



European Semester 2022-2023 country fiche on disability equality

Greece

January 2023

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Directorate D — Social Rights and Inclusion

Unit D3 — Disability & Inclusion

European Commission

B-1049 Brussels

European Semester 2022-2023 country fiche on disability equality

With comparative data Annex provided by EDE

Greece

Eleni Strati

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

This country report has been prepared as input for the European Semester in 2022¹ and has been developed under Contract VC/2020/0273 with the European Commission.

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

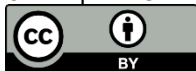
LEGAL NOTICE

Manuscript completed in January 2023

This document has been prepared for the European Commission however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication. More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://www.europa.eu>).

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2023

© European Union, 2023



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

Table of contents

1	Executive summary and recommendations	6
1.1	Key points and main challenges for Greece in 2022	6
1.2	Recommendations for Greece	7
2	Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2022 Semester documents	8
2.1	Country Report (CR) and Country Specific Recommendation (CSR).....	8
2.2	National Reform Programme (NRP) and Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)	9
2.3	Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans.....	10
3	Disability and the labour market – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies	11
3.1	Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities.....	11
3.2	Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester.....	12
4	Disability, social policies and healthcare – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies	15
4.1	Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities	15
4.2	Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester	17
5	Disability, education and skills – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies	20
5.1	Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities	20
5.2	Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester	21
6	Investment priorities in relation to disability	24
7	Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester	26
7.1	Data relevant to disability and the labour market.....	27
7.2	EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2020)	31
7.3	EU data relevant to disability and education.....	33

1 Executive summary and recommendations

1.1 Key points and main challenges for Greece in 2022

Disability and the labour market

The employment situation of persons with disabilities in Greece has not improved, considering also that the economy only reached pre-pandemic levels in the past year. Persons with disabilities are more likely to be long-term unemployed, which is also increasingly linked to limited access to lifelong learning. Women and young people are disproportionately affected. Key policies, such as quota employment in the public sector and wage subsidies accompanied by funding for reasonable accommodation, have been reactivated to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market. Investment plans emphasise improvement of accessibility in the workplace, however those are not linked at this stage to a specific legislative, strategic and / or programme framework.

Disability, social policies and healthcare

Long-term unemployment accounts for a significant share of those at risk of poverty. The risk of poverty for persons with disabilities of working age is significantly reduced after social transfers. Material deprivation remains considerably high in comparison to the EU average and almost a third of persons with severe limitations report unmet needs for medical treatment. Chronic low investment in community-based long-term health and social care impacts on the inclusion of children and adults with disabilities, but also female unemployment. The new National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction (2022) puts in place a comprehensive framework for policy and investment focused on expanding and improving the quality of community-based care, making use of regular state budgets, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the National Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Disability, education and skills

Young people with disabilities are significantly less likely to complete secondary and tertiary education than their peers, which further affects their access to employment and risk of poverty. The majority of pupils with disabilities attend mainstream education facilities, however, there are systemic gaps in ensuring an inclusive environment. This relates primarily to adequate staffing and provision of individualised support in mainstream classrooms. Built environment accessibility has improved as local authorities have utilised available funding, while digital transformation / accessibility in the field of education forms a new priority in investment plans.

Investment priorities for inclusion and accessibility

Disability is mainstreamed in policy choices and the expected results of the ESIF 2021-2022, which will support actions addressing challenges across the fields of education, including targeted vocational training, access to community-based health and social care services, and accessible places to live and work. In most cases, funding is used to secure continuation and expansion of existing structures, while pilots in the field of independent living and inclusive education, with technical assistance from EU agencies, stand out as new developments.

1.2 Recommendations for Greece

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

Recommendation: Focus active labour policies for persons with disabilities on enhancing access to mainstream vocational training / lifelong learning programmes, especially for long-term unemployed people, women and young people. Invest in accessibility in private and public workplaces within the existing legal framework for disability rights and accessibility, including the employer's obligation to ensure reasonable accommodation, to ensure coherence and effectiveness of actions.

Rationale: Evidence shows that persons with disabilities are more likely to be long-term unemployed with limited access to opportunities to develop their technical skills, while low performance is noted in adult lifelong learning overall. High youth and women's unemployment should also be assessed from a disability perspective to the extent it relates to low educational outcomes for young people with disabilities and an inadequate (community-based) long-term care system. Targeted active labour policies are promising for the inclusion of persons with disabilities (and relatives) in the labour market, but are only meaningful if accessible workplaces are created.

Recommendation: Ensure a strong monitoring and evaluation framework and processes in the implementation of actions under the National Strategy for Social Inclusion, mainstreaming disability sensitive indicators and methodologies to capture results and impact for persons with disabilities.

Rationale: The OECD (2019) cross-cutting remark on the 'need to improve ex-post evaluation of primary and subordinate regulations' is particularly relevant in the case of the launch of the National Strategy for Social Inclusion which directly informs choices for investment from national and EU funding sources, addressing a wide spectrum of disability-specific challenges.

Recommendation: Adjust level of investment for inclusive education (ESIF and State budget) to level of needs and challenges, to ensure coverage of requests for parallel support, recruitment of specialised teaching and support staff and investment in professional development. Ensure disability is mainstreamed in early school leaving monitoring frameworks.

Rationale: While most pupils with disabilities attend mainstream schools, a large proportion receive education in separate classes and only 10 % receive parallel support in mainstream classes. Gaps in staffing which result in disrupted schooling are reported every school year. Students' socio-economic background has a negative impact on school performance, more than in many other EU Member States, while disability is not yet visible in official research and reports related to early school leaving.

2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2022 Semester documents

2.1 Country Report (CR) and Country Specific Recommendation (CSR)

The following key points highlight where a disability perspective was considered, or should be considered, in the CR/CSR. We address the most relevant of these in the next sections.

In 2022, the Country Report for Greece included the following direct reference to disability issues:

- p. 45 ‘The disability employment gap is slightly above the EU average (27.7 pps vs 24.5 pps).’

However, the situation of women and young people with disabilities needs to be assessed further as they are disproportionately affected by unemployment, which remains ‘one of the highest in the EU’. As the Country Report notes:

- p. 12 ‘In the age range 20-64, women have 30 % less chances than men to be employed, while almost one fifth of young people (aged 15-29) are not in employment, education or training.’

Furthermore, the national disability equality gap must be assessed in relation to additional indicators which highlight persisting challenges, as mentioned in the Country Report:

- p. 46 ‘The proportion of adults aged 25-64 who participated in learning in the past four weeks is far below the EU average (3.5 % vs 10.8 % in 2020).’
- p. 11 ‘The share of people at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) was well above the EU average (21.9 %) in 2021 and energy poverty (17.1 %) was more than twice as high as in the EU as a whole (8.2 %) in 2020.’
- p. 46 ‘The share is higher among children (30.8 % in 2021), and the share of children with severe material and social deprivation (19.6 % in 2020) is among the highest in the EU.’
- p. 47 ‘Gaps persist in access to social protection for non-standard forms of employment in general’, while ‘public expenditure on long-term care is significantly below the EU average.’
- p. 47 ‘Greece recorded the largest drop in the share of early leavers from education and training in the last decade’.
- p. 45 ‘The impact of students’ socio-economic background on school performance is among the strongest in the EU.’

In 2022, the Country Specific Recommendations (CRS) did not make direct reference to disability, however they included the following relevant issues:

- p. 3 ‘The 2019 and 2020 country-specific recommendations remain equally relevant also for recovery and resilience plans revised’ and those had included direct reference to disability.²
- p. 13 CSR 1 ‘targeted support to households and firms most vulnerable to energy price hikes.’

² EC (2020), European Semester 2020: Country Specific Recommendation / Commission Recommendation ‘20. Comprehensive access to social services is necessary for the most deprived and vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers’.

- p. 13 CSR 3 ‘ensuring adequate and equal access to healthcare.’

Finally, the CSR accurately noted the limited capacity of regional and local administrations, which need to be strengthened to implement key components of the National Reform Programme (NRP) and Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). From a disability perspective, this has been mainly identified in inclusion priorities largely missing in regional investment plans in previous programmatic periods. On the other hand, CRS (2) emphasises the need to ‘swiftly finalise the negotiations with the Commission of the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programming documents with a view to starting their implementation’.

2.2 National Reform Programme (NRP) and Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)

The following key points highlight where the situation of people with disabilities or disability policies is relevant to the NRP/RRP. We analyse the most relevant of these in the next sections.

The 2022 NRP includes the following selected actions targeting people with disabilities, in addressing key employment, social inclusion and educational challenges.

- p. 20 ‘Enhancing accessibility of disability specific health and social care services, namely Social Welfare Centres of regions, as well as residences, private and public workplaces.’
- p. 23 ‘Announcement of 500 positions for people with disabilities and 200 positions for people having relatives (child, spouse, or sibling) with disabilities in the public sector, according to the provisions of Law No. 2643/1998, placement expected to be completed within 2023.’
- p. 31 ‘Partnership of the Public Employment Service (DYPA) and UNICEF implementing EU Child Guarantee Initiative Preparatory action, to support adolescents and youth at risk for better employment opportunities. In addition, a support action for Social Cooperative Enterprises is also under preparation, specially designed for young social entrepreneurs with disabilities and aiming to help them start their own businesses.’
- p. 19 ‘Expansion of hospital at home services, and specialised mental health structures and services.’
- p. 20 ‘Building the capacity of 15 social welfare institutions across the country, mainly through recruitment of healthcare staff. Noting that social welfare centres provide both residential health and social care and outpatient rehabilitation and habilitation services for children and adults with disabilities.’
- p. 69 ‘Digital transformation of the social support system’, which includes ‘a national portal of disability benefits and establishment of the disability card in order to provide information in a simple and systematic way to people with disabilities and simplify access to in-kind benefits and reduce red tape concerning disability benefits.’

2.3 Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans

It is important that Semester plans align with national disability strategy. In Greece, this refers to the Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.³ In 2019, the UN Committee recommended that Greece ‘Develop a comprehensive, coherent and long-term national strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Convention, with clear timelines, benchmarks and budget allocations’. The government launched a National Plan of Action on the Rights of People with Disabilities at the end of 2020, and the first Annual Progress Report was published in November 2021.⁴ This report notes that the National Plan of Action for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially the timeframe of implementation, will be revised in 2022. This national action plan is not explicitly mentioned in the 2022 NRP, even though specific actions for disability are outlined.

