium, Sweden and Ireland, in ascending order.

Figure 20: Disability gap in tertiary education or equivalent by Member State, age 30-34, average 2019-2020

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities
Relative gap = 100*(% persons without disabilities - % persons with disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.



Average (or mean) 2019-2020 disability gap: as indicated in the text, due to the small size of certain national samples, the standard errors (variability) of the means are relatively high. In order to attenuate this problem, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2019-2020 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

5.2.4 Tertiary education by gender

Concerning gender, in the EU in 2020, about 38.4 % of women with disabilities aged 30-34 had completed a tertiary or equivalent education, in comparison with 26.9 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 18: Percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by disability status, aged 30-34, EU, 2020

Persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education, aged 30-34, as a percentage of all persons of the same sex, age and disability status.

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	Less	With tertiary education	Total	Less	With tertiary education	Total
Men	73.1	26.9	100	60.2	39.8	**100**
Women	61.6	38.4	100	50.0	50.1	**100**
Total	66.7	33.4	**100**	55.0	45.0	**100**

Note: Data for Germany and Italy refer to 2019 and are not corrected for 2019-2020 change. This explains small differences in the EU aggregate from previous tables.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

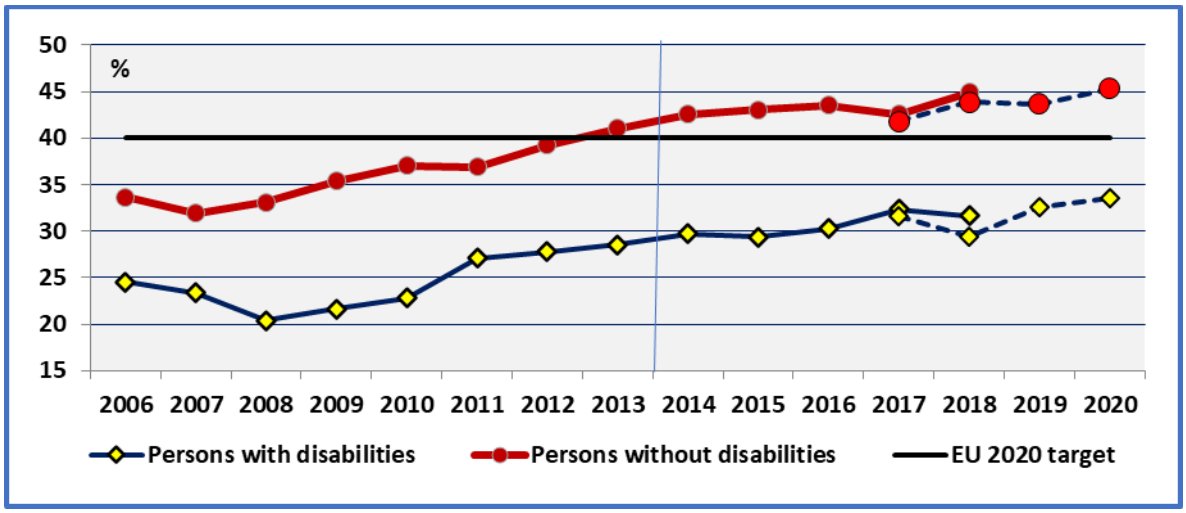
5.2.5 Evolution

A continuous improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities may be observed between 2008 and 2020. The small downward change in 2015 was the result of the change in the definition of 'disability' in Germany.

At first glance, it appears that the situation reversed between 2017 and 2018. However, the number of observations in the sample, notably for persons with disabilities aged 30-34, is relatively small. The change between 2017 and 2018 was not significant at the 95 % level.

Figure 21: Evolution of the share of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by disability status, EU, aged 30-34

Share of the population of the same age group and disability status.
Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: Change of classification in 2014. In 2015, there was a change in definitions in Germany, leading to a nominal downward movement. The 2020 values are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

In the EU 27 since 2008, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities has remained high. It was about 11.1 percentage points (relative gap: 25.5 %) in 2019 and 11.8 percentage points (relative gap: 26.0 %) in 2020.[44]

[44] Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities.
Relative gap = 100*(% persons without disabilities - % persons with disabilities) / % persons without disabilities. In the previous year, the denominator was persons with disabilities.

5.3 Statistical tables

Table 19: Percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by Member State and disability status, aged 30-34

Share of the population of the same age group and disability status.
Due to the limited number of observations, estimates for persons with disabilities are indicative. The indicator for the EU target refers to ISCED 2011 level 5-8 (data from 2014 onwards).

	2018			2019			2020			Mean disability gap 2019-2020
	Disability			Disability			Disability			Gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	42.1	49.0	47.6	34.7	51.2	47.3	39.1	52.9	50.4	15.1
BE	35.3	52.0	49.8	30.4	55.8	52.5	31.7	57.4	53.9	25.5
BG	(7.6)	33.4	32.6	(6.4)	32.5	31.5	(17.3)	30.2	29.9	19.5
CY	43.1	59.3	57.9	42.7	56.1	55.0	31.4	55.2	52.9	18.6
CZ	35.7	41.2	40.7	27.1	39.2	38.0	29.2	43.0	41.6	12.9
DE	17.0	44.2	41.2	25.1	43.9	42.2	25.9	45.2	43.5	19.1
DK	(45.5)	52.5	51.4	49.5	58.5	56.6	49.7	64.0	60.4	11.7
EE	43.4	49.3	48.0	44.0	44.9	44.7	32.3	47.5	45.2	8.1
EL	33.8	44.2	43.8	20.2	45.7	44.6	24.3	44.3	43.3	22.8
ES	31.7	47.1	45.9	36.1	46.3	45.5	42.7	50.1	49.2	8.8
FI	42.4	48.1	46.6	40.1	53.0	49.9	45.9	53.1	51.1	10.1
FR[2]	28.9	50.3	47.6	42.5	48.4	47.6	37.1	52.8	51.1	10.8
HR	17.3	31.8	30.5	28.7	33.6	33.2	19.2	38.7	37.2	12.2
HU	23.1	33.7	33.1	33.7	37.2	37.0	(17.0)	40.7	39.2	13.6
IE	(39.9)	61.7	60.4	(30.4)	69.8	67.8	(42.3)	68.5	66.0	32.8
IT	23.8	28.1	27.8	16.6	27.0	26.3	16.7	27.1	26.5	10.4
LT	(46.9)	64.9	63.2	54.1	61.5	60.2	55.6	59.8	59.3	5.8
LU	35.9	53.5	51.0	46.8	57.8	56.7	(41.9)	54.8	53.9	11.9
LV	42.9	49.2	47.9	32.1	47.3	45.3	30.7	51.4	48.7	17.9
MT	a	34.0	33.4	(40.2)	34.1	34.4	(41.9)	34.8	35.1	-6.6
NL	49.2	64.0	61.1	41.7	62.2	59.1	44.8	63.6	60.5	19.6
PL	32.2	49.9	48.5	33.1	49.9	48.5	30.5	51.5	49.8	18.9
PT	30.6	35.1	34.4	24.0	37.0	35.2	28.4	37.4	36.2	11.0
RO	18.0	28.8	28.1	22.6	28.5	28.1	(23.4)	27.0	26.9	4.8
SE	(27.0)	54.9	52.6	(21.8)	51.6	49.3	(21.9)	50.9	49.2	29.4
SI	38.9	43.3	42.6	34.4	45.9	44.1	(27.1)	45.7	44.1	15.0
SK	29.7	35.5	34.9	34.6	34.7	34.7	32.2	35.7	35.2	1.8
EU	**29.4**	**43.8**	**42.3**	**32.5**	**43.6**	**42.5**	**33.5**	**45.3**	**44.1**	**11.5**

Note 1: '(data in parenthesis)': Between 20 and 49 observations. 'a': Less than 20 observations.
Note 2: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 change. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change drawn from the LFS survey; consequently, the indicators are indicative. This affects the EU 27 aggregate. Mean disability gap 2019-2020: as indicated above, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2019-2020 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB, different years.

Table 20: Evolution of the share of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by disability status, aged 30-34

	EU 28		EU 2020	EU 27	
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Target**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**
2006	24.5	33.7	40		
2007	23.4	31.9	40		
2008	20.4	33.1	40		
2009	21.6	35.4	40		
2010	22.8	37.0	40		
2011	27.1	36.9	40		
2012	27.8	39.3	40		
2013	28.5	41.1	40		
2014	29.7	42.6	40		
2015	29.4	43.0	40		
2016	30.3	43.5	40		
2017	32.4	42.5	40	31.7	41.8
2018	31.7	44.9	40	29.4	43.8
2019			40	32.5	43.6
2020			40	33.5	45.3

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations for 2020.

6 Disability pay gap

6.1 Relevance to EU policy/strategy

The Commission notes that equal pay for equal work is one of the European Union's founding principles, embedded in the Treaties since 1957.[45] Article 157 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that each Member State shall ensure that the principle is applied. Directive 2006/54/EC enshrines the principle of equal pay.

The Equality Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030[46] notes that the EU has put in place a comprehensive body of EU anti-discrimination legislation to ensure equal treatment regardless of sex, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic origin, age, religion or belief. The Employment Equality Directive provides for specific measures to ensure equal treatment of persons with disabilities.

In the past, EU policy has notably focused on closing the gender pay gap, and this is one of the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights. A certain number of principles promoting gender equality could be transposed to disability equality – for example, challenging disability stereotypes; closing disability gaps in the labour market; and achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy.

In the following analysis, we propose the development of an indicator to measure the disability pay gap. It ought to help monitor progress on equality by, among other things, ending all forms of discrimination and any harmful practices against persons with disabilities in the labour market.

The methodology applied to the gender statistical indicator might be a basis for the proposed indicator. The gender pay gap is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator set. It is used to monitor progress towards gender equality, which is embedded in the European Commission's Priorities under the headings 'An economy that works for people' and 'A new push for European democracy'.

The proposed indicator ought to measure the disability pay gap in unadjusted form (persons with disabilities versus persons without disabilities). It is unadjusted because it does not take into account differences in education, skills, etc.

6.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

6.2.1 Interpreting the EU-SILC data and the SES survey

In order to estimate the gender pay gap, Eurostat uses the methodology of the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), which is carried out every four years. The survey provides EU-wide harmonised structural data on gross earnings, hours paid, etc. However, it does not provide information on disability.

[45] See https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_05_20_esmsip2.htm.
[46] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030', p. 17.

The following analysis draws on information collected by the EU-SILC survey in order to estimate the disability pay gap (see methodology in the Annex). The EU-SILC data provides information on gross employee income during the past 12 months, the number of months spent at work as employee during the same period and the number of hours usually worked per week at the time of interview. In summary, gross employee income is taken and adjusted for the number of months and the number of hours in order to increase comparability across countries.

Given the data limitations, the proposed indicator is a proxy for the disability pay gap. It follows a methodology similar to the one used by Eurostat in the development of its gender pay gap indicator. Only employees currently working in enterprises employing 10 or more persons are included, and the public sector is excluded. A large age group (15-74) is covered. Eurostat does not impose any age restriction in relation to the gender pay gap.

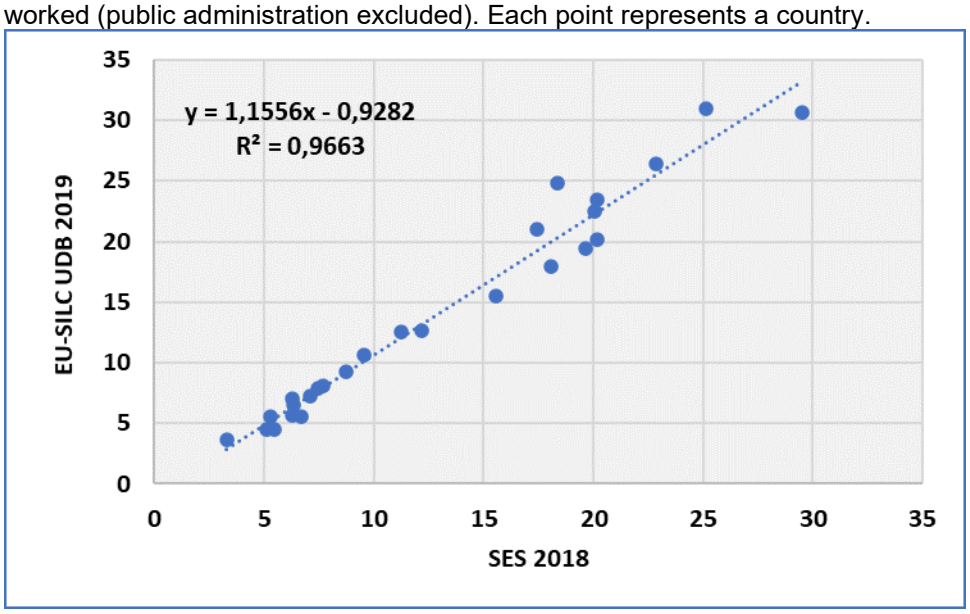
The indicator measures the difference between average gross earnings of paid employees with disabilities and of paid employees without disabilities as a percentage of average gross earnings of paid employees without disabilities.

In order to assess the robustness of the indicator, the mean national hourly wage for all persons, provided by the method as outlined above, is compared with the one derived from the SES survey, provided by Eurostat. The following figure indicates a very high correlation of national estimates (R^2=0.97, n=26) (see details in the Statistical annex).

In the following figure, both surveys provide an estimate of mean gross hourly employee income of EUR 15.4.

Figure 22: Mean gross hourly employee income, 26 Member States

All employees, aged 15-74, working in firms with 10 or more employees, without restrictions for hours worked (public administration excluded). Each point represents a country.



Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 RELEASE 1 2021 and Structure of earnings survey 2018 (earn_ses2018). Data extracted on 26 May 2022 [ESTAT]: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/earn_ses2018_esms.htm.

Furthermore, Eurostat presents a gender pay gap in unadjusted form of 13.7 % in the EU 27 in 2019. It includes all employees working in firms with 10 or more employees, without restrictions for age and hours worked.

Applying the same methodology to the EU-SILC data, we find a similar gender pay gap (13.4 %). Despite this similarity, however, there are significant differences between the national estimates of the two surveys for a certain number of Member States, notably for small national samples (R^2=0.45, n=26 – without Malta).

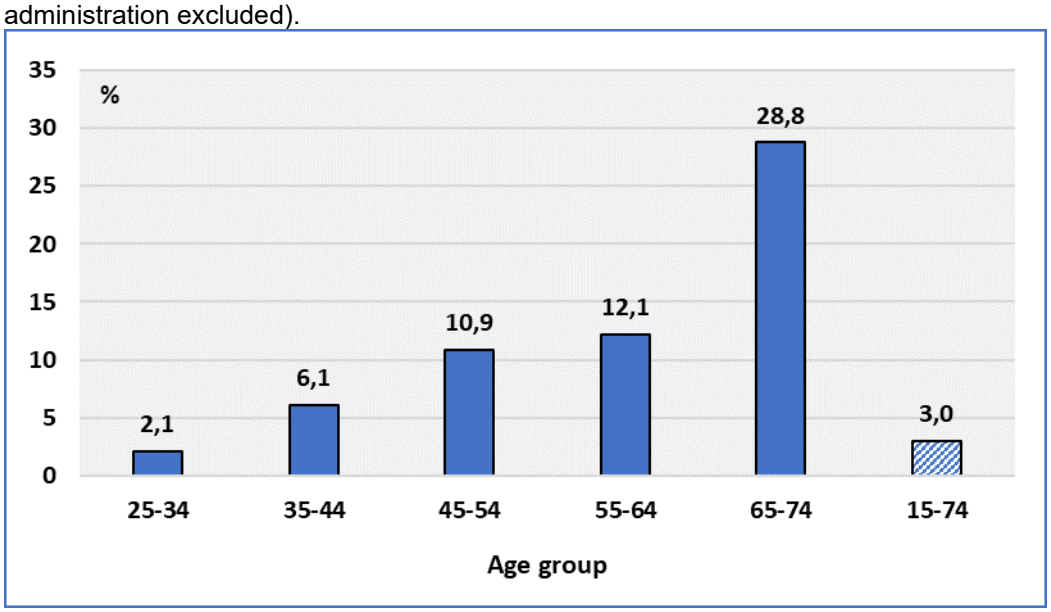
6.2.2 General comments

In the following analysis, we use EU-SILC 2019 data. It should be noted that EU-SILC microdata available at the time of producing this report did not include Germany and Italy. In addition, the 2020 wage data were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and by significant national measures to retain employment during lockdown periods.

Concerning the disability pay gap in the EU 27, as noted previously, we focused on employed persons aged 16-75 working in companies employing 10 or more employees, excluding those in public administration. The crude disability pay gap is 3.0 %.

However the disability pay gap by age group is calculated, we find that the rates are significantly higher for all age groups (except the 15-25 age group, not reported here due to low robustness).

Figure 23: Disability pay gap as a percentage, age 15-74, EU, 2019
All employees working in firms with 10 or more employees, without restrictions for hours worked ((public administration excluded).



Note: We did not report the estimate for age 15-24 because the sample was relatively small.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 RELEASE 1 2021.

This apparent contradiction between the global rate and the rates by age group is due to an age composition effect. Disability prevalence increases with age and, consequently, persons with disabilities are over-represented among older workers. On the other hand, wages increase significantly with age. This implies that even if wages

of persons with disabilities are lower in comparison with those of persons without disabilities, at each age, the average wage for all disabled persons might be higher relative to non-disabled persons. In this case, it is not higher, but the relative gap has decreased to 3 %.

As the age composition of the two groups (with and without disabilities) is not similar and as our variable (wages) depends on age, we standardised the data by age. We used the EU 27 age structure (age standardising proportions). This is the equivalent of comparing two groups of persons with similar age structures.

In the EU in 2019, the age-adjusted disability pay gap was 9.6 % (the same definition as the crude rate but age adjusted).[47]

6.2.3 Disability pay gap by size of company

An interesting question is whether small firms (employing fewer than 10 persons) discriminate more or less in comparison with bigger firms (employing 10 persons or more).

The following figure indicates that small firms present a significantly lower disability pay gap in comparison with bigger companies (employing 10 or more persons).[48] However, a more detailed analysis indicates that the relation is not monotonic. The rate does not increase steadily as the size increases; there are important fluctuations. In other words, we can see big rates in small firms (e.g. those employing six persons). The data were age adjusted.

Another question is whether the rate varies by occupation. In the following figure, one can see that the lowest (reversed) disability gap exists among elementary occupations, and the highest gap exists among managers. The data were age-adjusted.

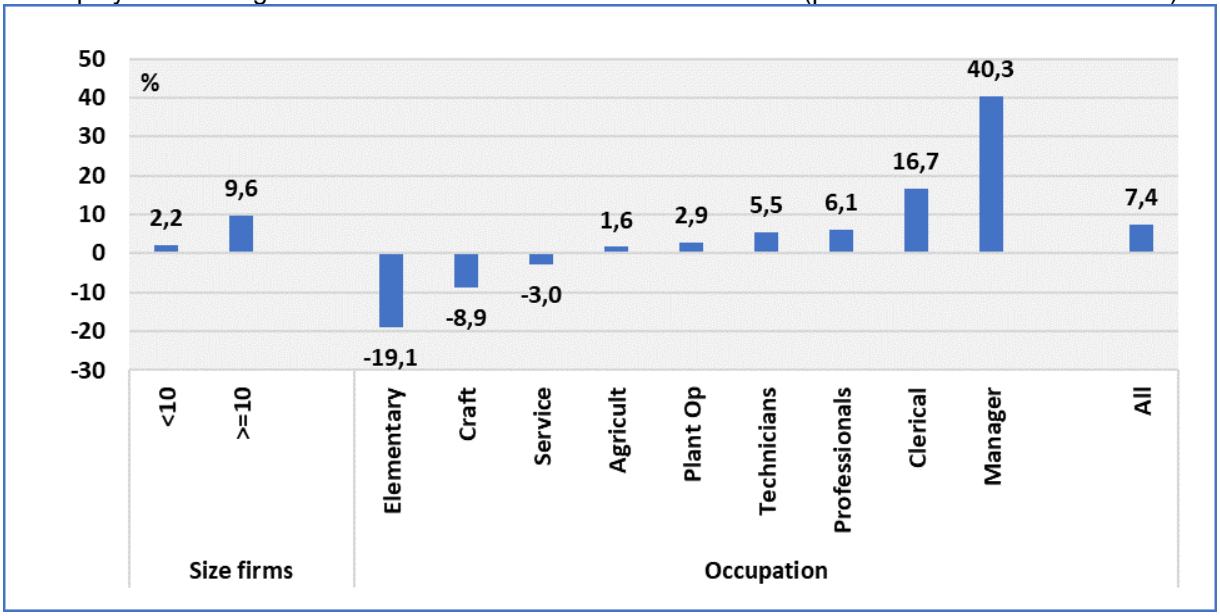
However, the data are indicative and require further analysis.

[47] In previous ANED reports, we presented an estimation of the disability pay gap with a slightly different definition. In this report, we tried to align as closely as possible with the gender pay gap used by Eurostat. In the ANED reports, we presented a disability pay gap for those employed, aged 20-64, age adjusted, in firms employing 10 people or more, without any standardisation by the number of months employed. For comparison, if we do not standardise by months employed, the disability pay gap is 13.7 % for the age group 15-74, and 9.6 % for persons aged 20-64.

[48] If we compare all persons by gender, we find that the gender pay gap is lower in small companies (employing 10 or fewer persons) in comparison with bigger companies (employing 10 or more).

Figure 24: Disability pay gap, age adjusted, by size of firm and occupation, age 15-74, EU, 2019

All employees working in firms without restrictions for hours worked (public administration excluded).



Note: The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) distinguishes: 1 Managers, 2 Professionals, 3 Technicians and Associate Professionals, 4 Clerical Support Workers, 5 Service and Sales Workers, 6 Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers, 7 Craft and Related Trades Workers, 8 Plant and Machine Operators, and Assemblers and 9 Elementary Occupations.
See http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/index.htm.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

6.2.4 Disability pay gap by gender (among persons with disabilities)

The indicator highlights an important difference between men and women with disabilities. As before, our analysis includes employees working in firms with 10 or more employees, aged 15-75, not in public administration and without restriction concerning hours worked.

In the EU 27 in 2019, the disability pay gap was 3.5 % for disabled men and 17.7 % for disabled women. The comparison was done with all non-disabled persons with the same characteristics. The data were age-adjusted.

6.2.5 Disability pay gap by degree of disability

The degree of disability plays an important role. Again, the base for comparison is all persons without disabilities. In the EU 27 in 2019, the disability pay gap for persons with moderate disabilities was 8.1 %, and for persons with severe disabilities, it was 20.2 %.

6.3 Statistical tables

Table 21: Annual total gross employee income in EUR, 2019.

Employees aged 15-74 working in firms employing 10 or more employees (public administration excluded). Not age adjusted.

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	All	
AT	41 952	37 758	41 067	10.0
BE	44 311	36 078	43 206	18.6
BG	7 144	5 368	7 063	24.9
CY	24 757	21 088	24 383	14.8
CZ	15 356	11 762	14 848	23.4
DE	38 776	32 870	38 069	15.2
DK	59 949	48 610	57 378	18.9
EE	15 948	13 435	15 401	15.8
EL	17 623	18 054	17 650	-2.4
ES	24 820	22 930	24 693	7.6
FI	43 439	37 905	42 099	12.7
FR	34 946	29 330	34 110	16.1
HR	13 402	11 587	13 168	13.5
HU	9 239	7 142	8 993	22.7
IE	44 543	36 828	44 055	17.3
IT	29 003	29 113	29 014	-0.4
LT	11 158	9 564	10 914	14.3
LU	65 849	54 325	63 994	17.5
LV	14 863	11 937	14 103	19.7
NL	44 120	37 304	42 998	15.4
PL	11 638	9 999	11 471	14.1
PT	17 243	15 032	16 838	12.8
RO	9 477	8 877	9 422	6.3
SE	41 057	27 275	39 953	33.6
SI	23 116	17 942	22 233	22.4
SK	11 400	10 338	11 222	9.3
EU (26)	**29 901**	**27 162**	**29 568**	9.2

Note: The constraints exclude Malta from the sample. If we relax the restriction on firms' size in order to include all firms, we obtain: 27 668 for persons without disabilities and 25 329 for persons with disabilities.

Relative gap: 100*(Persons without disabilities-Persons with disabilities) / (Persons without disabilities)

Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

Table 22: Total gross employee income standardised by months employed and hours worked, not age adjusted, EUR

Employees aged 15-74 working in firms employing 10 or more employees (public administration excluded).

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	All	All/4.3 (hourly earnings)	Mean hourly earnings
	EU-SILC 2019				SES 2018
AT	91.5	86.4	90.4	21.0	17.4
BE	102.0	94.7	101.0	23.5	20.2
BG	15.9	12.2	15.8	3.7	3.3
CY	54.6	47.1	53.8	12.5	11.3
CZ	32.0	25.8	31.1	7.2	7.1
DE	84.5	74.3	83.3	19.4	19.7
DK	131.7	131.6	131.6	30.6	29.5
EE	34.6	31.8	34.0	7.9	7.5
EL	39.9	40.8	39.9	9.3	8.7
ES	54.5	50.5	54.2	12.6	12.2
FI	98.2	91.2	96.5	22.5	20.1
FR	78.3	70.4	77.1	17.9	18.1
HR	28.6	24.3	28.0	6.5	6.4
HU	19.6	17.2	19.3	4.5	5.5
IE	114.5	100.8	113.7	26.4	22.9
IT	66.4	69.3	66.7	15.5	15.6
LT	24.1	21.8	23.7	5.5	5.3
LU	135.6	121.8	133.3	31.0	25.1
LV	31.4	26.4	30.1	7.0	6.3
NL	107.7	101.5	106.7	24.8	18.3
PL	24.6	21.4	24.3	5.7	6.3
PT	35.4	31.8	34.8	8.1	7.7
RO	19.4	18.2	19.3	4.5	5.1
SE	88.2	66.9	86.5	20.1	20.2
SI	47.3	38.0	45.7	10.6	9.6
SK	24.0	22.5	23.8	5.5	6.7
EU (26)	**66.5**	**64.5**	**66.2**	**15.4**	**15.4**

Note: If we divide 'All' by the number of weeks per month (4.3), we have an indication of hourly earnings of employees, aged 15-74, working in firms employing ten or more employees (public administration excluded).

Mean hourly earnings: total, gross earnings in industry, construction and services (except public administration, defence, compulsory social security), in firms employing 10 employees or more, EUR, 2018. Source: Structure of earnings survey 2018 (earn_ses2018), data extracted on 26 May 2022 [ESTAT]: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/earn_ses2018_esms.htm.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

PART III: Fair working conditions

7 Employment rate

7.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 27 of the UN CRPD, which covers 'Work and employment', states notably that, 'States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities'.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Goal 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs and more efficient production. It calls for providing opportunities for full employment and decent work for all. Decent employment for all, including women, people with disabilities, youth, the elderly and migrants, is crucial for improving the wellbeing of society as a whole.

The European Pillar of Social Rights, under the 'Equal opportunities' heading, provides that, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, etc.

The Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) note that setting targets serve as an effective tool for monitoring the progress achieved against the employment and social objectives of Europe 2020. The Committees consider that the future EU employment rate target could be adapted in order to take into account the quality of jobs as well as their availability.[49]

The European Commission, in its Communication concerning the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, notes that participation in employment is the best way to ensure economic autonomy and social inclusion. It adds that monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities.

The European Commission has set out strategic guidance for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility in its 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS). Commission recommendations[50] provide, notably, that Member States should outline the most important national challenges in terms of gender equality and equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission notes that everyone has

[49] European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (2019) *Assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy : joint report of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and Social Protection Committee (SPC)*, Publications Office.

[50] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/692a886f-7cfc-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services available to the public (principle 3 of the European Pillar of Social Rights).

7.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

7.2.1 Interpreting the EU-SILC data

Eurostat uses the Labour Force Survey in order to assess the employment rate in the Member States. However, the LFS survey does not provide information on disability status (although a small number of national LFS questionnaires collect this data). Consequently, we have to use the EU-SILC survey in our analysis.

However, the Commission has adopted a new Regulation[51] concerning the Labour Force Survey, in which GALI is included. This Regulation shall apply from 1 January 2021, and the microdata will be available from the end of 2022. The Regulation provides that the LFS questionnaire will include the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM). The MEHM is a set of three general questions characterising three different concepts of health: a) Self-perceived health, b) Chronic morbidity and c) Activity limitations (GALI).

Consequently, for 2020, we have used the only available data, from EU-SILC. In order to facilitate comparisons between the two surveys, it must be noted that EU-SILC uses an employment rate that is based on self-defined status, while the LFS survey uses the ILO definition. According to that definition, employed persons are persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week, performed work, even for just one hour a week. In the EU-SILC survey, persons who worked for just one hour in the reference week would probably declare themselves to be unemployed.

As noted in previous reports, the LFS always presents a higher employment rate in comparison with the EU-SILC, but the evolution is strongly correlated. ANED/EDE reports have analysed and explained this difference between the two surveys.

It is important to note that the LFS survey also includes a question on main economic status, which is similar to the one used in the EU-SILC survey. The two surveys deliver identical results for the same definition/question based on self-assessment. For example, in the EU 27 in 2019, the EU-SILC provides an employment rate of 71.5 % for all persons aged 20-64. The LFS survey gives an estimate of 71.4 % based on the same definition.[52] However, the ILO definition provided a figure of 73.1 %.

The comments above do not raise questions concerning the statistical robustness of the estimates, as the two surveys provide coherent and consistent estimates across countries and through time for a given definition of the employment rate.

[51] Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 of 16 December 2019 specifying the technical items of the data set, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the labour force domain in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, *Official Journal of the European Union*, 30.12.2019 L 336/59.

[52] Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2019, version 1, release 2020.

As noted in previous reports, the national LFS estimates can be used to measure the gap between the EU employment target and current achievements. On the other hand, the EU-SILC data can be used to assess the gap between persons with and without disabilities.

7.2.2 General comments

The following analysis discusses the EU-SILC estimates for persons with and without disabilities.

The analysis refers to 2020. However, available EU-SILC UDB microdata, at the time of producing this report, did not include Germany and Italy. In order to assess the EU 27 aggregates, we used EU-SILC 2019 for Germany and Italy but corrected in order to take into account the overall evolution of employment in these countries. We applied the overall reduction by gender between 2019-2020, as provided by the LFS, to the 2019 employment rates for persons with and without disabilities. Consequently, indicators for Germany, Italy and the EU 27 are indicative.

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 50.7 % of persons with disabilities aged 20-64 were employed, in comparison with 75.1 % of persons without disabilities. The employment rate for all persons aged 20-64 was 70.8 %.[53]

At the EU 27 level, about 22.2 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were employed, out of 43.7 million disabled persons in the same age group.

Table 23: Employment by disability status, age 20-64, EU, 2020

	Not Employed	Employed	Total
1 000 000			
Persons without disabilities	51.3	154.8	206.2
Persons with disabilities	21.6	22.2	43.7
Total	72.9	177.0	249.9
%			
Persons without disabilities	24.9	75.1	100.0
Persons with disabilities	49.3	50.7	100.0
Total	29.2	70.8	100

Note: The analysis refers to 2020. However, available EU-SILC UDB microdata, at the time of producing this report, did not include Germany and Italy. In order to assess the EU 27 aggregates, we used EU-SILC 2019 data for Germany and Italy, corrected in order to take into account the overall evolution of employment in these countries. We applied the overall reduction between 2019-2020, as provided by the LFS, to the 2019 employment rates of persons with and without disabilities. Consequently, indicators for EU 27 are indicative.
Data source: 1) Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database; extracted on 14 April 2022 and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

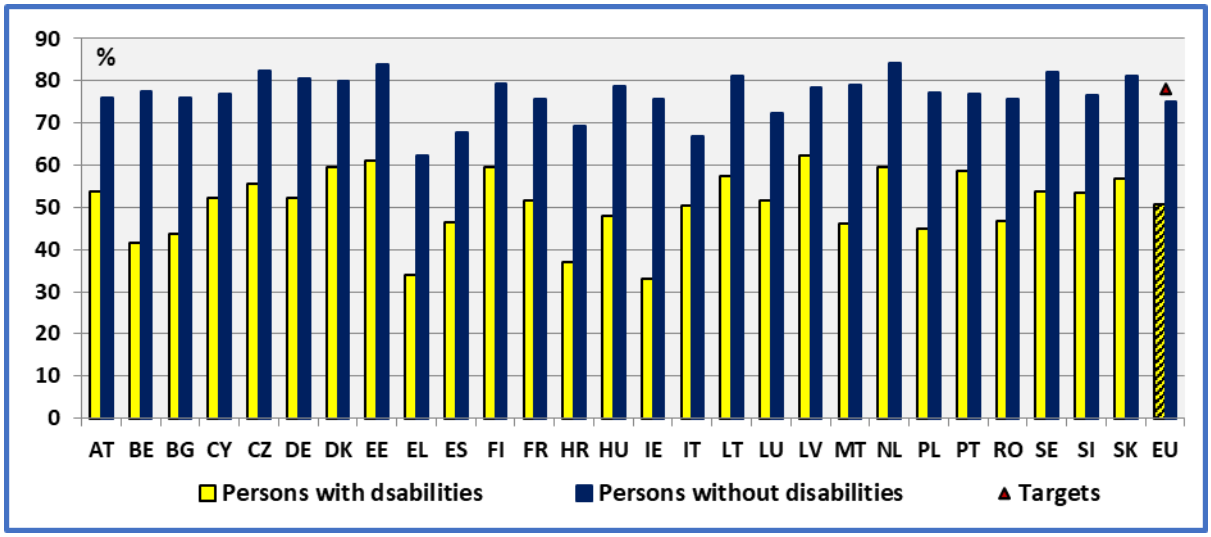
[53] The LFS 2020 provides an estimate of 71.7 %. See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database (data extracted on 14 April 2022).

According to EU-SILC estimates, the employment rate of people with disabilities was very low in Ireland, Greece and Croatia. Similar results were found in previous years.

On the contrary, this same rate was relatively high in Finland, Estonia and Latvia. A similar ranking was found in previous year.

It may be noted that countries with similar employment rates for non-disabled people displayed big and persistent differences for persons with disabilities. This means that there is potential for increasing the employment rate of people with disabilities in countries with lower employment rates for persons with disabilities.

Figure 25: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020



Note: The data for Germany, Italy and EU 27 are indicative.
Data source: 1) Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database; extracted on 14 April 2022 and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

In the EU 27 in 2020, the employment rate of people with disabilities was about 24.4 percentage points lower in comparison with the rate for people without disabilities. The relative difference was 32.5 %.[54] The disability employment gap will be studied further below.

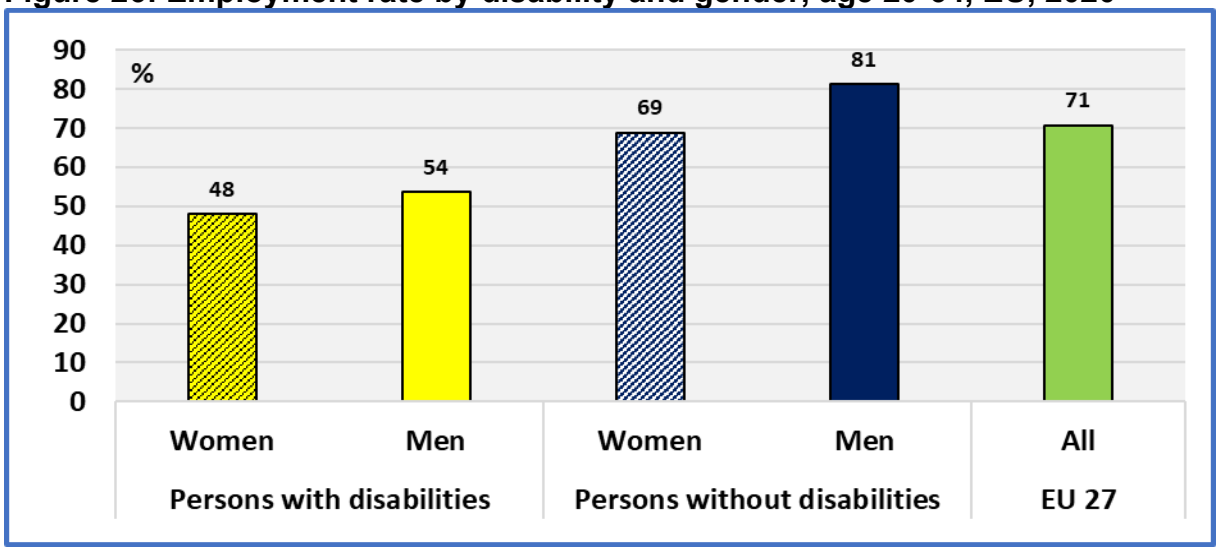
7.2.3 Employment by gender

In the EU 27, about 48.1 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were employed, in comparison with 53.7 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

It may be observed that the gender gap – the difference between men with disabilities and women with disabilities – is 5.6 percentage points.

[54] Relative difference = 100*(% Persons without disabilities – % Persons with disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).

Figure 26: Employment rate by disability and gender, age 20-64, EU, 2020

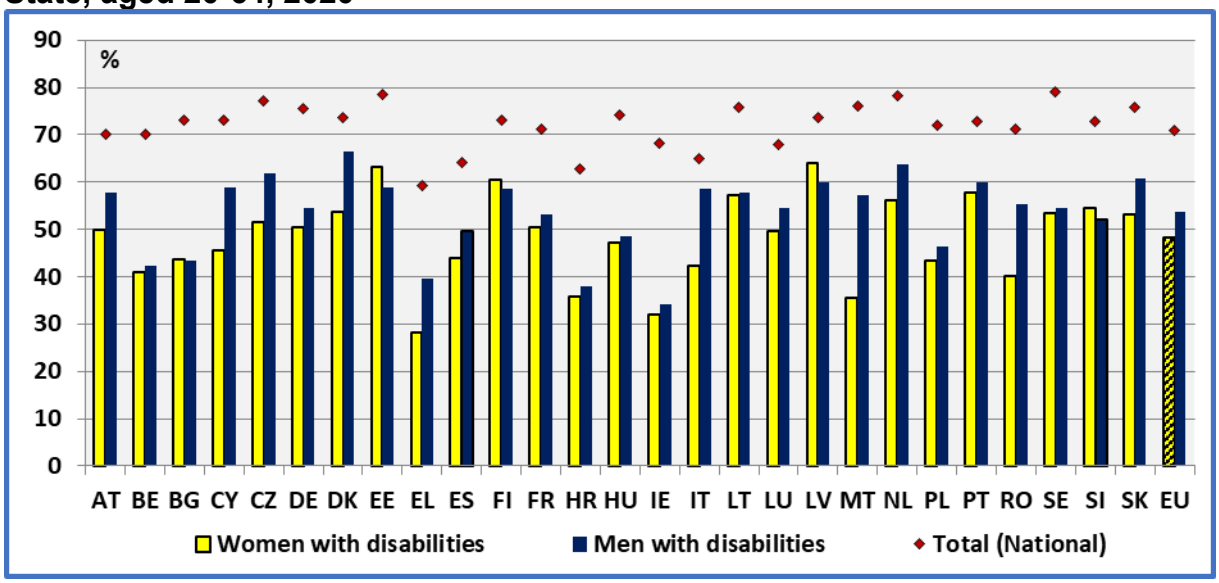


Data source: Author's own calculations based on 1) Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database; extracted on 14 April 2022 and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

In the following figure, it may be observed that the highest gender gaps, among persons with disabilities, can be found in Romania (15.2 percentage points), Italy (16.3 percentage points) and Malta (21.8 percentage points). The latest ought to be treated with caution due to the small sample size.

In several Member States, the gender gap is extremely small or is reversed.

Figure 27: Employment rate for persons with disabilities by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2020



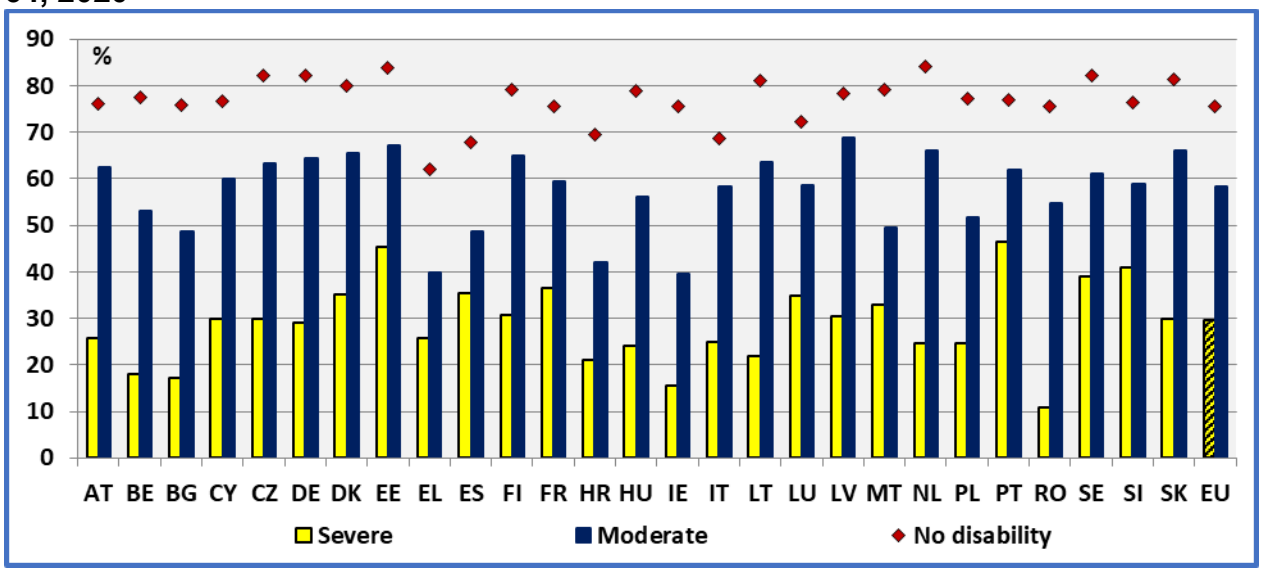
Note: The data for Germany, Italy and the EU 27 are indicative.
Data source: Author's own calculations based on 1) Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database; extracted on 14 April 2022 and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

7.2.4 Employment by degree

Concerning the degree of disability, the employment rates for persons aged 20-64 in the EU were 29.6 % for persons with severe disabilities, 58.3 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 75.7 % for persons without disabilities.[55]

The countries with the highest employment rates for persons with severe disabilities were Slovenia (40.9 %), Estonia (45.4 %) and Portugal (46.3 %).

Figure 28: Employment rate by degree of disability and Member State, age 20-64, 2020



Note: Data for Germany and Italy refer to 2019. This affects the EU 27 indicator.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

7.2.5 Evolution of employment in the Member States

Comparisons between 2019 and 2020 ought to be treated with caution due to the effect of the COVID-2019 pandemic. In addition, in certain countries, the EU-SILC survey took place at the beginning of 2020, while in others it was undertaken at the end of 2020.

In this report, we estimate that in the EU 27 in 2020, about 177 million persons aged 20-64 were employed (see previous table). In 2019, we reported 179 million persons employed; this represents a reduction of about 2 million persons. For comparison, the LFS survey presents a reduction of about 3 million persons.[56] However, the definitions of employment used are different. In addition, the LFS refers to the annual average while the EU-SILC refers to a specified quarter for each Member State.

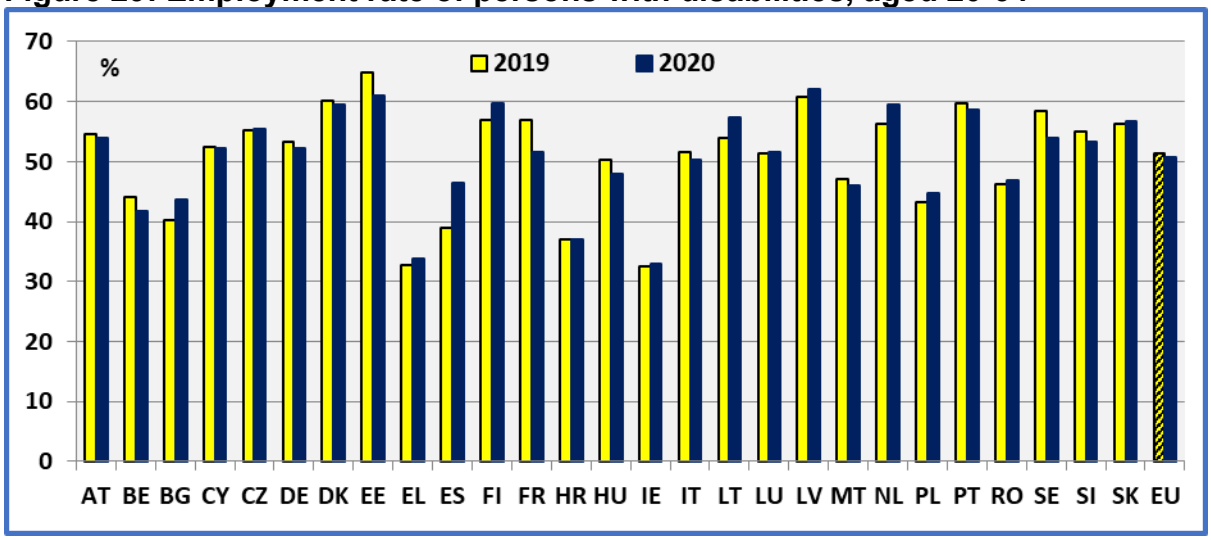
In any case, the overall decrease in employment was relatively small. This was due partly to reduced working hours and active labour market policies. In 2020, aggregate working hours declined by 8 %[57] in order to adjust to the specific circumstances. In

[55] Data for Germany and Italy refer to 2019. This affects the EU 27 indicator.
[56] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsi_emp_a/default/table?lang=en.
[57] Doleschel J. and Manu, A., 'Scarring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy – reviewing recent evidence', *ECB Economic Bulletin*,

addition, the European Union substantially supported employment in response to the COVID-19 crisis. First, the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) loan system was introduced. Secondly, the European Investment Bank's European Guarantee Fund provided guarantees backing additional financing for firms, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Thirdly, the Recovery and Resilience Facility provided support to corporates, albeit more indirectly.[58]

For the above reasons, the decline in employment was moderate. In addition, one should bear in mind that the EU-SILC survey took place in the first quarter of 2020 in some countries, and in the fourth quarter in others. For these reasons, we cannot compare the evolution between countries in the following figures.

Figure 29: Employment rate of persons with disabilities, aged 20-64



Note: Data for Spain present a break in time series.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

7.2.6 Evolution of employment at the EU level

Since 2010, a continuous small increase in the employment rate of persons with disabilities can be observed at the EU level. The decline between 2014-2015 was the result of changes in the German questionnaire concerning disability and the ensuing breakdown of the statistical series. This correction ought to give a flat or slightly increasing employment rate for persons with disabilities between 2014-2016. In 2018-2019, a continuing improvement in the rate among all groups could be observed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the employment rate decreased between 2019 and 2020. However, the reduction in hours worked and active policies to preserve jobs mitigated this decrease.[59]

7/2021,https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/focus/2021/html/ecb.ebbox202107_01~f8314090a4.en.html.

[58] Girón, C. and Rodríguez-Vives, M., 'The role of government for the non-financial corporate sector during the COVID-19 crisis', *ECB Economic Bulletin*, 5/2021, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/articles/2021/html/ecb.ebart202105_03~997529d196.en.html.

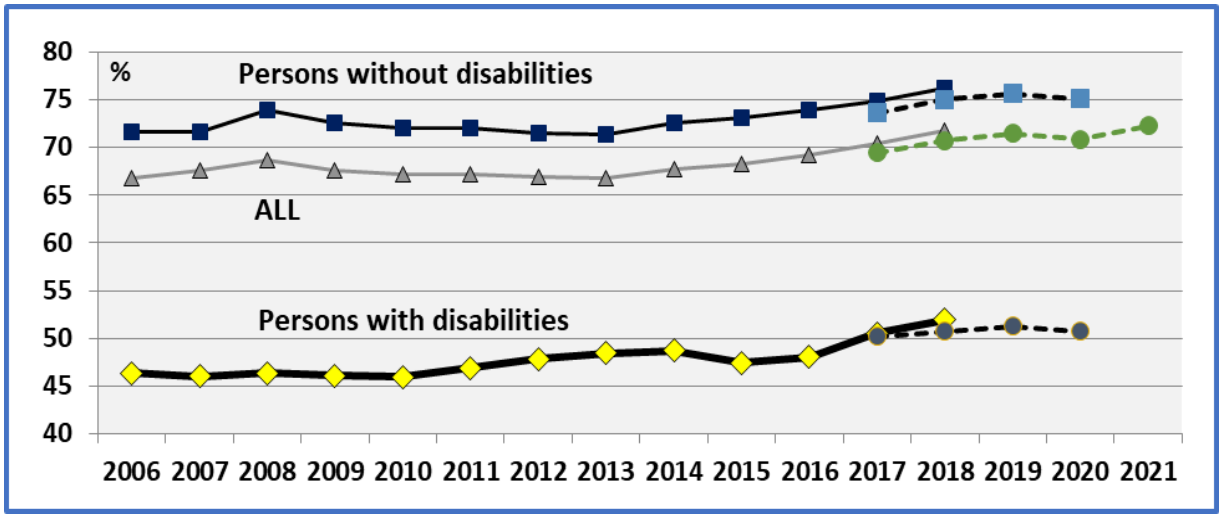
[59] Anderton, R., Botelho, V., Consolo, A., Dias da Silva, A., Foroni, C., Mohr M. and Vivian, L, 'The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the euro area labour market', *ECB Economic Bulletin*,

A Commission report found that the SURE loan scheme has been successful in cushioning the severe socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.[60] It has helped to ensure that the increase in unemployment in the beneficiary Member States during the crisis has been significantly smaller than during the global financial crisis, despite those states experiencing a larger decrease in GDP.

