European Commission

European comparative data on persons with disabilities

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

Data 2021

Stefanos Grammenos

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Centre for European Social and Economic Policy

LEGAL NOTICE

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Table 1: Synopsis of main statistical indicators for the EU[1 ls P]
The table presents persons with disabilities (Dis.) and total (Tot.)
Change in definitions for poverty in 2021 following EU 2030 strategy.

	2012	2013	2014	2015[2]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Disability prevalence (Age: 16+), %									
Dis.	26.1	26.9	27.1	25.3	24.1	24.4	24.7	24.1	25.0	25.2
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016[2]	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Europe 2020									EU 2030
	Adult participation in learning (currently) (Age: 25-64), %									
Dis.									2.2	2.5
Tot.									3.5	3.4
	Early school leavers (Age: 18-24), %									
Dis.	21.8	21.5	22.5	22.0	23.6	21.8	20.3	21.8	22.1	(16.4)
Tot.	11.2	10.7	12.2	12.5	12.0	10.7	10.6	10.6	11.2	9.7
	Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (Age:16-29), %									
Dis.									30.7	29.0
Tot.									16.1	14.5
	Persons with tertiary education (Age: 30-34), %									
Dis.	27.8	28.0	29.7	29.4	30.3	31.7	29.4	32.5	34.3	34.3
Tot.	38.1	39.3	41.2	41.6	42.2	40.8	42.3	42.5	44.4	44.5
	Disability pay gap (Age: 15-74), age adjusted; gap as a % of non-disabled person's pay									
								9.6		
	Employment rate (Age: 20-64) (Europe 2030 target: 78% of the population same age), %									
Dis.	47.9	48.5	48.7	47.4	48.1	50.2	50.8	51.3	49.7	50.9
Tot.	67.0	66.9	67.8	68.4	69.3	69.5	70.7	71.5	69.9	70.6
	Unemployment rate (Age: 20-64), % of persons in the labour force									
Dis.	18.1	19.0	19.6	20.2	19.6	18.4	18.6	17.3	17.7	17.9
Tot.	12.2	12.9	12.6	12.1	11.4	11.1	10.1	9.5	10.1	10.3
	Youth unemployment rate (Age: 16-24), % of persons in the labour force									
Dis.									29.6	33.8
Tot.									25.1	23.6
	Long term unemployment (Age: 20-64), % of persons in the labour force									
Dis.									(10.7)	8.5
Tot.									(5.9)	5.3
	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	60.4	62.0
Tot.	76.3	76.8	77.5	77.8	78.2	78.1	78.7	79.0	78.6	78.7
	Disability employment gap (Current) (Age: 20-64) in percentage points									
Dis.									24.4	23.9
	Very low work intensity (Age: 16-59); *new definition for 2021 and afterwards*, %									
Dis.	23.9	24.1	25.1	25.6	25.8	23.2	22.6	22.8	22.6	18.5
Tot.	10.8	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.0	10.1	9.5	8.9	9.2	8.6

	Persons 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	21.0	21.1
Tot.	16.1	15.9	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.5	16.5	16.2	16.3	16.4

	Persons severely materially deprived (Age: 16+); *new definition for 2021 and afterwards*, %								
Dis.	12.8	12.6	12.1	11.3	10.8	10.4	9.0	8.9	8.6	10.9
Tot	9.5	9.0	8.6	7.7	7.3	6.9	5.8	5.5	5.8	6.4

	Persons at risk of poverty or exclusion (Age: 16+); *new definition for 2021 and afterwards*, %								
Dis.	30.3	30.1	30.1	30.2	30.1	28.9	28.6	28.4	28.7	29.7
Tot	24.1	23.8	23.8	23.2	23.1	22.4	21.3	20.8	21.3	21.5

	General health and unmet medical needs (Age: 16+)								
	General health: Persons with Good or Very good health, %								
Dis	19.7	20.2	20.2	19.3	18.9	21.0	20.5	20.5	22.3	20.9
Tot	67.3	66.5	67.2	66.8	67.5	68.9	68.6	68.5	69.5	69.1
	Persons reporting unmet needs for medical examination, %								
Dis	8.2	8.4	8.2	7.5	6.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.6
Tot	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.2	2.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0

1: EU 28 until 2016, EU 27 for 2017 and later. 'Health and unmet medical needs' cover 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.
3. The statistical indicators presented here are based on the EU-SILC survey. In the report, we explain why these indicators might be different from those derived from the LFS survey.

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)[1] and the European Disability Strategy 2021-2030[2].

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 Disability and Inclusion Policy Unit within the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion of the European Commission. 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.[3]

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[1] See: https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd.

[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'; European Commission. COM(2021) 101 final.

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

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

Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

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'.

Also, it 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'.

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).[4] The Facility is the key recovery instrument at the heart of the NextGenerationEU plan[5], 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,[6] in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

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4   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.

5   See: https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index_en.

6   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.

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.[7] 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 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.[8] 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.

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,[9] 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.[10] 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.

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[7] 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.

[8] 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.

[9] 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.

[10] 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.

The Porto Declaration (May 2021)[11] 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).

A renewed list of headline indicators was endorsed by the Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs of the European Union in June 2021. The new social score board includes disability employment gap as a headline indicator.

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[12] 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).

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

[12] 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.

This report complements previous annual EDE reports on Europe 2020.[13] A Statistical Annex and a Methodological Annex present, respectively, the statistical data and the metadata concerning the indicators discussed in this report.

Presentation of the results

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan sets out the EU's ambition for a strong social Europe that focuses on jobs, skills and social inclusion, which is translated in three EU-level social targets to be achieved by 2030[14]:

• at least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment;
• at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year;
• the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million, including at least 5 million children, compared to 2019.

In this report, we present for each Europe 2030 indicator and a selection of revised social scoreboard indicators:

1. Its relevance to EU disability policy/strategy;
2. Methodological issues;
3. Main findings by Member State; and
4. Analysis of the evolution.

This report presents an analysis of the latest available European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) microdata. The data cover 2021; 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 2021.

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

Europe 2030 strategy replaced Europe 2020 strategy. Each strategy defined specific indicators for poverty and social exclusion, although the general denomination/tittle is the same. In order to guarantee a continuity and comparability of our statistical indicators through time, we present two types of poverty and social exclusion indicators for 2020. The first corresponds to Europe 2020 definitions and help us to assess achievements following Europe 2020 strategy. The second presents the same (or redefined) indicators according to definitions adopted by Europe 2030 strategy.

The version of 2021 microdata analysed here presents some limitations. First, data for Slovakia are missing. For this reason, we have included 2020 data for this Member State. Secondly, available data for Germany do not distinguish by degree of disability. This limits our analysis of EU levels by degree of disability. Also, data for Germany are indicative due to a high rate of non-response. However, unless noted, data reported here do not present discontinuities from previous years.

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[13] 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.

[14] See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10299#navItem-1.

The metadata and the sources used are presented in the Annex to 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[15] 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.[16]

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'.

Since 2021, the EU-SILC question (question PH030) was slightly modified[17]. The question on duration has been isolated and clearly stated. The new question is: question 1: 'Are you limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do? Would you say you are… severely limited, limited but not severely, or not limited at all?' If answer to Question 1 is 'severely limited' or 'limited but not severely', question 2 asks: 'Have you been limited for at least the past 6 months? Yes, No.'

The new question aims to focus on the duration of the activity limitation and not to the duration of the health problem.

Eurostat notes[18] 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. However, since 2021, a three-year rolling module presents information on disability among persons aged under 16. Also, 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.

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[15] European Commission – Eurostat (2020), *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).

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

[17] European Commission – Eurostat (2021), *Methodological Guidelines and description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2021 operation 2021 (Version 7),* DocSILC065 (2021 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

[18] Eurostat (2015), '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.

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).[19]

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[20] 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.

The EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) introduced the GALI question in its 2022 run and will repeat it every two years. At the time of elaborating this report only EU-SILC 2021 microdata are available.

In the following, we use activity limitations as a proxy for disability.

1.2.2 Prevalence of disability

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 25.2 % (25.0 % in 2020) of persons aged 16 and over declared a disability (activity limitation).

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

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

This represented about 93 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+, 2021

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Total
Number in Millions (1 000 000)			
Total	275.4	92.8	368.2
Women	137.8	52.3	190.1
Men	137.7	40.4	178.1
Percent (%)			
Total	74.8	25.2	100.0
Women	72.5	27.5	100.0
Men	77.3	22.7	100.0

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.
See tables in the Statistical Annex.
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05l 2023; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

In the following figure, we present disability prevalence by Member State, in 2021.

Figure 1: Percentage of persons with disabilities by Member State, 2020 and 2021
As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.
This definition of disability is relatively broad (see below, disability prevalence by degree).
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the data are indicative. Annual changes ought to be interpreted with caution. Furthermore, in 2021, the question on disabilities (limitations) was slightly modified.
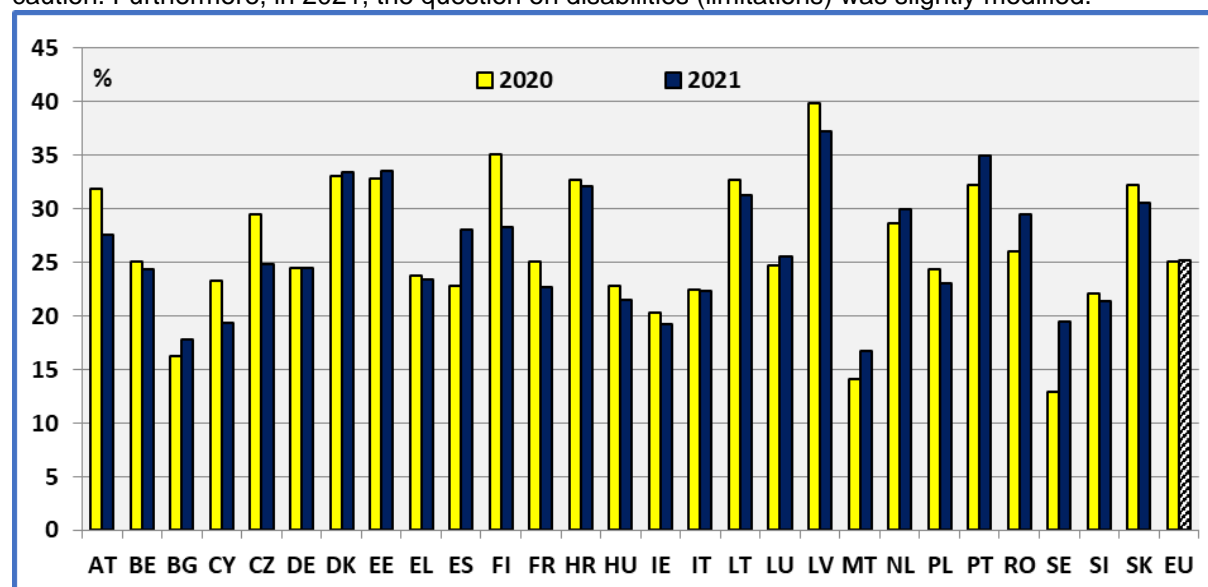
Note: Changes ought to be treated with care. In this context, 'EU' refers to 27 Member States. Disability is proxied by limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems. The supporting data are presented in the Annex (Statistical Tables).
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05/2023.

1.2.3 Prevalence of disability among children

As noted above, the EU-SILC survey covers persons aged 16 and over living in private households. However, since 2021, an EU-SILC 2021 rolling module presents information on disability prevalence among children (persons aged less than 16).

The suggested question (RCH020) by Eurostat (2021, op. cit.) is: Is [child's name] limited because of a health problem in activities most children of the same age usually do? Would you say he/she is 1. severely limited, 2. limited but not severely, 3. not limited at all? If the answer is '1' or '2', the interviewer asks: Has [he/she] been limited for at least the past 6 months? 1. Yes, 2. No.

Disability prevalence among persons aged under 16 in the EU 26 (Slovakia is missing) was 4.5 %. This can be broken down as follows: 1.0 % with a severe disability (severe limitations) and 3.4 % with a moderate disability (limited but not severely).

Figure 2: Percentage of persons with disabilities by degree and age group, EU 2021
As a % of the same age group
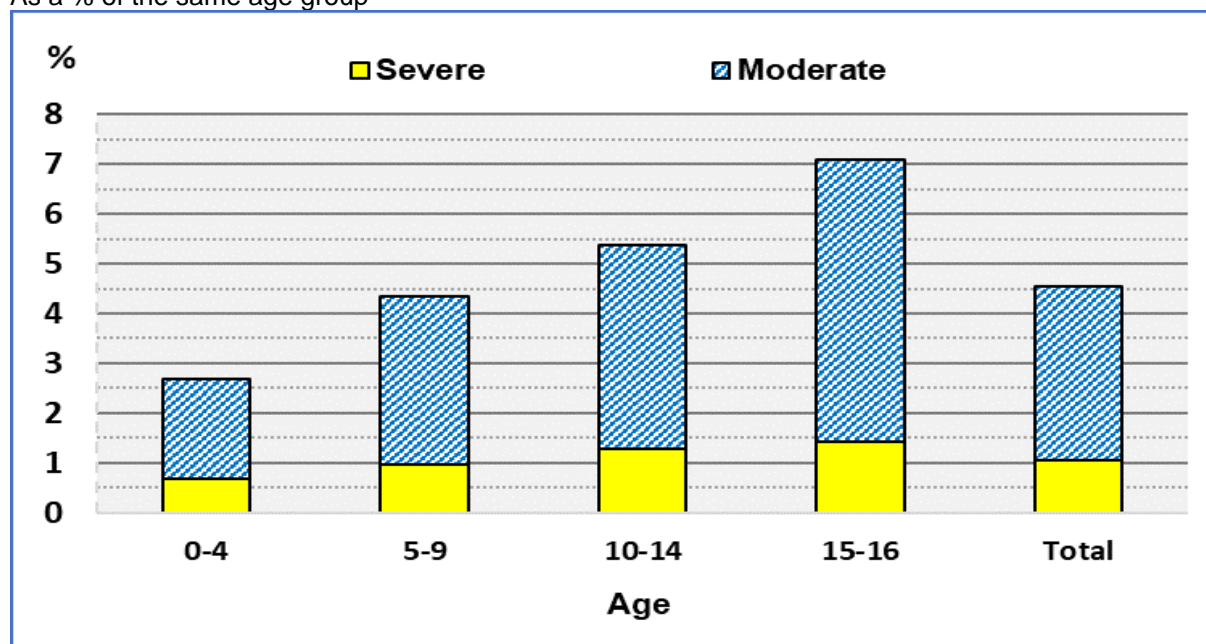
Note: EU covers 25 Member States. Data for Malta and Slovakia are missing.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

We may note an important increase between 0/4 and 5/9 age groups which might be the result of learning difficulties and other difficulties related to school. This is notably true for moderate disabilities.

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 was broken down as follows: 0.8 % with a severe disability and 3.2 % with a moderate disability.[21]

1.2.4 Persons with disabilities in institutions

A recent EDE report[22] 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.

Administrative data published in a certain number of Member States present information on the characteristics of people living in institutions (age, gender, impairments/functional limitations, etc. However, these data aim to answer the specific needs of each public service funding or subsidising these institutions (social protection, health policy, independent living, etc.). Consequently, even inside a given country available data are not harmonised.

However, a certain number of countries (for ex. France[23], Spain[24], Belgium[25]) have organised surveys to collect information on the characteristics of persons in institutions. These surveys might be exhaustive (including all registered institutions) or rely on a representative sample. They present information on age, gender, impairment/functional limitation, etc.

Following the decennial censuses, few countries, in our knowledge, have published detailed data on the characteristics of persons in institutions (e.g., UK[26]).

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[21] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Health_statistics_-_children&oldid=508000.

[22] Grammenos, S. (2021), 'COVID-19 and persons with disabilities: Statistics on Health, Care, Isolation and Networking', European Disability Expertise, forthcoming.

[23] DREES, Enquête EHPA 2015 (EHPA stands for : '*Établissements d'hébergement pour personnes âgées, hors centres d'accueil de jour, France métropolitaine + DROM (hors Mayotte)*'. See for degree of autonomy and other criteria: https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/sources-outils-et-enquetes/07-lenquete-aupres-des-etablissements-dhebergement-pour-personnes-agees.
The last survey covering disabled children and adults in institutions took place in 2022 ('*Enquête auprès des établissements et services pour enfants et adultes handicapés*, 2022'). See: https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/sources-outils-et-enquetes/lenquete-aupres-des-etablissements-et-services-pour-enfants-et-adultes.

[24] '*Survey on Disability, Independence, and Dependence situations 2008. Survey aimed at Centers'*. This survey presents data by type of centre (Residential centres for the elderly, Centres for persons with disabilities, and Psychiatric and geriatric hospitals). See : https://www.ine.es/.

[25] In Belgium, we may note an AViQ survey '*Rapport bisannuel des établissements d'hébergement et d'accueil pour aines, au 31 décembre 2017'*. Wallonie, familles, santé, handicap, AVIQ, 2018. It presents information on the dependency rate of residents (close to ADL classification). The survey was updated in 2021/2022. Also, a private initiative: 'Maisons de repos: tendances et indicateurs (2018); ING'. It presents some information on the dependency rate of residents. See: https://www.ing.be/Assets/nuid/documents/714429_studie_design_ouderenzorg_FR_pages.pdf.

[26] For example, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published detailed data (for ex.: long-term health problem or disability by general health by age - Communal establishment residents, in 2011). See: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/.

1.2.5 Prevalence of disability by gender

At the EU level in 2020, about 27.5 % of women aged 16 and over declared a disability (activity limitation) in comparison with 22.7 % 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 3: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and degree of disability, 2021
As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.
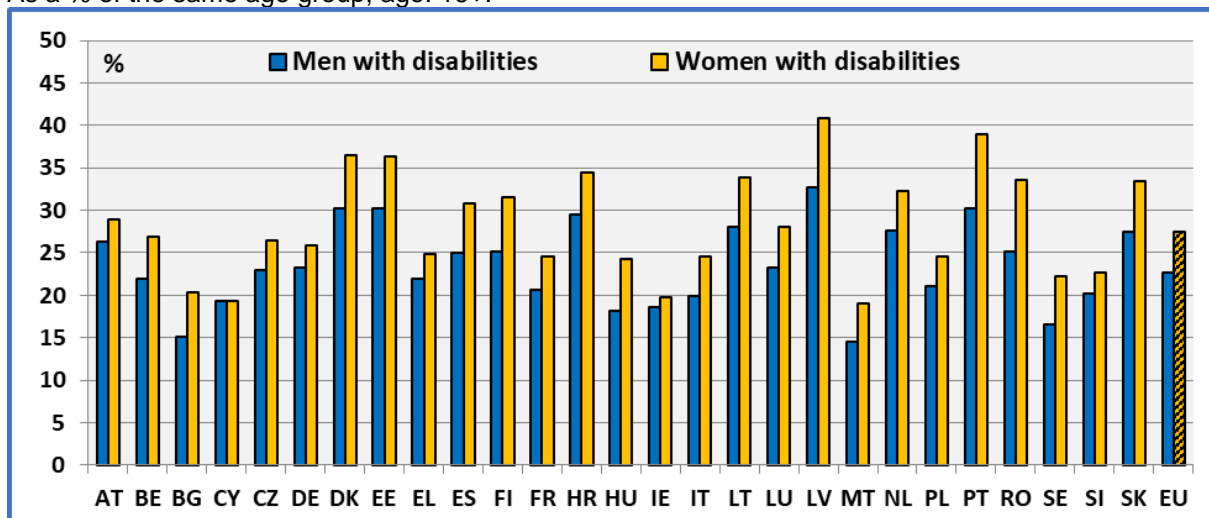
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05/2023.

1.2.6 Degree of disability

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 7.2 % of persons aged 16 and over declared a severe disability (strongly limited). About 18.0 % declared a moderate disability. This amounted to 66.3 million persons with a moderate disability aged 16 and over living in private households, and 26.5 million persons with a severe disability.

Figure 4: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and degree of disability, 2021

As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.
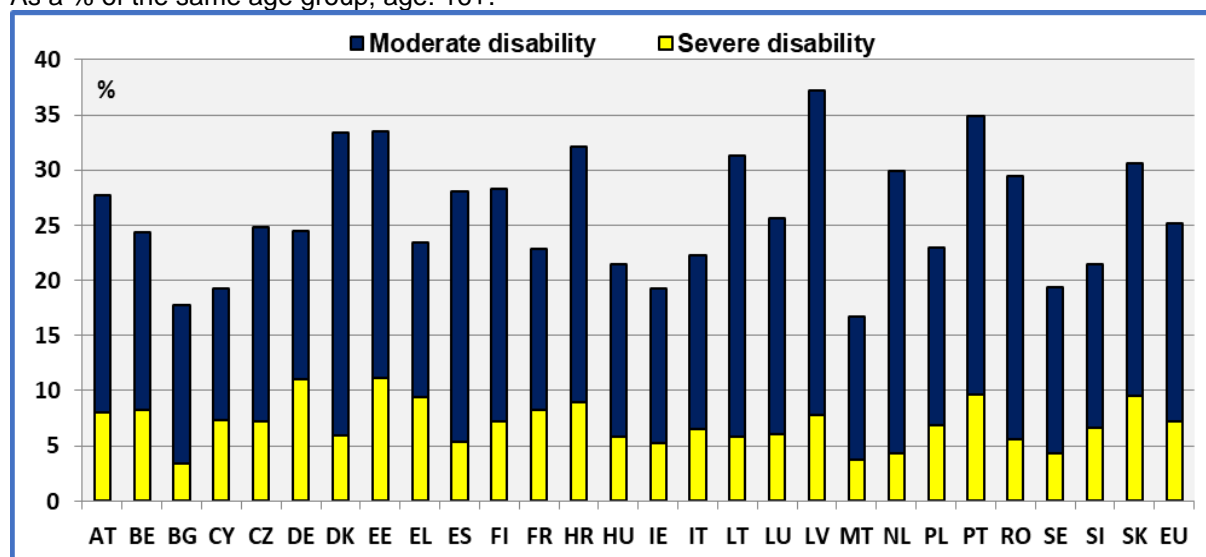
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05/2023.

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.

1.2.7 Population of persons with disabilities by age group

In the EU 27 in 2021, persons with disabilities represented 17.4 % of persons aged 16-64 and 48.6 % of persons aged 65 and over. In total, there were around 48 million persons with disabilities aged 16-64 and about 45 million persons with disabilities aged 65 and over.

Figure 5: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and age group, 2021
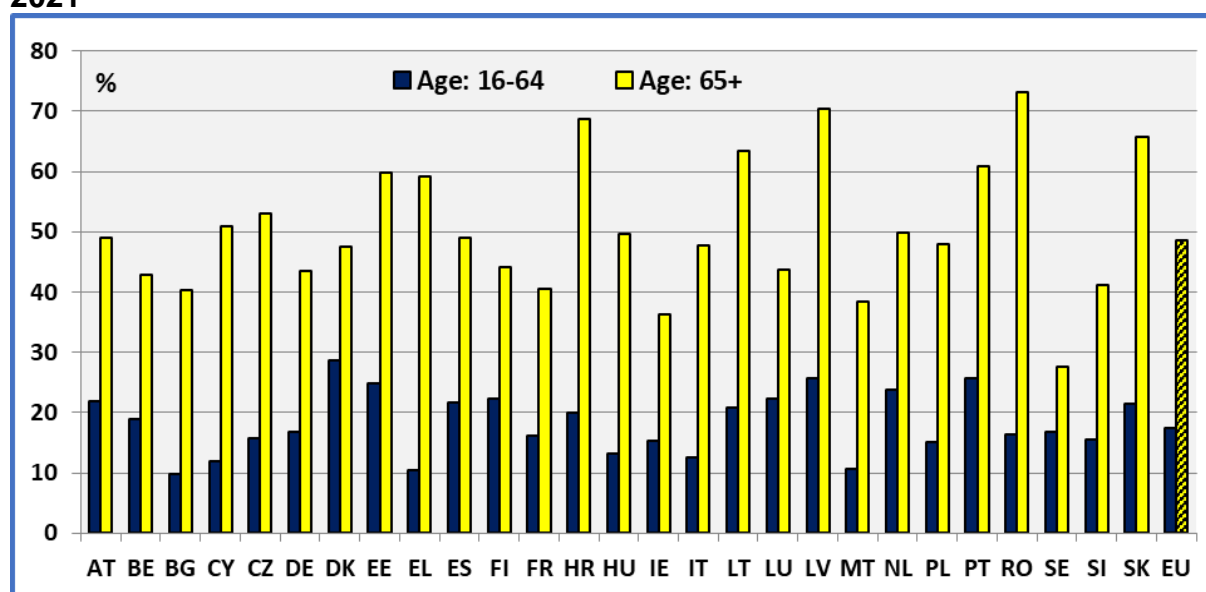
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05/2023.

1.2.8 Population of persons with disabilities by age group and degree

The EU-SILC 2021 survey covered 368 million people aged 16 and over living in private households in the EU 27.

In the 16-64 age group, there were about 36 million persons with moderate disabilities and 12 million with severe disabilities.

In the 65+ age group, there were about 30 million people with moderate disabilities and 15 million with severe disabilities.

Table 3: Persons with disabilities by degree of disability and age group in the EU, 2021

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with moderate disabilities	Persons with severe disabilities	Total
	Number in Millions (1 000 000)			
Total 16+	275.0	66.4	26.7	368.2
Age: 16-64	227.0	36.0	11.8	274.9
Age: 65+	48.0	30.4	14.8	93.4
	Percent (%)			
Total 16+	74.7	18.0	7.2	100
Age: 16-64	82.6	13.1	4.3	100
Age: 65+	51.4	32.6	15.9	100

Note: Persons living in private households.
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. In fact, the EU-SILC UDB microdata 2021 do not distinguish disability by degree in Germany. 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 06/05/2023; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 6: Population of persons with disabilities by degree of disability and age group, EU, 2021

Persons living in private households.   Data rounded to millions

Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05l 2023; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Among people with disabilities, elderly people with disabilities 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 2021. Among persons aged 16-24, there were 2 % (1.5 %) with severe disabilities and 6 % (6.1 %) with moderate disabilities. At the other extreme, in the 75+ age group, the respective rates were 23 % (22.8 %) and 37 % (36.8 %).

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 19.7 % of all persons with disabilities aged 16-24, while in the last age group, those aged 75 and over, they represented 38.3 % of all persons with disabilities.

Figure 7: Disability prevalence by degree of disability and age group, EU, 2021
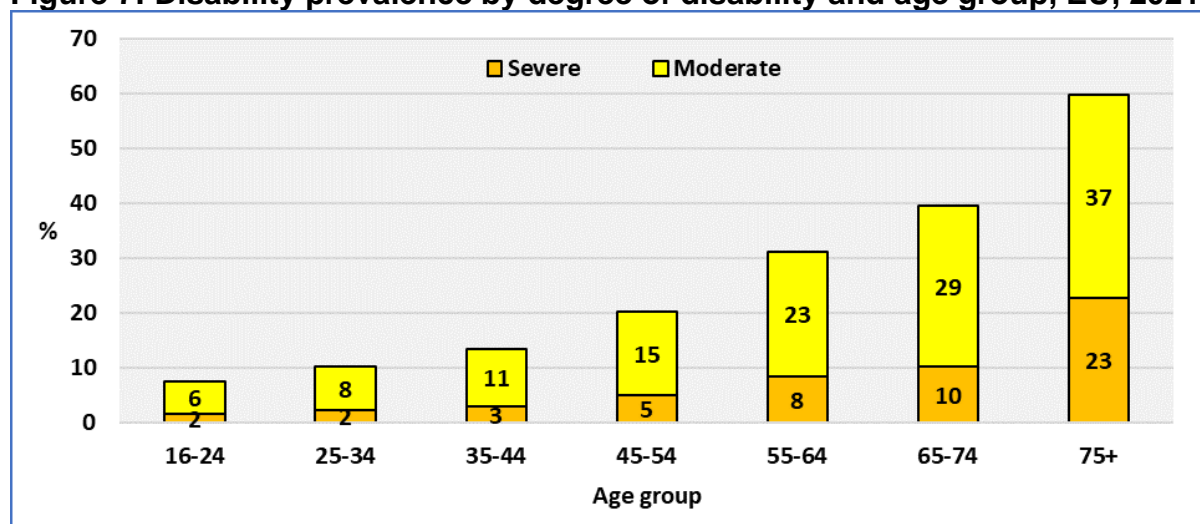
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 11/04/2023.

1.2.9 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.

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 EDE 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, notably moderate disabilities. This can be observed in the upward movement, since 2020.

Figure 8: Evolution of disability prevalence, percentage of people with disabilities by degree, EU 27
As a % of the same age group; age: 16+.
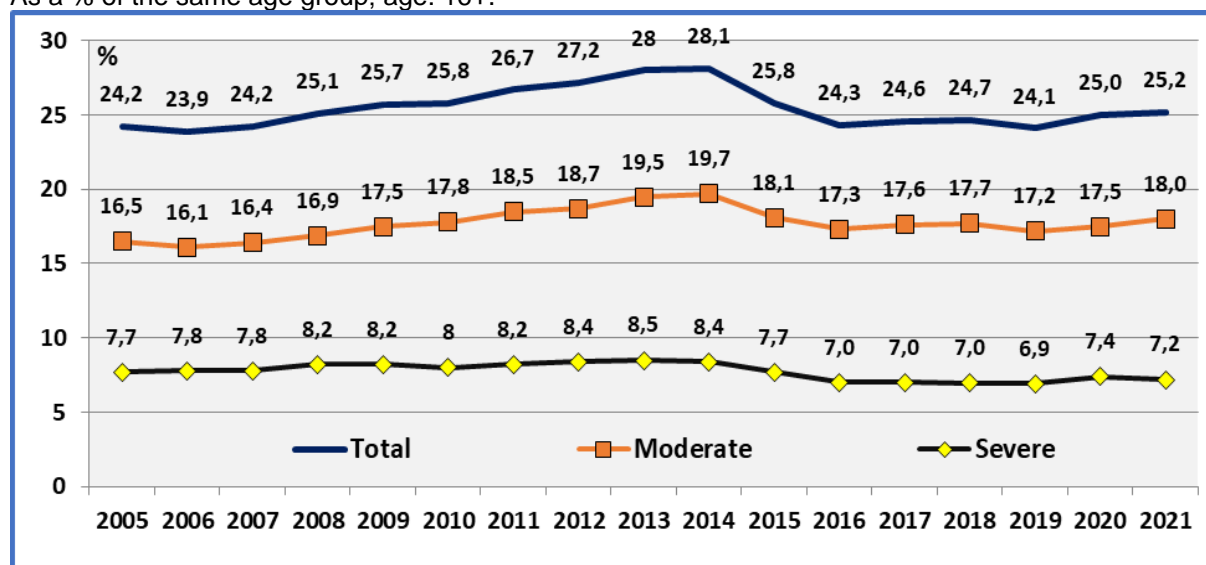
Note: The decrease in 2015 and 2016 is mainly the result of changes concerning the definition of 'disability' in a number of Member States, notably Germany and Italy. Data for 2005-2009 cover the EU 28.
Data source: EU-DSILC UDB and Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database (data extracted on 11/04/2023).

1.2.10 Beneficiaries of disability benefits

An interesting question is the relation between administrative data and the EU-SILC survey concept of persons with disabilities. The EU-SILC survey provides information on persons who receive disability benefits. According to the EU-SILC methodology, 'disability benefits refer to benefits that provide an income to persons below standard retirement age whose ability to work and earn is impaired beyond a minimum level laid down by legislation by a physical or mental disability'. These disability benefits include: 1. Disability pension, 2. Early retirement in case of reduced ability to work, 3. Care allowance, 4. Economic integration of the handicapped, 5. Disability benefits to disabled children in their own right, and 6. Other cash benefits.

We present here the percentage of persons receiving a disability benefit. As in several Member States, disability pensions are replaced by an ordinary retirement pension, we present data for the age group 16 to 64.

In the EU 27, the recipiency rate for persons aged 16 to 64 is 5.0 % (4.5 % in 2018) and these rates are close to estimations based on national administrative data.

In the following figure, we may observe small relative changes, between 2018-2021, except, notably, in Belgium, France, Ireland and Slovakia.

In order to identify medium term changes, we compare the evolution between the mean rate of beneficiaries in 2010/2015 and in 2020/2021. We may note an important reduction of the rate of beneficiaries in Croatia, Ireland, and Sweden. On the contrary, we observe an increase in Slovakia, France, and Belgium, in ascending order. Despite a reduction in the majority of Member States, at the EU 27 level there was an increase of recipiency rate of 7 %. The data are not age adjusted.

Figure 9: Percent of persons who receive a disability benefit. Age: 16-64.
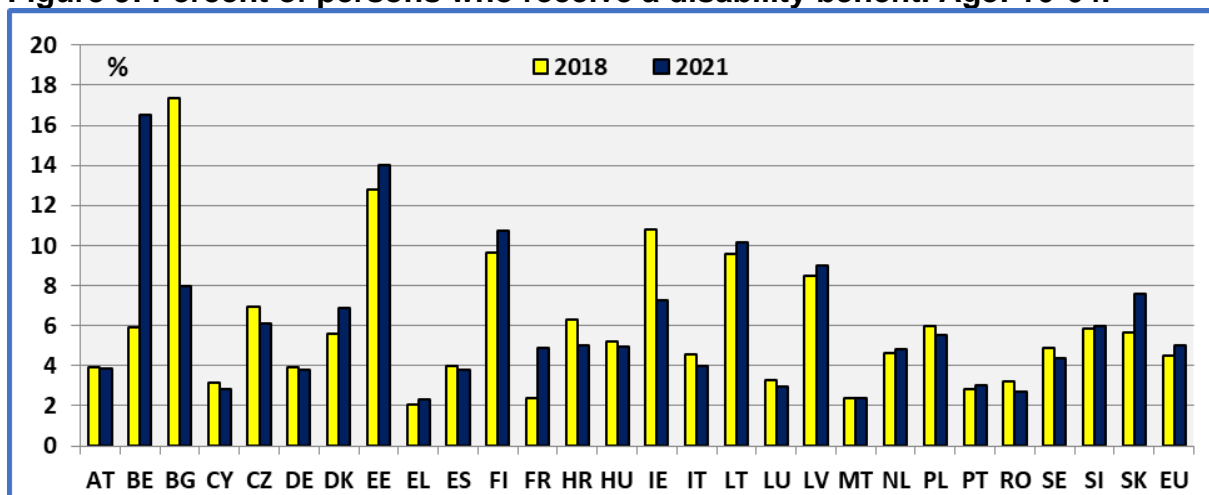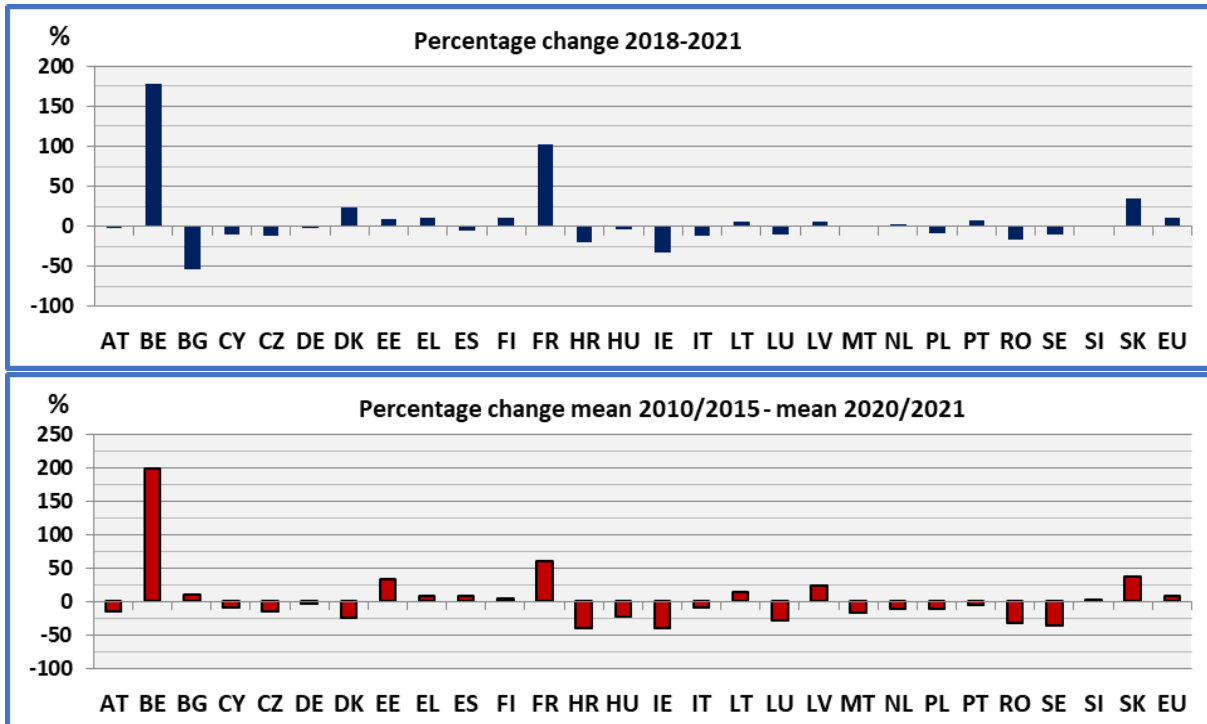
Note: Data in Slovakia for 2021 refer to 2020. The data for Bulgaria in 2021 are not reliable. The data are not age adjusted. The mean 2010/2015 includes only these two years and not the whole period.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB

1.2.11 Disability prevalence and health care and disability policies

In previous analyses, the evolution of the disability prevalence did not take into account the ageing of the population. Consequently, any structural reduction of disability prevalence might be offset by an age structure impact.

The analysis by age group indicated that disability prevalence was clearly an increasing function of age. Consequently, in the following, we will consider that the probability of a person to declare disabilities (P_i) is given by a logistic function:

$$P_i = \frac{1}{1+e^{-(c+bA_i)}}$$

where 'A$_i$' is age of person i, 'c' is a constant and 'b' the coefficient of the explanatory variable age.

This can be rewritten as follows:

$\ln(\frac{P_i}{1-P_i})$ = c + bA$_i$

Where   'ln' is the natural logarithm,

P$_i$/(1-P$_i$) is the odds ratio (the ratio of the probability that person i will declare a disability to the probability that he will not declare a disability),

$\ln(\frac{P_i}{1-P_i})$ is called logit.

In the following figure, we present the raw disability prevalence and the fitted logistic regression fit for 2010 and 2018.