Furthermore, the 2022 NRP makes reference to the new National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, which targets persons with disabilities among other groups at risk and works in synergy with the national disability action plan.⁵ This National Strategy supports the policy priorities for the 2021-2027 programme period in relation to preventing and combating social exclusion, including exclusion from employment, and it will further support structuring the main pillars of Regional Operational Programmes. The main policy measures and investment plans concern access to adequate resources and basic goods, access to services and access to active labour market policies, which are discussed in the next sections.

Relevant recommendations arising from participation in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are highlighted in the following sections. The last UN CRPD Committee recommendations to Greece were in 2019, the most recent submission by Greece was in 2019 and the most recent response from the Committee was the 2019 Concluding Observations.

³ Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities <https://amea.gov.gr/action>.

⁴ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State) (2021), *Annual Implementation Report on the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 25 November 2021, <https://amea.gov.gr/action-report>.

⁵ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, General Secretariat of Social Solidarity & Combating Poverty (2022), *National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction*, July 2022, Athens, [Microsoft Word - Εθνική Στρατηγική για την Κοινωνική Ένταξη και Μείωση της Φτώχειας .docx \(ypergasias.gov.gr\)](https://ypergasias.gov.gr).

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

In 2019, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Greece:

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

'39. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in the open labour market, with a view to achieving target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also recommends that the State party ensure the provision of specific measures and individualized support in the workplace; promote among employers the right of persons with disabilities to employment on an equal basis with others; and mainstream the disability dimension in all employment policies, measures and programmes, including in the policy design of the Greek Manpower Employment Organization.'

The most recent CRPD development is the 2019 Concluding Observations and the State's submission in 2019.

3.1 Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities

According to the Social Scoreboard indicator, cited in the Semester package, the disability employment gap in Greece is considered 'Average'.

Data from EU-SILC indicate an employment rate for persons with disabilities in Greece of 33.9 % in 2020, compared to 62.2 % for other persons. This results in an estimated disability employment gap of approximately 28 percentage points (estimated EU27 average gap 24.5, see Tables 2-4) or an employment chances ratio of 0.5. Statistics published on the Eurostat database indicate a disability employment gap of 27.7 percentage points in 2020, using a slightly different methodology, and falling again to 23.8 points in 2021 (against a pre-COVID-19 figure of 29 points).⁶

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 28.6 % and 19.9 %, respectively in 2020 (see Tables 5-7) and the economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Greece was 47.5 %, compared to 77.6 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10). These indications are broken down by gender and age in the respective tables in the Annex.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on employment in 2020-2021, some caution is needed when interpreting trend data.

The employment rate for people with disabilities has not recovered since the economic crisis.⁷ The labour market situation deteriorated during the COVID-19 pandemic, at a

⁶ Eurostat, Disability employment gap by level of activity limitation and sex (source EU-SILC), 2022, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dlm200/default/table.

⁷ Quoting from the EDE 2021 European Semester Report – Greece, p. 8: 'Analysis of EU-SILC data from 2016 to 2019 for Greece shows a trend for the employment rate of people with disabilities to decrease (overall by -2.1 % for moderate disability, and -2.9 % for severe disability), even as the labour market situation is improving, albeit slowly (5.2 % increase), for the non-disabled population', Disability Observatory of the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) (2020), Annual Disability Report 2020, p. 92.

higher rate than the rest of the EU on average, and economic activity reached its pre-pandemic level by the end of 2021.⁸

Young people seem to have been hit hardest by the consequences of the pandemic with ‘youth unemployment climbing to 38.6 % in Q3-2020, before falling to 31.3 % in Q4-2021’.⁹ Greece also has a considerable share of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), reaching 28.7 % for the age group 25-29 in 2021.¹⁰ There is no disaggregation of NEET rates by disability, however, young people with disabilities are likely to be disproportionately affected, considering the employment gap, but also low educational outcomes, including vocational education (please see Section 4) and limited access to vocational training.¹¹

Low skills levels are increasingly recognised as an obstacle to growth. As the 2022 Country Report notes:

‘A considerable share of adults state that they lack technical skills (47 % vs an EU average of 28 %) or general skills (38 % vs 22 %) to perform their work at the required level. The share of individuals with at least basic digital skills increased from 46 % in 2017 to 52 % in 2021 (EU average: 54 %).’¹²

Long-term unemployment is a persistent challenge, disproportionately affecting women. More than half of those registered in the Public Employment Service were long-term unemployed in 2019¹³ and similarly in 2022, and ‘women were twice as many as men’.¹⁴ Evidence suggests that people with disabilities are also disproportionately affected by long-term unemployment (84 % of people with disabilities registered in the Public Employment Service in May 2020), with an average of 5.5 years in unemployment.¹⁵

3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see the 2022 National Reform Programme, the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Greece and the Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

A call for approximately 2 090 placements in the public sector under Article 3 of Law 2643/1998 was published in September 2021, out of which 700 are to target persons

⁸ European Commission (2022), *2022 Country Report Greece*, Brussels SWD (2022) 609 final, p. 3.

⁹ European Commission SWD (2022), p. 4.

¹⁰ European Commission SWD (2022), p. 45.

¹¹ Quoting from EDE 2021 European Semester Report pp. 8-9: ‘Only 2.3 % of this group (people with disabilities registered as unemployed in May 2020) had participated in vocational training programmes, typically designed and implemented as part of active labour market policies (ALMPs).’ Disability Observatory NCDP (2020), p. 94.

¹² European Commission SWD (2022), p. 46.

¹³ Data available in European Anti-Poverty Network (2019) Poverty Watch: GREECE – 2019, <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EAPN-PW2019-Greece-EN-EAPN-4494.pdf>.

¹⁴ European Commission SWD (2022), pp. 12-13.

¹⁵ Disability Observatory NCDP (2020), p. 94.

with disabilities and persons who are relatives of beneficiaries.¹⁶ This quota scheme had last been activated in 2014 and the relevant procedures have proved extremely time-consuming.¹⁷ It is worth noting that the same Law (2643/1998) foresees the employment of persons with disabilities at a 3 % quota in private companies which employ more than 50 staff, however, there has been only one such procurement (in 2008), which was never completed.¹⁸

The wage subsidy scheme, covering up to 90 % of employers' salary costs for a period of 12 months, is another disability-specific employment policy, funded and implemented periodically by the regular budget of the Public Employment Service, although this is not mentioned in the 2022 NRP. The latest call was launched in February 2020, and until November 2021 a total of 1 616 recruitments had been registered.¹⁹ In addition, this programme is the single source of funding for reasonable accommodation. Under the latest call, 12 out of 50 available individual funding opportunities for reasonable accommodation have been covered.²⁰

While the 2022 NRP mentions investment for accessibility in public and private workplaces mainly funded through the RRP,²¹ this is not linked to a specific policy or programme, for instance any of the (two main) disability-specific employment policies described above. Similarly, relevant actions have no reference to the legislative framework for the rights of persons with disabilities (or the National Disability Action Plan for that matter), which foresees universal design of administrative products, environment and services, and reasonable adjustment (Law 4488/2017; Article 63, paragraph 2). This weakens the focus and prioritisation of actions funded under this initiative.

On a positive note, the Public Employment Service established a working group for mainstreaming disability in its policies and programmes with the active implementation of the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) in the framework of the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2020.²² This is the first partnership of this kind in the country. The working group assessed the

¹⁶ Hellenic Republic (2022), National Reform Programme 2022, p. 23. See also:

<https://www.oaed.gr/idikes-koinonikes-omades?tab=enimerwseis-skhetika-me-to-n264398&tab2=prokirykseis-2021-ghia-tin-pliersi-theseon-toy-arthroy-3-toy-n264398&tab3>.

¹⁷ Disability Observatory of the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) (2020), Annual Disability Report 2020, p. 98, <https://www.paratiritirioanapirias.gr/el/results/publications/63/e8nikh-ek8esh-gia-thn-anaphria-etoys-2020>.

¹⁸ Greek Ombudsman (2021) *Special report: The rights of persons with disabilities (reference year 2020)*, p. 53, <https://www.synigoros.gr/el/category/atoma-me-anaphria/post/dikaimata-twn-atomwn-me-anaphries:-eidikh-ek8esh-2020>.

¹⁹ This includes individuals from other protected social groups such as individuals completing rehabilitation from addiction or jail sentence, survivors of domestic abuse and delinquent young people. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2021), Employment Policies for Persons with Disabilities, https://primeminister.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/politikes_apasxolhshs_gia_atoma_me_anaphria.pdf.

²⁰ Minister of State (2021), *Annual implementation report on the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (25 November 2021), p. 56, <https://amea.gov.gr/action-report>.

²¹ Hellenic Republic (2021), *Recovery and Resilience Plan*, p. 107, Included under Reform: Support for persons with disabilities.

²² Minister of State (2021), *Annual implementation report on the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (25 November 2021), p. 56, <https://amea.gov.gr/action-report>.

recommendations put forward by the NCDP and submitted a technical report to the Ministry of Labour in March 2021.

Complementary actions foreseen, such as recruitment and upskilling of 1 000 employment counsellors, through the period of 2022-2025, as well as diversity awareness projects, including the creation of a national diversity corporate index, are promising for enhancing on the one hand the effectiveness of job-seeking support, which has hampered access to Active Labour Policy programmes, and on the other, take-up by employers of incentives for employing persons with disabilities.²³

Finally, initiatives supporting women and young people at risk into employment are at a preparatory stage. The NCDP and the General Secretariat of Family Policy and Gender Equality have established a partnership with the objective of mainstreaming gender equality in the national disability action plan, while research into the situation of women and girls with disabilities was launched in 2021-2022 as foreseen in the National Disability Action Plan.

Increasing access to childcare remains the principal measure for addressing female unemployment. However, 'affordable childcare services are still not widely available in Greece' as 'demand has continued over recent years to outstrip supply', which has meant a shift in focus on to employed and unemployed parents equally.²⁴ From a disability perspective, it must be noted that, since 2018, all welfare cash benefits are treated as disposable income in the relevant application process, which may affect eligibility for households with members with disabilities receiving disability welfare cash benefits, even though evidence shows that these households have additional living costs, up to EUR 5 000 annually (approximately EUR 415 monthly), due to disability.²⁵

Furthermore, measures aiming to tackle women's long-term unemployment must acknowledge how this has been linked with the 'lack of a comprehensive long-term care strategy'²⁶ and 'increased number of family members (especially women), who take care of their dependent relatives'.²⁷ This is particularly relevant for households with members with disabilities. Finally, the 2022 NRP makes reference to a partnership-based project under the EU Child Guarantee, between the Public Employment Service and UNICEF, supporting young people with disabilities to access employment, including social entrepreneurship. However, no further details are mentioned, such as budget and number of individuals who will benefit and it does not seem to be linked to any disability-specific priorities.