It appears that the recent policy reaction has been more active in comparison with the reaction to the 2008-2009 slowdown, although the cause was different.

Figure 30: Evolution of the employment rate of people with and without disabilities, aged 20-64

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: The ILO definition of employment provides a global employment rate of 72.7 % for 2019 and 71.7 % for 2020. First estimations for 2021 give 73.1% (data extracted on 1 May 2022 [ESTAT]). See above in the text for the difference between the definition of employment used here and the ILO definition of employment. The estimate for 2021 in the figure is an extrapolation based on the percentage change drawn from the LFS data (*Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database; Data extracted on 1 May 2022 [ESTAT]).*
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations.

7.2.7 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 9 COVID-19,[61] implemented in summer 2021, included the following question to employed or self-employed persons: 'During the pandemic some people worked at home, some at their usual workplace and others at some other workplace. How would

8/2020, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/articles/2021/html/ecb.ebart202008_02~bc749d90e7.en.html.

60 The SURE programme provides financial support in the form of loans granted on favourable terms from the EU to Member States to finance national short-time work schemes, and other similar measures to preserve employment and support incomes, notably for the self-employed, and some health-related measures. The Commission's report has found that the instrument supported between 25 and 30 million people in 2020. See: European Commission press release, 'Report confirms SURE's success in protecting jobs and incomes', Brussels, 22 March 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1209.

61 Börsch-Supan, A. (2022), Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0. SHARE-ERIC. Data set. DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w9ca.800 (SHARE Corona survey 2), http://www.share-project.org/special-data-sets/share-corona-survey-2.html. For more information on SHARE, see the Annex.

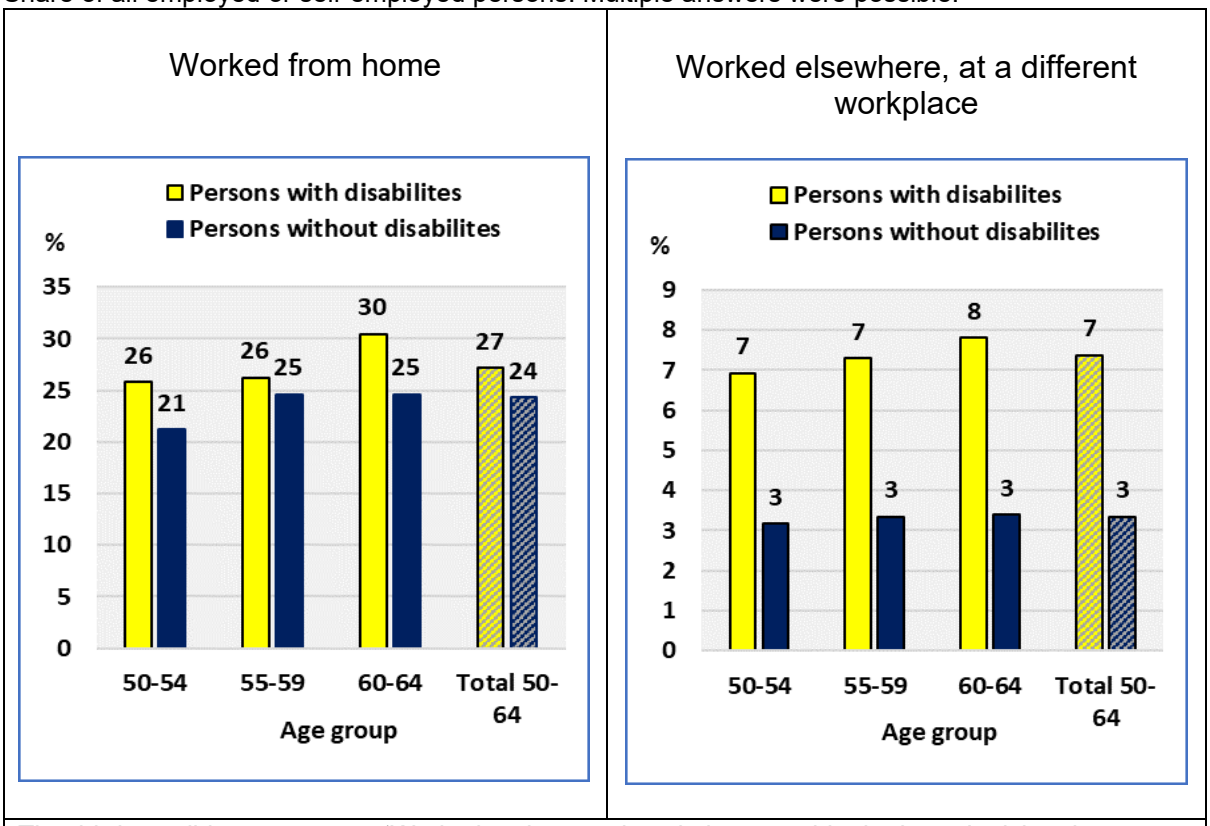
you describe your work situation since your last interview?' Multiple answers were possible.

The percentage of persons with disabilities aged 50-64 who declared that they worked from home was higher in comparison with that for persons without disabilities. The same was true for persons who worked elsewhere, at a different workplace. The following figure presents the rates by age group and disability status.

The rates increase with age for persons with disabilities. However, survey metadata do not provide more information on these issues.

Figure 31: Percentage of persons who worked from home and percentage who worked elsewhere, at a different workplace, by age group and disability status, EU, 2021

Share of all employed or self-employed persons. Multiple answers were possible.



The third possible answer was 'Worked at the usual workplace outside the home', giving the following results: persons with disabilities: 84.9 % and persons without disabilities: 85.9 %. All, aged 50-64, 85.7 %. Multiple answers were possible.

EU: It covers 26 Member States (Ireland is missing from the microdata used here).

Note: Work situation included: 1. Worked from home (25.1 %), 2. Worked at the usual workplace outside the home (85.7 %) and 3. Worked elsewhere, at a different workplace (4.4 %). Multiple answers were possible.

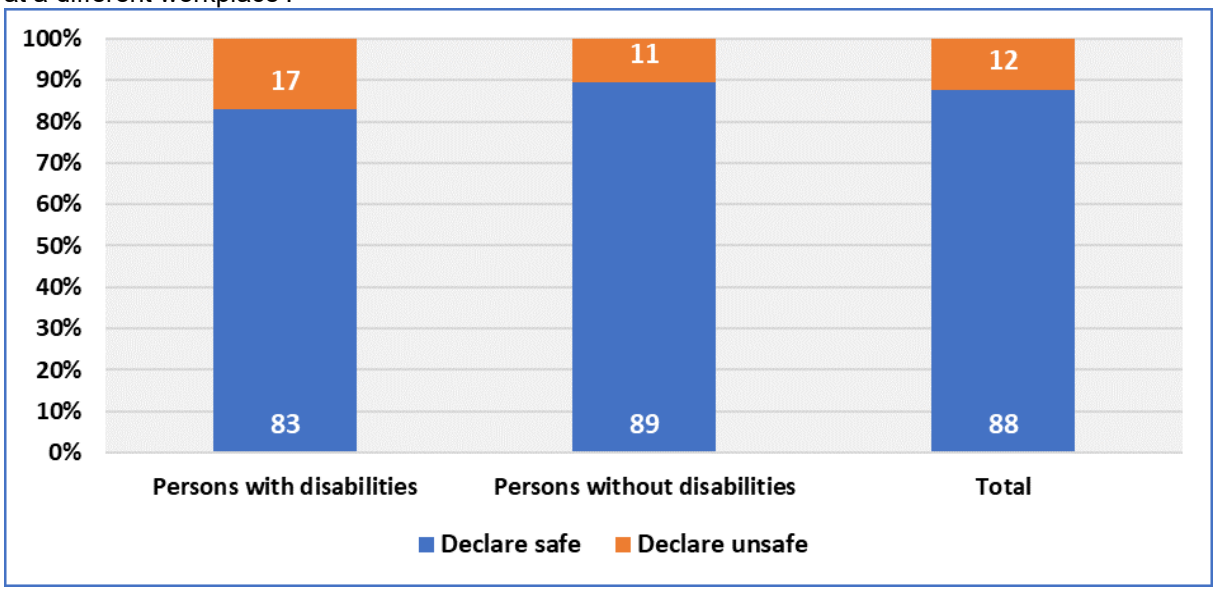
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

Another question focused on working conditions. It covered only those who reported working at the usual workplace outside the home or worked elsewhere, at a different workplace. The question was: 'How safe did you feel health-wise at your workplace? Was it very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?' We grouped the answers into two categories: 'safe' and 'unsafe'.

About 17.1 % of employed persons with disabilities aged 50-64 declared that they felt unsafe in response to the question: 'How safe did you feel health-wise at your workplace?' The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 10.7 %. The total was 12.3 %.

Figure 32: Percentage of employed persons declaring they felt safe/unsafe (health-wise) at work, aged 50-64, EU, 2021

Share of all those employed 'working at the usual workplace outside the home' or 'worked elsewhere, at a different workplace'.



EU: It covers 26 Member States (Ireland is missing from the microdata used here).
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

A European Central Bank (ECB) survey of leading euro area companies looked at the long-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy.[62] It found that more remote working and an acceleration of digitalisation were the most frequently cited long-term supply-side effects of the pandemic.

In 2019, tele-workable jobs accounted for 33 % of employees in the euro area.[63] Persons with disabilities were overrepresented in skills, where the rate of potential work from home is very low.[64]

However, for persons with mobility restrictions, working from home might open a range of jobs that were previously inaccessible due to barriers. This could be possible if measures were taken to reorganise work in favour of technical aids and work adaptations for persons with disabilities. In the past, policies have focused on work adaptations inside the company. Here, one can observe the need to shift towards

[62] Maqui, E. and Morris, R., 'The long-term effects of the pandemic: insights from a survey of leading companies', *ECB Economic Bulletin*, 8/2020, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/html/eb202008.en.html.

[63] Anderton,R., Botelho, V., Consolo, A., Dias da Silva, A., Foroni, C., Mohr M. and Vivian, L, 'The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the euro area labour market', *ECB Economic Bulletin*, 8/2020, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/articles/2021/html/ecb.ebart202008_02~bc749d90e7.en.html.

[64] Grammenos, S. (2021), 'European comparative data on Europe 2020 & Persons with disabilities; Labour market, Education, Poverty & Health, Analysis and Trends', European Disability Expertise.

working from home. National schemes ought to take into account the new needs of persons with disabilities. Working from home might be an opportunity; however, it raises new questions, notably for families with young children.

7.2.8 The COVID-19 pandemic and financial support

The SHARE COVID-19 Survey 2 included a question on financial support. The question was: 'Since your last interview (in July 2020), did you receive additional financial support that was due to the Corona crisis from your employer, the government, relatives, friends, and/or others?' The interviews were conducted in summer 2021.

In the EU 26, about 14.7 % of persons with disabilities aged 50-64 received additional financial support due to the coronavirus crisis (from employer, Government, relatives, friends, and/or others). This rate was 14.7 % for persons without disabilities. The total rate was 14.4 %.

In the following analysis, we focus on financial support provided by employers. Furthermore, we target employed persons in order to identify any link with policies to maintain jobs or compensate for lost wages.

In the EU 26, about 32.4 % of all persons with disabilities aged 50-64 who received any financial help declared that they had received financial help from their employer. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 31.5 %. This included persons who were recently employed but subsequently retired or unemployed.

Focusing on employed persons, in the EU 26, about 46.5 % of all persons with disabilities aged 50-64 currently employed who had received any financial help declared that they had received financial help from their employer. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 36.7 %.

There is some indication that the percentage of persons with disabilities who received financial help from employers was higher in comparison with that of persons without disabilities. If the data above are expressed as a share of employed/self-employed persons, we find that about 8.5 % of persons with disabilities aged 50-64, employed or self-employed, had received financial support from their employer, in comparison with 6.1 % of persons without disabilities. The total was 6.7 %.

Table 24: Persons who received financial support from employer as a share of all those who received financial help, aged 50-64, EU, 2021

	No	Yes	Total
	All persons aged 50-64		
Persons with disabilities	67.6	32.4	100
Persons without disabilities	68.5	31.5	100
Total	68.2	31.8	100
	Only currently employed/self-employed 50-64		
Persons with disabilities	53.5	46.5	100

Persons without disabilities	63.3	36.7	100
Total	60.7	39.3	100

Question: 'Since your last interview in July 2020, did you receive additional financial support that was due to the Corona crisis from employer?' The interviews were conducted in summer 2021.
Note: data do not enable us to distinguish employed from self-employed.
EU: It covers 26 Member States (Ireland is missing from the microdata used here).
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

7.3 Statistical tables

Table 25: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The employment rate was calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group. The data were not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			Women		Men		Degree		Target
				Disability		Disability				2030
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	16 June 2022
AT	53.9	76.0	70.2	49.9	68.4	57.7	83.7	25.9	62.4	79.9
BE	41.6	77.5	70.2	41.1	74.1	42.2	80.9	18.0	53.1	80.0
BG	43.6	76.0	73.2	43.7	70.6	43.5	81.2	17.2	48.6	79.0
CY	52.3	76.8	73.1	45.4	70.5	59.0	83.5	30.0	60.1	80.0
CZ	55.5	82.3	77.1	51.6	75.3	61.8	92.1	29.8	63.2	82.2
DE	52.3	80.6	75.4	50.3	76.7	54.6	84.7	29.0	64.3	83.0
DK	59.5	79.9	73.6	53.7	76.7	66.4	82.8	35.1	65.5	80.0
EE	61.0	83.9	78.4	63.1	80.0	58.8	87.9	45.4	67.0	81.3
EL	33.9	62.2	59.3	28.3	50.8	39.6	73.9	25.7	39.7	71.1
ES	46.4	67.9	64.2	43.8	61.8	49.5	73.8	35.4	48.7	76.0
FI	59.6	79.3	73.2	60.6	77.6	58.5	80.6	30.8	64.8	80.0
FR	51.6	75.6	71.1	50.4	72.4	53.2	78.9	36.5	59.3	78.0
HR	36.9	69.4	62.7	35.8	62.2	38.0	76.7	20.9	42.0	75.0
HU	47.8	78.8	74.1	47.2	71.9	48.6	85.7	24.1	56.0	85.0
IE	32.9	75.7	68.2	31.9	69.7	34.1	81.7	15.5	39.7	78.2
IT	50.3	66.9	65.0	42.3	78.7	58.6	83.6	24.8	58.4	73.0
LT	57.5	81.1	75.7	57.1	78.7	57.9	83.6	21.9	63.5	80.7
LU	51.7	72.4	67.9	49.6	66.4	54.5	78.0	34.8	58.5	77.6
LV	62.2	78.4	73.7	64.0	74.3	59.9	82.8	30.5	68.7	80.0
MT	46.1	79.1	76.2	35.4	68.6	57.2	88.2	32.9	49.4	84.6
NL	59.5	84.1	78.3	56.2	80.0	63.7	87.8	24.8	66.0	82.5
PL	44.8	77.3	72.0	43.4	69.1	46.4	86.3	24.7	51.8	78.3
PT	58.7	76.9	72.8	57.8	73.4	59.8	80.5	46.3	62.0	80.0
RO	46.8	75.7	71.2	40.2	64.0	55.3	86.5	11.0	54.7	74.7
SE	53.9	82.1	79.1	53.5	79.2	54.4	84.7	39.0	61.0	82.0
SI	53.3	76.5	72.7	54.6	73.4	52.1	79.4	40.9	58.9	79.5
SK	56.7	81.3	75.7	53.0	75.7	60.7	86.6	30.0	66.0	76.5

EU	**50.7**	**75.1**	**70.8**	**48.1**	**68.9**	**53.7**	**81.3**	**29.6**	**58.3**	**78**

Note: The data for DE and IT are 2019 data corrected. For the correction we applied the percentage change between 2019 and 2020 drawn from the LFS 2019 – 2020 data. However, the data by degree for these countries are simply the 2019 EU-SILC data.
Target: The 2030 EU headline targets on employment, skills and poverty reduction have been welcomed by EU leaders in Porto and at the June 2021 European Council meeting. State of play on the national targets for 2030 as of 16 June 2022.
See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10299.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

Table 26: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2019

The employment rate was calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group. The data were not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			**Women**		**Men**		**Degree**		**Target**
				Disability		**Disability**				**EU 2020**
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	
AT	54.6	77.5	71.1	49.7	70.0	59.5	85.0	26.3	62.6	(77-78) 77
BE	44.1	77.3	69.9	42.1	73.8	46.2	80.7	15.9	58.4	73.2
BG	40.2	76.6	73.4	41.2	72.5	39.2	80.7	(14.7)	45.4	76
CY	52.4	77.4	73.3	48.2	71.9	56.6	83.3	26.2	60.8	(75-77) 75
CZ	55.2	81.2	76.2	53.4	73.2	57.9	91.8	27.2	64.1	75
DE	53.3	82.2	76.9	51.1	78.0	55.7	86.5	29.0	64.3	77
DK	60.1	78.9	73.6	57.7	76.6	62.9	81.2	38.4	65.4	80
EE	64.9	85.9	80.2	65.6	82.4	64.1	89.3	47.1	71.8	76
EL	32.6	62.8	59.6	28.9	51.7	36.7	74.3	21.3	40.9	70
ES	39.0	69.8	66.1	37.3	63.3	40.7	76.3	21.3	42.7	74
FI	56.9	77.8	71.4	60.1	76.2	53.2	79.2	33.2	62.1	78
FR	56.9	75.1	71.7	56.9	71.2	56.9	79.2	43.4	63.6	75
HR	37.0	71.0	63.2	35.8	64.9	38.2	77.0	22.5	42.1	62.9
HU	50.2	79.3	74.4	47.8	73.2	52.9	85.3	20.8	60.5	75
IE	32.6	76.5	70.6	26.5	71.5	38.8	81.7	17.7	38.9	(69-71) 69
IT	51.6	68.6	66.7	43.7	57.9	59.8	79.4	24.8	58.4	(67-69) 67
LT	53.9	79.8	74.2	55.1	77.8	52.5	82.0	18.2	60.1	72.8
LU	51.5	73.1	68.4	48.6	67.9	55.1	78.2	35.0	58.2	73
LV	60.8	79.0	73.7	62.0	74.2	59.5	84.2	35.9	65.2	73
MT	47.1	75.8	73.5	34.4	64.3	60.2	86.2	(45.6)	47.5	70
NL	56.3	83.1	76.5	53.6	79.0	59.7	86.8	22.9	63.0	80
PL	43.3	75.8	70.4	41.7	67.9	45.1	85.0	24.4	50.3	71
PT	59.8	79.1	74.6	58.3	76.0	62.1	82.1	42.0	63.9	75
RO	46.3	74.3	69.9	38.3	62.2	56.9	85.5	(12.4)	54.3	70
SE	58.4	82.4	79.8	58.7	78.9	58.1	85.5	44.6	64.1	80
SI	55.0	76.0	71.4	54.9	72.8	55.1	78.9	45.6	58.6	75
SK	56.3	79.4	74.1	53.1	73.4	60.1	85.0	30.1	64.6	72
EU	**51.3**	**75.6**	**71.5**	**49.0**	**69.3**	**53.9**	**82.0**	**29.8**	**58.8**	**75**

Note: data in parenthesis are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

Table 27: Evolution of the employment rate of people with and without disabilities, EU, aged 20-64

	EU 28			EU 27		
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**All (28)**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**All (27)**
2006	46.3	71.6	66.8			
2007	46.1	71.6	67.6			
2008	46.4	73.9	68.7			
2009	46.1	72.5	67.6			
2010	46.0	72.0	67.2			
2011	46.9	72.0	67.2			
2012	47.9	71.5	67.0			
2013	48.5	71.4	66.8			
2014	48.7	72.5	67.7			
2015	47.4	73.1	68.3			
2016	48.1	73.9	69.3			
2017	50.6	74.8	70.5	50.2	73.6	69.5
2018	52.0	76.2	71.8	50.8	75.0	70.7
2019				51.3	75.6	71.5
2020				50.7	75.1	70.8
2021						72.2

Data source: EU-SILC UDB. Estimate for 2021 (simple extrapolation based on percentage change drawn from the LFS data).

8 Unemployment rate

8.1 Relevance to EU policy/strategy

Unemployment may lead to poverty and social exclusion. Consequently, the reduction of unemployment is considered to be a favoured way to improve social inclusion and participation.

The UN Convention, in Article 27, which addresses 'Work and employment', stresses the promotion of 'employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment'.

The European Commission, in its Communication concerning the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, notes that participation in employment is the best way to ensure economic autonomy and social inclusion. It adds that monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Goal 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs and more efficient production. It calls for providing opportunities for full employment and decent work for all. Decent employment for all, including women, people with disabilities, youth, the elderly and migrants, is crucial for improving the wellbeing of society as a whole.

The European Pillar of Social Rights, under 'Equal opportunities', provides that regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, etc.

8.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

8.2.1 Comparison between LFS and EU-SILC survey

Eurostat uses the results of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in order to monitor the unemployment rate in the EU. In this approach, unemployed persons are persons who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work in the past four weeks or had already found a job to start within the next three months. The EU-SILC survey reports the self-declared current 'main activity' status.

Both series are quasi-perfectly correlated. However, there is a significant systematic difference between the two surveys. Previous ANED reports analysed the difference between the LFS and the EU SILC estimates.

It may be noted that the ILO definition reduces the unemployment rate drastically. In fact, this definition considers that unemployed persons who are not actively searching

for a job are not participating in the labour market; consequently, they are treated as voluntarily economically inactive persons.

The ILO definition excludes from the analysis a significant number of long-term unemployed persons. In previous reports, we noted that among these are, notably, persons with disabilities. A long period of unemployment might generate discouragement and lead people to stop actively searching for a job; consequently, they are not considered as unemployed. However, these persons might have the greatest need for work adaptations and new skills in order to increase their employment prospects and hence encourage them in actively searching for a job. There is a need to analyse the needs of those who are excluded from the official unemployment rates and see whether they require work adaptations, new skills, assistance and guidance, etc. Long-term unemployment will be analysed further in the relevant section of this report.

8.2.2 General comments

In the following section, we analyse the results of the EU-SILC survey based on self-declaration concerning economic status. The LFS is expected to include the GALI question in its 2021 collection round.

Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research do not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change concerning labour market indicators drawn from the LFS survey.[65] Consequently, the following indicators are indicative.

In the EU 27, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 20-64 was 17.7 %, in comparison with 8.6 % of people without disabilities in the same age group. The total unemployment rate was 9.9 %. These estimates are based on self-declarations.

In the EU 27, about 4.8 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were unemployed, out of 26.9 million economically active disabled persons.

[65] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsi_emp_a/default/table?lang=en, data on employment, unemployment and activity rates in Germany and Italy, extracted on 9 May 2022 [ESTAT].

Table 28: Unemployment rate by disability status, age 20-64, 2020

	Employed	Unemployed	Total
	1 000 000		
Persons without disabilities	154.8	14.7	169.5
Persons with disabilities	22.2	4.8	26.9
Total	177.0	19.4	196.4
	%		
Persons without disabilities	91.4	8.6	**100**
Persons with disabilities	82.3	17.7	**100**
Total	90.1	9.9	**100**

Note: The data are indicative; see explanations in the text.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

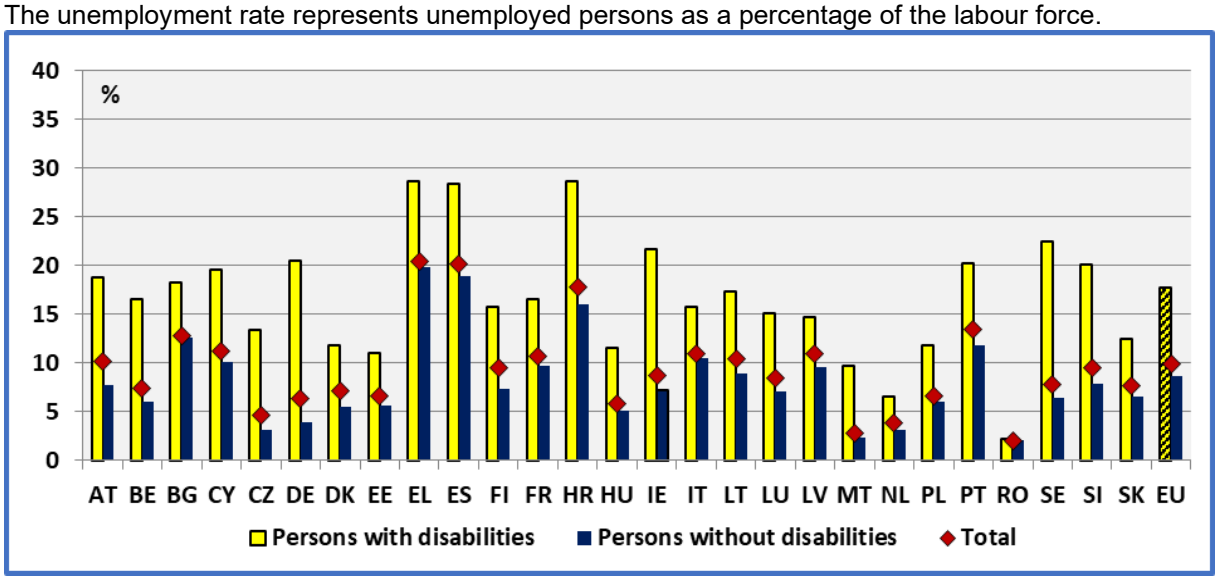
The unemployment rate for persons with disabilities was significantly higher in comparison with the rate for persons without disabilities in all Member States. However, the national unemployment rates for persons with disabilities are correlated with the national unemployment rates of persons without disabilities (R^2=0.66).

National characteristics of the labour market affect both persons with and without disabilities. However, there are still important differences across Member States.

One may note high unemployment rates for persons with disabilities in Spain, Greece and Croatia (in ascending order).

Figure 33: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.



Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative. This affects the EU 27 indicator. See explanations in the text.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

8.2.3 Unemployment disability gap

At the EU 27 level, there was an unemployment gap of 9 percentage points. However, this gap varied sharply across Member States.

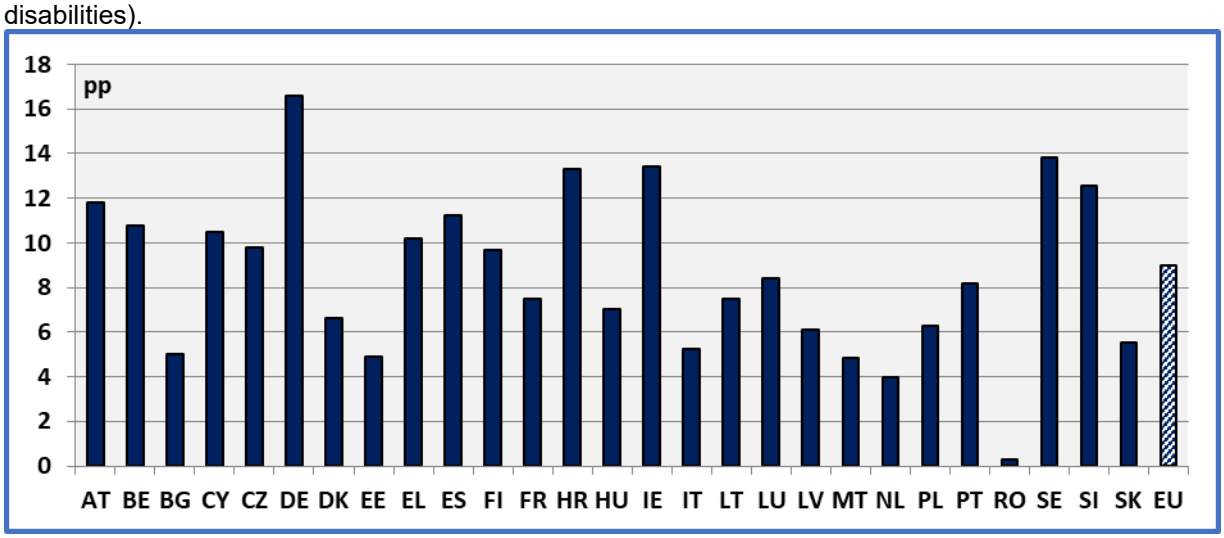
Given the relatively small number of observations for persons with disabilities, and in order to increase the reliability of the estimates, we took the average gap for the last two years (2019-2020).

It may be noted that the gap was relatively high in Croatia, Germany and Sweden. On the other hand, it was relatively low in Ireland, Sweden and Germany, in ascending order.

The situation is similar to previous years. If the mean national gaps for 2019-2020 are compared with the mean national gaps for 2018-2019, we find a high correlation (R^2=0.94).

Figure 34: Disadvantage of people with disabilities concerning unemployment, aged 20-64, average 2019-2020, expressed in percentage points (pp)

Disadvantage = (unemployment rate of people with disabilities) – (unemployment rate of people without disabilities).



Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative. This affects the EU 27 indicator.

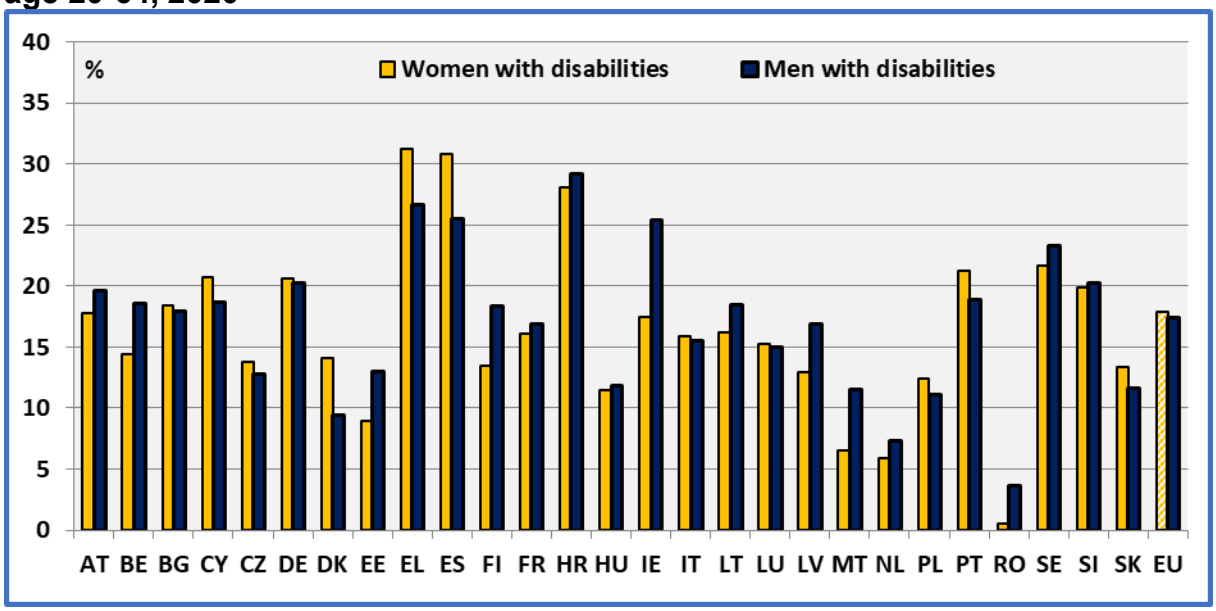
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

8.2.4 Unemployment rate by gender

In the EU 27, about 17.9 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were unemployed, in comparison with 17.4 % of men with disabilities. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 9.4 % (women) and 8.0 % (men). However, these data are only indicative, and small differences ought to be treated with caution.

One may note the high unemployment rates of women with disabilities in Croatia, Spain and Greece (in ascending order).

Figure 35: Unemployment rate by gender, disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

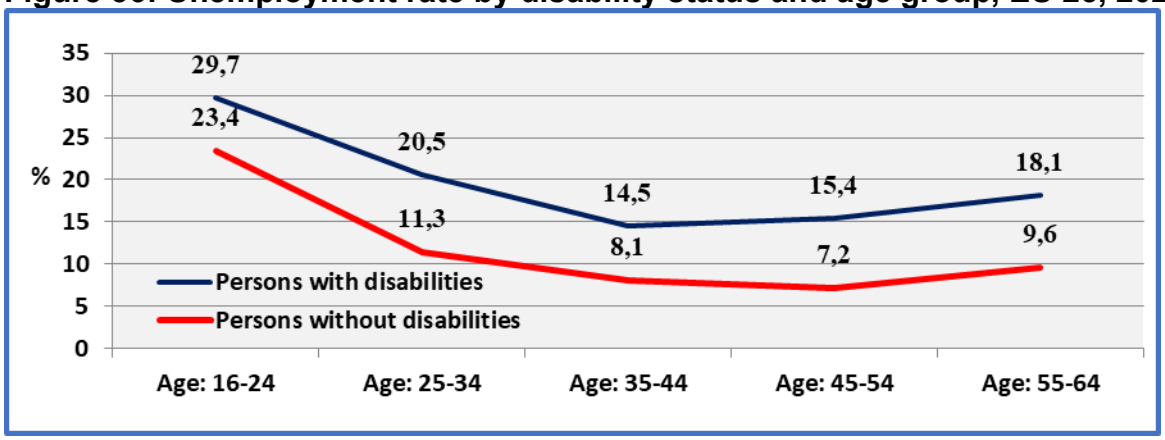


Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative. This affects the EU 27 indicator.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

8.2.5 Unemployment rate by age group

The analysis of the unemployment rate by age group indicates the traditional path for persons with and without disabilities.

Figure 36: Unemployment rate by disability status and age group, EU 25, 2020



Note: The data do not include Germany and Italy. The available version of the EU-SILC 2020 microdata, at the time of producing this report, did not include these two countries.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

In comparison with the previous year, the following table shows an increase in the unemployment rate in the 16-24 and 25-34 age groups. This is true for persons with disabilities in particular.

In the EU 25, the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities aged 16-24 moved from 23.2 % (2019) to 29.7 % (2020). In the 25-34 age group, it increased from 18.6% to 20.5 % (2020). However, these rates ought to be treated with care due to small

sample sizes for these age groups. For comparison, the percentage change for persons without disabilities was smaller for both age groups.

Table 29: Unemployment rate by age group, EU 25

Persons / Age group	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	16-64
	%, 2020					
With disabilities	29.7	20.5	14.5	15.4	18.1	17.2
Without disabilities	23.4	11.3	8.1	7.2	9.6	9.9
	%, 2019					
With disabilities	23.2	18.6	13.9	15.3	18.3	16.6
Without disabilities	21.6	10.5	7.2	6.8	9.8	9.3

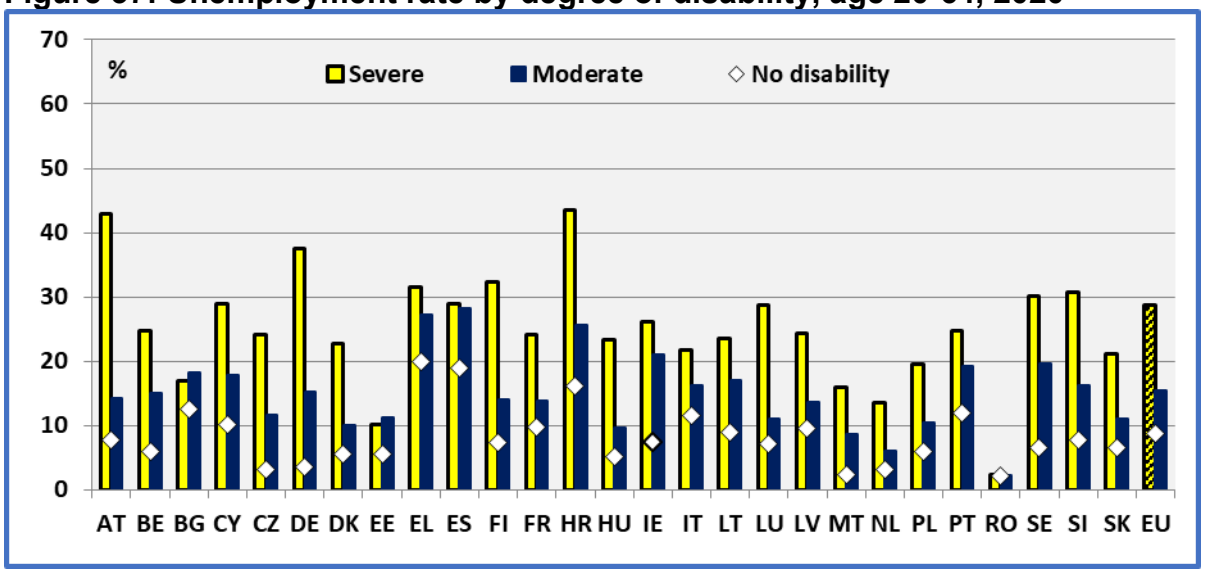
Note: The EU-SILC 2020 microdata data do not include Germany and Italy. For comparability reasons, we excluded Germany and Italy from 2019 data.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

For the 55-64 age group, the change was smaller. However, in this age group, bearing in mind the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, one may not exclude the possibility of exits from the labour force in the case of unemployment.

8.2.6 Unemployment rate by degree

Unemployment increases in line with the degree of disability. The unemployment rate for persons with moderate disabilities aged 20-64 was about 15.5 %, in comparison with 28.6 % for persons with severe disabilities. The data are indicative.

Figure 37: Unemployment rate by degree of disability, age 20-64, 2020



Note: The data concerning Germany and Italy refer to 2019. This affects the EU 27 aggregate.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

8.2.7 Evolution at national level

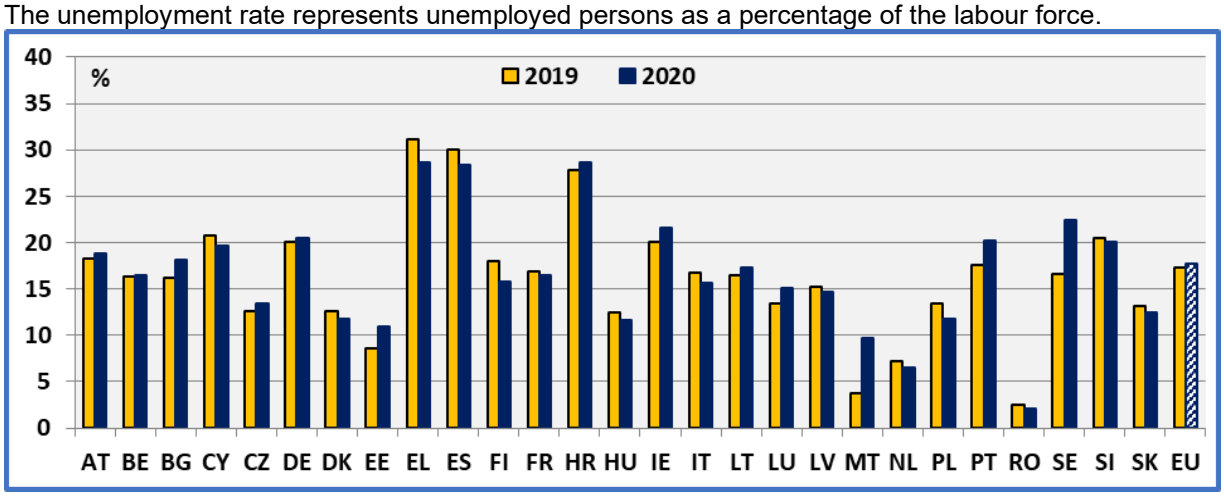
During the period 2019-2020, an increase in the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities could be observed in the EU 27.

The data in the following figure are indicative. They do not present annual averages, but rather unemployment rates for specific time periods during 2020. In ordinary periods, the figures are impacted by seasonal factors. The survey did not take place during the same quarter in participating countries. Furthermore, during 2020, the data were influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the accompanying health-related restrictions and lockdowns had a different impact depending on the specific quarter. Consequently, in the EU-SILC survey, the seasonal impact and the COVID-19 effect influenced the unemployment estimates and skewed the comparison across countries. For these reasons, comparisons of annual changes across countries in the following figure ought to be made with caution.

For comparison, for the period 2019-2020, the LFS survey indicates an increase in the global unemployment rate in a large majority of Member States. However, in this case, the data are annual averages.[66]

Figure 38: Persons with disabilities, evolution of the unemployment rate by Member State, aged 20-64. The data are indicative.

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.



Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative. This affects the EU 27 indicator.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

8.2.8 Evolution at the EU level

At the EU 27 level, there has been a continuous decrease in the total unemployment rate since 2013. Persons with disabilities have experienced a decrease in unemployment since 2015, although persons with severe disabilities experienced a more fluctuating rate.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed this trend. According to the LFS estimates, based on the ILO definition of the unemployment rate, in the EU 27, this rate increased from 6.7 % to 7.1 % between 2019 and 2020. This implies an increase of 0.4 percentage points, representing an increase of 6.0 %, for the 20-64 age group.[67]

[66] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/une_rt_a/default/table?lang=enData, data extracted on 9 May 2022 [ESTAT].

[67] Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/une_rt_a/default/table?lang=en, data extracted on 9 May 2022 [ESTAT].

The increase in the total unemployment rate was relatively small, notably due to active policies to preserve jobs (e.g., the SURE scheme) and a reduction in hours worked during the pandemic.

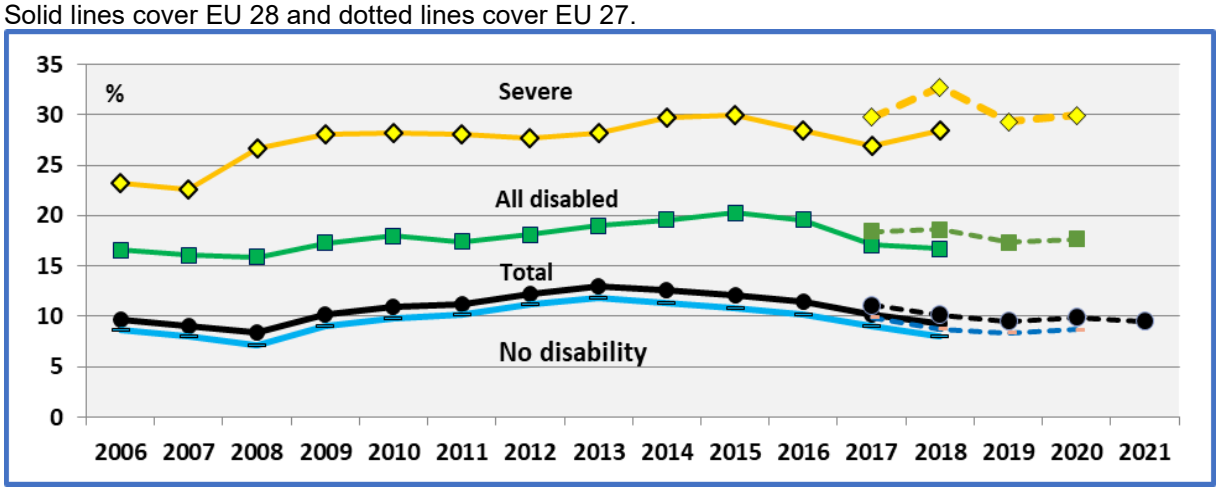
In the following figure, it can be observed that the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 in the EU 27 increased from 17.3 % in 2019 to 17.7 % in 2020. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 8.3 % (2019) and 8.6 % (2020). As noted above, the unemployment rate based on self-declaration tends to be higher than the ILO unemployment indicator.

Assuming a similar percentage change for all persons with disabilities as well as for persons with severe disabilities, we obtained an unemployment rate of 29.9 % (29.3 % in 2019) for persons with severe disabilities.

As indicated at the beginning of this chapter, our estimation method for Germany and Italy for 2020 applied the same percentage change to persons with disabilities as well as persons without disabilities. This erases any distributional effects at the national and the EU level.

Figure 39: Evolution of the unemployment rate for persons by disability status, aged 20-64, EU

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: The 2021 unemployment rate is an extrapolation based on LFS estimations of the total unemployment rate (20-64). We applied the percentage change 2019-2020 to the EU-SILC 2020 indicator.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations.

8.3 Youth unemployment rate

8.3.1 Introduction

Youth unemployment is considerably higher than general unemployment. This has led the EU to develop new policy instruments in favour of young people.

Guided by the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Commission laid out its programme for a Social Europe. In this framework, the Commission has prioritised work to help young people. The reinforced Youth Guarantee[68] is a commitment by all Member

[68] See https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en.

States to ensure that all young people under the age of 30 receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education.

The ‘Youth unemployment rate’ indicator figures among the secondary indicators in the ‘Fair working conditions’ field. It is part of the revised social scoreboard, which is aimed at monitoring the achievements of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

It is interesting, therefore, to analyse the situation of youth with disabilities, and to assess whether they share the main conditions with young persons without disabilities and whether any gap between the two groups has increased or decreased over time.

8.3.2 Youth unemployment rate

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 31.3 % of persons with disabilities aged 16-24 were unemployed in comparison with 21.2 % of persons without disabilities. The gap was 10.1 percentage points.

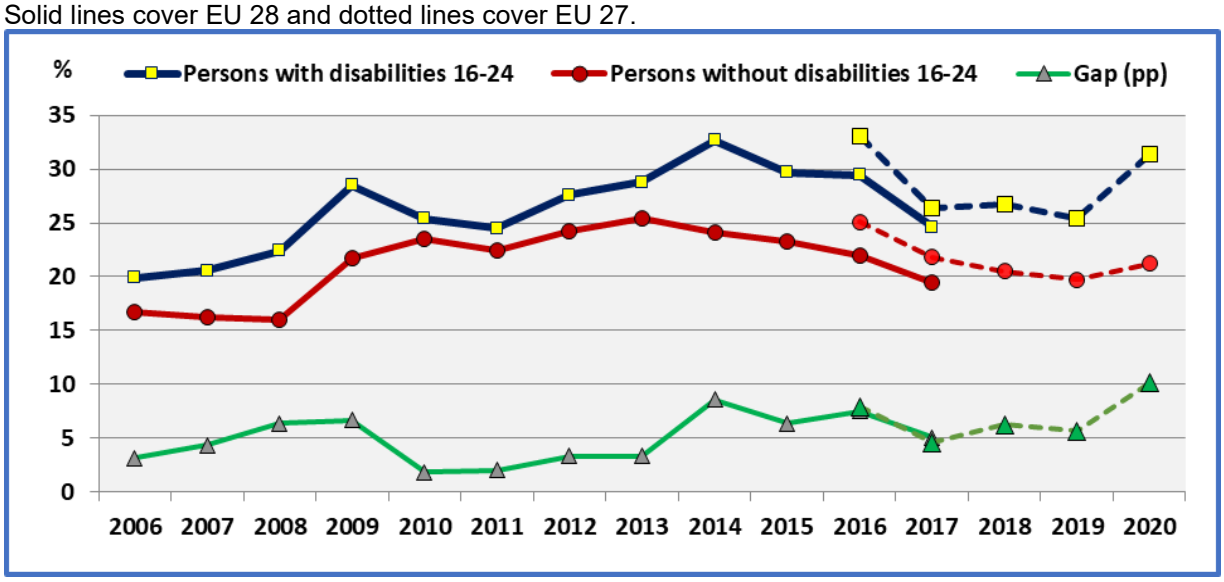
The total figure for youth unemployment was 21.5 % (20.0 % in 2019). Generalised lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and low expectations due to various uncertainties, reduced new recruitment during 2020, and thus the opportunities for newcomers in the labour market.

In the following figure, one may note that the gap between persons with and without disabilities increased sharply in 2020. However, we await the final data for Germany and Italy in order to reach firm conclusions.

The relatively small sample size of persons with disabilities in this age group does not enable further analysis to be undertaken. The sample of persons with disabilities aged 16-24 in the EU 27 comprises only 2 644 observations. Furthermore, due to the lack of data for Germany and Italy, the data used for these countries are merely indicative.

Figure 40: Evolution of the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 16-24

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change drawn from the LFS survey; consequently, the indicators for 2020 are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations for 2020.

8.4 Long-term unemployment

8.4.1 Introduction

Long-term unemployment may have important negative impacts on unemployed persons, and long-lasting negative implications for the employability of job seekers. Long spells of unemployment can render certain skills obsolete and increase the mismatch between a person's current skills and the new skills required by technological developments. In addition, it might push the unemployed to leave the labour force rather than continuing to search for a job.

The Commission[69] notes that almost half of unemployed people are still long-term unemployed: that is, unemployed for more than 12 months. It considers that long-term unemployment is one of the causes of persistent poverty. In order to fight long-term unemployment, the Commission put forward a proposal for a recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed in the labour market, which was adopted by the Council in 2016. In April 2019, the Commission adopted the report on the implementation of a Council recommendation. The Council recommendation puts forward three key steps: 1. encouraging the registration of long-term unemployed persons with an employment service; 2. providing each person registered long-term unemployed with an individual in-depth assessment to identify their needs and potential, at the very latest at 18 months of unemployment; and 3. offering a job integration agreement to all those registered long-term unemployed, at the very latest at 18 months.