The comparison of the two figures indicates that disability prevalence has decreased between 2010 and 2018, notably for ages 35 and over. In the age group 75 and over, the decrease of disability prevalence is more than 6 percentage points (pp). However, for young persons, we observe a marginal increase of disability prevalence. A young person in 2018 has more probabilities to declare disabilities compared to a young person in 2010.

Figure 10: Disability prevalence by age, EU 27

2010	2018
Red line: EU-SILC raw data Blue line: logistic fit; where: C = -4,0432 (0.0242) and b = 0,0570 (0.0004) Standard errors in parenthesis	Red line: EU-SILC raw data Blue line: logistic fit; where: C = -3,8696 (0.0246) and b = 0,0514 (0.0004)
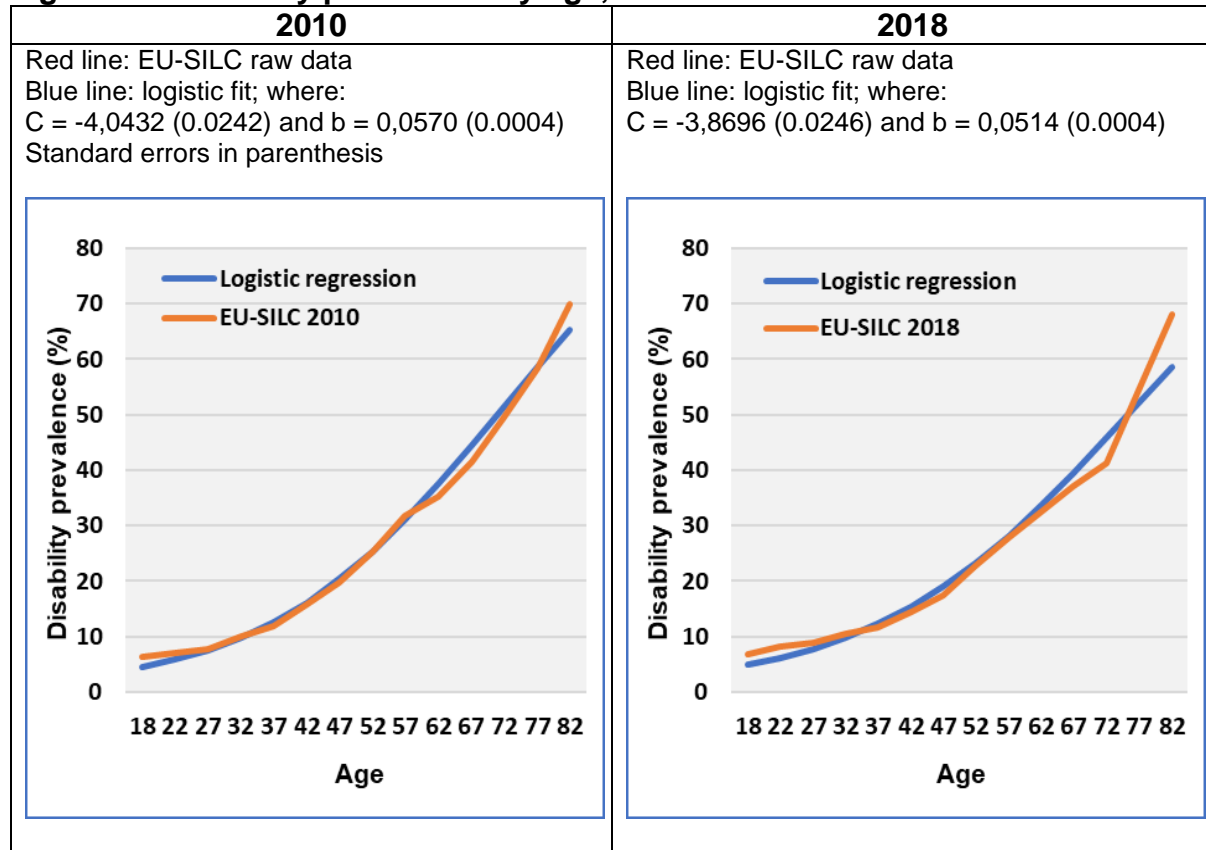
Note: For the logistic regression $\ln(\frac{P_i}{1-P_i})$ = c + bA$_i$ + u$_i$, where 'u$_i$' is the stochastic error term), we have used STATA SE 14. See: *https://www.stata.com/*).
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 release 1, 2020.

The comparison of 2010 and 2018 implies a gain in life years without disabilities after the age of 35 and over. Conversely, it means a reduction of years lost to disability, after this age. However, this estimation might be biased by a change in the wording of the disability question, between the two years, in the Member States.

Figure 11: Disability prevalence in 2010 and 2018, EU 27
Logistic regression fit
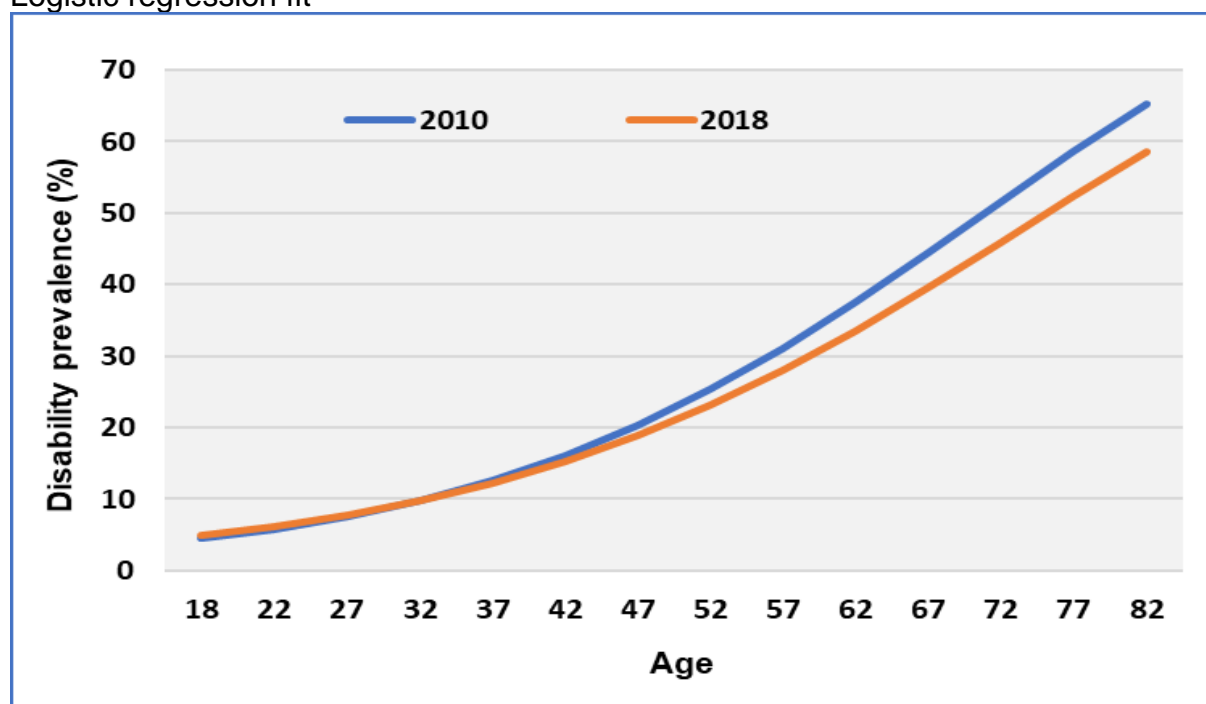
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 release 1, 2020.

A question is how health care and disability policies have affected disability prevalence. One easy way to do this is to compare disability prevalence, on the one hand, and expenditure on health care and disability, on the other. The problem is that we have a two-way causality.

Higher disability prevalence might imply higher expenditure and on the other hand, higher expenditure might lead to a higher disability prevalence.

For example, an OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) study argues that 'more generous disability and sickness benefits and easier access to benefits tend to be associated with higher disability beneficiary rates'[27].

On the other hand, higher health and disability expenditure might imply better health care, better rehabilitation, and better living conditions. All these factors might reduce chronic illness and disability in the medium and long term. In fact, past EDE reports have shown that persons with disabilities report more often problems to afford health care costs compared to persons without disabilities. This might have an adverse impact on the evolution of chronic illnesses and disability conditions. Consequently, better health care and disability services might decrease disability in the medium and long term, notably among elderly people[28].

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[27] See: OECD (2009), *OECD Employment Outlook 2009: Tackling the Jobs Crisis*. ISBN 978-92-64-06791-2, OECD 2009.

[28] Danovi, A. et Ali. (2021) study Years Lost to Disability (YLD). They find that per-capita current health expenditure is associated with gains in YLD but only for elderly (YLD at 50+ years of age). Danovi, A.; Olgiati, S.; D'Amico, A. (2021), *Living Longer with Disability: Economic Implications for Healthcare Sustainability*. Sustainability 2021, 13, 4467. https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084467.

In the following, we will not work on the direct relation between disability prevalence and health care and disability expenditure. We assume that health care and disability expenditure affect the progression of disability prevalence by age (b) and the constant term (c), in the above noted logistic function. Consequently, the constant and the slope of the logit are not fixed but depend on national policies.

The hypothesis is that better health care and disability services ought to reduce the progression of disability prevalence by age. As noted above, higher health and disability expenditure might imply better health care, better rehabilitation, and better living conditions. All these factors might reduce chronic illness and disability in the medium and long term. Consequently, better health care and disability services ought to decrease the probability for a person to declare a disability, at least in the medium term. This implies a negative relation between expenditure and 'b' (slope of logit).

But more generous health care and disability expenditure might imply higher disability prevalence, at each age. In fact, more generous health care and disability allowances increase the probability for a person to declare a disability, at each age. This implies a positive relation between expenditure and 'c' (constant of the logit).

First, we run logistic regressions by country, in order to estimate c and b by country (see statistical tables). Consequently, we obtain the national estimates for c_i and b_i.

Then, we identify expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant in Euros by country (see statistical tables). We prefer this total to disability expenditure because in the Member States the frontier between sickness/healthcare and disability is not the same. Also, in several Member States, disability pensions are replaced by ordinary pensions at retirement age. For the coherence of comparison across countries, we retain the total expenditure on sickness/health care and disability. Furthermore, for comparability reasons, we standardise the variable by considering expenditure by inhabitant.

In the following figure, we may observe a negative relation between the progression of disability (slope of the logit: b) and expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant in €. Increasing expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant decreases b and hence the probability to declare disabilities (decreases the log odds).

Concerning the constant term (c), the relation between the level of c and expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant is positively correlated. Increasing expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant increases c and hence the probability to declare disabilities (increases the log odds).

For information, the EU 27, average annual sickness / healthcare and disability expenditure by inhabitant, in 2018, was EUR 2 990[29].

The question is what will be the impact of an increase in sickness / healthcare and disability expenditure by inhabitant on disability prevalence.

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[29] Eurostat: ESSPROS (Data extracted on 17/03/2023 from [ESTAT]). The EU average comprises 79% for health / health care and 21% for disability expenditure.

Figure 12: Relation between 'b' (slope of logit per country) and national expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant in € (E), 2018
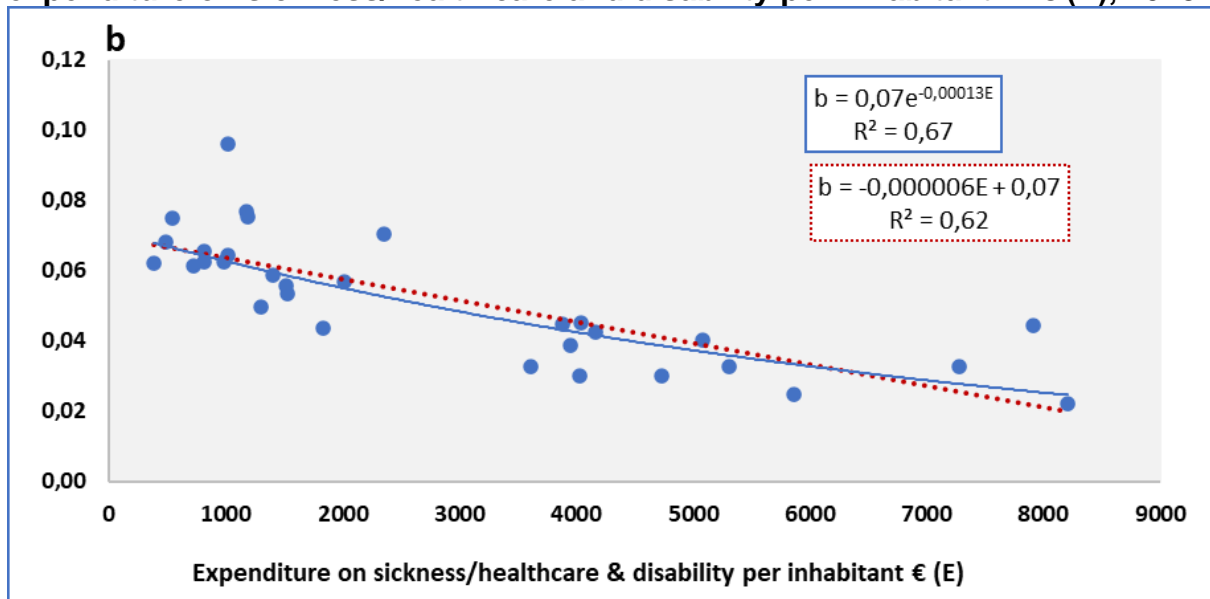
Note: The figure presents 31 countries (EU 27, CH, NO, RS and UK). If we keep only EU 27 Member States, the estimated coefficients are the same but R² is slightly lower but statistically significant. The linear OLS is: b_j = 0.0697(0.0032) – 0.0000061(0.0000009) E_j; F = 48.1; E_j is expenditure for country j. 'b' in the figure varies from 0.00 to 0.12. Standard errors in parenthesis.
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 release 1, 2020 and ESSPROS (Data extracted on 17/03/2023 from [ESTAT]).

Figure 13: Relation between 'c' (constant per country) and national expenditure on sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant in € (E), 2018
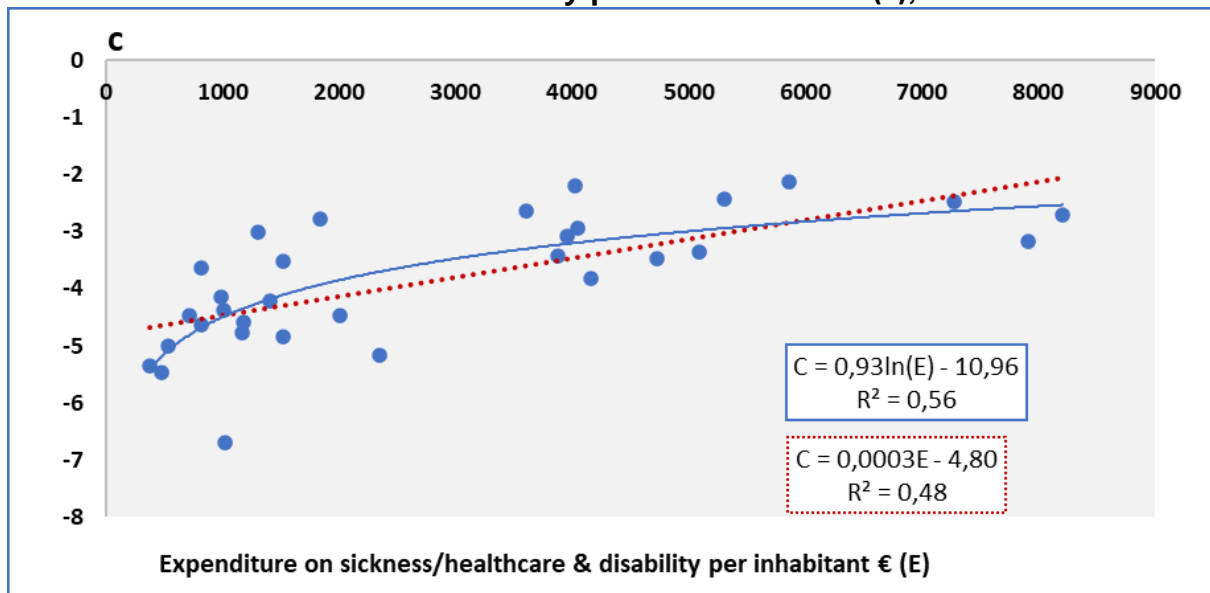
Note: The figure presents 31 countries (EU 27, CH, NO, RS and UK). If we keep only EU 27 Member States, the estimated coefficients are the same but R² is slightly lower but statistically significant. The linear OLS is: C_j = 4.7999 (0.2349) + 0.0003 (0.0001) E_j; F = 27.3; E_j is expenditure for country j. Standard errors in parenthesis.
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 release 1, 2020 and ESSPROS (Data extracted on 17/03/2023 from [ESTAT]).

In the following, we assume an increase of sickness / healthcare and disability expenditure by inhabitant. We suppose an increase of 1 000 euros. This is a relatively high increase but we adopt this amount in order to identify visually the change in the

next figure. Furthermore, for the easiness of estimation, we retain the OLS linear regressions estimates, presented in the above figures for c and b.

In other words, we assume an increase of sickness / healthcare and disability expenditure by inhabitant by 1 000 euros, at the EU level. Then, we use the estimated OLS linear coefficients, presented in the above figures, in order to calculate the new b and c coefficients. Finally, we insert these new values into the logistic function giving the probability of a person to declare disabilities (Pi) (see logistic function at the beginning of this section). This is an approximation of what is taking place around the mean, at the EU level. A more detailed analysis might measure the impact of a change at national level and then arrive at the EU aggregate, but this is out of the scope of the present study.

We find gains in disability free life years after the age of 50-54. However, the probability to declare disabilities increases for younger ages. Globally, we might expect a total net gain, since the impact on elderly might be more important, in absolute terms, compared to the impact on younger people.

In fact, disability prevalence was 24.5 % among persons aged 16 and over, living in private households, in 2018 (EU-SILC 2018 release 1 2020). The new disability prevalence is estimated at 23.9 %. We have a reduction of 2.3 million persons with disabilities. This represents a significative gain in health care and disability expenditure.

Figure 14: The impact of increased expenditure for sickness/health care and disability per inhabitant on disability prevalence
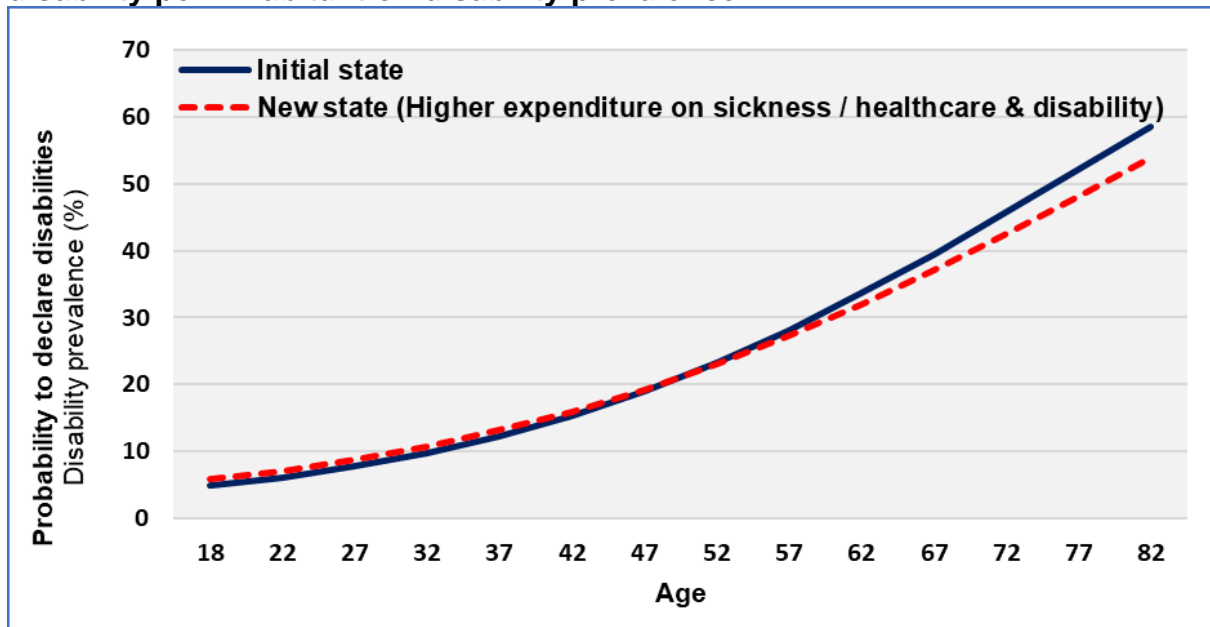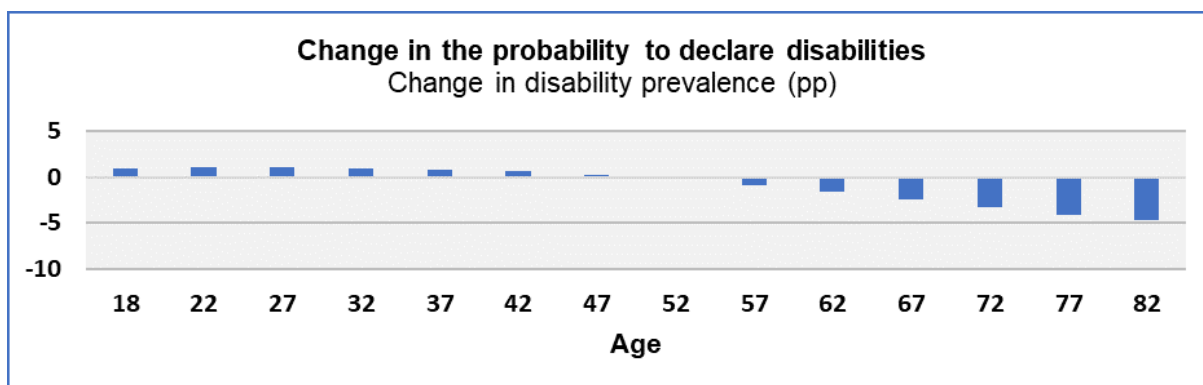
Note: The estimates for the logistic functions are:
Initial state: b = 0.0514 and c = -3.8696
New state: b = 0.0454 and c = -3.5696
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 release 1, 2020 and own calculations.

1.3 Statistical tables

Table 4: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State, 2021
The data include only persons living in private households.

	2021						
	Total		**Gender**		**Degree**		**Age group**
	% of the same age group						
	Total	**Men**	**Women**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	**Total**	**Total**
					16+	**16-64**	**65+**
AT	27.6	26.3	28.9	8.0	19.7	21.9	49.1
BE	24.4	21.9	26.9	8.3	16.1	19.0	42.8
BG	17.8	15.1	20.3	3.4	14.4	9.9	40.3
CY	19.3	19.3	19.3	7.3	11.9	11.9	51.0
CZ	24.8	22.9	26.5	7.2	17.6	15.7	53.0
DE	24.5	23.2	25.9	:	:	16.9	43.5
DK	33.4	30.3	36.5	6.0	27.4	28.6	47.6
EE	33.5	30.3	36.3	11.2	22.3	24.9	59.7
EL	23.4	21.9	24.8	9.4	14.0	10.4	59.1
ES	28.0	25.0	30.8	5.4	22.6	21.7	49.1
FI	28.3	25.1	31.5	7.2	21.1	22.3	44.1
FR	22.7	20.7	24.6	8.3	14.5	16.2	40.6
HR	32.1	29.5	34.5	9.0	23.1	19.9	68.6
HU	21.5	18.2	24.3	5.8	15.7	13.1	49.6
IE	19.2	18.6	19.8	5.3	13.9	15.3	36.2
IT	22.3	19.9	24.5	6.5	15.8	12.6	47.8
LT	31.3	28.1	33.9	5.8	25.5	20.8	63.5
LU	25.5	23.2	28.1	6.1	19.5	22.4	43.7
LV	37.2	32.7	40.8	7.8	29.4	25.7	70.3
MT	16.7	14.5	19.0	3.8	12.9	10.7	38.5
NL	29.9	27.6	32.2	4.3	25.6	23.8	49.9
PL	23.0	21.1	24.6	6.9	16.1	15.1	48.0
PT	34.9	30.2	39.0	9.6	25.3	25.6	60.8
RO	29.5	25.1	33.6	5.6	23.8	16.3	73.2

SE	19.4	16.6	22.2	4.3	15.1	16.7	27.7
SI	21.4	20.2	22.7	6.6	14.8	15.6	41.2
SK	30.5	27.4	33.5	9.5	21.1	22.0	65.8
EU	**25.2**	**22.7**	**27.5**	**7.2**	**18.0**	**17.4**	**48.6**

Note: All EU-SILC estimates cover only persons living in private households.
: stands for missing data.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth. Data extracted on 06/05/2023 from [ESTAT].

Table 5: Percentage of children with disabilities by age group, EU 2021

Age	Severe	Moderate	Total
0-4	0.7	2.0	**2.7**
5-9	1.0	3.4	**4.3**
10-14	1.3	4.1	**5.4**
15-16	1.4	5.7	**7.1**
Total	**1.0**	**3.5**	**4.5**

Note: EU covers 25 Member States. Data for Malta and Slovakia are missing.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 6: Percent of persons who receive a disability benefit. Age: 16-64.

	2010	2015	2018	2020	2021
AT	4.7	4.7	3.9	4.2	3.9
BE	5.0	5.9	5.9	15.9	16.5
BG	7.7	7.0	17.3	8.3	8.0
CY	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8
CZ	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.1
DE	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8
DK	9.8	8.0	5.6	6.7	6.9
EE	8.5	12.1	12.8	13.5	14.0
EL	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3
ES	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.2	3.8
FI	10.4	10.1	9.7	10.7	10.7
FR	3.9	2.4	2.4	5.1	4.9
HR	10.3	7.1	6.3	5.5	5.0
HU	7.5	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.0
IE	12.1	11.4	10.8	7.0	7.3
IT	4.2	4.4	4.5	3.8	4.0
LT	7.7	10.9	9.6	10.9	10.1
LU	3.7	4.4	3.3	2.7	2.9
LV	7.1	7.3	8.5	8.8	9.0
MT	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.4
NL	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.8
PL	6.8	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.5
PT	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.0
RO	4.9	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.7

SE	7.2	6.2	4.9	4.1	4.4
SI	6.8	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.0
SK	5.8	5.3	5.7	7.6	7.6
EU 27	**4.9**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**5.1**	**5.0**

Note : Data in Slovakia for 2021 refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB

Table 7: 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	24.5	23.4	25.6	11.0	13.5	17.5	42.4
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	25.1	23.2	26.9	9.6	15.6	18.1	45.1
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	15.9	39.7
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
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	**25.0**	**22.6**	**27.2**	**7.4**	**17.5**	**17.2**	**48.5**

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. Data extracted on 21/03/2023 from [ESTAT].

Table 8: 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 UDB 2019 Release 1 2021.

Table 9: Population of people with disabilities by Member State, 2021
The data include only persons living in private households.

	1 000 (Thousands)								
	Disability			Men			Women		
	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total
	16+								
AT	5 354	2 044	7 398	2 668	952	3 621	2 686	1 092	3 777
BE	6 948	2 249	9 196	3 519	987	4 506	3 429	1 262	4 690
BG	4 810	1 042	5 852	2 379	423	2 802	2 431	619	3 050
CY	596	143	739	288	69	357	308	74	382
CZ	6 521	2 145	8 666	3 244	964	4 207	3 277	1 182	4 459
DE	52 091	16 979	69 070	25 894	7 822	33 716	26 197	9 157	35 353
DK	3 187	1 603	4 789	1 635	711	2 346	1 552	892	2 444
EE	721	363	1 085	352	153	505	369	210	579
EL	6 831	2 087	8 918	3 366	944	4 310	3 465	1 143	4 608
ES	28 551	11 092	39 643	14 454	4 818	19 272	14 097	6 274	20 371
FI	3 253	1 289	4 542	1 663	557	2 221	1 590	731	2 321
FR	40 648	11 961	52 609	19 950	5 208	25 158	20 698	6 753	27 451
HR	2 248	1 062	3 310	1 126	471	1 597	1 122	591	1 713
HU	6 276	1 711	7 987	3 078	685	3 762	3 198	1 027	4 225
IE	3 189	758	3 948	1 577	360	1 937	1 613	398	2 011
IT	39 365	11 282	50 647	19 611	4 872	24 484	19 753	6 410	26 163
LT	1 628	740	2 368	775	303	1 078	853	437	1 290
LU	364	125	489	192	58	251	172	67	239
LV	975	576	1 551	470	228	698	505	348	853
MT	360	72	432	192	33	225	168	39	208
NL	10 036	4 286	14 321	5 127	1 955	7 082	4 908	2 331	7 239
PL	24 107	7 171	31 279	11 793	3 154	14 947	12 314	4 018	16 332
PT	5 734	3 075	8 809	2 861	1 238	4 098	2 874	1 837	4 711
RO	11 220	4 690	15 910	5 775	1 935	7 711	5 444	2 755	8 199
SE	6 790	1 634	8 424	3 517	700	4 217	3 273	934	4 207
SI	1 357	370	1 727	691	175	866	665	195	861
SK	3 116	1 371	4 486	1 575	594	2 169	1 541	776	2 317
EU	**275 526**	**92 716**	**368 241**	**137 703**	**40 438**	**178 141**	**137 823**	**52 278**	**190 100**

Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 06/05l 2023; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 10: 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	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total	No	Yes	Total
	16+								
AT	5 033	2 354	7 387	2 485	1 121	3 606	2 548	1 233	3 781
BE	6 890	2 297	9 187	3 470	1 041	4 512	3 420	1 256	4 676
BG	4 932	953	5 885	2 432	389	2 821	2 500	564	3 063
CY	562	169	731	275	80	355	287	89	376
CZ	(6 107)	(2 548)	(8 656)	(3 022)	(1 160)	(4 182)	(3 104)	(1 370)	(4 473)
DE	(47 111)	(15 301)	(62 411)	(23 474)	(7 081)	(30 555)	(23 632)	(8 224)	(31 856)
DK	3 189	1 574	4 763	1 629	724	2 353	1 560	850	2 410
EE	730	354	1 084	352	152	504	378	202	580
EL	6 831	2 094	8 924	3 360	946	4 306	3 471	1 148	4 618
ES	30 518	9 002	39 520	15 398	3 816	19 214	15 119	5 187	20 306
FI	2 930	1 590	4 520	1 567	706	2 273	1 363	883	2 247
FR	38 671	12 987	51 658	19 009	5 739	24 748	19 667	7 243	26 910
HR	2 244	1 083	3 327	1 112	489	1 601	1 132	594	1 726
HU	6 190	1 825	8 015	3 025	744	3 769	3 165	1 081	4 246
IE	3 103	789	3 892	1 533	379	1 912	1 570	410	1 980
IT	39 610	11 408	51 018	19 587	4 961	24 548	20 017	6 453	26 471
LT	1 580	766	2 346	770	305	1 075	812	460	1 271
LU	366	120	486	189	53	242	177	67	244
LV	942	621	1 563	460	244	704	483	375	859
MT	370	60	430	196	27	223	174	33	207
NL	10 164	4 070	14 234	5 284	1 752	7 036	4 877	2 321	7 198
PL	23 370	7 544	30 914	11 422	3 330	14 752	11 970	4 193	16 162
PT	5 971	2 824	8 794	2 992	1 102	4 093	2 979	1 722	4 701
RO	11 935	4 180	16 115	6 118	1 686	7 804	5 817	2 494	8 311
SE	7 296	1 080	8 376	3 786	457	4 243	3 510	623	4 133
SI	1 341	380	1 721	682	180	862	659	200	859
SK	3 047	1 439	4 486	1 538	631	2 169	1 509	809	2 317
EU	**270 957**	**89 443**	**360 400**	**135 418**	**39 082**	**174 500**	**135 670**	**50 330**	**186 000**

Note: Data in (.) have high rates of non-response.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev 1.

Table 11: 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	**Yes**	**Total**	**No**	**Yes**	**Total**	**No**	**Yes**	**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.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021.

Table 12: Results of the logistic regression; age: 16+, EU 27

		2010			2018		
	Number of observations	391 798			430 255		
	Wald χ²(1)	19 766			14 064		
	R²	0.15			0.12		
		Coeff.	*SE*	t	Coeff.	*SE*	t
	Age	0.0570	0.0004	140.6	0.0514	0.0004	118.6
	Constant	-4.0432	0.0242	-167.4	-3.8696	0.0266	-145.4

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

Table 13: Results of the logistic regression and expenditure on sickness / healthcare and disability, 2018

	Logistic regression results			Sickness / healthcare and disability	
	b	constant		Euro per inhabitant (annual)	
AT	0.045	-2.938	AT		4 047
BE	0.039	-3.088	BE		3 957
BG	0.068	-5.461	BG		484
CH	0.033	-2.472	CH		7 282
CY	0.064	-4.371	CY		1 015
CZ	0.059	-4.210	CZ		1 408
DE	0.040	-3.345	DE		5 091
DK	0.025	-2.138	DK		5 861
EE	0.050	-3.000	EE		1 304
EL	0.096	-6.699	EL		1 025
ES	0.057	-4.458	ES		2 017
FI	0.030	-2.202	FI		4 030
FR	0.045	-3.436	FR		3 887
HR	0.077	-4.764	HR		1 178
HU	0.066	-4.624	HU		817
IE	0.043	-3.829	IE		4 169
IT	0.071	-5.159	IT		2 353
LT	0.063	-4.151	LT		988
LU	0.044	-3.176	LU		7 921
LV	0.062	-3.635	LV		819
MT	0.056	-4.848	MT		1 523
NL	0.033	-2.435	NL		5 306
NO	0.022	-2.697	NO		8 209
PL	0.061	-4.459	PL		725
PT	0.054	-3.511	PT		1 529
RO	0.075	-5.012	RO		543
RS	0.062	-5.350	RS		381
SE	0.030	-3.480	SE		4 731
SI	0.044	-2.788	SI		1 838
SK	0.075	-4.594	SK		1 188
UK	0.033	-2.642	UK		3 610

Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, Release 1 2021 and ESSPROS (Data extracted on 17/03/2023 from [ESTAT]).

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, especially in the context of the green and digital transitions. For example, continuous education and training 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[30] 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. Furthermore, it is recommended that Member States take actions to implement the relevant policy at national level, together with social partners and other relevant stakeholders. Also, they are invited to take into account the national context and set up national targets.

The European Pillar of Social Rights,[31] 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,

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

[31] 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.

everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding education. A set of indicators have been developed in order to monitor progress in the application of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Eurostat, in the framework of the revised social scoreboard[32], presents a set of headline and secondary indicators. In the 'Equal opportunities' field, 'Adult participation in learning' constitutes a secondary indicator.

The EU target for 2030 requires that at least 60 % of all adults should participate in training each year[33]. But this is the target at the EU level and national targets are defined in order to take into account national specificities. 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, in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). 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, excluding those who did not answer to the question 'participation in education and training'. '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).[34]

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, here, 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.

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[32] 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.

[33] See: https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/adult-learning/adult-learning-initiatives.

[34] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_04_60_esmsip2.htm.

2.2.2 Adult participation in learning

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

As noted, the concept proposed by the Commission is 'Adult participation in learning during the last 12 months.' The proposed indicator, here, focusses on current participation in a formal education programme[35]. Consequently, it does not include informal learning, which might be important in certain Member States. However, it must be borne in mind that the frontier between formal and informal learning is fluid and varies across countries. Also, it covers only persons currently in education or training.

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 2.5 % of persons with disabilities, aged 25-64 were currently participating in an education programme. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 3.6 %. As noted, these rates are not comparable with those presented in past EDE reports.

For comparison, the wider definition adopted by Eurostat in the framework of the EPSR, based on the EU-LFS survey, presents a rate of 10.8 %.[36] The national indicators presented here, based on EU-SILC, and the ones based on EU-LFS are well correlated ($R^2=0.82$, n=27). We have to remind that this rate, unlike our indicator, includes those who received non-formal education and training and extends the period to the last four weeks preceding the survey.

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

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[35] In previous reports, we had extended the concept by including those who attained the highest level of education, in the previous two years (education was successfully completed in the last two years of the survey). The EU-SILC UDB 2021 microdata available, at the time of elaborating this report, do not report the variable 'Year when highest level of education was attained (PE030)'.

[36] Data extracted on 18/05/2023 [ESTAT], Dataset: Adult participation in learning [SDG_04_60]; See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/SDG_04_60__custom_6257770/default/table?lang=en.

Figure 15: Adult participation in learning by disability status and Member State, age 25-64, 2021

Number of persons aged 25 to 64 who were in an education programme, as a percentage of persons of the same age and disability status.
This indicator is not comparable to the one defined by Eurostat in the framework of the EPSR.
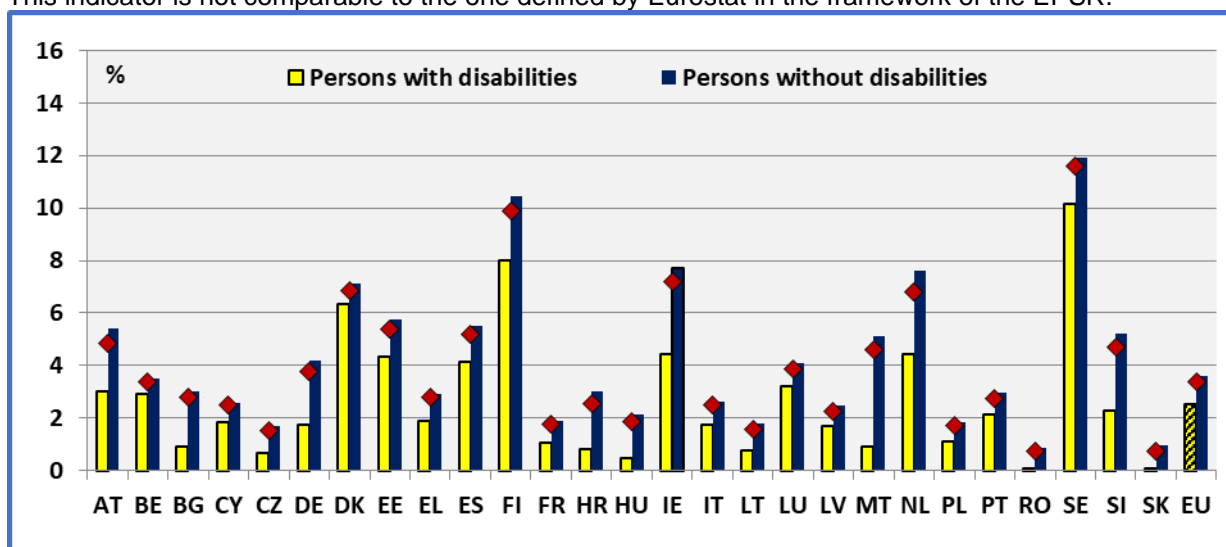
Note: Data for Germany are indicative due to a high number of missing values. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 1.1 percentage points (relative gap: 30.6 %).