²³ Hellenic Republic (2022), pp. 21 and 25.

²⁴ ESPN Thematic Report on In-work poverty in Greece (2019), p. 21, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333421269_ESPN_Thematic_Report_on_In-work_poverty_in_Greece.

²⁵ European Centre for Constitutional Law (2020), Study for the additional living costs due to disability, National Confederation of Disabled People, Athens 2020. Please see European Semester 2021-2022 country fiche on disability equality Greece for more information on the study.

²⁶ European Commission SWD (2022), p. 47.

²⁷ ESPN Thematic Report on In-work poverty in Greece (2019), p. 21, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333421269_ESPN_Thematic_Report_on_In-work_poverty_in_Greece.

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

In 2019, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Greece:

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

‘41. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the relevant legal provisions and practices on welfare allowances, benefits, pensions and tax exemptions for persons with disabilities, harmonizing the existing rules and repealing discriminatory rules and practices, including in the disability certification system. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the existing social protection framework, and progressively develop further measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities.’

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

‘29. The Committee recommends that, in line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the State party: (a) Adopt a comprehensive national strategy with clear time-bound measures and sufficient funds for effective deinstitutionalization at all levels; (b) Ensure the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of independent living strategies and schemes that provide accessible community-based services, especially at the local level.’

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

‘37. The Committee recommends that, taking into account targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party: (a) Put in place a stable, continuous, long-term strategy containing effective and harmonized measures to guarantee persons with disabilities access to health services; (b) Effectively monitor the implementation of the provision of health services by health service providers to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. The Committee also recommends that the State party render health facilities, equipment and instruments accessible, particularly to ensure that women and girls with disabilities have access to sexual and reproductive health services in urban and rural areas.’

The most recent CRPD development is the 2019 Concluding Observations and the State’s submission in 2019.

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate that the poverty risk rate for working age persons with disabilities in Greece was 25.0 % in 2020, compared to 17.8 % for other persons of similar age – an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 7 percentage points (see Table 14). For people aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 3.2 points (14.2 % for older persons with disabilities and 11.0 % for other persons of similar age). The tables in the Annex also indicate the respective rates of risk of poverty or social exclusion and break these down by gender as well as age. Recently updated data from Eurostat indicate that this relative risk reduced slightly for the working age

disabled population (24.4 %) but rose slightly for the older age group (14.8 %) in 2021.²⁸

For persons with disabilities of working age in Greece (aged 18-64) the risk of poverty before social transfers was 58.3 % and 25 % after transfers in 2020. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities aged 18 or over was 13 % in 2020 and 13.3 % in 2021.

Of high significance for health policy are the data on self-reported unmet needs for medical examination, shown in Table 15 (too expensive or too far to travel or waiting list). Extreme disability equality gaps are evident here and, on this basis, the rate for persons with disabilities in Greece was 18.9 %, compared to 2.7 % for other persons (26 % for persons with severe disabilities).²⁹

Furthermore, 29 % of persons with severe disabilities self-reported unmet needs for medical treatment, marking an increase of 4.5 percentage points in comparison to 2019, noting that persons with severe disabilities were estimated to be 10.2 % of the population, that is 914 098 individuals (2020).³⁰ The Health Survey 2019 further shows that 8.8 % of persons with severe disabilities and 7.3 % of those with moderate disabilities could not afford prescribed medicine, in comparison to 2.7 % of the non-disabled population in Greece.

Data available from the European System of National and Regional Accounts shows that the total expenditure per capita in Greece has decreased by 34 % between 2009-2018.³¹ Out-of-pocket expenditure for health is one of the highest in EU at 35.2 % of total expenditure (2019), while 'public expenditure on long-term care is significantly below the EU average (0.2 % vs 1.7 % of GDP in 2019).³²

Severe material deprivation remains a challenge. While in the rest of the EU (on average) there has been a steadily declining trend since 2012, in Greece it peaked in 2016 (22.4 %), dropping to 16.7 % in 2018 and remaining stable since, in comparison to a 5.5 % EU average according to latest data.³³ Similarly, the 2022 Country Report notes that 'while the population unable to keep their homes adequately warm

²⁸ Eurostat, People at risk of poverty by level of activity limitation, sex and age, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/HLTH_DPE020_custom_3348056.

²⁹ Eurostat, Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by level of activity limitation, sex and age, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dh030/default/table.

³⁰ Disability Observatory of the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) (2022), 11th Statistical Release: Health, disability and chronic illness, Athens, June 2022, <https://www.paratiritirioanapirias.gr/el/results/publications/71/11o-deltio-toy-parathrhthrioy-ths-esmea-ygeia-anaphria-kai-xronia-pa8hsh>.

³¹ Disability Observatory of the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) (2022), 11th Statistical Release: Health, disability and chronic illness, Athens, June 2022, p. 4, quoting Disability Observatory of the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) (2020), p. 84, <https://www.paratiritirioanapirias.gr/el/results/publications/71/11o-deltio-toy-parathrhthrioy-ths-esmea-ygeia-anaphria-kai-xronia-pa8hsh>.

³² European Commission SWD (2022), p. 47.

³³ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, General Secretariat of Social Solidarity & Combating Poverty (2022), National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, July 2022, Athens, p. 105, [Microsoft Word - Εθνική Στρατηγική για την Κοινωνική Ένταξη και Μείωση της Φτώχειας .docx \(ypergasias.gov.gr\)](https://ypergasias.gov.gr).

decreased from 29.2 % in 2015 to 17.1 % in 2020, it remains twice as high as the EU average (8.2 %).³⁴

National data (2019) show that ‘the most severe problem of poverty (43.3 % of the total) is faced by the unemployed population’, which simultaneously has ‘the highest chance (70 %) of not returning to the labour market.’³⁵

Out of 268 262 households included in the Minimum Guaranteed Income in the period 2017-2019, 53 % declare zero income, while a considerable share (28 %) receive income exclusively from social benefits. In total, 2.4 % of households receiving the benefit are headed by persons with disabilities, while another 3.5 % households in receipt of the benefit include at least one member with disabilities.³⁶

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see the 2022 National Reform Programme, the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Greece and the Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

An important development in this field is the finalisation of the National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction (2022). It is worth noting that this strategy frames policy choices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs under the programme period 2021-2027, as well as the main pillars of action for Regional Operational Programmes. It works in synergy *inter alia* with the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Strategy for Deinstitutionalisation,³⁷ and draws upon multiple funding sources, including the regular national budget (e.g. welfare benefits, Public Employment Service), the new European Structural and Investment Funds, and the Resilience and Recovery Fund (RRF).³⁸ This is a significant shift of focus from combating extreme poverty, to a comprehensive framework for policy and investment in social inclusion.³⁹

Furthermore, disability is mainstreamed across key pillars, namely access to necessary goods and services (e.g. Minimum Guaranteed Income, disability welfare benefits, housing benefits, etc.), enhanced community-based services, with new emphasis on independent living, and access to active labour market policies. Key policies which are anticipated to be funded in the new programme period (2021-2027),

³⁴ European Commission SWD (2022), p. 33.

³⁵ European Anti-Poverty Network (2019), p. 4, quoting General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) Interim Report 2019, p. 54.

³⁶ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2019), *Monitoring report social solidarity benefit (Minimum Guaranteed Income)*, September 2019, p. 5, <https://kekpa.gr/el/ypiresies/98-koinoniko-eisodima-allileggyis-k-e-a/2935-enimerosi-gia-kea-epidoma-stegasis>.

³⁷ European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) (2021), Technical support on the deinstitutionalisation process in Greece Grant Agreement: SRSS/S2019/02 Deliverable 2 under Component 1, Output 1.1 Activity 1.1.1 “Support the completion of the national DI strategy, roadmap and action”, National DI strategy plan, Brussels, February 2021 https://easpd.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/DI_Strategy_-_EN_with_layout.pdf.

³⁸ Additional sources mentioned are the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), EAA Grants, DG Justice Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and emergency DG HOME funds and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2022).

³⁹ ESPN (2019).

with some already underway, and address the issues and key challenges identified above (see Sections 3.1 and 4.1) are:

- Actions targeting people at risk of poverty, indicatively beneficiaries of Minimum Guaranteed Income, to access employment opportunities.
- Reducing child poverty, increasing access to health, education and childcare. Early identification and intervention for children aged 0-6 with disabilities in preschool care, established by law 4837/2021, stands out as a new intervention. A pilot is expected to start at the end of 2022 funded by the RRF and designed to reach 1 450 children, while the DG Reform – Technical Support Instrument will support implementation and evaluation of the programme.⁴⁰
- Transition from institutions to expanded and upgraded community-based services, including personal assistance. There has been progress in establishing an information system for adoption and foster care, including registration of children in institutional care and staff training on potential caregivers' skills training. Financial assistance for adoption and foster care was legislated for in 2021 (EUR 325 per month, EUR 375 for children with disabilities on top of disability cash benefit), while the proposal for professional foster care for children with 67 % disability has been approved and is expected to be partially funded by the RRF.⁴¹

Moreover, the measure of personal assistance, introduced in the 2021 RRP, was subsequently established by Law No. 4837/2021, while a study will be commissioned to support the design of the pilot and secondary legislation, including eligibility criteria and an evaluation committee. The initial pilot will support 2 000 individuals, for a period up to two years, and is expected to be fully rolled out in 2024. The pilot will be funded by the RRF (EUR 41 million) and the ESIF (EUR 320 million).⁴²

- Enhanced access to social protection provisions, primarily through digitalisation and digital transformation of relevant procedures. Plans include full digitalisation of the disability certification procedure to reduce red tape.⁴³

Seeking to implement a rights-based approach to disability assessment, the reform includes additional actions such as improving the accessibility of premises of Disability Certification Centres (KEPA) and enriching the composition of health committees with specialised doctors and non-medical specialised health professionals (Law No. 4826/2021 Article 90).⁴⁴ Furthermore, 71 public administration services relevant for persons with disabilities, including 15 services related to the National Organisation of Health Service Provision, have been digitalised under the digital citizens' service platform (MyKEPlive), combined with staff training in serving citizens with disabilities (500 staff trained by the end of 2021).⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Minister of State (2021), *Annual implementation report on the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (25 November 2021), p. 31.