[69] See https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1205&langId=en.

As noted above, the EU-SILC survey includes a question on self-assessment of the economic situation of the interviewee. However, it does not give information on the length of the period of unemployment and whether the unemployed interviewee has been unemployed for 12 months or more.

In order to fill this gap, we constructed a proxy for unemployment duration. The EU-SILC survey presents (PL080) the number of months spent in unemployment. The reference period is the 'Income reference period', which is generally the past 12 months. If more than one of the other situations apply in the same month (for example, employed and then unemployed), the respondent will select one on the basis of self-assessment. The criterion of most time spent may be useful where applicable.

For the construction of the proxy, we retained only those declaring currently unemployed (self-defined current economic status). In order to increase comparability with the ILO approach, we excluded unemployed persons not available for work and those not searching for work.

However, an important challenge concerns the frontier between long-term unemployment and non-participation. According to the ILO definition, persons in unemployment are defined as all those of working age who were not in employment, carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period and were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity.[70] In this case, long-term unemployed persons might have not sought employment in a specific week and would therefore be considered as not participating in the labour market.

In the following analysis, we try to identify both long-term unemployed persons according to the ILO definition, and persons who might be discouraged and therefore not actively searching for employment in a specific week.

8.4.2 Unemployment rate by duration

As noted earlier, in the EU 27 in 2020, the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 was 17.7 % of the labour force. This rate included 3.7 % short-term unemployed, 10.9 % long-term unemployed and 3.0 % excluded from the ILO definition of unemployment. The percentages refer to the labour force.

Excluded are those who did not carry out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period and were not available to take up employment.

Persons with disabilities were strongly over-represented among the long-term unemployed, comprising 26.4 % of all long-term unemployed. In the total population of those aged 20-64, they represented 17.5 %, while they represented 13.7 % of the labour force aged 20-64.

From another point of view, about 61.8 % of all unemployed disabled persons were long-term unemployed. The share was 52.5 % for unemployed persons without disabilities.

[70] International Labour Organization (2011), 'Note on global and regional estimates', *Global Employment Trends 2011*, http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_15 0440/lang--en/index.htm.

Table 30: Unemployment rate by duration, age 20-64, EU 27, 2020

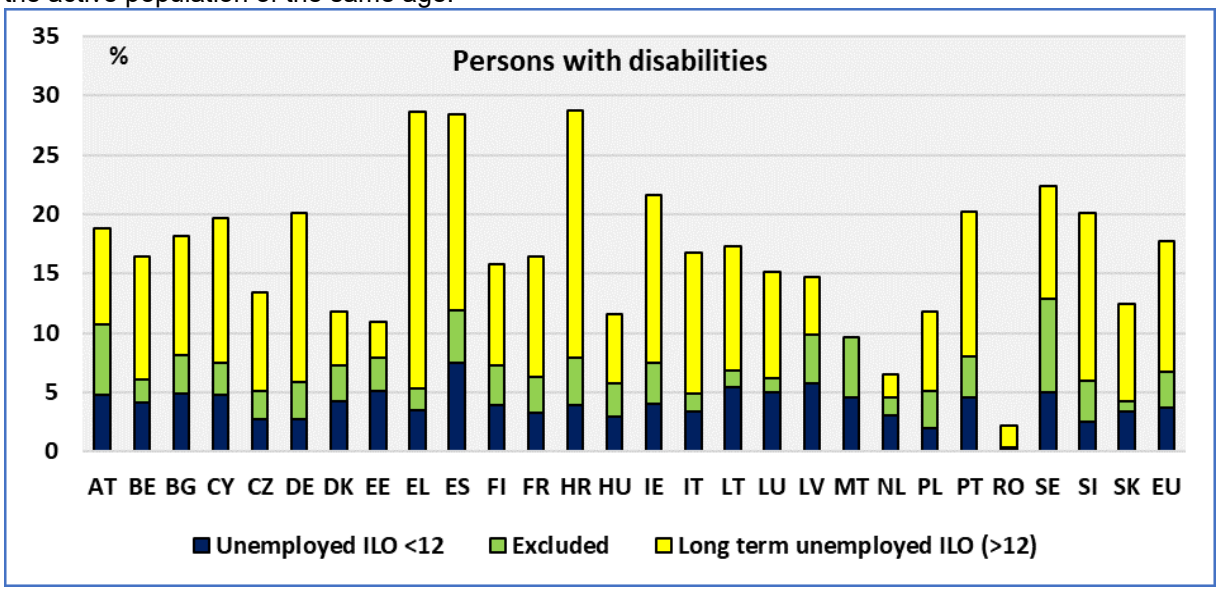
	Unemployed ILO <12	Excluded	Long-term unemployed ILO (>12)	Total
	Percentage of population in the labour force			
Persons with disabilities	3.7	3.0	10.9	**17.7**
Persons without disabilities	2.8	1.3	4.6	**8.7**
Total	**2.9**	**1.6**	**5.4**	**9.9**
	Distribution as a % of total by type of unemployment			
Persons with disabilities	12.5	17.4	26.4	**27.5**
Persons without disabilities	87.5	82.6	73.6	**72.5**
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Distribution as a % of the total by disability status			
Persons with disabilities	21.1	17.2	61.8	**100**
Persons without disabilities	32.1	15.4	52.5	**100**
Total	**29.5**	**15.8**	**54.7**	**100**

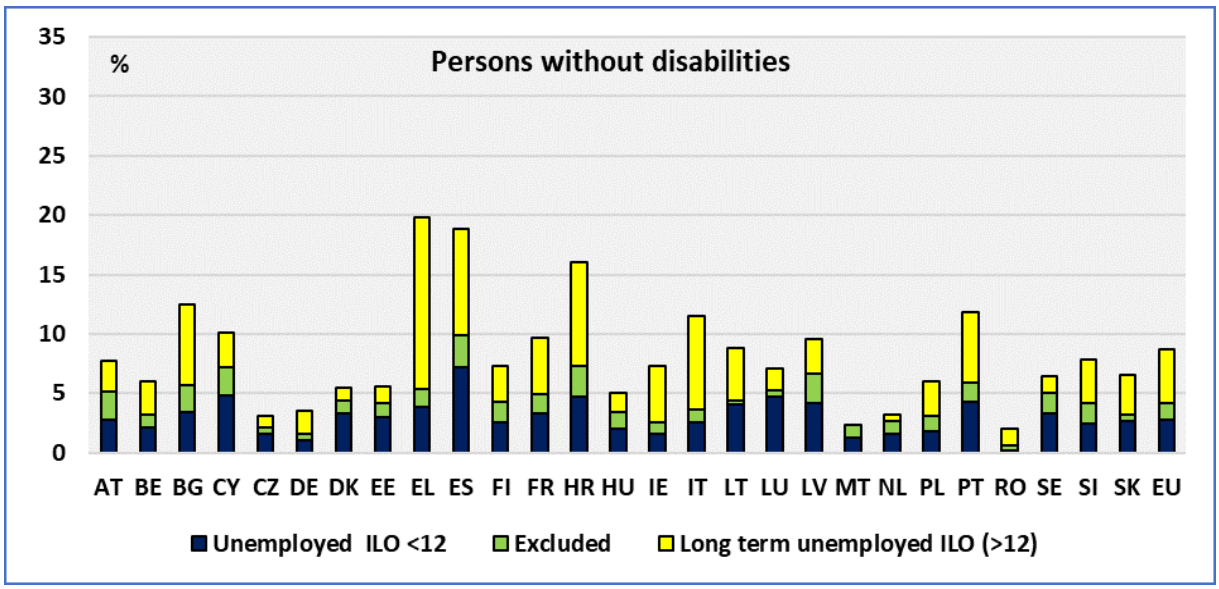
Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, the indicators for 2020 are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

The following figures highlight the fact that the total unemployment rate of persons with disabilities was higher in comparison with the rate for persons without disabilities. This demonstrates the significance of long-term unemployment.

Figure 41: Structure of the unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed persons aged 20-64 as a percentage of the active population of the same age.





Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

8.4.3 Long term unemployment rate

The long-term unemployment rate expresses the number of long-term unemployed aged 20-64 as a percentage of the active population of the same age. In our indicator, long-term unemployed (12 months and more) comprise unemployed persons who would be available to start work and who are seeking work.

The long-term unemployment rate is a headline indicator in the 'Fair working conditions' field of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

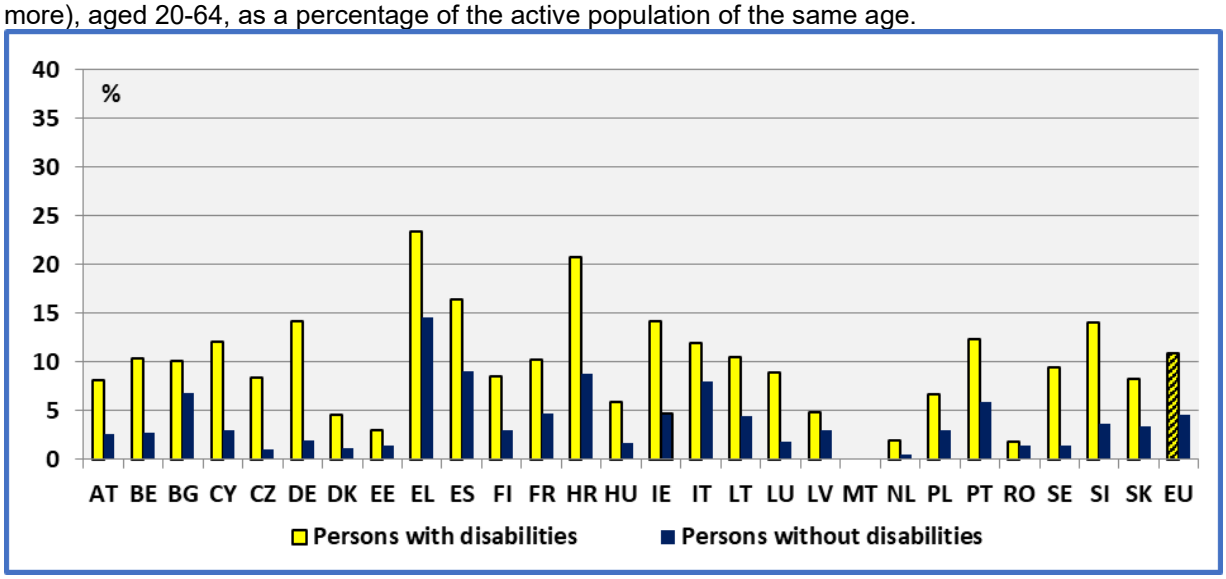
In the EU 27 in 2020, about 10.9 % of active persons with disabilities aged 20-64 were long-term unemployed, in comparison with 4.6 % of persons without disabilities. The total rate was 5.4 %.

The long-term unemployment rate of persons with disabilities was notably high in Spain, Croatia and Greece, in ascending order.

The largest absolute gaps – the difference between persons with and without disabilities – were found in Slovenia, Croatia and Germany (in ascending order).

Figure 42: Long-term unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The long-term unemployment rate expresses the number of long-term unemployed (12 months and more), aged 20-64, as a percentage of the active population of the same age.



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.

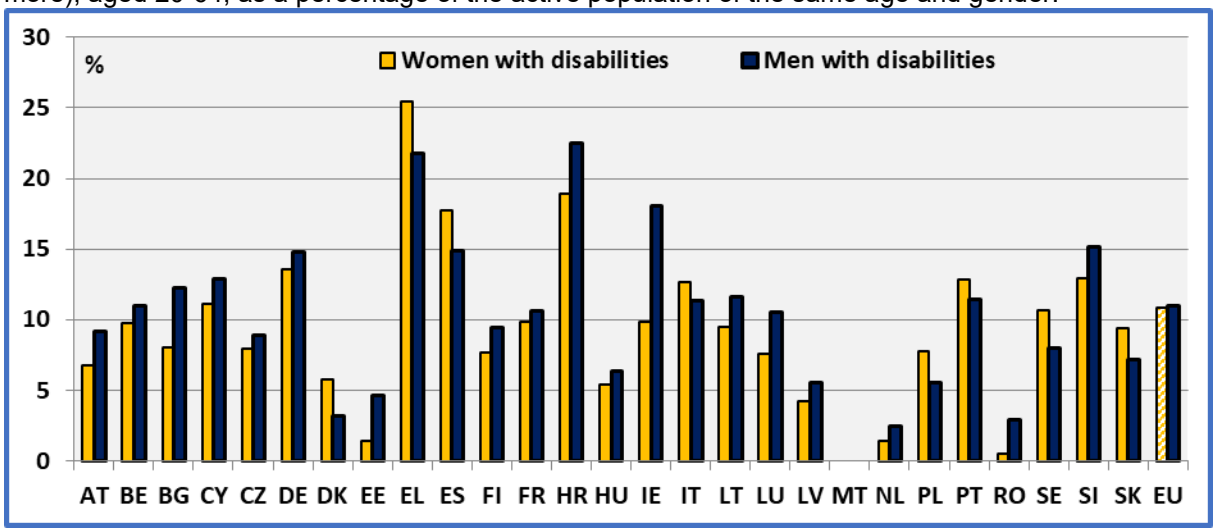
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

8.4.4 Long term unemployment rate by gender

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 10.9 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were long-term unemployed. The equivalent rate for disabled men was 11.0 %. The highest rates could be found in Spain, Croatia and Greece (in ascending order).

Figure 43: Long-term unemployment rate of persons with disabilities by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2020

The long-term unemployment rate expresses the number of long-term unemployed (12 months and more), aged 20-64, as a percentage of the active population of the same age and gender.



Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

8.4.5 Long term unemployment rate by degree of disability

The long-term unemployment rate increases with the degree of disability. It was 4.6 % for persons without disabilities, 9.2 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 19.3 % for persons with severe disabilities.

It may be noted that the rate of unemployed excluded from the ILO definition increases with the degree of disability. This group can be considered as representing hidden unemployment.

Table 31: Unemployment rate by duration/type and degree of disability, age 20-64, EU, 2020

Unemployed by type/duration, aged 20-64, as a percentage of the active population of the same age and disability status.

	Unemployed ILO <12	Excluded	Long term unemployed ILO (>12)	Total
No disabilities	2.8	1.3	4.6	**8.7**
Moderate	3.7	2.5	9.2	**15.5**
Severe	3.7	5.7	19.3	**28.6**
Total	**2.9**	**1.6**	**5.4**	**9.9**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, the EU 27 indicators are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

8.5 Statistical tables

Table 32: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed. The data are not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			Women		Men		Degree		Disability
				Disability		Disability				gap
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	in pp
AT	18.8	7.7	10.2	17.8	8.8	19.6	6.8	42.9	14.3	11.1
BE	16.5	6.0	7.4	14.4	6.1	18.6	5.9	24.7	14.9	10.5
BG	18.2	12.5	12.8	18.4	13.4	18.0	11.8	17.0	18.3	5.7
CY	19.6	10.1	11.3	20.8	12.1	18.7	8.3	28.8	17.7	9.5
CZ	13.4	3.1	4.7	13.8	3.7	12.8	2.4	24.0	11.6	10.3
DE	20.4	3.9	6.4	20.6	4.3	20.2	3.6	(37.5)	(15.3)	16.5
DK	11.8	5.4	7.1	14.1	6.1	9.4	4.8	22.7	10.1	6.4
EE	10.9	5.6	6.6	9.0	5.3	13.0	5.8	10.2	11.1	5.4
EL	28.6	19.9	20.4	31.3	24.7	26.6	16.0	31.6	27.2	8.8
ES	28.4	18.9	20.2	30.9	21.5	25.5	16.6	28.9	28.3	9.5
FI	15.7	7.3	9.6	13.5	5.6	18.3	8.5	32.3	13.9	8.5
FR	16.5	9.6	10.6	16.1	9.8	16.9	9.5	24.0	13.8	6.9
HR	28.7	16.0	17.8	28.1	19.0	29.2	13.4	43.5	25.6	12.6
HU	11.6	5.1	5.7	11.4	5.2	11.8	5.0	23.4	9.5	6.5
IE	21.6	7.2	8.7	17.5	6.1	25.4	8.2	26.0	20.9	14.4
IT	15.7	10.4	10.9	15.9	11.0	15.5	10.0	(21.8)	(16.2)	5.3
LT	17.3	8.9	10.4	16.2	8.2	18.5	9.5	23.5	16.9	8.5
LU	15.1	7.1	8.5	15.2	7.1	15.0	7.0	28.7	11.0	8.1
LV	14.7	9.6	10.9	12.9	9.3	16.9	9.9	24.2	13.7	5.1
MT	9.7	2.3	2.8	6.6	2.2	11.6	2.4	15.9	8.6	7.4
NL	6.5	3.2	3.8	5.9	3.9	7.3	2.6	13.5	6.0	3.4
PL	11.8	6.0	6.6	12.4	7.3	11.1	4.8	19.5	10.4	5.8
PT	20.3	11.8	13.5	21.2	12.9	18.9	10.8	24.7	19.3	8.4
RO	2.1	2.0	2.0	0.5	1.2	3.6	2.6	2.3	2.1	0.1
SE	22.4	6.4	7.8	21.6	6.5	23.3	6.4	30.2	19.7	16.0
SI	20.1	7.8	9.5	19.9	8.6	20.2	7.1	30.7	16.1	12.3
SK	12.5	6.6	7.6	13.4	6.5	11.6	6.7	21.1	10.9	5.9
EU	**17.7**	**8.6**	**9.9**	**17.9**	**9.4**	**17.4**	**8.0**	**28.6**	**15.5**	**9.0**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change concerning labour market indicators drawn from the LFS survey. Consequently, the following indicators are indicative.

Data in (parenthesis) are 2019 indicators, not corrected. This affects the EU 27 aggregate.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

Table 33: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2019

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed. The data are not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			Women		Men		Degree	
				Disability		Disability			
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate
AT	18.3	5.7	8.8	16.0	6.2	20.2	5.3	40.5	14.5
BE	16.4	5.3	7.0	15.3	5.4	17.4	5.3	33.3	13.3
BG	16.2	11.8	12.0	15.8	11.4	16.6	12.2	(28.9)	15.2
CY	20.7	9.3	10.8	21.0	10.0	20.5	8.6	33.8	18.5
CZ	12.6	3.3	4.7	11.9	3.9	13.5	2.7	31.5	9.2
DE	20.1	3.5	6.0	20.1	3.6	20.0	3.4	37.5	15.3
DK	12.7	5.7	7.4	10.9	5.5	14.5	5.9	21.3	11.3
EE	8.7	4.2	5.2	6.7	4.0	10.6	4.4	13.0	7.5
EL	31.1	19.5	20.3	34.4	24.0	28.0	15.9	39.4	27.3
ES	30.0	17.0	18.1	33.4	19.2	26.5	15.2	44.1	28.1
FI	18.0	7.2	10.1	13.3	6.0	23.5	8.1	31.3	16.2
FR	16.9	8.7	10.0	15.6	9.7	18.4	7.8	25.0	13.7
HR	27.9	13.9	16.1	27.1	16.2	28.5	11.8	39.2	25.3
HU	12.4	4.9	5.8	11.9	5.5	12.9	4.4	33.4	8.9
IE	20.1	7.7	8.5	19.8	6.3	20.3	8.8	26.6	18.7
IT	16.8	11.5	12.0	17.7	12.9	16.0	10.5	21.8	16.2
LT	16.4	9.9	11.0	12.3	8.4	21.0	11.4	25.2	15.9
LU	13.4	4.6	6.2	13.4	4.3	13.4	4.9	28.8	8.5
LV	15.2	8.0	9.9	14.1	7.9	16.5	8.1	21.0	14.6
MT	3.7	1.4	1.6	0.0	1.4	5.8	1.4	(0.0)	4.6
NL	7.2	2.6	3.5	7.0	3.1	7.4	2.2	4.5	7.4
PL	13.4	6.6	7.4	12.9	8.2	13.8	5.2	16.2	12.9
PT	17.6	9.6	11.2	17.8	10.5	17.2	8.8	22.0	16.9
RO	2.5	2.0	2.1	1.3	1.3	3.6	2.5	(5.1)	2.4
SE	16.6	5.0	6.0	14.9	5.2	18.8	4.8	21.9	15.0
SI	20.5	7.7	10.1	20.3	9.1	20.8	6.4	28.8	17.7
SK	13.2	8.1	9.0	14.6	7.8	11.7	8.3	22.7	11.6
EU	**17.3**	**8.3**	**9.5**	**17.0**	**9.1**	**17.6**	**7.6**	**29.3**	**14.8**

Note: Data in parentheses are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

Table 34: Evolution of unemployment rate by disability status, age 20-64, EU

	EU 28				EU 27			
	Disability			All	Disability			All
	Severe	All Disabled	No disability	Total	Severe	All Disabled	No disability	Total
2006	23.3	16.6	8.6	9.7				
2007	22.6	16.1	8.0	9.1				
2008	26.7	15.9	7.1	8.4				
2009	28.1	17.3	9.0	10.2				
2010	28.2	18.0	9.8	10.9				
2011	28.0	17.4	10.2	11.2				
2012	27.6	18.1	11.2	12.2				
2013	28.1	19.0	11.8	13.0				
2014	29.8	19.6	11.3	12.6				
2015	29.9	20.2	10.8	12.1				
2016	28.5	19.6	10.1	11.4				
2017	27.0	17.1	9.1	10.2	29.7	18.4	9.9	11.1
2018	28.4	16.7	8.0	9.2	32.8	18.6	8.8	10.1
2019					29.3	17.3	8.3	9.5
2020					29.9	17.7	8.6	9.9
2021								9.5

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations. Data for 2021 are estimates.

Table 35: Evolution of unemployment rate by disability status, age 16-24, EU

	EU 28		EU 27	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
2006	19.9	16.7		
2007	20.6	16.2		
2008	22.4	16.0		
2009	28.5	21.8		
2010	25.4	23.5		
2011	24.5	22.4		
2012	27.6	24.2		
2013	28.8	25.5		
2014	32.7	24.1		
2015	29.7	23.3		
2016	29.4	21.9	33.0	25.1
2017	24.6	19.4	26.4	21.8
2018			26.7	20.5
2019			25.4	19.7
2020			31.3	21.2

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

Table 36: Structure of the unemployment rate by Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed aged 20-64 as a percentage of the active population of the same age.

	Unemployed ILO <12	Excluded	Long term unemployed ILO (>12)	Total
AT	3.2	3.2	3.8	10.2
BE	2.4	1.2	3.8	7.4
BG	3.5	2.3	7.0	12.8
CY	4.8	2.4	4.1	11.3
CZ	1.7	0.8	2.1	4.7
DE	1.3	1.0	3.7	6.0
DK	3.5	1.6	2.0	7.1
EE	3.4	1.6	1.7	6.6
EL	3.8	1.5	15.1	20.4
ES	7.2	3.0	10.0	20.2
FI	2.9	2.2	4.5	9.6
FR	3.3	1.9	5.5	10.6
HR	4.6	2.8	10.5	17.8
HU	2.1	1.6	2.1	5.8
IE	1.8	1.3	5.6	8.7
IT	2.7	1.1	8.3	12.0
LT	4.3	0.6	5.6	10.4
LU	4.8	0.6	3.1	8.5
LV	4.6	2.9	3.4	10.9
MT	1.4	1.3	0.0	2.8
NL	1.8	1.2	0.8	3.8
PL	1.8	1.4	3.3	6.6
PT	4.3	2.0	7.2	13.5
RO	0.2	0.4	1.4	2.0
SE	3.5	2.3	2.1	7.8
SI	2.4	2.0	5.1	9.5
SK	2.8	0.6	4.3	7.7
Total	**2.9**	**1.6**	**5.4**	**9.9**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

Table 37: Structure of the unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed aged 20-64 as a percentage of the active population of the same age and disability status.

	Persons without disabilities			Persons with disabilities		
	Unemployed ILO <12	Excluded	Long-term unemployed ILO (>12)	Unemployed ILO <12	Excluded	Long-term unemployed ILO (>12)
AT	2.8	2.4	2.6	4.8	5.9	8.1
BE	2.2	1.1	2.8	4.2	2.0	10.4

BG	3.5	2.3	6.8	4.9	3.3	10.1
CY	4.8	2.3	3.0	4.8	2.8	12.1
CZ	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.7	2.4	8.3
DE	1.0	0.6	1.9	2.7	3.2	14.2
DK	3.3	1.0	1.1	4.2	3.1	4.5
EE	3.0	1.2	1.4	5.1	2.9	3.0
EL	3.8	1.5	14.5	3.5	1.8	23.4
ES	7.2	2.7	9.0	7.5	4.5	16.4
FI	2.5	1.7	3.0	3.9	3.4	8.5
FR	3.3	1.7	4.7	3.3	3.0	10.2
HR	4.7	2.6	8.8	3.9	4.0	20.8
HU	2.0	1.4	1.6	3.0	2.8	5.9
IE	1.6	1.0	4.7	4.0	3.4	14.2
IT	2.6	1.0	7.9	3.4	1.4	11.9
LT	4.0	0.4	4.5	5.5	1.4	10.5
LU	4.8	0.5	1.8	5.0	1.2	8.9
LV	4.2	2.5	2.9	5.8	4.1	4.8
MT	1.2	1.1	0.0	4.6	5.1	0.0
NL	1.6	1.1	0.5	3.0	1.6	1.9
PL	1.8	1.2	3.0	2.0	3.1	6.7
PT	4.3	1.6	5.9	4.5	3.5	12.3
RO	0.2	0.4	1.4	0.1	0.3	1.8
SE	3.3	1.7	1.4	5.0	7.9	9.5
SI	2.4	1.8	3.6	2.5	3.5	14.1
SK	2.6	0.5	3.4	3.4	0.8	8.3
EU	**2.8**	**1.3**	**4.6**	**3.7**	**3.0**	**10.9**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

Table 38: Long-term unemployment rate of persons with disabilities by Member State, aged 20-64, 2020

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed aged 20-64 as a percentage of the active population of the same age and gender.

	Women with disabilities	Men with disabilities
AT	6.7	9.2
BE	9.7	11.0
BG	8.0	12.2
CY	11.1	12.9
CZ	8.0	8.9
DE	13.6	14.8
DK	5.8	3.2
EE	1.5	4.6
EL	25.5	21.7
ES	17.8	14.9
FI	7.7	9.4

FR	9.9	10.6
HR	18.9	22.5
HU	5.4	6.4
IE	9.9	18.0
IT	12.7	11.4
LT	9.5	11.6
LU	7.6	10.5
LV	4.2	5.6
MT	0.0	0.0
NL	1.4	2.5
PL	7.8	5.5
PT	12.8	11.5
RO	0.5	2.9
SE	10.7	8.0
SI	13.0	15.2
SK	9.4	7.2
EU	**10.9**	**11.0**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries; consequently, these indicators are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2019.

9 Activity rate

9.1 Relevance to EU policy/strategy

Participating in the labour market is a prerequisite for a job that ensures economic independence, fosters personal achievement and offers the best protection against poverty.

In their assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) noted that unemployment and economic inactivity remain very high in some countries, notably among a number of groups who, despite recent progress, continue to be under-represented in the labour market: women, people from a migrant background, the low-skilled, youth, older workers and people with disabilities.[71]

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 notes that the European Pillar of Social Rights[72] serves as a compass for employment and social policies. Principle 17 of the Pillar underlines that persons with disabilities have the right to income support that ensures their living in dignity; services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society; and a work environment adapted to their needs.

The resilience and recovery plans[73] ought to use relevant indicators to monitor the contribution of the Facility to the reduction of disparities. Furthermore, the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) scoreboard and auxiliary indicators include, notably, the activity rate, among various other indicators.

9.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

9.2.1 General comments

At the time of producing this report, available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change, covering labour market indicators, drawn from the LFS survey.[74] Consequently, the following indicators are indicative.

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71 European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (2019) *Assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy : joint report of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and Social Protection Committee (SPC)*, Publications Office.

72 Interinstitutional Proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights, 2017/C 428/09, 13 December 2017, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017C1213(01)&from=EN.

73 1. European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/692a886f-7cfc-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.
2. European Commission (2020), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Statistical Annex', SWD(2020) 275 final, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/16624/9862137/2021_statistical_annex_en.pdf.

74 See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsi_emp_a/default/table?lang=en, data on employment, unemployment and activity rates in Germany and Italy, extracted on 9 May 2022 [ESTAT].

In the EU 27, about 61.6 % of persons with disabilities were participating in the labour market (employed or unemployed), in comparison with 82.2 % of persons without disabilities. The total rate was 78.6 %. For comparison, the LFS presents an activity rate of 77.1 % for the same age group. However, the indicator used by Eurostat relies on the ILO definition.[75]

In the EU 27, about 26.9 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were economically active, out of 43.7 million disabled persons in the same age group.

Table 39: Activity rate by disability status, age 20-64, 2020

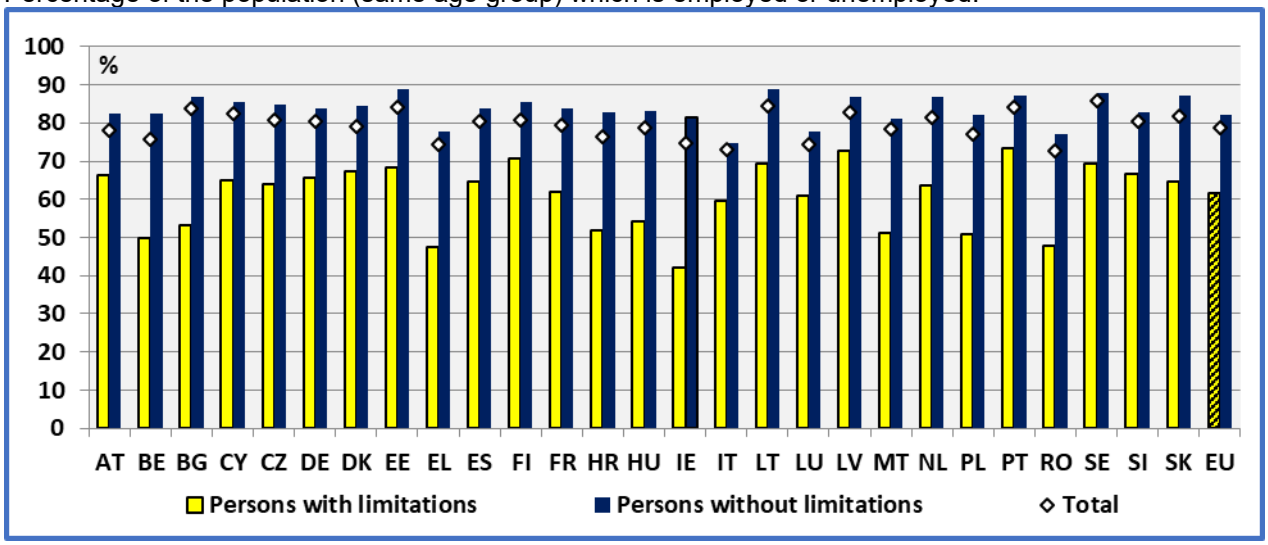
	Economically inactive (Not in the labour force)	**Economically active** (Employed or unemployed)	**Total**
1 000 000			
Persons without disabilities	36.7	169.5	206.2
Persons with disabilities	16.8	26.9	43.7
Total	53.5	196.4	249.9
%			
Persons without disabilities	17.8	82.2	100
Persons with disabilities	38.4	61.6	100
Total	21.4	78.6	100

Note: The data are indicative; see explanations in the text.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

The activity rate for persons with disabilities was particularly low in Ireland, Greece and Romania. The same ranking was found in 2019. On the contrary, it was relatively high in Finland, Latvia and Portugal.

[75] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsi_emp_a/default/table?lang=en; data extracted on 1 May 2022 [ESTAT].

Figure 44: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020
Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.



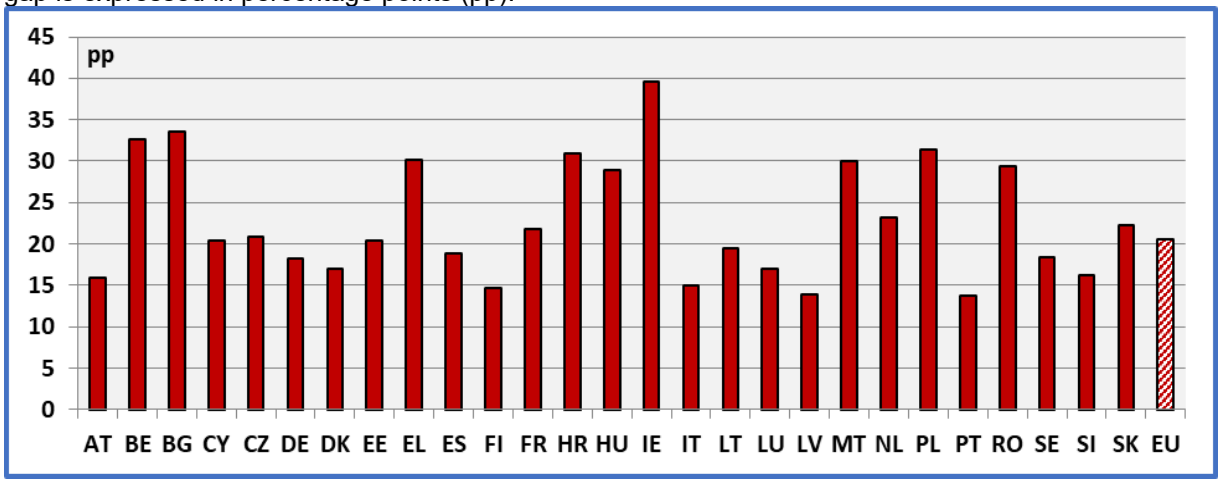
Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative; see explanations in the text. This affects the EU aggregate.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

9.2.2 Disability activity gap

At the EU 27 level, there was a big difference between persons with and without disabilities. The absolute activity gap amounted to 20.6 percentage points. The relative difference was 25.1 %.

The activity gap was notably high in Belgium, Bulgaria and Ireland. On the contrary, it was relatively low in Portugal, Latvia and Finland.

Figure 45: Activity gap, age 20-64, 2019
Gap = (Activity rate of people without disabilities %) – (Activity rate of people with disabilities %). The gap is expressed in percentage points (pp).



Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative; see explanations in the text. This affects the EU aggregate.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

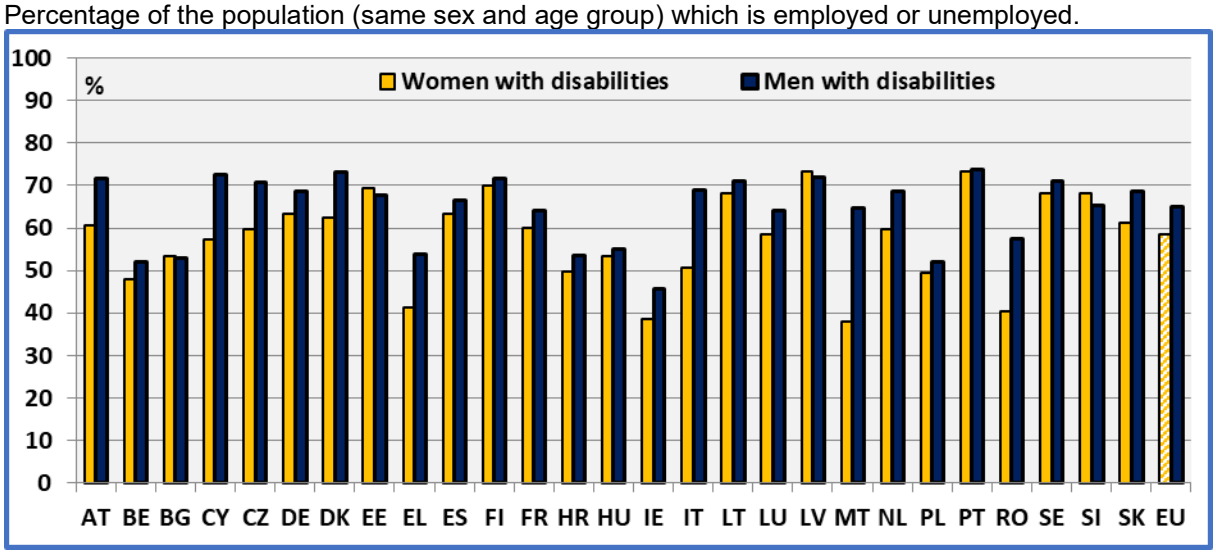
9.2.3 Activity rate by gender

Women with disabilities face a double disadvantage. The activity rate of persons with disabilities was lower in comparison with persons without disabilities. Furthermore, the activity rate of women with disabilities (58.6 %) was lower in comparison with the rate for men with disabilities (65.0 %).

In the following figure, it may be observed that Malta, Ireland and Romania (in ascending order) had the lowest rates for women with disabilities. Finland, Portugal and Latvia presented the highest rates.

Figure 46: Persons with disabilities, activity rate by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2020

Percentage of the population (same sex and age group) which is employed or unemployed.



Note: The data for Germany and Italy are indicative; see explanations in the text. This affects the EU aggregate.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

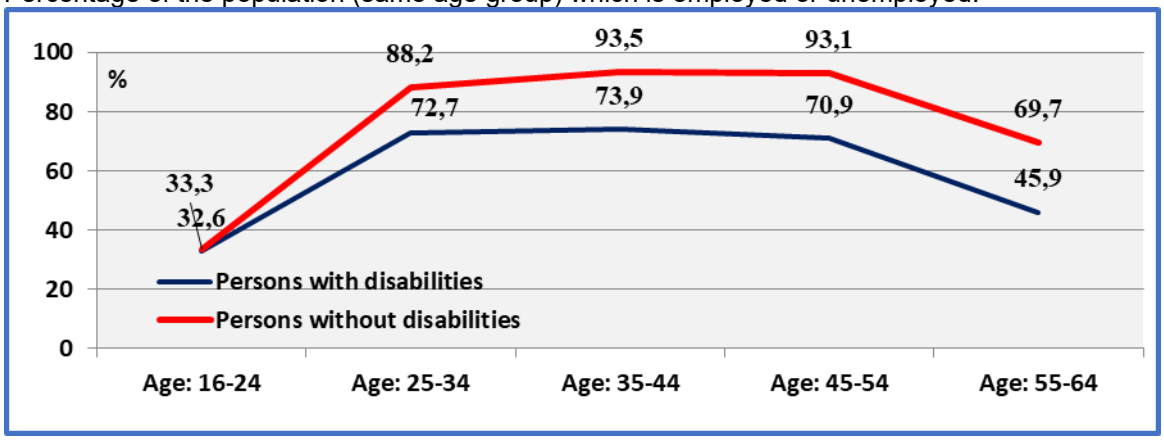
9.2.4 Activity rate by age

The following analysis covers only 25 Member States. As noted, data for Germany and Italy are missing.

The evolution of the activity rate by age group was similar for persons with and without disabilities. However, the gap increased in both absolute and relative terms.

The activity rate in the 55-64 age group decreased between 2019 and 2020. In the EU 25 in 2019, in the 45-54 age group, the activity rate was 44.5 % for persons with disabilities and 67.5 % for persons without disabilities.

Figure 47: Activity rate by age group and disability status, EU 25, 2020
Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.



Note: The data do not include Germany and Italy. The EU aggregate covers 25 Member States.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

Katalin Bodnár and Derry O'Brien note that the labour force participation rate for older workers was trending upwards before the pandemic, reflecting, notably, rising educational level and the effects of past pension reforms. The decrease of the labour force participation rate for older workers was not in line with past cyclical patterns. Bodnár and O'Brien consider that fear of infection may be one of the factors behind the findings regarding a decrease in the activity rate for older workers.[76]

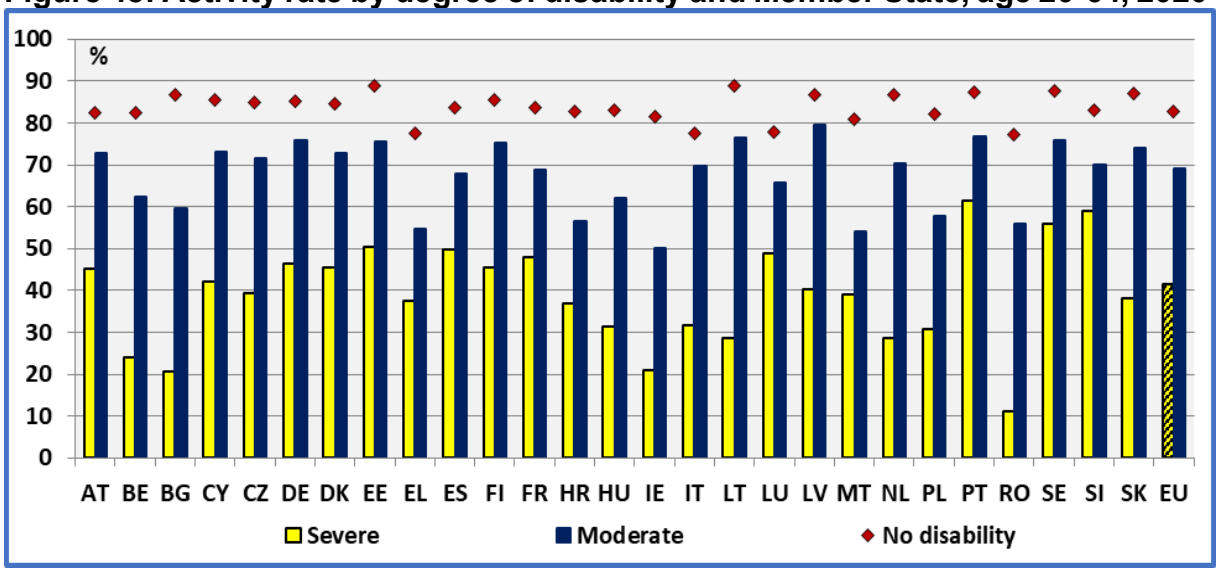
9.2.5 Activity rate by degree

The degree of disability is inversely related to the activity rate. In the EU 27, the activity rate for persons without disabilities, moderate disabilities and severe disabilities was, respectively, 82.9 %, 69.0 % and 41.5 %.

In ascending order, Romania, Bulgaria and Ireland presented the lowest rates for persons with severe disabilities. Sweden, Slovenia and Portugal presented the highest rates for persons with severe disabilities.

[76] Bodnár, K. and O'Brien, D., 'Labour supply developments in the euro area during the COVID-19 pandemic', *ECB Economic Bulletin*, 7/2021, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/focus/2021/html/ecb.ebbox202107_03~04da961c7f.en.html.

Figure 48: Activity rate by degree of disability and Member State, age 20-64, 2020



Note: The data concerning Germany and Italy refer to 2019.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

The data indicate that countries with similar activity rates for non-disabled people presented big differences in their respective activity rates for people with disabilities. This means that there is potential for increasing the activity rate of people with disabilities through the transfer of experience from one country to another, notably concerning the provision of technical aids and work adaptations.

The national activity rates for persons with moderate disabilities are correlated with the national activity rates for persons without disabilities (R^2=0.43). It may be argued that general conditions affect the activity rate for persons with moderate disabilities.
On the contrary, the national activity rates for persons with severe disabilities are not correlated with the national activity rates for persons without disabilities (R^2=0.09, F: 2.46). It may be advanced that the general national context does not have an impact on the activity rate of persons with severe disabilities. This might be an indication that the activity rate for persons with severe disabilities depends on specific factors relating to disability such as mobility barriers, availability of work adaptations, technical aids, etc. National policies in these domains might determine the activity rate of persons with severe disabilities.

Similar results were found in the past and presented in previous annual reports.

This might indicate that persons with disabilities, notably persons with severe disabilities, might not benefit from a general improvement in the labour market if they do not have the necessary support for work adaptations and technical aids.

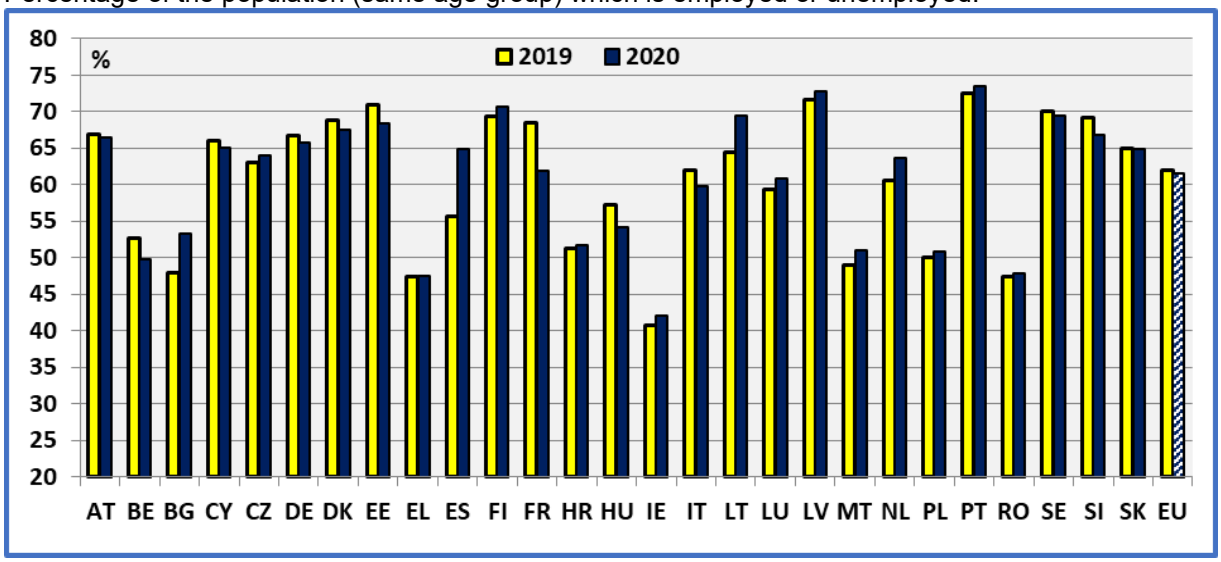
9.2.6 Evolution at national level

In the EU 27 between 2019 and 2020, the activity rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 decreased from 62.0 % to 60.7 %. On the contrary, the activity rate of persons without disabilities increased from 82.5 % to 82.2 %. However, these data are indicative, and further analysis is required that includes final data for Germany and Italy.

Nonetheless, it may be noted that the activity rates for older workers decreased in 2020, probably due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In previous reports, we noted that older workers, and notably older persons with disabilities, reported more diseases and/or health conditions in comparison with younger persons. In a period of pandemic and fear of COVID-19, this may have driven certain persons, notably those with disabilities, to quit the labour force.

Figure 49: Evolution of the activity rate of persons with disabilities, by Member State, aged 20-64

Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.

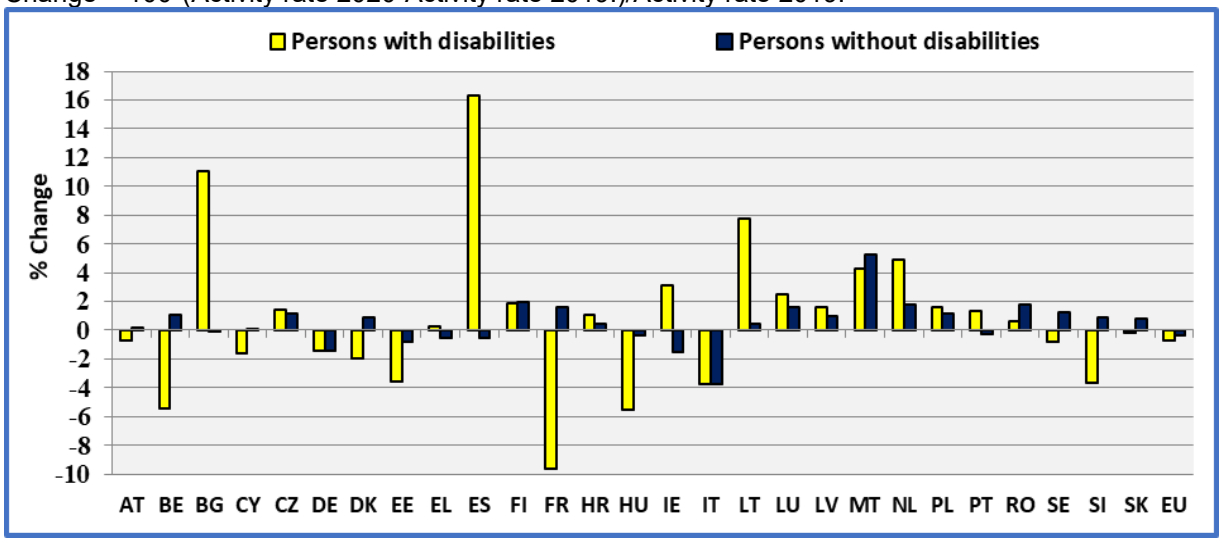


Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 and 2020. Author's own calculations for Germany and Italy for 2020.

National evolutions were very different across the 27 Member States. However, comparisons across countries are not desirable because the data are not annual averages, and the cycle of the COVID-19 pandemic had an important impact on quarterly indicators. Furthermore, these data are indicative, and further analysis is required that includes final data for Germany and Italy.

As noted in previous reports, the annual variations in the national activity rates between persons with and without disabilities are not correlated (or are marginally correlated). The following graph help us to visualise this.

Figure 50: Relative change of the activity rate between 2019 and 2020, age 20-64
Change = 100*(Activity rate 2020-Activity rate 2019.)/Activity rate 2019.



Note: Data for Spain present a break in the time series.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 & 2020. Author's own calculations for Germany and Italy, in 2020.