The smallest relative gaps could be found in Denmark, Sweden, and Belgium. On the other hand, the largest gaps could be found in Malta, Romania, and Slovakia.

Figure 16: Disability gap in adult participation in learning by Member State, age 25-64, 2021

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

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 2.6 % of women with disabilities declared that they were currently participating in an education programme, in comparison with 2.3 % of men with disabilities.

In 18 Member States, the rate for women with disabilities was higher compared to men with disabilities.

Figure 17: Adult participation in learning of persons with disabilities by Member State, age 25-64, 2021
Number of persons aged 25 to 64 who were in an education programme, as a percentage of persons with disabilities of the same age and gender.
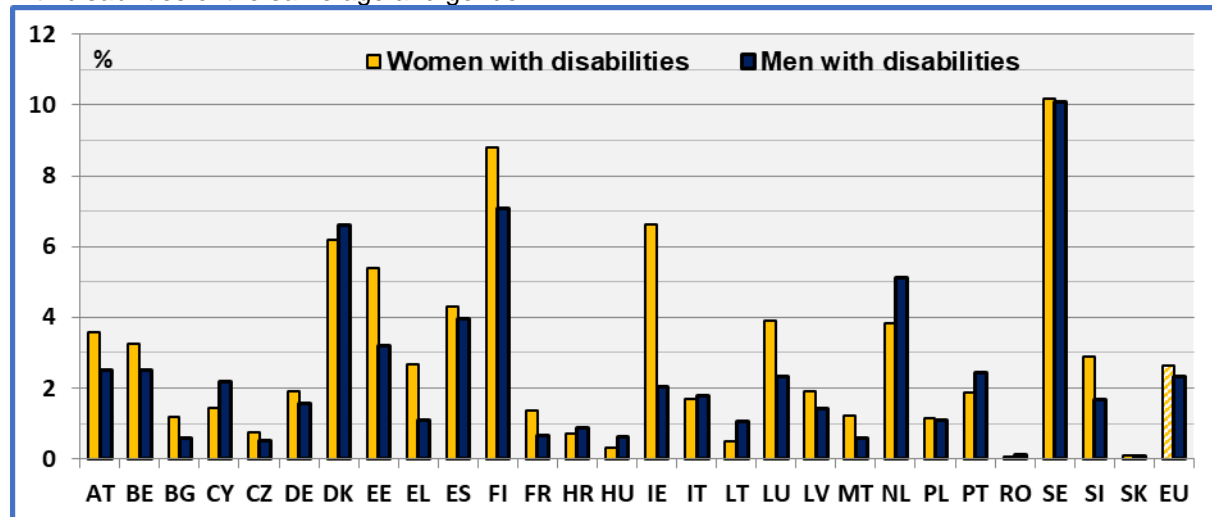
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

2.2.5 Adult participation in learning by age

For both groups, adult participation in learning decreases sharply with age.

As noted above, our indicator covers only those, currently, participating in formal education. For this reason, it is very restrictive. Short continuous education and training is not captured by our indicator, notably for older persons.

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 decreased as the degree of disability increased. The rate was 3.6 % for persons without disabilities, 2.8 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 1.7 % for persons with severe disabilities.

2.2.7 Evolution in adult participation in learning by Member State

The restricted indicator studied here provides that the EU 27 rate increased from 2.2 % to 2.5 %, representing an increase of 14.7 %.

In the following figure, we observe an increase in 17 Member States.

Figure 18: Adult participation in learning of persons with disabilities, aged 25-64
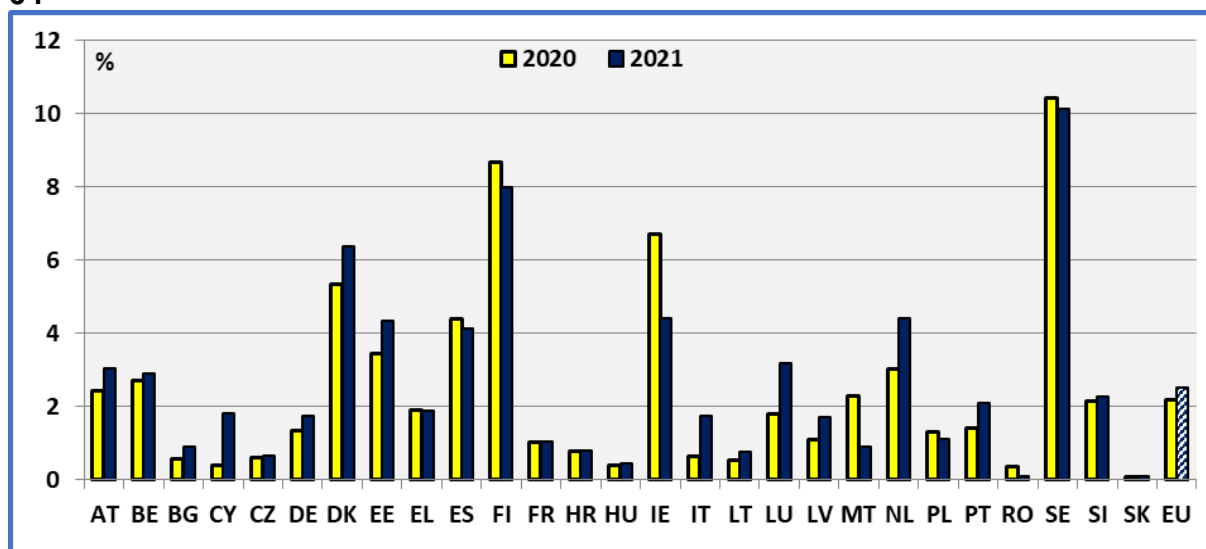
Note: Data for Germany are indicative due to a relatively high number of missing values. Data for Slovakia are available only for 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

2.3   Statistical tables

Table 14: Adult participation in learning by disability status, age 25-64, 2021

Number of persons who were in an education programme (at the time of the survey) as a percentage of persons of the same age, sex or disability status.
This table is not comparable to Eurostat (EPSR) indicator

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Disability gap in pp	Women with disabilities	Men with disabilities
AT	3.0	5.4	4.8	2.4	3.6	2.5
BE	2.9	3.5	3.4	0.6	3.2	2.5
BG	0.9	3.0	2.8	2.1	1.2	0.6
CY	1.8	2.6	2.5	0.8	1.4	2.2
CZ	0.7	1.7	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.5
DE	1.7	4.2	3.8	2.5	1.9	1.6
DK	6.4	7.1	6.9	0.8	6.2	6.6
EE	4.3	5.8	5.4	1.4	5.4	3.2
EL	1.9	2.9	2.8	1.0	2.7	1.1
ES	4.1	5.5	5.2	1.4	4.3	3.9
FI	8.0	10.5	9.9	2.5	8.8	7.1
FR	1.1	1.9	1.8	0.9	1.4	0.7
HR	0.8	3.0	2.5	2.2	0.7	0.9
HU	0.5	2.1	1.9	1.7	0.3	0.6
IE	4.4	7.7	7.2	3.3	6.6	2.0
IT	1.8	2.6	2.5	0.9	1.7	1.8
LT	0.8	1.8	1.6	1.1	0.5	1.0
LU	3.2	4.1	3.9	0.9	3.9	2.3
LV	1.7	2.5	2.3	0.8	1.9	1.4
MT	0.9	5.1	4.6	4.2	1.2	0.6
NL	4.4	7.6	6.8	3.2	3.8	5.1

PL	1.1	1.9	1.7	0.7	1.1	1.1
PT	2.1	3.0	2.7	0.8	1.9	2.5
RO	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1
SE	10.1	11.9	11.6	1.8	10.2	10.1
SI	2.3	5.2	4.7	3.0	2.9	1.7
SK	(0.1)	(0.8)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.1)	(0.1)
EU	**2.5**	**3.6**	**3.4**	**1.1**	**2.6**	**2.3**

Note: Data for Germany are indicative. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).
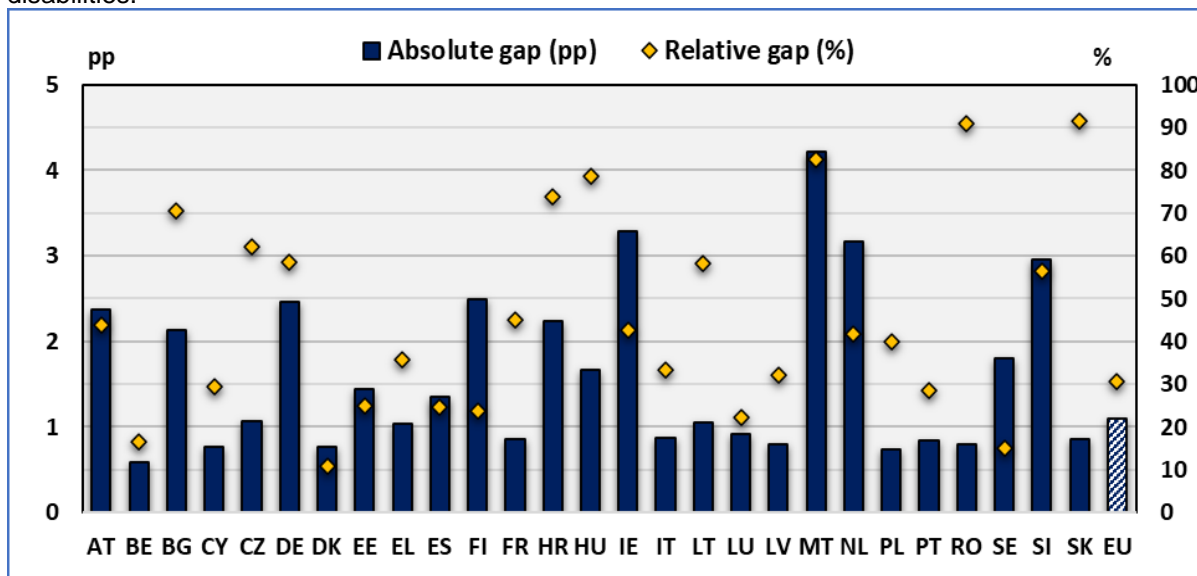
Table 15: Adult participation in learning by disability status, age 25-64, 2020

Number of persons who were in an education programme as a percentage of persons of the same age, sex or disability status.
This table is not comparable to Eurostat (EPSR) indicator

	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Total**	**Disability gap in pp**	**Women with disabilities**	**Men with disabilities**
AT	2.4	5.0	4.3	2.6	2.3	2.6
BE	2.7	3.4	3.2	0.7	2.9	2.5
BG	0.6	3.2	2.9	2.6	0.5	0.6
CY	0.4	3.0	2.6	2.6	0.5	0.3
CZ	0.6	1.7	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.4
DE	1.3	3.6	3.2	2.3	1.2	1.5
DK	5.3	6.9	6.4	1.6	6.5	4.0
EE	3.5	5.5	5.0	2.0	4.5	2.4
EL	1.9	2.9	2.8	1.0	2.5	1.3
ES	4.4	5.5	5.3	1.1	4.8	4.0
FI	8.7	9.0	8.9	0.3	8.5	8.9
FR	1.0	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.8	1.3
HR	0.8	2.5	2.1	1.7	0.7	0.9
HU	0.4	2.4	2.1	2.0	0.6	0.1
IE	6.7	8.7	8.3	2.0	7.0	6.4
IT	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.4	1.0
LT	0.5	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.0	0.0
LU	1.8	3.7	3.3	1.9	2.1	1.5
LV	1.1	2.8	2.3	1.7	1.4	0.8
MT	2.3	4.3	4.1	2.0	3.1	1.4
NL	3.0	7.2	6.1	4.2	3.4	2.5
PL	1.3	2.0	1.9	0.7	1.9	0.6
PT	1.4	2.8	2.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
RO	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4
SE	10.5	10.7	10.7	0.2	9.5	11.6
SI	2.2	6.8	6.0	4.6	1.5	2.8
SK	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.1
EU	**2.2**	**3.2**	**3.0**	**1.0**	**2.3**	**2.1**

Note: This table is not comparable to the one presented in the previous report, due to a change in the definition.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev. 1.

3 Early leavers from education and training

3.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

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.[37] 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.[38] 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.[39]

The revised social scoreboard[40] 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.

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[37] See: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1743.
[38] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.
[39] 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.
[40] 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.

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 'at most lower secondary education who are not engaged in further education or training'. Eurostat[41] 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 2022 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 but the structure of possible answers (identifiers) was not the same.

In 2021, the EU-SILC adopted new identifiers and this might have affected the comparability of results with previous years.

In 2021, the LFS survey and the EU-SILC data provided an estimate for the EU 27 of 9.8 % and 10.0 %[42] respectively. National estimates may differ due to sampling differences. Despite these differences, however, there is a significant correlation between national estimates across the two surveys, for 2021 (R^2=0.52). However, in previous years, the relation was much stronger.

As the available LFS data did not provide information on persons with and without disabilities, at this date, 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.

At the EU 27 level in 2021, about 16.4 % of young persons with disabilities aged 18-24 were early school leavers in comparison with 9.1 % for non-disabled young persons. The EU total average rate was 9.7 %, in comparison with a target of less than 10 %.

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[41] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_04_10_esmsip2.htm.
[42] But 9.7 % for those who provide information on disability status.

In 2021, early school leavers with disabilities aged 18-24 who were living in private households represented about 0.4 million persons out of approximately 2.4 million young persons with disabilities aged 18-24 living in private households.

These estimations might be biased due to small samples in several Member States, in this age group. Also, we observe an important discontinuity, between 2020 and 2021 in Germany, which might have affected the EU aggregate, due to the relatively important weight of Germany in this aggregate.

Finally, the rate of early school leavers is higher among persons for which we miss information on disability status.

Table 16: Early school leavers aged 18-24, EU, 2021
The data for persons with disabilities are indicative and not comparable to 2020.

	Not Early School Leavers	Early School Leavers	Total
	1 000 000		
Persons without disabilities	26,8	2,7	29,5
Persons with disabilities	(2,0)	(0,4)	2,4
Total	28.8	3.1	31.9
	%		
Persons without disabilities	90,9	9,1	100
Persons with disabilities	(83,6)	(16,4)	100
Total	90,3	9,7	100

Note: New identifiers were created in 2021. In previous years, the data were not adjusted for missing values. The sample is relatively small in several countries. Data for Germany have a low reliability and this might have pushed the EU estimation for persons with disabilities downward. Data for Slovakia were referring to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

As indicated, in eight countries, the number of observations concerning persons with disabilities 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 22.1 % in 2020 and 16.4 % in 2021, giving an arithmetic mean (or arithmetic average) for 2020-2021 of 19.2 % (rounded to 19 %; see following figure). Regarding the national means of the past two years, the lowest rates can be found in Slovenia, Czechia, and Greece. Similar results were found last year. On the other hand, the highest rates can be found in Germany, Malta, and Romania, in ascending order. Similar results were found in the previous year.

Figure 19: Share of early school leavers by disability status, age 18-24
The annual data for young persons with disabilities are indicative.
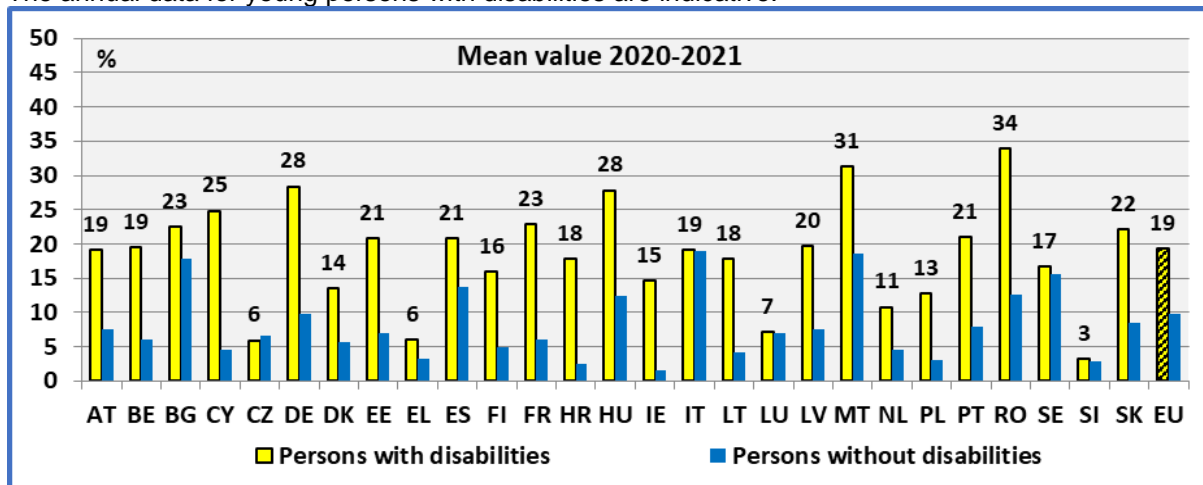
Note: Detailed annual data are presented in the Statistical Annex. The arithmetic mean (or mean) is the sum of the two years divided by the number of years. Data for Slovakia cover only 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

The high rates of early school leavers among young persons with disabilities might indicate, among other reasons, problems relating to accessibility and an absence of adapted programmes. Physical and architectural barriers might present important obstacles, in addition to a lack of relevant educational programmes.

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 2020-2021.

At the EU 27 level in 2020-2021, the gap between persons with and without disabilities was about 9.5 percentage points. The gap between young persons with and without disabilities was small in Czechia, Italy, and Luxembourg. On the other hand, the gap was relatively high in Germany, Cyprus, and Romania, in ascending order.

Figure 20: Disadvantage (in early school leaving) of young persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, average 2020-21

Disability gap = Percentage of persons with disabilities – Percentage of persons without disabilities (see previous figure for the original data).
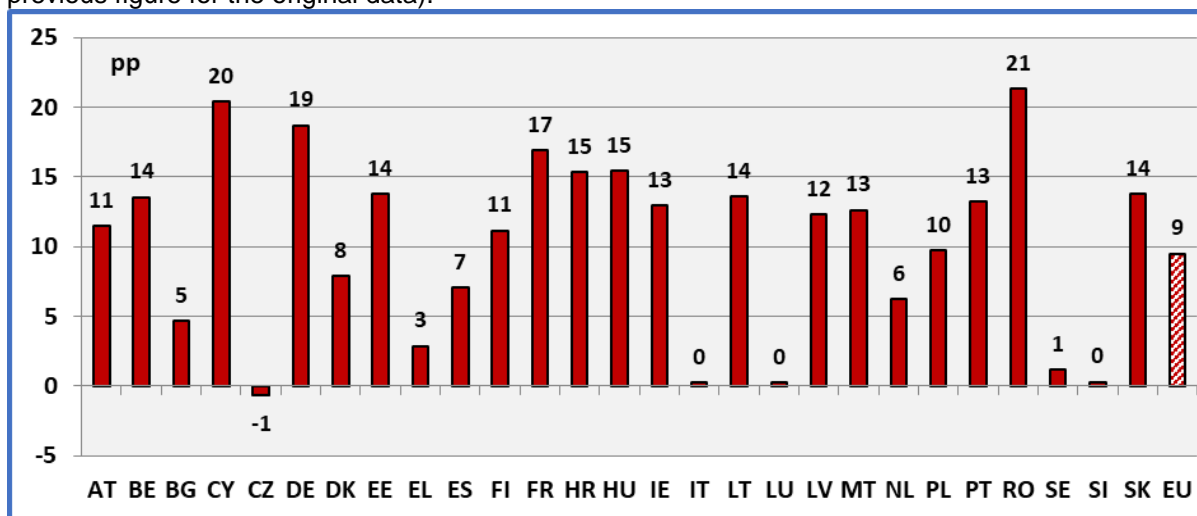
Average (or mean) 2022021 disability gap: as indicated in the text, due to the small size of certain national samples, the standard errors (variability) of the means are relatively high. In order to attenuate this problem, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2020-2021 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

3.2.4 Early school leavers by gender

The following table indicates that at the EU 27 level in 2021, the proportion of early school leavers among young women with disabilities was 11.9 %, in comparison with 21.1 % among young men with disabilities. These data are provisional.

Table 17: Share of early school leavers by disability status and gender, age 18-24, EU, 2021

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

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	No	Early school leavers	Total	No	Early school leavers	Total
Men	(78.9)	(21.1)	100	88.8	11.2	**100**
Women	(88.1)	(11.9)	100	93.1	7.0	**100**
Total	**(83.6)**	**(16.4)**	**100**	**90.9**	**9.1**	**100**

Note: See previous table.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release)

3.2.5 Evolution by Member State

As indicated above, the annual data for persons with disabilities are not statistically robust. The problem becomes more difficult if we compare two consecutive years. The annual changes are very volatile. For this reason, we aggregate two years and we take the mean.

In the following figure, we compare 2018-2019, on the one hand, and 2020-2021, on the other. Despite this aggregation, the comparison is biased by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, 2020-2021 cover the two pandemic years.

Keeping in mind the above reservations, the following figure presents the evolution by Member State.

In the EU 27, the rate of early school leavers among young persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, decreased from 21.0 % (2018-2019) to 19.2 % (2020-2021). We observe a reduction in 15 Member States.

Figure 21: Evolution of the share of early school leavers among persons with disabilities, age 18-24, EU
Indicative data
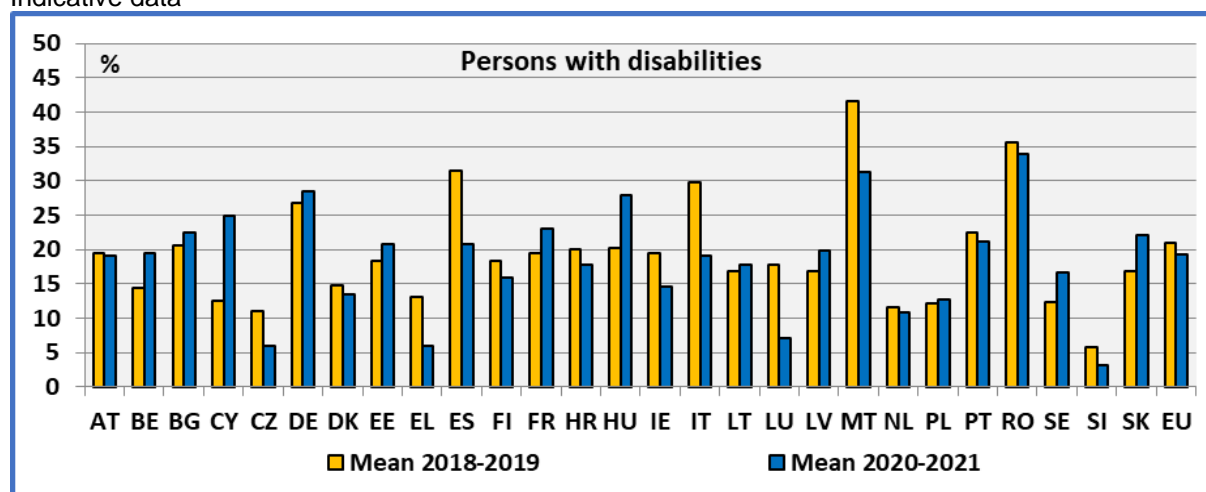
Note: See explanations in the text.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years)

3.2.6 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 persons with disabilities.

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 2021 indicated that the gap might have decreased. However, only the final results may confirm this recent trend.

Figure 22: Evolution of the shares of early school leavers, EU, aged 18-24

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.
Data for 2021 are provisional and not comparable to 2020
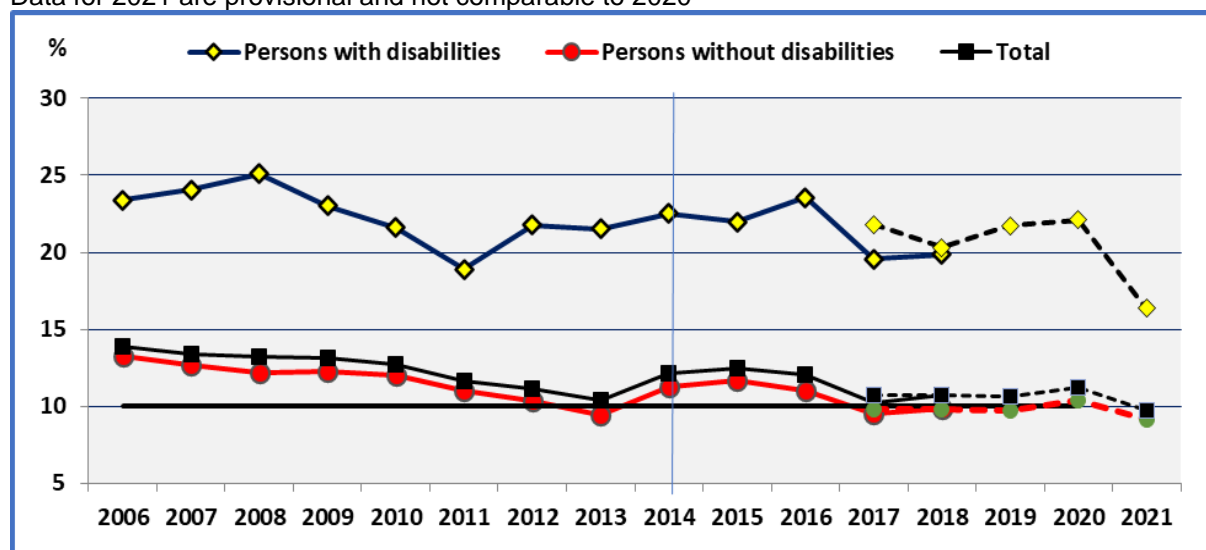
Note: Break in time series due to a new classification since 2014. Change in the definition of 'disability' in Germany and Italy in 2015 and 2016. Data for 2021 are provisional.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

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

The EU-SILC estimators for young persons with disabilities 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.
Data for 2021 are provisional.
Due to the limited number of observations, estimates for persons with disabilities are indicative.

	2020			**2021**			**Mean disability gap, 2020-2021**
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Total**	**Disability Gap in pp**
AT	19.1	8.2	9.6	19.1	7.0	8.2	11.5
BE	21.6	7.0	8.3	17.3	4.9	6.0	13.5
BG	(38.2)	17.6	18.2	(6.9)	18.1	17.6	4.7
CY	(25.1)	5.4	6.4	(24.6)	3.5	4.6	20.4
CZ	(1.9)	6.5	6.2	9.9	6.6	6.8	-0.7
DE	37.8	9.2	11.1	19.0	10.2	10.8	18.7
DK	18.2	5.0	8.1	8.9	6.3	6.9	7.9
EE	26.0	6.2	8.8	15.6	7.8	9.0	13.8
EL	(8.2)	2.7	2.9	(3.9)	3.6	3.6	2.9

ES	24.0	13.9	14.5	17.5	13.6	14.0	7.0
FI	12.8	6.0	7.6	19.2	3.7	6.1	11.1
FR	28.0	6.3	8.0	17.9	5.8	6.5	16.9
HR	19.3	3.3	4.2	16.4	1.7	2.4	15.3
HU	(40.4)	11.3	12.7	(15.2)	13.5	13.6	15.4
IE	15.6	1.0	2.7	13.5	2.2	3.3	13.0
IT	19.8	22.1	22.0	18.4	15.6	15.7	0.2
LT	(10.2)	4.0	4.4	(25.4)	4.4	5.9	13.6
LU	12.7	11.3	11.4	1.6	2.5	2.4	0.3
LV	29.1	7.7	9.5	10.4	7.3	7.6	12.3
MT	(28.3)	19.7	20.0	(34.3)	17.6	18.6	12.6
NL	14.0	5.1	6.3	7.5	3.9	4.4	6.3
PL	16.2	2.6	3.4	9.4	3.5	3.8	9.7
PT	22.1	8.5	9.7	20.0	7.3	8.8	13.2
RO	28.9	13.5	14.3	(39.0)	11.7	12.9	21.3
SE	(11.1)	15.6	15.3	22.4	15.6	16.4	1.2
SI	(3.6)	2.0	2.1	(2.9)	3.8	3.8	0.3
SK	22.2	8.4	9.4	22.2	8.4	9.4	13.8
EU	**22.1**	**10.4**	**11.2**	**16.4**	**9.1**	**9.7**	**9.5**

Notes: (data in parenthesis): number of observations in the sample between 20 and 49. 'a': Less than 20 observations. Data for Slovakia in 2021 refer to 2020.
Mean disability gap 2020-2021: As indicated above, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2020-2021 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release)

Table 19: Share of early school leavers by disability status and Member State, aged 18-24

The EU-SILC estimators for young persons with disabilities 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			Mean disability gap, 2018-2019
	Disability			Disability			
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Total**	**Gap in pp**
AT	23.5	8.6	10.7	15.4	8.1	9.0	11.1
BE	15.3	7.3	8.0	13.7	7.7	8.3	7.0
BG	(24.9)	17.0	17.3	(16.3)	19.0	18.9	2.6
CY	17.2	8.2	8.7	8.0	7.1	7.1	5.0
CZ	a	6.8	7.1	(8.2)	7.6	7.7	3.9
DE	23.7	6.4	7.8	30.0	5.7	7.4	20.8
DK	11.5	11.1	11.2	18.0	6.4	8.9	5.9
EE	16.2	7.9	9.2	20.3	7.3	9.5	10.6
EL	18.5	3.3	3.8	(7.8)	2.9	3.0	10.1
ES	30.4	15.5	16.1	32.4	15.1	15.7	16.1
FI	16.4	2.7	5.6	20.3	4.6	8.5	14.7
FR	19.7	8.9	9.8	19.2	8.0	8.9	11.0
HR	21.7	3.5	4.5	18.4	2.8	3.7	16.9

HU	23.2	11.8	12.6	17.1	11.5	11.7	8.5
IE	10.7	3.5	4.0	(28.3)	3.2	5.2	16.1
IT	32.4	17.9	18.6	27.0	19.9	20.2	10.7
LT	17.9	4.9	6.3	15.9	3.3	4.6	12.8
LU	18.6	8.6	9.7	17.0	11.0	11.7	8.0
LV	17.2	9.7	10.6	16.6	7.8	8.8	8.1
MT	a	19.4	20.1	a	20.0	20.6	21.9
NL	7.7	3.1	3.9	15.4	4.4	5.9	7.8
PL	13.7	4.3	4.8	10.5	4.2	4.5	7.9
PT	21.9	12.4	13.5	23.2	11.1	12.3	10.8
RO	(29.8)	14.3	15.1	41.4	11.3	13.0	22.8
SE	a	4.7	5.3	(6.5)	7.4	7.3	6.4
SI	5.8	2.9	3.4	5.7	2.0	2.3	3.2
SK	15.5	6.2	6.8	18.3	9.5	10.1	9.0
EU	**20.3**	**9.8**	**10.6**	**21.8**	**9.7**	**10.6**	**11.3**

Notes: (data in parenthesis): number of observations in the sample between 20 and 49. '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 release 1 in 2022, rev. 1

Table 20: 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				22.1	10.4	11.2
2021				16.4	9.1	9.7

Data source: EU-SILC UDB. Data for 2021 are provisional.

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. 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.

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,[43] 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[44] 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 2021, the rate of young people aged 16-29 who were neither in employment nor in education and training was 14.5 %. The EU-LFS-based estimate for the 15-29 age group was 13.1 %.[45] The EU-SILC survey covers persons aged 16 to 29. There is a good correlation between the national estimates provided by the two surveys, although the timing of implementation was different (R^2=0.60, n=27).

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

[44] 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.

[45] Data extracted on 21/05/2023 from [ESTAT]]: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_08_20/default/table?lang=en.

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 29.0 % of young people with disabilities, aged 16-29, were neither in employment nor in education and training. This rate was 13.2 % for young persons without disabilities in the same age group.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the highest rates could be found in Hungary, Poland, and Romania, in ascending order. The level was low in Netherlands, Slovenia, and Luxembourg.

Figure 23: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and Member State, aged 16-29, 2021
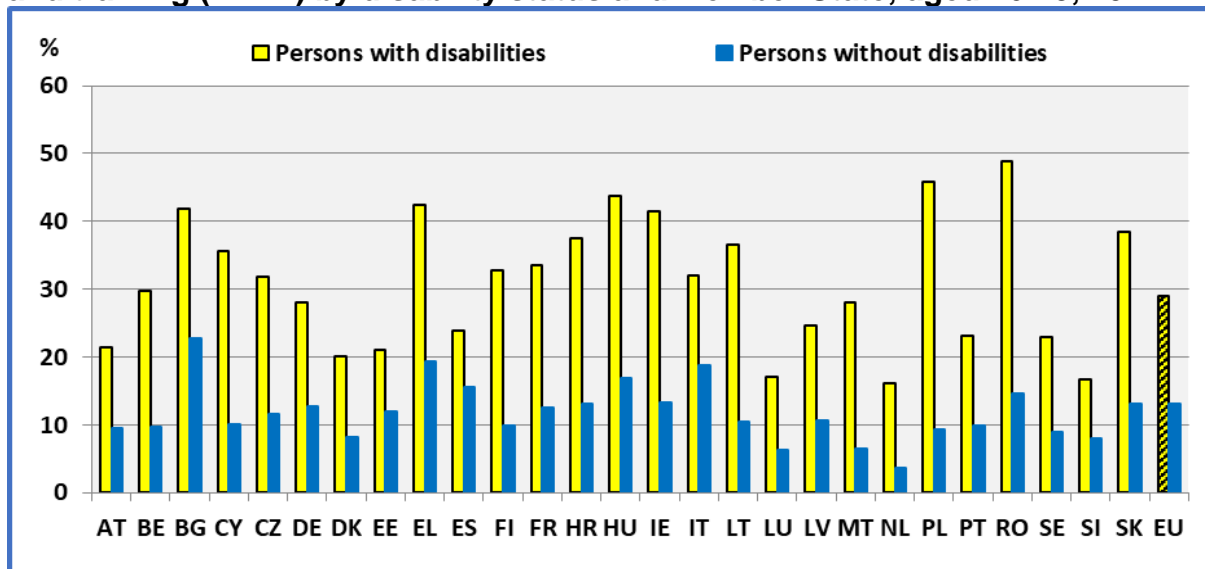
Note: The sample for Slovenia is relatively small and the estimate is indicative. Data for Germany are indicative due to a high non-response rate. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 15.8 percentage points (120.2 % was the relative gap).

The highest absolute gaps could be found in Ireland, Romania, and Poland (in ascending order). The lowest absolute gaps could be found in Spain, Slovenia, and Estonia.

Figure 24: Disability gap among young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by Member State, aged 16-29, 2021

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 2023 (spring release).

4.2.3 NEET by gender

The following table indicates that there is no gender gap among persons with disabilities. The percentage of young men with disabilities not in education, employment or training (31.9 %) was higher in comparison with the percentage for young women with disabilities (26.1 %). The situation was reversed among persons without disabilities.

Table 21: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and gender, aged 16-29, EU, 2021

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	No NEET	NEET	Total	No NEET	NEET	Total
Men	68.1	31.9	100	88.4	11.6	88.4
Women	73.9	26.1	100	85.2	14.8	85.2
Total	**71.1**	**29.0**	**100**	**86.9**	**13.2**	**86.9**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

The sample of observations concerning young persons with disabilities 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 13.2 % for young persons without disabilities, 23.1 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 45.5 % for persons with severe disabilities[46].

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.

4.2.5 Evolution by Member State

In the EU 27, we observe a decline of the percentage of young people with disabilities neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), aged 16-29, between 2020 (30.7 %) and 2021 (29.0 %). A relative decrease of 5.6 %.

The rate for young persons without disabilities, aged 16-27, decreased from 14.9 % to 13.2 %. A relative decrease of 11.4 %.

The annual relative changes for persons with and without disabilities were not correlated.

Figure 25: Evolution of the rate of persons with disabilities neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), age 16-29.
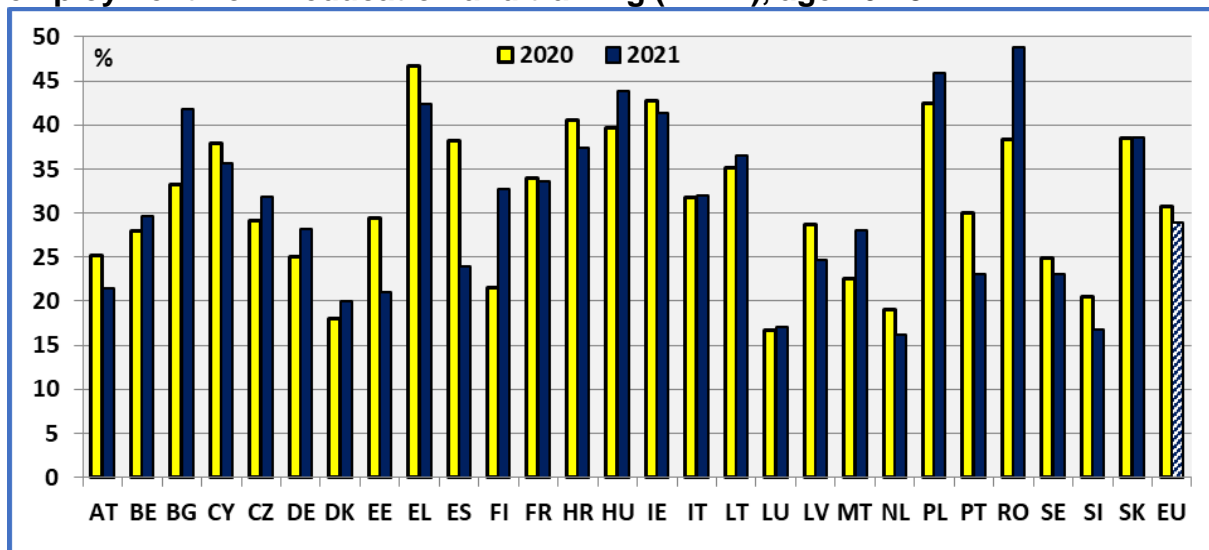
Note: Available data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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46 Data for Germany do not distinguish moderate from severe disabilities. This affects the EU average.