⁴¹ Minister of State (2021), p. 30.

⁴² See: <https://ypergasias.gov.gr/prosopikos-voithos-gia-amea/>.

⁴³ See: <https://ypergasias.gov.gr/erchontai-ta-psifiaka-kepa-kai-i-karta-anapirias/>.

⁴⁴ Minister of State (2021), p. 21.

⁴⁵ Minister of State (2021), p. 22.

Finally, it is worth noting that the National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction includes horizontal actions to strengthen governance structures and the operational capacity of municipalities. As the strategic document notes, the National Mechanism for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Inclusion and Cohesion Policy has had limited capacity, and thus effectiveness, so far, while various consultation committees tasked with supporting the Mechanism at regional and municipal level have not systematically convened.

The OECD cross-cutting remark on the ‘need to improve ex-post evaluation of primary and subordinate regulations’ is particularly relevant in the case of the launch of the National Strategy for Social Inclusion which is directly linked with investment:

‘Greece needs to improve ex-post evaluation of primary and subordinate regulations. In 2017 Greece had one of the lowest scores (0.21) in iREG both for primary laws and for subordinate regulations (in comparison to an OECD average of 1.75 and 1.70) on ex-post evaluation. The iREG indicators measure progress made by OECD countries in improving the way they regulate, they range from 0 (worst) to 4 (best).’⁴⁶

⁴⁶ (OECD 2019): <https://www.oecd.org/gov/gov-at-a-glance-2019-greece.pdf>.

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

In 2019, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Greece:

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

‘5. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and taking into account Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4.a, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to guarantee inclusive education, and in particular that it: (a) Adopt and implement a coherent strategy on inclusive education in the mainstream educational system; (b) Ensure the accessibility of school and university environments, in line with the Convention, by promoting universal design, the provision of specific measures and individualized support, such as accessible and adapted materials, inclusive curricula, inclusive information and communication technologies for pupils and students with disabilities, and digital pedagogy; (c) Immediately ensure access to formal education for all refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children with disabilities, and for Roma children with disabilities; (d) Allocate effective and sufficient financial and material resources and adequately and regularly trained personnel, including persons with disabilities, to effectively guarantee inclusive education; (e) Incorporate inclusive education training into higher education curricula for trainee teachers, and into training programmes for current teaching staff, with an adequate budget.’

The most recent CRPD development is the 2019 Concluding Observations and the State’s submission in 2019.

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC 2020 estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with caution due to relatively wide confidence intervals but they consistently indicate disability equality gaps (an average of 2-3 years provides a more stable indication). Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in Greece. Young people with disabilities (aged 18-24) tend to leave school early significantly more than their non-disabled peers of the same age groups (and this is reinforced by widening the sample size to age 18-29). Table 17 shows completion rates of tertiary education disaggregated by disability and age group. Persons with disabilities (aged 30-34) are less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (and this is reinforced in the wider age range 30-39).

The most recent available national data on school population with disabilities were published in July 2021:

‘Data by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs shows that in the year 2019-2020, pupils with disabilities comprised 7 % of the total pupil population (101,683 out of 1,454,921), of whom 88 % attended mainstream education (this percentage is maintained across primary and secondary education levels). Children with disabilities of school age are mainly in inclusion (separate) classes in mainstream schools (42.1 %) or supported solely by the main class teacher

(41.2 %), while only 10 % receive parallel support in mainstream classes, although progress is noted since last school year (+53%).⁴⁷

It is worth noting that ‘inclusion’ classes, although placed in mainstream schools, do not fulfil the criteria of ‘80 % of time placement benchmark’ of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASIE) framework. Finally, there is no data reported under the Agency’s indicator: ‘All children / learners with an official decision of [special educational needs (SEN)] who should, by law, be in some form of recognised education, but who are out of any form of recognised education.’⁴⁸

The total population in special education remained stable in 2019-2020, following an increase of 18 percentage points in the three preceding school years (2016/17 to 2018/19).⁴⁹ Between 2019 and 2020, while the total population remained stable, there was a noticeable increase in the number of pupils with disabilities attending preschool special education (7.1 %), and upper secondary vocational school (9.4 %), while the highest dropout was noted in lower secondary education, a trend consistently observed through the years.⁵⁰ Intellectual disability, autism and multiple disabilities remain the most frequently represented categories in special educational units.

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see the 2022 National Reform Programme, the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Greece and the Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

While Greece performs well in preventing early school leaving, reducing the share of early leavers from education and training from 13.5 % in 2010 to 3.2 % in 2021, there remain challenges in improving educational outcomes especially for students from a disadvantaged socio-economic background.⁵¹

Evidence suggests that students’ socio-economic background negatively affects both school attendance and performance, and this impact is ‘among the strongest in EU’ according to the EC 2022 Country report, noting further that ‘almost half of the students from the lowest socio-economic quartile lack basic skills in reading compared to almost 1 in 7 in the highest quartile’.⁵²

The EC 2022 Country Report confirms that ‘chronic limited investment’ and ‘limited professional development’ are two determining factors, which are particularly relevant from a disability perspective.⁵³ Quoting from previous EDE European Semester Country Reports respectively:

⁴⁷ Quoting from the European Semester Country Fiche 2021-2022 Greece, p. 17.

⁴⁸ See: <https://www.european-agency.org/data/greece/datatable-overview#tab-official-decision-on-sen-v3>.

⁴⁹ Disability Observatory NCDP (2021), p. 21.

⁵⁰ Hellenic Statistical Authority (7 December 2021), Special Education School Units 2019, <https://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SED41/>.

⁵¹ European Commission SWD (2022), p. 45.

⁵² European Commission SWD (2022), p. 47.

⁵³ European Commission SWD (2022), p. 47, quoting further: ‘General government spending on education in 2019 remained below the EU average, both as a proportion of GDP (4.0 % vs 4.7 %)

‘Implementing long-term disability inclusion programmes in education (Law No. 4368/2016), including developing daily life skills, occupational therapy, psychological support and other specialised support, requires long-term funding from state, i.e. permanent qualified staff, which has so far been lacking.’⁵⁴

‘Teachers supporting pupils with disabilities in mainstream education have limited practical experience as well as knowledge of specific types of disability, while professional development is not sufficiently funded by the state, as reported. Very frequently, specialised staff (in inclusion classes) reported difficulties in cooperation with the main class teacher. There were also examples such as parallel support staff supporting deaf children not using sign language; pupils with intellectual disability were more hindered by lack of differentiated teaching methods, despite the fact that such educational material is available by the Institute of Educational Policy, reinforcing the assumption that staff are not aware or do not have competences or are not actively encouraged to use this material.’⁵⁵

It is worth noting that obstacles to accessing mainstream and special education for students with disabilities related primarily to gaps in staffing for inclusion classes, parallel support, as well as additional support staff to meet individual needs, were also raised by the National Committee for Human Rights in a letter addressed to the Minister of Education in October 2021.⁵⁶

However, disability-focused analysis in relation to early school leaving and / or low school performance is not yet visible in policy documents and official research.⁵⁷

There have been some positive developments to address those gaps and challenges. Law No. 4823/2021 introduced permanent placements (1 100) for psychologists and social workers in mainstream education to build the capacity of interdisciplinary support committees which are tasked with ensuring equal access for all students, including putting in place necessary support for pupils with disabilities.⁵⁸ In addition,

and of total general government spending (8.3 % vs 10 %), the latter being the second lowest in the EU.’

⁵⁴ EDE European Semester Greece 2020, p. 25, quoting the Greek Ombudsman (2019a) Report on Implementation of UN CRPD (ar.72 L. 4488/2017), first report, p. 24, https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/ohe_el--2.pdf.

⁵⁵ EDE European Semester Greece 2021, p. 19 referring to findings from: European Centre for Constitutional Law (2020), *Study for the transition from special education to education without exclusions*, National Confederation of Disabled People, Athens 2020, <https://paratiritirioanapirias.gr/el/news/publications/69/meleth-gia-th-metabash-apo-thn-eidikh-agwgh-kai-ekpaideysh-sthn-ekpaideysh-xwris-apokleismoys>, pp. 144-145.

⁵⁶ National Committee for Human Rights (2021), Letter to Minister of Education Protocol No. 289/25.10.2021.

⁵⁷ A number of studies on early school leaving, including primary data collection, were conducted under the scientific supervision of the Institute for Educational Policy, funded by ESIF 2014-2020, Operational Programme for Growth, Human resources, Education and Lifelong learning, available at: <http://www.iep.edu.gr/pes/index.php/meletes-ergou>. Please see more specifically IEP (2019) ‘Study/ Expert Opinion on the correlation between early school leaving and social phenomena’ does not include any reference to disability: <http://iep.edu.gr/pes/images/pes/files/p1216-SocialConnection.pdf>.

⁵⁸ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State) (2021), *Annual implementation report on the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 25 November 2021, p. 39, <https://amea.gov.gr/action-report>.

the law urged for decision-making processes regarding appropriate educational settings for pupils to include both parents and pupils. Importantly, a new role has been established in special vocational high schools (upper and lower) to support connection with apprenticeship schemes in the post-graduation year.

Furthermore, a guide for inclusive education was completed with the support of DG Reform, implemented by the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASIE) and the Ministry of Education, which will be piloted in three schools. It is worth quoting the key messages communicated from the final event:

- ‘the need for a cultural change in Greece, to broaden the understanding of what additional support needs and inclusive practice are;
- the need to focus less on removing learners with support needs from mainstream schools and more on ensuring schools’ capacity to work effectively with all learners;
- the need for improved collaboration between sectors such as education and health;
- the need for improved communication and collaboration between schools and KESY (Regional Educational Support Structures);
- a focus on quality education and better training for teachers.’⁵⁹

Finally, in the field of higher education, an accessibility assessment has been completed by the 29 universities in the country, including recommendations for improvement, which will inform preparatory work for a new legal framework and support programme development in the future. It is noted that 20 out of 29 higher education institutions have an operational accessibility unit.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Final meeting of the Agency’s work with DG REFORM in Greece on 14 July 2021, <https://www.european-agency.org/news/final-meeting-srsp-greece>.