9.2.7 Evolution at the EU level

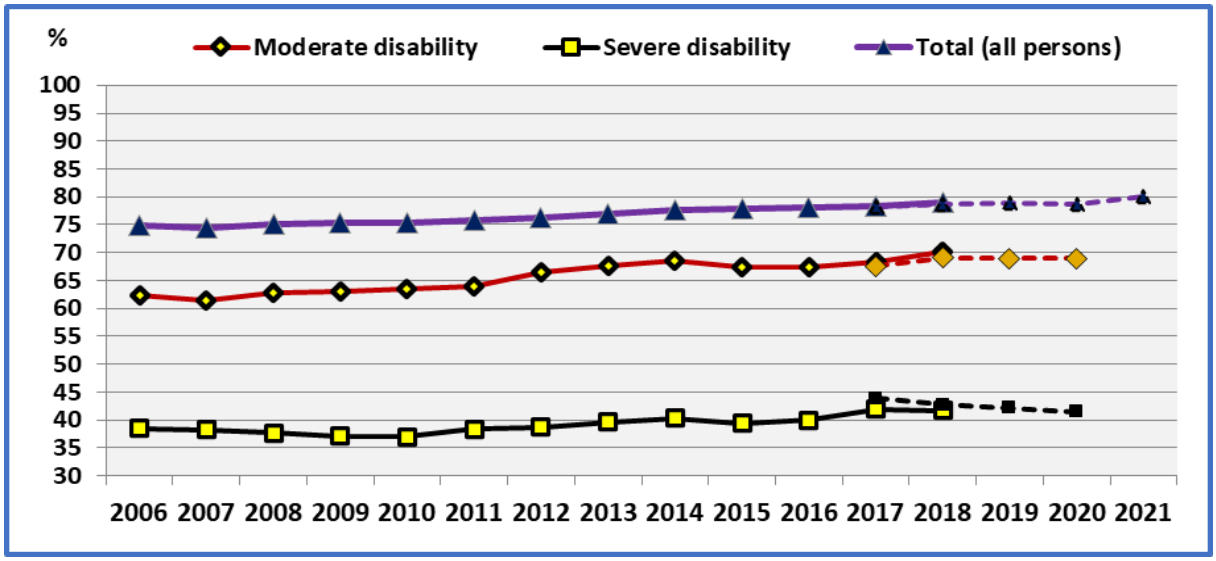
At the EU 27 level, we have seen a continuous increase in the activity rates for the different groups since 2010. The apparent decrease of the activity rate between 2014 and 2015 was due to the change in the definition of 'activity limitations' in Germany and Italy.

It appears that past national activation policies and improved prospects for employment increased the activity rates among all groups, but to a lesser extent for persons with severe disabilities. This upward trend in activity rates was reversed in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Concerning the activity gap between persons with and without disabilities, it may be observed that the long-term activity gap remains high.

As noted in previous reports, different factors might have exerted a negative impact on the activity rate for persons with disabilities in 2020. For example, comorbidities increase the risk of severe COVID-19 infection; this might have pushed older workers to take early retirement or quit the labour force. In addition, in 2020, low expectations concerning employment might have discouraged unemployed older workers, prompting them to leave the labour force.

Figure 51: Evolution of the activity rate of people with disabilities, EU, age 20-64
Dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: The 2021 value is a simple extrapolation based on available LFS data.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy in 2020.

9.2.8 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The SHARE survey (see a description in the Annex) asked first for the current job situation of the interviewee. A second question was put to those who declared themselves retired: 'Did you retire after the outbreak of Corona? Yes, No'.

In the EU in 2021, about 17.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 50-64 declared that they had retired after the outbreak of coronavirus. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 22.9 %. The total was 21.1 %.

The following question, which focused on those who answered 'Yes', was: 'Did you retire as planned, earlier, or later than planned?' About 30.3 % of persons with disabilities declared that they had retired earlier, in comparison with 27.6 % of persons without disabilities.

Table 40: Percentage of persons who retired after the outbreak of coronavirus by planned schedule, aged 50-64, EU, 2021

	As planned	Earlier	Latter	Total
Persons without disabilities	66.8	27.6	5.7	100
Persons with disabilities	67.3	30.3	2.4	100
Total	66.9	28.4	4.6	100

Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

As noted above, comorbidities increase the risk of severe COVID-19 infection. This might have pushed older workers to take early retirement, notably older workers with disabilities.

Another question asked those who declared that they had retired earlier or later than planned if this was due to the outbreak of coronavirus. However, the sample size of

this group was small and the results could not be used with the usual statistical robustness.

9.3 Statistical tables

Table 41: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2020
Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.
The data are not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			Women		Men		Degree		Disability
				Disability		Disability				gap
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	in pp
AT	66.4	82.4	78.1	60.6	75.0	71.8	89.9	45.3	72.8	16.0
BE	49.8	82.5	75.8	48.0	79.0	51.9	85.9	23.9	62.4	32.7
BG	53.3	86.8	83.9	53.5	81.5	53.0	92.0	20.7	59.5	33.6
CY	65.0	85.4	82.3	57.3	80.2	72.6	91.0	42.2	73.1	20.4
CZ	64.0	84.9	80.9	59.9	78.2	70.8	94.4	39.2	71.6	20.9
DE	65.7	83.9	80.6	63.2	79.9	68.5	88.0	(46.4)	(75.9)	18.2
DK	67.4	84.4	79.2	62.5	81.7	73.3	87.0	45.4	72.8	17.0
EE	68.4	88.9	84.0	69.3	84.5	67.6	93.3	50.5	75.4	20.4
EL	47.5	77.6	74.5	41.1	67.5	53.9	88.0	37.5	54.5	30.1
ES	64.8	83.7	80.4	63.4	78.8	66.5	88.5	49.9	67.8	18.9
FI	70.8	85.5	80.9	70.1	82.2	71.6	88.1	45.6	75.3	14.7
FR	61.8	83.6	79.5	60.0	80.2	64.0	87.1	48.0	68.8	21.8
HR	51.8	82.7	76.2	49.8	76.9	53.7	88.6	37.0	56.5	30.9
HU	54.1	83.0	78.6	53.3	75.8	55.1	90.2	31.5	61.9	28.9
IE	42.0	81.6	74.6	38.6	74.2	45.7	89.1	21.0	50.1	39.6
IT	59.7	74.7	72.9	50.7	63.4	69.0	86.0	(31.7)	(69.7)	15.0
LT	69.5	89.0	84.6	68.2	85.7	71.0	92.4	28.6	76.4	19.5
LU	60.9	77.9	74.2	58.5	71.5	64.2	83.9	48.8	65.8	17.0
LV	72.9	86.8	82.7	73.5	81.9	72.1	91.9	40.3	79.6	13.9
MT	51.1	81.0	78.3	37.9	70.1	64.7	90.4	39.1	54.0	29.9
NL	63.6	86.8	81.4	59.7	83.2	68.7	90.1	28.6	70.2	23.2
PL	50.8	82.2	77.1	49.5	74.5	52.2	90.6	30.7	57.7	31.4
PT	73.5	87.2	84.1	73.4	84.3	73.7	90.2	61.5	76.9	13.7
RO	47.8	77.2	72.7	40.4	64.7	57.4	88.8	11.2	55.9	29.4
SE	69.5	87.8	85.8	68.3	84.7	70.9	90.5	55.9	75.9	18.3
SI	66.7	83.0	80.3	68.1	80.3	65.4	85.4	59.0	70.2	16.2
SK	64.8	87.0	81.9	61.2	80.9	68.7	92.8	38.0	74.1	22.2
EU	**61.6**	**82.2**	**78.6**	**58.6**	**76.0**	**65.0**	**88.4**	**41.5**	**69.0**	**20.6**

Note: Available EU-SILC 2020 microdata for research, at the time of producing this report, did not contain data for Germany and Italy. In order to fill this gap, we used EU-SILC 2019 indicators for these countries, corrected for 2019-2020 changes. We used, as a correction factor, the percentage change concerning labour market indicators drawn from the LFS survey. Consequently, the following indicators are indicative.
Data in (parenthesis) are 2019 indicators, not corrected. This affects the EU 27 aggregate.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

Table 42: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2019
Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.
The data are not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			Women		Men		Degree	
				Disability		Disability			
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate
AT	66.8	82.2	77.9	59.2	74.7	74.6	89.8	44.2	73.2
BE	52.7	81.6	75.2	49.7	78.0	55.9	85.2	23.9	67.3
BG	48.0	86.9	83.5	48.9	81.8	47.0	91.9	(20.7)	53.5
CY	66.1	85.3	82.2	61.0	79.8	71.2	91.1	39.6	74.6
CZ	63.1	83.9	79.9	60.6	76.1	67.0	94.3	39.7	70.5
DE	66.7	85.2	81.8	64.0	80.9	69.7	89.5	46.4	75.9
DK	68.8	83.7	79.5	64.8	81.0	73.6	86.2	48.9	73.7
EE	71.0	89.6	84.6	70.3	85.8	71.7	93.4	54.1	77.6
EL	47.4	78.0	74.7	44.1	68.0	51.0	88.3	35.2	56.3
ES	55.7	84.2	80.8	56.1	78.3	55.3	90.0	38.2	59.4
FI	69.4	83.8	79.4	69.4	81.1	69.5	86.2	48.4	74.0
FR	68.4	82.3	79.7	67.4	78.8	69.7	85.9	57.9	73.7
HR	51.3	82.4	75.2	49.1	77.4	53.4	87.3	36.9	56.3
HU	57.3	83.3	79.0	54.2	77.5	60.7	89.1	31.3	66.4
IE	40.8	82.8	77.2	33.0	76.3	48.7	89.6	24.2	47.9
IT	62.0	77.6	75.8	53.2	66.5	71.2	88.7	31.7	69.7
LT	64.5	88.6	83.3	62.8	84.9	66.5	92.6	24.3	71.4
LU	59.4	76.7	72.9	56.1	71.0	63.6	82.3	49.2	63.6
LV	71.7	85.9	81.8	72.1	80.6	71.3	91.6	45.4	76.4
MT	49.0	76.9	74.7	34.4	65.2	63.9	87.4	(45.6)	49.8
NL	60.6	85.3	79.3	57.6	81.5	64.5	88.8	24.0	68.0
PL	50.0	81.2	76.0	47.9	73.9	52.4	89.6	29.1	57.8
PT	72.5	87.5	84.0	70.9	84.9	75.0	90.0	53.8	76.9
RO	47.5	75.9	71.4	38.8	63.0	59.0	87.7	(13.1)	55.6
SE	70.1	86.7	84.9	69.0	83.2	71.6	89.8	57.1	75.4
SI	69.2	82.3	79.4	68.9	80.1	69.6	84.3	64.0	71.2
SK	64.9	86.3	81.5	62.2	79.6	68.1	92.7	38.9	73.2
EU	**62.0**	**82.5**	**79.0**	**59.1**	**76.2**	**65.4**	**88.8**	**42.1**	**69.0**

Note: Data in parenthesis are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 Release 1 2021.

Table 43: Evolution of the activity rate, EU, age 20-64

	EU 28			EU 27		
	Disability		All persons	Disability		All persons
	Moderate	Severe		Moderate	Severe	
2006	62.4	38.5	75.0			
2007	61.5	38.2	74.4			
2008	62.7	37.6	75.0			
2009	63.1	37.1	75.2			
2010	63.4	37.0	75.4			
2011	64.1	38.3	75.7			
2012	66.6	38.7	76.3			
2013	67.6	39.7	76.8			
2014	68.6	40.3	77.5			
2015	67.3	39.4	77.8			
2016	67.4	39.9	78.2			
2017	68.2	42.0	78.4	67.5	43.9	78.1
2018	70.3	41.8	79.1	69.1	42.7	78.7
2019				69.0	42.1	79.0
2020				69.0	41.5	78.6
2021						80.0

Data source: EU-SILC UDB. Data for 2021 are simple extrapolations based on LFS results.

PART IV: Social protection and inclusion

10 Disability employment gap

10.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

In the introduction to the employment analysis, we highlighted the importance of employment policies for the UN CRPD, the Agenda 2030, the Disability Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In the field of social protection and inclusion, the EU target is aimed at reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030. The percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is an important indicator. From this point of view, employment remains an important channel for the integration of persons at risk of poverty and exclusion. Consequently, reducing any discrimination in employment contributes to the socio-economic integration of all social groups.

In other words, employment discrimination may lead to poverty and exclusion. Consequently, any discrimination in the labour market may explain high rates of poverty.

From this perspective, the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan[77] proposed a renewed list of headline indicators. It includes the disability employment gap (in percentage points) as a headline indicator for measuring progress on social protection and inclusion.

As noted, the renewed list of headline indicators was endorsed by the Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs of the European Union in June 2021.

The 'Disability employment gap' statistical indicator, in unadjusted form, measures the difference between the employment rate for persons with disabilities versus the employment rate for persons without disabilities.

10.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

10.2.1 General comments

The disability employment gap ought to help monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in comparison with that of persons without disabilities in the EU.

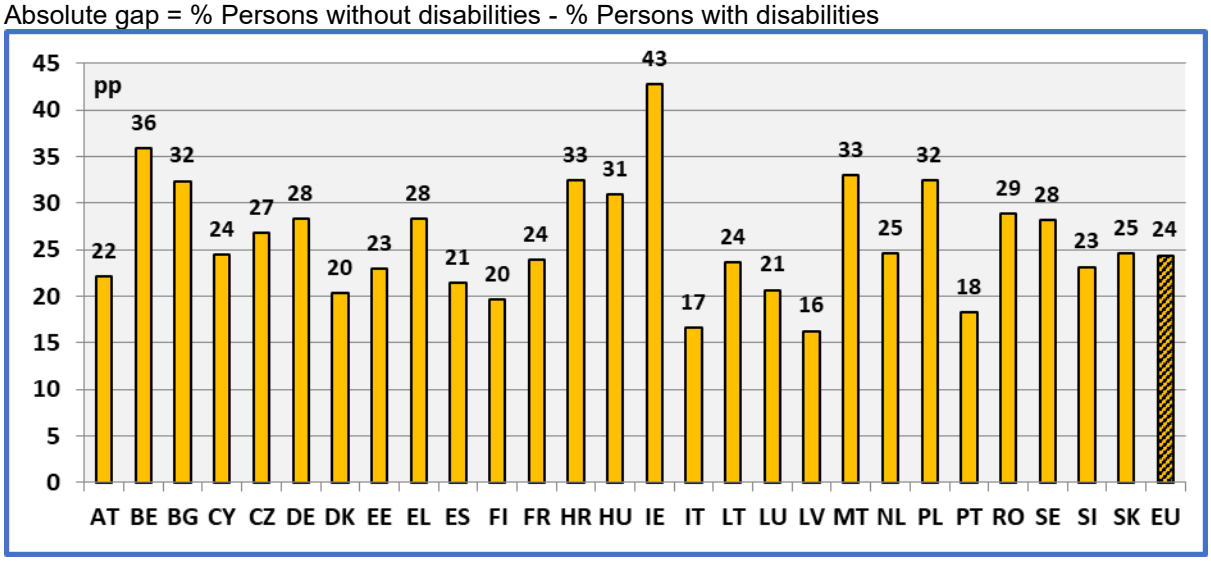
In the following figure, a significant employment gap in all Member States can be observed. In the EU 27, the disability employment gap for the 20-64 age group was 24.4 percentage points (relative gap: 32.5 %).

[77] See European Commission – Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-pillar-of-social-rights/indicators/social-scoreboard-indicators.
Detailed annual data can be extracted from Eurostat's website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tepsr_sp200/default/table?lang=en.

The highest employment gap could be found in Malta (33.0 percentage points), Belgium (35.9 percentage points) and Ireland (42.7 percentage points). On the other side, the lowest employment gaps could be found in Latvia (16.3 percentage points), Italy (16.6 percentage points) and Portugal (18.3 percentage points).

Figure 52: The employment gap between persons with and without disabilities, aged 20-64, 2020, expressed in percentage points (pp)

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities



Note: Concerning Germany and Italy, in the chapter treating employment, we described the methodology used to estimate the employment rates for these countries. For information, Eurostat provides a rate of 32.4 percentage points for Germany, with the indication break in the time series, and 14.9 percentage points for Italy. Data extracted on 27 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tepsr_sp200/default/table?lang=en.
We present here our own estimates for coherence with data presented above on employment.
The data are rounded for clarity of comparison. The original data on employment levels can be found in the statistical tables in the 'Employment' chapter.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

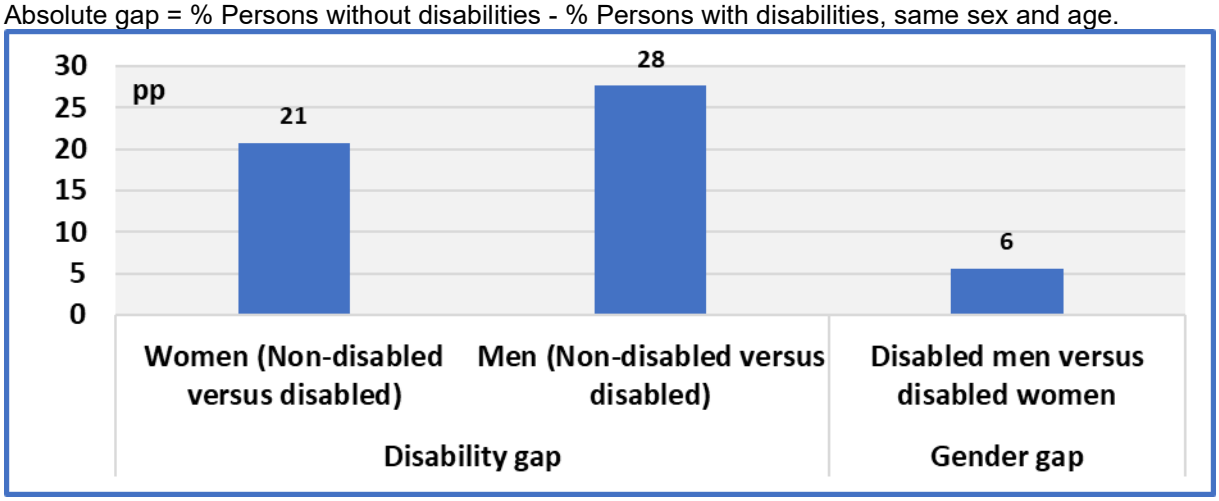
10.2.2 Disability employment gap by gender

In the EU 27, the disability employment gap for women (women without disabilities in comparison with women with disabilities) amounted to 20.7 percentage points. This gap was 27.6 percentage points for men.

Focusing only on persons with disabilities, the gender employment gap (women with disabilities versus men with disabilities) amounted to 6 percentage points.

Figure 53: The disability employment gap by gender, expressed in percentage points (pp), age 20-64, 2020

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities, same sex and age.



Note: The original data on employment levels can be found in the statistical tables of the 'Employment' chapter. The data are rounded for clarity of comparison. Eurostat presents a gap of 21.5 % and 26.5 %.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

10.2.3 Evolution

The disability employment gap has followed a cyclical evolution. From 2006 to 2008, the gap was increasing, but it decreased between 2008-2013. During this period of recession, older workers with strong acquired rights were more likely to maintain employment, which might explain the decreasing employment gap.

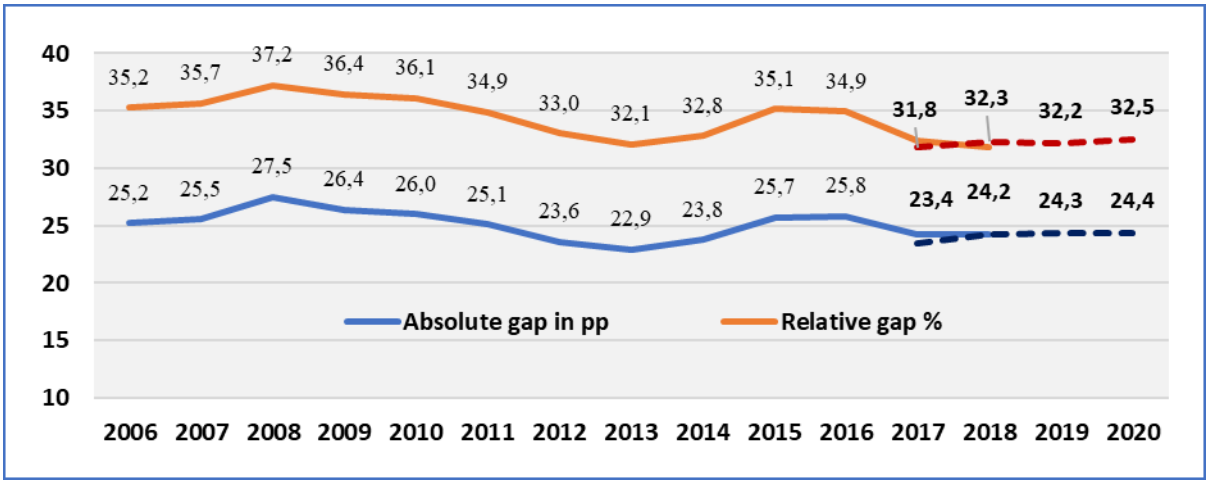
Between 2013 and 2016, the gap increased again. During this period, persons without disabilities benefited relatively more from an expanding labour market in comparison with persons with disabilities.

During the latter years, the absolute gap stabilised at around 24 percentage points. The relative gap stabilised at around 32 % of the employment rate for persons without disabilities.

The change between 2019-2020 ought to be treated with caution due to the special circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the provisional nature of our data.

Figure 54: Evolution of the employment gap for people with disabilities, age 20-64

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

10.3 Statistical tables

Table 44: Employment rates and disability employment gap

Country	EU-SILC UDB (Own calculations for DE & IT) Based on EU-SILC PL031: Self-defined current economic status						
	2019	2020			2020		
	Gap	Employment rates (Age 20-64)		Gap	Gap		Notes
		Disability			Disability		
	All	No disabilities	With disabilities	All	All	Severe	
AT	22.9	76.0	53.9	22.1	20.5	49.3	
BE	33.2	77.5	41.6	35.9	36.3	57.6	
BG	36.4	76.0	43.6	32.4	33.0	58.6	a
CY	25.0	76.8	52.3	24.5	23.5	44.5	
CZ	26.0	82.3	55.5	26.8	25.6	50.4	
DE	28.9	80.6	52.3	28.3	32.4	54.2	b
DK	18.9	79.9	59.5	20.4	18.1	40.6	
EE	21.0	83.9	61.0	23.0	20.6	38.5	
EL	30.2	62.2	33.9	28.3	27.7	35.6	
ES	30.9	67.9	46.4	21.5	21.6	31.0	
FI	20.9	79.3	59.6	19.6	19.9	48.4	
FR	18.2	75.6	51.6	24.0	22.8	39.6	b
HR	34.0	69.4	36.9	32.5	32.9	49.2	
HU	29.1	78.8	47.8	31.0	31.2	55.1	
IE	43.9	75.7	32.9	42.7	38.6	58.3	a
IT	17.0	66.9	50.3	16.6	14.9	33.7	

LT	25.9	81.1	57.5	23.6	22.7	58.9	a
LU	21.7	72.4	51.7	20.7	22.1	40.3	b
LV	18.2	78.4	62.2	16.3	16.7	47.7	
MT	28.7	79.1	46.1	33.0	29.4	37.5	a
NL	26.8	84.1	59.5	24.7	25.4	58.5	
PL	32.5	77.3	44.8	32.5	31.3	50.0	
PT	19.3	76.9	58.7	18.3	18.2	28.8	
RO	28.1	75.7	46.8	28.9	30.4	65.6	a
SE	24.0	82.1	53.9	28.2	28.9	46.6	a
SI	21.0	76.5	53.3	23.2	21.7	30.6	
SK	23.0	81.3	56.7	24.6	23.6	50.1	
EU	**24.3**	**75.1**	**50.7**	**24.4**	**24.5**	**44.1**	

‘a’: low reliability
‘b’: break in time series
Note: Concerning Germany and Italy, see the chapter ‘Employment’ for more information.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.
Eurostat, data extracted on 27 May 2022 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tepsr_sp200/default/table?lang=en.

11 People living in households with very low work intensity

11.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

The UN Convention, in Article 27, which addresses 'Work and employment', stresses the promotion of 'employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment'.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Goal 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity. It calls for providing decent employment for all, including women, people with disabilities, youth, the elderly and migrants.

The European Pillar of Social Rights, under the 'Equal opportunities' heading, provides that regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, etc.

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion specified how it will contribute to the Commission priorities.[78] It defined a set of impact indicators including, notably, people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The 'People at risk of poverty or social exclusion' (AROPE) indicator is a main indicator for monitoring the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion. This indicator is based on three components: the at risk of poverty (AROP) indicator; the persons living in households with very low work intensity (LWI) indicator; and the severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD). All three components are part of the European Pillar of Social Rights set of indicators, which are aimed at monitoring progress on social protection and inclusion.

People living in households with very low work intensity are people living in households where the adults worked to less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year.

The work intensity of the household is defined as the ratio between, on the one hand, the number of months for which all working age household members have been working during the income reference year and, on the other hand, the total number of months that could theoretically have been worked by the same household members in the same period.[79] The indicator is based on persons aged 18-59 (excluding students). The work intensity status is assigned to each household member.

[78] European Commission (2021), *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/strategic-plan-2020-2024-employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en.

[79] See Eurostat: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/sdi/files/QP%20People%20living%20in%20households%20with%20very%20work%20intensity.pdf.

People living in households with very low work intensity are more likely to be exposed to social exclusion and risk of poverty due to their dependency on social transfers and their difficulty in accessing common goods and services.

In the following, we present statistical indicators in accordance with Europe 2020 definitions. From 2021 onwards, these indicators have been redefined in accordance with Europe 2030 targets. One major change concerns age covered (less than 65 instead of 59).

11.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

11.2.1 General comments

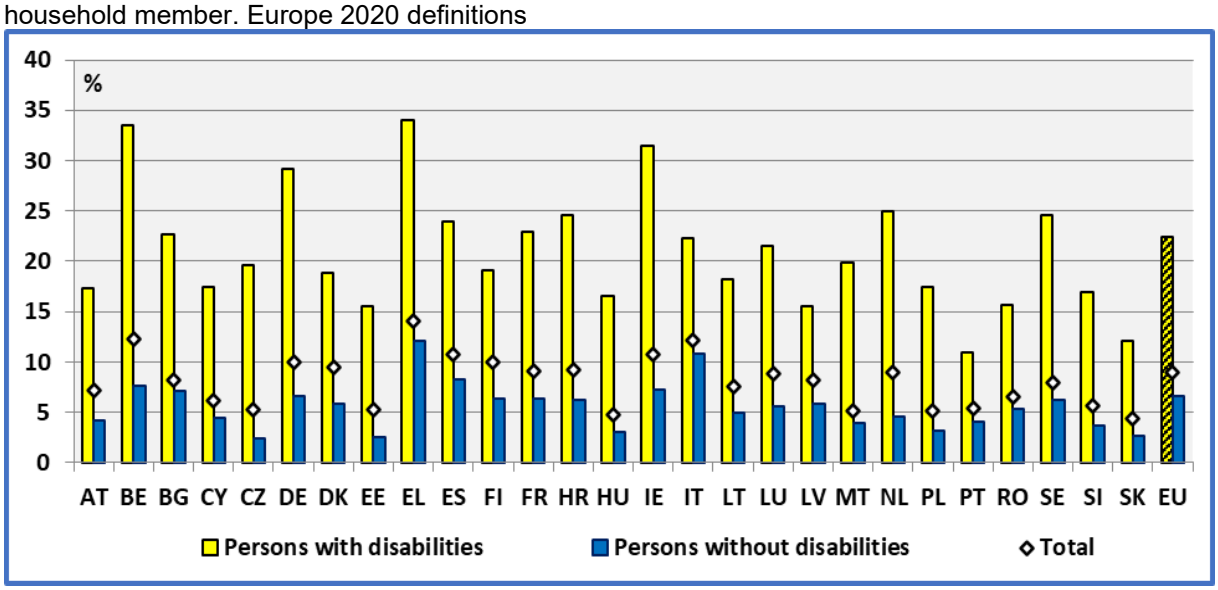
People living in households with very low work intensity are people living in households where the adults worked to less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year. Consequently, work intensity measures the employment rate of the household, but it does not take into account the distribution of employment within a household (including several adults).

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 22.4 % of persons with disabilities were living in households with a low work intensity (<20 %), in comparison with 6.6 % of persons without disabilities. This represents a difference of about 15.8 percentage points. Similar differences were observed in previous years. The total rate was 9.0 %. The data cover persons aged 16-59.

The percentage of persons with disabilities who were living in households with a low work intensity (<20 %) varied, from 11.0 % (Portugal) to 34.0 % (Greece), across the Member States.

Figure 55: Percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %), aged 16-59, 2020

Based on persons aged 18-59 (excluding students). The work intensity status is assigned to each household member. Europe 2020 definitions



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 14 April 2022 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en

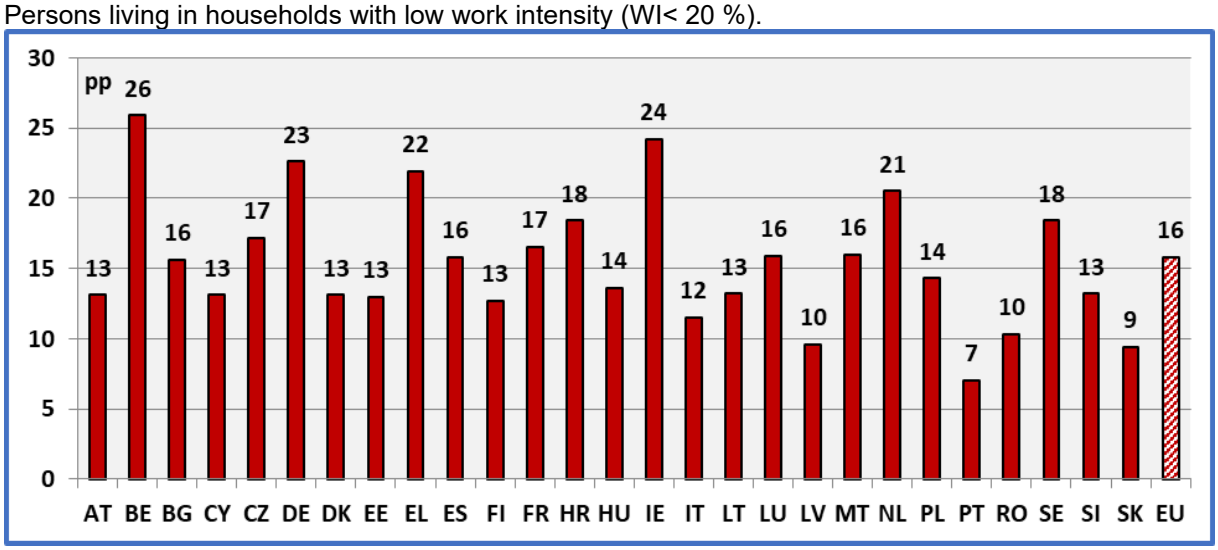
This indicator has to be treated with care, as work intensity is estimated at the household level and the same value is then attributed to all household members.

11.2.2 Disability low work intensity gap

In the EU 27 in 2020, the difference between persons with and without disabilities in the 16-59 age group amounted to about 16 percentage points.

The highest gaps could be found in Germany (23 percentage points), Ireland (24 percentage points) and Belgium (26 percentage points). On the other hand, the lowest gaps could be found in Portugal (7 percentage points), Slovakia (9 percentage points) and Latvia (10 percentage points).

Figure 56: Disability low work intensity gap, age 16-59, 2020
Gap = % of persons with disabilities - % of persons without disabilities.
Persons living in households with low work intensity (WI< 20 %).

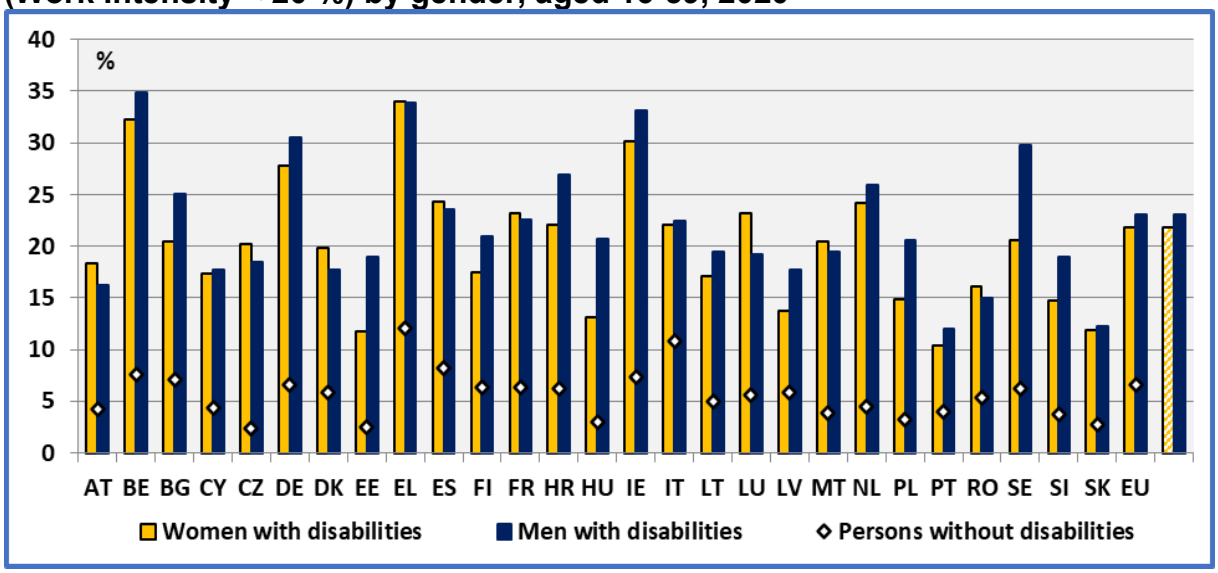


Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 14 April 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en.

11.2.3 Low work intensity by gender

Concerning gender in the EU 27, about 21.8 % of women with disabilities aged 16-59 were living in households with low work intensity, in comparison with 23.1 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

Figure 57: Percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %) by gender, aged 16-59, 2020



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 14 April 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en.

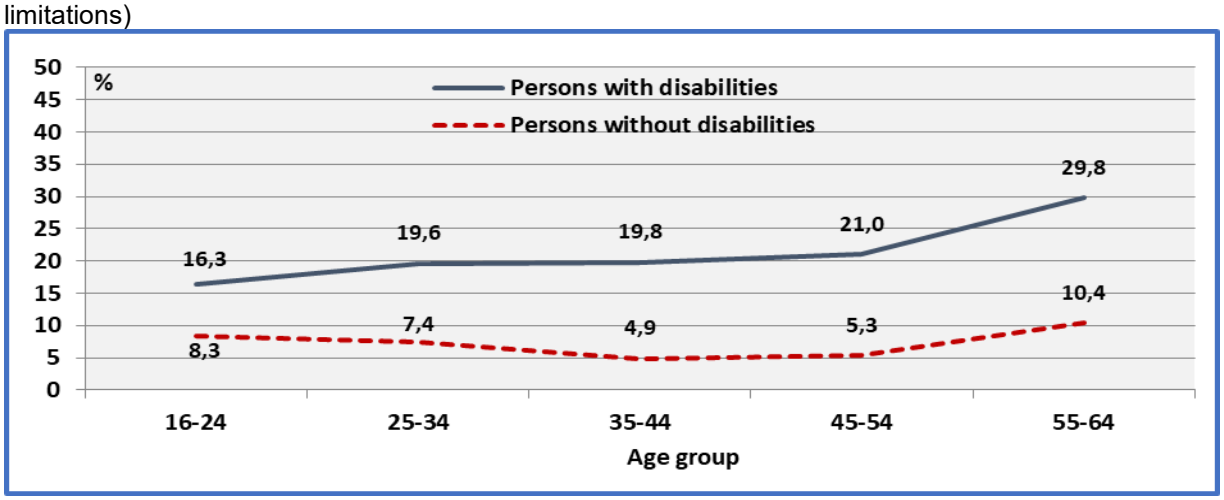
11.2.4 Low work intensity by age group

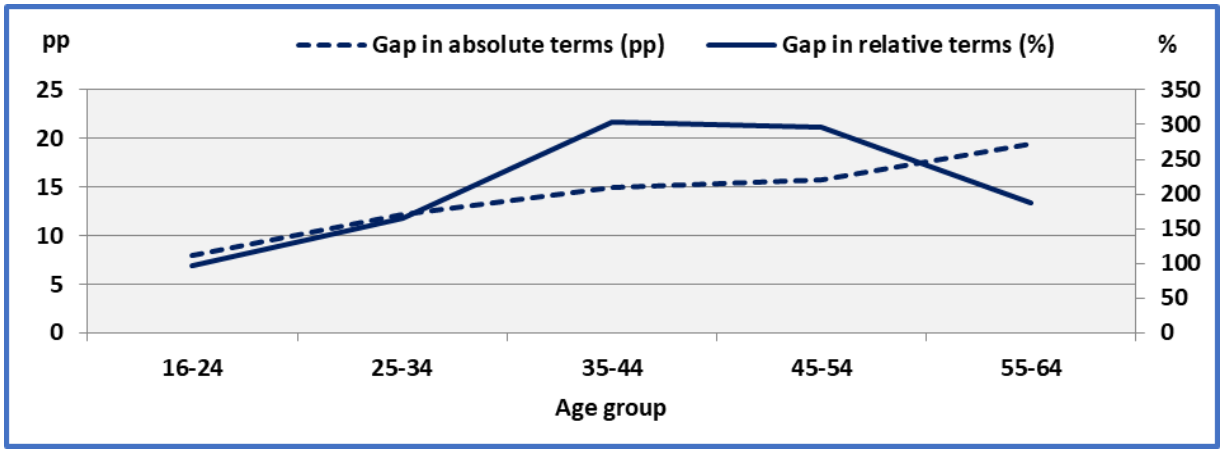
The evolution of the percentage of persons with low work intensity by age differs between the two groups. Persons without disabilities experience a decrease during the ages of 25 to 55, a period which is the core of economic life. This does not hold true for persons with disabilities.

The absolute difference between the two groups increases continuously with age, but the relative gap decreases with the approach of retirement age.

Figure 58: Percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %) by age group, EU, 2020

Absolute gap (pp): % Persons with limitations - % Persons without limitations
Relative gap (%): 100*(% Persons with limitations - % Persons without limitations)/(% Persons without limitations)





Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 14 April 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en.

11.2.5 Low work intensity by degree of disability

The percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity increased sharply with the degree of disability. It was 6.6 % for persons without disabilities, 17.1 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 38.4 % for persons with severe disabilities, in the EU 27 and for persons aged 16-59.

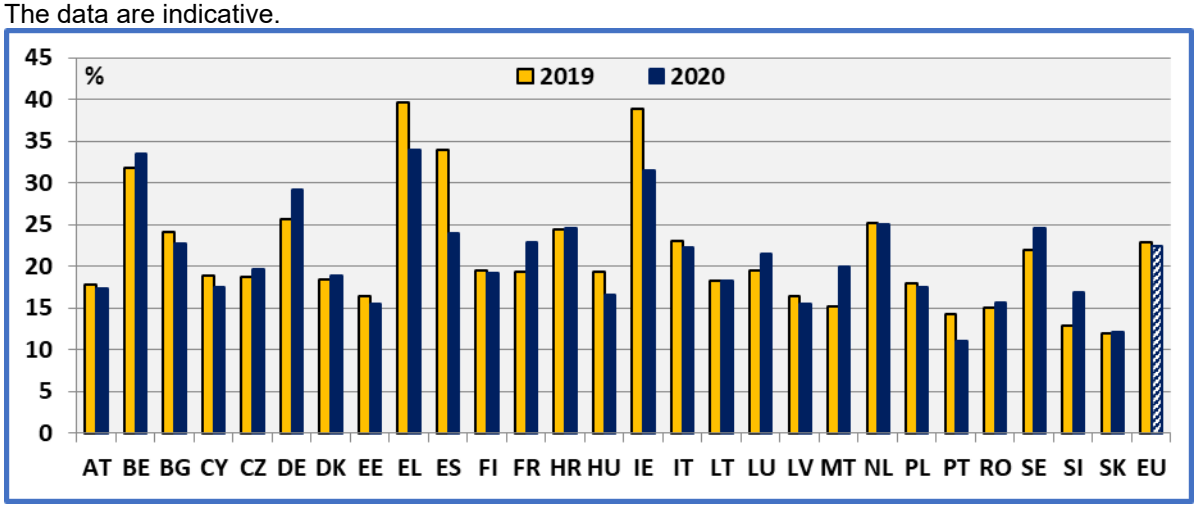
11.2.6 Evolution at national level

As noted above, in the discussion of employment and unemployment, there was in several Member States a massive intervention in order to retain employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the timing and organisation of the survey was modified in order to meet lockdown and social distancing restrictions. Consequently, the following data are indicative.

Furthermore, due to sampling limitations, these annual changes ought to be treated with caution.

Figure 59: Evolution of the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with low work intensity (WI < 20 %), aged 16-59

The data are indicative.



Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2018 & 2019.

11.2.7 Evolution at the EU level

The following graph presents the evolution of low work intensity for persons with and without disabilities.

During the latter years, an improvement in the situation of persons without disabilities can be observed, but there was a slight deterioration for persons with severe disabilities. This movement seems to have been reversed in 2020, but it is too early to reach a firm conclusion.

An interesting question is whether the gap between persons with and without disabilities has decreased. National and European policies aim to reduce discrimination, and thus the disadvantage of persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities.

The graph below presents the evolution of the relative gap[80] at the EU level. A clear cyclical movement may be observed. During growth periods (before 2008 and after 2013) the relative gap increased, and during recessions (2009-2013 and 2020), it decreased.

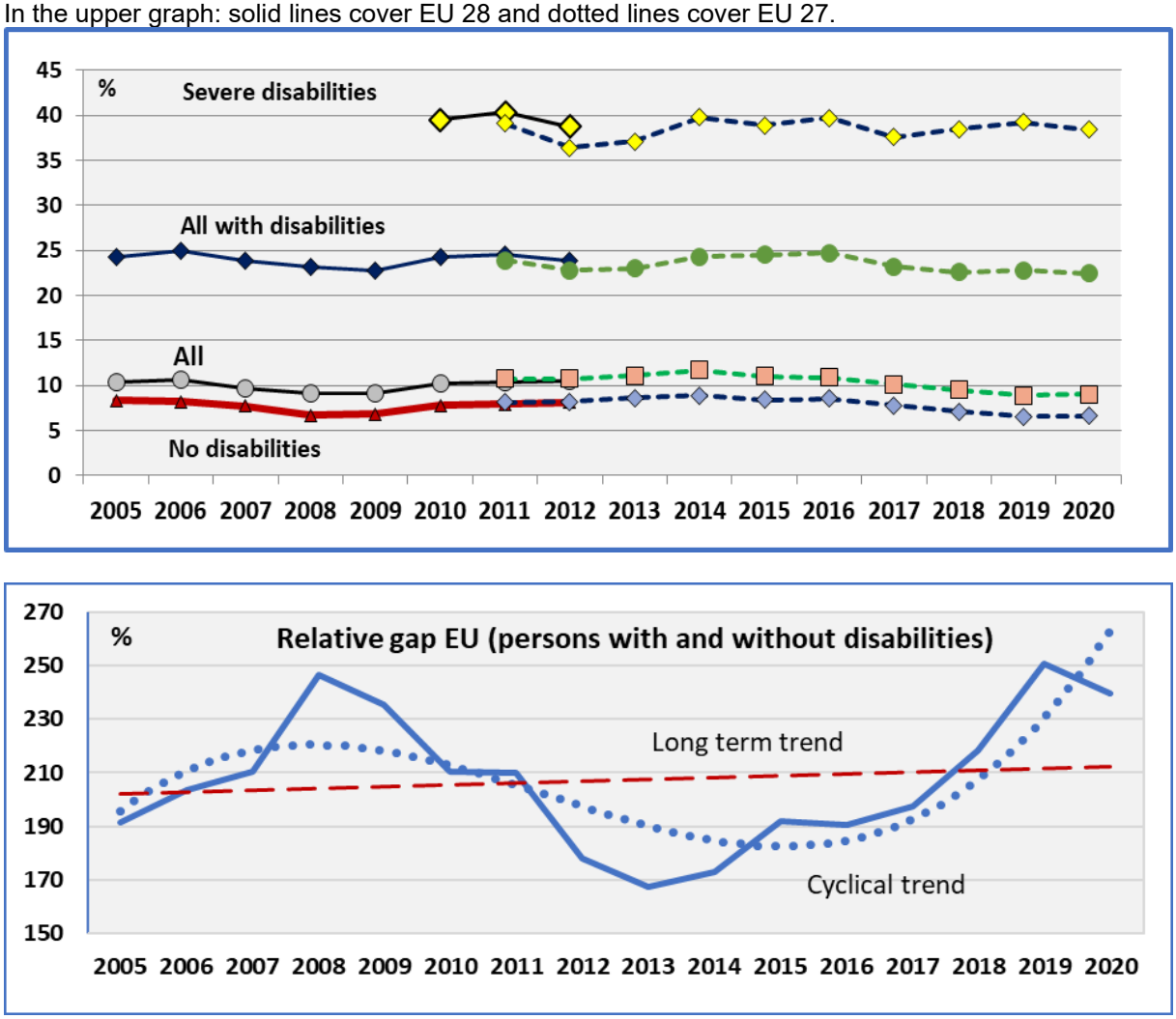
One possible explanation is that during recession periods, older workers with established work rights are protected from dismissal. Since older workers are over-represented among persons with disabilities, this implies that such dismissals affect the group of persons with disabilities to a lesser extent. After the recession and at the beginning of the recovery, the existence of a high number of jobseekers may have led employers to favour persons without disabilities, thus discriminating, at least in part, against persons with disabilities.

Policies to enable people to retain employment during 2020 might have played a part in protecting relatively more older workers.

[80] Relative gap =100* (% persons with limitations - % persons without limitations) / (% persons without limitations).

Figure 60: Evolution of the percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (WI < 20 %), EU, aged 16-59

In the upper graph: solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Note: The evolution in 2014 and in a lesser extent in 2015 was affected in part by a change in disability definitions. A narrower definition of 'disability' was applied (e.g., in Germany and Italy), artificially increasing the rate of persons with disabilities living in private households.

Relative gap = 100*(% persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities) / (% persons without disabilities). In the graph describing the relative gap, continuous lines represent observed data and dotted lines represent estimated fitted values.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat.

11.3 Statistical tables

Table 45: Percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity, aged 16-59)

People living in households with very low work intensity are people living in households where the adults worked to less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year.

	2019			2020			2020
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	In pp
AT	17.8	4.3	7.7	17.3	4.2	7.2	13.1
BE	31.8	8.4	13.0	33.5	7.6	12.3	25.9
BG	24.1	7.9	9.0	22.7	7.1	8.2	15.6

CY	18.8	5.4	7.2	17.5	4.4	6.1	13.1
CZ	18.7	2.5	5.2	19.6	2.4	5.2	17.2
DE	25.7	5.2	8.4	29.2	6.6	10.0	22.6
DK	18.4	7.0	9.9	18.9	5.8	9.5	13.1
EE	16.4	2.8	6.0	15.5	2.5	5.2	13.0
EL	39.6	13.0	15.3	34.0	12.1	14.0	21.9
ES	34.0	8.9	11.5	24.0	8.2	10.7	15.8
FI	19.5	6.9	10.5	19.1	6.4	10.0	12.7
FR	19.3	5.6	7.9	22.9	6.4	9.1	17.7
HR	24.4	6.7	10.0	24.6	6.2	9.2	18.4
HU	19.3	2.9	5.0	16.6	3.0	4.7	13.6
IE	38.8	9.9	13.2	31.5	7.3	10.8	24.3
IT	23.0	9.7	11.0	22.3	10.8	12.1	11.5
LT	18.2	5.1	7.5	18.2	5.0	7.5	13.2
LU	19.4	5.5	8.3	21.5	5.6	8.8	15.9
LV	16.4	5.8	8.4	15.5	5.9	8.2	9.6
MT	15.1	4.1	4.9	19.9	3.9	5.1	16.0
NL	25.1	5.2	9.5	25.0	4.5	8.9	20.5
PL	17.9	3.6	5.6	17.5	3.2	5.1	14.3
PT	14.3	4.5	6.5	11.0	4.0	5.4	7.0
RO	15.0	5.0	6.2	15.6	5.3	6.5	10.3
SE	21.9	6.4	7.9	24.6	6.2	8.0	18.4
SI	12.8	4.4	6.0	16.9	3.7	5.6	13.2
SK	12.0	4.7	6.0	12.1	2.7	4.4	9.4
EU	**22.8**	**6.5**	**8.9**	**22.4**	**6.6**	**9.0**	15.8

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 46: Evolution of the percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (WI < 20 %), aged 16-59

	EU 28				**EU 27**			
	Disability			**All**	**Disability**			**All**
	Severe	**All disabled**	**Not disabled**		**Severe**	**All disabled**	**Not disabled**	**All**
2005		24.2	8.3	10.4				
2006		24.9	8.2	10.6				
2007		23.9	7.7	9.7				
2008		23.2	6.7	9.1				
2009		22.8	6.8	9.1				
2010	39.5	24.2	7.8	10.2				
2011	40.3	24.5	7.9	10.4				
2012	38.7	23.9	8.1	10.5				
2013	39.1	24.1	8.5	11.2				
2014	41.6	25.1	8.7	11.6				
2015	41.3	25.6	8.3	11.0				

2016	41.7	25.8	8.3	11.0				
2017	39.6	23.9	7.6	10.1	37.6	23.2	7.8	10.1
2018	39.3	22.8	6.9	9.4	38.5	22.6	7.1	9.5
2019					39.2	22.8	6.5	8.9
2020					38.4	22.4	6.6	9.0

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat.
Additional data can be downloaded from Eurostat:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12 People at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers

12.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 28 of the UN Convention covers 'Adequate standard of living and social protection'. It provides notably for measures 'To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes'.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. This Agenda is a plan of action. It seeks, notably, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and considers that this is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

The European Pillar of Social Rights aims to build a more inclusive and fairer European Union. It covers, notably, three broad dimensions of societal progress: the labour market; fair working conditions; and public support/social protection and inclusion.