4.3 Statistical tables

Table 22: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and Member State, aged 16-29, EU, 2021
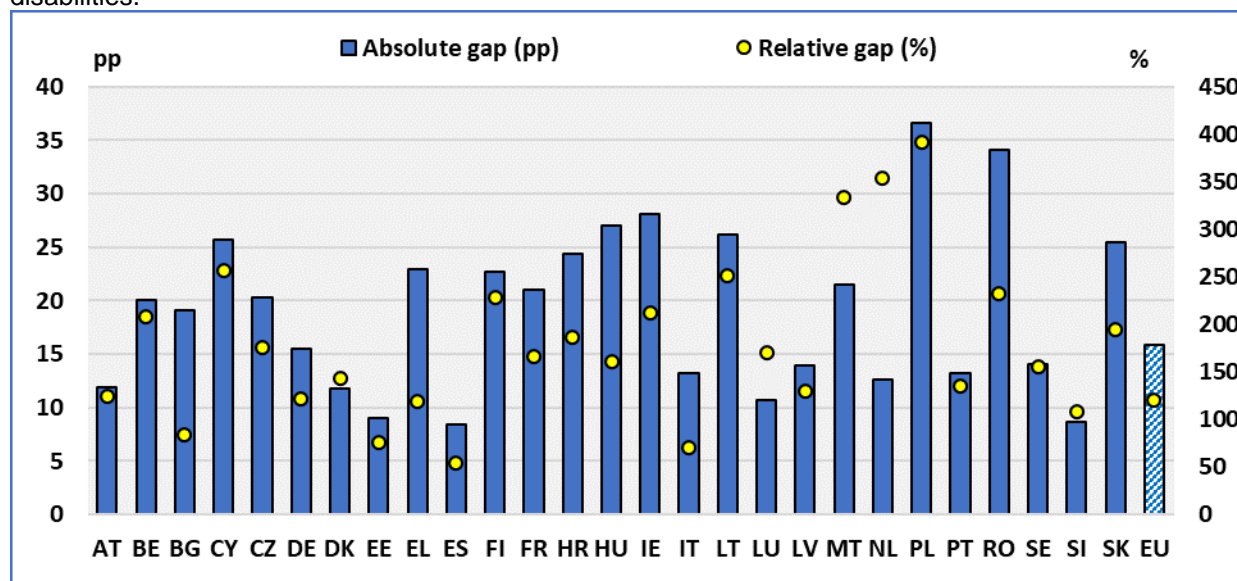
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Absolute gap (pp)	Relative gap (%)
AT	21.5	9.6	11.0	11.9	123.9
BE	29.7	9.7	11.3	20.1	207.6
BG	41.9	22.8	23.6	19.1	83.8
CY	35.7	10.0	11.5	25.7	256.5
CZ	31.9	11.6	12.9	20.3	175.0
DE	28.1	12.7	13.7	15.5	122.0
DK	20.0	8.2	10.9	11.8	143.7
EE	21.0	12.0	13.3	9.0	75.6
EL	42.4	19.4	20.1	23.0	118.4
ES	23.9	15.5	16.4	8.4	54.4
FI	32.7	10.0	13.5	22.8	228.6
FR	33.6	12.6	14.1	21.0	166.6
HR	37.5	13.1	14.5	24.4	186.5
HU	43.8	16.8	18.0	27.0	160.6
IE	41.4	13.3	16.0	28.1	212.1
IT	31.9	18.7	19.3	13.2	70.5
LT	36.6	10.4	12.8	26.2	251.2
LU	17.1	6.3	7.7	10.7	169.9
LV	24.6	10.7	12.3	13.9	129.5
MT	28.0	6.5	7.7	21.6	333.1
NL	16.2	3.6	5.5	12.6	353.8
PL	45.9	9.3	11.7	36.6	392.0
PT	23.1	9.8	11.5	13.3	134.9
RO	48.8	14.7	16.2	34.1	231.8
SE	23.0	9.0	10.9	14.0	155.5
SI	16.7	8.0	8.6	8.7	108.4
SK	38.5	13.1	14.7	25.4	194.1
EU	**29.0**	**13.2**	**14.5**	**15.8**	**120.2**

Note : Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 23: 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	25.0	12.0	12.9	13.0	108.3
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	34.0	12.9	14.6	21.1	163.7
HR	40.5	16.9	18.2	23.6	139.6
HU	39.7	14.0	15.3	25.7	183.8
IE	42.8	9.8	13.1	33.0	337.0
IT	31.8	22.9	23.3	8.9	39.1
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	**30.7**	**14.9**	**16.1**	**15.8**	**106.6**

Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev. 1.

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.[47] 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.[48] 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.[49]

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.

The revised social scoreboard[50] 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.

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

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

[49]   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.

[50]   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.

Finally, the Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) defines a target for educational attainment, in 2030. It provides that the share of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 45%, by 2030.

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 2022 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, EU-SILC and LFS (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. Following a harmonisation, both surveys have used the same ISCED 2011 classification since 2014 but the structure of possible answers (identifiers) was not the same.

In 2021, the EU-SILC adopted new identifiers and this might have affected the comparability of results with previous years.

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 2021, the rates were 44.5 % (EU-SILC) and 41.9 % (LFS). The difference was about 2.6 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=0.80, n=27) between EU-SILC and LFS national estimates in 2021. 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 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the analysis of the long term, it is useful to note that 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.

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 fact, the sample was less than 50 persons but more than 20 in seven Member States. In order to solve this problem, in the analysis by Member State, we present the average for the past two years. The EU annual estimate is still robust.

In the EU 27 in 2021, the rate of persons with disabilities aged 30-34 who had completed a tertiary or equivalent education was 34.3 %. The rate was 45.7 % for persons without disabilities .[51]

At the EU 27 level, about 1.0 million persons with disabilities (aged 30-34 and living in private households) had acquired a tertiary or equivalent education, out of 2.9 million persons with disabilities with the same age and housing conditions.

Table 24: Persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education, aged 30-34, EU, 2021

	Less than tertiary	Tertiary or equivalent	Total
	1 000 000		
Persons without disabilities	13.2	11.1	24.2
Persons with disabilities	1.9	1.0	2.9
Total	15.1	12.0	27.1
			%
Persons without disabilities	54.3	45.7	100
Persons with disabilities	65.8	34.3	100
Total	55.6	44.5	100

Note: The millions have been rounded but the percentages have been calculated on non-rounded data. The above absolute data are adjusted for missing values and are not comparable to previous years, unless adjustment is indicated.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Given the relatively 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.

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

The lowest rates for persons with disabilities can be found in Italy, Hungary, and Romania. The highest level of achievement for persons with disabilities can be found in Luxembourg, Denmark and Lithuania, in ascending order. Concerning highest achievements, the same ordering was found last year.

Figure 26: 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.
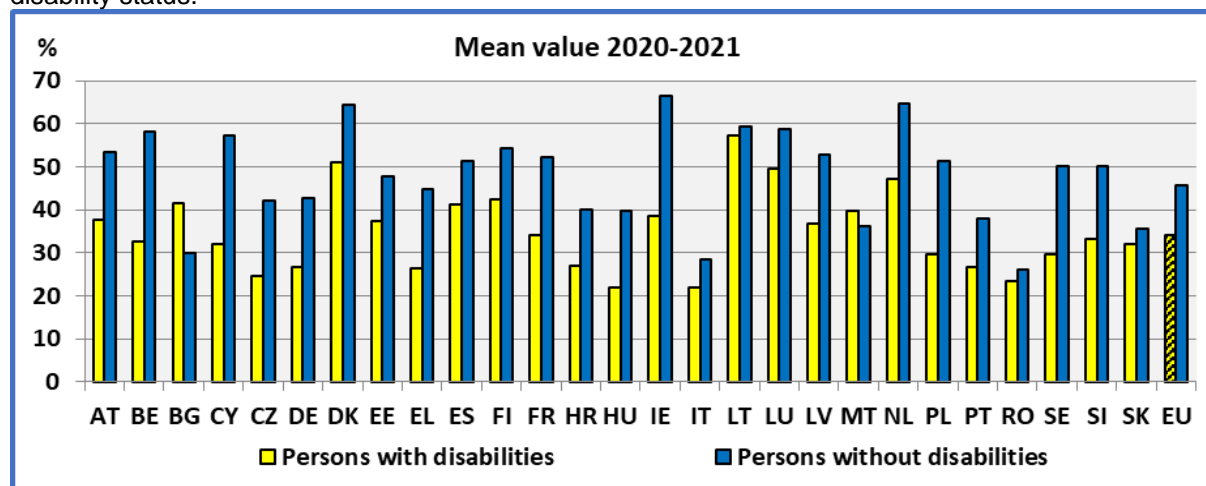
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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.

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

During 2020-2021, at the EU 27 level, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities, aged 30-34, was 11.3 percentage points. This represents a relative difference of 24.9 %.

The average absolute education gap is high in the majority of Member States. One may note small absolute gaps in Bulgaria, Malta and Lithuania, but they are characterised by a high degree of variability. On the other hand, significant gaps are found in Cyprus, Belgium, and Ireland, in ascending order.

Figure 27: Disability gap in tertiary education or equivalent by Member State, age 30-34, average 2020-2021
Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities
Relative gap = 100*(% persons without disabilities - % persons with disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.
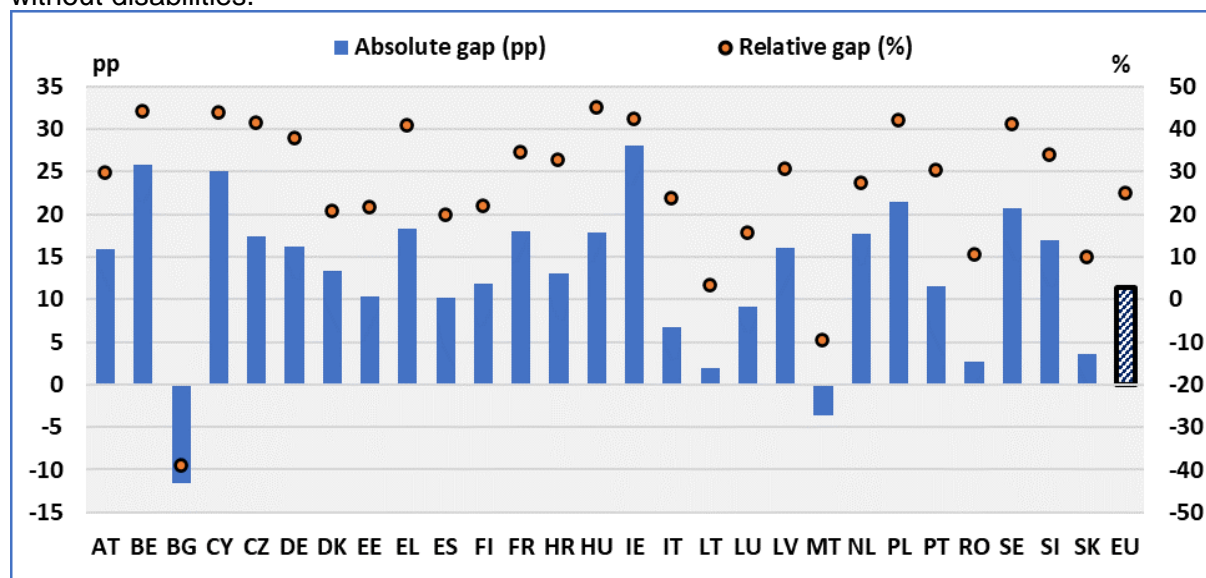
Average (or mean) 2020-2021 disability gap: as indicated in the text, due to the small size of certain national samples, the standard errors (variability) of the annual means are relatively high. In order to attenuate this problem, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2020-2021 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the difference (gap).
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

5.2.4 Tertiary education by gender

Concerning gender, in the EU in 2021, about 39.2 % of women with disabilities aged 30-34 had completed a tertiary or equivalent education, in comparison with 28.4 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 25: Percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by disability status, aged 30-34, EU, 2021
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	71.6	28.4	100	60.3	39.7	100
Women	60.8	39.2	100	48.3	51.7	100
Total	**65.8**	**34.3**	**100**	**54.3**	**45.7**	**100**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

5.2.5 Evolution by Member State

As indicated above, the annual data for persons with disabilities are not statistically robust. The problem becomes more stringent if we compare two consecutive years. The annual changes are very volatile. For this reason, we aggregate two years and we take the mean.

In the following figure, we compare 2018-2019, on the one hand, and 2020-2021, on the other. Despite this aggregation, the comparison is biased by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, 2020-2021 cover the two pandemic years and the special circumstances characterising these years.

Keeping in mind the above reservations, the following figure presents the evolution by Member State.

In the EU 27, the rate of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by disability status, aged 30-34, increased from 31.0 % (2018-2019) to 34.3 % (2020-2021). We observe an increase in 14 Member States.

Figure 28: Evolution of the share who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education among persons with disabilities, age 30-34, EU
Indicative data
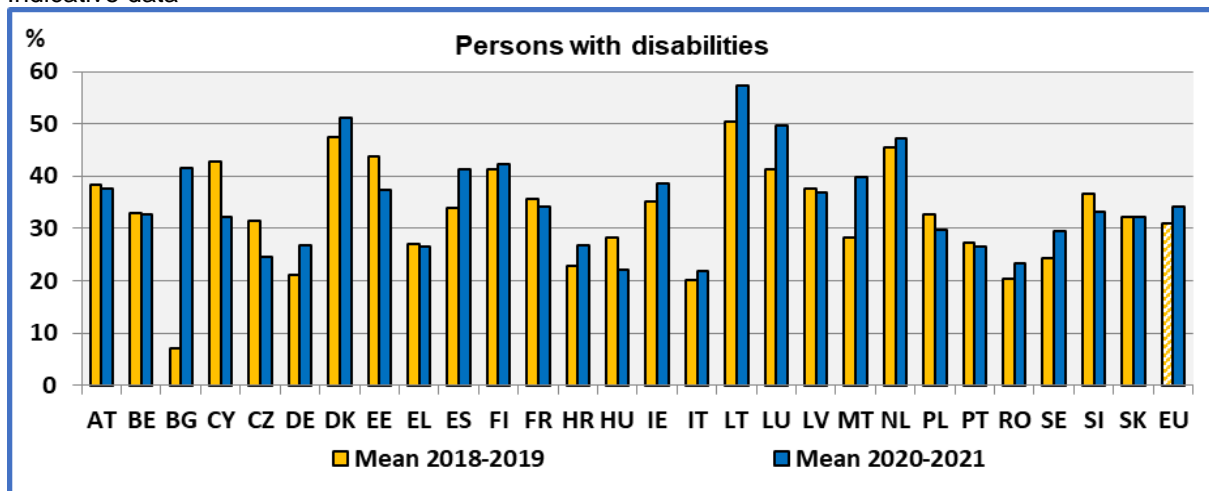
Note: Data for Bulgaria present a discontinuity and are not reliable.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

5.2.6 Evolution at the EU level

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.

During 2020 and 2021, the rate of persons with disabilities was stable.

Figure 29: 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.
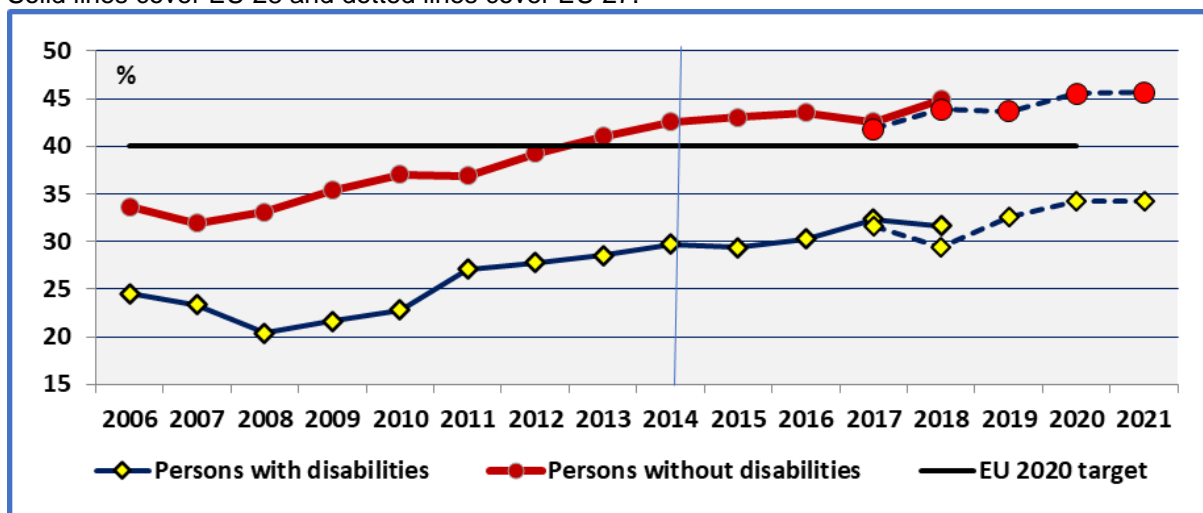
Note: Change of classification in 2014. In 2015, there was a change in definitions in Germany, leading to a nominal downward movement. The 2021 values are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

In the EU 27 since 2008, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities has remained high. It was about 11 percentage points during the last three years (representing a relative gap of about 25 %).[52]

5.3 European Education Area indicator

As noted, the Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) defines a target for educational attainment, in 2030. It provides that the share of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 45%, by 2030.

We noted several times that indicators covering persons with disabilities, aged 30-34, present statistical problems related to small national samples. The extension to the age group 25-64 increases the statistical robustness of the indicators.

In the EU 27 in 2021, the rate of persons with disabilities aged 25-34 who had completed a tertiary or equivalent education was 33.0 % (34.3 % for 30-34). The rate was 45.0 % for persons without disabilities (45.7 % for persons aged 30-34), while the rate for all persons aged 25-34 was 43.8 % (44.5 % for 30-34).[53]

The following figure presents the rates for persons with disabilities distinguishing persons aged 30-34 and 25-34. The national rates are strongly correlated (R²=0.78). However, we may note important differences for several Member States.

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[52] 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.
[53] This rate covers only persons for whom we have information on disability status.

Figure 30: Share who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education among persons with disabilities, age 25-34, EU, 2021

Indicative data
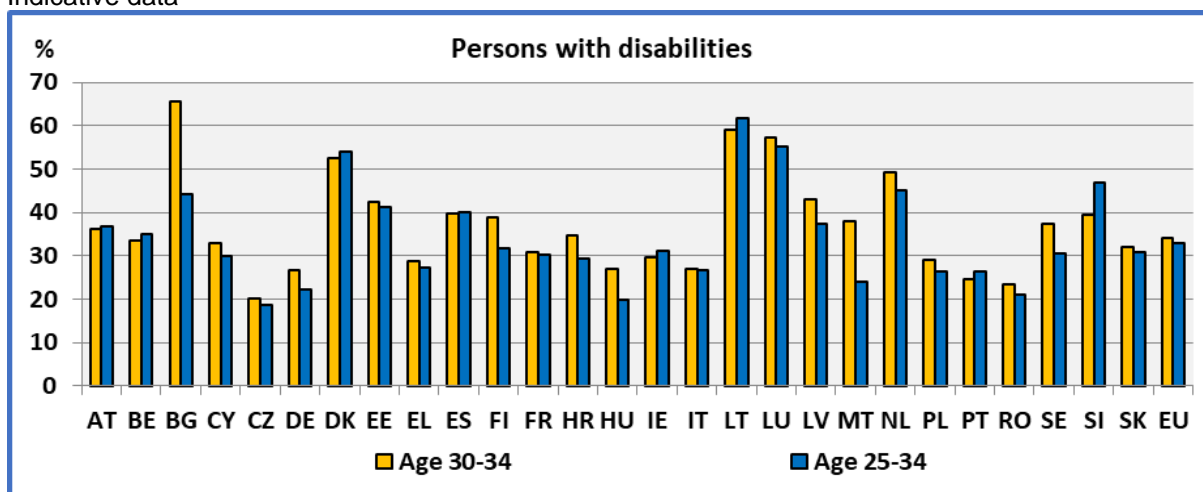
Note: The data for Bulgaria present a big volatility due, notably, to a small sample.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

During 2020-2021, at the EU 27 level, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities, aged 25-34, was 12.0 percentage points (11.4 for 30-34).

The following figure indicates that the national rates are strongly correlated (R²=0.89).

However, we observe important differences in Bulgaria, Malta and Slovenia. In these countries, the sample for persons with disabilities is relatively small. It is between 20 to 50 in the age group 30-34 and between 50 and 60 for the age group for persons aged 25-34.

Given the similarities between the two age groups, conclusions drawn above for the age group 30-34 are valid for the age group 25-34 too.

Figure 31: Disability gap in tertiary education or equivalent by Member State, 2021

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities
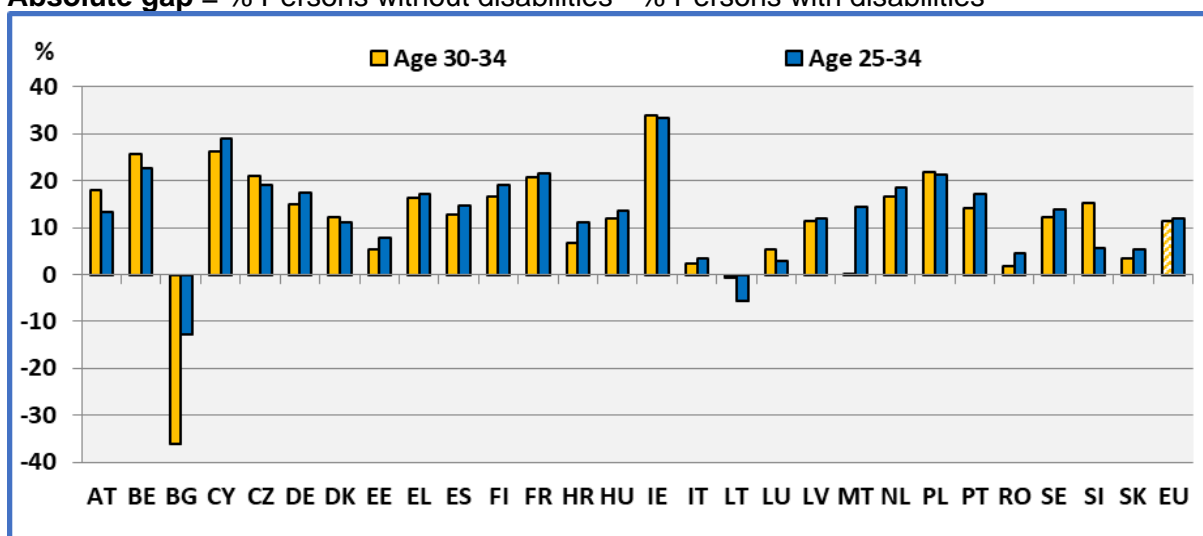
Note: The sample for persons with disabilities in BG, MT, and SI are relatively small for both age groups and particularly for the age group 30-34. Consequently, these estimations are very weak statistically.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

5.4 Statistical tables

Table 26: 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).

	2020			2021			Mean disability gap 2019-2020
	Disability			Disability			Gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	39.1	52.9	50.4	36.3	54.1	51.4	15.8
BE	31.7	57.4	53.9	33.4	59.3	56.3	25.8
BG	(17.3)	30.2	29.9	(65.7)	29.6	31.0	-11.7
CY	31.4	55.2	52.9	(32.8)	59.1	56.8	25.1
CZ	29.2	43.0	41.6	20.1	41.2	39.4	17.4
DE	26.8	44.0	42.5	26.7	41.8	40.5	16.1
DK	49.7	64.0	60.4	52.7	64.9	61.9	13.3
EE	32.3	47.6	45.2	42.4	47.8	46.8	10.3
EL	24.3	44.3	43.3	(28.7)	45.1	44.4	18.3
ES	42.7	50.1	49.2	39.9	52.8	50.9	10.2
FI	45.9	53.1	51.2	38.8	55.3	52.4	11.9
FR	37.5	52.8	51.1	30.9	51.5	49.5	17.9
HR	19.2	38.7	37.2	34.6	41.3	40.8	13.1
HU	(17.0)	40.7	39.2	(27.1)	39.1	38.6	17.9
IE	(47.5)	69.6	67.6	(29.6)	63.6	59.4	28.0
IT	16.8	27.9	27.0	26.9	29.3	29.1	6.8
LT	55.6	59.9	59.3	59.2	58.7	58.7	1.9
LU	(41.9)	54.8	53.9	57.4	62.7	61.6	9.1
LV	30.7	51.4	48.7	43.0	54.4	52.7	16.1
MT	(42.0)	34.8	35.1	(37.9)	37.9	37.9	-3.6
NL	44.9	63.6	60.5	49.4	66.1	63.6	17.7
PL	30.5	51.5	49.8	29.1	51.0	49.4	21.4
PT	28.4	37.4	36.2	24.7	38.8	36.4	11.6
RO	(23.4)	27.0	26.9	23.3	25.2	25.0	2.7
SE	(21.9)	50.9	49.2	37.3	49.6	47.8	20.7
SI	(27.1)	45.7	44.1	(39.5)	54.7	53.1	16.9
SK	32.2	35.7	35.2	32.2	35.7	35.2	3.5
EU	**34.3**	**45.5**	**44.4**	**34.3**	**45.7**	**44.5**	**11.3**

Note: '(data in parenthesis)': Between 20 and 49 observations. 'a': Less than 20 observations.

Mean disability gap 2020-2021: as indicated above, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2020-2021 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap. Data for Slovakia for 2021 refer to 2020.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB, different years.

Table 27: 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			Mean disability gap 2018-2019
	Disability			Disability			Gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	42.1	49.0	47.6	34.7	51.2	47.3	11.7
BE	35.3	52.0	49.8	30.4	55.8	52.5	21.0
BG	(7.6)	33.4	32.6	(6.4)	32.5	31.5	25.9
CY	43.1	59.3	57.9	42.7	56.1	55.0	14.8
CZ	35.7	41.2	40.7	27.1	39.2	38.0	8.9
DE	17.0	44.2	41.2	25.1	43.9	42.2	23.0
DK	(45.5)	52.5	51.4	49.5	58.5	56.6	8.0
EE	43.4	49.3	48.0	44.0	44.9	44.7	3.4
EL	33.8	44.2	43.8	20.2	45.7	44.6	18.0
ES	31.7	47.1	45.9	36.1	46.3	45.5	12.8
FI	42.4	48.1	46.6	40.1	53.0	49.9	9.3
FR	28.9	50.3	47.6	42.5	48.4	47.6	13.6
HR	17.3	31.8	30.5	28.7	33.6	33.2	9.8
HU	23.1	33.7	33.1	33.7	37.2	37.0	7.1
IE	(39.9)	61.7	60.4	(30.4)	69.8	67.8	30.5
IT	23.8	28.1	27.8	16.6	27.0	26.3	7.3
LT	(46.9)	64.9	63.2	54.1	61.5	60.2	12.7
LU	35.9	53.5	51.0	46.8	57.8	56.7	14.3
LV	42.9	49.2	47.9	32.1	47.3	45.3	10.7
MT	a	34.0	33.4	(40.2)	34.1	34.4	5.7
NL	49.2	64.0	61.1	41.7	62.2	59.1	17.6
PL	32.2	49.9	48.5	33.1	49.9	48.5	17.3
PT	30.6	35.1	34.4	24.0	37.0	35.2	8.8
RO	18.0	28.8	28.1	22.6	28.5	28.1	8.4
SE	(27.0)	54.9	52.6	(21.8)	51.6	49.3	28.9
SI	38.9	43.3	42.6	34.4	45.9	44.1	7.9
SK	29.7	35.5	34.9	34.6	34.7	34.7	3.0
EU	**29.4**	**43.8**	**42.3**	**32.5**	**43.6**	**42.5**	**12.8**

Note: '(data in parenthesis)': Between 20 and 49 observations. 'a': Less than 20 observations.

Mean disability gap 2018-2019: as indicated above, first, we took the arithmetic mean of 2018-2019 for persons with and without disabilities, and secondly, we estimated the gap.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB, different years.

Table 28: Percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by Member State and disability status, aged 25-34

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).

	2021			Disability gap 2021
	Disability			Gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	
AT	36.9	50.2	48.2	13.3
BE	35.0	57.6	55.4	22.7
BG	44.3	31.6	32.1	-12.7
CY	30.0	58.8	56.7	28.9
CZ	18.7	37.7	36.2	19.0
DE	22.3	39.8	38.4	17.5
DK	54.0	65.1	62.4	11.1
EE	41.3	49.3	47.9	7.9
EL	27.4	44.7	44.0	17.3
ES	40.0	54.7	52.7	14.7
FI	31.8	50.9	47.9	19.1
FR	30.3	51.9	49.9	21.7
HR	29.4	40.6	39.7	11.1
HU	19.9	33.5	32.9	13.7
IE	31.2	64.4	60.8	33.3
IT	26.7	30.1	29.8	3.4
LT	61.8	56.0	56.7	-5.8
LU	55.3	58.2	57.7	2.9
LV	37.5	49.4	47.7	12.0
MT	24.1	38.5	37.8	14.4
NL	45.0	63.6	60.6	18.6
PL	26.4	47.7	46.1	21.3
PT	26.5	43.6	40.9	17.1
RO	21.0	25.5	25.2	4.5
SE	30.6	44.6	42.4	14.0
SI	46.8	52.4	51.9	5.7
SK	30.8	36.2	35.7	5.4
EU	**33.0**	**45.0**	**43.8**	**12.0**

Data source: EU-SILC UDB, different years.

Table 29: 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	34.3	45.5
2021				34.3	45.7

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

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.[54] 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 Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030[55] 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. In the following, we aim to transpose the principle of equal pay in the domain of disability.

In the following analysis, we propose the elaboration of an indicator in order to capture the disability pay gap. It aims to estimate the pay gap between persons with and without disabilities. The base for comparison are persons without disabilities (men and women).

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.

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

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[54] European Commission (2021), 'Union of Equality Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'; Brussels, 2021 - COM(2021) 101 final.

[55] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030', p. 17 (Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC); Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC); Equal Treatment Directive (2006/54/EC).

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 32: 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.
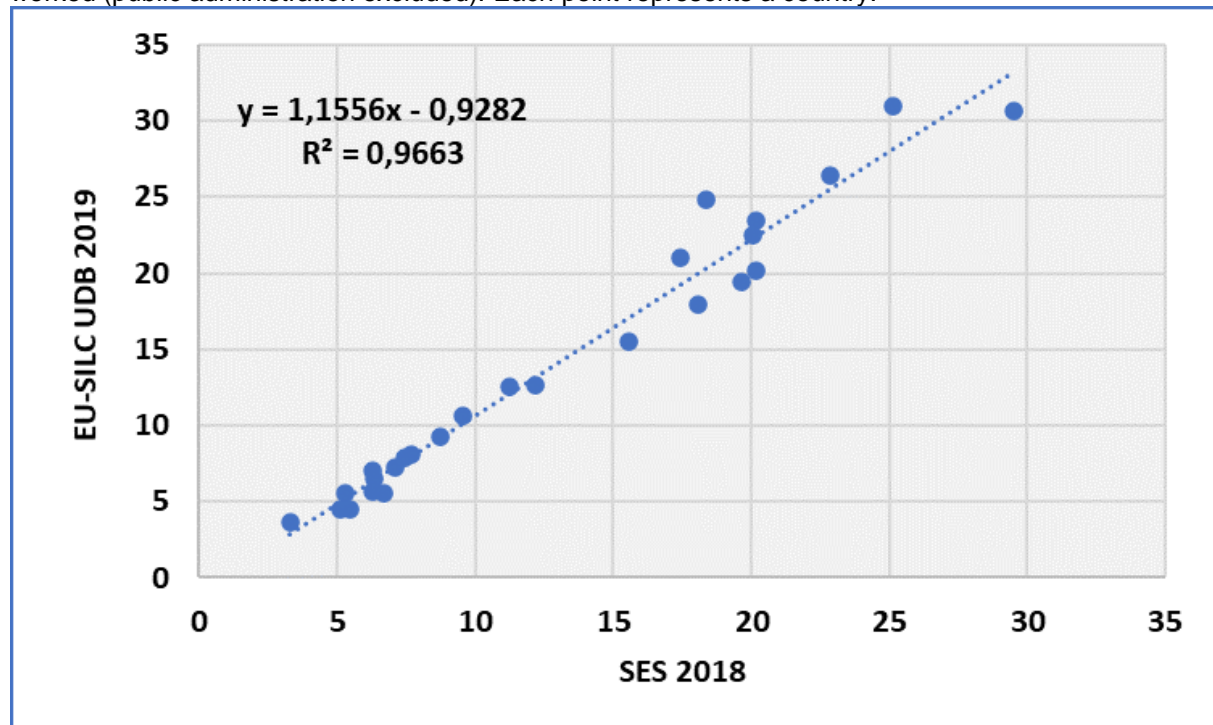
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 RELEASE 1 2021 and Structure of earnings survey 2018 (earn_ses2018). Data extracted on 26 May 2022 [ESTAT]:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/earn_ses2018_esms.htm.

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 covering 2020 and 2021 were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and by significant national measures to retain employment during lockdown periods. This included notably large subsidisation programs. For the above reasons, 2020 and 2021 data on wages are not representative of an ordinary labour market process. Consequently, we repeat the analysis presented in previous reports based on 2019 data.

Concerning the disability pay gap in the EU 27, as noted previously, we focus 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 gaps, by age group, are significantly higher for most age groups.

Figure 33: 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).
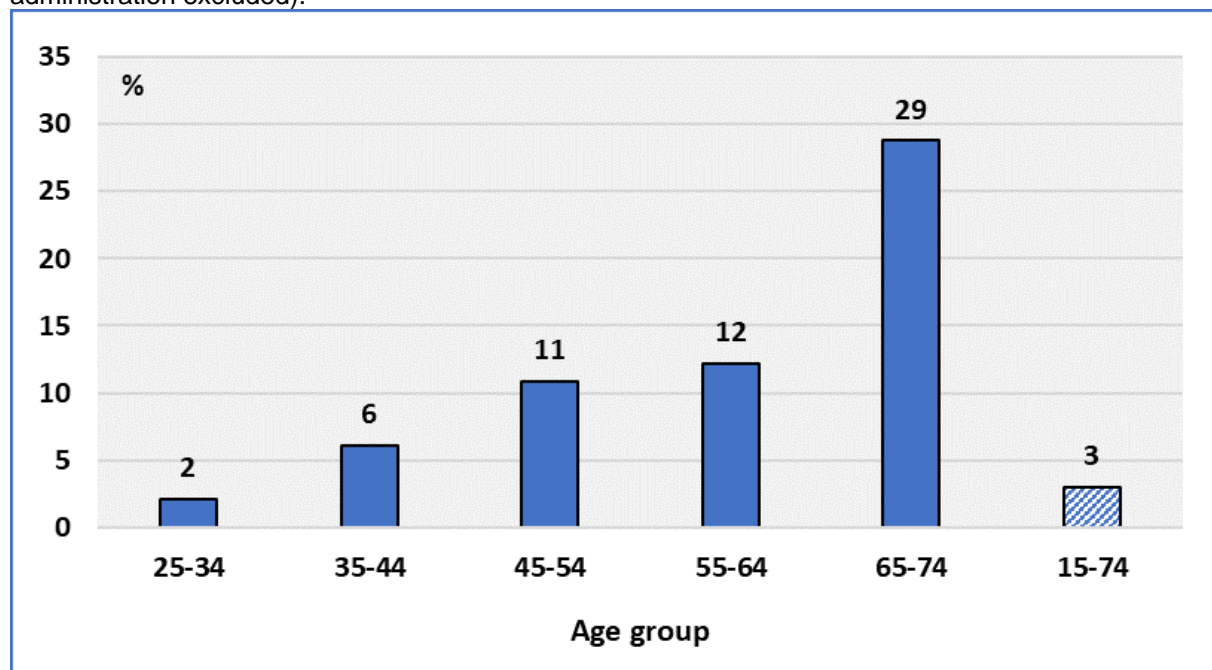
Note: We did not report the estimate for age 15-24 because the sample was relatively small.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 RELEASE 1 2021.

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 persons with disabilities 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).[56]

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).[57] 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.

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[56] 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.

[57] 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 34: 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).
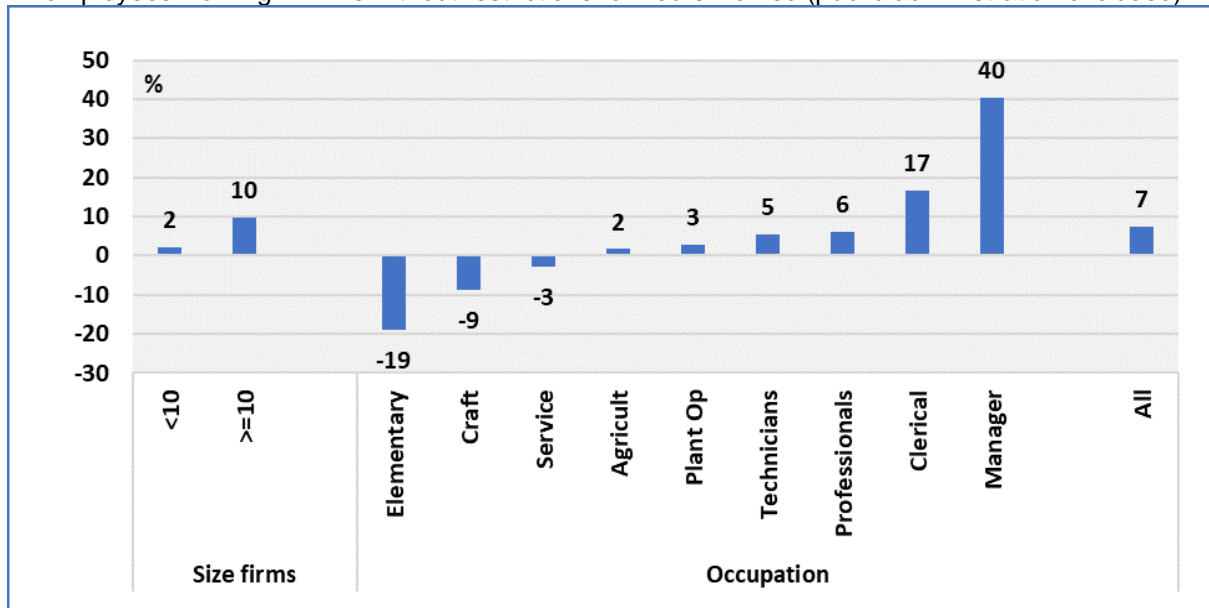
Note: The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) distinguishes: 1 Managers, 2 Professionals, 3 Technicians and Associate Professionals, 4 Clerical Support Workers, 5 Service and Sales Workers, 6 Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers, 7 Craft and Related Trades Workers, 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 men with disabilities and 17.7 % for women with disabilities. 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 30: 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	Relative gap in %
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 31: 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 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 Commission called on Member States to: establish, by 2024, targets for increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities and reducing employment rate gaps between persons with and without 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[58] 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 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).

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[58] 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.