⁶⁰ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State), 25 November 2021, p. 42.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

The Partnership Agreement for Greece for the ESIF 2021-2027 was approved in July 2021 and actions are anticipated to be designed and implemented in a staged manner. One new action approved concerns Just Development Transition, related to the EU's targets for energy and climate.⁶¹

The Social Charter, comprising 30 % of allocated funds, aims to ensure equal access to goods and services, with emphasis on increasing employment and focusing on target groups such as the long-term unemployed, unemployed with low socio-economic background, persons with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers.⁶² The National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction provides an overview of anticipated programmes, most of which concern securing funding for the continuation of existing structures. Key examples are outlined below, with available data from implementation within the previous programmatic framework.

Action 2.5.5.5 Education of pupils with disabilities and / or special educational needs – Strengthening vocational training

Approximately 200 individuals are supported with vocational training and counselling in the vocational training centres for persons with disabilities in Athens and Thessaloniki run by the Public Employment Service, the School for the Blind and Shelter Workshops.⁶³

Action 2.2.1.1, 2 and 3 Access to community-based care services

In 2021-2022, a total of 152 269 individuals benefited from financial assistance (voucher) to access preschool care, of whom 6 902 were children with disabilities. Furthermore, simplified procedures for licensing and funding are in place for the continuation of daycare and rehabilitation centres for both adults and children with disabilities from the State budget (National Organisation for Health Provision and Services) and ESIF 2021-2027.

Action 2.4.1.3 Promoting comprehensive deinstitutionalisation procedures – Deinstitutionalisation of minors

The programme foresees the transition from institutions to 'supported living facilities initially in Attika and Western Greece. Two supported living facilities in Attika (capacity of 10 individuals in total) have been completed and another three units (12 individuals in total) are anticipated to be completed within 2022. Similarly, two units have been completed in Western Greece and another two are planned to be constructed.⁶⁴

⁶¹ See: https://www.espa.gr/el/Documents/2127/Dikaih_Anptyxiaki_Metavasi_2021EL16JTPR001-1.3.pdf.

⁶² Partnership Agreement – Article 10(6) Greece 2021-2027, p. 23, https://www.espa.gr/el/Documents/2127/Etairiko_Symfwno_Perifereiakis_Anptyxis_2021-2027.pdf.

⁶³ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State) (25 November 2021), p. 46.

⁶⁴ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State) (25 November 2021), p. 36.

Action 2.1.6.2 Access to preventive services – Home assistance (2021)

841 Home assistance units, run by 280 agencies, supported a total of 814 824 individuals in 2021, of whom 97 800 were persons with disabilities.⁶⁵ The programme will be included under the local authorities' regular budget with open-ended contracted staff.

Action 2.3.1.1 Transition from institutions to supported living in the community – Supported living shelters

A total of 104 units operate, hosting 512 individuals with disabilities, for which funding is secured through ESIF 2021-2022.⁶⁶

Action 2.5.5.3 Improving environment and education-related accessibility

200 municipalities participated in the funding scheme for the construction of accessible ramps in 3 967 school units and accessible toilets in 4 649 units.⁶⁷ Furthermore, the NRP outlines plans for digital transformation in education, including: digitalisation of educational material, necessary technological equipment of special education units and digital transformation of the national network of Greek libraries (audio and electronic formats).

Finally, key priorities in the current programme framework, which are also consistent with the RRF,⁶⁸ include reference to disability. However, no further details on implementation are available at this stage.

Digital transformation

In outlining policy choices and expected results, digital accessibility and research and development of disability-specific applications are explicitly mentioned.⁶⁹

Green transition

Plans for sustainable development, mobility within and restoration of urban areas explicitly mention improvement of the accessibility of the environment.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State), 25 November 2021, p. 37.

⁶⁶ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State), 25 November 2021, p. 31.

⁶⁷ Gerapetritis, G. (Minister of State), 25 November 2021, p. 44.

⁶⁸ Please see EDE European Semester Report 2021 for more information on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan involving actions for digital transformation especially.

⁶⁹ Partnership Agreement – Article 10(6) Greece 2021-2027, p. 16.

⁷⁰ Partnership Agreement – Article 10(6) Greece 2021-2027, p. 20.

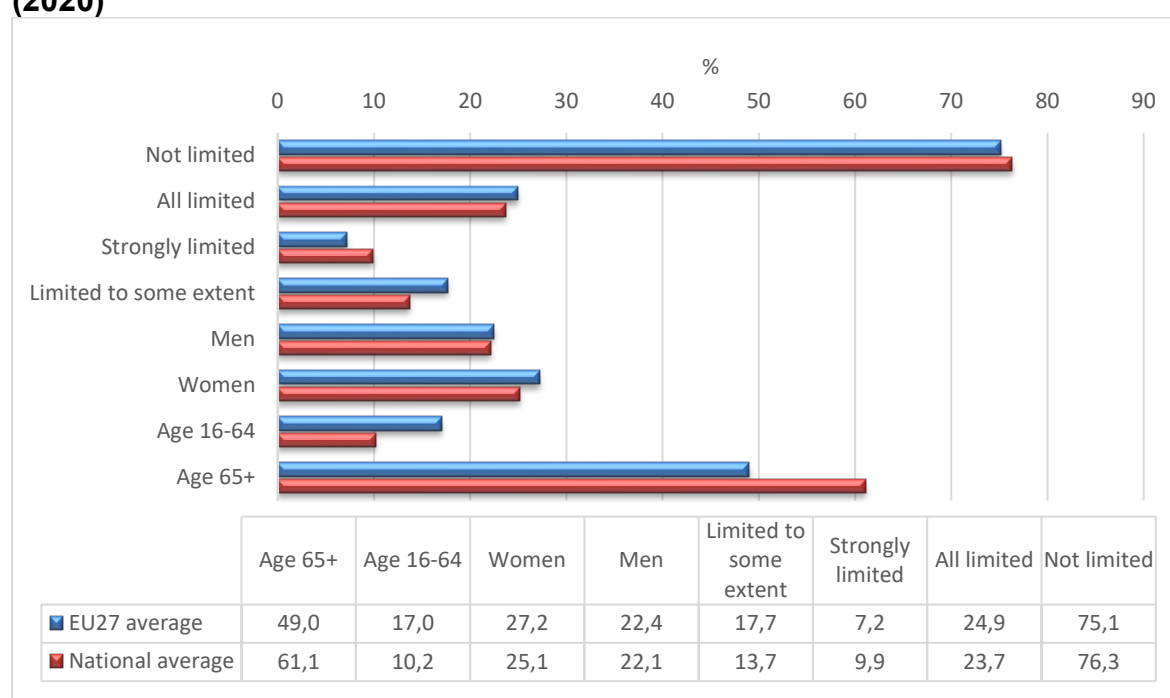
7 Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database⁷¹ and statistical reports.⁷²

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

The proxy used to identify people with disabilities (impairments) is whether ‘for at least the past 6 months’ the respondent reports that they have been ‘limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do’.⁷³

Table 1: Self-reported ‘activity limitations’ as a proxy for impairment / disability (2020)



Source: EU-SILC 2020 Release April 2022

In subsequent tables, these data are used to indicate ‘disability’ equality gaps and trends relevant to the analytical sections – for the labour market, social policies and healthcare, and education – by comparing outcomes for persons who report and do not report ‘activity limitations’.⁷⁴ National estimates for Greece are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.⁷⁵

⁷¹ Eurostat Health Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁷² Eurostat (2019) Disability Statistics: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

⁷³ The EU-SILC survey questions are contained in the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_\(MEHM\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_(MEHM)).

⁷⁴ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at: <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

⁷⁵ The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU changed the EU average. EU27 averages have also been affected by time series breaks in other large countries, such as Germany.

7.1 Data relevant to disability and the labour market

Table 2: EU and Greece employment rates, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2020)

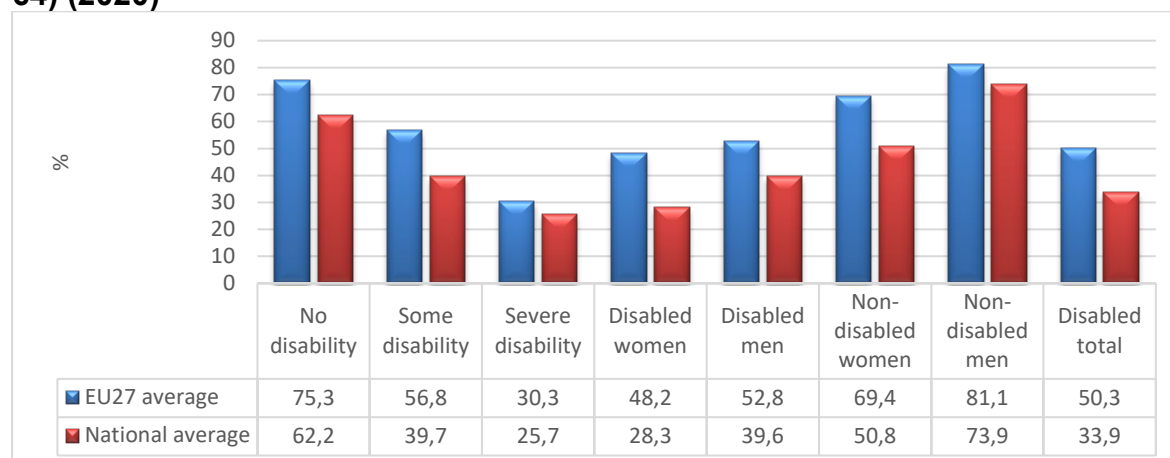


Table 3: Employment rates in Greece, by disability and age group (2020)