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion[81] defined a set of impact indicators that are relevant to the socio-economic field. They include, notably, people at risk of poverty.

Persons at risk of poverty are persons with an equivalised disposable income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised household disposable income (after social transfers).

12.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

12.2.1 General comments

The data reveal that people with disabilities face a higher risk of poverty after social transfers in comparison with people without disabilities. At the EU level in 2020, about 20.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over faced a risk of poverty, in comparison with 14.8 % of persons without disabilities in the same age group. The percentage for all persons aged 16 and over was 16.4 %.

Available microdata for 2020, at the time of producing this report, did not include data for Germany and Italy. Consequently, concerning the population of persons with disabilities, we have full data only for 2019. In the EU 27 in 2019, there were about 57.3 million persons aged 16 and over living in private households at risk of financial poverty. This number included about 17.8 million with disabilities and 39.5 million without disabilities.[82]

In 2020, the percentage of persons with disabilities who were living in households at risk of poverty was high in Latvia (33.7 %), Estonia (35.9 %) and Bulgaria (37.5 %). A

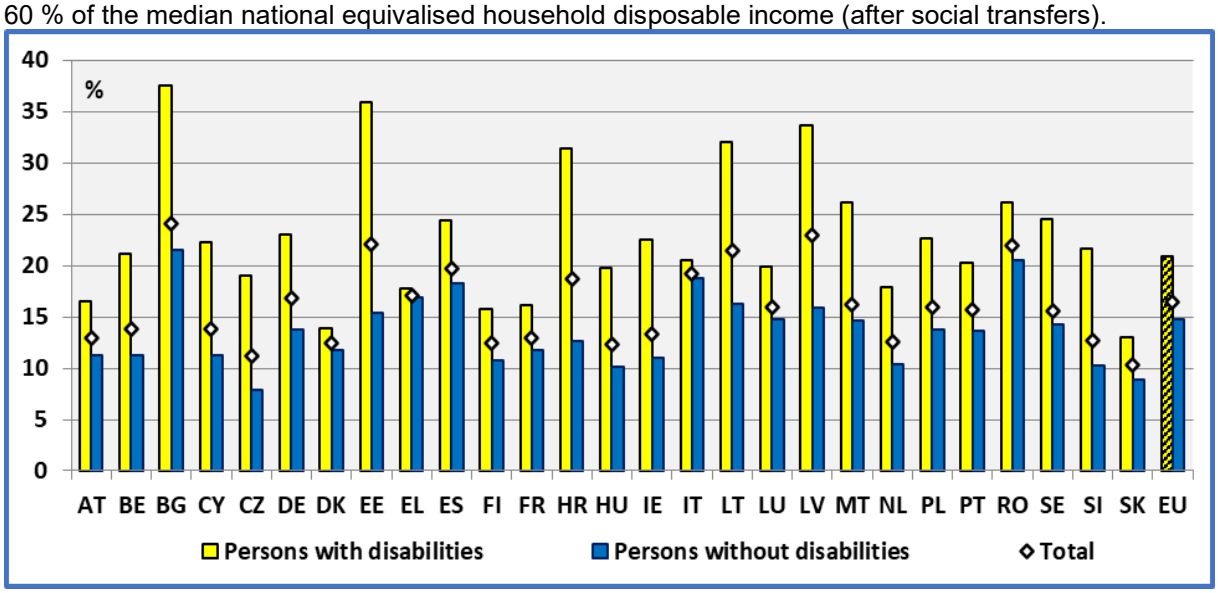
[81] European Commission (2021), *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/strategic-plan-2020-2024-employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en.

[82] The estimates are not corrected for missing values.

similar ranking was observed in 2019. On the other hand, the rate was relatively low in Slovakia (13.0 %), Denmark (13.9 %) and Finland (15.7 %).

Figure 61: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, aged 16+, 2020

Percentage of people living in households with an equivalised household disposable income less than 60 % of the median national equivalised household disposable income (after social transfers).



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 16 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12.2.2 Disability poverty gap

In the following analysis, in order to measure any comparative disadvantage, we measure the absolute difference between the two groups within each country. In addition, we present the relative difference between the two groups.

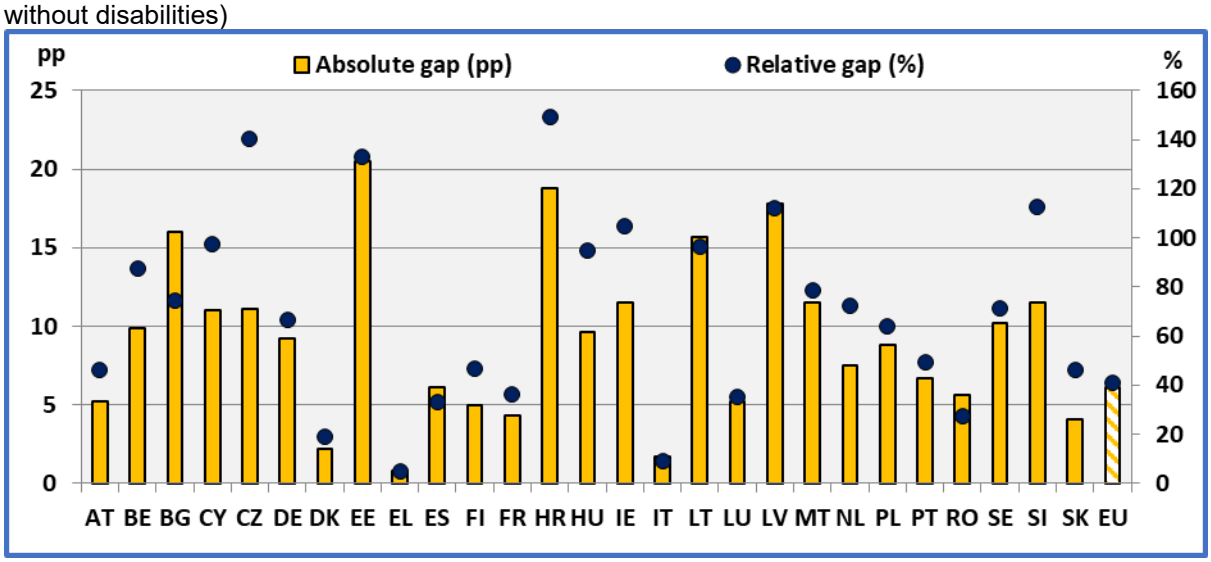
In the EU 27 in 2020, the absolute gap (difference) between persons with disabilities at risk of poverty and persons without disabilities at risk of poverty, aged 16 and over, amounted to 6.1 percentage points. In relative terms, it was 41.2 %.

The highest absolute gaps could be found in Latvia (17.8 percentage points), Croatia (18.8 percentage points) and Estonia (20.5 percentage points). The lowest gaps could be found in Greece (0.8 percentage points), Italy (1.7 percentage points) and Denmark (2.2 percentage points). Similar results were found in previous years.

The data indicate that the difference between people with and without disabilities was significantly smaller in tandem with work-related measures. It can be concluded that the welfare state is correcting, to a certain extent, the labour market inequalities.

Figure 62: Disadvantage of people with disabilities in comparison with people without disabilities, aged 16+, 2020

Absolute gap (pp) = (% of persons with disabilities) – (% of persons without disabilities)
Relative gap (%): 100*(% of persons with disabilities) – (% of persons without disabilities)/(% of persons without disabilities)



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 16 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

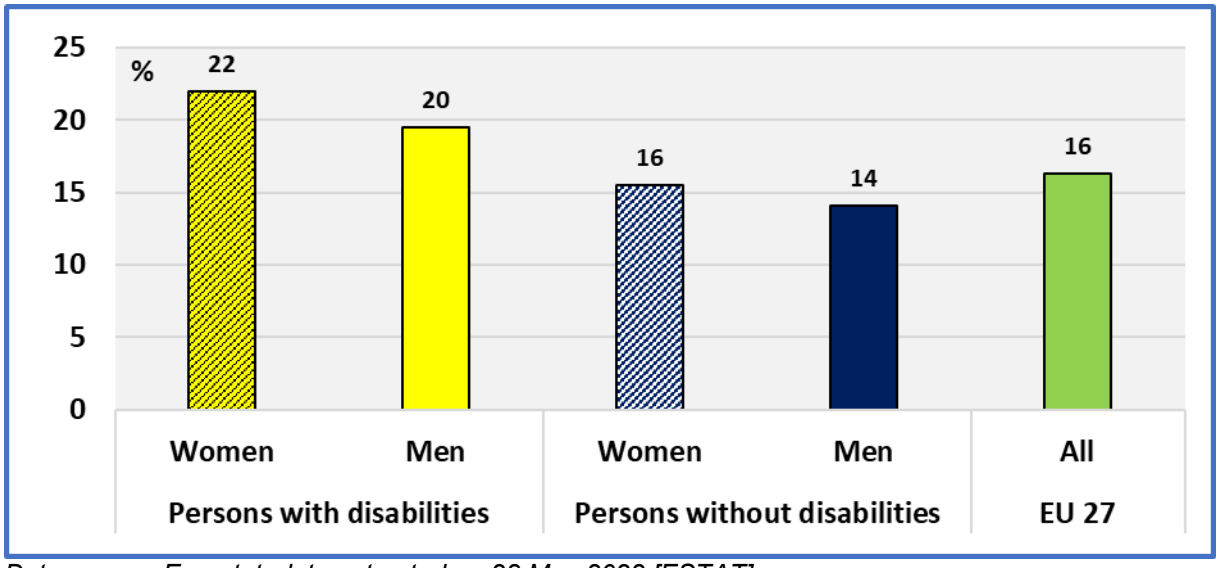
12.2.3 Persons at risk of poverty by gender

About 22.0 % of women with disabilities aged 16 and over faced a risk of financial poverty in comparison with 19.5 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

Persons without disabilities, both men and women, experienced lower rates of poverty.

Figure 63: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, by gender, aged 16+, EU, 2020

Number of persons at risk of poverty in comparison with all persons same age, gender and disability status



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12.2.4 Persons at risk of poverty by age group

The percentage of persons at risk of financial poverty varied with age. The rate decreased with age, at least when the 16-64 and 65+ age groups are compared.

For persons with disabilities, the figure was 21.9 % for the 16-64 age group and 19.9 % for the 65+ age group. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 14.9 % and 14.3 %.

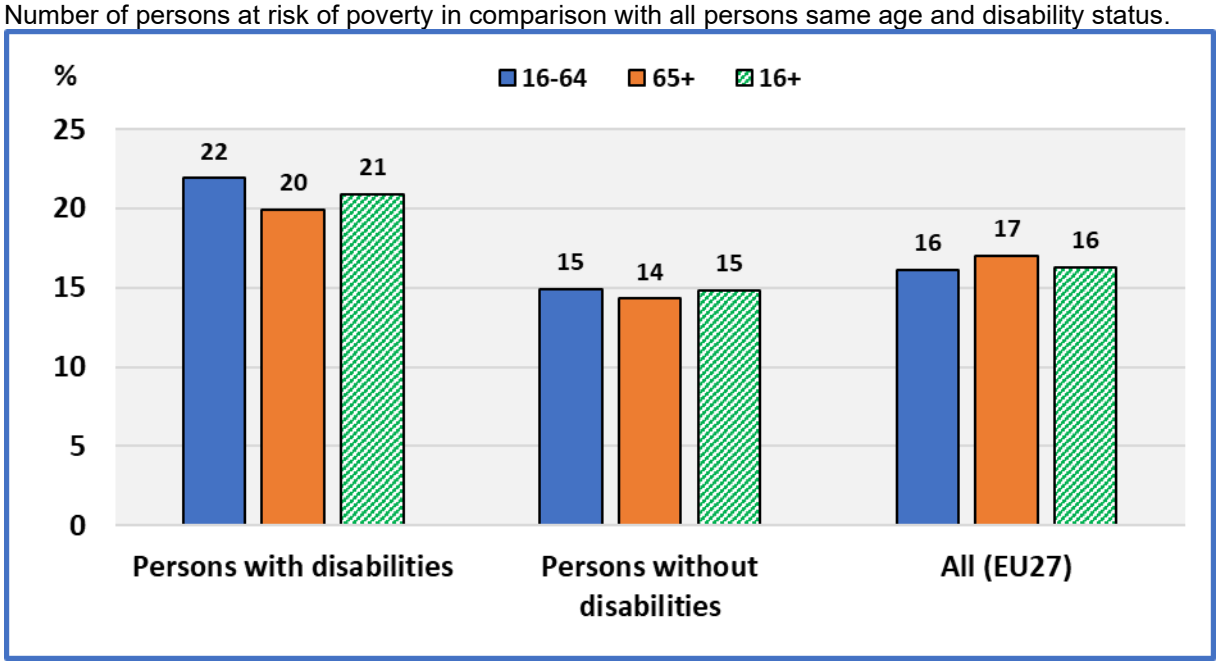
However, the differences between persons with and without disabilities were much stronger, in absolute values, than differences across ages within each group. The disability impact was more significant, in absolute terms, than the age impact.

The evolution of poverty inside each group decreased from persons aged 16-64 to those aged 65 and over. On the contrary, in comparing poverty rates among all persons, an increase in the poverty rate can be observed from persons aged 16-64 to persons 65 and over. This is due to an age composition effect. The weight of persons with disabilities is important in the 65 and over age group.

In summary, disability seems to be the dominant factor leading to poverty.

Figure 64: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, by age group, EU, 2020

Number of persons at risk of poverty in comparison with all persons same age and disability status.



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12.2.5 Persons at risk of poverty, by degree of disability

The risk of financial poverty increased with the degree of disability. It was 20.0 % for persons with moderate disabilities aged 16 and over in the EU 27, in comparison with 23.1 % for persons with severe disabilities.

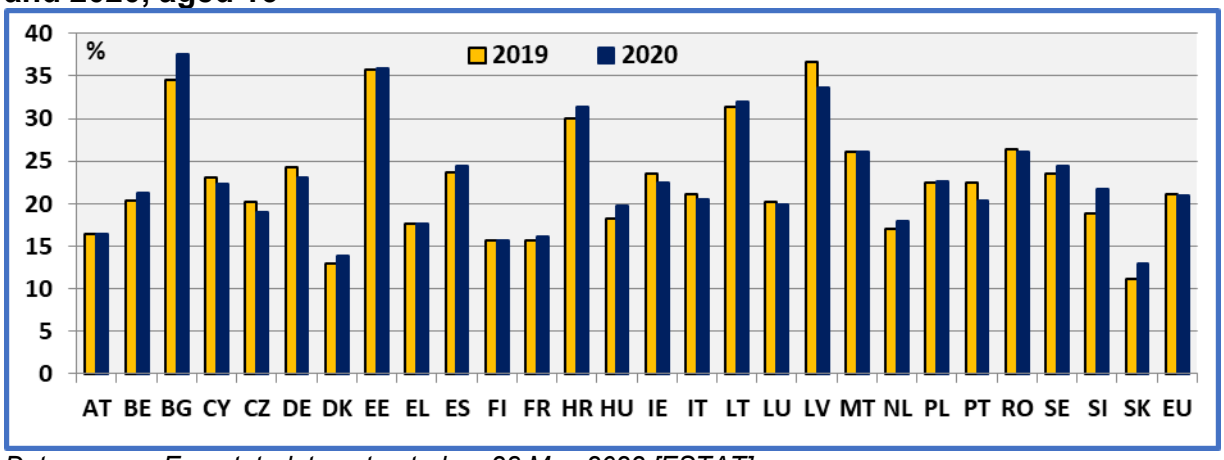
12.2.6 Evolution at national level

It is important to note that the survey measured income during the past 12 months. Consequently, in countries where the survey took place early in 2020 (e.g., Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania), persons interviewed did not present their situation in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, but rather their situation in 2019.

In the EU between 2019 and 2020, a marginal improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities (-0.2 percentage points) and a marginal deterioration in the situation of persons without disabilities (+0.2 percentage points) can be observed.

The evolution of the financial poverty risk for persons with disabilities varied across Member States. A deterioration in the situation of persons with disabilities occurred in 15 Member States. However, this deterioration was relatively small, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 65: People with disabilities at risk of poverty after social transfers in 2019 and 2020, aged 16+



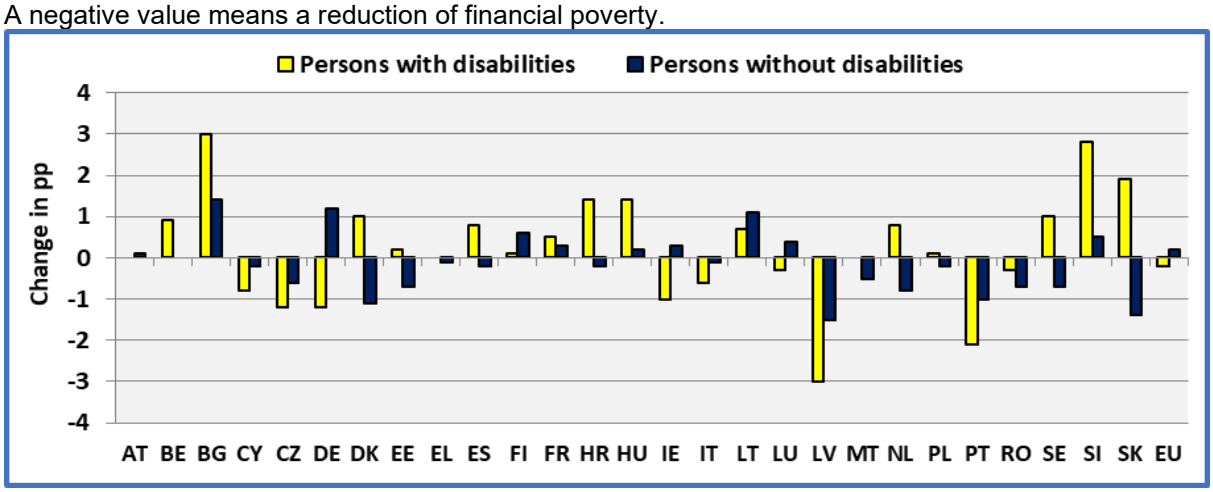
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

The following figure presents the annual change of the risk of poverty in percentage points for persons with and without disabilities between 2019 and 2020. We can observe that the evolution of the two groups was different.

The analysis of the relative changes indicates that the evolution of the situation of persons with disabilities is not correlated with the evolution of persons without disabilities at this stage of the economic cycle.

Figure 66: Change in the risk of poverty after social transfers, 2019-2020, age 16+

A negative value means a reduction of financial poverty.



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12.2.7 Evolution at the EU level

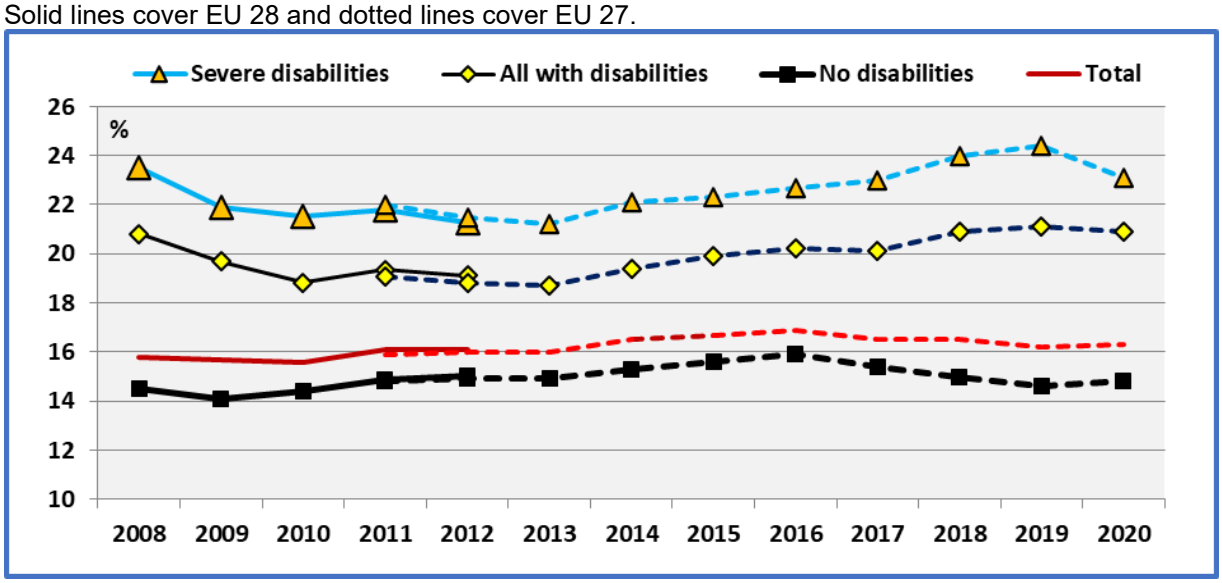
In the following graph, one may observe a deterioration (increase in poverty) of the situation of persons with disabilities at the EU level in recent years. On the contrary, an improvement (decrease in poverty) can be observed for persons without disabilities.

These movements have been reversed in 2020. Nevertheless, these are provisional data and ought to be treated with caution.

Overall, there was an abrupt decrease in GDP in the EU in 2020. However, active national policies, in particular extensive job retention programmes, attenuated the impact of the slowdown following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 67: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability and year, EU, age 16+

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.



Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

In order to better capture the situation of persons with disabilities, we present below the evolution of financial poverty by age group.

Concerning persons aged 16-64, one may note that this group relies mainly on earnings from work. Overall, their situation follows the economic cycle. The evolution of the risk of financial poverty was similar for persons with and without disabilities. Poverty decreased for both groups between 2015-2019; however, this movement was slightly reversed for persons without disabilities in 2020.

Concerning persons aged 65 and over, one may note that this group relies mainly on retirement pensions. The patterns of financial poverty among this group were different from those for persons aged 16-64. Again, the evolution of the risk of financial poverty was similar for persons with and without disabilities.

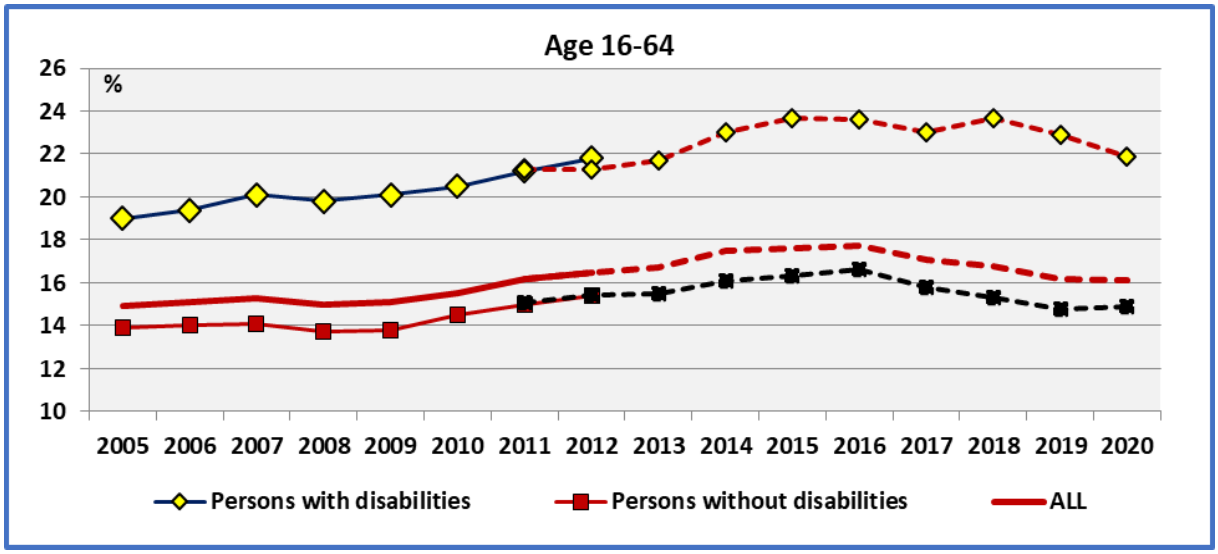
In general, retirement pensions and social transfers mitigate any negative impact of an economic crisis and an ensuing reduction in income. Retirement pensions and social allowances might not decrease to the same extent as nominal wages. Consequently, for elderly people, household income might not decrease in the event of a recession, at least in the initial stage. On the contrary, for persons active in the labour market, a loss of employment or potentially a reduction in wages might mean a lower median income. These factors might explain why an increase in poverty levels among persons aged 16-64 and a decrease among elderly persons aged 65 and over can be observed during the recession period from 2008 to 2013.

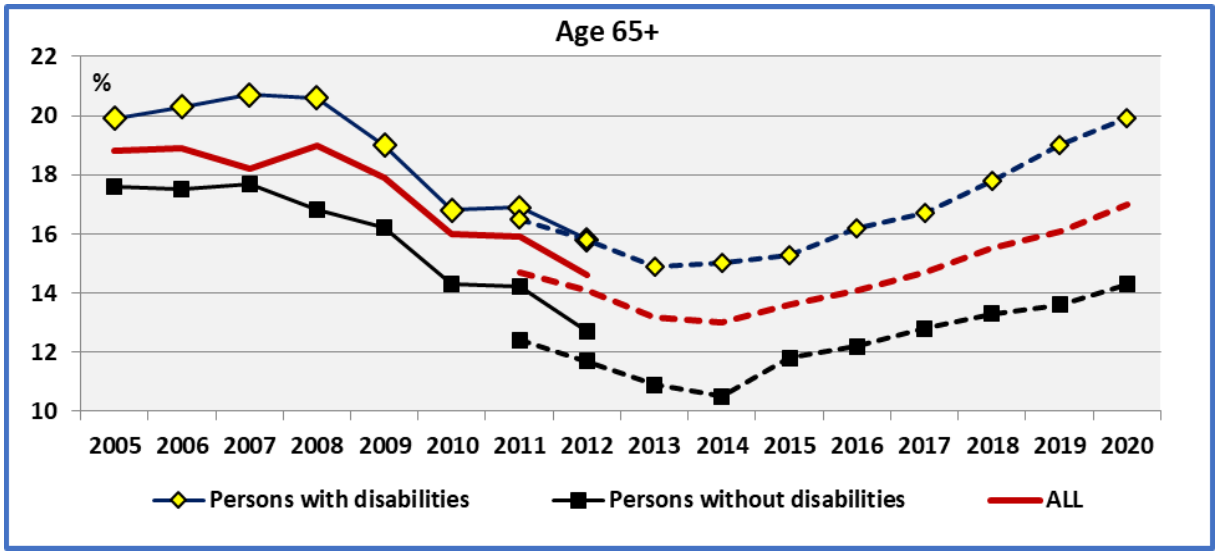
During an improvement in the labour market, the situation of economically active persons aged 16-64 may be improved relative to that of retired persons.

It must be stressed that this indicator does not take into account health expenses, which might be important for elderly people. Health expenses increase the cost of living and hence the risk of poverty, all other things being equal.

Figure 68: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers by disability and year, EU

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.





Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat, data extracted from [ESTAT]).

Concerning the relative gap in financial poverty (difference between persons with and without disabilities as a percent of the latter), the previous graphs indicates that this gap decreased for persons aged 16-64 and remained relatively stable for persons aged 65 and over. In both cases, however, the gap remained high.

12.3 The COVID-19 pandemic and financial support

As noted above, the SHARE COVID-19 Survey 2 included a question on financial support.[83]

In the EU 26, about 8.6 % of persons with disabilities aged 50 and over received additional financial support due to the coronavirus crisis (from their employer, Government, relatives, friends and/or others). The rate was 10.6 % for persons without disabilities. The total rate was 9.8 %.

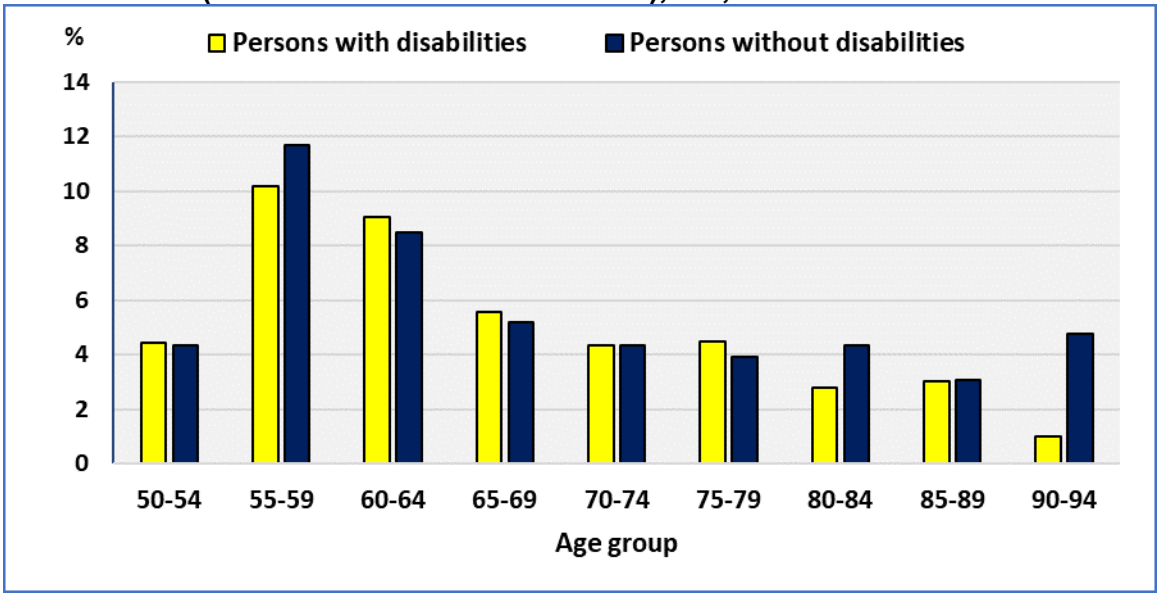
We present below the financial support provided by Government in order to assess the extent of public support.

In the EU 26, about 6.1 % of persons with disabilities aged 50 and over received a form of Government support due to the coronavirus crisis, in comparison with 7.7 % of persons without disabilities. The total was 7.0 %.

The following figure indicates that the highest recipiency rate could be found in the age group 55-59, for both groups. However, the rate for persons without disabilities was higher in comparison with the rate for persons with disabilities, and this pushes the total of persons without disabilities strongly upward (see also below).

[83] The question (CAE103_) was: 'Since your last interview, in July 2020, did you receive additional financial support that was due to the Corona crisis from your employer, the government, relatives, friends, and/or others? 1. Yes, 5. No.' If 'yes', the next question was (CAE104_): Who gave you this financial support? Check all that apply. 1. Employer, 2. Government, 3. Relatives, 4. Friends, 5. Others.

Figure 69: Percentage of persons who received financial support from Government (due to the coronavirus crisis), EU, 2021

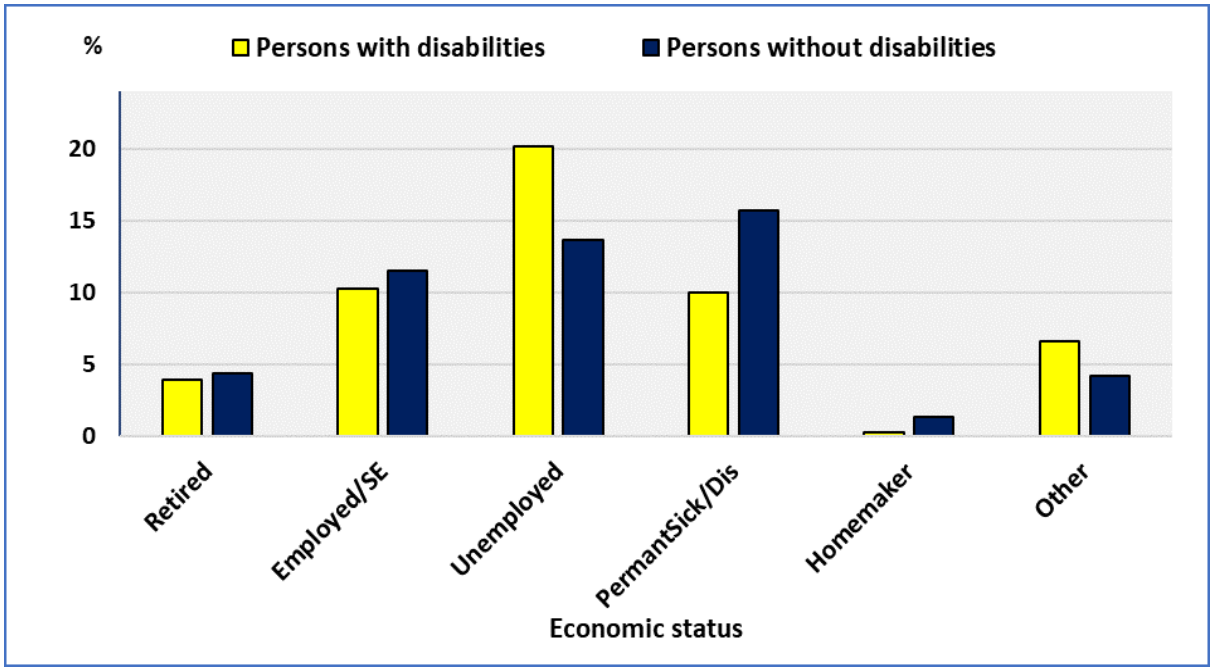


Note: 'Since your last interview in July 2020, did you receive additional financial support that was due to the Corona crisis from the government?' The interviews were conducted in summer 2021.
Data source: SHARE Wave 9 COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

The following figure, which presents an analysis by economic status, indicates that a high level of unemployed persons with disabilities aged 50 and over received financial support from Government. However, following the COVID-19 pandemic, the main thrust of national policies was to maintain jobs and guarantee an income to the self-employed. In this category, the recipiency rate for persons without disabilities was higher in comparison with that for persons with disabilities. Data here cover persons aged 50 and over. The discussion of employment focused on persons aged 50 to 65, among whom the rate for persons with disabilities was slightly higher.

The category of 'permanently sick or disabled' might create some confusion. In fact, a certain number (16.8 %) of persons who declared themselves 'permanently sick or disabled', as their current employment situation, did not report activity limitations and consequently are not included among persons with disabilities. A person with a chronic disease might not report limitations in activities people usually do.

Figure 70: Percentage of persons who received financial support from the Government (due to the Coronavirus crisis) by economic status, aged 50+, EU, 2021



EU: EU covers 26 Member States (Ireland missing).
Note: The categories are: 1. Retired 2. Employed or self-employed (including working for family business) 3. Unemployed 4. Permanently sick or disabled 5. Homemaker 6. Other. A certain number who declare themselves 'Permanently sick or disabled' do not report activity limitations and consequently are not included among persons with disabilities.
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

In the following table, we present the significance of each economic status within each group of beneficiaries. The significance of employed/self-employed status among persons without disabilities may be observed. This reflects, notably, public efforts to maintain jobs, including subsidies to small business.

Table 47: Distribution of persons who received financial support from Government due to the coronavirus crisis, by disability status and economic activity, aged 50+, EU, 2021

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total
Retired	39.6	24.5	29.8
Employed/Self-employed	37.3	65.6	55.5
Unemployed	9.0	6.1	7.1
Permanently Sick/Disabled	12.1	2.1	5.7
Homemaker	0.2	1.3	0.9
Other	1.8	0.5	1.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

EU: EU covers 26 Member States (Ireland missing).
Retired: A person currently retired might have been employed or unemployed, in the recent past, and thus recipient of financial support related to this status.
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

We presented financial support provided by employers above, in discussing employment. If we aggregate financial support provided by employers and by Government, we find that about 7.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 50 and over, received financial support, in comparison with 10.2 % of persons without disabilities. The total rate was 9.2 %.

12.4 Wealth of persons with disabilities

The COVID-19 pandemic and the current crisis of energy prices raise the question of whether certain groups of persons are more vulnerable than others to unforeseen shocks. In such periods of economic crisis, wealth might be an important factor in mitigating the impact of loss of income from work. If work is disrupted, some households may have to use their savings. Other households without such a possibility will be more vulnerable to such unpredictable economic shocks.

In the following analysis, we attempt a first evaluation of net wealth owned by persons with and without disabilities. This is a first step, and the results are indicative. We present data for 2016, but the situation in 2018 was almost identical. In any case, changes in wealth are very slow, since they involve stocks rather than flows. The methodology is described in the Annex.

Household main residence (HMR) constitutes an important aspect of wealth, but also a significant debt for owners with a mortgage, which may increase economic stress during a crisis period. For this reason, the value of household main residence and the related mortgage debt carries important weight in this study. For a significant part of the population, savings and wealth accumulation take the form of a residential investment.

An important part of real wealth owned by individuals is residential wealth. Household main residence constitutes the main component. From its gross value, mortgage debt must be subtracted in order to arrive at the net value.

Our perspective concerns the measurement of wealth by disability status, rather than a comparison of homeowners' wealth by disability status. Consequently, for an estimate of the mean, we take into account all persons, owners (with a positive wealth) and not owners of a household main residence (with a zero value). If we take a conditional mean (only owners), we make an abstraction of inequality stemming from ownership and non-ownership. In this case, the difference is smaller.

In order to compare the net wealth value of household main residence by disability status, we express the net value held by persons with disabilities as a proportion relative to persons without disabilities. For reasons of comparability between persons with and without disabilities, it is preferable to work with age-standardised values.

In the EU 27 in 2016, the household net residential wealth of persons with a moderate disability represented 82.0 % of the equivalent value of persons without disabilities. The rate was 74.3 % for persons with severe disabilities.

Table 48: Mean net residential (HMR) wealth of persons with disabilities as a proportion relative to persons without disabilities, 2016, age adjusted

Experimental data.

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	NL	UK	EZ	EU
No disab.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	**100**
Moderate	86.5	80.3	78.0	87.9	93.5	86.1	83.7	96.0	87.8	80.2	84.1	83.2	**82.0**
Severe	72.8	65.4	76.3	90.7	87.6	69.3	79.8	87.3	79.9	63.8	62.0	76.7	**74.3**

HMR: Household main residence

EZ stands for the euro area. EU stands for European Union 28.

Note: The data cover owners (with a positive HMR wealth) and not-owners (with zero HMR wealth). Consequently, this is not a conditional mean. The data cover persons aged 16+. The values are age standardised.

Data source: EU-SILC 2016 and author's own calculations.

The following analysis covers household total net wealth. The gross value includes household main residence, other real estate and financial and real capital. From this total, mortgage debt on household main residence has been subtracted. The total does not include vehicles or other durables. In addition, our method might underestimate financial wealth in current bank accounts, notably if the dividends were small and were not reported by interviewees.

In the EU 28 in 2016, the mean household total net wealth was estimated at EUR 154 500. The corresponding conditional mean value was EUR 190 300 (only owners).

In the EUR area in 2016, the mean household total net wealth was estimated at EUR 174 100. The conditional mean was estimated at EUR 209 600. For comparison, the HFCS 2017 provides a conditional mean of EUR 259 400.[84] As noted, our estimates might underestimate monetary wealth, notably current account bank deposits. In addition, taking into account that the HFCS survey reports a conditional mean for vehicles of about EUR 9 900 and for other durables EUR 10 600, we can conclude that our estimates are close to the ones in the HFCS survey.

For a comparison of wealth held by persons with and without disabilities, we compare age-standardised rates. In the EU 28 in 2016, the mean household age-standardised total net wealth of persons with disabilities was 74.4 % of the equivalent wealth held by persons without disabilities. The equivalent proportion for persons with moderate disabilities and severe disabilities was, respectively, 77.1 % and 67.9 %. These rates reveal the financial fragility of persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities, notably persons with severe disabilities.

Table 49: Mean value of total net wealth of persons with disabilities as a proportion to persons without disabilities, 2016, age adjusted

Experimental data.

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	NL	UK	EZ	EU
No Disab.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All dis.	**72.6**	**71.9**	**74.0**	**84.6**	**86.1**	**81.4**	**75.0**	**88.3**	**82.1**	**75.6**	**66.1**	**77.6**	**74.4**

[84] European Central Bank, 'The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: Results from the 2017 wave', *Statistics Paper Series*, No. 36, March 2020, Household Finance and Consumption Network, ECB.

Moderate	77.8	78.4	76.5	84.7	86.3	86.1	79.6	90.8	85.7	75.5	77.0	79.7	**77.1**
Severe	55.2	58.2	71.6	85.5	85.9	60.4	67.6	80.3	71.9	82.0	52.7	73.1	**67.9**

Note: No Disab: Persons without disabilities; All dis: All persons with disabilities; Moder: Persons with moderate disabilities; Severe: Persons with severe disabilities. The data cover persons aged 16+.
EZ: EUR area. EU: European Union 28.
Data source: EU-SILC 2016 and author's own calculations.

In this paragraph, we report unadjusted data, but we focus on persons aged 25-64 in order to reduce the impact of age structure. In this age group, about 17.4 % of persons without disabilities had a zero cumulative mean wealth. This rate was 21.0 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 29.1 % for persons with severe disabilities. Wealth inequality was smaller among persons without disabilities (Gini: 0.60) in comparison with persons with moderate disabilities (Gini: 0.62) and persons with severe disabilities (Gini: 0.68).

These results reinforce further a picture of financial fragility among persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities. Persons with disabilities possess a smaller net wealth in comparison with persons without disabilities, but the higher concentration of wealth among persons with disabilities further accentuates the initial disadvantage.

In the EU 28 in 2016, about 72.6 % of persons without disabilities aged 16 and over were living in a house which they owned. The term 'owner' here includes 'outright owner' and 'owner with a mortgage loan'. This percentage was 57.4 % for persons with a severe disability. The data are age adjusted. A disability gap of about 15.3 percentage points can be observed between persons with severe disabilities and persons without disabilities.

One possible policy to reduce wealth inequality and increase the capacity of persons with disabilities to overcome economic shocks would be to favour access to residential property (or eliminate any discrimination based on disability in this process).

12.5 Statistical tables

Table 50: Persons living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability status and Member State, aged 16+
Percentage of people living in households with a household equivalised disposable income less than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income.

	2019			2020			2020
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	In pp
AT	16.5	11.2	13.0	16.5	11.3	12.9	5.2
BE	20.3	11.3	13.8	21.2	11.3	13.8	9.9
BG	34.5	20.1	22.4	37.5	21.5	24.1	16.0
CY	23.1	11.5	14.3	22.3	11.3	13.8	11.0
CZ	20.2	8.5	11.8	19.0	7.9	11.2	11.1
DE	24.2	12.6	15.2	23.0	13.8	16.8	9.2
DK	12.9	12.8	12.9	13.9	11.7	12.4	2.2
EE	35.7	16.1	23.0	35.9	15.4	22.1	20.5

EL	17.7	17.0	17.2	17.7	16.9	17.1	0.8
ES	23.6	18.5	19.4	24.4	18.3	19.7	6.1
FI	15.6	10.1	12.1	15.7	10.7	12.4	5.0
FR	15.6	11.5	12.5	16.1	11.8	12.9	4.3
HR	30.0	12.8	18.7	31.4	12.6	18.7	18.8
HU	18.3	9.9	12.0	19.7	10.1	12.3	9.6
IE	23.5	10.7	12.8	22.5	11.0	13.3	11.5
IT	21.1	18.9	19.4	20.5	18.8	19.2	1.7
LT	31.3	15.2	20.4	32.0	16.3	21.4	15.7
LU	20.2	14.3	15.8	19.9	14.7	16.0	5.2
LV	36.7	17.4	25.0	33.7	15.9	23.0	17.8
MT	26.1	15.1	16.4	26.1	14.6	16.2	11.5
NL	17.1	11.2	12.9	17.9	10.4	12.6	7.5
PL	22.5	14.0	16.1	22.6	13.8	16.0	8.8
PT	22.4	14.6	17.2	20.3	13.6	15.7	6.7
RO	26.4	21.2	22.5	26.1	20.5	22.0	5.6
SE	23.5	15.0	16.1	24.5	14.3	15.6	10.2
SI	18.9	9.7	12.3	21.7	10.2	12.7	11.5
SK	11.1	10.3	10.6	13.0	8.9	10.3	4.1
EU	**21.1**	**14.6**	**16.2**	**20.9**	**14.8**	**16.4**	**6.1**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 16 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 51: Persons living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers, by gender and Member State, aged 16+

Percentage of people living in households with a household equivalised disposable income less than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income same gender and disability status.

	2020					
	Men		Women		Total	
	Disability		Disability		Disability	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
AT	16.1	10.4	16.8	12.2	16.5	11.3
BE	21.2	10.7	21.2	12.0	21.2	11.3
BG	30.9	20.2	42.0	22.9	37.5	21.5
CY	20.8	10.4	23.6	12.2	22.3	11.3
CZ	13.9	5.5	22.2	9.7	19.0	7.9
DE	22.1	13.3	23.9	14.4	23.0	13.8
DK	13.2	12.3	14.4	11.1	13.9	11.7
EE	30.2	15.6	40.1	15.3	35.9	15.4
EL	16.1	16.6	19.0	17.2	17.7	16.9
ES	23.9	17.4	24.8	19.2	24.4	18.3
FI	15.7	10.9	15.7	10.5	15.7	10.7
FR	14.6	11.0	17.3	12.5	16.1	11.8
HR	28.7	11.8	33.5	13.3	31.4	12.6

HU	20.3	10.1	19.3	10.1	19.7	10.1
IE	21.5	10.3	23.4	11.7	22.5	11.0
IT	18.6	18.0	21.9	19.7	20.5	18.8
LT	25.7	14.6	36.1	17.9	32.0	16.3
LU	17.2	14.5	22.0	15.0	19.9	14.7
LV	28.9	14.7	36.8	17.1	33.7	15.9
MT	24.8	13.7	27.1	15.6	26.1	14.6
NL	19.2	9.7	17.0	11.2	17.9	10.4
PL	21.2	13.3	23.7	14.3	22.6	13.8
PT	18.5	13.5	21.4	13.7	20.3	13.6
RO	23.2	19.9	28.0	21.2	26.1	20.5
SE	23.0	12.7	25.5	16.0	24.5	14.3
SI	20.2	9.1	23.1	11.3	21.7	10.2
SK	12.2	8.9	13.7	9.0	13.0	8.9
EU	**19.5**	**14.1**	**22.0**	**15.5**	**20.9**	**14.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 30 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 52: Persons living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers, by age group and Member State

Percentage of people living in households with a household equivalised disposable income less than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income same age and disability status.