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 Commission has adopted a new Regulation[59] 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).

GALI will be included every two years, in even years (2022, 2024, etc.).

Consequently, for 2021, 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 questions aiming to estimate an indicator based on 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. Previous EDE/ANED reports have analysed and explained this difference between the two surveys. For 2021, the respective rates for all persons aged 20-64 are 73.1 % (LFS) and 70.6 % (EU-SILC).

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 if we use this definition/question based on self-assessment.

In 2021, the question on self-assessed economic status was slightly modified (see Metadata) and this might have impacted the answers.

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.

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.

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[59]   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.

7.2.2   General comments

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

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 50.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 20-64 were employed, in comparison with 74.8 % of persons without disabilities. The employment rate for all persons aged 20-64 was 70.6 %.[60]

At the EU 27 level, about 23.1 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were employed, out of 45.4 million persons with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 32: Employment by disability status, age 20-64, EU, 2021

	Not Employed	Employed	Total
1 000 000			
Persons without disabilities	52.6	156.4	209.0
Persons with disabilities	22.3	23.1	45.4
Total	74.9	179.5	254.4
%			
Persons without disabilities	25.2	74.8	100.0
Persons with disabilities	49.1	50.9	100.0
Total	29.5	70.6	100.0

Note: The question on economic status has been slightly modified in 2021. The data above have been corrected for missing values on disability status. For these reasons, the data are not strictly comparable to previous EDE report. In addition, in the previous EDE report several data were based on estimations. For comparison the LFS (2021), using the ILO definition, provides an estimation of 193.5 million employed persons, for the same age group (Data extracted on 16/05/2023 from [ESTAT]). Our estimation, based on self-declarations, is 179.5 million persons.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 Estonia, Latvia and Portugal. 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.

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[60]   The LFS 2021 provides an estimate of 73.1 %. See Eurostat:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database (data extracted on 15/05/2023.

Figure 35: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021
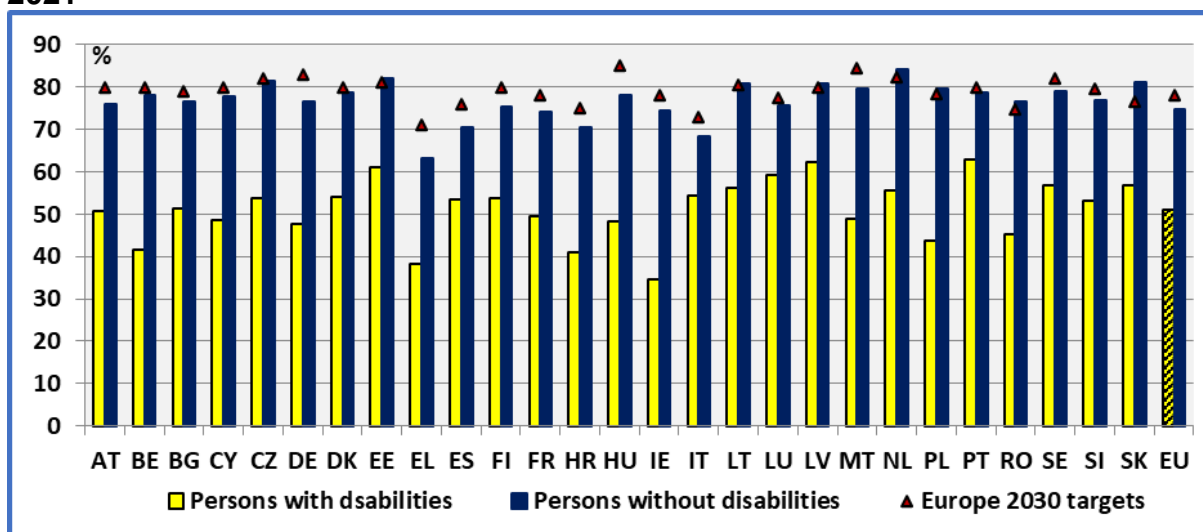
Note: All data for Germany covering labour issues are indicative due to a high non-response rate. All data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

In the EU 27 in 2021, the employment rate of people with disabilities was about 23.9 percentage points lower in comparison with the rate for people without disabilities. The relative difference was 31.9 %.[61] The disability employment gap will be studied further below.

7.2.3 Employment by gender

In the EU 27, about 47.8 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were employed, in comparison with 54.5 % 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 6.7 percentage points.

Figure 36: Employment rate by disability and gender, age 20-64, EU, 2021
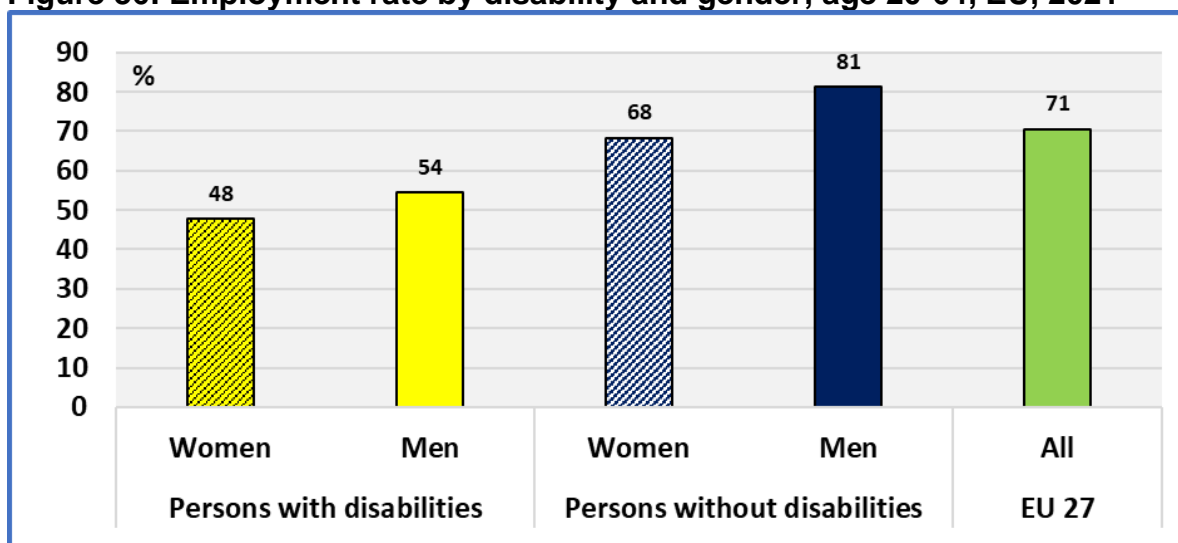
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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

In the following figure, it may be observed that the highest gender gaps, among persons with disabilities, can be found in Romania (23.7 percentage points), Malta (18.0 percentage points) and Italy (17.0 percentage points). Data for Malta ought to be treated with caution due to the relatively small national sample size. Similar results were found in previous year.

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

Figure 37: Employment rate for persons with disabilities by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2021
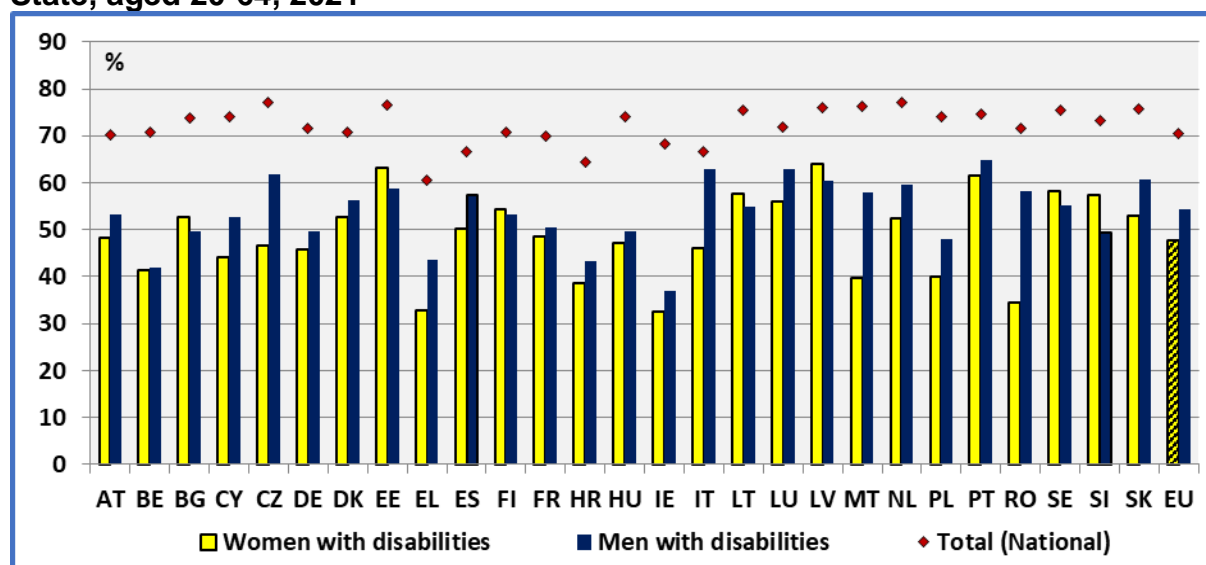
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

7.2.4 Employment by degree

Concerning the degree of disability, the employment rates for persons aged 20-64 in the EU were 28.7 % for persons with severe disabilities (without Germany), 58.2 % for persons with moderate disabilities (without Germany) and 74.8 % for persons without disabilities.[62]

The countries with the highest employment rates for persons with severe disabilities were Estonia (38.8 %), Luxembourg (42.5 %) and Portugal (47.9 %).

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[62] Data for Germany do not distinguish moderate and severe degree of disability. This affects the EU 27 indicator.

Figure 38: Employment rate by degree of disability and Member State, age 20-64, 2021
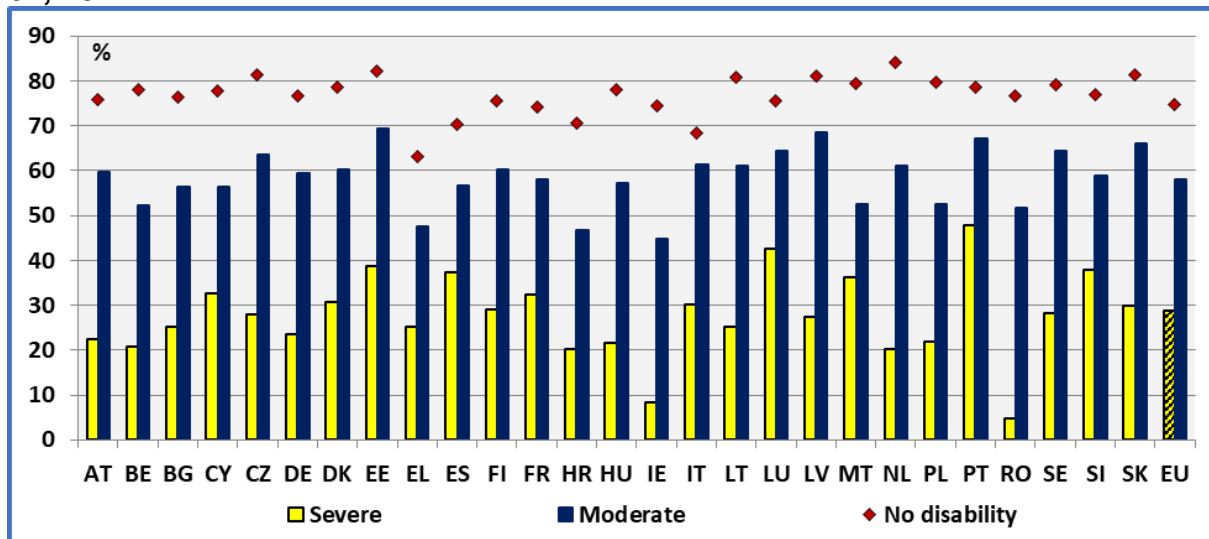
Note: Data for Germany are incomplete. This affects the EU 27 indicator.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

7.2.5 Evolution of employment in the Member States

Comparisons between 2020 and 2021 ought to be treated with caution due to the effect of the COVID-2019 pandemic and the related restrictions affecting the organisation of the survey. In addition, new nomenclatures were introduced in the EU-SILC 2021 survey.

Both persons with and without disabilities experienced an increase or their employment rates. In the EU 27, the employment rate of persons with disabilities, aged 20-64, increased from 49.7 %, in 2020, to 50.9 %, in 2021. The respective employment rates for persons without disabilities were 74.1 % (2020) and 74.8 % (2021).

We may note that 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.[63]

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[63] 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.

Figure 39: Employment rate of persons with disabilities, aged 20-64
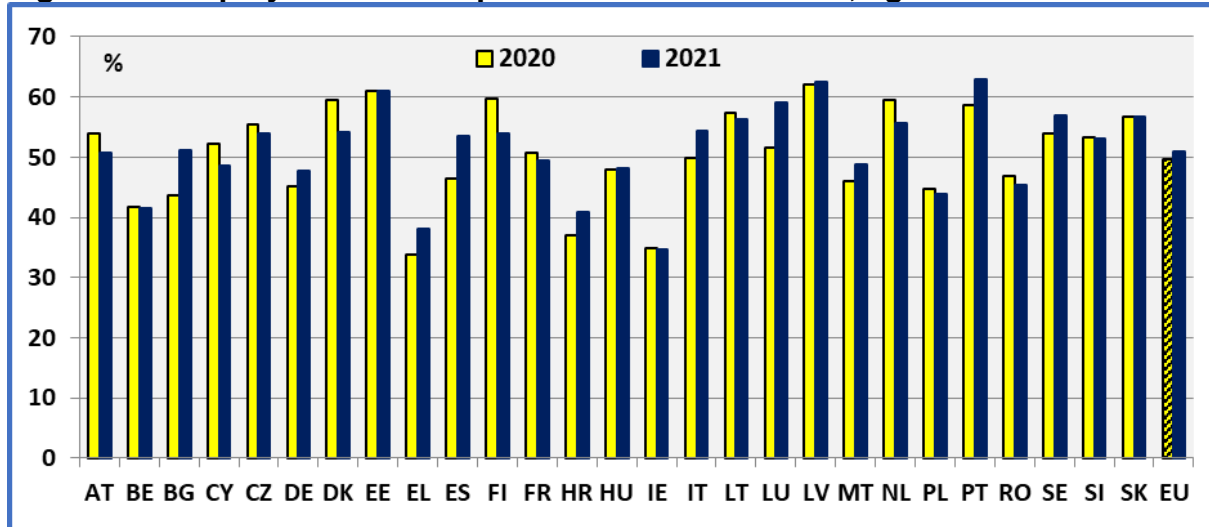
Note: All data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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.[64]

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.[65] 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.

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[64] 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.

[65] 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.

Figure 40: 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.
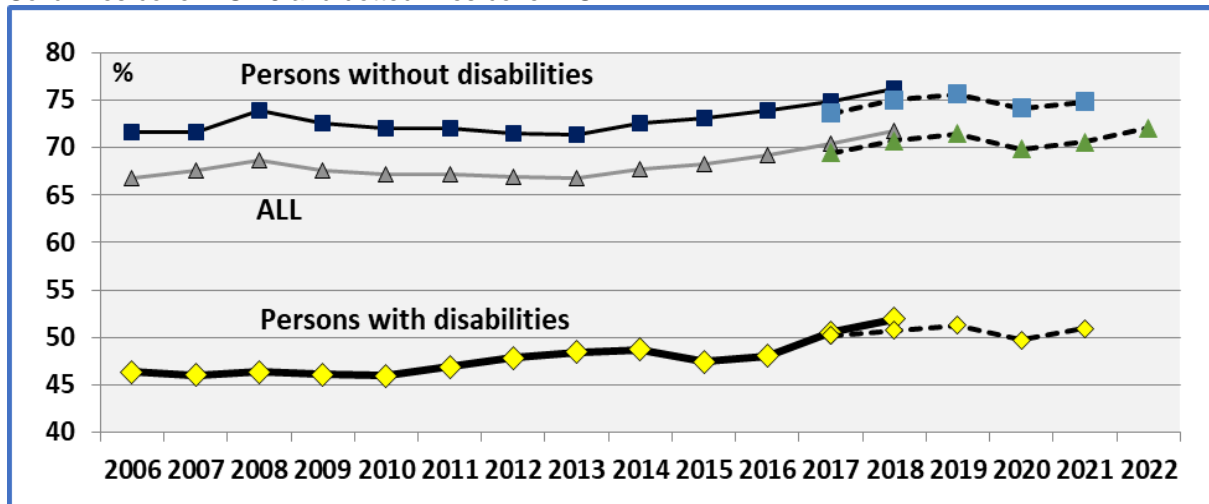
Note: The ILO definition of employment provides a global employment rate of 71.3 % for 2020 and 74.6 % for 2022. The estimate for 2022 in the figure is an extrapolation based on the percentage change drawn from the LFS data (*Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database; Data extracted on 15/05/2023 [ESTAT]*).
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations.

7.3   Statistical tables

Table 33: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021

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 2030
				Disability		Disability				
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	16 June 2022
AT	50.7	75.9	70.2	48.3	68.1	53.1	83.5	22.5	59.6	79.9
BE	41.6	78.1	70.9	41.3	74.9	41.8	81.1	20.7	52.4	80.0
BG	51.2	76.5	73.9	52.6	71.5	49.7	81.3	25.1	56.4	79.0
CY	48.6	77.8	74.2	44.2	72.8	52.8	83.2	32.8	56.5	80.0
CZ	53.9	81.5	77.0	46.6	73.5	61.7	89.4	27.9	63.7	82.2
DE	(47.7)	(76.6)	(71.5)	(45.8)	(71.6)	(49.6)	(81.5)	:	:	83.0
DK	54.2	78.7	70.9	52.7	74.7	56.2	82.2	30.7	60.2	80.0
EE	61.1	82.1	76.7	63.3	78.4	58.7	85.6	38.8	69.4	81.3
EL	38.1	63.2	60.5	32.7	52.5	43.7	74.1	25.3	47.4	71.1
ES	53.5	70.4	66.7	50.2	64.2	57.4	76.4	37.3	56.6	76.0
FI	53.9	75.5	70.6	54.4	72.8	53.4	77.8	29.0	60.3	80.0
FR	49.4	74.3	70.0	48.5	70.9	50.5	77.6	32.5	58.1	78.0
HR	40.9	70.5	64.5	38.5	63.6	43.2	77.3	20.2	46.7	75.0
HU	48.3	78.1	74.0	47.0	70.8	49.7	85.5	21.7	57.2	85.0
IE	34.7	74.6	68.3	32.5	67.9	36.8	81.5	8.2	44.8	78.2
IT	54.4	68.5	66.7	46.0	57.4	63.0	79.4	30.2	61.5	73.0
LT	56.3	80.8	75.5	57.6	78.7	55.0	82.9	25.2	61.2	80.7
LU	59.1	75.6	71.9	55.9	70.2	62.9	80.4	42.5	64.4	77.6

LV	62.4	81.0	76.0	64.0	77.3	60.5	85.0	27.3	68.5	80.0
MT	48.8	79.5	76.2	39.8	69.5	57.8	88.2	36.2	52.5	84.6
NL	55.7	84.1	77.1	52.3	81.6	59.6	86.4	20.3	61.1	82.5
PL	43.8	79.6	74.2	39.9	71.8	48.0	88.0	21.8	52.5	78.3
PT	63.0	78.7	74.5	61.6	75.6	64.7	81.8	47.9	67.2	80.0
RO	45.3	76.7	71.5	34.6	65.5	58.3	87.1	4.9	51.8	74.7
SE	56.9	79.2	75.4	58.3	75.0	55.3	83.0	28.3	64.5	82.0
SI	53.2	76.9	73.1	57.2	73.7	49.3	79.9	37.9	59.0	79.5
SK	56.7	81.3	75.7	53.0	75.7	60.7	86.6	30.0	66.0	76.5
EU	**50.9**	**74.8**	**70.6**	**47.8**	**68.3**	**54.5**	**81.2**	**28.7**	**58.2**	**78.0**

Note: Data for Germany covering labour issues are indicative due to a high non-response rate. Furthermore, they do not distinguish moderate and severe disabilities. Data for Slovakia are missing and filled with 2020 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 2023 (spring release).

Table 34: 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 2030
				Disability		Disability				
	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	45.2	77.9	72.1	42.3	73.8	48.1	81.9	23.6	59.5	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	50.8	75.5	70.8	49.8	72.2	51.9	78.8	35.6	58.7	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	34.8	76.3	69.5	33.1	70.0	36.7	82.6	15.5	41.9	78.2
IT	49.9	66.3	64.3	41.3	56.5	59.0	76.1	28.7	56.0	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	**49.7**	**74.1**	**69.9**	**47.0**	**67.8**	**52.9**	**80.4**	**29.2**	**56.8**	**78**

Note: Data for Germany are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev.1 (November 2022),

Table 35: 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 36: 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				49.7	74.1	69.9
2021				50.9	74.8	70.6
2022						72.0

Note : 2022 is a simple extrapolation based on LFS movements.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

8   Unemployment rate

8.1   Relevance to EU policy/strategy

Unemployment may lead to poverty and social exclusion. 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 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 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.

For the above reason 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 2022 collection round.

In the EU 27, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 20-64 was 17.9 %, in comparison with 9.1 % of people without disabilities in the same age group. The total unemployment rate was 10.3 %. These estimates are based on self-declarations. For comparison, the LFS using the ILO definition provides an overall rate of 6.9 %, for the same age group. But as noted above, the ILO definition excludes from the analysis a significant number of long-term unemployed persons.

In the EU 27, about 5.0 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were unemployed, out of 27.9 million economically active persons with disabilities.

Table 37: Unemployment rate by disability status, age 20-64, EU 27, 2021

	Employed	Unemployed	Total
1 000 000			
Persons without disabilities	154.9	15.5	170.3
Persons with disabilities	22.9	5.0	27.9
Total	**177.8**	**20.5**	**198.2**
%			
Persons without disabilities	90.9	9.1	100.0
Persons with disabilities	82.1	17.9	100.0
Total	**89.7**	**10.3**	**100.0**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 (R²=0.57). This means that 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, Croatia and Greece (in ascending order). Similar results were found in 2020.

Figure 41: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.
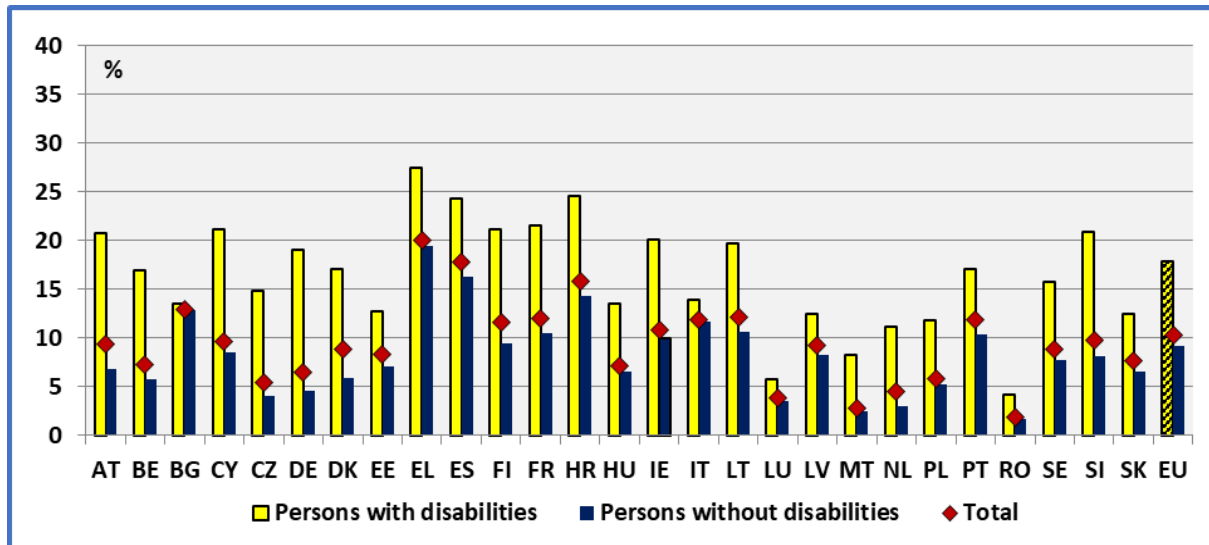
Note: The data for Germany are indicative. The data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

8.2.3 Unemployment disability gap

At the EU 27 level, there was an unemployment gap of 8.8 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 (2020-2021). We have to note that these years have been characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the data ought to be treated with caution. However, if we compare unemployment rates for 2020-2021 and 2018-2019, we find a high correlation ($R^2=0.77$).

It may be noted that the gap was relatively high in Austria, Slovenia, and Germany. On the other hand, it was relatively low in Romania, Italy and Bulgaria, in ascending order.

Figure 42: Disadvantage of people with disabilities concerning unemployment, aged 20-64, average 2020-2021, expressed in percentage points (pp)

Disadvantage = (unemployment rate of people with disabilities) – (unemployment rate of people without disabilities).
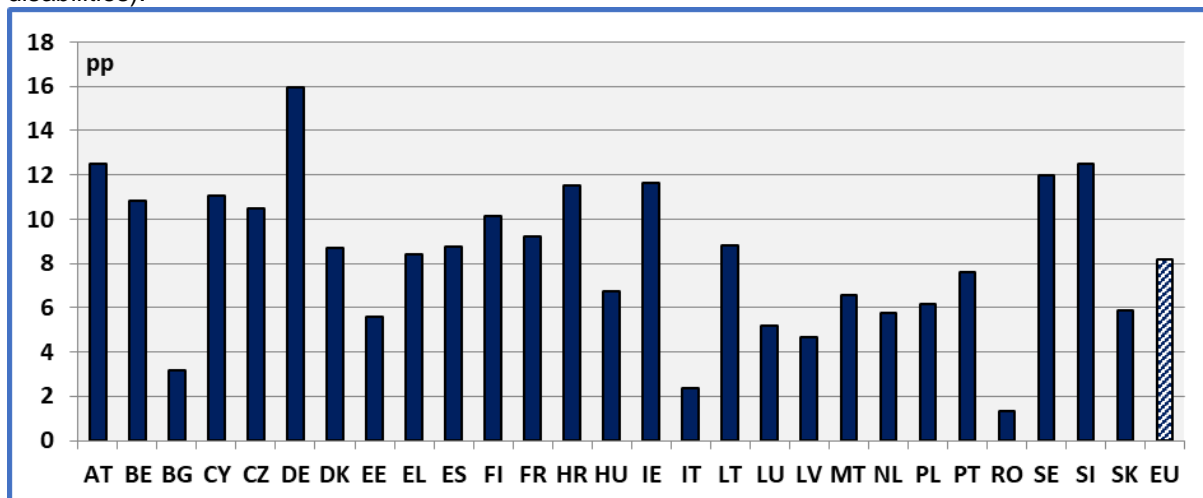
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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8.2.4 Unemployment rate by gender

In the EU 27, about 17.7 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were unemployed, in comparison with 18.0 % of men with disabilities. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 9.9 % (women) and 8.4 % (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). Similar results were found in 2020.

Figure 43: Unemployment rate by gender, disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021
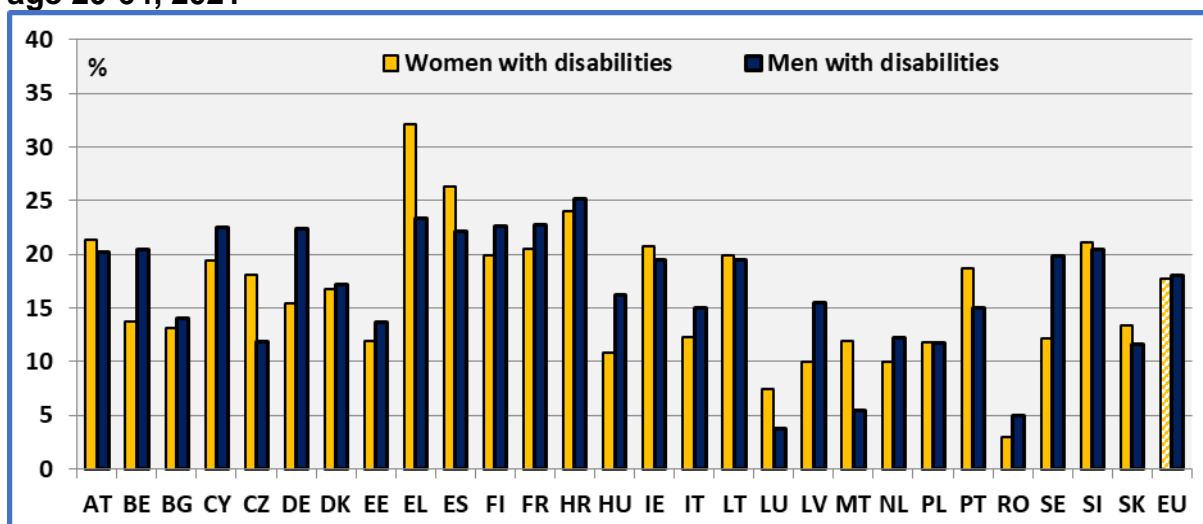
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 44: Unemployment rate by disability status and age group, EU 27, 2021
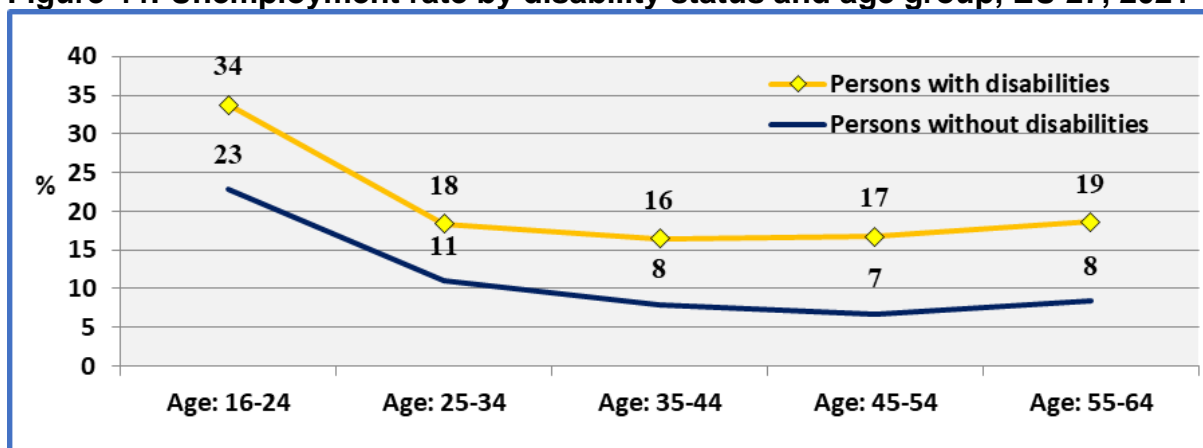
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

In comparison to previous year, the curve for persons with disabilities has shifted slightly upwards.

Table 38: Unemployment rate by age group, EU 27

Persons / Age group	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	16-64
	%, 2021					
With disabilities	33.8	18.4	16.4	16.7	18.6	**18.0**
Without disabilities	22.8	11.0	7.9	6.7	8.4	**9.3**
	%, 2020					
With disabilities	29.6	21.0	15.8	16.2	18.2	**17.8**
Without disabilities	24.8	12.6	8.5	7.7	9.0	**10.4**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 16.1 %, in comparison with 27.4 % for persons with severe disabilities. The data are indicative. These EU aggregates do not include Germany. The latter do not distinguish moderate and severe disabilities.

Figure 45: Unemployment rate by degree of disability, age 20-64, 2021
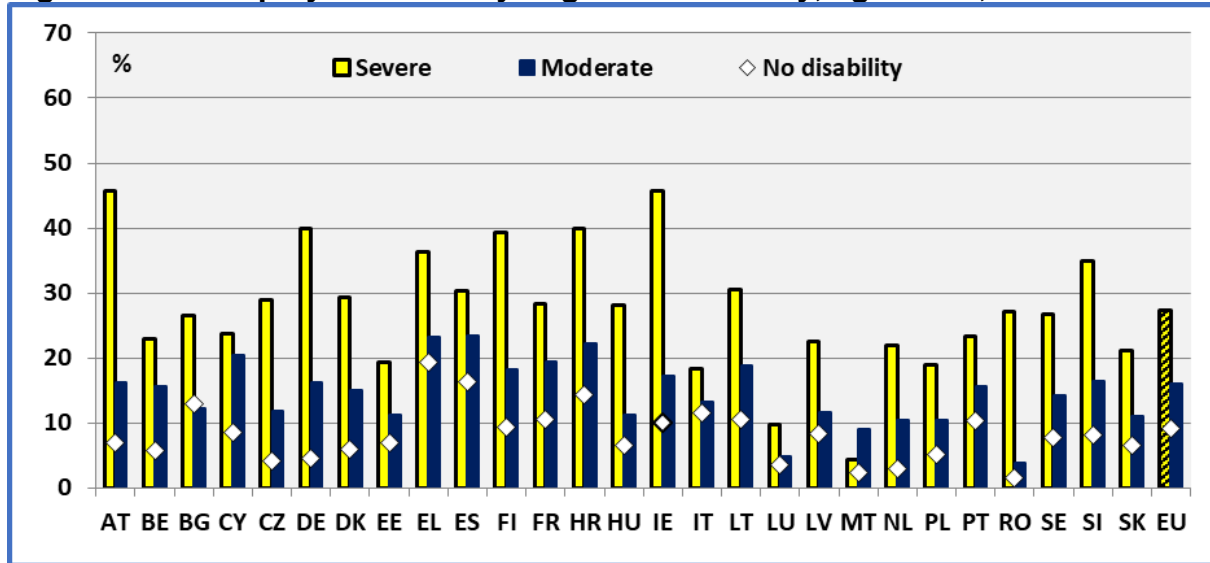
Note: Data for persons with disabilities in Germany do not distinguish moderate and severe disabilities. Data for Slovakia are missing. We report 2020 data for these two groups.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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. During 2020 and 2021, the data were influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the accompanying health-related restrictions and lockdowns had an impact on the timing and the organisation of the survey. Also, the EU-SILC survey does not enable us to report seasonally adjusted data. For these reasons, comparisons of annual changes across countries in the following figure ought to be made with caution.

We observe a decrease of unemployment rate for persons with disabilities in 11 Member States, while in three, it is almost unchanged.

At the EU 27 level, we observe an increase for persons with disabilities from 17.7 % in 2020 to 17.9 % in 2021.

Figure 46: 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.
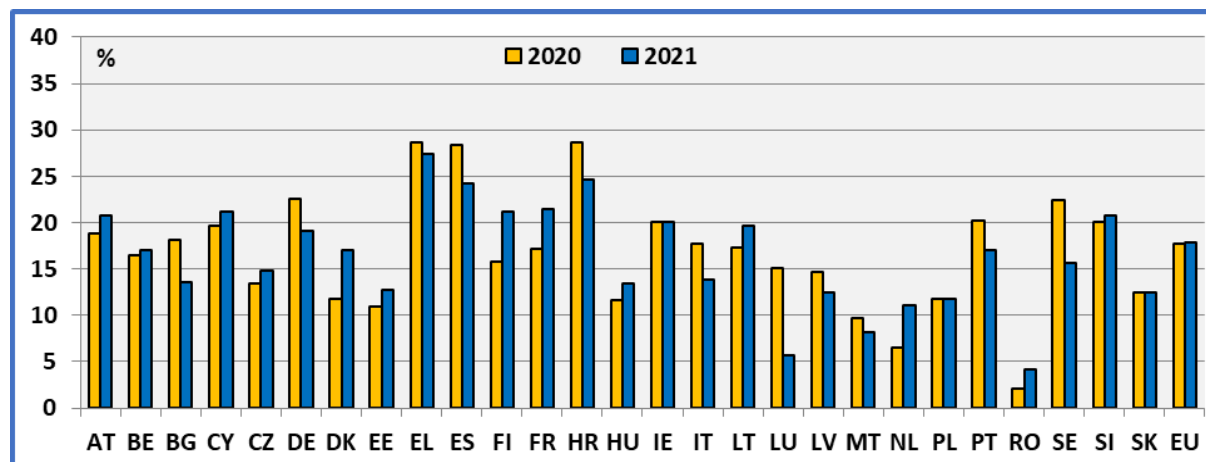
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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. However, the increase in the total unemployment rate was relatively small, notably thanks 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 17.7 % in 2020 to 17.9 % in 2021. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 10.1 % (2020) and 9.1 % (2021). The overall rate decreased from 11.2 % (2020) to 10.3 % (2021). Provisional data provide a further reduction in 2022.

For comparison, Eurostat, using the ILO definition of unemployment, provides an overall estimation of 7.1 % (2020) and 6.9 % (2021), for the same age group. Provisional data for 2022, provide a rate of 6.0 % (data extracted on 16/05/2023 from [ESTAT]).

Figure 47: 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.
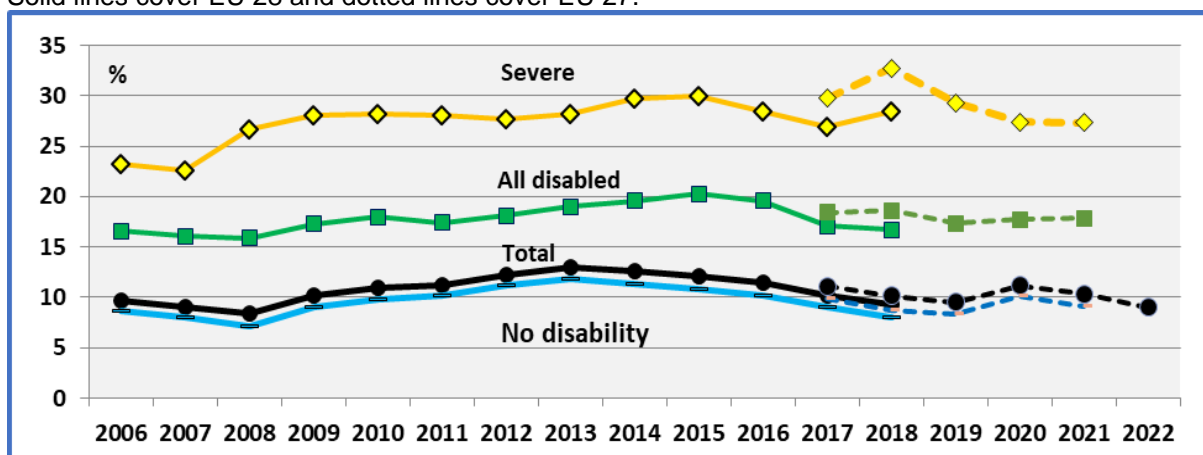
Note: The data for the unemployment rate of persons with severe disabilities, in 2021, is indicative, since the data for Germany are incomplete. The 2022 unemployment rate is an extrapolation based on LFS estimations of the total unemployment rate (20-64). We applied the percentage change 2020-2021 to the EU-SILC 2021 rate.
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.