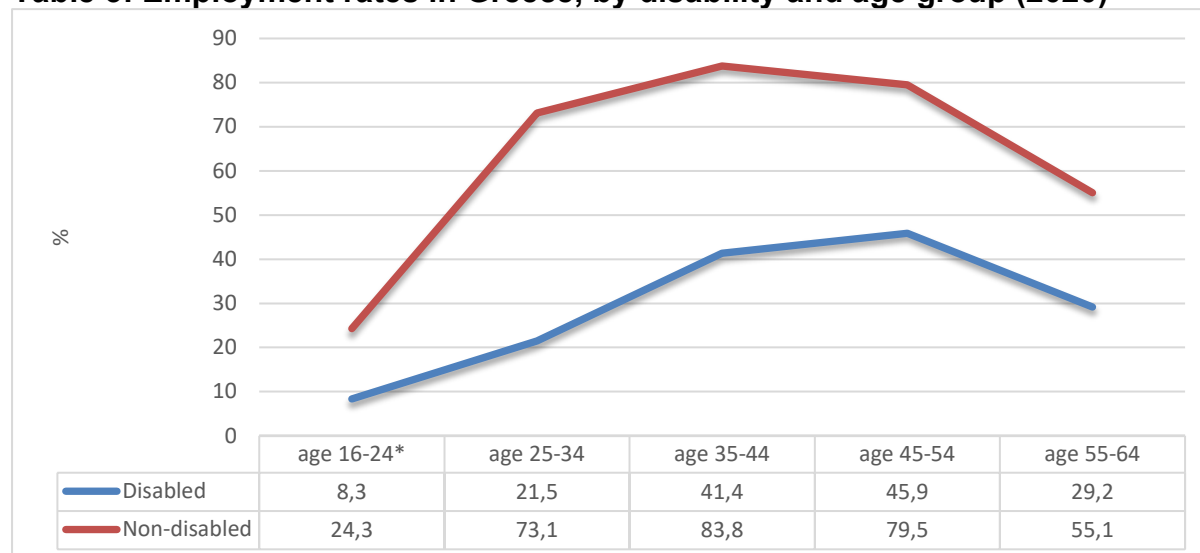
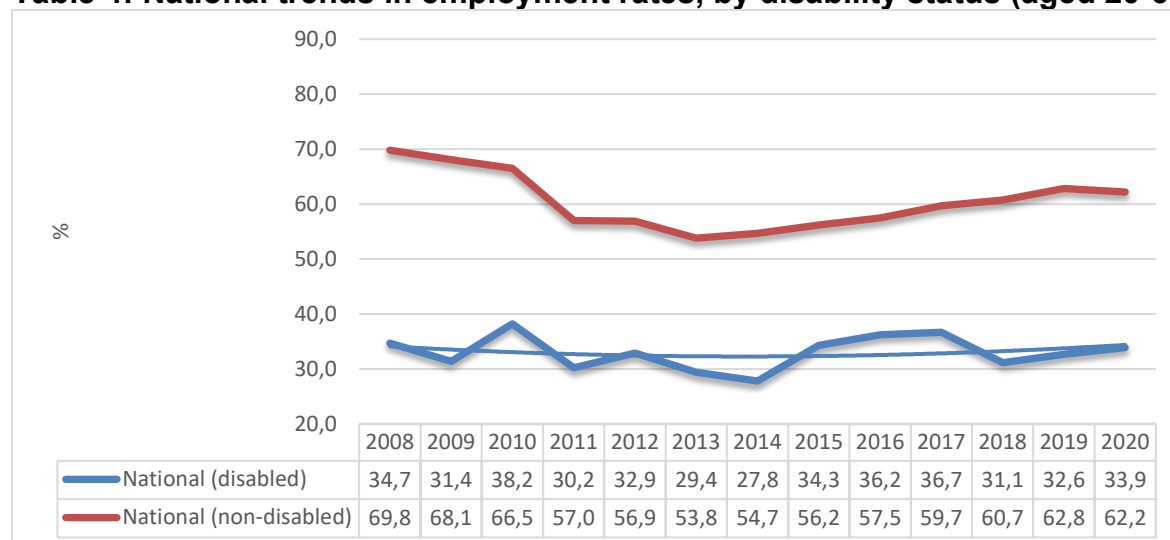


Table 4: National trends in employment rates, by disability status (aged 20-64)

Source: EU-SILC 2020 Release April 2022 (and preceding UDBs)

Note: Microdata concerning employment status was not available for Germany and Italy in this data release, which affects the EU27 average (which is therefore estimated).

7.1.1 Unemployment

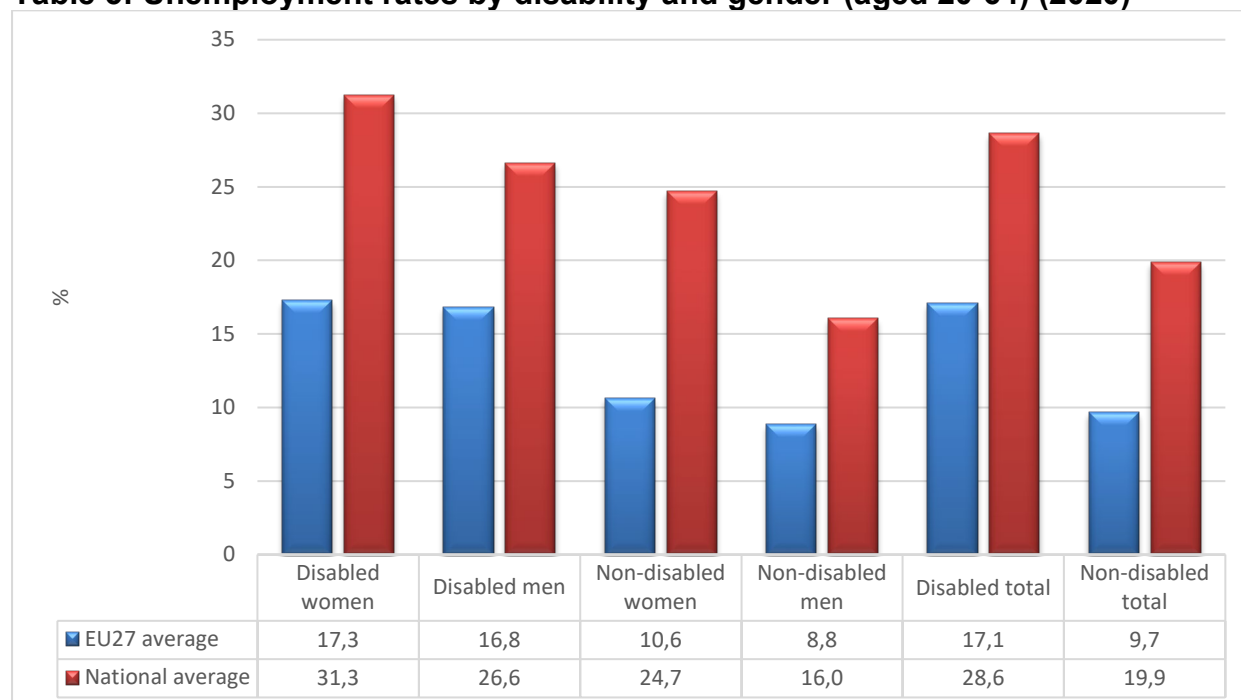
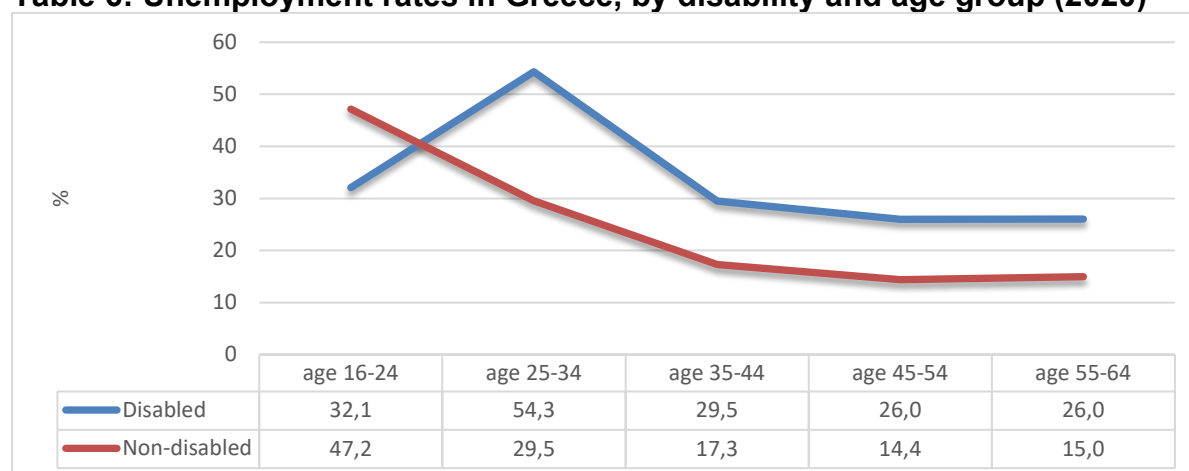
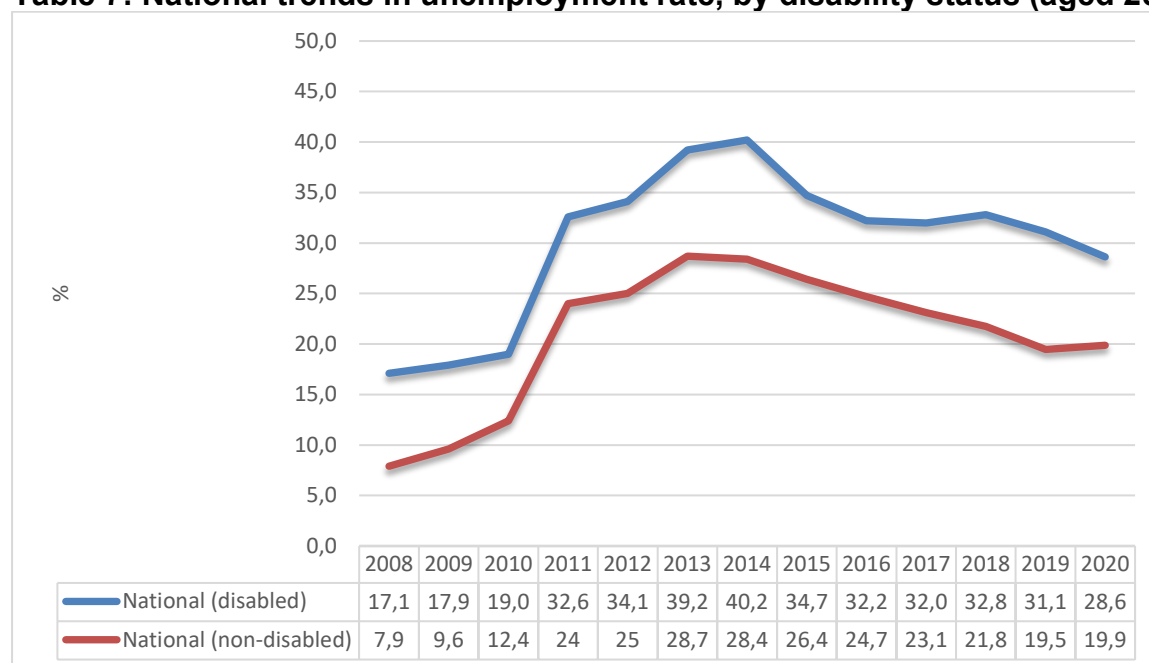
Table 5: Unemployment rates by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2020)