	2020					
	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	16-64	65+	16+	16-64	65+	16+
AT	17.0	15.6	16.5	11.2	12.1	11.3
BE	20.3	22.7	21.2	10.4	15.8	11.3
BG	23.3	46.4	37.5	18.7	33.9	21.5
CY	18.1	26.8	22.3	11.0	14.0	11.3
CZ	17.0	20.7	19.0	6.7	13.7	7.9
DE	24.7	21.3	23.0	13.0	17.0	13.8
DK	15.3	10.7	13.9	11.9	11.0	11.7
EE	25.6	48.1	35.9	12.8	31.4	15.4
EL	25.0	14.2	17.7	17.8	11.0	16.9
ES	25.2	23.3	24.4	18.8	15.4	18.3
FI	14.3	18.0	15.7	10.7	10.4	10.7
FR	19.4	12.4	16.1	12.6	8.4	11.8
HR	26.8	35.5	31.4	11.6	20.6	12.6
HU	22.1	17.3	19.7	9.8	12.1	10.1
IE	22.8	22.0	22.5	10.4	14.6	11.0
IT	22.8	18.8	20.5	19.7	14.6	18.8
LT	23.5	40.6	32.0	14.6	28.0	16.3
LU	23.6	10.6	19.9	16.1	4.8	14.7
LV	24.2	44.6	33.7	14.0	32.1	15.9
MT	23.5	28.6	26.1	12.6	25.2	14.6

NL	21.3	12.6	17.9	10.5	10.4	10.4
PL	23.2	22.1	22.6	13.5	15.8	13.8
PT	20.9	19.6	20.3	13.5	13.9	13.6
RO	26.0	26.1	26.1	20.4	21.7	20.5
SE	26.7	20.9	24.5	14.3	14.3	14.3
SI	17.8	26.9	21.7	9.3	14.5	10.2
SK	15.6	10.1	13.0	9.1	7.9	8.9
EU	**21.9**	**19.9**	**20.9**	**14.9**	**14.3**	**14.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 53: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers by disability and year, EU, aged 16+

	EU 28				EU 27			
	Disability			All	Disability			All
	Severe	All disabled	Non disabled		Severe	All disabled	Non disabled	
2008	23.5	20.8	14.5	15.8				
2009	21.9	19.7	14.1	15.7				
2010	21.5	18.8	14.4	15.6				
2011	21.8	19.4	14.9	16.1	22.0	19.1	14.8	15.9
2012	21.3	19.1	15.0	16.1	21.5	18.8	14.9	16.0
2013					21.2	18.7	14.9	16.0
2014					22.1	19.4	15.3	16.5
2015					22.3	19.9	15.6	16.7
2016					22.7	20.2	15.9	16.9
2017					23.0	20.1	15.4	16.5
2018					24.0	20.9	15.0	16.5
2019					24.4	21.1	14.6	16.2
2020					23.1	20.9	14.8	16.4

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat, data extracted from [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 54: Persons living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability and year

	EU 28			EU 27		
Age: 16-64	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**
2005	19.0	13.9	14.9			
2006	19.4	14.0	15.1			
2007	20.1	14.1	15.3			
2008	19.8	13.7	15.0			
2009	20.1	13.8	15.1			
2010	20.5	14.5	15.5			
2011	21.2	15.0	16.2	21.3	15.1	16.2

2012	21.8	15.4	16.5	21.3	15.4	16.5
2013	21.6	15.2	16.5	21.7	15.5	16.7
2014	23.2	15.9	17.3	23.0	16.1	17.5
2015	23.7	16.0	17.3	23.7	16.3	17.6
2016	23.3	16.1	17.3	23.6	16.6	17.7
2017	23.3	15.6	16.9	23.0	15.8	17.1
2018	23.8	15.2	16.7	23.7	15.3	16.8
2019				22.9	14.8	16.2
2020				21.9	14.9	16.1

Age: 65+	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**
2005	19.9	17.6	18.8			
2006	20.3	17.5	18.9			
2007	20.7	17.7	18.2			
2008	20.6	16.8	19.0			
2009	19.0	16.2	17.9			
2010	16.8	14.3	16.0			
2011	16.9	14.2	15.9	16.5	12.4	14.7
2012	15.8	12.7	14.6	15.8	11.7	14.1
2013	15.0	11.9	13.7	14.9	10.9	13.2
2014	15.3	11.7	13.7	15.0	10.5	13.0
2015	15.5	12.4	14.0	15.3	11.8	13.6
2016	16.3	12.9	14.5	16.2	12.2	14.1
2017	17.1	13.1	15.0	16.7	12.8	14.7
2018	18.3	13.7	15.9	17.8	13.3	15.5
2019				19.0	13.6	16.1
2020				19.9	14.3	17.0

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat, data extracted from [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 55: Percentage of persons who received financial support from Government by age group and disability status, EU, 2021

	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Total**
50-54	4.4	4.4	4.4
55-59	10.2	11.7	11.2
60-64	9.0	8.5	8.6
65-69	5.6	5.2	5.3
70-74	4.3	4.3	4.3
75-79	4.5	3.9	4.2
80-84	2.8	4.4	3.4
85-89	3.0	3.1	3.0
90-94	1.0	4.8	1.6
Total	**6.1**	**7.7**	**7.0**

EU: EU covers 26 Member States (Ireland missing).
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

Table 56: Percentage of persons who received financial support from Government by economic status and disability status, aged 50+, EU, 2021

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total
Retired	3.9	4.4	4.2
Employed/SE	10.2	11.5	11.1
Unemployed	20.1	13.6	15.9
Permanently Sick/Disabled	10.0	15.7	11.0
Homemaker	0.3	1.3	0.9
Other	6.6	4.2	5.5
Total	**6.1**	**7.7**	**7.0**

EU: EU covers 26 Member States (Ireland missing).
Data source: SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

13 Severely materially deprived people

13.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 28 of the UN Convention covers 'Adequate standard of living and social protection'. It recognises the 'the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability'.

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion specified how it will contribute to the Commission priorities.[85] It defined a set of impact indicators which are relevant to the socio-economic field. They include, notably, people at risk of poverty and social exclusion (AROPE). Severe material deprivation is a component of AROPE.

The 'Severely materially deprived persons' indicator is an indicator of social exclusion which expresses a person's inability to afford certain goods or services which are considered to be of common use. This indicator complements the income-related measures of poverty in order to promote wider understanding of the various facets of social exclusion. The 'Material deprivation' collection covers indicators relating to economic strain, durables, housing and dwelling environment.

In the following, we present statistical indicators in accordance with Europe 2020 definitions. From 2021 on, these indicators have been redefined in accordance with Europe 2030 targets. One major change concerns the inclusion of social deprivation, as noted above. The new concept will cover material and social deprivation.

13.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

13.2.1 Definition of severe material deprivation

The indicator concerning severely materially deprived persons presents the share of population with an enforced lack of at least four out of nine material deprivation items in the 'Economic strain and durables' dimension.

Deprivation here refers to an enforced lack and not to a deliberate choice. For example, if a household cannot afford a colour TV, its members are counted among deprived persons. However, if it is a deliberate choice, there is no deprivation.

The nine items are:
1. Arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments, etc;
2. Capacity to afford paying for one week's annual holiday away from home;
3. Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day;
4. Capacity to face unexpected financial expenses;

[85] European Commission (2021), *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/strategic-plan-2020-2024-employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en.

5. Household cannot afford a telephone (including mobile phone);
6. Household cannot afford a colour TV;
7. Household cannot afford a washing machine;
8. Household cannot afford a car and
9. Ability of the household to pay for keeping its home adequately warm.

Severely materially deprived persons are persons with an enforced lack of at least four out of nine material deprivation items. Critics argue, however, that certain items are subjective measures, and that all persons do not share the same thresholds.

13.2.2 General comments

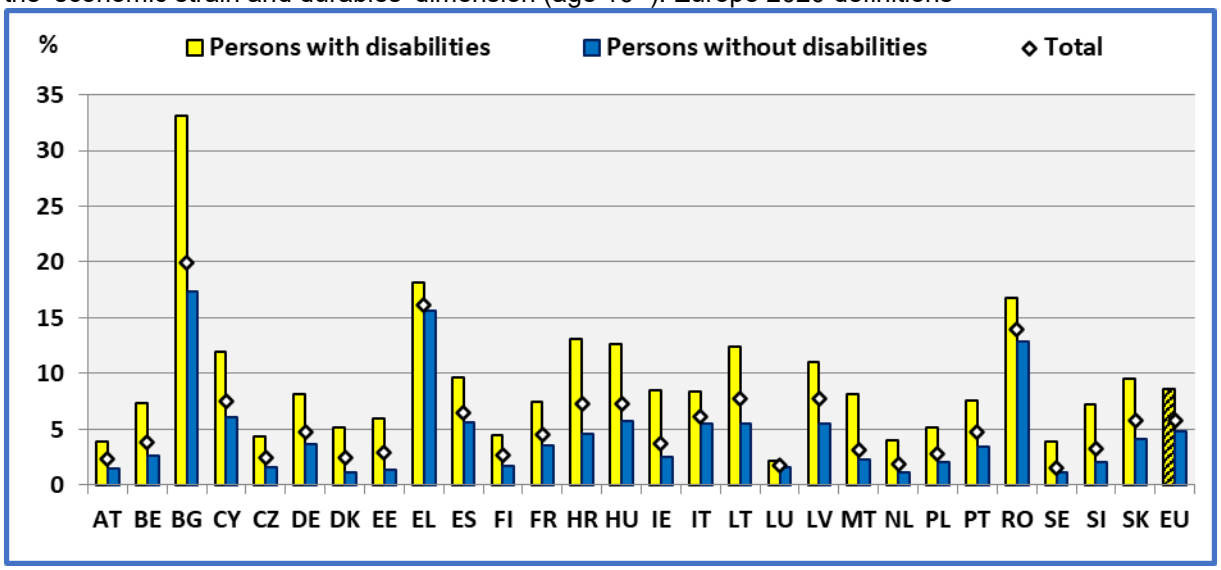
In 2020, about 8.6 % of people with disabilities aged 16 and over were severely materially deprived in comparison with 4.8 % of people without disabilities. The total was 5.8 %.

Available microdata, at the time of producing this report, did not include Germany and Italy. We can therefore give an estimate of the population only for 2019. In the 27 EU Member States, there were about 19.3 million persons (aged 16 and over) living in households at risk of severe material deprivation. There were about 7.5 million with disabilities and 11.9 million without disabilities.

There was a wide range of situations across the Member States. The proportion of severely materially deprived persons was low in Luxembourg (2.2 %), Austria (3.9 %) and Sweden (3.9 %). It was relatively high in Romania (16.8 %), Greece (18.2 %) and Bulgaria (33.1 %). Similar rankings were found in previous years.

Figure 71: Percentage of persons severely materially deprived by disability status and Member State, 2020

Percentage of population with an enforced lack of at least four out of nine material deprivation items in the 'economic strain and durables' dimension (age 16+). Europe 2020 definitions



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

We may note that Member States with high income have low rates of severe material deprivation, and countries with low income have high rates of severe material

deprivation (the best fit between GDP per capita and severe material deprivation gives R^2=0.57, n=27).

The range of variation here is much bigger in comparison with other poverty indicators. In fact, the characteristic of a group of persons in one country is not compared with a national average. Here, the reference is the same for all Member States: deprivation in at least four items out of nine. In summary, we see here an absolute measure of poverty, and not a relative one as in the case of financial poverty.

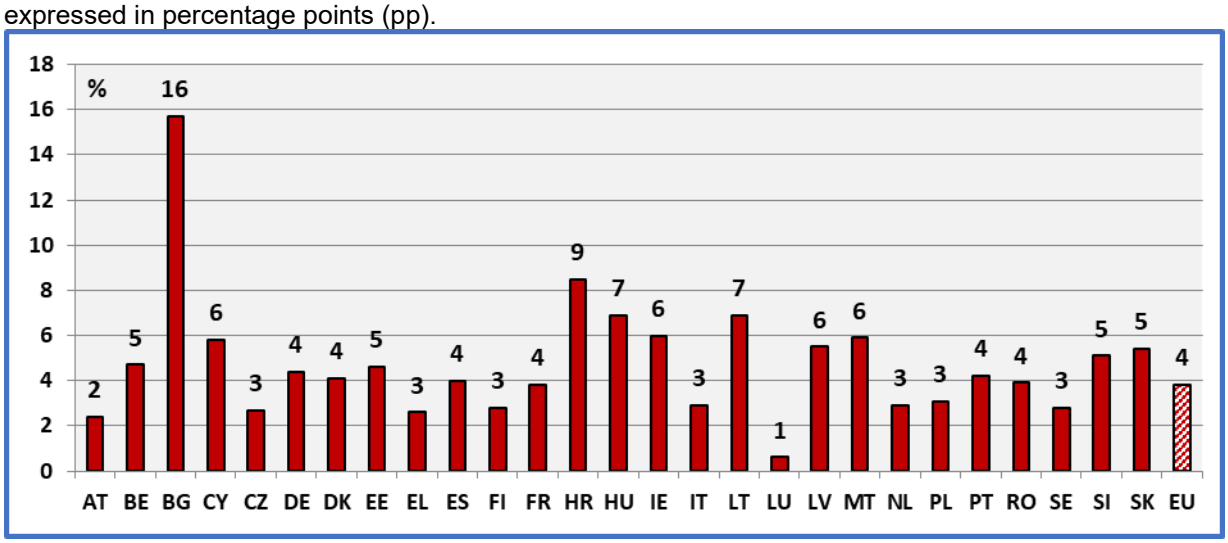
13.2.3 Disability gap in severe material deprivation

If we define disadvantage as the difference in respective rates between persons with and without disabilities, we find that, in the EU 27 in 2020, this disadvantage was 3.8 percentage points among persons aged 16 and over.

This disadvantage ranges from a low 0.6 percentage points (Luxembourg) to 15.7 percentage points in (Bulgaria).

Figure 72: Disadvantage of persons with disabilities concerning severe material deprivation, aged 16+, 2020

Disadvantage = (Percentage of persons with disabilities) – (Percentage of persons without disabilities); expressed in percentage points (pp).

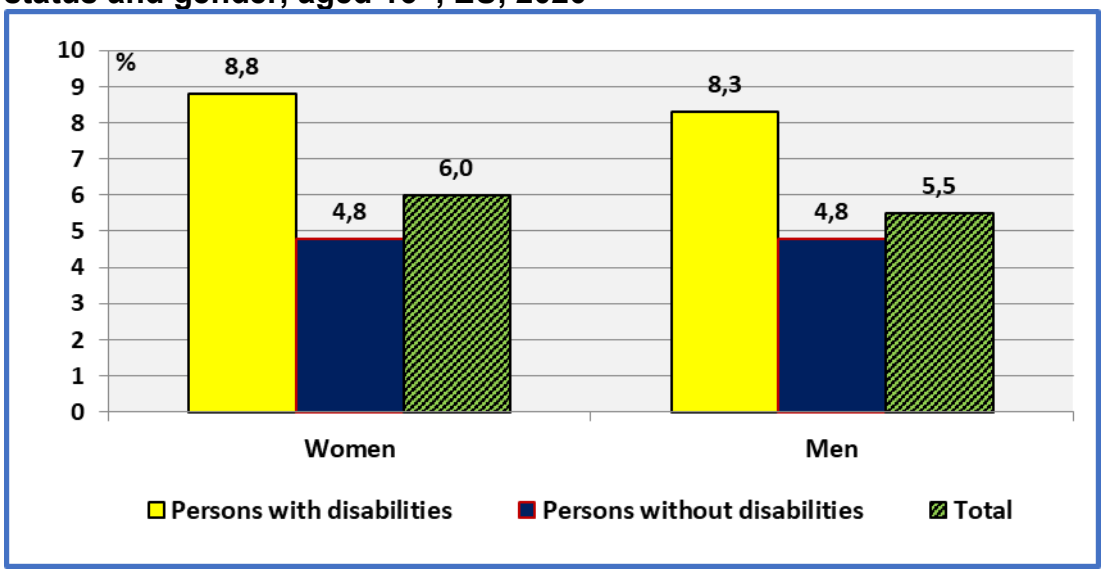


Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.4 Severe material deprivation by gender

Concerning gender, in the EU 27, about 8.8 % of women with disabilities were severely materially deprived in comparison with 8.3 % of disabled men aged 16 and over. There was no gender gap among persons without disabilities.

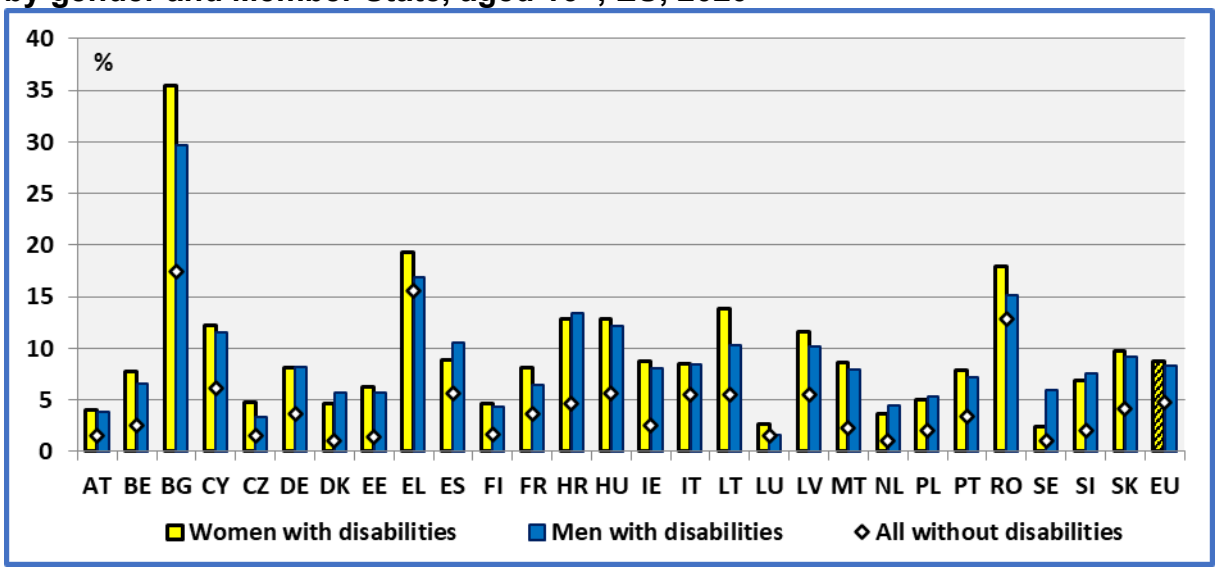
Figure 73: Percentage of persons severely materially deprived by disability status and gender, aged 16+, EU, 2020



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the following figure indicates a high correlation between men and women who are severely materially deprived (R^2=0.96, n=27).

Figure 74: Percentage of persons with disabilities severely materially deprived, by gender and Member State, aged 16+, EU, 2020



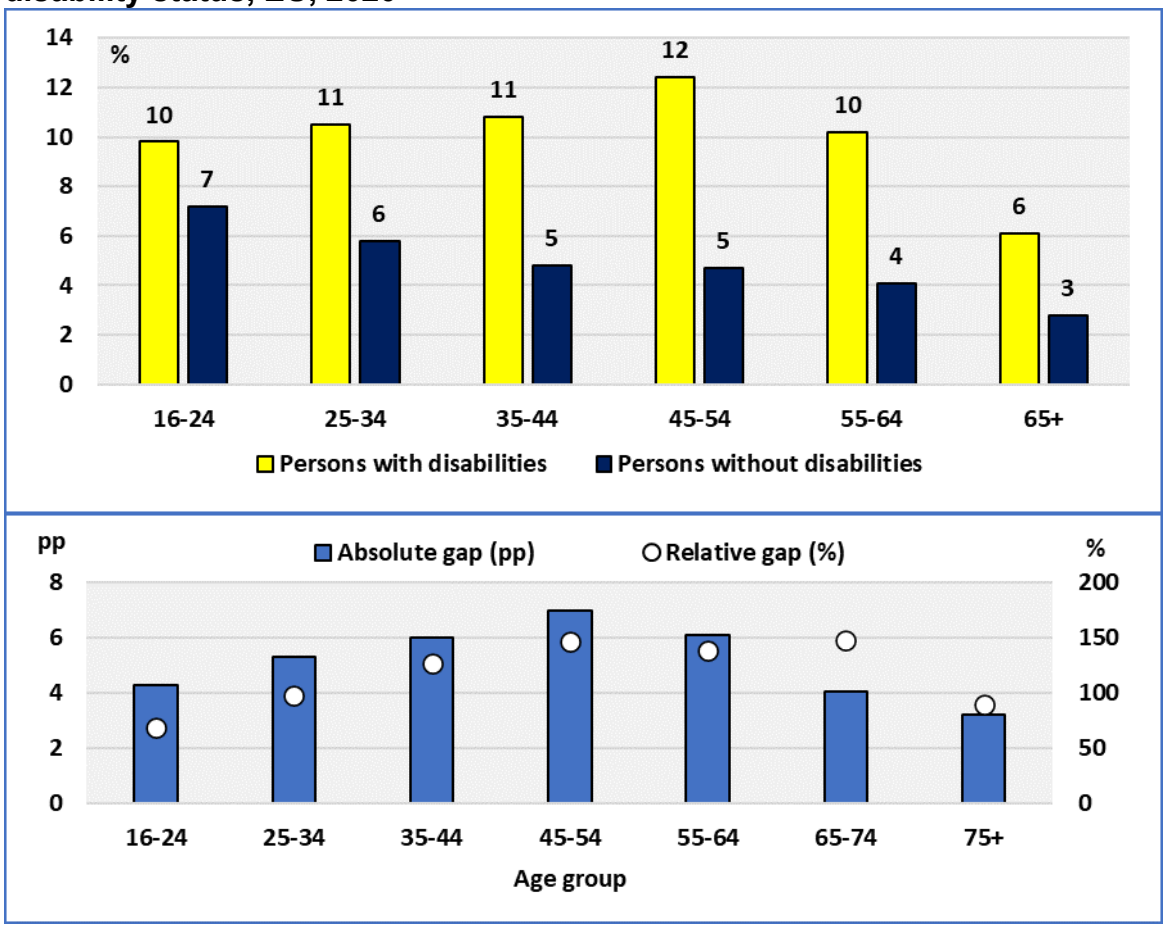
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.5 Severe material deprivation by age

Concerning age, in the EU 27, those in younger age groups presented a higher rate of severe material deprivation in comparison with the rate for persons aged 65 and over. This holds true both for persons with and without disabilities.

The gap between persons with and without disabilities increases up to the age of 45-54 and decreases thereafter.

Figure 75: Percentage of persons severely materially deprived by age group and disability status, EU, 2020



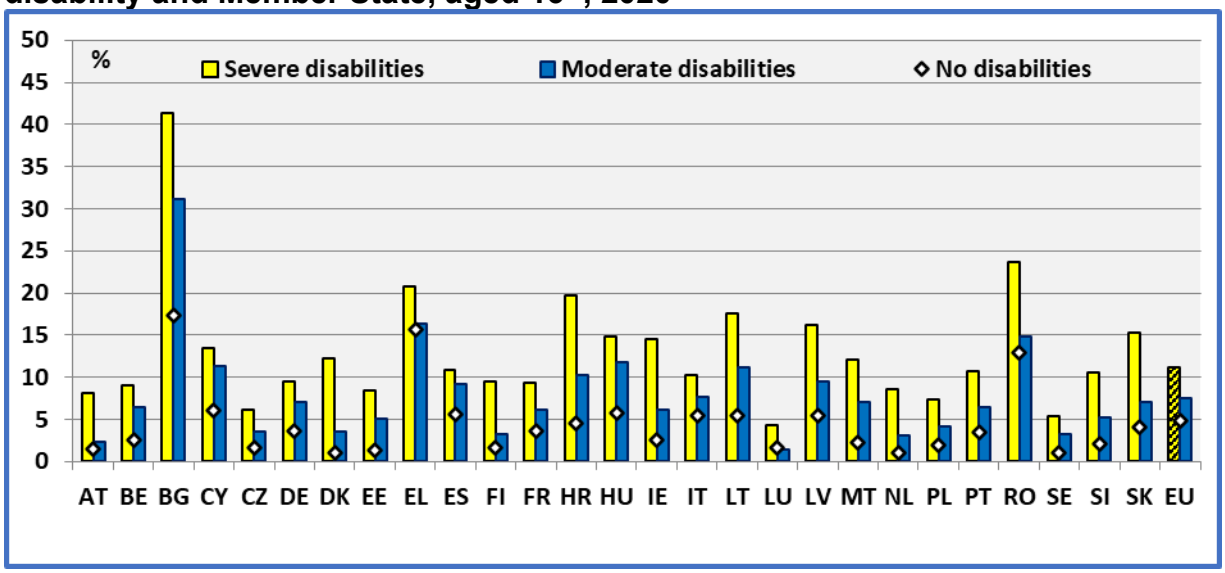
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.6 Severe material deprivation by degree of disability

In all Member States, a higher degree of disability is associated with a higher rate of persons at risk of severe material deprivation.

In the EU 27, the rate was 7.5 % for persons with moderate disabilities aged 16 and over, and 11.1 % for persons with severe disabilities in the same age group. The rate was 4.8 % for persons without disabilities.

Figure 76: Percentage of persons severely materially deprived, by degree of disability and Member State, aged 16+, 2020

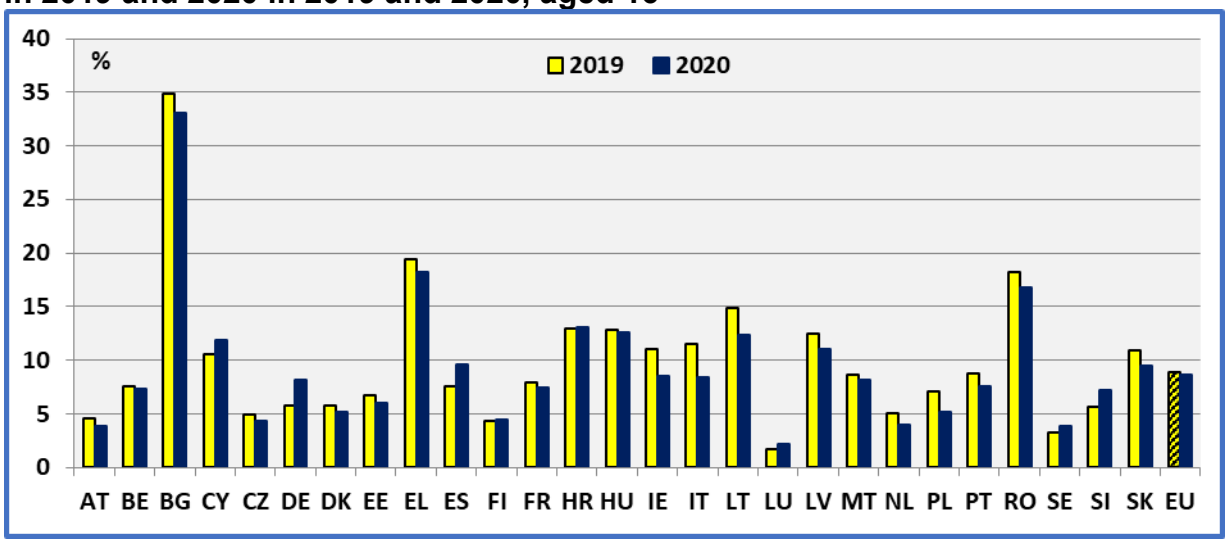


Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.7 Evolution at national level

Concerning persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, we observed an improvement of the situation in the majority of Member States (19 countries).

Figure 77: Percentage of persons with disabilities severely materially deprived in 2019 and 2020 in 2019 and 2020, aged 16+

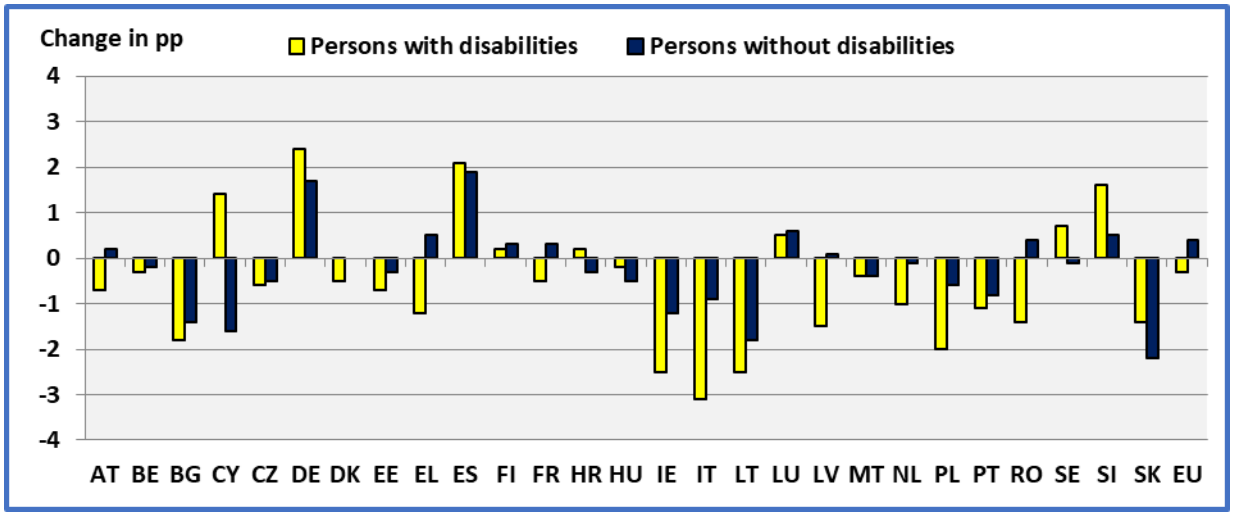


Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Although the evolution for persons with and without disabilities is correlated (R^2=0.38, n=27), at the EU 27 level, we observed a decrease of the rate of 0.3 percentage points (-0.3) for persons with disabilities. On the contrary, however, the rate for persons without disabilities increased by 0.4 percentage points (+0.4 percentage points). This is mainly due to the deterioration in Germany and Spain.

Figure 78: Absolute change (in percentage points) of persons severely materially deprived by disability status, in 2019 and 2020, aged 16+

Change in percentage points: a negative value means a decrease of severe material deprivation between 2019-2020.



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.8 Evolution through time at the EU level

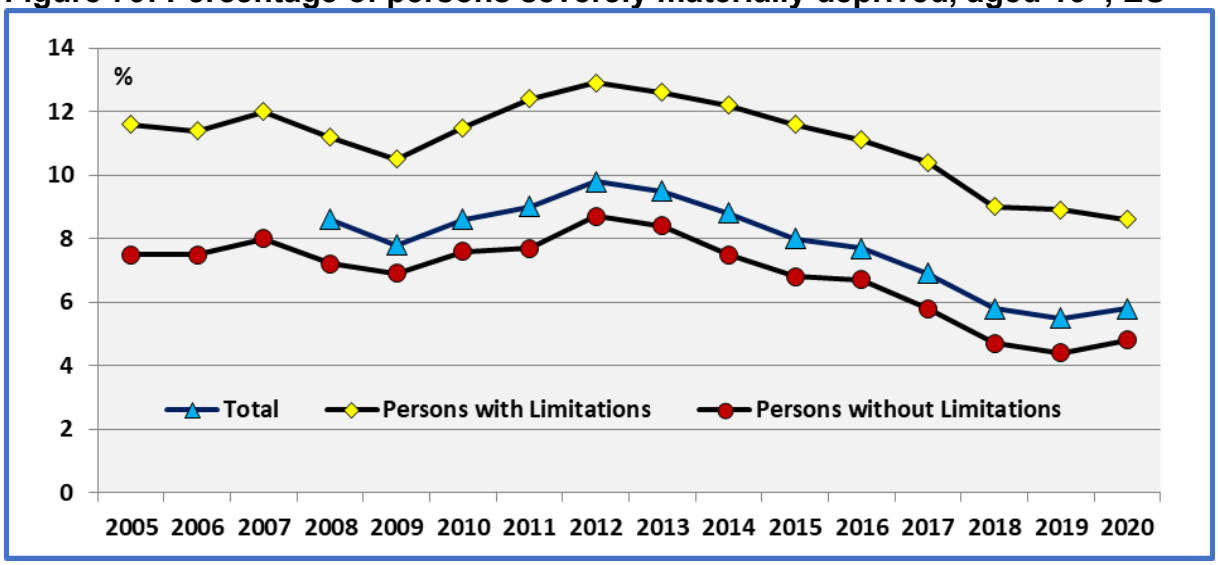
In the following graph, we present the evolution of severe material deprivation for persons with and without disabilities. It may be observed that all groups present a cyclical fluctuation that follows the labour market and the economic cycle.

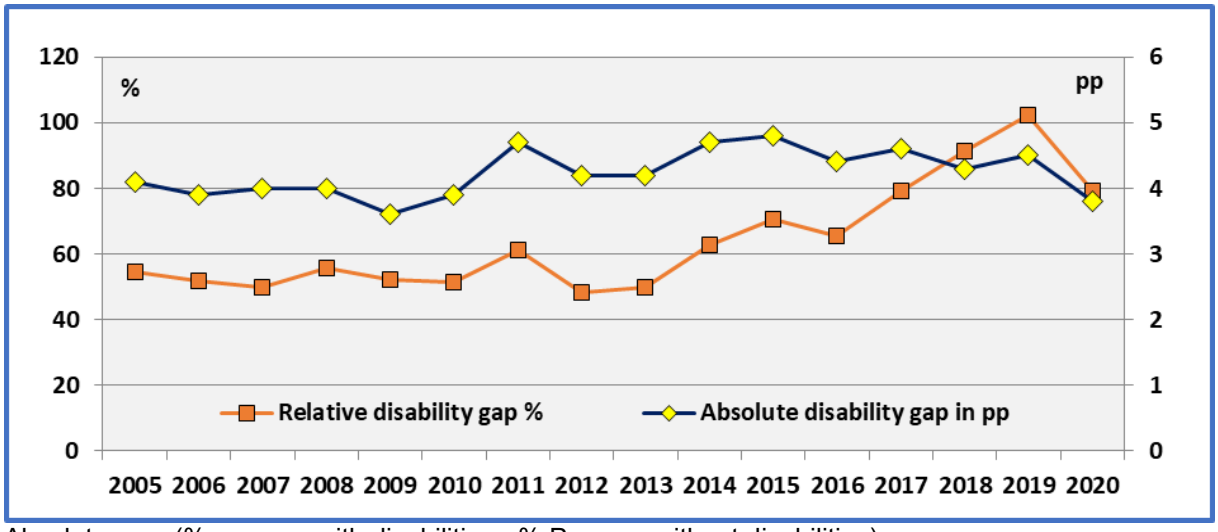
Since 2013, an improvement (decrease in poverty) has been observed for all groups. However, in 2020, this movement was reversed for persons without disabilities.

Over the long term, the situation of persons with disabilities has deteriorated in comparison with that of persons without disabilities. In actual fact, the relative difference[86] in the rates of severe material deprivation between persons with and without disabilities has increased. This was reversed in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the absolute and the relative gap decreased in 2020.

[86] Relative severe material deprivation rate: (% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).

Figure 79: Percentage of persons severely materially deprived, aged 16+, EU





Absolute gap: (% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities).
Relative gap: 100*(% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).
Note: From 2005 to 2009: EU 28 and from 2010 onwards: EU 27.
Data source: Eurostat and EU-SILC UDB for 2005-2009.

13.3 Ability to keep home warm

The exceptional rise in global energy prices raises questions about the ability of households to pay their energy bills.

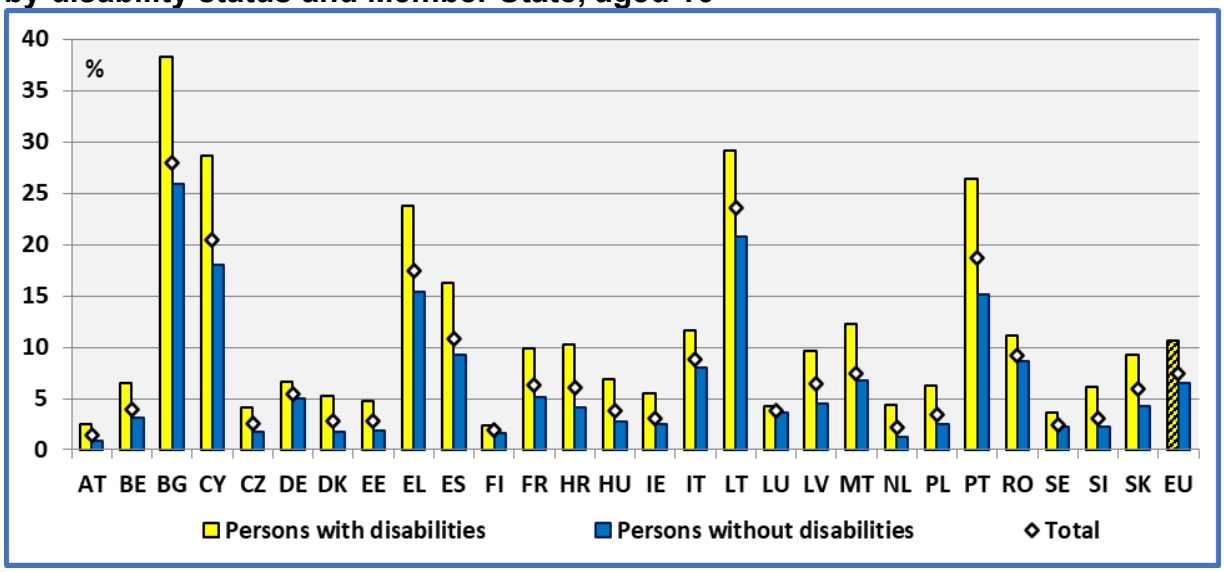
Persons with disabilities, notably persons with mobility disabilities, might need more hours of heating at home. In addition, persons with health problems might require longer heating periods and/or higher temperatures. This raises questions regarding their capacity to pay electricity and gas bills.

It is hypothesised that chronic exposure to uncomfortably low ambient temperature leads to bad health or deteriorate existing health problems.[87] In addition, fragile persons are more vulnerable to bad heating conditions. Given that 82.8 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over reported a long-standing health problem, in comparison with 16.5 % of persons without disabilities, in the EU 27,[88] the question of energy prices appears to be important in maintaining good health.

The EU-SILC survey presents information on the ability of people to keep their home adequately warm (HH050). The question is, 'Can your household afford to keep its home adequately warm?' Possible answers are 'yes' and 'no'.

In the EU 27, about 10.6 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over declared that they were unable to keep their home adequately warm. This rate was 6.5 % for persons without disabilities. The total rate was 7.5 % for the same age group.

Figure 80: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and Member State, aged 16+



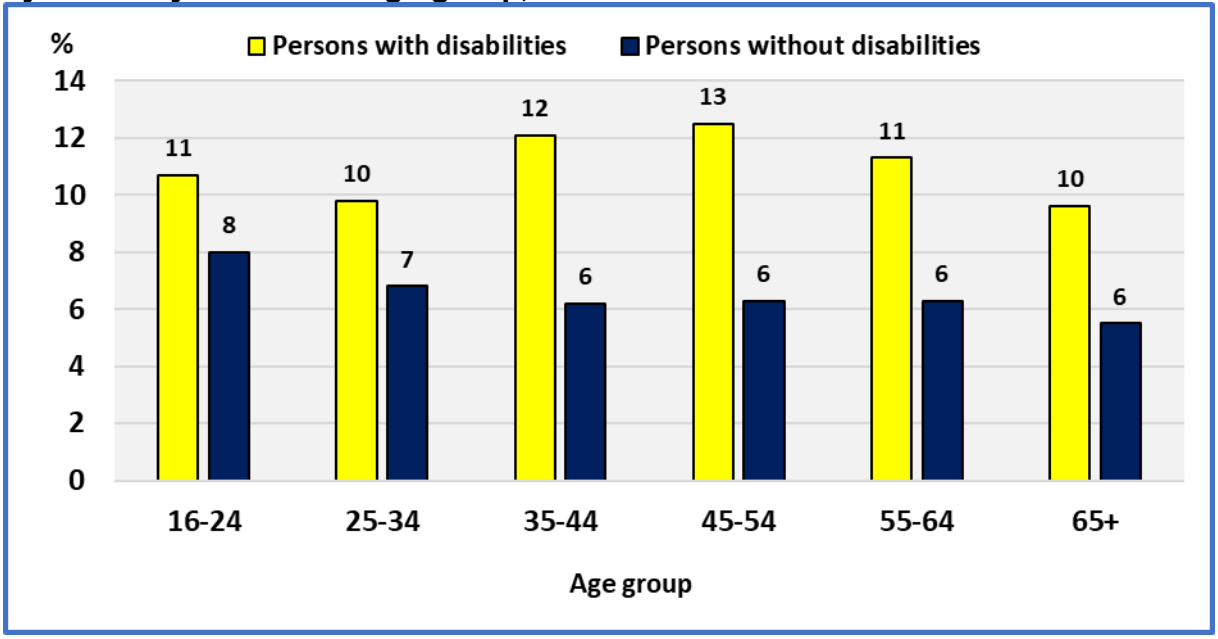
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

It may be noted that, for persons with disabilities, the level of inability to keep their home adequately warm was notably high in Cyprus (28.6 %), Lithuania (29.2 %) and Bulgaria (38.3 %).

The following figure indicates that the rate was high in the 45-54 age group for persons with disabilities and in the 16-24 age group for persons without disabilities.

[87] Stewart, S., 'Lower Heating Prices Prevent Winter Deaths, Particularly from Cardiovascular and Respiratory Causes', *The Bulletin on Health*, No. 2, July 2019, National Bureau of Economic Research, https://www.nber.org/bh-20192/lower-heating-prices-prevent-winter-deaths-particularly-cardiovascular-and-respiratory-causes.
Eurostat, data extracted on 1 June 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/HLTH_DH020__custom_2842938/default/table?lang=en.

Figure 81: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and age group, EU



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.4 Statistical tables

Table 57: Percentage of persons living in households which are severely materially deprived by disability status and Member State, aged 16+

Percentage of population with an enforced lack of at least four out of nine material deprivation items in the 'economic strain and durables' dimension.

	2019			2020			2020
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	in pp
AT	4.6	1.3	2.4	3.9	1.5	2.3	2.4
BE	7.6	2.8	4.1	7.3	2.6	3.8	4.7
BG	34.9	18.8	21.4	33.1	17.4	19.9	15.7
CY	10.5	7.7	8.4	11.9	6.1	7.5	5.8
CZ	4.9	2.1	2.9	4.3	1.6	2.4	2.7
DE	5.7	2.0	2.8	8.1	3.7	4.8	4.4
DK	5.7	1.1	2.6	5.2	1.1	2.4	4.1
EE	6.7	1.7	3.4	6.0	1.4	2.9	4.6
EL	19.4	15.1	16.1	18.2	15.6	16.2	2.6
ES	7.5	3.7	4.4	9.6	5.6	6.5	4.0
FI	4.3	1.4	2.4	4.5	1.7	2.7	2.8
FR	7.9	3.3	4.4	7.4	3.6	4.5	3.8
HR	12.9	4.9	7.6	13.1	4.6	7.3	8.5
HU	12.8	6.2	7.8	12.6	5.7	7.3	6.9
IE	11.0	3.7	4.9	8.5	2.5	3.7	6.0
IT	11.5	6.4	7.6	8.4	5.5	6.1	2.9
LT	14.9	7.3	9.7	12.4	5.5	7.7	6.9

LU	1.7	1.0	1.2	2.2	1.6	1.8	0.6
LV	12.5	5.4	8.2	11.0	5.5	7.7	5.5
MT	8.6	2.7	3.4	8.2	2.3	3.1	5.9
NL	5.0	1.2	2.3	4.0	1.1	1.9	2.9
PL	7.1	2.6	3.7	5.1	2.0	2.8	3.1
PT	8.7	4.2	5.7	7.6	3.4	4.8	4.2
RO	18.2	12.5	13.9	16.8	12.9	13.9	3.9
SE	3.2	1.2	1.5	3.9	1.1	1.5	2.8
SI	5.6	1.6	2.7	7.2	2.1	3.2	5.1
SK	10.9	6.3	7.7	9.5	4.1	5.8	5.4
EU	**8.9**	**4.4**	**5.5**	**8.6**	**4.8**	**5.8**	**3.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 58: Percentage of persons living in households which are severely materially deprived by gender, disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2020

Percentage of population with an enforced lack of at least four out of nine material deprivation items in the 'economic strain and durables' dimension.

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities			Disabilities		
	Men	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	**No**
AT	3.8	4.0	3.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	8.1	2.4	1.5
BE	6.6	7.8	7.3	3.0	2.3	2.6	9.0	6.4	2.6
BG	29.7	35.5	33.1	17.2	17.6	17.4	41.4	31.2	17.4
CY	11.5	12.2	11.9	6.4	5.9	6.1	13.4	11.3	6.1
CZ	3.4	4.8	4.3	1.1	2.0	1.6	6.1	3.6	1.6
DE	8.2	8.1	8.1	3.8	3.6	3.7	9.5	7.0	3.7
DK	5.7	4.7	5.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	12.2	3.5	1.1
EE	5.7	6.3	6.0	1.2	1.5	1.4	8.5	5.0	1.4
EL	16.9	19.3	18.2	15.0	16.1	15.6	20.7	16.4	15.6
ES	10.5	8.9	9.6	5.4	5.8	5.6	10.8	9.2	5.6
FI	4.3	4.6	4.5	1.9	1.4	1.7	9.5	3.3	1.7
FR	6.4	8.1	7.4	3.3	3.8	3.6	9.3	6.2	3.6
HR	13.4	12.9	13.1	4.8	4.3	4.6	19.7	10.3	4.6
HU	12.2	12.9	12.6	5.5	5.9	5.7	14.8	11.8	5.7
IE	8.1	8.8	8.5	2.3	2.8	2.5	14.5	6.2	2.5
IT	8.4	8.5	8.4	5.7	5.2	5.5	10.2	7.7	5.5
LT	10.3	13.8	12.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	17.5	11.2	5.5
LU	1.6	2.7	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.6	4.3	1.4	1.6
LV	10.2	11.6	11.0	5.3	5.7	5.5	16.2	9.5	5.5
MT	7.9	8.6	8.2	2.2	2.4	2.3	12.1	7.1	2.3
NL	4.5	3.6	4.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	8.6	3.1	1.1
PL	5.3	5.0	5.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	7.3	4.2	2.0
PT	7.2	7.9	7.6	3.9	3.0	3.4	10.7	6.5	3.4

RO	15.2	18.0	16.8	13.2	12.6	12.9	23.6	14.8	12.9
SE	6.0	2.4	3.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	5.4	3.2	1.1
SI	7.6	6.9	7.2	1.7	2.4	2.1	10.6	5.3	2.1
SK	9.2	9.7	9.5	4.4	3.7	4.1	15.3	7.0	4.1
EU	**8.3**	**8.8**	**8.6**	**4.8**	**4.8**	**4.8**	**11.1**	**7.5**	**4.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 59: Percentage of persons living in households which are severely materially deprived, EU 27*, aged 16+

	Total	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
2005		11.6	7.5
2006		11.4	7.5
2007		12.0	8.0
2008	8.6	11.2	7.2
2009	7.8	10.5	6.9
2010	8.6	11.5	7.6
2011	9.0	12.4	7.7
2012	9.8	12.9	8.7
2013	9.5	12.6	8.4
2014	8.8	12.2	7.5
2015	8.0	11.6	6.8
2016	7.7	11.1	6.7
2017	6.9	10.4	5.8
2018	5.8	9.0	4.7
2019	5.5	8.9	4.4
2020	5.8	8.6	4.8

* : Data for 2005-2009 cover EU 28.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat.

Table 60: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2020

	2020			2020
	Disability			Disability gap
	Yes	No	Total	in pp
AT	2.5	0.9	1.4	1.6
BE	6.5	3.1	3.9	3.4
BG	38.3	25.9	27.9	12.4
CY	28.6	18.0	20.4	10.6
CZ	4.1	1.8	2.5	2.3
DE	6.6	5.0	5.4	1.6
DK	5.2	1.7	2.8	3.5
EE	4.8	1.9	2.8	2.9
EL	23.8	15.4	17.4	8.4

ES	16.3	9.2	10.8	7.1
FI	2.4	1.6	1.9	0.8
FR	9.9	5.1	6.3	4.8
HR	10.3	4.1	6.1	6.2
HU	6.9	2.8	3.8	4.1
IE	5.5	2.5	3.1	3.0
IT	11.6	8.0	8.8	3.6
LT	29.2	20.8	23.6	8.4
LU	4.2	3.6	3.8	0.6
LV	9.6	4.5	6.5	5.1
MT	12.3	6.7	7.5	5.6
NL	4.4	1.3	2.2	3.1
PL	6.2	2.5	3.4	3.7
PT	26.4	15.1	18.7	11.3
RO	11.1	8.6	9.2	2.5
SE	3.6	2.2	2.4	1.4
SI	6.1	2.2	3.0	3.9
SK	9.3	4.3	5.9	5.0
EU	**10.6**	**6.5**	**7.5**	**4.1**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

14 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

14.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

The European Commission, in its Communication concerning the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, notes that 'monitoring the progress in Member States will rely on improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities'.

The European Commission set out strategic guidance for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility in its 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS). Commission recommendations provide, notably, that Member States should outline the most important national challenges in terms of gender equality and equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. It is noted that everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services available to the public (principle 3 of the European Pillar of Social Rights).

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion specified how it will contribute to the Commission priorities.[89] It defined a set of impact indicators which are relevant to the socio-economic field. They include, notably, people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

As noted above, the 'People at risk of poverty or social exclusion' (AROPE) indicator is a main indicator for monitoring the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion. This indicator is based on three components, which have been analysed in the previous chapters.

The headline indicator combines three sub-indicators: the at-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers; the severe material deprivation rate; and people living in households with very low work intensity. This headline indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are either at risk of poverty or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. Persons present in several sub-indicators are counted only once.

The global indicator covering persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion combines the three cited indicators and hence takes into account all dimensions of poverty and social exclusion.

In the following, we present statistical indicators in accordance with Europe 2020 definitions. From 2021 on, these indicators have been redefined in accordance with Europe 2030 targets. One major change concerns low work intensity and another material deprivation. These modifications affect the statistical indicator AROPE.

[89] European Commission (2021), *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/strategic-plan-2020-2024-employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en.