All EU countries have committed to the implementation of the reinforced Youth Guarantee in a Council Recommendation of October 2020[66]. The reinforced Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all Member 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 2021, about 33.8 % of persons with disabilities aged 16-24 were unemployed in comparison with 22.8 % of persons without disabilities. The gap was 11.0 percentage points. The overall rate for youth unemployment was 23.6 %. This

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

rate is not comparable to the ILO definition and, as noted above, it is based on self-declared economic status.

In the following figure, one may note that the gap between persons with and without disabilities increased sharply in 2021. However, we await the final data 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 3 187 observations. Furthermore, due to high non-response rate in certain countries, the data used here for 2021 are merely indicative.

Figure 48: Evolution of the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 16-24
Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.
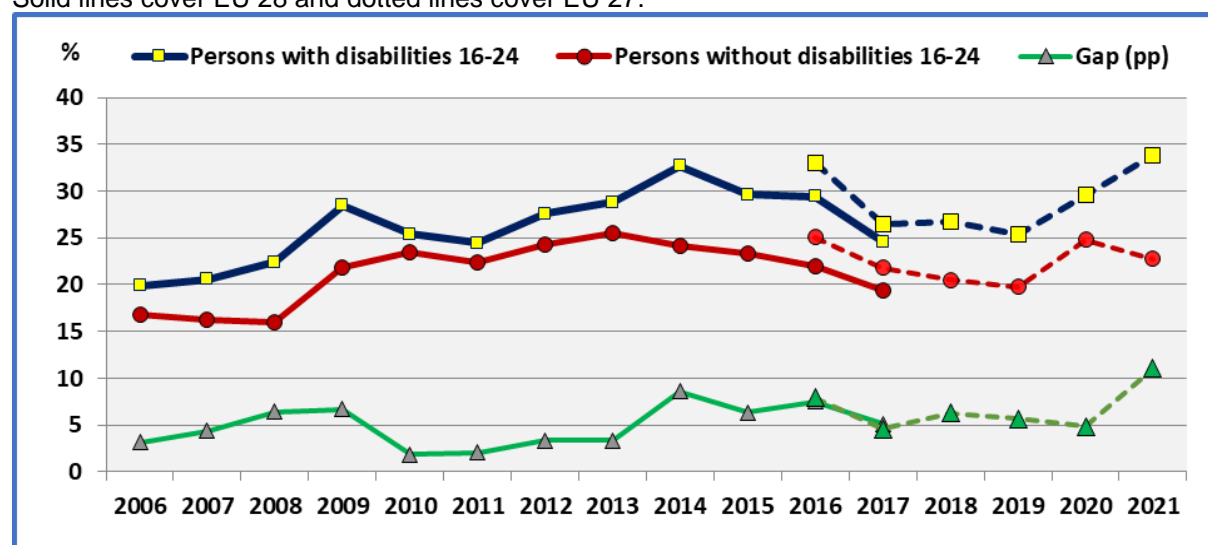
Note: The indicators for 2020 and 2021 for persons with disabilities are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

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[67] 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

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

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.

Following the modifications brought into the EU-SILC 2021 survey, the EU-SILC reports the duration of the most recent unemployment spell (PL271). The question covers persons aged 16 to 74 years old. According to Eurostat (2021, op. cit.), the variable should capture the duration of respondent's most recent unemployment spell during the last 5 years from the date of the interview. If the person is currently unemployed, then the most recent unemployment spell refers to the current one.

Information on unemployed persons who would be available to start work and who are seeking work is not available. These indicators, presented in previous EDE reports, are not available.

The proposed question by Eurostat (2021) is: 'Have you been unemployed during last 60 months?' (PL271_Q1); if 'Yes', the following question is: 'Considering the most recent unemployment spell, how many consecutive months have you been unemployed in the 60 months preceding the date of the interview?' (PL271_Q2).

In the following, we consider only persons who declare unemployed. This definition relies on self-assessment and might not correspond to the ILO definition of unemployment. Also, for comparability reasons with previous rates, we focus on persons aged 20 to 64.

8.4.2 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.

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

In the EU 26 in 2021, about 8.5 % of active persons with disabilities aged 20-64 were long-term unemployed, in comparison with 4.8 % of persons without disabilities.

The total rate for EU 26 was 5.3 %. For comparison, the LFS survey provided an overall rate, for the same age group, of 2.8 %, in the EU 27[68]. However, the LFS national rates were correlated with the national rates presented here (R^2=0.68). Differences might arise, notably, because Eurostat data, based on LFS, are annual averages. On the contrary, the EU-SILC data, presented here, are not seasonally adjusted.

The long-term unemployment rate of persons with disabilities was notably high in Spain, Croatia and Greece, in ascending order. A similar ranking was found in previous year.

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[68] Data extracted on 24/05/2023 from [ESTAT].

Figure 49: Long-term unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021

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.
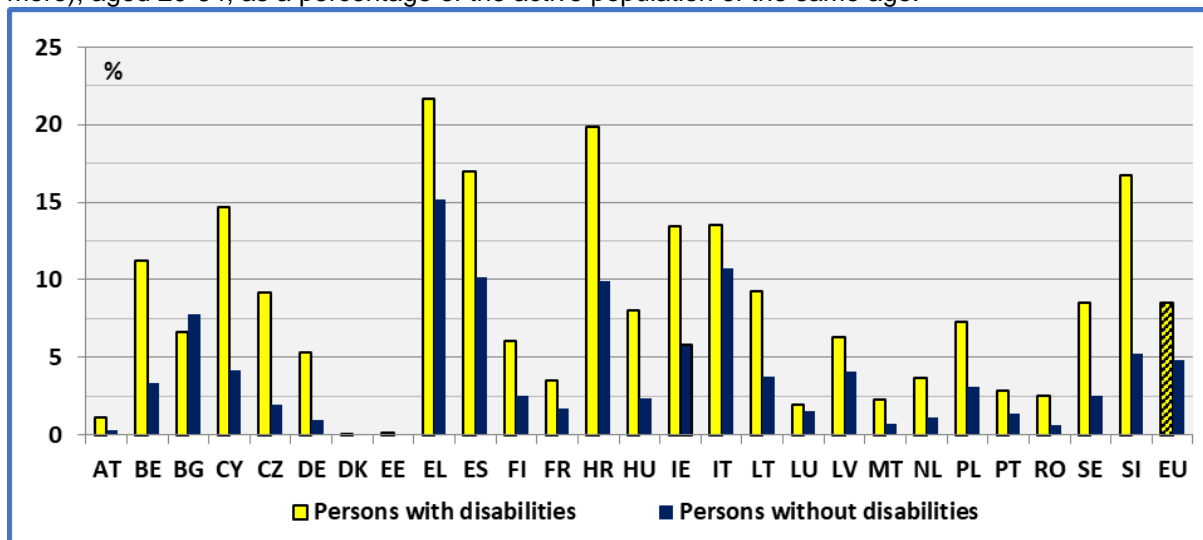
Note: Data for SK are missing.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

8.4.3 Disability long term unemployment gap

In the EU 26, we observe a disability gap of about 4 percentage points.

The highest gaps can be found in Cyprus, Croatia and Slovenia.

Figure 50: Disability long-term unemployment gap by Member State, age 20-64, 2021

Gap = % Persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities
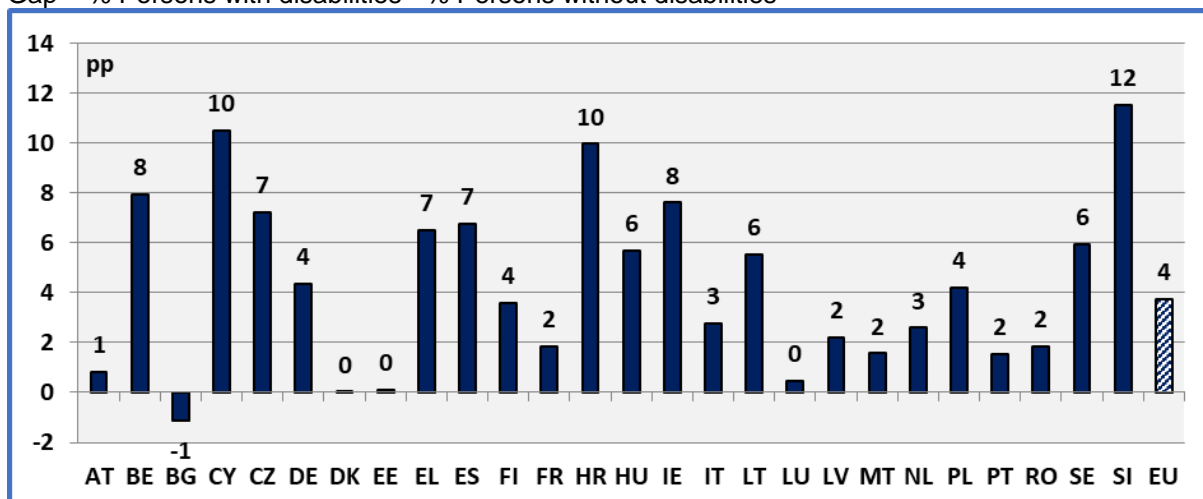
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

8.4.4 Long term unemployment rate by gender

In the EU 26 in 2021, about 8.2 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were long-term unemployed. The equivalent rate for men with disabilities was 8.8 %.

The ranking is reversed in the case of persons without disabilities. The rate of women without disabilities is higher compared to men without disabilities.

Small samples do not permit the elaboration of robust estimates by gender in several Member States.

Table 39: Unemployment rate by duration, gender and disability status, age 20-64, EU 26, 2021

The rates refer to persons participating in the labour force, same sex, age and disability status.

	Employed	Unemployed Less than 12 months	Unemployed 12 months or more	Total
Persons with disabilities				
Men	81.8	9.4	8.8	100
Women	82.2	9.6	8.2	100
Total	**82.0**	**9.5**	**8.5**	**100**
Persons without disabilities				
Men	91.6	4.2	4.3	100
Women	90.0	4.6	5.4	100
Total	**90.9**	**4.4**	**4.8**	**100**

Note: This table is not comparable to previous years. Data for Slovakia are missing
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

8.4.5 Long term unemployment rate by degree of disability

The long-term unemployment rate increases with the degree of disability. It was 4.8 % for persons without disabilities, 8.2 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 9.6 % for persons with severe disabilities.

As noted, the data refer to self-declarations and might not correspond to ILO definitions of employment and unemployment.

Table 40: Unemployment rate by duration and degree of disability, age 20-64, EU, 2020

The rates refer to persons participating in the labour force, same disability degree and age group.

	Employed	Unemployed Less than 12 months	Unemployed 12 months or more	Total
No disability	90.9	4.4	4.8	**100**
Moderate	83.8	8.0	8.2	**100**
Severe	75.9	14.5	9.6	**100**
Total	**89.6**	**5.1**	**5.3**	**100**

Note: This table is not comparable to previous years. Data for Slovakia are missing
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

8.5 Statistical tables

Table 41: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021

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 gap in pp
				Disability		Disability				
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	
AT	20.7	6.8	9.4	21.3	6.8	20.2	6.8	45.7	16.1	13.9
BE	17.0	5.8	7.2	13.8	5.3	20.5	6.2	23.0	15.6	11.2
BG	13.6	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.6	14.0	12.2	26.5	12.2	0.7
CY	21.2	8.5	9.7	19.4	10.0	22.5	7.1	23.6	20.4	12.6
CZ	14.8	4.1	5.4	18.1	4.6	11.8	3.7	29.0	11.9	10.7
DE	19.1	4.5	6.5	15.4	4.3	22.3	4.8	:	:	14.5
DK	17.0	5.9	8.9	16.8	6.6	17.2	5.4	29.3	15.1	11.1
EE	12.8	7.0	8.2	11.9	7.0	13.7	7.0	19.2	11.3	5.8
EL	27.4	19.4	20.0	32.1	24.4	23.4	15.3	36.4	23.2	8.0
ES	24.3	16.2	17.8	26.3	19.1	22.1	13.8	30.2	23.5	8.0
FI	21.2	9.4	11.7	19.9	8.4	22.6	10.1	39.3	18.2	11.8
FR	21.5	10.5	12.0	20.5	9.9	22.8	11.1	28.3	19.3	11.0
HR	24.6	14.3	15.8	24.0	16.8	25.1	12.1	40.0	22.2	10.4
HU	13.5	6.5	7.1	10.9	7.4	16.2	5.7	28.0	11.2	7.0
IE	20.1	9.9	10.8	20.7	10.6	19.5	9.4	45.8	17.3	10.1
IT	13.9	11.6	11.9	12.3	13.4	15.1	10.3	18.3	13.2	2.3
LT	19.7	10.5	12.1	19.9	10.1	19.5	10.9	30.4	18.9	9.2
LU	5.7	3.5	3.9	7.5	4.1	3.8	3.0	9.8	4.8	2.3
LV	12.5	8.2	9.2	10.0	8.4	15.5	8.1	22.4	11.7	4.3
MT	8.2	2.4	2.8	11.9	1.8	5.5	2.8	4.2	9.0	5.8
NL	11.1	3.0	4.5	10.0	3.3	12.2	2.6	21.9	10.5	8.2
PL	11.8	5.2	5.8	11.8	6.3	11.8	4.1	18.9	10.5	6.6
PT	17.1	10.3	11.9	18.6	11.7	15.1	9.0	23.4	15.7	6.8
RO	4.2	1.6	1.9	3.0	0.8	5.0	2.1	27.1	3.7	2.6
SE	15.7	7.8	8.9	12.1	7.2	19.9	8.2	26.7	14.2	8.0
SI	20.8	8.1	9.8	21.1	9.8	20.5	6.6	35.0	16.3	12.7
SK	12.5	6.6	7.7	13.4	6.5	11.6	6.7	21.1	10.9	5.9
EU	**17.9**	**9.1**	**10.3**	**17.7**	**9.9**	**18.0**	**8.4**	**27.4**	**16.1**	**8.8**

Note: Data for Germany are indicative due to a high number of missing values. The data do not report disability by degree. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 42: 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 gap in pp
				Disability		Disability				
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	
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	22.6	5.3	7.6	20.7	4.6	24.3	5.8	40.0	16.3	17.4
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	21.6	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	17.2	9.8	10.9	16.6	10.0	18.0	9.7	25.2	14.3	7.4
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	5.8	11.4	5.2	11.8	5.0	23.4	9.5	6.5
IE	20.1	6.9	8.1	16.1	6.1	23.5	7.6	25.9	19.2	13.2
IT	17.7	15.2	15.5	16.6	16.5	18.5	14.2	22.0	17.0	2.5
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	7.7	13.4	6.5	11.6	6.7	21.1	10.9	5.9
EU	**17.7**	**10.1**	**11.2**	**17.6**	**11.0**	**17.9**	**9.4**	**27.4**	**15.7**	**7.6**

Data for Germany are indicative.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, rev.1.

Table 43: 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 44: Evolution of unemployment rate by disability status, age 20-64, EU

	EU 28				EU 27			
	Disability			All	Disability			All
	Severe	All persons with disabilities	No disability	Total	Severe	All persons with disabilities	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					27,4	17,7	10,1	11,2
2021					27,4	17,9	9,1	10,3
2022								9,0

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

Table 45: 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			29.6	24.8
2021			33.8	22.8

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

Table 46: Structure of the unemployment rate by Member State, age 20-64, 2021

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

	All persons			
	Employed	**Unemployed <12 months**	**Unemployed >=12 months**	**Total**
AT	90.6	9.0	0.4	100
BE	92.8	2.9	4.4	100
BG	87.1	5.2	7.7	100
CY	90.3	4.5	5.2	100
CZ	94.6	2.6	2.8	100
DE	93.5	5.0	1.5	100
DK	91.1	8.8	0.1	100
EE	91.8	8.2	0.1	100
EL	80.0	4.3	15.7	100
ES	82.2	6.3	11.5	100
FI	88.4	8.5	3.2	100
FR	88.0	10.1	1.9	100
HR	84.2	4.4	11.3	100
HU	92.9	4.3	2.9	100
IE	89.2	4.4	6.5	100
IT	88.2	0.8	11.1	100
LT	87.9	7.5	4.7	100
LU	96.1	2.3	1.6	100
LV	90.8	4.6	4.6	100
MT	97.2	2.0	0.9	100
NL	95.5	2.9	1.6	100
PL	94.2	2.3	3.5	100
PT	88.1	10.2	1.7	100
RO	98.1	1.0	0.9	100
SE	91.2	5.5	3.4	100
SI	90.2	3.0	6.8	100
Total	**89.6**	**5.1**	**5.3**	**100**

Note: '< 12 months' stands for less than 12 months. Marginal differences might appear in comparison to previous tables. The sample might be different here due to missing values related to the question on unemployment duration.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 47: Structure of the unemployment rate by disability and Member State, age 20-64, 2021

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

	Persons with disabilities				Persons without disabilities			
	Employed	Unempl <12 m	Unempl >=12 m	Total	Employed	Unempl. <12 m	Unempl. >=12 m	Total
AT	79.3	19.6	1.1	100	93.2	6.5	0.3	100
BE	83.0	5.7	11.3	100	94.2	2.4	3.3	100
BG	86.4	7.0	6.6	100	87.2	5.1	7.8	100
CY	78.9	6.5	14.7	100	91.5	4.3	4.2	100
CZ	85.2	5.6	9.2	100	95.9	2.2	1.9	100
DE	80.9	13.8	5.3	100	95.5	3.6	0.9	100
DK	83.0	16.9	0.1	100	94.1	5.9	0.0	100
EE	87.2	12.6	0.2	100	93.0	7.0	0.0	100
EL	72.6	5.7	21.7	100	80.6	4.2	15.2	100
ES	75.8	7.3	17.0	100	83.8	6.1	10.2	100
FI	78.8	15.1	6.1	100	90.6	6.9	2.5	100
FR	78.5	18.0	3.5	100	89.5	8.8	1.7	100
HR	75.4	4.7	19.9	100	85.7	4.4	9.9	100
HU	86.5	5.4	8.0	100	93.5	4.1	2.4	100
IE	79.9	6.6	13.4	100	90.1	4.1	5.8	100
IT	86.1	0.4	13.5	100	88.4	0.8	10.8	100
LT	80.3	10.5	9.2	100	89.5	6.8	3.7	100
LU	94.3	3.8	2.0	100	96.5	2.0	1.5	100
LV	87.5	6.2	6.3	100	91.8	4.1	4.1	100
MT	91.8	5.9	2.3	100	97.6	1.7	0.7	100
NL	88.9	7.4	3.7	100	97.1	1.9	1.1	100
PL	88.2	4.5	7.3	100	94.8	2.1	3.1	100
PT	82.9	14.2	2.9	100	89.7	9.0	1.4	100
RO	95.8	1.7	2.5	100	98.4	1.0	0.7	100
SE	84.3	7.2	8.5	100	92.3	5.2	2.5	100
SI	79.2	4.0	16.8	100	91.9	2.8	5.3	100
Total	82.0	9.5	8.5	100	90.9	4.4	4.8	100

Note: '< 12 m' stands for less than 12 months. Marginal differences might appear in comparison to previous tables. The sample might be different here due to missing values related to the question on unemployment duration.

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 48: 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.

	All persons			
	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	1.7	1.2	4.7	7.6
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	5.7	10.9
HR	4.6	2.8	10.5	17.8
HU	2.1	1.6	2.1	5.8
IE	1.9	1.1	5.1	8.1
IT	3.9	2.5	9.1	15.5
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	**3.4**	**1.9**	**5.9**	**11.2**

Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev.1,

Table 49: 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	1.7	1.0	2.6	2.0	2.9	17.8
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	4.8	3.3	3.0	11.0
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	0.9	4.4	4.3	3.0	12.7
IT	3.9	2.5	8.9	4.0	2.7	11.0
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	**3.3**	**1.7**	**5.1**	**3.9**	**3.1**	**10.7**

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2022, rev. 1

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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.[69]

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 notes that the European Pillar of Social Rights[70] 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[71] 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

In the EU 27, about 62.0 % of persons with disabilities were participating in the labour market (employed or unemployed), in comparison with 82.3 % of persons without disabilities. The total rate was 78.7 %. For comparison, the LFS presents an activity rate of 78.4 % for the same age group. However, the indicator used by Eurostat relies on the ILO definition.[72]

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[69] 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.

[70] 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.

[71] 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.

[72] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsi_emp_a/default/table?lang=en; data extracted on 16/05/2023 [ESTAT].

In the EU 27, about 28.2 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were economically active, out of 45.4 million persons with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 50: Activity rate by disability status, age 20-64, 2021

	Economically inactive (Not in the labour force)	Economically active (Employed or unemployed)	Total
1 000 000			
Persons without disabilities	37.0	172.0	209.0
Persons with disabilities	17.3	28.2	45.4
Total	54.2	200.2	254.4
%			
Persons without disabilities	17.7	82.3	100.0
Persons with disabilities	38.0	62.0	100.0
Total	21.3	78.7	100.0

Note: Data for Germany covering labour issues are indicative due to a high non-response rate. Furthermore, they do not distinguish moderate and severe disabilities. Data for Slovakia are missing and replaced by 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

The activity rate for persons with disabilities was particularly low in Ireland, Romania and Poland. On the contrary, it was relatively high in Spain, Latvia and Portugal, in an increasing order.

Figure 51: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021
Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.
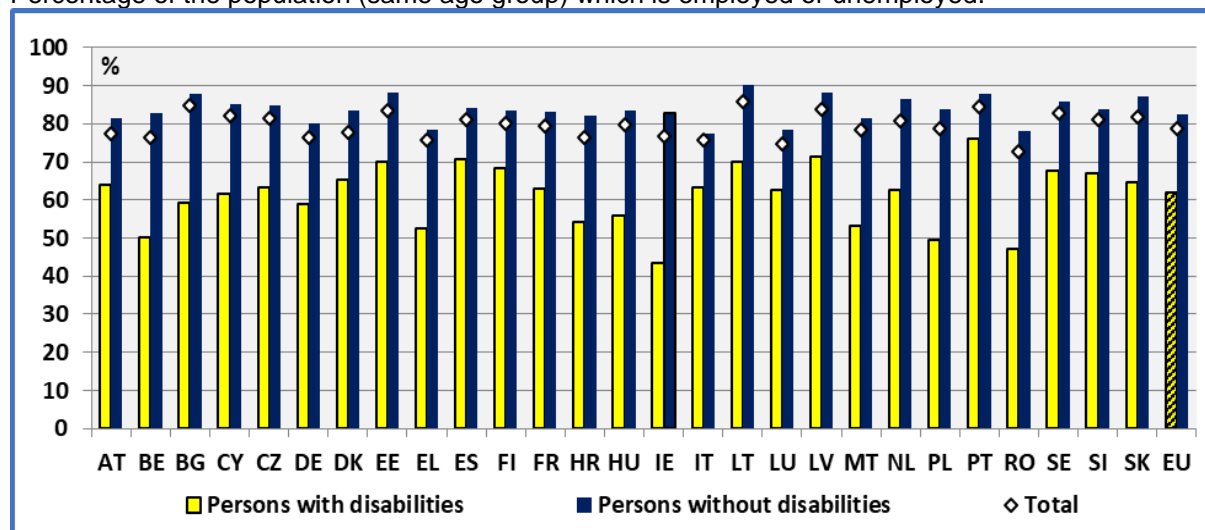
Note: Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 20.3 percentage points. The relative difference was 24.7 %.

The activity gap was notably high in Belgium, Poland and Ireland, in an increasing order. On the contrary, it was relatively low in Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

Figure 52: Activity gap, age 20-64, 2021
Gap = (Activity rate of people without disabilities %) – (Activity rate of people with disabilities %). The gap is expressed in percentage points (pp).
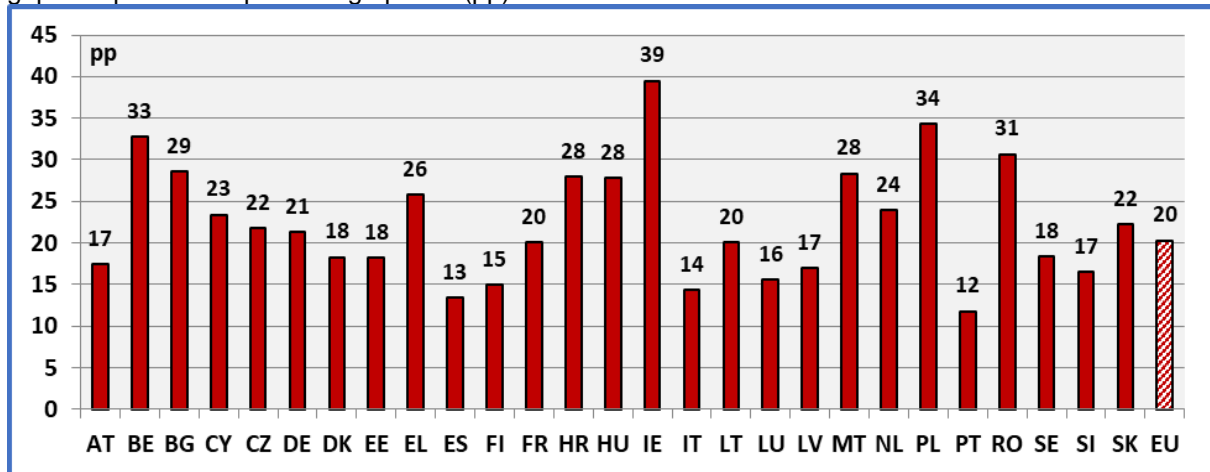
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 Romania, Ireland, and Malta, (in ascending order) had the lowest rates for women with disabilities. Similar results were found in 2020. Lithuania, Slovenia and Portugal presented the highest rates.

Figure 53: Persons with disabilities, activity rate by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2021

Percentage of the population (same sex and age group) which is employed or unemployed.
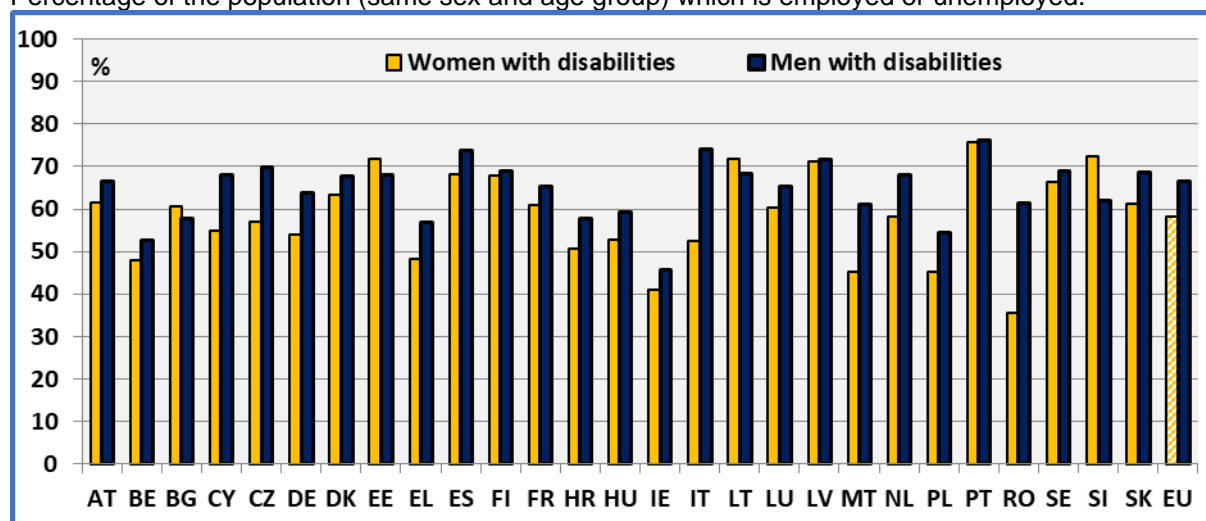
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).
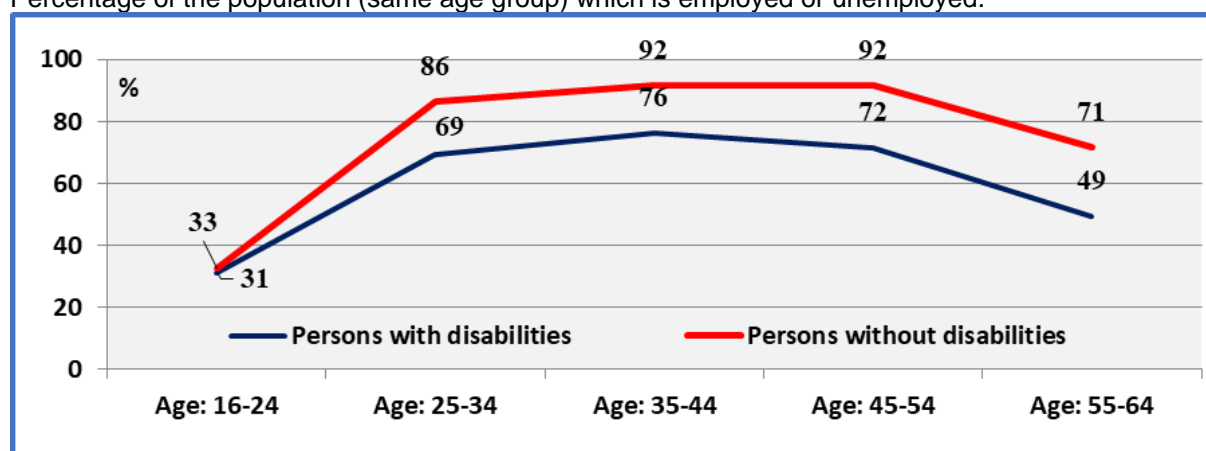
9.2.4 Activity rate by age

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

The activity rate in the 16-34 age group decreased between 2020 and 2021, in both groups. This might be due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, lower employment perspectives might have pushed a certain number of young persons to delay their entry into the labour force and continue studying.

The activity rate of persons aged 55-64 increased between 2020 and 2021, for both groups.

Figure 54: Activity rate by age group and disability status, EU 25, 2021

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

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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, 82.3 %, 69.3 % (excluding Germany) and 39.5 % (excluding Germany).

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

Figure 55: Activity rate by degree of disability and Member State, age 20-64, 2021
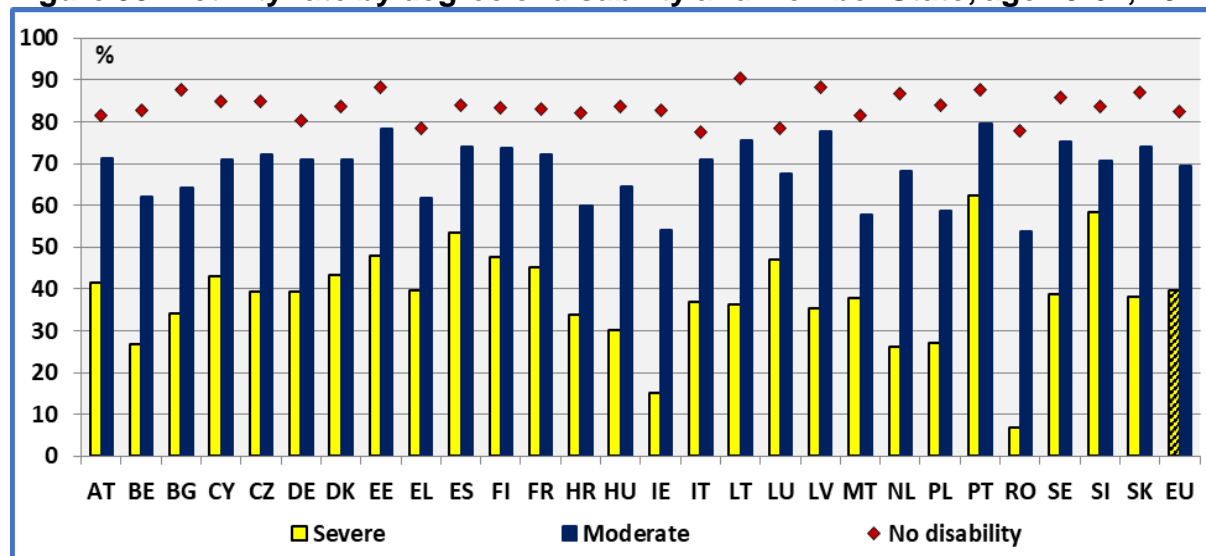
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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=0.29). 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=0.05). 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 2020 and 2021, the activity rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 increased from 60.4 % to 62.0 %. On the contrary, the activity rate of persons without disabilities decreased from 82.5 % to 82.3 %.

Figure 56: 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.
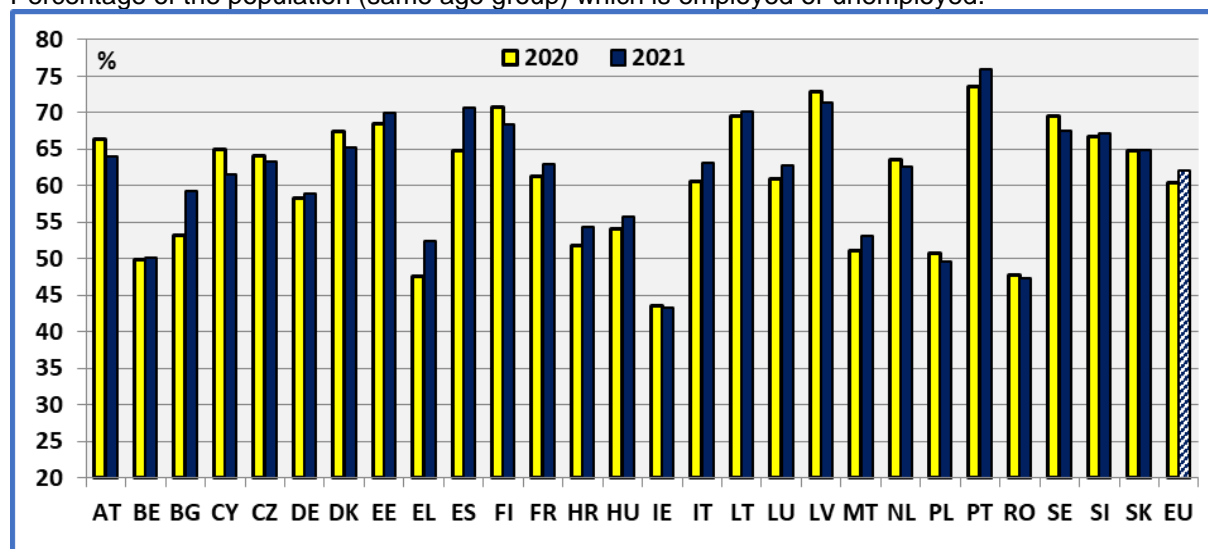
Note: Data for Germany covering labour issues are indicative due to a high non-response rate. Data for Slovakia 2021 are missing and replaced by 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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, in 2020 and 2021.

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

Figure 57: Relative change of the activity rate between 2020 and 2021, age 20-64
Change = 100*(Activity rate 2021-Activity rate 2020.)/Activity rate 2020.
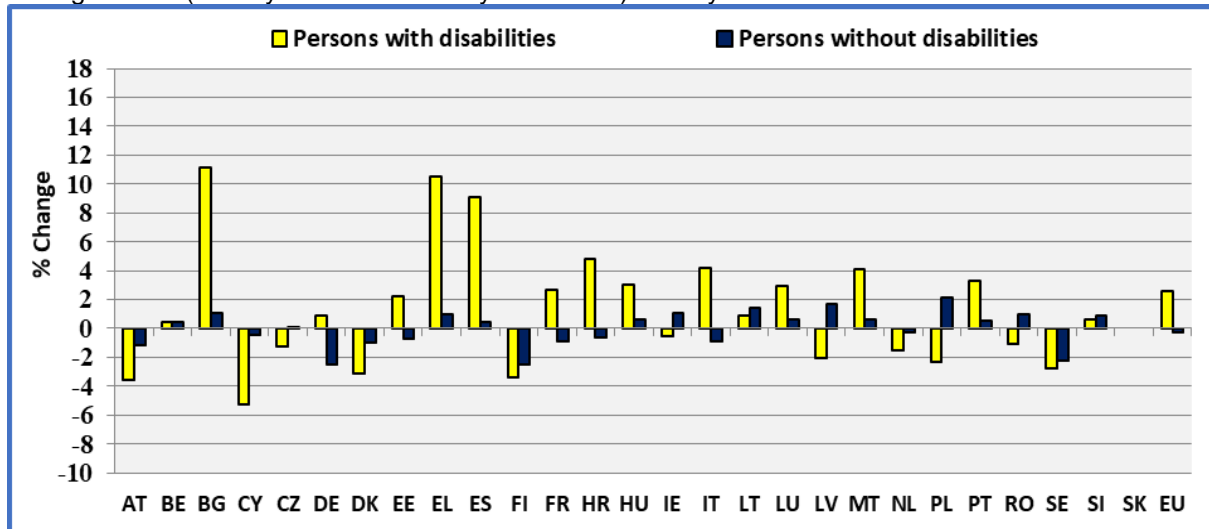
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 disability 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 in comparison to persons with moderate 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.

While the negative 2020 movement was reversed for persons with moderate disabilities in 2021, this was not the case for persons with severe disabilities who continued the downward movement.

Different factors might have exerted a negative impact on the activity rate for persons with severe disabilities in 2020 and 2021. 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 and early 2021, low expectations concerning employment might have discouraged unemployed older workers, prompting them to leave the labour force.