Table 6: Unemployment rates in Greece, by disability and age group (2020)

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


Source: EU-SILC 2020 Release April 2022 (and preceding UDBs)

7.1.2 Economic activity

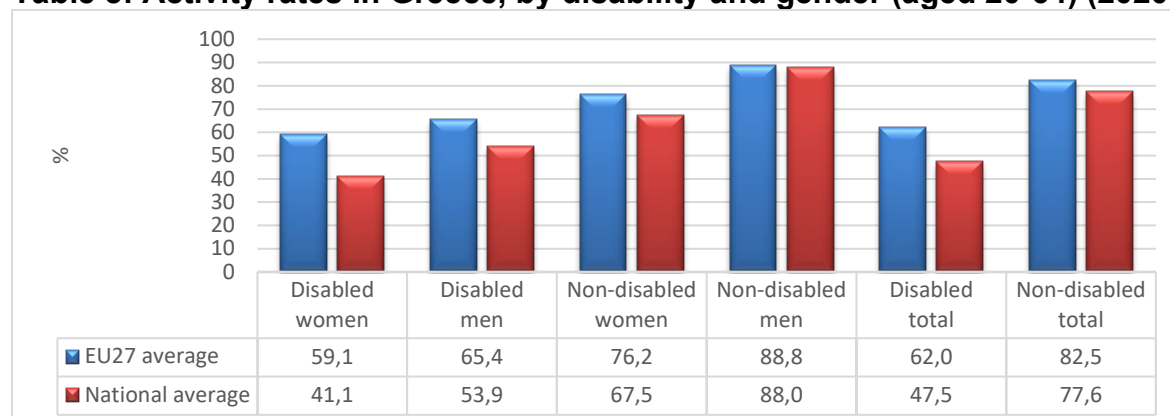
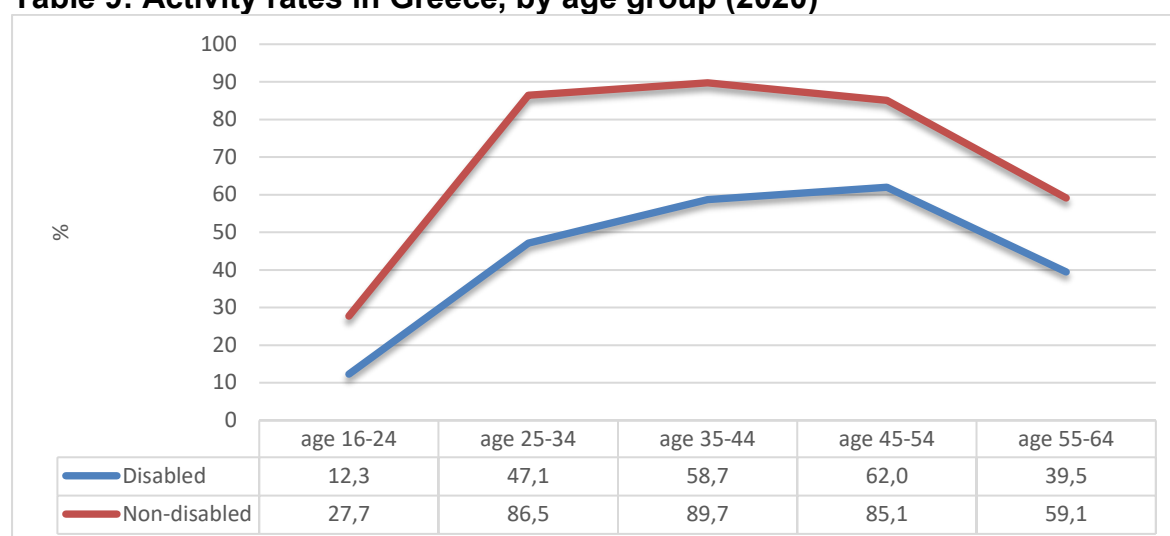
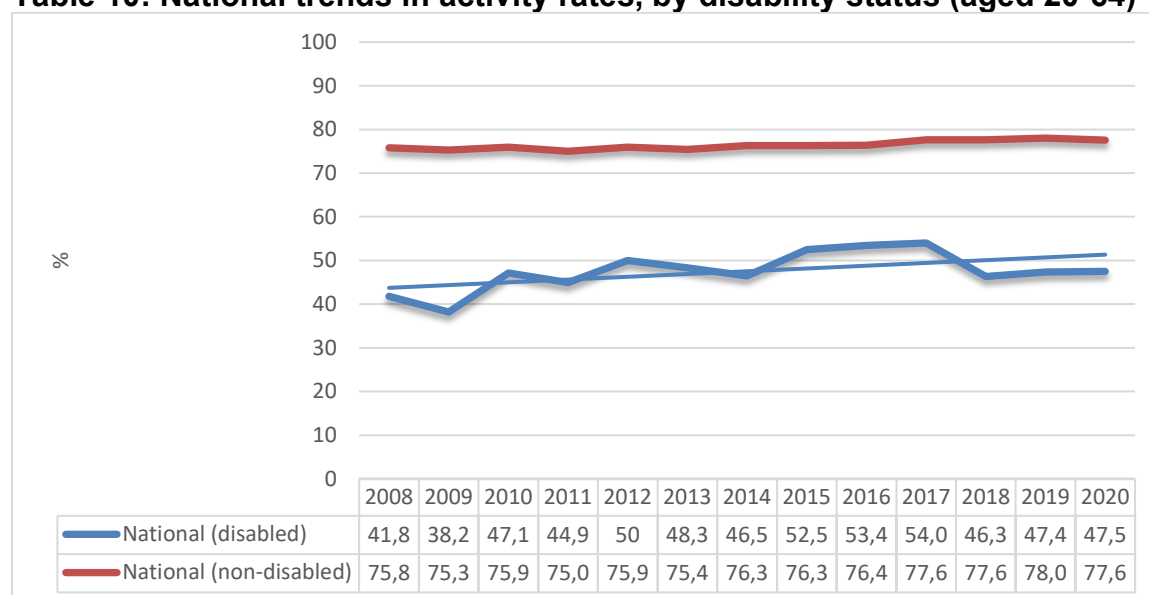
Table 8: Activity rates in Greece, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2020)


Table 9: Activity rates in Greece, by age group (2020)**Table 10: National trends in activity rates, by disability status (aged 20-64)**

Source: EU-SILC 2020 Release April 2022 (and preceding UDBs)

7.1.3 Alternative sources of labour market data in Greece

Disability data are not yet available from the core European Labour Force Survey but labour market indicators for Greece were disaggregated from *ad hoc* modules conducted in 2001 and 2011. These can be found in the Eurostat disability database.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ Eurostat Health Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2020)

Table 11: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and risk (aged 16-64)⁷⁷

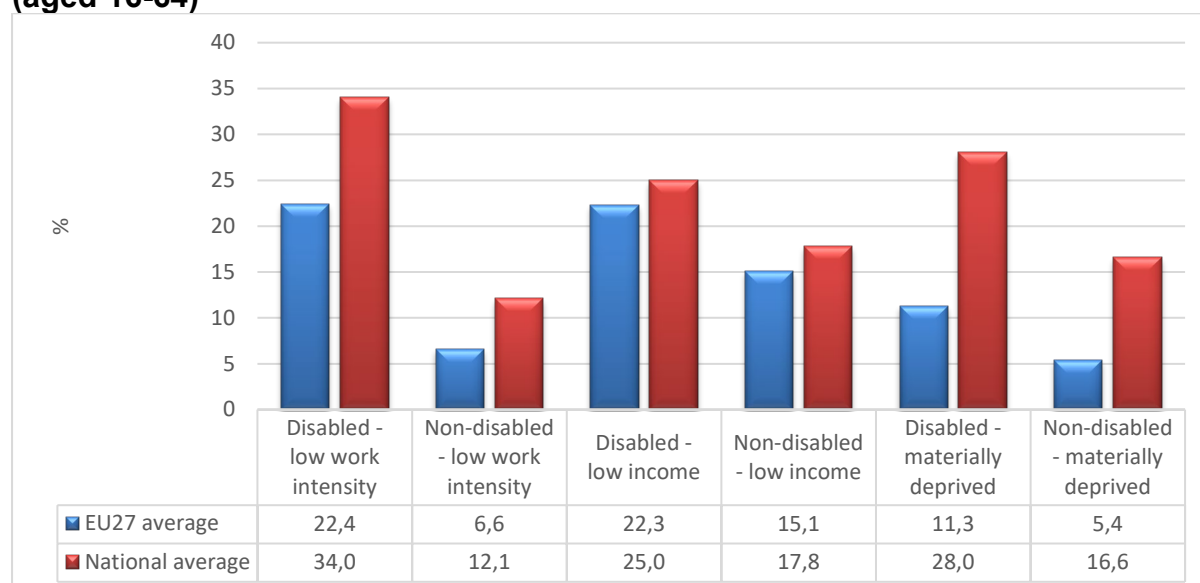


Table 12: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and gender (aged 16+)