14.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

14.2.1 General comments

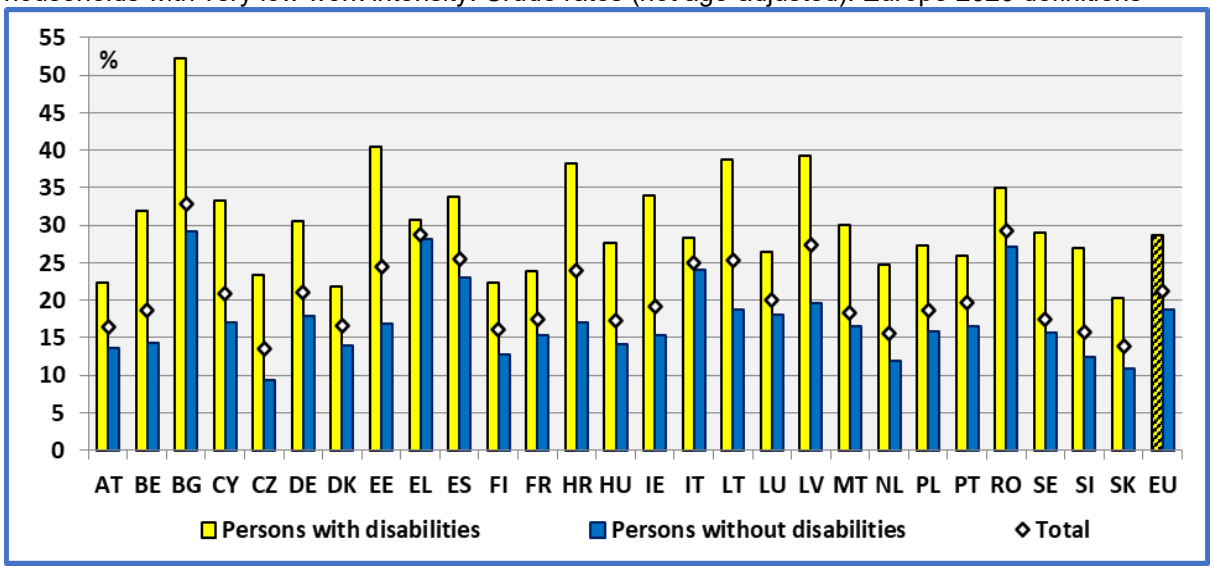
In the EU 27 in 2020, about 28.6 % of people with disabilities aged 16 and over were living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 18.8 % of persons without a disability in the same age group. The percentage for all persons aged 16 and over was 21.2 %.

At the time of producing this report, the available EU-SILC microdata did not contain information for Germany and Italy; consequently, our population estimates refer to 2019. In the EU 27 in 2019, about 73.6 million people aged 16 and over faced a risk of poverty or social exclusion. This total includes 49.6 million without disabilities and 24.0 million with disabilities.

Concerning people with disabilities, the lowest rates could be found in Slovakia (20.3 %), Denmark (21.8 %) and Austria 22.3 %). On the other hand, the highest rates could be found in Latvia (39.3 %), Estonia (40.4 %) and Bulgaria (52.3 %). A similar ranking was found in 2019.

Figure 82: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+, 2020

Percentage of persons who are either at risk of poverty or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. Crude rates (not age-adjusted). Europe 2020 definitions



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

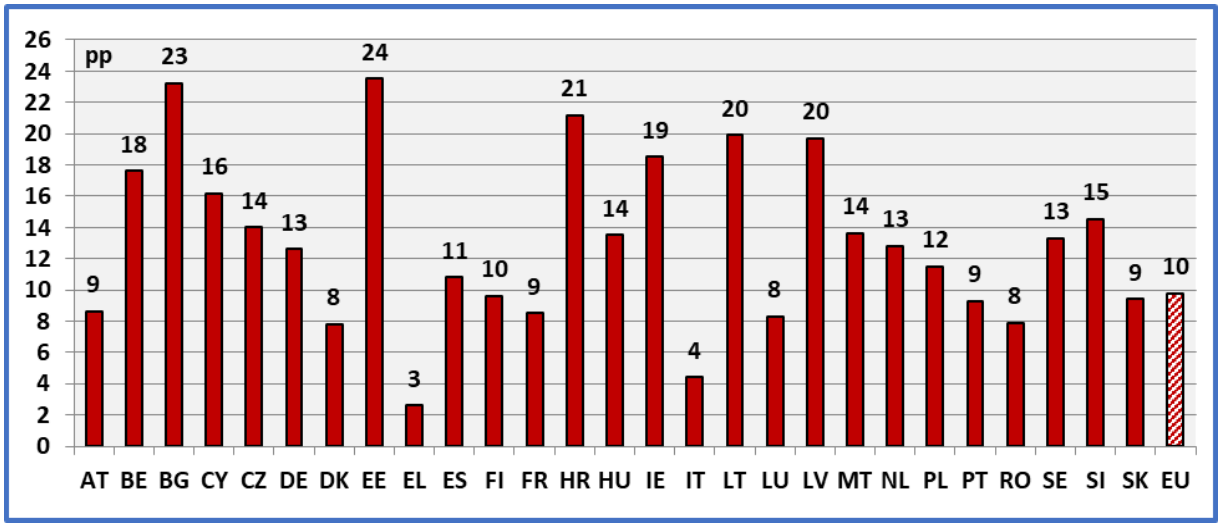
14.2.2 Disability gap in AROPE

In the EU 27 in 2020, the absolute gap between persons with and without disabilities amounted to 9.8 percentage points (relative gap: 52.1 %).

High gaps could be found in Croatia (21.2 percentage), Bulgaria (23.2 percentage points) and Estonia (23.5 percentage points). On the contrary, small gaps could be found in Greece (2.6 percentage points), Italy (4.4 percentage points) and Denmark (7.8 percentage points). A similar ranking was found in 2019.

Figure 83: The poverty and social exclusion gap between persons with and without disability, aged 16+, 2020

Absolute gap (in pp): Percentage of persons with disabilities – Percentage of persons without disabilities.



Note: The relative gap is not presented here but is correlated with the absolute gap (R^2=0.64, n=27).
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

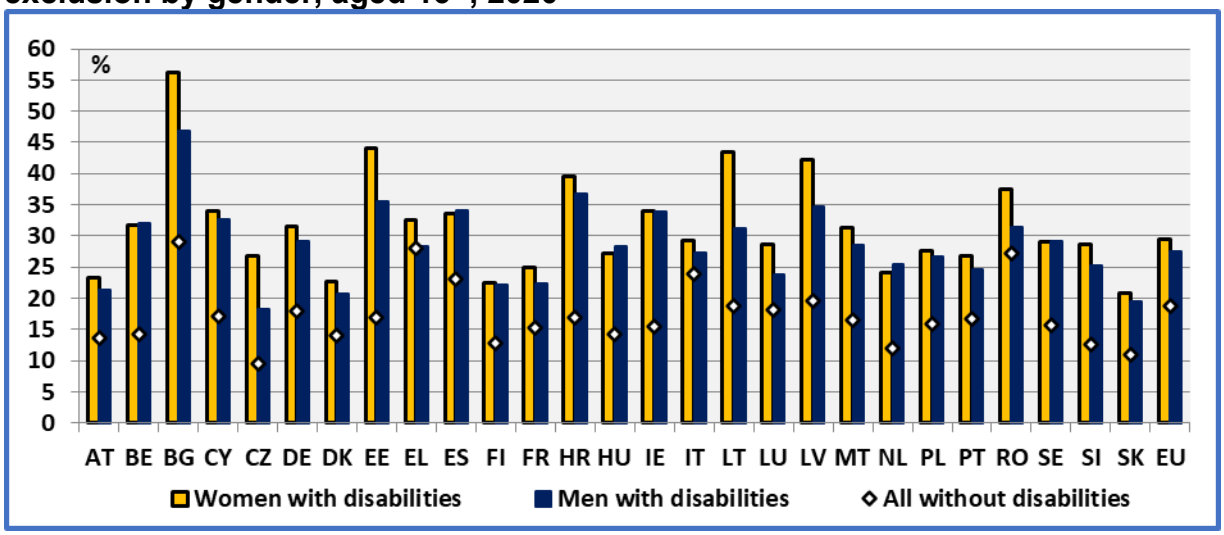
14.2.3 Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by gender

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 29.5 % of women with disabilities aged 16 and over were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 27.4 % of disabled men in the same age group. The total was 18.8 %.

The gender gap among persons with disabilities was high in Czechia (8.5 percentage points), Bulgaria (9.3 percentage points) and Lithuania (12.3 percentage points).

However, the global gender gap among persons with disabilities (2.1 percentage points) was smaller in comparison with the global disability gap (9.8 percentage points). On the other hand, this gender gap was relatively small, or was reversed, in several Member States.

Figure 84: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by gender, aged 16+, 2020



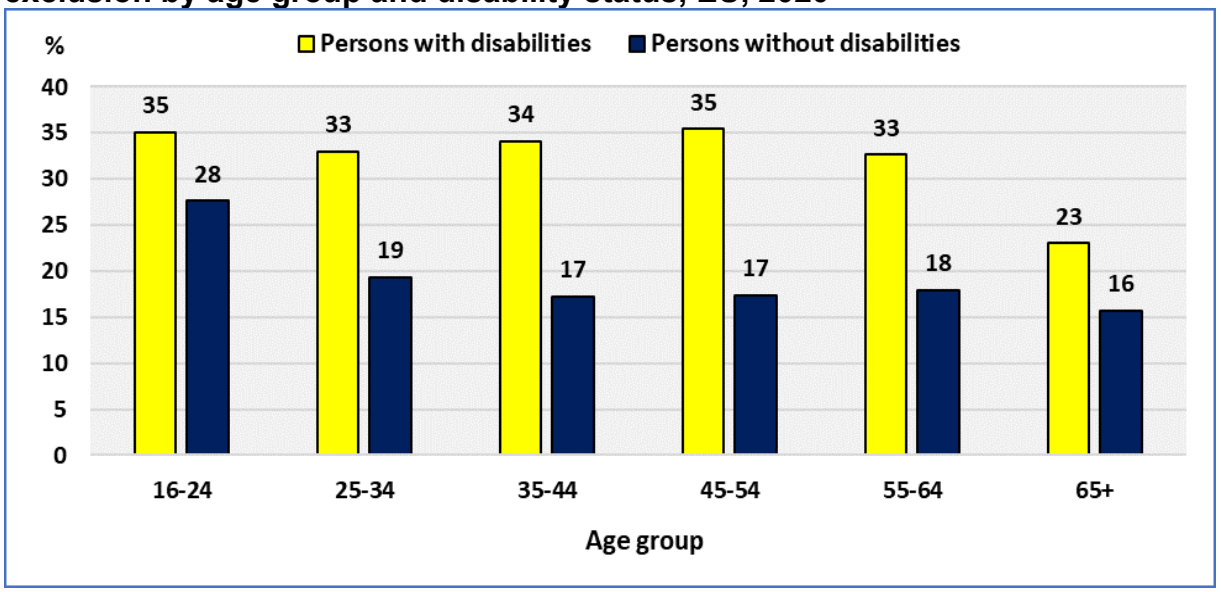
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

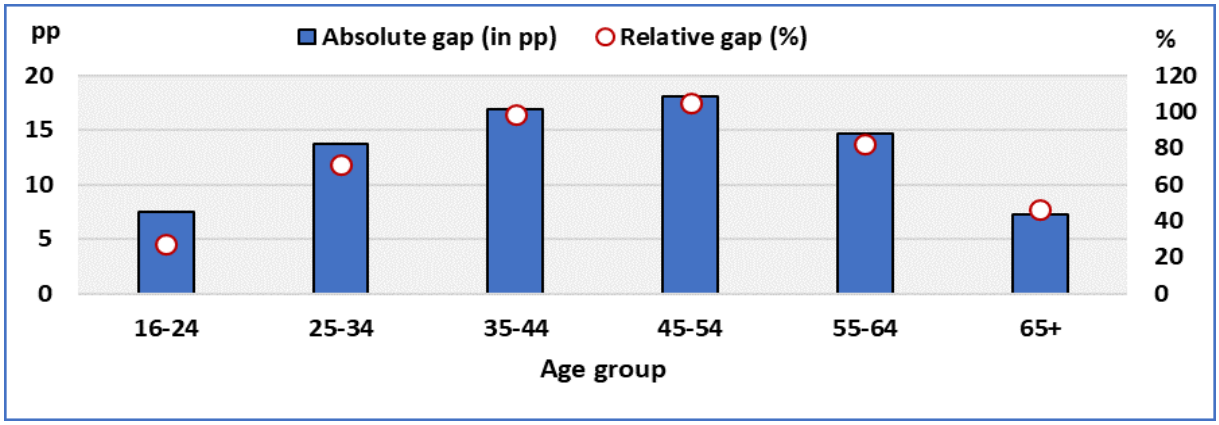
14.2.4 Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by age

The following figure indicates that the percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion varies with age. For all age groups, however, the rate of persons with disabilities is higher in comparison with the rate for persons without disabilities.

The disadvantage of persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities increases up to the ages of 45-55 and decreases thereafter, notably for the 65+ age group.

Figure 85: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age group and disability status, EU, 2020





Absolute gap: (% persons with disabilities – % Persons without disabilities).
Relative gap: 100*(% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

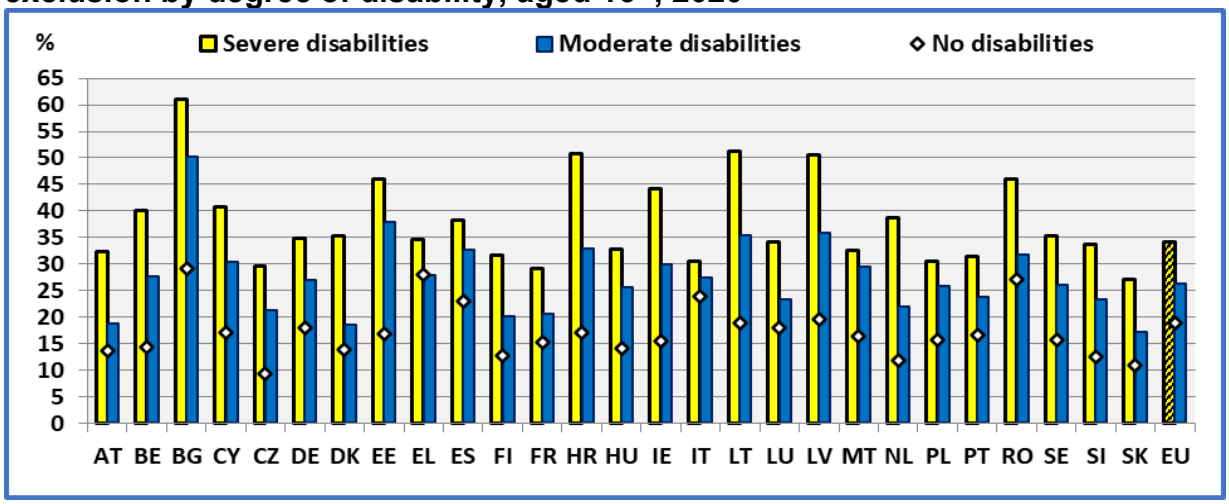
It may be noted that people aged 16-64 and people aged 65 and over face different risks. In fact, the statistical indicator is not the same for both groups. Work intensity plays an important role for persons aged 16 to 59 but is not relevant to retired people. In addition, poverty among economically active persons does not require the same policies as for elderly people.

For persons aged 16 to 64, the dominant instrument to take people out of poverty or social exclusion is employment and education. For persons aged 65 and over, policies concerning retirement pensions are more relevant. For these reasons, it is desirable to differentiate between the situation of persons aged 16 to 64 and that of persons aged 65 and over.

14.2.5 Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree of disability

Persons with severe disabilities face a higher risk in comparison with persons with moderate disabilities.

Figure 86: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree of disability, aged 16+, 2020



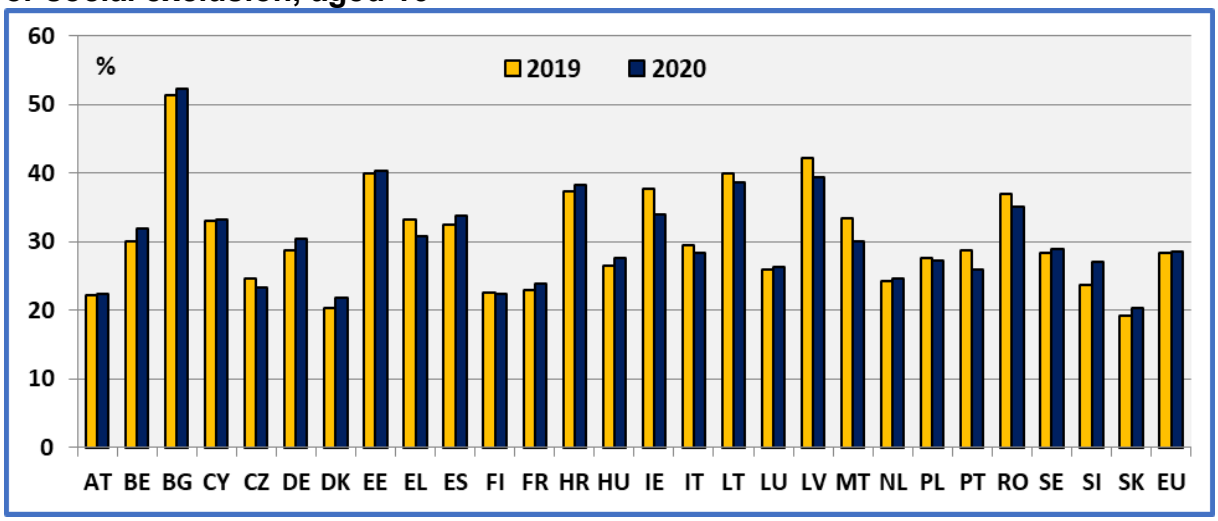
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

14.2.6 Evolution in the Member States

The comparison between 2019 and 2020 ought to be treated with caution. First, the COVID-19 pandemic modified the planning of the implementation of the survey and the data are not seasonally adjusted; that might imply big changes for certain Member States. Secondly, social distancing might have changed the way in which the survey was organised and the ability to collect the data. This may have had an impact on answers.[90]

The following figure indicates a deterioration in the situation of persons with disabilities between 2019-2020 in 16 Member States (increase in the risk of poverty or social exclusion). However, it must be noted that several national changes are relatively small: less than one (1) percentage point.

Figure 87: Evolution of the share of persons with disabilities at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

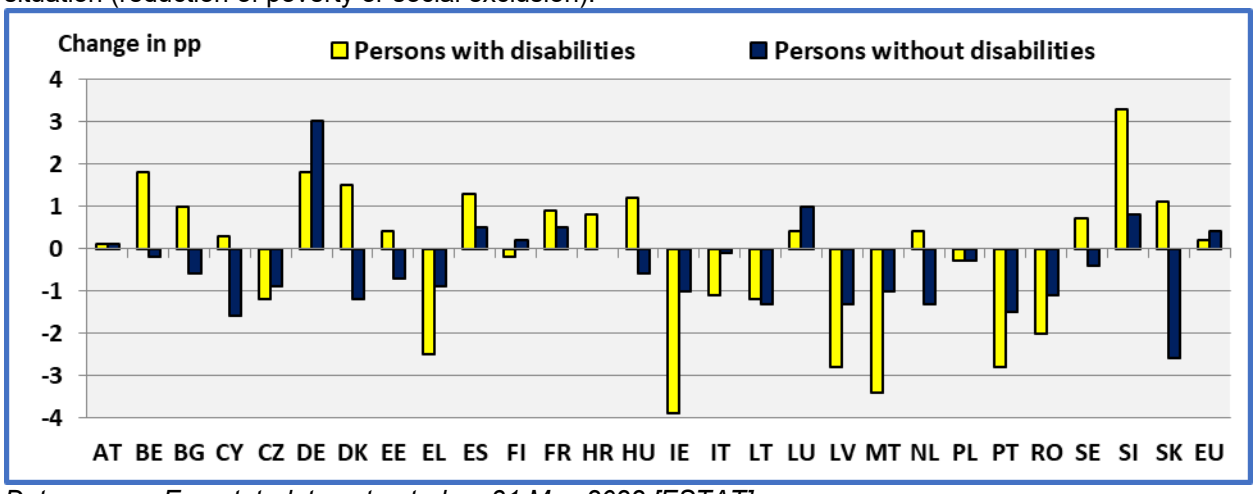
In the following figure, which presents the change between 2019-2020, one may observe a relatively small correlation between the national changes for persons with and without disabilities (R^2=0.19, n=27).

It may be noted that the deterioration in the situation (increase in poverty or social exclusion) was significant in a relatively small number of Member States.

[90] Eurostat has published the document 'Guidelines and methodological notes in the context of the COVID-19 crisis' in order to ensure that European statistics continue to be based on sound foundations; see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/metadata/covid-19-support-for-statisticians.

Figure 88: Change between 2019 and 2020 of risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, age 16+

Change = % Persons in 2020- % Persons in 2019. A negative value means an improvement of the situation (reduction of poverty or social exclusion).



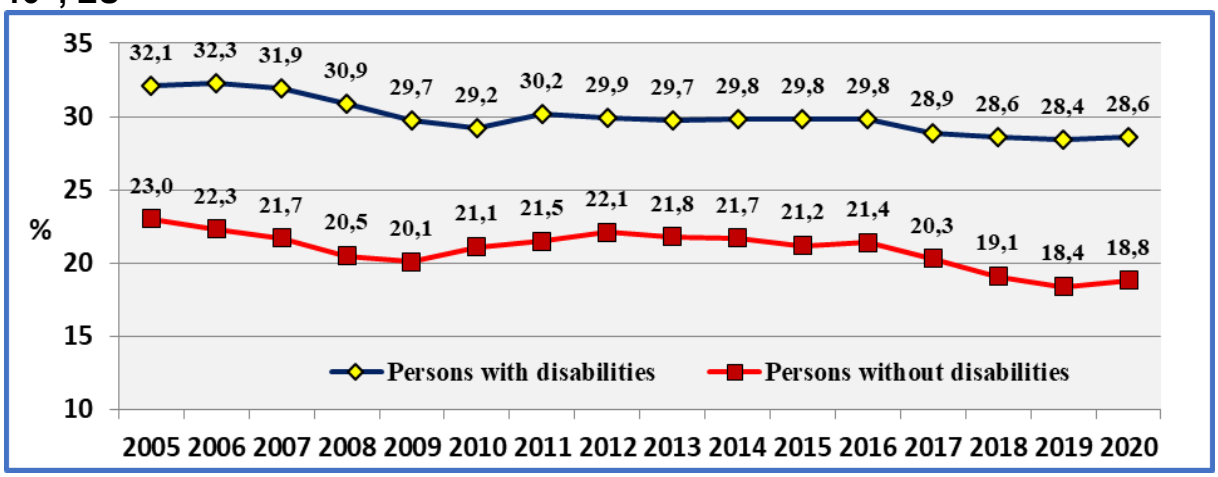
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

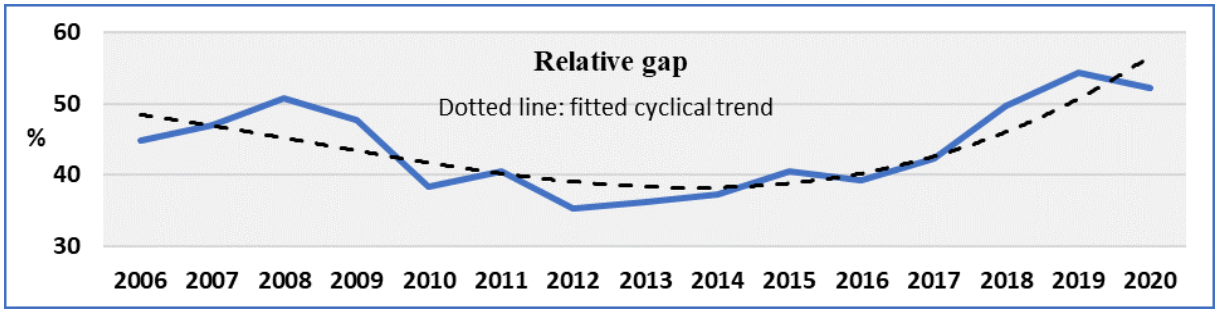
14.2.7 Evolution at the EU level

In the following graph, we present the evolution of the percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability status. In recent years, a decrease in poverty was observed for both groups. However, this movement was reversed in 2020, which was a COVID-19 year.

The extensive policy interventions during 2020 to maintain jobs have mitigated the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The deterioration was relatively small at the EU level.

Figure 89: Percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+, EU





Note: Relative gap = 100*(% persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.
Note: EU 28 before 2010. EU 27 from 2010 and later.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

However, as noted above, persons aged 16-64 and persons aged 65 and over do not share the same characteristics. Due to the importance of age, and given the specific characteristics of elderly persons, we present below the evolution of poverty and social exclusion rates by age group.

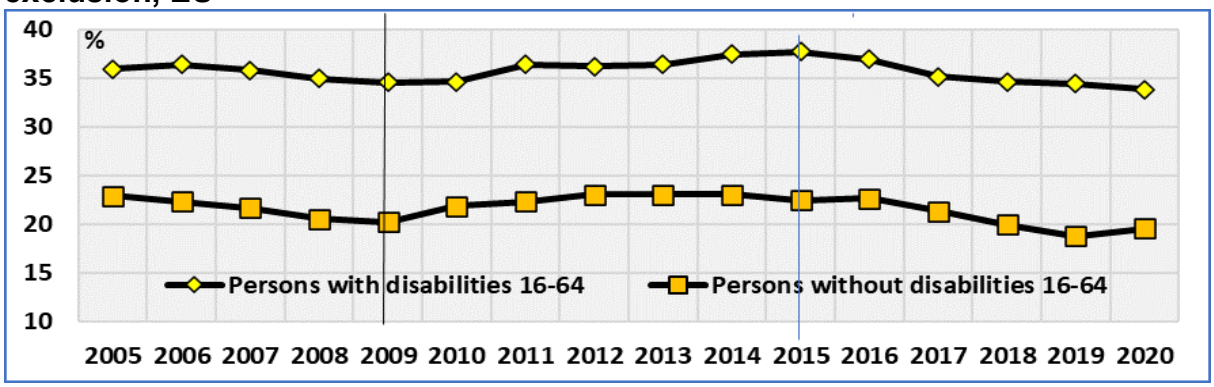
Concerning persons aged 16-64 and 65 and over, the following figures indicate that the two groups have followed different paths.

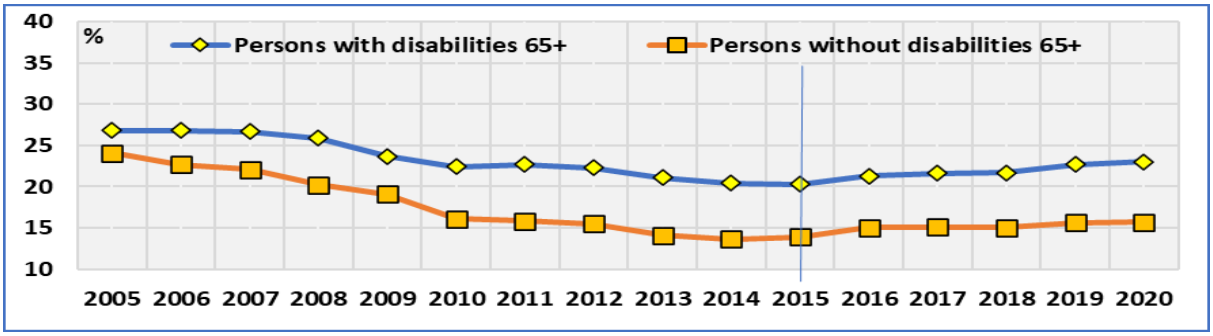
Since 2017, the situation of persons aged 16-64 has followed a favourable situation in the labour market. However, this was reversed for persons without disabilities in 2020.

On the contrary, during recent years, elderly people experienced a deterioration in their situation.

As noted above, the economic cycle does not affect elderly persons through wages and employment; rather, it affects this age group through pension schemes. It is apparent that stable (or at least not decreasing) pensions improve the situation of elderly relative to economically active people during a recession. This can be reversed during an improvement in the labour market, which probably explains the reversal of the evolution of poverty in 2014.

Figure 90: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU





Note: EU 28 before 2010. EU 27 from 2010 and later.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

14.3 Statistical tables

Table 61: Percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, gender and Member State, aged 16+

	2019			2020				2020			
	Disability			Disability			Gap	Persons with disabilities		Degree of disability	
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	pp	Women	Men	Severe	Moderate
AT	22.2	13.6	16.5	22.3	13.7	16.4	8.6	23.3	21.3	32.4	18.7
BE	30.1	14.5	18.7	31.9	14.3	18.7	17.6	31.7	32.1	40.2	27.7
BG	51.3	29.7	33.2	52.3	29.1	32.9	23.2	56.1	46.8	61.1	50.2
CY	33.0	18.7	22.1	33.3	17.1	20.8	16.2	34.0	32.6	40.7	30.3
CZ	24.6	10.3	14.4	23.4	9.4	13.5	14.0	26.7	18.2	29.7	21.3
DE	28.7	14.9	17.9	30.5	17.9	21.0	12.6	31.6	29.2	34.8	27.0
DK	20.3	15.2	16.8	21.8	14.0	16.6	7.8	22.6	20.7	35.3	18.5
EE	40.0	17.6	25.4	40.4	16.9	24.5	23.5	44.0	35.6	46.0	38.0
EL	33.2	29.0	29.9	30.7	28.1	28.7	2.6	32.6	28.4	34.6	27.9
ES	32.5	22.5	24.4	33.8	23.0	25.5	10.8	33.6	34.1	38.3	32.6
FI	22.5	12.5	16.1	22.3	12.7	16.1	9.6	22.5	22.1	31.6	20.1
FR	22.9	14.8	16.8	23.8	15.3	17.4	8.5	24.9	22.4	29.1	20.6
HR	37.4	17.0	24.0	38.2	17.0	23.9	21.2	39.5	36.7	50.7	33.0
HU	26.5	14.8	17.7	27.7	14.2	17.3	13.5	27.2	28.4	32.9	25.7
IE	37.8	16.4	19.9	33.9	15.4	19.2	18.5	33.9	33.8	44.3	30.0
IT	29.5	24.1	25.3	28.4	24.0	25.0	4.4	29.2	27.2	30.6	27.4
LT	39.9	20.1	26.4	38.7	18.8	25.3	19.9	43.5	31.2	51.3	35.5
LU	26.0	17.1	19.4	26.4	18.1	20.1	8.3	28.6	23.7	34.2	23.3
LV	42.1	20.9	29.3	39.3	19.6	27.4	19.7	42.2	34.6	50.5	35.9
MT	33.5	17.5	19.4	30.1	16.5	18.4	13.6	31.4	28.5	32.5	29.4
NL	24.3	13.2	16.4	24.7	11.9	15.6	12.8	24.1	25.4	38.8	21.9
PL	27.6	16.1	18.9	27.3	15.8	18.6	11.5	27.7	26.6	30.6	25.9
PT	28.7	18.1	21.6	25.9	16.6	19.6	9.3	26.8	24.6	31.5	23.9
RO	37.0	28.2	30.4	35.0	27.1	29.2	7.9	37.5	31.4	45.9	31.7
SE	28.3	16.1	17.7	29.0	15.7	17.4	13.3	29.0	29.1	35.4	26.1
SI	23.7	11.7	15.1	27.0	12.5	15.7	14.5	28.7	25.2	33.8	23.3
SK	19.2	13.5	15.3	20.3	10.9	13.9	9.4	20.9	19.5	27.2	17.3

EU	**28.4**	**18.4**	**20.8**	**28.6**	**18.8**	**21.2**	**9.8**	**29.5**	**27.4**	**34.1**	**26.3**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 31 May 2022 from [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 62: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU

		Age: 16-64		Age: 65+	
		Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**
EU 28	**2005**	35.9	22.9	26.8	24.1
	2006	36.4	22.3	26.8	22.7
	2007	35.8	21.6	26.7	22.1
	2008	34.9	20.5	25.9	20.2
	2009	34.5	20.2	23.7	19.1
EU 27	**2010**	34.6	21.8	22.4	16.1
	2011	36.4	22.3	22.7	15.8
	2012	36.2	23.0	22.3	15.5
	2013	36.4	23.0	21.1	14.1
	2014	37.4	23.0	20.4	13.6
	2015	37.7	22.4	20.3	13.9
	2016	36.9	22.6	21.3	15.0
	2017	35.1	21.3	21.6	15.1
	2018	34.6	19.9	21.7	15.0
	2019	34.4	18.7	22.7	15.6
	2020	33.8	19.5	23.0	15.7

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

PART V: Health and medical care indicators

15 General health and unmet medical needs

15.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states, in Article 25 covering health, that, 'States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation'.

Universal health coverage is an objective of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. One of the three priorities of the EU's health policy is increasing accessibility to healthcare.

The European Pillar of Social Rights is about delivering new and more effective rights for citizens. It builds on 20 key principles, structured around three categories: 1) Equal opportunities and access to the labour market, 2) Fair working conditions and 3) Social protection and inclusion. The third area covers healthcare, inclusion of people with disabilities and long-term care. The healthcare principle stipulates that everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative healthcare of good quality.

The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030[91] stresses the need for a sustainable and equal access to healthcare and notes that persons with disabilities have the right to high-quality healthcare. In addition, it considers that monitoring progress in Member States requires improved statistical data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities.

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. It covers, notably, self-perceived health ('very good' or 'good') and unmet need for medical examinations and care.

In 2017, the Commission developed a reference indicator framework to monitor the SDGs in an EU context. The EU SDG indicator set is aligned as far as appropriate with the UN list of global indicators.

In the following analysis, we present the share of people with good or very good self-perceived health and self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care.

[91] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.

15.2 General health

In the following analysis, we will focus on the indicator: share of people with good or very good self-perceived health (% of population aged 16 or over). This indicator is included as a main indicator in the European Pillar of Social Rights social scoreboard. The indicator is also part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals indicator set. It is used to monitor progress towards SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing.

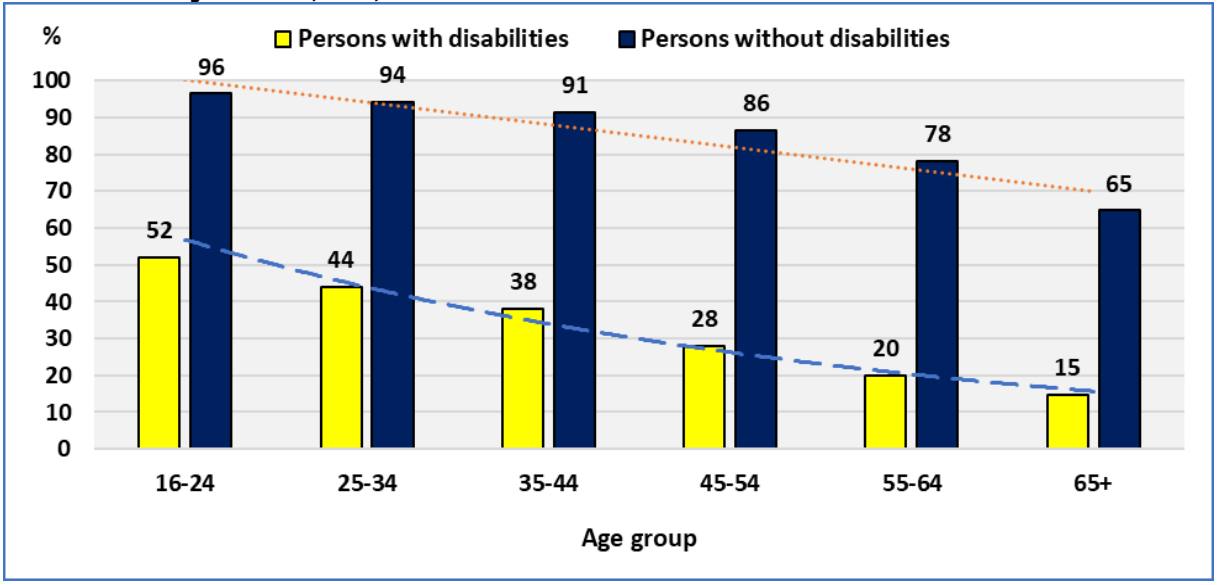
Eurostat[92] notes that the indicator is a subjective measure of how people judge their health in general, on a scale from 'very good' to 'very bad'. It is expressed as the share of the population aged 16 or over who perceive themselves to be in 'good' or 'very good' health. The data originate from the EU-SILC survey. Indicators of perceived general health have been found to be a good predictor of people's future healthcare use and mortality.

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 22.3 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over declared themselves to be in good or very good health in comparison with 85.0 % of persons without disabilities. The total for the same age group was 69.5 %.

These data do not reflect the situation during the COVID-19 period, when certain surveys took place earlier in the year than others.

Health deteriorates with age, but this deterioration is more rapid for persons with disabilities, at least among those of a younger age (35-54). This means that prevention and rehabilitation ought to begin at an early age.

Figure 91: Share of people who declare good or very good health by age group and disability status, EU, 2020



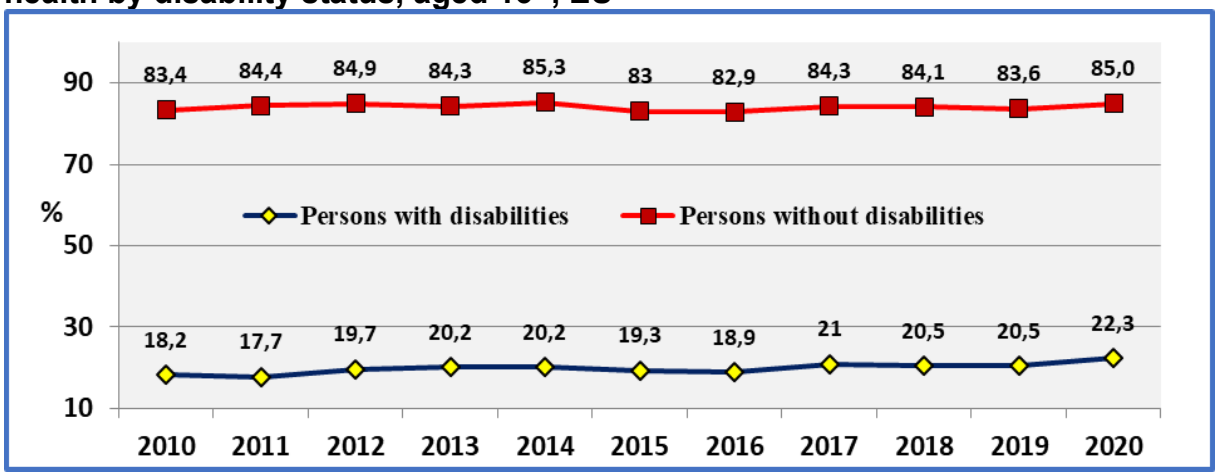
Note: The dotted line is the best fit for persons without disabilities and the dotted line is the best fit for persons with disabilities.
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 4 June 2022 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/HLTH_DH010__custom_2857784/default/table?lang=en.

[92] See https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_03_20/.

In the following graph, it may be noted that a small improvement occurred for persons with disabilities between 2010 and 2020. The analysis by age group indicates that this improvement related mainly to persons aged 35-45 and over.

These data are not annual averages, and consequently the change between 2019-2020 ought to be treated with caution.

Figure 92: Evolution of the share of people who declare good or very good health by disability status, aged 16+, EU



Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 4 June 2022 [ESTAT].

15.3 Unmet medical needs

15.3.1 Introduction

The 'Unmet medical needs' indicator is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals indicator set. It is used to monitor progress towards SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing and SDG 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

The indicator is also included as a main indicator in the European Pillar of Social Rights social scoreboard. Universal health coverage is an objective of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. One of the priorities of the EU's health policy is increasing accessibility to healthcare.

Eurostat[93] notes that the indicator measures the share of the population aged 16 and over reporting unmet needs for medical care due to one of the following reasons: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' and 'Too far to travel' (all three categories are cumulated). Dental care is excluded.

Eurostat notes that the indicator is derived from self-reported data, so it is, to a certain extent, affected by respondents' subjective perception as well as by their social and cultural background. Another factor that plays a role is the differing organisation of healthcare services. All these factors should be taken into account when analysing the data and interpreting the results.

[93] See https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_03_60/.

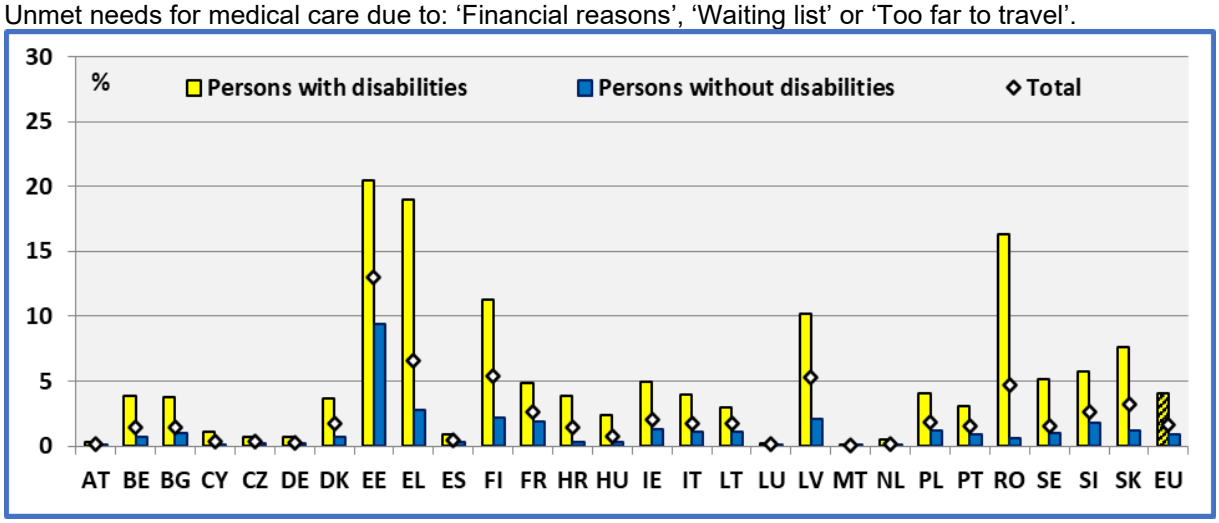
15.3.2 Analysis by Member State

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 4.1 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over reported unmet needs for medical care due to 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel', in comparison with 0.9 % for persons without disabilities. The total was 1.7 %.

Concerning persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, the rates were high in Romania (16.4 %), Greece (19.0 %) and Estonia (20.4 %). A similar ranking was found in 2019.

Figure 93: Percentage of persons who report unmet needs for medical examination by disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2020

Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.



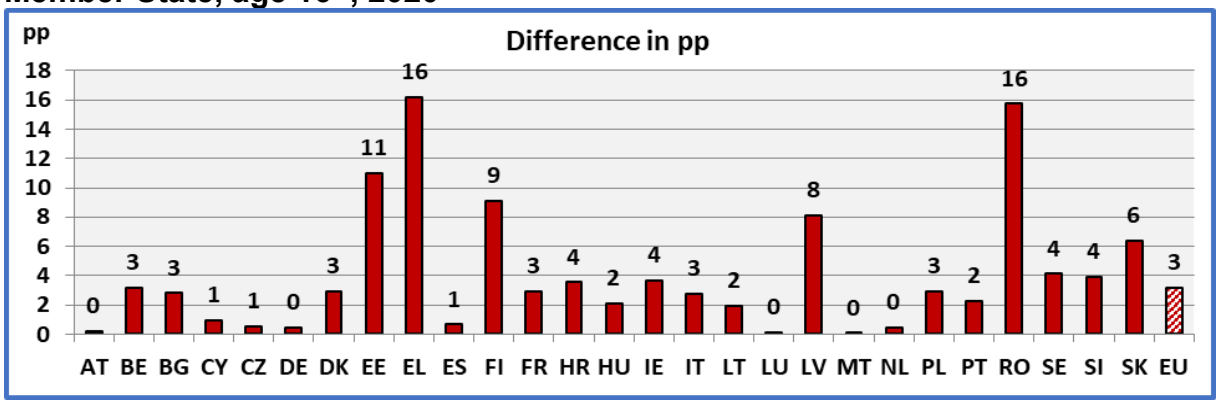
Note: At the time of producing this report, data for Germany and Italy were not available. For these countries, 2019 data has been used; consequently, the estimates presented here are indicative. This affects the EU aggregate.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

15.3.3 Disability gap in unmet medical needs

The following figure shows that the disability gap concerning unmet needs for medical examination was high in Greece, Romania and Estonia.

Figure 94: Disability gap concerning unmet needs for medical examination by Member State, age 16+, 2020



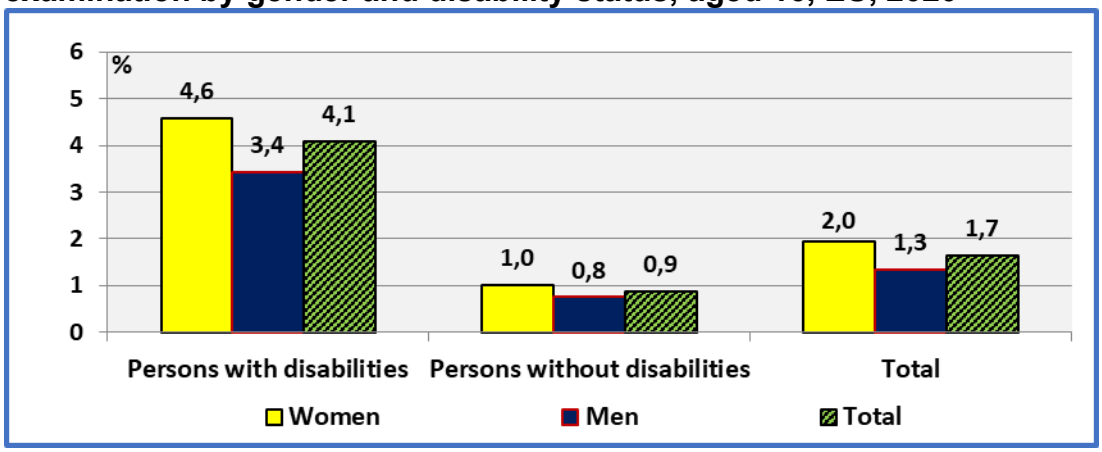
Gap: % persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities.

Note: Data have been rounded to facilitate comparison. Data for Germany and Italy refer to 2019. This affects the EU aggregate.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

15.3.4 Analysis by gender

The share of women declaring unmet needs for medical examination was higher in comparison with men within each group (persons with and without disabilities). However, gender differences inside each group were smaller in comparison with the disability gap (difference between persons with and without disabilities).

Figure 95: Percentage of persons who reported unmet needs for medical examination by gender and disability status, aged 16, EU, 2020

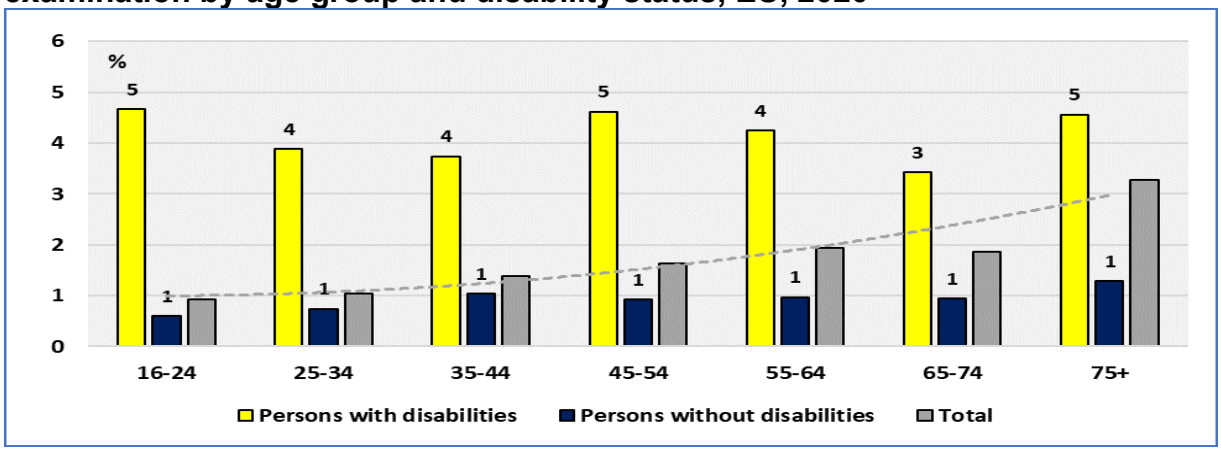


Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

15.3.5 Analysis by age

The rate for persons with disabilities was higher in comparison with persons without disabilities, at all age groups. Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination for all persons (total) increased with age, but this reflects mainly an age composition effect. For each separate group, we do not observe an increasing rate with age. The total increases with age, notably, because the weight of persons with disabilities increases with age and this pushes the total upwards.

Figure 96: Percentage of persons who reported unmet needs for medical examination by age group and disability status, EU, 2020



Note: Data have been rounded to facilitate comparison. The dotted curve represents the best fit for the 'Total'.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

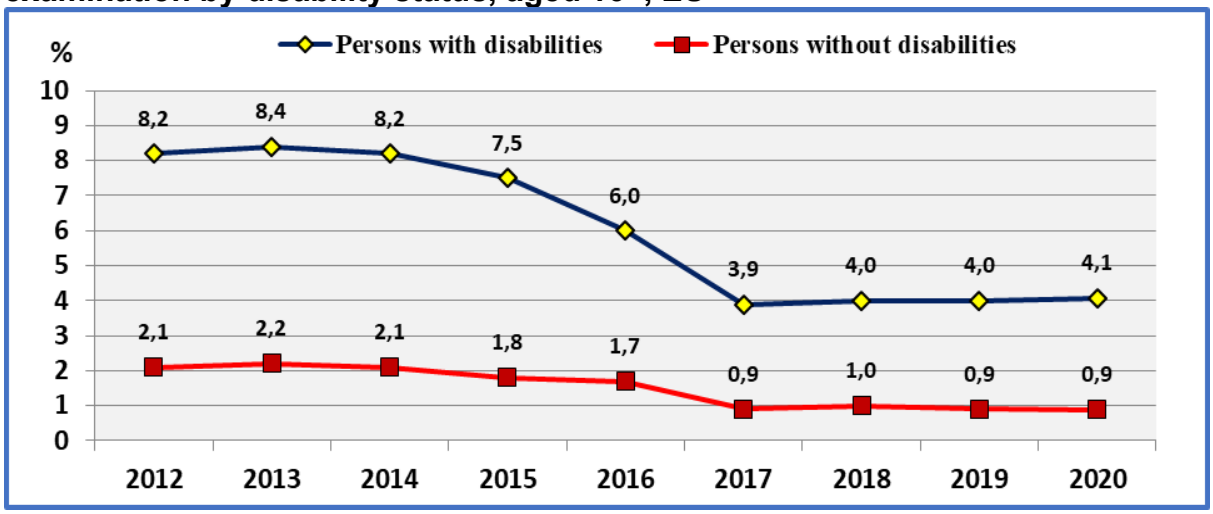
15.3.6 Evolution at EU level

Comparisons between 2019 and 2020 at national level raise a certain number of questions. First, available data do not reflect the situation in 2020 in all Member States. The survey was organised early in 2020 and before the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly, the available data do not cover all Member States, and filling in the gaps with 2019 data is problematic, given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons, we present below a summary of the situation at the EU level.