Figure 58: Evolution of the activity rate of people with disabilities, EU, age 20-64

Dotted lines cover EU 27.
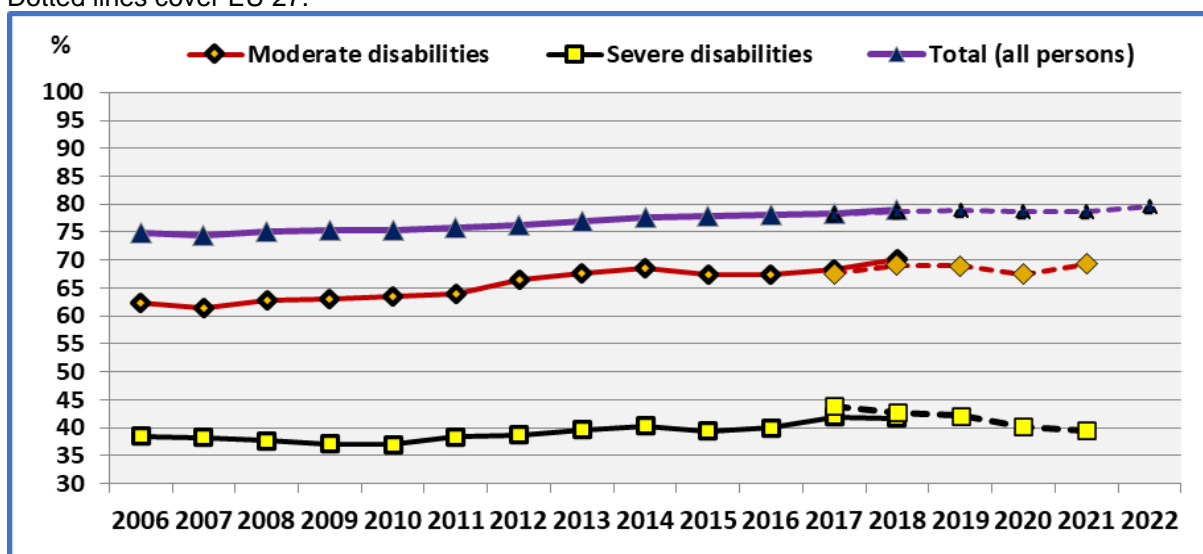
Note: The 2022 value is a simple extrapolation based on available LFS data.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

9.3 Statistical tables

Table 51: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, age 20-64, 2021

Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.
The data are not seasonally adjusted.

	Disability			Women		Men		Degree		Disability gap in pp
				Disability		Disability				
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Severe	Moderate	
AT	64.0	81.4	77.5	61.4	73.1	66.6	89.6	41.4	71.1	17.4
BE	50.1	82.8	76.4	47.9	79.1	52.6	86.4	26.9	62.1	32.8
BG	59.2	87.8	84.9	60.5	82.8	57.8	92.6	34.2	64.3	28.6
CY	61.6	85.0	82.1	54.9	80.8	68.1	89.6	42.9	71.0	23.4
CZ	63.2	85.0	81.4	56.9	77.1	70.0	92.8	39.2	72.3	21.7
DE	58.9	80.2	76.5	54.1	74.7	63.9	85.6	:	:	21.3
DK	65.3	83.6	77.8	63.3	80.0	67.9	86.8	43.5	70.9	18.3
EE	70.0	88.3	83.6	71.9	84.3	68.0	92.1	48.0	78.2	18.3
EL	52.5	78.3	75.6	48.1	69.4	56.9	87.4	39.7	61.8	25.8
ES	70.7	84.1	81.1	68.0	79.4	73.7	88.6	53.4	73.9	13.4
FI	68.4	83.3	80.0	67.9	79.5	69.0	86.6	47.7	73.7	15.0
FR	62.9	83.0	79.5	61.0	78.7	65.4	87.2	45.3	72.0	20.0
HR	54.3	82.2	76.5	50.7	76.4	57.7	88.0	33.7	60.0	28.0
HU	55.8	83.5	79.7	52.8	76.4	59.3	90.6	30.2	64.4	27.8
IE	43.3	82.8	76.6	41.0	75.9	45.7	89.9	15.2	54.2	39.5
IT	63.2	77.5	75.7	52.4	66.3	74.2	88.5	36.9	70.8	14.3
LT	70.2	90.3	85.9	71.9	87.6	68.3	93.1	36.2	75.5	20.1
LU	62.7	78.3	74.8	60.5	73.2	65.4	82.8	47.2	67.7	15.6
LV	71.3	88.3	83.7	71.1	84.4	71.6	92.4	35.2	77.6	16.9
MT	53.2	81.5	78.4	45.1	70.8	61.1	90.8	37.8	57.7	28.4
NL	62.7	86.6	80.7	58.1	84.4	67.9	88.7	26.0	68.2	24.0

PL	49.6	83.9	78.7	45.3	76.7	54.4	91.8	26.9	58.6	34.3
PT	75.9	87.7	84.6	75.8	85.6	76.2	89.9	62.5	79.7	11.8
RO	47.3	78.0	72.8	35.7	66.1	61.4	89.0	6.7	53.8	30.7
SE	67.5	85.8	82.7	66.4	80.8	69.0	90.4	38.6	75.2	18.3
SI	67.1	83.7	81.0	72.5	81.7	62.0	85.5	58.3	70.5	16.5
SK	64.8	87.0	81.9	61.2	80.9	68.7	92.8	38.0	74.1	22.2
EU	**62.0**	**82.3**	**78.7**	**58.1**	**75.8**	**66.4**	**88.7**	**39.5**	**69.3**	**20.3**

Note: Data for Germany covering labour issues are indicative due to a high non-response rate. In addition, they do not distinguish moderate and severe disabilities. Data for Slovakia are missing and replaced by 2020 in the figures.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 52: 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 gap in pp
				Disability		Disability				
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	
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	86.0	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	58.4	82.3	78.0	53.3	77.4	63.6	86.9	39.3	71.0	23.9
DK	67.4	84.5	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	20.5
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	61.3	83.7	79.4	59.7	80.2	63.3	87.3	47.6	68.5	22.4
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	43.6	81.9	75.7	39.5	74.6	47.9	89.4	21.0	51.9	38.4
IT	60.6	78.2	76.0	49.6	67.7	72.4	88.7	36.7	67.5	17.6
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	92.0	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	87.3	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	**60.4**	**82.5**	**78.6**	**57.0**	**76.1**	**64.4**	**88.8**	**40.2**	**67.4**	**22.1**

Note: Data for Germany are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev.1.

Table 53: 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 54: 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				67.4	40.2	78.6
2021				69.3	39.5	78.7

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

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[73] 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 may be based on different definitions of employment. Official statistics often use the ILO definition (described in the Employment chapter). Due to data limitations, the EU-SILC enables us to measure employment as it results from self-declared current economic situation (question EU-SILC pl032). Another possibility relies on activity status (question px050). In a simplified way, this latter concept relies on the dominant situation, during the last 12 months. A person is employed if he was employed (full or part-time) for more than five months, during the income reference period. This latter approach is adopted by the Social scoreboard.

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[73] See European Commission – Eurostat:
https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en#:~:text=The%20European%20Pillar%20of%20Social%20Rights%20sets%20out%2020%20key,concrete%20actions%20to%20benefit%20citizens. Detailed annual data can be extracted from Eurostat's website:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tepsr_sp200/default/table?lang=en.

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 23.9 percentage points (based on self-declarations) and 23.1 percentage points (based on activity status).

These two national measures of disability employment gap are strongly correlated ($R^2 = 0.80$). Given the high variability of this measure (difference of two levels), we present below the results of both approaches. The high correlation indicates that the proposed indicator is robust, whatever definition is adopted. As self-declarations on economic status are easier to interpret, in the following, we prefer this indicator to the one based on activity status.

In the following figure, we may observe that the highest disability employment gaps could be found in Poland (35.8 percentage points), Belgium (36.5 percentage points) and Ireland (39.9 percentage points). On the other side, the lowest employment gaps could be found in Italy (14.1 percentage points), Portugal (15.7 percentage points) and Luxembourg (16.5 percentage points).
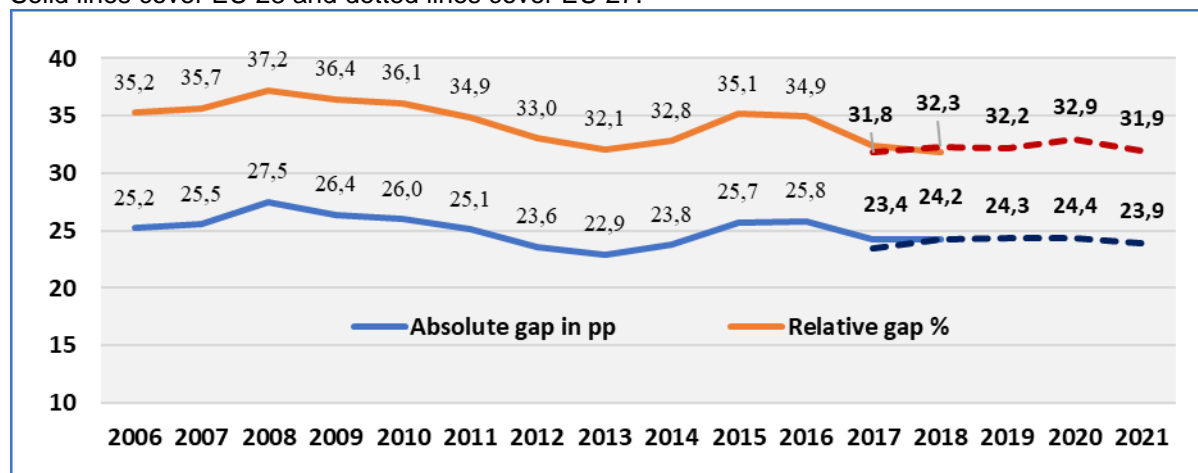
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the special circumstances surrounding the organisation of the surveys, these indicators ought to be treated with caution. Also, the meaning of employment during lockdown periods may vary across countries.

Figure 59: The employment gap between persons with and without disabilities, aged 20-64, 2021, expressed in percentage points (pp)
Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities
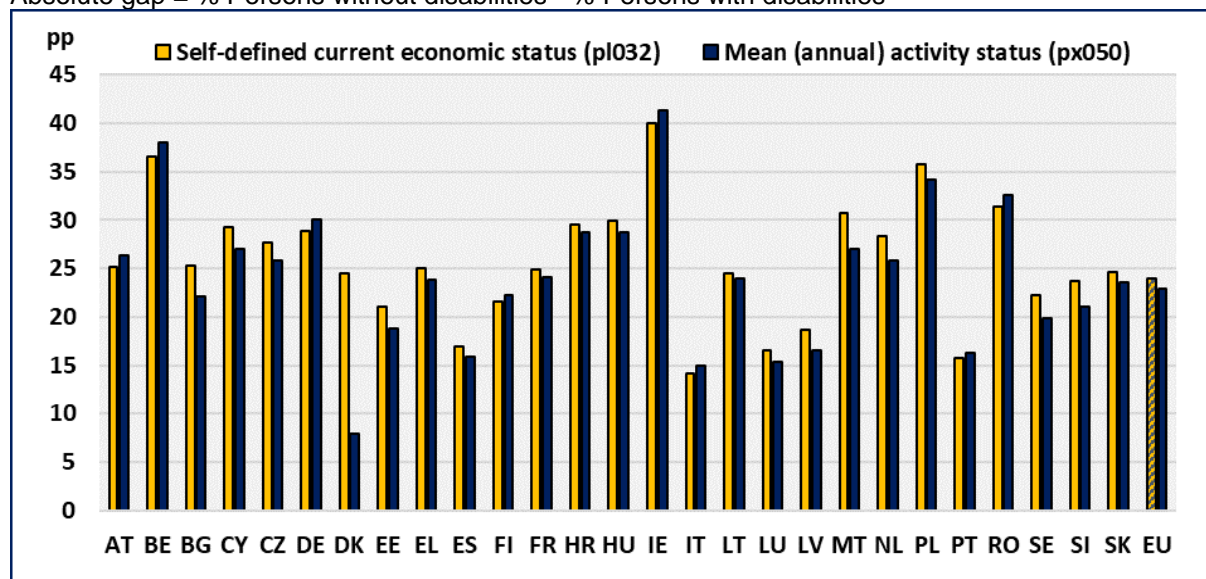
Note: Data for Denmark ought to be treated with caution. Data for Germany are characterised by a relatively high rate of missing values. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020. For Slovakia, Eurostat presents a gap of 25.3 pp for 2021(activity status definition; data extracted on 24/05/2023 from [ESTAT]).
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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 20.5 percentage points. This gap was 26.8 percentage points for men.

Focusing only on persons with disabilities, the gender employment gap (women with disabilities versus men with disabilities) amounted to 6.7 percentage points.

Figure 60: The disability employment gap by gender, expressed in percentage points (pp), age 20-64, 2021

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities - % Persons with disabilities, same sex and age.
Data based on self-declarations (pl032)
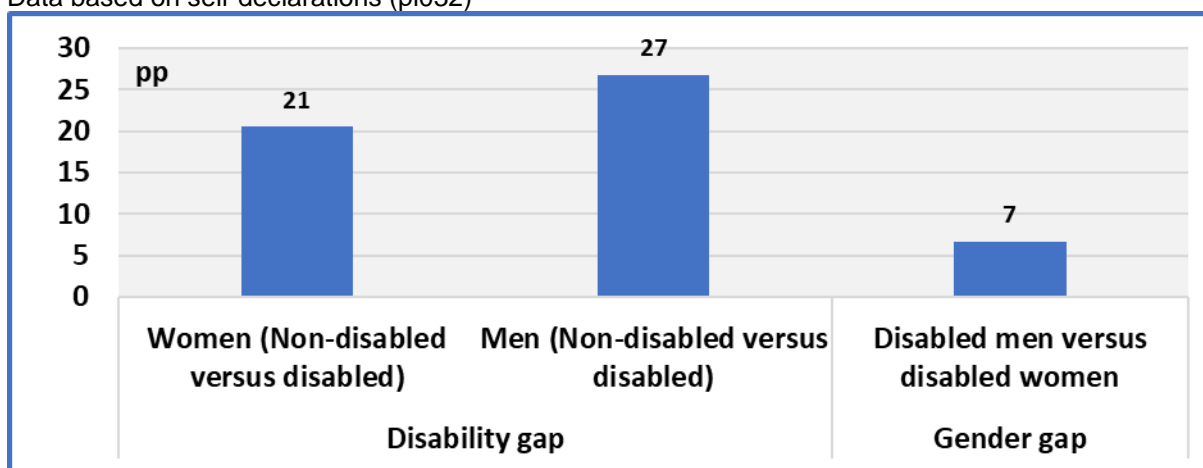
Note: The original data on employment levels can be found in the statistical tables of the 'Employment' chapter. The data are rounded for clarity of comparison. Eurostat data based on activity status can be downloaded from https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the special circumstances surrounding the organisation of the surveys, during 2020-2021, these indicators ought to be treated with caution. Also, the meaning of employment during lockdown periods may vary across countries. Furthermore, due to a relatively high rate of missing values in certain countries, the data are provisional.

Despite these reservations, we may note that the disability employment gap remains high.

Figure 61: Evolution of the employment gap for people with disabilities, age 20-64

Data based on self-declarations (pl032).
Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.

Note : Data for 2020-2021 ought to be treated with caution due to the special circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and a relatively high rate of missing values in certain Member States. Eurostat data, for the last years, based on activity status can be downloaded from https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

10.3 Statistical tables

Table 55: Employment rates and disability employment gap. Age 20-64, 2021

Country	EU-SILC UDB Based on EU-SILC PL032: Self-defined current economic status			Eurostat EU-SILC PX050: Activity status		
	Employment rates		Gap	Gap		Notes
	Disability			Disability		
	With disabilities	No disabilities	All	All	Severe	
	(1)	(2)	(2-1)			
AT	50.7	75.9	25.1	26.3	55.4	
BE	41.6	78.1	36.5	38.0	57.7	
BG	51.2	76.5	25.3	22.1	(47.4)	
CY	48.6	77.8	29.2	27.0	41.0	
CZ	53.9	81.5	27.6	25.9	51.0	
DE	47.7	76.6	28.9	(30.5)	(30.5)	Provisional
DK	54.2	78.7	24.5	7.9	20.9	
EE	61.1	82.1	21.0	18.7	39.6	
EL	38.1	63.2	25.0	23.8	35.9	
ES	53.5	70.4	16.9	15.9	31.9	
FI	53.9	75.5	21.6	22.2	50.4	
FR	49.4	74.3	24.9	24.1	40.0	
HR	40.9	70.5	29.6	28.7	47.5	
HU	48.3	78.1	29.9	28.8	53.8	
IE	34.7	74.6	39.9	41.3	(66.6)	
IT	54.4	68.5	14.1	14.9	35.9	

LT	56.3	80.8	24.4	23.9	56.6	
LU	59.1	75.6	16.5	15.4	29.5	b
LV	62.4	81.0	18.6	16.6	49.1	
MT	48.8	79.5	30.7	27.0	41.8	
NL	55.7	84.1	28.4	25.8	57.7	
PL	43.8	79.6	35.8	34.2	54.7	
PT	63.0	78.7	15.7	16.2	29.9	
RO	45.3	76.7	31.4	32.6	:	
SE	56.9	79.2	22.3	19.9	46.7	
SI	53.2	76.9	23.7	21.1	35.3	
SK	56.7	81.3	24.6	25.3	53.0	
EU	**50.9**	**74.8**	**23.9**	**23.1**	**42.8**	

'()': low reliability; 'b': break in time series; ':' missing.
Note for pl032 : New questionnaire in EU-SILC 2021. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020. Data for Germany do not distinguish by degree and the rate of missing values is relatively high.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).
Eurostat: Data extracted on 24/05/2023 from [ESTAT]
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tepsr_sp200/default/table?lang=en.

Table 56: Employment rates and disability employment gap. Age 20-64

Country	EU-SILC UDB Based on EU-SILC PL031: Self-defined current economic status				Eurostat EU-SILC PX050: Activity status		
	2019	**2020**			**2020**		
	Gap	Employment rates		Gap	Gap		Notes
		Disability			Disability		
	All	With disabilities	No disabilities	All	All	Severe	
		(1)	(2)	(2-1)			
AT	22.9	53.9	76.0	22.1	20.5	49.3	
BE	33.2	41.6	77.5	35.9	36.3	57.6	
BG	36.4	43.6	76.0	32.4	33.0	(58.6)	
CY	25.0	52.3	76.8	24.5	23.5	44.5	
CZ	26.0	55.5	82.3	26.8	25.6	50.4	
DE	28.9	45.2	77.9	32.8	32.4	54.6	b
DK	18.9	59.5	79.9	20.4	18.1	40.6	
EE	21.0	61.0	83.9	23.0	20.6	38.5	
EL	30.2	33.9	62.2	28.3	27.7	35.6	
ES	30.9	46.4	67.9	21.5	21.6	31.0	
FI	20.9	59.6	79.3	19.6	19.8	48.3	
FR	18.2	50.8	75.5	24.8	23.7	40.5	b
HR	34.0	36.9	69.4	32.5	32.9	49.2	
HU	29.1	47.8	78.8	31.0	31.2	55.1	
IE	43.9	34.8	76.3	41.5	38.8	(58.4)	
IT	17.0	49.9	66.3	16.4	14.9	33.7	
LT	25.9	57.5	81.1	23.6	22.7	(58.9)	
LU	21.7	51.7	72.4	20.7	22.1	40.3	b

LV	18.2	62.2	78.4	16.3	16.7	47.7	
MT	28.7	46.1	79.1	33.0	29.4	(37.5)	
NL	26.8	59.5	84.1	24.7	25.4	58.5	
PL	32.5	44.8	77.3	32.5	31.3	50.0	
PT	19.3	58.7	76.9	18.3	18.2	28.8	
RO	28.1	46.8	75.7	28.9	30.4	(65.6)	
SE	24.0	53.9	82.1	28.2	28.9	(46.6)	
SI	21.0	53.3	76.5	23.2	21.7	30.6	
SK	23.0	56.7	81.3	24.6	23.6	50.1	
EU	**24.3**	**49.7**	**74.1**	**24.4**	**24.4**	**43.3**	

'()': low reliability; 'b': break in time series
Data source: EU-SILC UDB release 1 in 2022, rev. 1.
Eurostat: Data extracted on 23/03/2023 from [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.[74] 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 less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year.

Europe 2020 Strategy defined work intensity of the household 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.[75] The indicator is based on persons aged 18-59 (excluding students). The work intensity status is assigned to each household member.

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[74] 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.

[75] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_work_intensity.
See also: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

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.

Europe 2030 Strategy revised the 2020 definition. Persons living in households with very low work intensity are 'people from 0-64 years living in households where the adults (those aged 18-64, but excluding students aged 18-24 and people who are retired according to their self-defined current economic status or who receive any pension (except survivors pension), as well as people in the age bracket 60-64 who are inactive and living in a household where the main income is pensions - except survivors pension - worked less than 20 % of their total combined work-time potential during the previous 12 months. Households composed only of children, of students aged less than 25 and/or people aged 65 or more are excluded from the indicator calculation'[76].

The new definition is not neutral from the view point of persons with disabilities. In fact, the new definition excludes people who are retired according to their self-defined current economic status or who receive any pension (except survivors' pension), as well as people in the age bracket 60-64 who are inactive and living in a household where the main income is pensions - except survivors' pension. Consequently, the indicator might exclude persons with disabilities receiving pensions, notably one-person households where disability pension is the main source of household income. This might decrease the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with very low work intensity.

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 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 2021, about 18.5 % of persons with disabilities were living in households with a very low work intensity (<20 %), in comparison with 6.6 % of persons without disabilities. This represents a difference of about 11.9 percentage points.

For comparison, with the old definition (Europe 2020 Strategy), the rates are respectively 22.8 %, 7.4 % and an absolute difference of 15.4 pp.

The percentage of persons with disabilities who were living in households with a very low work intensity (<20 %) varied, from 5.8 % (Romania) to 36.7 % (Ireland), across the Member States.

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[76] Eurostat:. See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Persons_living_in_households_with_low_work_intensity

Figure 62: Percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %), aged 16-64, 2021

Based on persons aged 18-64 (excluding students, etc.). The work intensity status is assigned to each household member
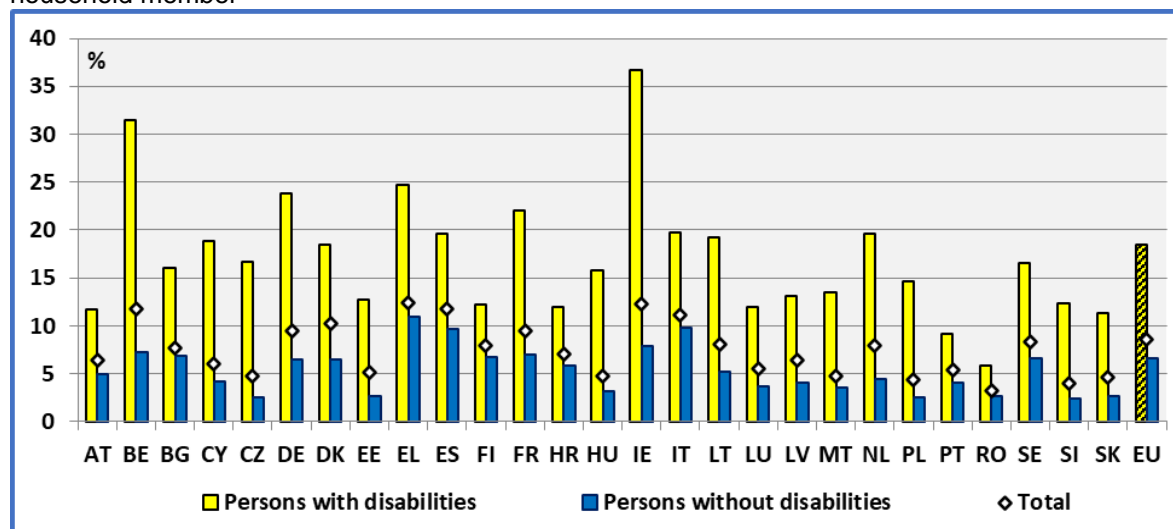
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 27/03/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en

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 very low work intensity gap

In the EU 27 in 2021, the difference between persons with and without disabilities in the 16-64 age group amounted to about 12 percentage points.

The highest gaps could be found in Ireland (29 percentage points), Belgium (24 percentage points) and Germany (17 percentage points). On the other hand, the lowest gaps could be found in Romania (3 percentage points), Portugal (5 percentage points), and Finland and Croatia (6 percentage points).

Figure 63: Disability very low work intensity gap, age 16-64, 2021

Gap = % of persons with disabilities - % of persons without disabilities.
Persons living in households with very low work intensity (WI< 20 %).
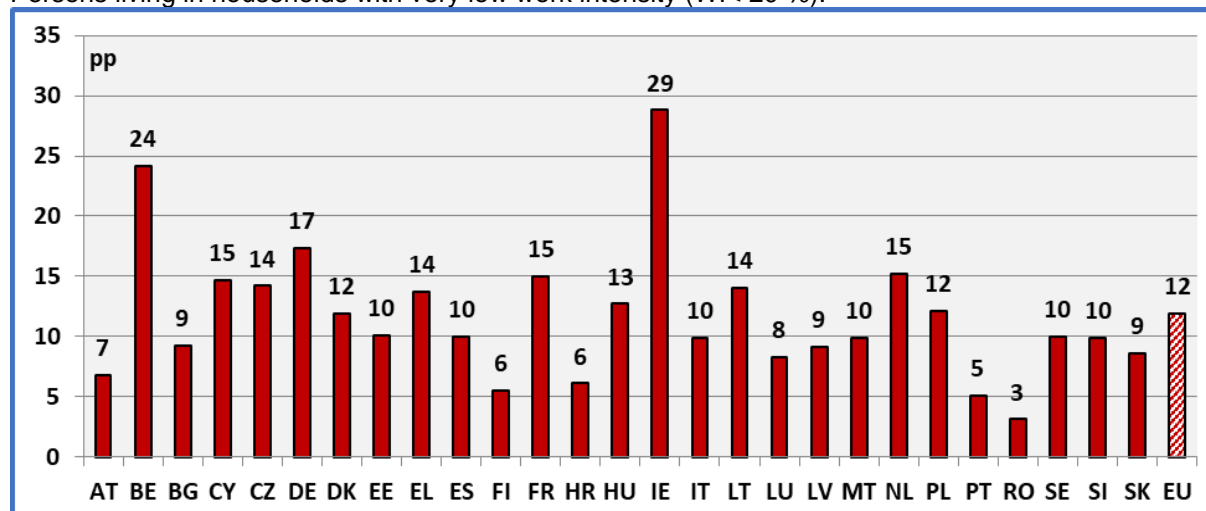
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 27/03/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en.

11.2.3 Low work intensity by gender

Concerning gender in the EU 27, about 17.8 % of women with disabilities aged 16-64 were living in households with low work intensity, in comparison with 19.3 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

As noted, the 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.

Figure 64: Percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %) by gender, aged 16-64, 2021
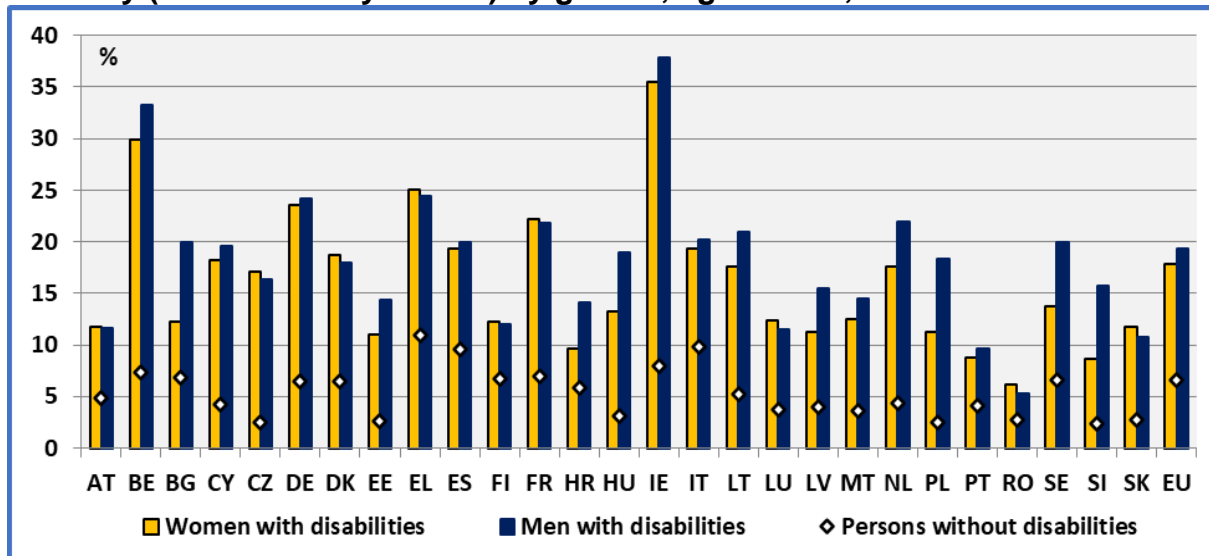
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 27/03/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040/default/table?lang=en.

11.2.4 Low work intensity by age group

The evolution of the percentage of persons with very 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. For persons with disabilities, this rate remains quasi-stable. It decreases after the age of 55 as persons with disabilities might receive an early retirement pension and be excluded from the base of data used for the elaboration of the indicator.

Figure 65: Percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %) by age group, EU, 2021
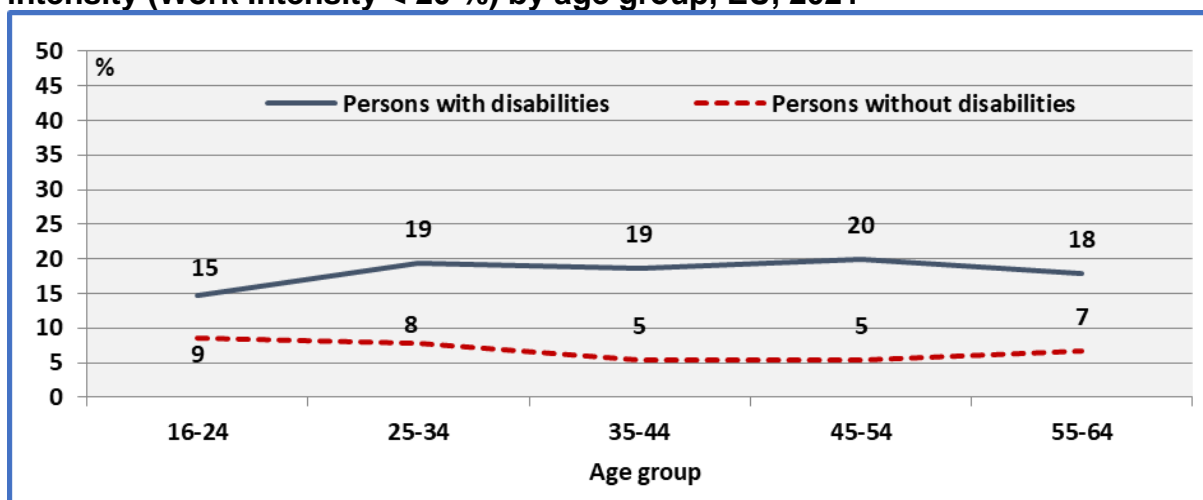
11.2.5 Low work intensity by degree of disability

The percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity increases sharply with the degree of disability. It is 6.6 % for persons without disabilities, 14.4 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 31.0 % for persons with severe disabilities, in the EU 27 and for persons aged 16-64.

11.2.6 Evolution at national level

Due to special circumstances in 2020 and 2021, following the COVID-19 pandemic, and the timing and organisation of the survey in order to meet lockdown and social distancing restrictions, the following data are indicative.

Figure 66: Evolution of the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with very low work intensity (WI < 20 %), aged 16-64
The data are indicative.
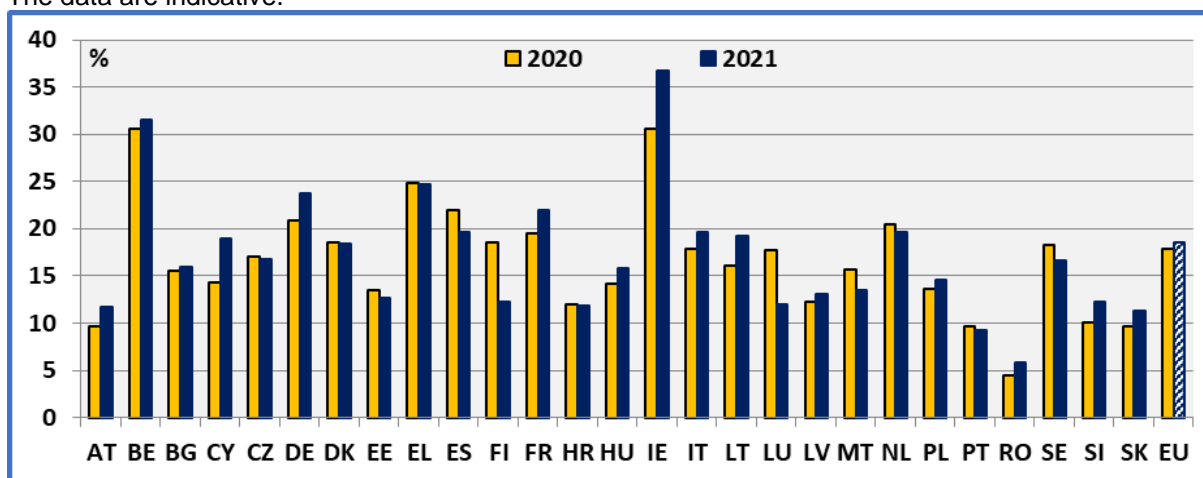
11.2.7 Evolution at the EU level

The following graph presents the evolution of low work intensity for persons with and without disabilities.

The figure below presents the evolution of the percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity by disability status. The figure presents the evolution according to the definitions retained by Europe 2020 Strategy and by the Europe 2030 Strategy.

As noted above, the new definition by excluding certain categories reduces the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with very low work intensity, notably persons with severe disability.

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 second graph presents the evolution of the relative gap[77] at the EU level. A clear cyclical movement may be observed.

Figure 67: Evolution of the percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity (WI < 20 %), EU, aged 16-64
2020 refers to the definition retained by Europe 2020 Strategy (16-59)
2030 refers to the definition retained by Europe 2030 Strategy (16-64)
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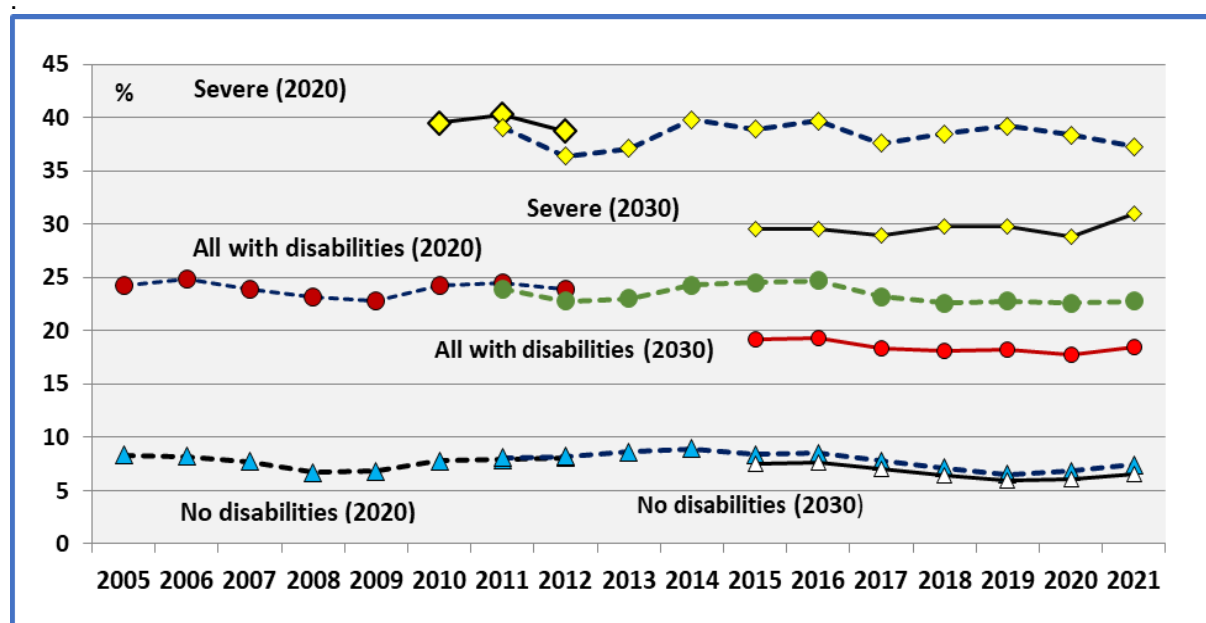
[77] Relative gap =100* (% persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities) / (% persons without disabilities).
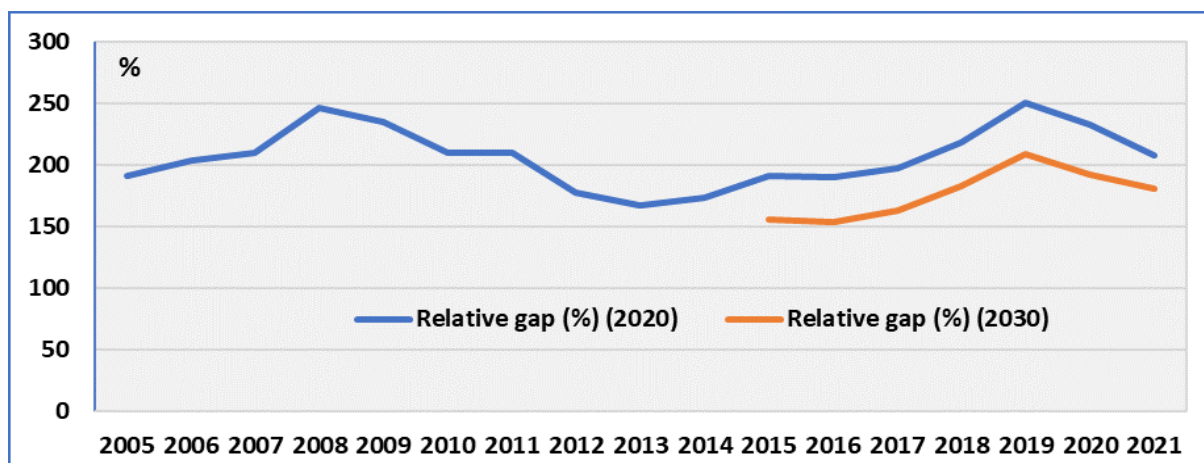
Note: The evolution in 2014 and in a lesser extent in 2015 was affected in part by a change in disability definitions. A narrower definition of 'disability' was applied (e.g., in Germany and Italy), artificially increasing the rate of persons with disabilities living in private households.
Relative gap = 100*(% persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities) / (% persons without disabilities).
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat.

11.3 Statistical tables

Table 57: Percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity, aged 16-64). Europe 2030 Strategy

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.