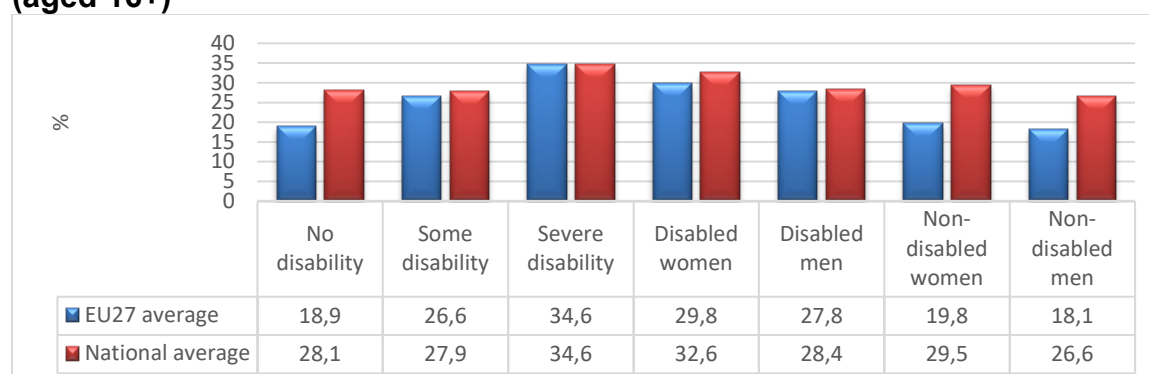
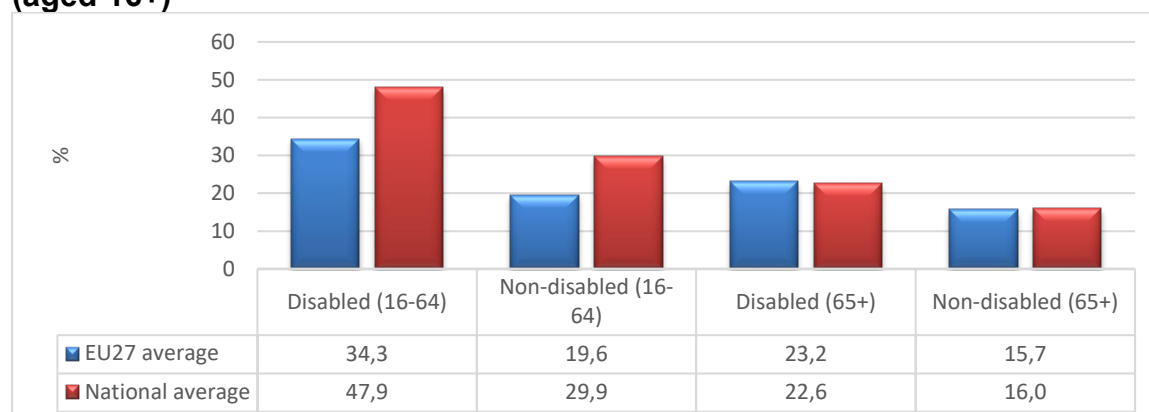
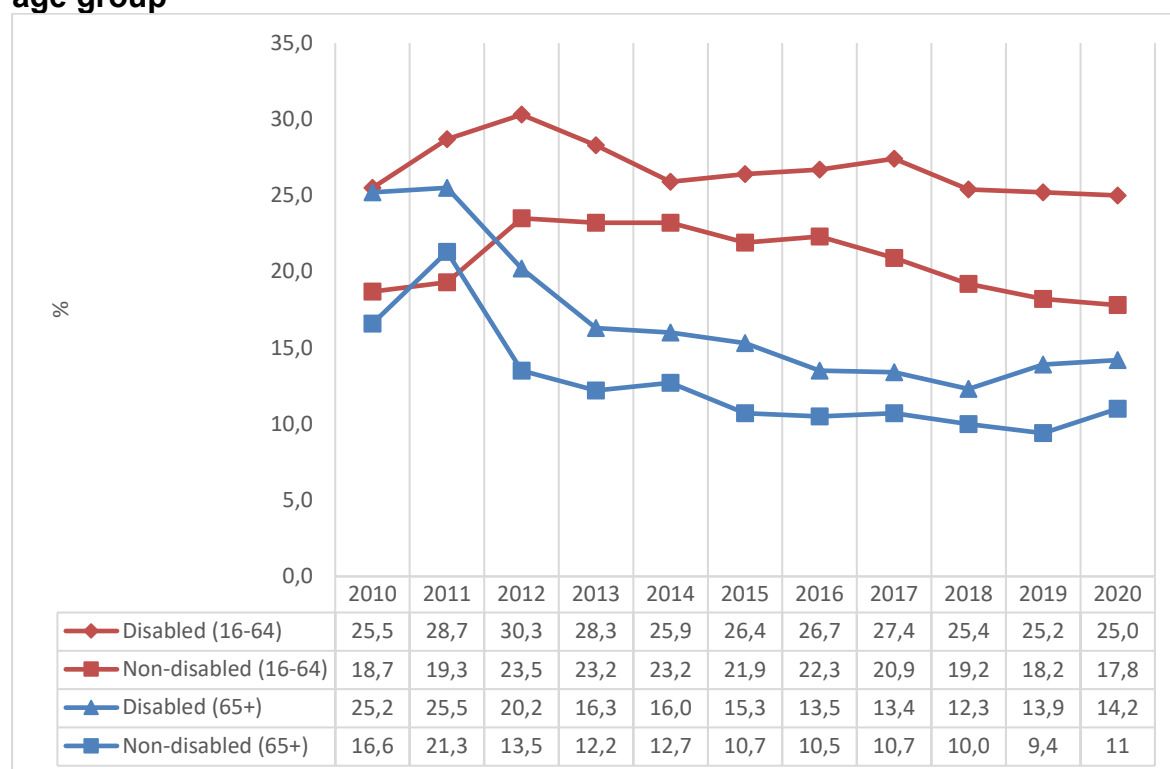


Table 13: Overall risk of household poverty or exclusion by disability and age (aged 16+)



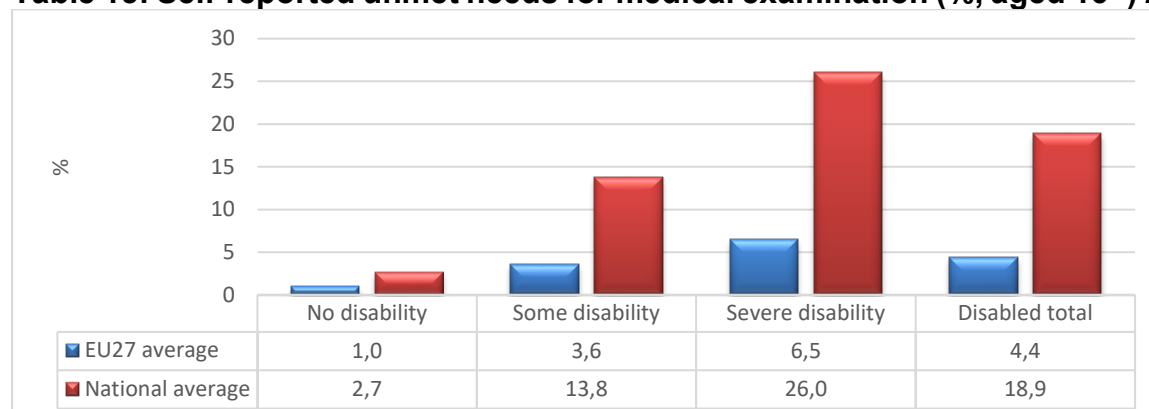
Source: EU-SILC 2020 Release April 2022 (and previous UDB)

⁷⁷ Aged 16-59 for Low work intensity.

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

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

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

Table 15: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (% , aged 16+) 2020

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

Note: EU mean averages are also skewed by high values in a minority of countries within disability groups but median averages for the total disability and no disability groups in 2020 are consistent with the three-year mean values.

7.2.1 Alternative sources of poverty or healthcare data in Greece

The EU-SILC data provide a comprehensive and reliable source concerning poverty or social exclusion rates. In addition to the summary tables presented so far, the Eurostat disability database also contains breakdowns concerning disability and poverty before and after social transfers, as well as in-work-poverty.⁷⁸

7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education

Table 24: Early school leaving rates, by disability status (aged 18-24 and 18-29)⁷⁹

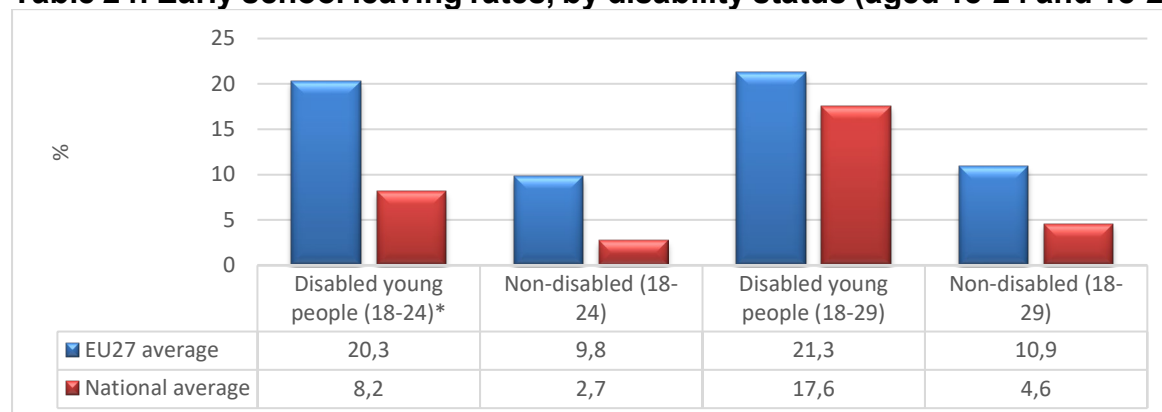
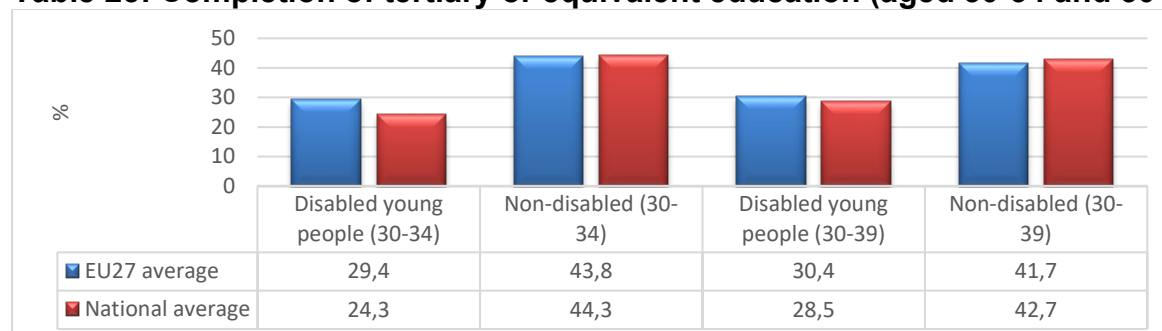


Table 25: Completion of tertiary or equivalent education (aged 30-34 and 30-39)



Source: EU-SILC 2020 Release April 2022 (and preceding UDBs)

Note: Confidence intervals for the disability group are large and reliability low (due to the small sample size in the target age group). An average of several years may be needed to establish trends or to compare breakdowns by gender. There were fewer than 50 observations in the youngest disability group in Greece, which should be treated with caution.

7.3.1 Alternative sources of education data in Greece

There are no alternative sources of education data identified by the authors of this report.

⁷⁸ Eurostat Health Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁷⁹ There was a change from ISCED 1997 to ISCED 2011 qualification definitions in 2014, although some Member States continued to use the older definition after this time.

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

In person

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

On the phone or by email

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

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

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

Online

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

EU publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications from: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications>.

Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

EU law and related documents

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

Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU.

Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