The following figure presents the evolution since 2012. A significant improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities may be observed between 2012 and 2017. During this period, there was a sharp decrease in the percentage of persons with disabilities reporting unmet needs for medical examination. The evolution follows the business cycle: an improvement in the economic situation after 2012 led to a sharp decrease in unmet medical needs. However, a floor was reached around 2017.[94]

During 2020, a marginal increase in the rate for persons with disabilities was observed. However, this might underestimate the reality, since our data report 2019 values for Germany and Italy.

Figure 97: Percentage of persons who report unmet needs for medical examination by disability status, aged 16+, EU



Note: For 2020, data for Germany and Italy refer to 2019. This affects the EU aggregate.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations.

However, the final data might not change the above results significantly.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we noted a disruption in healthcare services, the saturation of hospitals and the postponement of cases unrelated to COVID-19. This might have increased the number of persons who declared unmet

[94] See Eurostat, 'GDP growth cycle as a percentage of deviation from the trend', Business Cycle Clock, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/bcc/bcc.html.

medical needs for 'Other reason'. However, our indicator includes only 'financial reasons', 'waiting list' or 'too far to travel'.

Consequently, a proper analysis ought to include unmet medical needs due not only to the three reasons cited above, but to other reasons. The disruption in healthcare services, the saturation of hospitals and the postponement of cases unrelated to COVID-19 is not included in our indicator.

Taking into account these remarks, if we consider all reasons, in 2020, in the EU 25 Member States for which we have available data, about 5.2 % of persons aged 16 and over declared unmet needs for any reason. The equivalent rate for 2019 was 3.9 %. This represents an increase of 33.0 %. The increase was 3.2 percentage points for persons with disabilities (41.3 %) and 0.6 percentage points for persons without disabilities (23.6 %). Consequently, taking into account all reasons, the data indicate that one of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic was the increase of unmet needs for medical examination.

15.4 Statistical tables

Table 63: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability and Member State, age 16+

Percentage of population of the same age group.

	2019			2020			2020
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Disability Gap in pp
AT	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2
BE	4.2	0.9	1.8	3.8	0.7	1.5	3.1
BG	3.9	0.9	1.4	3.8	1.0	1.4	2.8
CY	2.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.1	0.4	1.0
CZ	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.5
DE	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.5
DK	4.2	0.8	1.8	3.7	0.7	1.7	3.0
EE	23.1	11.5	15.6	20.4	9.4	13.0	11.0
EL	20.8	4.4	8.1	19.0	2.7	6.5	16.2
ES	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.7
FI	9.0	2.3	4.7	11.3	2.2	5.4	9.1
FR	2.0	0.9	1.2	4.8	1.9	2.6	2.9
HR	3.2	0.5	1.4	3.9	0.3	1.5	3.6
HU	2.7	0.3	0.9	2.4	0.3	0.7	2.1
IE	5.0	1.4	2.0	5.0	1.3	2.1	3.7
IT	3.9	1.1	1.8	3.9	1.1	1.8	2.8
LT	2.8	0.8	1.4	3.0	1.1	1.7	2.0
LU	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
LV	8.4	1.6	4.3	10.2	2.1	5.3	8.1
MT	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
NL	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5

PL	8.0	2.9	4.2	4.1	1.2	1.9	2.9
PT	3.6	0.8	1.7	3.1	0.9	1.6	2.2
RO	17.2	0.7	4.9	16.4	0.6	4.7	15.7
SE	4.1	1.0	1.4	5.1	1.0	1.5	4.1
SI	5.5	1.9	2.9	5.7	1.8	2.7	3.9
SK	5.8	1.3	2.7	7.6	1.2	3.2	6.4
EU	**4.0**	**0.9**	**1.7**	**4.1**	**0.9**	**1.7**	**3.2**

Note: Unmet need for medical examination or treatment during the past 12 months. The data include only the following reasons: could not afford to (too expensive), waiting list and too far to travel/no means of transportation.
DE & IT 2020: The data refer to 2019
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 RELEASE 1 2021 and EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022.

Table 64: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability and age group, EU

Percentage of population of the same age group.

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total
16-24	4.7	0.6	0.9
25-34	3.9	0.7	1.0
35-44	3.7	1.0	1.4
45-54	4.6	0.9	1.6
55-64	4.2	1.0	1.9
65-74	3.4	0.9	1.9
75+	4.6	1.3	3.3
Total	**4.1**	**0.9**	**1.7**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, v.1, April 2022 and author's own calculations for Germany and Italy.

Table 65: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability status, age 16+, EU

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
2012	8.2	2.1
2013	8.4	2.2
2014	8.2	2.1
2015	7.5	1.8
2016	6.0	1.7
2017	3.9	0.9
2018	4.0	1.0
2019	4.0	0.9
2020	4.1	0.9

Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted from [ESTAT] and EU-SILC 2020.

ANNEX I: Metadata

1. Prevalence of disability

Methodology

The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey[95] contains a small module on health, composed of three variables on health status and four variables on unmet needs for health care.

The variables on health status represent the so-called Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), which measures three different concepts of health:

- Self-perceived health;
- Chronic morbidity (people having a long-standing illness or health problem);
- Activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems).

The data on limitation in activities due to health problems refer to the self-evaluation by the respondents of the extent of which they are limited in activities that people usually do because of health problems for at least the past six months. The exact question is, 'Limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems for at least the last 6 months' and possible answers are:

- yes, strongly limited;
- yes, limited;
- no, not limited.

The survey covers all individuals aged 16 years and over living in private households. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population. It includes persons aged 16 and over living in private households.

Information concerning health and limitations is not collected for all persons in all countries. In Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Slovenia, the questions relative to health and limitations are put to selected respondents rather than to all current household members aged 16 and over. The item non-response concerning limitations and other characteristics of the sample are presented in an Annex at the end of this report.

From 2014 onwards, the survey distinguishes between: 1) Face to face interview-PAPI; 2) Face to face interview-CAPI; 3) CATI, telephone interview; 4) Self-administered by respondent; 5) Computer assisted web interviewing-CAWI; 6) Face to face interview-PAPI with proxy; 7) Face to face interview-CAPI with proxy; 8) CATI, telephone interview with proxy; 9) Self-administered by respondent with proxy; and 10) Computer assisted web interviewing-CAWI with proxy. In the EU-SILC legal basis,

[95] Eurostat, *Methodological Guidelines and Description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2018 operation (Version July 2019)*, DocSILC065 (2018 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

priority is given to face-to-face personal interviews (PAPI or CAPI) over other modes of data collection.

For estimates concerning health issues in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, Slovenia, Iceland and Norway, we have used personal cross-sectional weighting for selected persons (pb060). Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weighting (pb040).

We have used ‘age at the date of interview’ for indicators concerning the prevalence rate, labour market and educational issues. We have used ‘age at the end of the income reference’ period for income related indicators as well as for labour intensity. However, for Malta, we have only ‘age at the end of the income reference’. In addition, data for Malta are aggregated by five-year groups.

Notes

EU-SILC estimates may underestimate the number of people with disabilities. In fact, persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the sample. This underestimate might be marginal for persons aged 16-64 but significant for persons aged 65 or more.

The estimates included here may present marginal differences from previous reports or from Eurostat estimates. This is due to changes between different versions of the microdata delivered by Eurostat (March version, August version and subsequent updates for a specific year).

2. Adult participation in learning

Methodology

Eurostat

The indicator covers all persons and measures the share of people aged 25 to 64 who stated that they received formal or non-formal education and training in the four weeks preceding the survey (numerator). The denominator consists of the total population of the same age group.

Adult learning covers both general and vocational formal and non-formal learning activities. Adult learning usually refers to learning activities after the end of initial education. Eurostat uses data from the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)

Proposed indicator

The EU-SILC survey includes a question (PE010) on current education activity. The question is whether the person is currently participating in a formal educational programme, notably if the interviewee is in education.

An educational programme, as defined under ISCED-2011, is ‘A coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed and organized to achieve pre-determined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period.’ (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012, p. 8). The person’s participation in this programme may be on a full-time attendance basis, a part-time attendance basis or by correspondence course.

Notes

The proposed proxy for adult participation in learning is very restrictive in comparison with the EU-LFS, used by Eurostat, or the larger one underlying the Commission objective (‘Adult participation in learning during the last 12 months’). However, we have to keep in mind that, currently, only the EU-SILC survey includes a question on disability.

3. Early school leavers

Methodology

Europe 2020 indicator refers to the population aged 18-24 with 'at most' lower secondary education and who were not in further education or training during the four weeks preceding the survey.

Eurostat publishes on its webpage the percentage of early leavers from education and training. Eurostat uses the results of the LFS (Labour Force Survey). From 20 November 2009, this indicator is based on annual averages of quarterly data instead of one unique reference quarter in spring.

Lower secondary education refers to ISCED 2011 level 0, 1 and 2 (for data as from 2014) and to ISCED 1997 level 0, 1, 2 and 3C short (for data up to 2013).

EU-SILC 2014

The classification to be used for this variable is the International 'Standard Classification of Education' (ISCED 2011) which includes nine categories for educational attainment:

0 Less than primary education
1 Primary education
2 Lower secondary education
3 Upper secondary education (not further specified)
4 post-secondary non-tertiary education
5 first stage of tertiary education (not leading directly to an advanced research qualification)
6 second stage of tertiary education (leading to an advanced research qualification)
5 Short cycle tertiary
6 Bachelor or equivalent
7 Master or equivalent
8 Doctorate or equivalent

We define early leavers from education as those who have attained level '0', '1' or '2' and are not currently participating in an educational activity. The EU-SILC survey collects information on 'Current education activity' (whether the person is 'In education' or 'Not in education').

ISCED 2011 levels 2 and 3, lower secondary and upper secondary education, correspond mainly to levels 2 and 3 in ISCED 1997. However, due to the clarification of criteria and subsidiary criteria, ISCED 2011 may be implemented differently than ISCED 1997 (i.e. with some programmes being classified at different levels than before). Such differences may affect time series data for some countries.

The methodology is described in Eurostat, *Methodological Guidelines and Description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2014 operation (Version October 2014)*, DocSILC065 (2014 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

For estimates distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

Notes

Analysis by Member State may be considered to be robust for most countries. However, analysis by gender presents a certain number of statistical problems due to the low number of observations. Consequently, estimates for the age group 18-24 ought to be treated with caution.

In order to increase the robustness of estimates, we used the average of several years.

EU-SILC survey estimates cannot be compared with administrative data.

4. Young people neither in education nor in employment and training (NEET)

Methodology

Share of the population aged 15 to 29 who are neither in education nor in employment and training. However, the EU-SILC covers persons aged 16 and over.

The EU-SILC survey provides information on the self-defined current economic status (PL031). It distinguishes:

1. Employee working full-time
2. Employee working part-time
3. Self-employed working full-time (including family worker)
4. Self-employed working part-time (including family worker)
5. Unemployed
6. Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
7. In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
8. Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work
9. In compulsory military or community service
10. Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities
11. Other inactive person

Young people not in education, employment or training include:

1. Unemployed
2. In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
3. Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work
4. Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities
5. Other inactive person.

Notes

We have included persons in ‘compulsory military or community service’ in the group of persons in employment or education. However, this group is marginal, comprising about 0.07 % of the relevant sample.

5. Persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education

Methodology

Europe 2020 indicator refers to the age group 30-34.

Eurostat presents an indicator based on the LFS survey. Tertiary education covers ISCED 2011 levels 5, 6, 7 and 8 (short-cycle tertiary education, bachelor's or equivalent level, master's or equivalent level, doctoral or equivalent level, online code ED5-8 ‘tertiary education’). Data up to 2013 refer to ISCED 1997 levels 5 and 6. The data are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data (EU-LFS).

The educational attainment level of an individual is the highest ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) level successfully completed, the successful completion of an education programme being validated by a recognised qualification.

EU-SILC UDB 2014

The classification to be used for this variable is the International ‘Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), which includes nine categories for educational attainment’:

0 Less than primary education
1 Primary education
2 Lower secondary education
3 Upper secondary education (not further specified)
4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education
5 Short cycle tertiary
6 Bachelor or equivalent
7 Master or equivalent
8 Doctorate or equivalent

The methodology is described in Eurostat, *Methodological Guidelines and Description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2014 operation (Version October 2014)*, DocSILC065 (2014 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too.

Notes

There is a very high variability in the percentage of persons with a ‘post-secondary non-tertiary education’ (level 4). This category has an impact on Austrian and German estimates.

EU-SILC estimates may overestimate the percentage of people who have completed a tertiary education. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the sample.

The data concerning persons with disabilities are indicative, due to the relatively small number of persons with limitations in the sample, notably in the age group 30-34.

6. Employment rate

Methodology

The EU-SILC question (PL031) on 'Self-defined current economic status' provides the following possible answers (since 2009):

1. Employee working full-time
2. Employee working part-time
3. Self-employed working full-time (including family worker)
4. Self-employed working part-time (including family worker)
5. Unemployed
6. Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
7. In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
8. Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work
9. In compulsory military community or service
10. Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities
11. Other inactive person

The employment indicator includes: 1. Employee working full-time; 2. Employee working part-time; 3. Self-employed working full-time; and 4. Self-employed working part-time.

The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons in employment by the total population of the same age group. The EU 2020 indicator includes persons aged 20-64.

For comparison, the LFS survey uses the ILO definition and asks for labour status during the reference week. The employed population consists of those persons who, during the reference week, did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Other categories include 'Was not working but had a job from which he/she was absent during the reference week'; 'Was not working because on lay-off'; 'Was a conscript on compulsory military or community service'; and 'Other who neither worked nor had a job during the reference week'.

For data distinguishing 'limited' and 'not limited' people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

Notes

EU-SILC estimates may overestimate the percentage of people with disabilities in employment. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the sample.

For the analysis of the disability employment gap, we used EU-SILC UDB question PL031 on self-defined current economic status. Eurostat uses EU-SILC question PX050 on activity status (a mean like indicator for past income period).

7. Unemployment rate

Methodology

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed.

EU-SILC 2009 onwards includes a question (PL031) on 'Self-defined current economic status'. The possible answers are:

1. Employee working full-time
2. Employee working part-time
3. Self-employed working full-time (including family worker)
4. Self-employed working part-time (including family worker)
5. Unemployed
6. Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
7. In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
8. Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work
9. In compulsory military community or service
10. Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities
11. Other inactive person

For estimations distinguishing 'limited' and 'not limited' people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

Notes

The data here may be slightly different from those presented by Eurostat on its web page.[96] In fact, Eurostat presents estimates using the results of the Labour Force Surveys (LFS). The two surveys use different definitions of unemployment but they yield estimates which are almost perfectly correlated.

The EU-SILC presents a systematically higher estimation. Specifically, the EU-SILC data are based on self-declarations, while the ILO definition does not include those who are not actively searching for a job.

[96] See Eurostat: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/.

8. Activity rate

Methodology

The total population is divided into ‘economically active population’ and ‘inactive population’. The economically active population includes those who are employed, and those who are unemployed. An active person is a person who is economically active in the labour market.

The activity rate is the ratio of economically active people in the labour market (employed or unemployed) to the total population of the same age group.

The EU-SILC survey introduced in 2009 a new classification of ‘Self-defined current economic status’ (question PL031). The possible answers are:

1. Employee working full-time
2. Employee working part-time
3. Self-employed working full-time (including family worker)
4. Self-employed working part-time (including family worker)
5. Unemployed
6. Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
7. In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
8. Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work
9. In compulsory military community or service
10. Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities
11. Other inactive person

We have included in the group of inactive people categories from ‘6’ to ‘11’.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

Notes

In order to make this indicator comparable to Europe 2020 indicators, we focus on people aged 20-64. However, estimations by age group follow the standard Eurostat age groups.

The number of persons with limitations in the 16-24 age group is relatively small. The estimates for this age group have only an indicative value.

EU-SILC estimates might overestimate the percentage of people with disabilities who participate in the labour force. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the sample.

9. Disability pay gap

Methodology

Concerning the gender pay gap, Eurostat notes[97] that the indicator measures the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees. All employees working in firms with 10 or more employees, without restrictions for age and hours worked, are included. The gender pay gap is based on the methodology of the structure of earnings survey (SES), which is carried out every four years.

Gender Pay Gap = [(average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees – average gross hourly earnings of female paid employees) / average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees] expressed in %. Average earnings used for the gender pay gap are calculated as arithmetic means.

The indicator has been defined as unadjusted, because it gives an overall picture of gender inequalities in terms of pay and measures a concept which is broader than the concept of equal pay for equal work.

Proposed methodology for persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC survey includes a question on persons with activity limitations. Consequently, it enables us to present the indicator for persons with and without limitations.

The proposed indicator covers total wages during the reference period divided by the total current hours per week of employees in local units employing more than 10 persons.

We retain the age group 15-74 in order to increase the sample and compare the gender pay gap. In any case, measuring discrimination ought to include all employed persons, but the sample is very small and erratic in the two limit values.

We include employee cash or near cash income (PY010G) and non-cash employee income (PY020G) during the income reference period. Gross incomes mean that neither taxes nor social contributions have been deducted at source.

Employee income is defined as the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee in return for work done by the latter during the income reference period. Gross non-cash employee income refers to non-monetary income components which may be provided free or at reduced price to an employee as part of the employment package by an employer.

We standardise (divide) by the number of months worked during the income reference period and the total number of hours worked currently per week. We retain the number

[97] Eurostat, Gender pay gap in unadjusted form (sdg_05_20) ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

of months spent as an employed person. If several economic statuses apply during a month, the person declares the main one. Total hours include the number of hours usually worked per week in main job (PL060) and the total number of hours usually worked in second, third … jobs (PL100). The hours worked refer to the current situation.

'Employee' refers to self-defined current economic status (PL031) and includes 1) Employee working full-time and 2) Employee working part-time. The variable captures the person's own perception of their main activity at present. It differs from the ILO concept, to the extent that people's own perception of their main status differs from the strict definitions used in the ILO definitions. For instance, many people who would regard themselves as full-time students or homemakers may be classified as ILO employed if they have a part-time job.

We retain persons working in units (PL130) employing more than 10 persons. This variable refers to the main job.

When we adjust for age, we use the total EU age structure.

Note

Previous ANED reports presented a disability pay gap for employed, aged 20-64, age adjusted, in firms employing 10 or more, without any standardisation by the number of months employed. For comparison, if we do not standardise by months employed, the disability pay gap is 13.7 % for the 15-74 age group, and 9.6 % for persons aged 20-64.

If we use the EU-SILC data to estimate the gender pay gap, we obtain an estimate very close to the one based on the SES survey.

10. Very low work intensity

Methodology

We summarise below the methodology adopted in the EU-SILC survey.

A working age person is defined as a person aged 18-64. For each working age person (Wage/person) two figures are computed:[98]

- The number of months during the income reference period for which information on his/her activity status is available (the 'workable' months: NWAm);
- The number of months during the income reference period for which the person has been classified as worker (number of 'worked' months: NWm).

A derived 'AGE' variable is constructed. This is the age at the end of income reference period.

In each household, EU-SILC UDB (User Data Base) calculates the derived variables:

$$TNWm = \sum_{household\ members} NWm$$

$$TNWAm = \sum_{household\ members} NWAm$$

$$WI = \frac{TNWm}{TNWAm}$$ (WI: Work Intensity)

Work intensity (RX040) is a continuous variable from 0 to 1 (People older than 59 has WORK_INT = 99). It is based on persons aged 18-59 (students excluded).

For 2011 and afterwards, the EU-SILC UDB data present a continuous variable varying from '0' to '1'. For 2010, the EU-SILC UDB data presented a binary indicator (0/1). For 2008 and 2009, the data presented four categories: 1) WI = 0; 2) 0 < WI < 0.5; 3) 0.5 ≤ W < 1and 4) W = 1. However, recent Eurostat updates present complete data since 2005.

The same work intensity status is assigned to each household member (including those younger than 18 years old).

WI=0 means that no adult is working in the household (a jobless household).
WI=1 means that all the adults in the household are employed during the whole year.

People living in households with very low work intensity are people living in households where the adults worked to less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year.

[98] Extract from 'Year 2009: Cross-sectional data; differences between data collected (as described in the guidelines) and anonymised user database'; Eurostat, Directorate F: Social Statistics and Information Society, Unit F-3: Living Conditions and Social Protection.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

We have used the age at the end of the income reference period (px020).

Notes

Concerning Europe 2020, Eurostat presents an indicator covering people aged 0-59 living in households where the adults worked to less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year. As the EU-SILC survey presents information on disability only for people aged 16 or more, we present the percentage of people with and without disabilities aged 16 to 59.

Work intensity in the household can be seen as an indicator of the employment rate of the household. However, other factors than unemployment may affect it.

11. People at risk of poverty after social transfers (financial poverty)

Methodology

A household is at risk of poverty (HX080=1) if equivalised household disposable income (HX090) is lower than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income. The indicator refers to the household.

The EU-SILC personal file provides information on disability while the EU-SILC household file provides the poverty indicator. By combining both files, we estimate the percentage of persons (disabled and non-disabled) who live in households with a household equivalised disposable income lower than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income.

The EU-SILC UDB database[99] computes first gross household income. This includes all sources of revenue (work, allowances, benefits, rents, profits, etc.) for a given household. Then it subtracts regular taxes on wealth and tax on income and social insurance contributions in order to arrive at the total disposable household income. Then it takes into account the household size in order to arrive at the equivalised disposable income. Then it calculates median national household equivalised disposable income. A household is below poverty if its household equivalised disposable income is less than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income.

The EU-SILC survey also provides information on disability. Consequently, we may estimate the percentage of disabled persons who live in poor households.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

We have used the age at the end of the income reference period (px020).

Notes

The poverty rate of disabled people aged 65 or more seems smaller in comparison with the rate for non-disabled persons of the same age group in certain Member States. As noted above, special allowances aimed to compensate for disability related barriers might artificially reduce poverty rates among elderly disabled people. In addition, the indicator does not take into account extra health costs of elderly people.

[99] For a full description, see Eurostat, ‘EU-SILC 065 (2008 operation), Description of Target Variables: Cross-sectional and Longitudinal’ 2008 operation (Version January 2010), Directorate F: Social Statistics and Information Society Unit F-3: Living conditions and social protection statistics.

12. Persons severely materially deprived

Methodology

This indicator presents the share of population with an enforced lack of at least four out of nine material deprivation items in the 'Economic strain and durables' dimension.

The nine items considered are:

1. Arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments;
2. Capacity to afford paying for one week's annual holiday away from home;
3. Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day;
4. Capacity to face unexpected financial expenses [set amount corresponding to the monthly national at-risk-of-poverty threshold of the previous year];
5. Household cannot afford a telephone (including mobile phone);
6. Household cannot afford a colour TV;
7. Household cannot afford a washing machine;
8. Household cannot afford a car and
9. Ability of the household to pay for keeping its home adequately warm.

For estimates distinguishing 'limited' and 'not limited' people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, we have used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040). In addition, we have used the age at the end of the income reference period (px020).

Notes

It is worth noting that financial poverty depends on national conditions (median national income) while material deprivation is defined in the same way in all Member States (at least four out of nine material deprivation items). In addition, all items bear the same weight.

The survey indicates that the question focuses mainly on affordability of some aspects of living standards. However, subjective expectations might skew this measure. In fact, elderly people might indicate that 'they don't want or need it' instead of 'would like to have it but cannot afford it' (for example, holidays, car, etc.). This means that the share of elderly people might be biased downwards.

13. People at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)

Methodology

This EU 2020 indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are either:

- At risk of financial poverty; or
- Severely materially deprived; or
- Living in households with very low work intensity.

The total population is however not a simple arithmetic sum of its three components because of overlaps between the populations covered by the three sub-indicators.

Eurostat defines a person at risk of poverty or social exclusion as:

- Persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers); or
- Material deprivation covers indicators relating to economic strain and durables. Severely materially deprived persons have living conditions severely constrained by a lack of resources, they experience at least 4 out of 9 following deprivations items: cannot afford i) to pay rent or utility bills, ii) keep home adequately warm, iii) face unexpected expenses, iv) eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, v) a week holiday away from home, vi) a car, vii) a washing machine, viii) a colour TV, or ix) a telephone; or
- People living in households with very low work intensity are those aged 0-59 living in households where the adults (aged 18-59) work less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year.

Persons present in several sub-indicators are counted only once.

Information concerning disability (limitations) is provided for persons aged 16 or more. Consequently, we construct our indicator for the age group 16+.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, we have used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too.

Notes

The EU-SILC survey provides information on disability (limitations) for persons aged 16 or more. The data include only persons living in private households.

The poverty or social exclusion indicator is established at the household level. The same value is attributed to all members of the household.

14. General health

Methodology

The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey contains a small module on health, composed of three variables on health status.

The variables on health status represent the so-called Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), and measures three different concepts of health:

- Self-perceived health;
- Chronic morbidity (people having a long-standing illness or health problem);
- Activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems).

The EU-SILC question (HS.1) is ‘How is your health in general?’ Possible answers are:

- Very good;
- Good;
- Fair;
- Bad, or
- Very bad.

It refers to health in general.

Notes

Eurostat notes that the measurement of self-perceived health is, by its very nature, subjective.

Comparability across countries ought to take into account the age structure of the countries under study. Countries with a larger proportion of elderly people might report a higher proportion of people reporting themselves to be in bad health.

15. Unmet needs for medical examination

Methodology

The EU-SILC survey contains a small module on health, composed of three variables on health status and four variables on unmet needs for health care.

The variables on unmet needs for healthcare target two broad types of services: medical care and dental care. The variables refer to the respondent's own assessment of whether he or she needed the respective type of examination or treatment but did not have it and if so, what was the main reason for not having it.

A question (PH040) focuses on unmet need for medical examination or treatment during the past 12 months. The exact question is: 'Was there any time during the past 12 months when you really needed medical examination or treatment (excluding dental) for yourself?'

1. Yes, there was at least one occasion when the person really needed examination or treatment but did not receive it
2. No, there was no occasion when the person really needed examination or treatment but did not receive it

Another question (PH050) focuses on the main reason for unmet need for medical examination or treatment.

Main reasons for unmet needs observed in SILC are the following:

1. Could not afford to (too expensive)
2. Waiting list
3. Could not take time because of work, care for children or for others
4. Too far to travel or no means of transportation
5. Fear of doctors (resp. dentists), hospitals, examination or treatment
6. Wanted to wait and see if problem got better on its own
7. Didn't know any good medical doctor (resp. dentist)
8. Other reasons

Eurostat currently disseminates an indicator concerning 'Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination for reasons of barriers of access'.

'Reasons of barriers of access' combines the following three reasons: 'Could not afford to (too expensive)', 'Waiting list' and 'Too far to travel or no means of transportation'.

Notes

Eurostat notes that the indicator is derived from self-reported data, so it is, to a certain extent, affected by respondents' subjective perception as well as by their social and cultural background. It adds that, another factor playing a role is the different organisation of healthcare services, be that nationally or locally.

16. Measuring wealth with EU-SILC

Methodology

In this report, we use the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) microdata. Although the EU-SILC survey does not intend to measure wealth, it contains information which enables us to estimate mean wealth of persons with and without disabilities. For comparison, the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS)[100] collects information on the assets, liabilities, income and consumption of households, notably in the euro area.

The EU-SILC survey presents information on imputed rent (HY030G/HY030N), mortgage principal repayment (HH071), interest repayments on mortgage (HY100G/HY100N), income from rental of a property or land (HY040G/HY040N) and interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in unincorporated business (HY090G/HY090N). For each variable, the EU-SILC survey presents gross and net values. We work with gross values because they are available for all Member States. In addition, the EU-SILC provides information on tenure status (HH021) of housing/dwelling.

The challenge is to pass from flows (rents, mortgage annuities, income from property, interests-dividends-profits) to stocks (gross value of house, mortgage debt, land property and financial and capital wealth).

The first difficulty was to estimate the mean gross value of household main residence. The EU-SILC presents an estimation of the imputed rent of the main residence of household. Residential property can be seen as an investment where the annual expected return is the imputed rent. The question is which capitalisation rate to adopt in order to estimate the present value of the future expected returns.

The review of the literature and the comparison with market values led us to the conclusion that the values of 3.0 % (Hypothesis 1) and 3.5 % (Hypothesis 2) are the ones which ought to be adopted in order to determine a lower and an upper limit value. However, for the UK, we apply 2.5 % in the first scenario and 3 % in the second scenario. We report the average of these two hypotheses (estimations).

This enables us to estimate the gross value of household main residence. However, a certain number of owners have a mortgage loan. Consequently, we have to estimate the present value of mortgage debt in order to arrive at the net value of household main residence and hence net residential wealth.

The EU-SILC provides information on interest repayment on mortgage and on mortgage principal repayment. We defined the mortgage annuity as the sum of interest repayment on mortgage and mortgage principal repayment. We chose the eurozone for our calculations because the data are more robust for these countries and the monetary integration ensures a greater comparability across countries. In order to estimate the mortgage debt or the present value of future annuities, we need to know the term and the interest rate or discount rate.

[100] See https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/ecb_surveys/hfcs/html/index.en.html.

We find that the best combinations of term and interest rate that fit the EU-SILC data are the following combinations: a) a term of 12 years and an interest rate of 3.5 %; and b) a term of 13 years and an interest rate of 3.0 %. We consider these two combinations as the lower and upper limits for our estimations. We retain the average of these two values.

For information, we present below the estimated conditional mean gross value of household main residence. In the EU 28, in 2016, the conditional mean gross value of household main residence is estimated between EUR 163 800 and EUR 192 000. These data cover only homeowners (outright and with mortgage loan). We retain the mean value.

For comparison, the Household Finance and Consumption Survey 2014 provides a conditional mean value of EUR 204 400 for the eurozone. The same survey in 2017 finds a conditional mean of EUR 209 400.[101] The data cover only homeowners (outright and with mortgage loan).

Table 66: Conditional mean gross value of household main residence, 2016, EUR 1 000

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	NL	UK	EZ	EU
H1	192.7	275.6	290.8	140.4	179.9	300.1	230.5	215.7	469.2	254.6	278.1	215.8	**192.0**
H2	165.2	236.2	249.3	120.4	154.2	257.2	197.6	184.9	402.1	218.2	231.7	184.9	**163.8**
Mean	**179.0**	**255.9**	**270.0**	**130.4**	**167.0**	**278.7**	**214.0**	**200.3**	**435.6**	**236.4**	**254.9**	**200.4**	**177.9**

Note: EZ stands for eurozone area and EU for EU 28. Data cover persons aged 16 and over. It covers only owners (outright and with mortgage) of HMR. H1: 3.0 %, H2: 3.5 %. The data include persons aged 16 and over.
Source: EU-SILC 2016 and author's own calculations.

A review of existing studies provides similar estimates. The median values of our estimations are strongly correlated with the median values of the Household Main Residence (HMR) of the HFCS survey, in 2014 (R^2=0.72).[102]

As noted, the EU-SILC survey provides information on the amount of Interest and principal repayment on mortgage in the eurozone. We consider these amounts as the first-year annuity of a fixed rate mortgage loan and we try to identify the combination of term and interest rate that fits best with the EU-SILC data. We simulate different amortisation tables.

We find that two combinations of term and interest rate deliver an amortisation table where the first year is close to the EU-SILC data. The first combination is a term of 12 years and an interest rate of 3.5 %; the second is a term of 13 years and an interest rate of 3.0 %. The first scenario corresponds to a mortgage debt of EUR 79 954 and the second to a debt of EUR 87 994. We consider these two combinations as the lower and upper limits for our estimations. Furthermore, we have excluded a discount rate

[101] European Central Bank, 'The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: Results from the 2017 wave', *Statistics Paper Series*, No. 36, March 2020, Household Finance and Consumption Network, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpsps/ecb.sps36~0245ed80c7.en.pdf.

[102] See Household Main Residence (HMR) 2014 in: European Central Bank, 'The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: results from the second wave', *Statistics Paper Series*, No. 18; December 2016, Household Finance and Consumption Network, ECB, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpsps/ecbsp18.en.pdf.

of 4 % (and an associated term of 10 years) because the estimated values are very far from market values and long-term market interest rates.

In the following table, we present the mean values of the household main residence mortgage debt. It covers only owners with a mortgage loan (conditional mean). In the EU, the conditional mean household mortgage debt (persons aged 16 and over) is estimated between EUR 75 100 (hypothesis 12 years and 3.5 % discount) and EUR 82 600 (hypothesis 13 years and 3.0 % discount).

Table 67: Conditional mean values of household main residence mortgage debt, 2016, EUR 1 000

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	NL	UK	EZ	EU
H1	66.9	102.8	88.6	53.6	60.6	85.9	115.8	74.7	214.0	99.5	101.0	86.2	**82.6**
H2	60.8	93.4	80.5	48.7	55.1	78.1	105.2	67.9	194.4	90.4	91.8	78.3	**75.1**
Mean	**63.8**	**98.1**	**84.6**	**51.2**	**57.8**	**82.0**	**110.5**	**71.3**	**204.2**	**95.0**	**96.4**	**82.2**	**78.8**

Note: H1: 13 years and 3.0 % discount; H2: 12 years and 3.5 % discount. EZ: euro area. EU: European Union 28. Only owners with mortgage debt on HMR.
Source: EU-SILC 2016 and author's own calculations

For comparison, in France, the mean mortgage debt in 2016 was about EUR 108 000.[103] In Germany in 2014, the mean of mortgage loans for owner-occupied properties was EUR 97 600.[104] In the United Kingdom, households with a mortgage on their main property had a mortgage debt of EUR 107 500 in 2014-2016.[105]

In the following table, we present the net value of household main residence. It is net of any mortgage debt. The following data covers outright owners and owners with mortgage debt of their household main residence.

We present the results of the two scenarios which we consider as an upper and a lower limit. At the EU level, the average is EUR 150 600. This can be considered as a net wealth asset.

Table 68: Conditional mean net HMR wealth value, 2016, EUR 1 000

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	NL	UK	EZ	EU
H1	165	224	244	132	159	256	190	201	360	167	221	183	**163**
H2	140	189	207	113	135	217	160	172	303	139	180	155	**138**
Mean	**152**	**206**	**225**	**122**	**147**	**236**	**175**	**187**	**331**	**153**	**200**	**169**	**151**

Note: HMR: Household main residence. H1: 13 years and 3.0 % discount; H2: 12 years and 3.5 % discount. EZ: euro area. EU: European Union 28. The data cover only owners of household main residence (HMR). It includes all owners (outright and owners with mortgage).
Source: EU-SILC 2016 and author's own calculations.

[103] Banque de France (2020), *Le surendettement des ménages – enquête typologique 2019: données nationales et régionales*, https://particuliers.banque-france.fr/sites/default/files/media/2020/02/06/suren2019_web_0.pdf.
[104] Deutsche Bundesbank, monthly report, Vol. 68, No. 3, March 2016. https://www.bundesbank.de/resource/blob/667054/c2663557fa3056028018c1d36abac3ee/mL/2016-03-monatsbericht-data.pdf.
[105] Office for National Statistics, 'Property Wealth: Wealth in Great Britain', July 2006 to June 2016/April 2014 to March 2016, Wealth and Assets Survey; contact: Wealth.and.Assets.Survey@ons.gov.uk.

The EU-SILC survey presents information on income from rental of a property or land at household level (HY040G). We apply the same method as before concerning the discounting of a future flow of income from rental of a property or land.

The EU-SILC provides information on interest, dividends and profit from capital investments in unincorporated business (HY090G). Following the same methodology as above for household main residence wealth and other real estate wealth, we estimate the value of financial and real capital wealth.

In the EU in 2016, the mean household total net wealth is estimated at EUR 154 500 (mean of EUR 141 900 and EUR 167 200). The corresponding conditional mean value was EUR 190 300 (mean of EUR 174 900 and EUR 205 600).

The following table summarises the results.

Table 69: Mean value of household wealth by disability status, EU, persons 16+, 2016

	Not adjusted				Age adjusted		
	Total	**Persons without disability**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Ratio**	**Persons without disability**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Ratio**
	EUR			**%**	**EUR**		**%**
HMR (Gross)	133 554	138 815	120 818	87.0	145 214	115 705	79.7
Mortgage debt	18 932	21 891	11 028	50.4	19 319	15 217	78.8
HMR (Net)	114 623	116 924	109 790	93.9	125 896	100 488	79.8
Land & other property	22 231	23 461	19 133	81.6	26 122	16 288	62.4
Financial & Capital	30 393	31 621	29 093	92.0	36 864	23 719	64.3
Real Estate (Gross)	155 785	162 276	139 951	86.2	171 336	131 994	77.0
Real Estate (Net)	136 854	140 385	128 923	91.8	152 017	116 777	76.8
Total Wealth (Net)	**167 247**	**172 006**	**158 016**	**91.9**	**188 881**	**140 496**	**74.4**

HMR: Household main residence;
Total wealth (Net) = HMR (Net) + Land & other property + Financial & Capital
Ratio in %: 100* (Persons with disabilities / Persons without disabilities).
Note: The estimations rely on the hypothesis of a discount rate of 3.0 % and term mortgage loan of 13 years. The percentages are the same for the alternative hypothesis of 3.5 % and 12 years.
Source: EU-SILC 2016 and author's own calculations.

17. Methodological note on EU-SILC

The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey is the EU reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at European level.

The EU-SILC survey contains a small module on health, including three questions on general health status.

Regulation (EU) 2019/2242, of 16 December 2019, on the organisation of a sample survey in the income and living conditions, provides the technical details of the survey.

Definition of 'disability'

The EU-SILC term ('activity limitation') does not expressly take into account any 'interactions with barriers' which is typical of the social model approach and the UN CRPD terminology. However, it cannot be compared to medical approaches as it does not focus on impairments, functional limitations or the consequences of diseases.

In a simplified and linear relation between impairment, disability and handicap, the EU-SILC stands in the middle. It is close to the concept of disabilities.

Characteristics of the sample

The survey covers all individuals aged 16 years old and over living in private households. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population.

Age

The microdata present two measures for the age of the respondent. The first concerns age at the date of the interview and the second, age at the end of the income reference period.

We have used 'age at the date of interview' for indicators concerning the disability prevalence, labour market and education issues. We have used 'age at the end of the income reference' period for income related indicators as well as for labour intensity.

Seasonality

Employment, unemployment and activity rates refer to the situation at the date of interview. For this reason, the data are not seasonally adjusted. On the contrary, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides an indicator which is based on annual averages of comparable quarterly data. However, income data presented here are annual (e.g., they cover a 12-month period preceding the survey period).

Interviews

Four types of data are involved in EU-SILC:

i. variables measured at the household level;
ii. information on household composition and basic characteristics of household members;
iii. income and 'basic variables' (education, basic labour information) measured at the personal level, but normally aggregated to construct household-level variables; and
iv. variables collected and analysed at the person-level 'the detailed variables' (health, access to health care, detailed labour information, activity history and calendar of activities').

For set (i)-(ii) variables, a sample of households including all household members is required.

Set (iii) is collected directly at the individual person level, covering all persons in each sample household.

In most countries, i.e., in the so-called 'survey countries', these income variables are collected through personal interviews with all adults aged 16+ in each sample household. By contrast, in 'register countries', set (iii) variables are compiled from registers and other administrative sources, thus avoiding the need to interview all members (adults aged 16+) in each sample household.

Set (iv) variables will normally be collected through direct personal interview in all countries.

Concerning disability, 'the register countries' select only a representative person per sample household since for these countries interviewing all household members for set (iii) is not involved.

Register countries include Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia. The non-EU countries include Iceland and Norway.

The information included in the EU-SILC project can either be extracted from registers or be collected from interviews. In case of interviews, five modes of data collection are possible: 1. Face-to-face personal interview (PAPI); 2. Face-to-face personal interview (CAPI); 3. Telephone interview (CATI); 4. Self-administered by respondent; 5. Proxy interview. In the EU-SILC legal basis, priority is given to face-to-face personal interviews (PAPI or CAPI) over the other modes of data collection.

Periodicity

The cross-sectional and the longitudinal data are produced annually.

Accessibility of microdata

In June 2022, the latest available microdata accessible to researchers were those of 2020 but without Germany and Italy.

Methodology of EU-SILC

European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2015 operation (Version June 2016)*' DocSILC065 (2015 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2018 operation (Version July 2019)*, DocSILC065 (2018 operation).

European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2020 operation (Version April 2020)*, DocSILC065 (2020 operation).

European Commission – Eurostat, Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

Table 70: EU-SILC UDB 2020 - Sample characteristics*

	Question PH030_F				Limitations (Question: PH030)			
Country	**Not-selected**	**Missing**	**Filled**	**Sample**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	**No**	**Total**
	Not-weighted							
AT	0	14	10 395	10 409	918	2 502	6 975	10 395
BE	0	74	13 039	13 113	1 093	2 176	9 770	13 039
BG	0	1	14 660	14 661	624	2 361	11 675	14 660
CY	0	4	9265	9 269	717	1 793	6 755	9 265
CZ	0	4 703	11 109	15 812	981	2 832	7 296	11 109
DE								
DK	4 986	10	6 552	11 548	455	1 890	4 207	6 552
EE	0	423	11 988	12 411	1 320	2 781	7 887	11 988
EL	0	0	28 878	28 878	3 722	5 160	19 996	28 878
ES	0	412	31 206	31 618	1 418	5 524	24 264	31 206
FI	8 960	89	9 385	18 434	546	2 568	6271	9 385
FR	0	341	19 584	19 925	1 822	2 959	14 803	19 584
HR	0	209	16 449	16 658	1 957	4 460	10 032	16 449
HU	0	42	12 187	12 229	1 113	2 586	8 488	12 187
IE	0	15	8 326	8 341	500	1 337	6 489	8 326
IT								
LT	0	597	9 284	9 881	721	2 675	5 888	9 284
LU	0	167	5 855	6 022	387	1 041	4 427	5 855
LV	0	373	10 701	11 074	1 113	3 644	5 944	10 701
MT	0	9	8 314	8 323	355	1 107	6 852	8 314
NL	11 208	318	12 893	24 419	726	3 584	8 583	12 893
PL	0	3 883	28 607	32 490	2 285	5 692	20 630	28 607
PT	0	144	24 092	24 236	2 133	6 431	15 528	24 092
RO	0	0	15 535	15 535	1 102	3 716	10 717	15 535
SE	5 371	25	5 756	11 152	207	473	5 076	5 756

SI	12 455	0	8 539	20 994	832	1 330	6 377	8 539
SK	0	113	11 913	12 026	1 412	3 061	7 440	11 913
EU	**42 980**	**11 966**	**344 512**	**399 458**	**28 459**	**73 683**	**242 370**	**344 512**

*'Register countries' select a person per household for certain questions. 'Survey countries' interview all members of the household aged 16 and over. Estimates are corrected for not selected (see methodology).
Source: EU-SILC UDB 2020 RELEASE 1 (April) 2022.

Table 71: EU-SILC UDB 2019 - Sample characteristics*

	Question PH030_F				Limitations (Question: PH030)			
Country	**Not-selected**	**Missing**	**Filled**	**Sample**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	**No**	**Total**
	Not weighted							
AT	0	4	10 347	10 351	925	2 636	6 786	10 347
BE	0	125	12 465	12 590	1 113	2 205	9 147	12 465
BG	0	0	14 980	14 980	624	2 389	11 967	14 980
CY	0	4	9 291	9 295	786	1 803	6 702	9 291
CZ	0	4 706	11 421	16 127	1 018	2 724	7 679	11 421
DE	0	288	20 566	20 854	1 592	3 333	15 641	20 566
DK	4 474	30	5 787	10 291	379	1 606	3 802	5 787
EE	0	361	12 063	12 424	1 489	2 973	7 601	12 063
EL	0	0	34 836	34 836	4 175	6 384	24 277	34 836
ES	0	181	33 195	33 376	1 284	5 078	26 833	33 195
FI	9 074	108	9 538	18 720	608	2 567	6 363	9 538
FR	0	574	20 847	21 421	2 011	3 450	15 386	20 847
HR	0	167	16 953	17 120	2 157	4 701	10 095	16 953
HU	0	195	12 785	12 980	1 268	2 986	8 531	12 785
IE	0	0	8 217	8 217	476	999	6 742	8 217
IT	0	1 344	36 983	38 327	2 194	6 789	28 000	36 983
LT	0	517	9 389	9 906	728	2 607	6 054	9 389
LU	0	258	8 247	8 505	606	1 474	6 167	8 247
LV	0	298	9 280	9 578	937	3 268	5 075	9 280
MT	0	0	8 351	8 351	309	964	7 078	8 351
NL	11 614	332	13 432	25 378	845	3 820	8 767	13 432
PL	0	6 145	36 232	42 377	3 096	6 908	26 228	36 232
PT	0	24	28 759	28 783	2 457	8 016	18 286	28 759
RO	0	0	15 314	15 314	1 097	3 606	10 611	15 314
SE	5 039	22	5 599	10 660	212	490	4 897	5 599
SI	12 780	0	8 590	21 370	875	1 814	5 901	8 590
SK	0	113	12 606	12 719	1 475	3 182	7 949	12 606
EU	**42 981**	**15 796**	**426 073**	**484 850**	**34 736**	**88 772**	**302 565**	**426 073**

* 'Register countries' select a person per household for certain questions. 'Survey countries' interview all members of the household aged 16 and over. Estimates are corrected for not selected (see methodology).
Source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 RELEASE 1 2021.

18. Note on SHARE

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of individuals aged 50 or older.

The SHARE COVID-19 dataset containing data collected via computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) in the two rounds of the SHARE COVID-19 Survey (SCS) between June and August 2020 (1st SCS) and one year later between June and August 2021 (2nd SCS).

The microdata release valorised here includes 26 EU Member States (Ireland not included), Switzerland and Israel. Data reported here cover only the EU 26 Member States.

The following questions were studied:

CAPH105_: For the past six months at least, to what extent have you been limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do?

1. Severely limited
2. Limited, but not severely
3. Not limited

CAEP100_: Did you retire after the outbreak of Corona? 1. Yes, 5. No

CAEP102_: Did you retire as planned, earlier, or later than planned?

1. As planned
2. Earlier than planned
3. Later than planned

IF CAEP102_ =2 OR =3, CAEP103_: Was this due to the outbreak of Corona? 1. Yes, 5. No

CAW110_: During the pandemic some people worked at home, some at their usual workplace and others at some other workplace.
How would you describe your work situation since your last interview? Please answer yes or no to each category (Code all that apply):

1. Worked from home
2. Worked at the usual workplace outside the home
3. Worked elsewhere, at a different workplace

IF CAW110_ = 2 || CAW110_ = 3, CAW117_: How safe did you feel health-wise at your workplace? Was it very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?

1. Very safe
2. Somewhat safe
3. Somewhat unsafe

4. Very unsafe

CAE103_: Since your last interview, in July 2020, did you receive additional financial support that was due to the Corona crisis from your employer, the government, relatives, friends, and/or others? 1. Yes, 5. No

IF CAE103_ = 1
CAE104_: Who gave you this financial support? Check all that apply.

1. Employer
2. Government
3. Relatives
4. Friends
5. Others

Sources

Börsch-Supan, A. (2022), Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 9, COVID-19 Survey 2, release version: 8.0.0, SHARE-ERIC, Data set. DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w9ca.800

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), COVID-19 Survey, Release 8.0.0. mea February 2022

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE); COVID-19 questionnaire for telephone interviews; last update: 16 April 2021, http://www.share-project.org/special-data-sets/share-corona-survey-2.html.

19. Sources of data

1. European Commission: Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2242 of 16 December 2019 specifying the technical items of data sets, establishing the technical formats and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the income and living conditions domain pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

2. European Commission – Eurostat: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

3. European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2020 operation (Version April 2020)*, DocSILC065 (2020 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

4. European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2018 operation (Version July 2019)*, DocSILC065 (2018 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

5. European Commission – Eurostat, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2020 operation (Version April 2020)*, DocSILC065 (2020 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

6. EU-SILC UDB 2018 – Release 1 2020.

7. EU-SILC UDB 2019 – Release 1 2021.

8. EU-SILC UDB 2020 – Release 1 2022.

9. SHARE survey: Börsch-Supan, A. (2022), Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 9, COVID-19 Survey 2, Release version: 8.0.0. SHARE-ERIC, Data set. DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w9ca.800

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