	2020			2021			2021
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	9.6	3.6	5.1	11.7	4.9	6.4	6.8
BE	30.5	7.2	11.8	31.5	7.3	11.8	24.2
BG	15.5	6.6	7.4	16.0	6.8	7.7	9.2
CY	14.3	4.1	5.6	18.9	4.2	6.0	14.7
CZ	17.1	2.0	4.9	16.7	2.5	4.7	14.2
DE	20.9	5.7	8.4	23.8	6.5	9.5	17.3
DK	18.6	5.5	9.4	18.4	6.5	10.2	11.9
EE	13.5	2.3	4.9	12.7	2.6	5.1	10.1
EL	24.8	10.5	12.0	24.7	11.0	12.4	13.7
ES	22.0	8.0	10.4	19.6	9.6	11.8	10.0
FI	18.5	6.0	9.8	12.2	6.7	8.0	5.5
FR	19.5	6.3	8.7	22.0	7.0	9.5	15.0
HR	12.0	5.1	6.5	11.9	5.8	7.0	6.1
HU	14.2	2.4	4.1	15.8	3.1	4.8	12.7
IE	30.5	6.9	10.6	36.7	7.9	12.3	28.8
IT	17.8	9.4	10.4	19.7	9.8	11.1	9.9
LT	16.1	4.5	7.1	19.2	5.2	8.1	14.0
LU	17.7	4.2	7.1	12.0	3.7	5.5	8.3
LV	12.3	5.0	7.1	13.1	4.0	6.4	9.1
MT	15.7	3.8	4.8	13.5	3.6	4.7	9.9
NL	20.5	4.1	7.8	19.6	4.4	8.0	15.2

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PL	13.6	2.6	4.4	14.6	2.5	4.4	12.1
PT	9.6	3.7	5.0	9.2	4.1	5.4	5.1
RO	4.4	3.9	4.0	5.8	2.7	3.2	3.1
SE	18.2	5.5	6.9	16.6	6.6	8.3	10.0
SI	10.0	2.8	4.0	12.3	2.4	4.0	9.9
SK	9.7	2.6	4.1	11.3	2.7	4.6	8.6
EU	**17.8**	**6.1**	**8.1**	**18.5**	**6.6**	**8.6**	**11.9**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 24/03/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 58: Percentage of persons living in households with very low work intensity, aged 16-59). Europe 2020 Strategy

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 gap in pp
	Disability			**Disability**			
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Total**	
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	29.1	6.5	9.9	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	24.6	6.9	9.8	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	7.2	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**	**22.6**	**6.8**	**9.2**	**15.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 09/03/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 59: Evolution of the percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (WI < 20 %)

	EU 28				EU 27			
	Disability				Disability			
	Severe	**All with disabil.**	**No disabil.**	**All**	**Severe**	**All with disabil.**	**No disabil.**	**All**
Europe 2020 Strategy (aged 16-59)								
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	22.6	6.8	9.2
Europe 2030 Strategy (aged 16-64)								
2019					29.8	18.2	5.9	7.9
2020					28.8	17.8	6.1	8.1
2021					31.0	18.5	6.6	8.6

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.

As noted above, the Council adopted, on 30 January 2023, a Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion. This Recommendation aims at combatting poverty and social exclusion. It sets out how Member States can modernise their minimum income schemes to make them more effective, lifting people out of poverty, while promoting the labour market integration of those who can work[78].

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion[79] 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 2021, about 21.1 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over faced a risk of poverty, in comparison with 14.9 % of persons without disabilities in the same age group. The percentage for all persons aged 16 and over was 16.4 %.

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[78]. European Commission (2022), *Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION On adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion* {SWD(2022) 313 final}, Brussels, 28.9.2022, COM(2022) 490 final. See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10504#:~:text=The%20Council%20adopted%20today%20a,of%20those%20who%20can%20work.

[79] 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.

In the EU 27 in 2021, there were about 60.6 million persons aged 16 and over living in private households at risk of financial poverty. This number included about 19.5 million with disabilities and 41.1 million without disabilities[80].

In 2021, the percentage of persons with disabilities who were living in households at risk of poverty was high in Lithuania (32.6 %), Estonia (34.0 %) and Latvia (37.5 %). On the other hand, the rate was relatively low in Czechia (12.7 %), Slovakia (12.8 % data 2020), and Finland (13.5 %).

Figure 68: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, aged 16+, 2021
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).
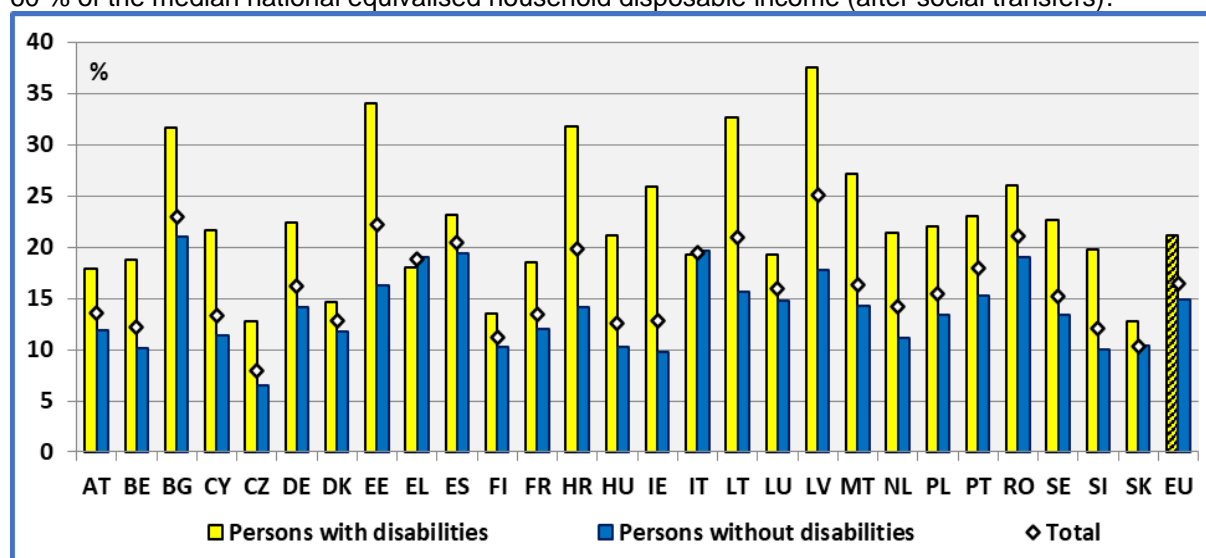
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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 the EU 27 in 2021, 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 6.2 percentage points. In relative terms, it was 41.6 %.

The highest absolute gaps could be found in Estonia (17.7 percentage points), Croatia (17.7 percentage points) and Latvia (19.8 percentage points). The lowest gaps could be found in Greece (-1.0 percentage points), Italy (-0.4 percentage points) and Slovakia (2.4 percentage points). Similar results were found in previous years.

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[80] These data are corrected for missing values and are not comparable to previous year.

Figure 69: Disadvantage of people with disabilities in comparison with people without disabilities, aged 16+, 2021

Absolute gap (pp) = (% of persons with disabilities) – (% of persons without disabilities)
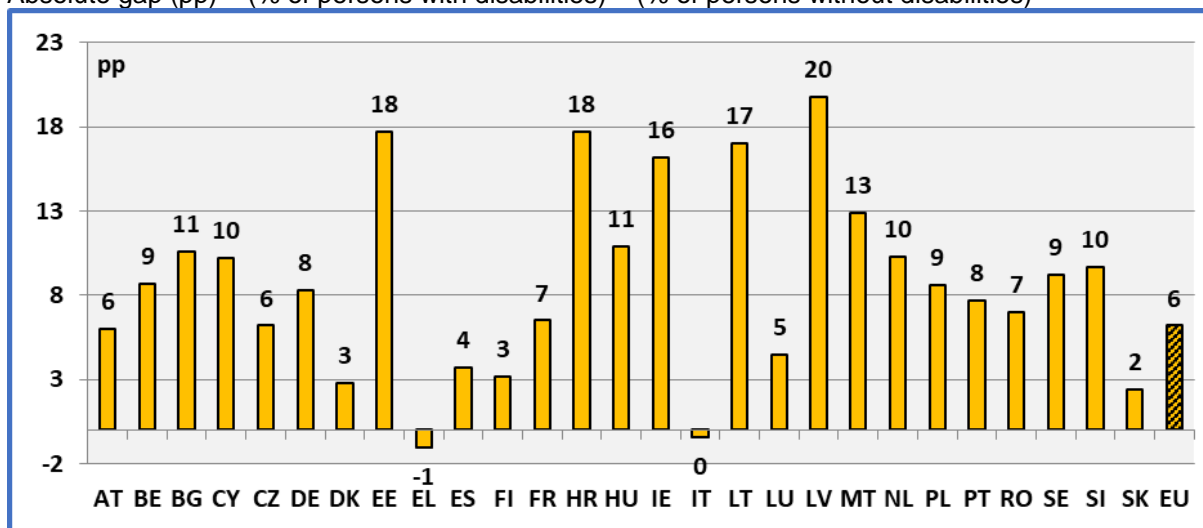
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12.2.3 Persons at risk of poverty by gender

About 22.1 % of women with disabilities aged 16 and over faced a risk of financial poverty in comparison with 19.7 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

Persons without disabilities, both men and women, experienced lower rates of poverty.

Compared to the situation in 2020, the changes are marginal.

Figure 70: 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
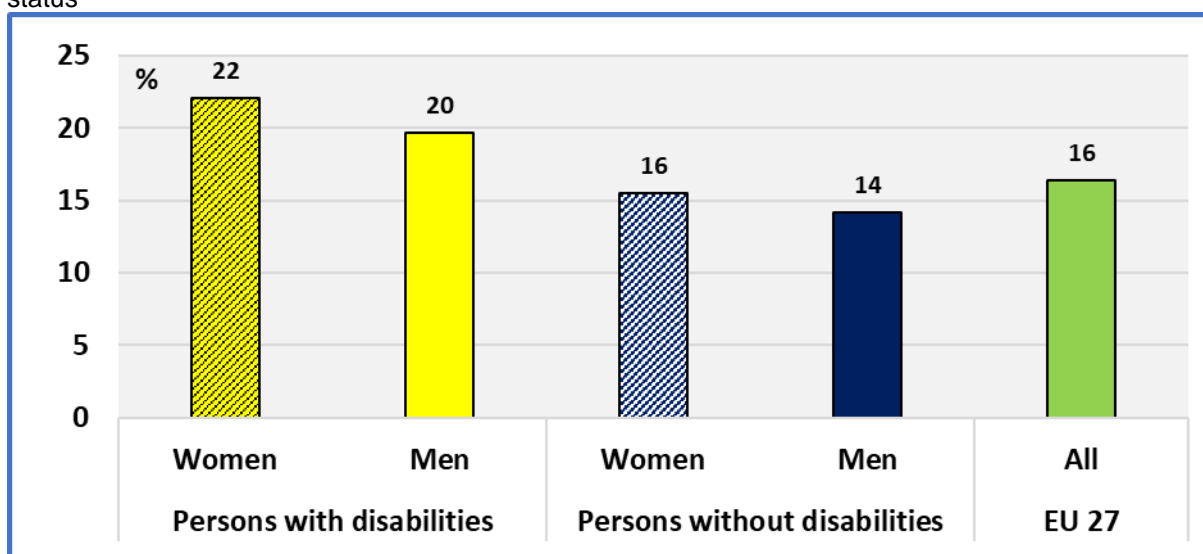
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28/03/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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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 22.6 % for the 16-64 age group and 19.4 % for the 65+ age group. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 15.2 % and 13.6 %.

In the following figure, when we compare people by disability status and age group, disability seems to be the dominant factor leading to poverty. For all age groups, persons with disabilities face a significantly higher poverty risk compared to persons without disabilities.

Figure 71: Percentage of persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, by age group, EU, 2021
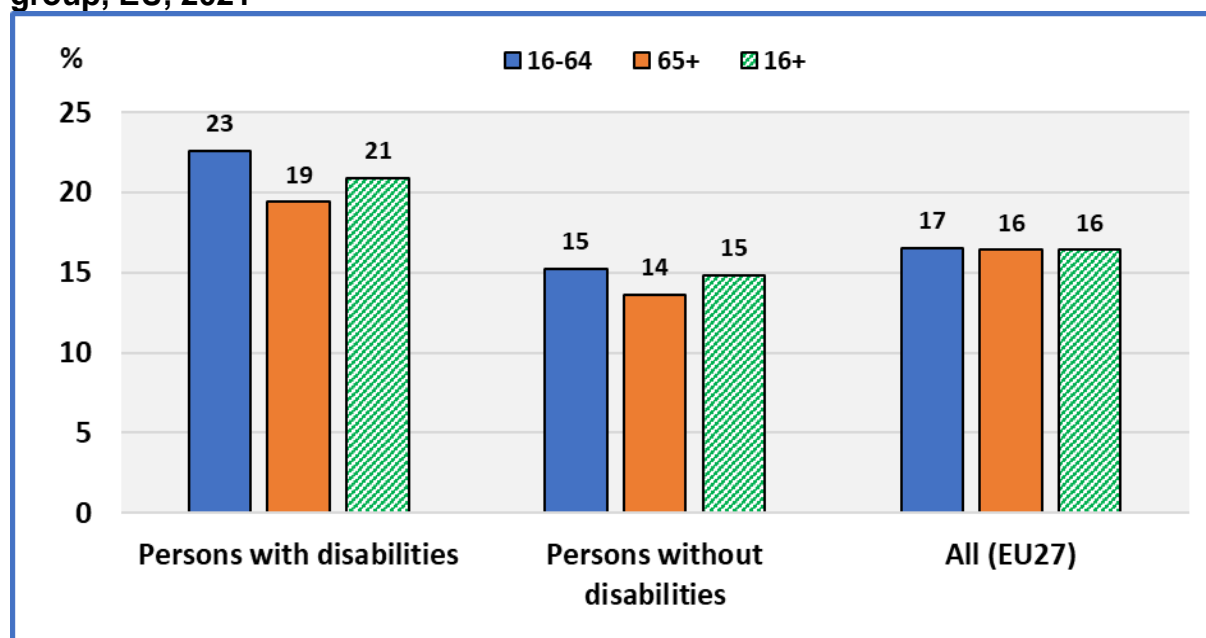
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 28/03/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

12.2.5 Persons at risk of poverty, by degree of disability

The risk of financial poverty increases with the degree of disability. It is 20.0 % for persons with moderate disabilities aged 16 and over in the EU 27, in comparison with 23.8 % 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 2021, persons interviewed presented their situation in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the survey through different channels. First, lockdowns affected the economic activity. Secondly, social distancing and related measures affected the organisation of the national surveys. For example, the survey

did not take place during the same months in 2020 and 2021 and this adds a seasonal bias, when we compare 2020 and 2021.

For the above reasons, the changes between 2020 and 2021 are indicative.

Figure 72: People with disabilities at risk of poverty after social transfers in 2020 and 2021, aged 16+
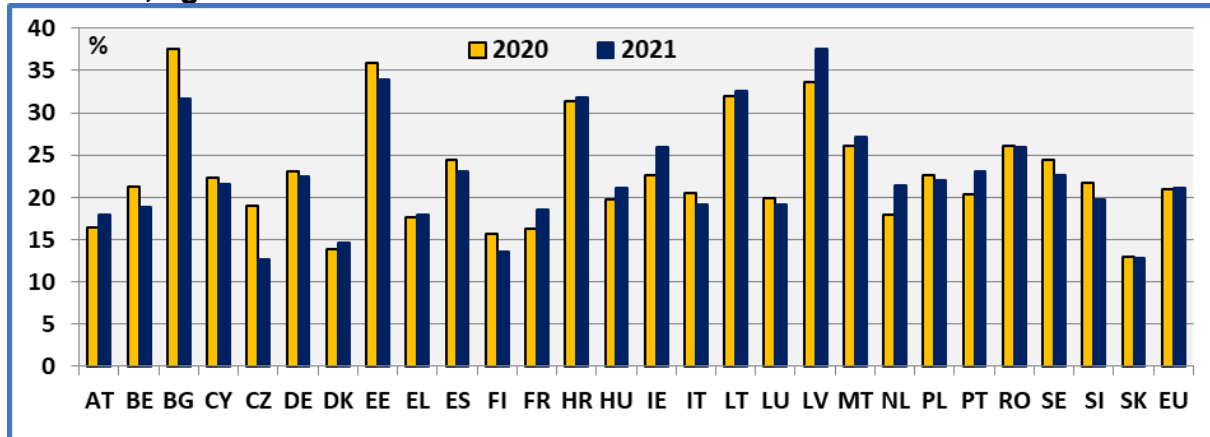
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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.

A marginal increase of poverty took place between 2020 and 2021. Nevertheless, these are indicative 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.

The European Central Bank (ECB) noted that '2021 was the year in which the euro area moved onto a firmer path of recovery from the pandemic emergency and the economy rebounded strongly, with real GDP growing by 5.3%'[81]. However, this is not translated in an improvement (reduction of poverty) in the following figure, as reported incomes in 2021 refer to previous 12 months (mainly 2020).

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[81] ECB (2021), Annual Report 2021.
See: https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/annual/html/ecb.ar2021~14d7439b2d.en.html.

Figure 73: 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.
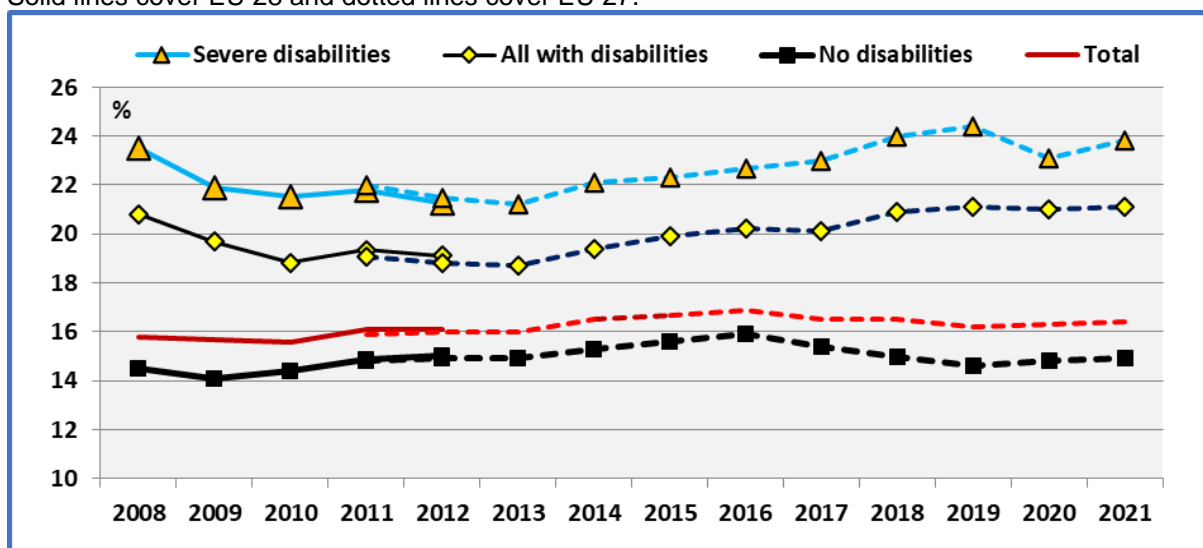
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

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 by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 income. 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. On the other hand, during an economic crisis (e.g., pandemic), the relative situation of elderly people improved (reduction of poverty).

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. But this impact is not taken into account by the present poverty indicator.

Figure 74: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers by disability and year, EU

Solid lines cover EU 28 and dotted lines cover EU 27.
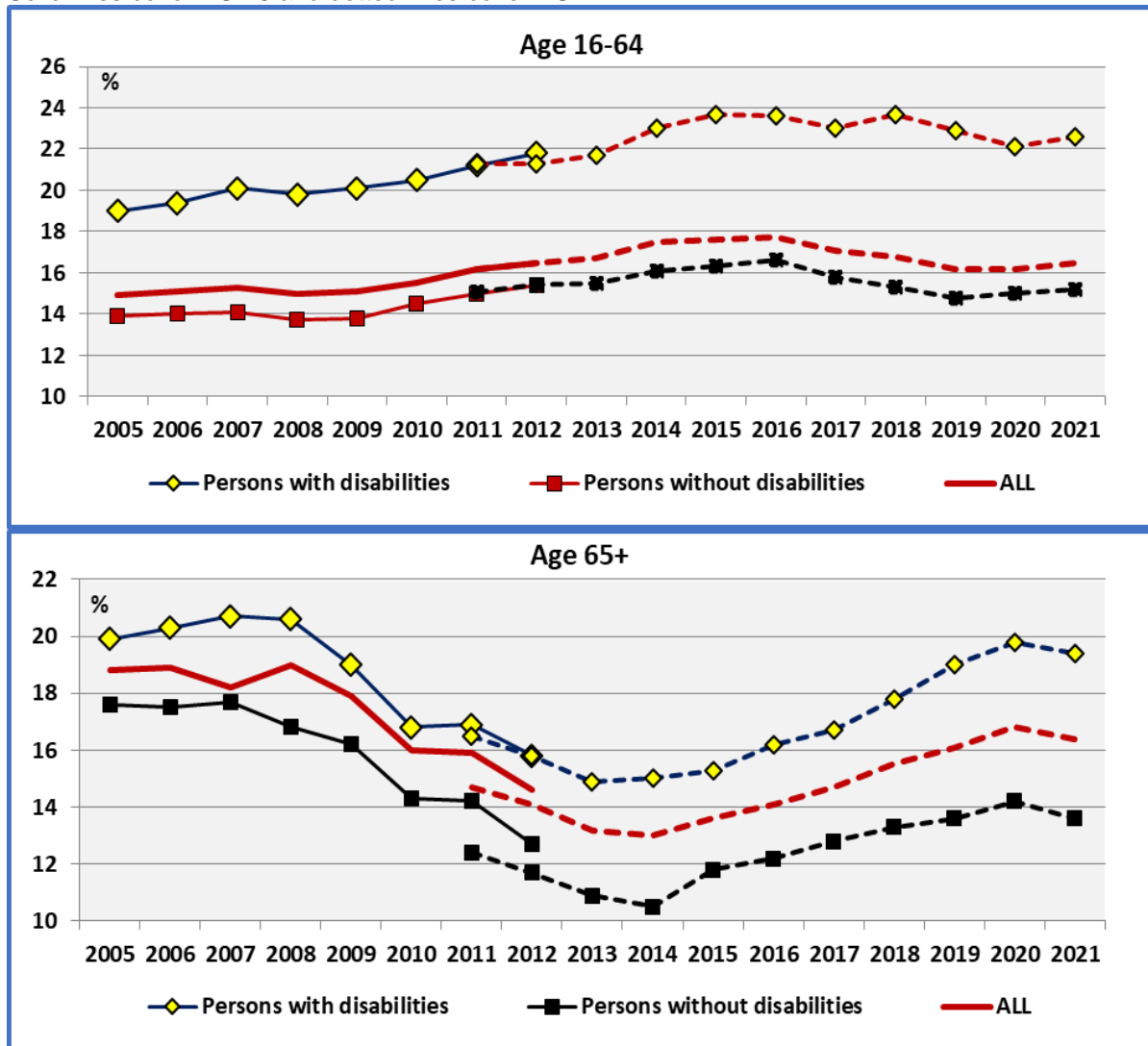
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat, data extracted from [ESTAT]).

Concerning the relative gap in financial poverty (difference between persons with and without disabilities as a percent of the latter), during the last two years, the previous graphs indicates that this gap remained relatively stable for persons aged 16-64 (49 %, in 2021) but increased for persons aged 65 and over (43 %, in 2021). In both cases, however, the gap remained high.

12.3 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 previous EDE statistical report, we attempted a first evaluation of net wealth owned by persons with and without disabilities[82].

Household main residence (HMR) constitutes an important aspect of wealth. In the following table we present the gross value of household main residence. In the Eurozone, in 2018, the conditional (only HMR owners) mean gross value of household main residence is EUR 225 000. For comparison the European Central Bank (ECB) provides a conditional mean of EUR 209 000 for the Eurozone, in 2017[83].

In the table, we compare the value of owners with disabilities and owners without disabilities. This ratio is about 86 % in the EU 27 and 87 % in the Eurozone, in 2020.

Table 60: Conditional mean gross value of household main residence (HMR) of persons with disabilities as a proportion to persons without disabilities.
Experimental data.
Conditional: Only house owners (with or without mortgage). The data are not age adjusted.

	2018	2020		2018	2020
	Total		**Not disabled** (Base)	**Ratio Disabled / Not-disabled**	
	1 000 Euros			%	
BE	291	333	100	91	87
BG	47	35	100	77	83
CY	224	271	100	84	84
CZ	92	112	100	86	88
DE	297	348	100	93	95
DK	394	339	100	91	91
EL	142	107	100	85	88
ES	194	198	100	91	91
FR	236	282	100	86	89
HR	98	84	100	84	79
IE	351	330	100	93	90
IT	222	213	100	96	90
PL	84	76	100	93	86
RO	48	41	100	90	89
SK	70	86	100	92	92
EZ (Eurozone)	**225**	**244**	**100**	**88**	**87**
EU 27	**192**	**204**	**100**	**88**	**86**

Methodology: 2018: Value of HMR (Imputed rent (HY030G) / 0.03); 2020: Value of main residence (HV010 ad hoc module). In 2017, the Eurozone included 19 countries.
For comparison, the ECB (2020b) reports: BE: 295, DE: 259, ES: 164, FR: 226, IT: 202 (all in thousand euros) (Source: ECB (2020b), 'The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: Results from the 2017 wave'; ECB Statistics Paper Series No 36 / March 2020).
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and own calculation

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[82] Grammenos S. (2022), 'European comparative data on persons with disabilities: Equal opportunities, fair working conditions, social protection and inclusion, health analysis and trends; Data 2020'. Report developed under Contract VC/2020/0273 with the European Commission. June 2022.

[83] See: (ECB (2020a), 'The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: wave 2017. Statistical tables', June 2020, HFCS, European Central Bank.

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.

In the following table, we can see that, in the Eurozone in 2018, the conditional (only owners with mortgage loan) median monthly repayment was 499 for persons with disabilities and EUR 638 for persons without disabilities. This was implying a ratio of 80.8 % of persons with disabilities relative to persons without disabilities. However, there are important differences across countries. The monthly amount was covering both reimbursement of the capital borrowed and the interest of the loan.

Table 61: Conditional median monthly HMR mortgage payments of persons with disabilities as a proportion to persons without disabilities.
Experimental data.
Only house owners with mortgage. The data are not age adjusted.

	HFCS (2017)	EU-SILC 2018	EU-SILC 2018
	All house owners with mortgage (Disabled and not-disabled) Euros		Ratio (%) Disabled / Not-disabled
AT	434	500	74.1
BE	744	708	86.2
CY	800	722	95.7
DE	652	600	80.8
EE	230	250	90.1
EL	285	275	85.2
ES	400	400	97.9
FI	519	627	82.4
FR	768	829	88.5
IE	818	840	85.5
IT	540	510	91.0
LT	115	195	93.2
LU	1 300	1 561	88.2
LV	200	250	88.0
MT	437	400	79.0
NL	629	787	82.5
PT	287	272	95.3
SI	359	370	99.9
SK	219	190	96.6
EZ (Eurozone)	**575**	**500**	**80.8**

Note: The EU-SILC ad hoc module 2020 presents some information on 'Total left to repay for the mortgage on main residence' (on HV070). However, information is missing for several countries. Exploitable data (e.g., similar to those presented in the above table) cover Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Luxembourg, and Latvia.
For HFCS (2017), see ECB (2021), 'The Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS), Wave 2017 (wave 3), Statistical tables', European Central Bank, May 2021.
Data source: ECB (2021) for HFCS (2017), EU-SILC UDB 2018 and own calculations

Taking into account the mortgage debt, the ratio of the mean value of household main residence (HMR) of persons with disabilities relative to persons without disabilities has been affected. The ratio for HMR net value is 94 % compared to 88 % for HMR gross value, in the Eurozone in 2018. These means are not age standardised.

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.

The gross value of the household main residence minus outstanding amount of mortgage debt provides the net value of household main residence. We consider all households. For non-owners, the value is set to zero. The mean net value of household main residence, in the Eurozone, in 2018, is EUR 129.400. For comparison, the HFCS 2017 (ECB 2020a) provides a mean of EUR 105.300. These means are not age standardised.

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 2018, the household net residential wealth of persons with a moderate disability represented 83.4 % (82.0 % in 2016) of the equivalent value of persons without disabilities. The rate was 76.0 % (74.3 % in 2016) for persons with severe disabilities.

Table 62: Mean net residential (HMR) wealth of persons with disabilities as a proportion relative to persons without disabilities, 2018, age adjusted
Experimental data.

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	NL	EZ	EU
Not disabled	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	**100**	**100**
Moderate	83.6	80.1	80.6	88.9	91.7	87.7	79.9	96.5	97.2	83.7	**83.1**	**83.4**
Severe	69.9	76.3	69.3	90.7	94.7	67.3	78.4	87.0	86.9	65.6	**75.6**	**76.0**

Abbreviations: HMR stands for Household main residence; EZ stands for the euro area.
Methodology: For the estimation of the mortgage debt, we have used a 13-year term and a 3% discount rate. An alternative, which fits equally well the EU-SILC data, is 12 years and 3.5% but the estimations for certain countries are not close to estimations drawn from market data. For the choice of the average mortgage length and the discount rate, see previous EDE report (Grammenos S., (2022)).
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.
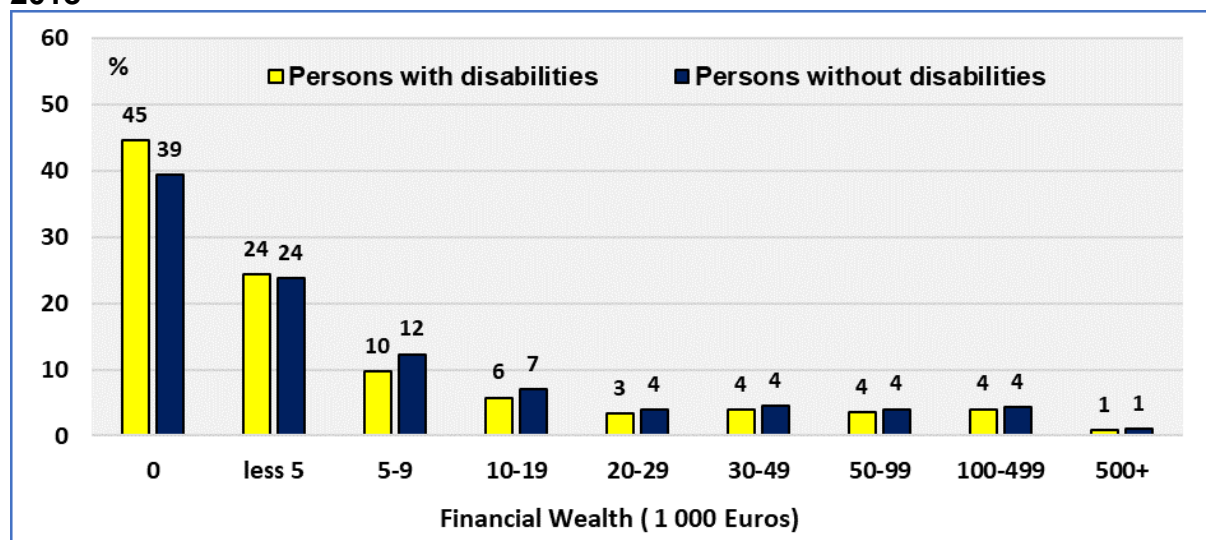*Data source: EU-SILC 2018 and author's own calculations.*

Financial assets are another important component of wealth. EU-SILC provides information on interest, dividends, and profit from capital (HY090G). The capitalisation of annual flows gives an estimation of financial wealth.

In the following graphs, we present the distribution of financial wealth by disability status. In the Eurozone, in 2018, about 44.7 % of persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, live in households which do not possess financial wealth. This rate is 39.3 % for persons without disabilities.

The mean value of household financial wealth owned by persons with disabilities is EUR 27 000 compared to EUR 35 000 for persons without disabilities, in the Eurozone in 2018. The total mean is 33 thousand euros.

Considering only people who hold financial assets, the conditional mean value of household financial wealth owned by persons with disabilities is EUR 49 000 compared to EUR 58 000 for persons without disabilities, in the Eurozone in 2018. The total conditional mean is 55 thousand euros. For comparison, the ECB (2020) reports a conditional mean of EUR 51 000 in the Eurozone in 2017. However, the national conditional means between the two surveys are different. This can be explained by the fact a big number of small amounts can modify sharply the conditional means.

Figure 75: The distribution of financial wealth by disability status. Eurozone, 2018

Methodology: Financial wealth: Interest, dividends, profit from capital (HY090G) / 0,03). The data are not age standardised.
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 and author's own calculations.

The following figure (generalised Lorenz curve[84]) presents the same information but reveals the inequality issues.

Considering all people, the difference between persons with and without disabilities stems from the high proportion of persons with no financial wealth (or very low amounts) and holders (with positive values).

If we consider only holders of financial wealth, then the difference between persons with and without disabilities disappears.

The following generalised Lorenz curve depicts the above conclusions. The curve at zero euros measures the percentage of people without financial wealth. The abrupt upward trend represents the concentration of financial wealth in inside both groups.

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[84] See: http://repec.sowi.unibe.ch/files/wp15/jann-2016-lorenz.pdf.

To summarise, about 95 % of persons with disabilities declare a household financial wealth of less than EUR 65000 (80 000 for persons without disabilities) which is an indicator of financial fragility, notably face to unforeseen health related expenses.

However, we have to note that these estimations ought to be treated with caution as income from interest, dividends or profit from capital might be underestimated. Consequently, they need further analysis in order to establish their statistical robustness and coherence through time and across countries.

Figure 76: Financial wealth inequality by disability status. Eurozone, 2018
Experimental data
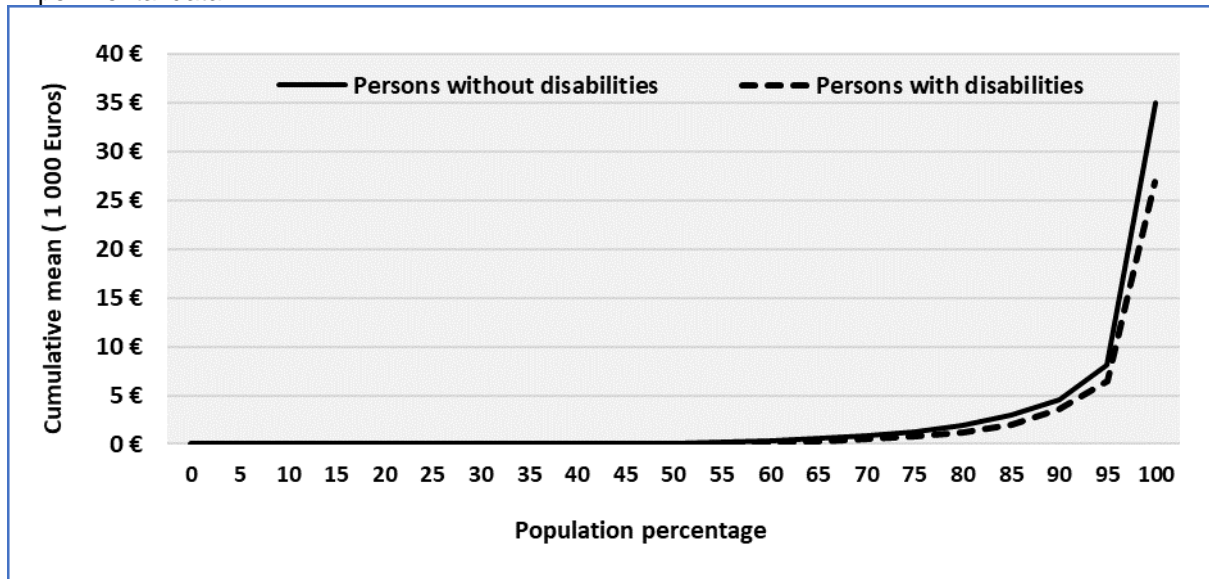
Note: In this figure, the generalised Lorenz curve is a plot of cumulative mean financial wealth against population, where units are ordered in ascending order of financial wealth. Lorenz y-ordinates are divided by the mean of financial wealth and are thus bounded by 0 and 100 (0 and 1).
The data are not age adjusted.
The Gini coefficient is equal to 0.92 in both cases revealing the importance of inequality. In the extreme case of Gini equal to '1' (or 100 %), a person owns all financial wealth. Adjusting for age effects in cross-sectional distributions, we get an age-adjusted Gini index. This correction does not change significantly the general picture.
Data source: EU-SILC 2018 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 Eurozone in 2018, the mean household total net wealth was estimated at EUR 193.400. For comparison, the HFCS 2017 (ECB 2020a) provides a mean of EUR 229.200. However, contrary to our estimations, the HFCS survey includes vehicles and other durables.

In the Eurozone in 2018, the mean household total net wealth was estimated at EUR 177 200 (180 600 in 2016) for persons with disabilities and 199 000 (191 100 in 2016) for persons without disabilities, aged 16 and over.

However, we have to take into account the fact that the age structure of persons with and without disabilities is not similar. In fact, disability prevalence increases with age. Also, the age structure across countries is not the same. Important too, the accumulation of wealth increases with age. For these reasons, it is preferable to use age adjusted indicators, notably when we compare the situation in different countries.

For the above reasons, we use age-standardised rates when we compare the wealth held by persons with and without disabilities, across countries. The following table presents the age-adjusted mean value of total net wealth of persons with disabilities as a proportion to persons without disabilities. We include only Members of the Eurozone, in order to avoid problems related to exchange rates. Also, we have excluded countries which presented statistical problems.

In the EU 27 in 2018, the mean household age-standardised total net wealth of persons with disabilities was 74.0 % of the equivalent wealth held by persons without disabilities. This rate was similar in the Eurozone. These rates reveal the financial fragility of persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities.

Table 63: Mean value of total net wealth of persons with disabilities as a proportion to persons without disabilities, age adjusted
Experimental data.
Base 100: Mean value of total net wealth of persons without disabilities
2016 and 2018: 100 x (Mean value of persons with disabilities / Mean value of persons without disabilities) in 2016 and 2018

	AT	BE	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	LV	NL	SK	PT	EZ	EU
	%														
Base	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	**100**	**100**
2016	73	72	74	85	86	81	75	88	82	77	76	92	71	**78**	**77**
2018	73	74	73	86	87	90	65	92	80	80	68	92	68	**74**	**74**

Note: Data for Finland and France present a discontinuity
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and author's own calculations.

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).

12.4 Statistical tables

Table 64: 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.

	2021				2021 disability gap in pp
	Disability				
	Yes	**No**		**Total**	
AT	17.9	11.9		13.6	6.0
BE	18.8	10.1		12.2	8.7
BG	31.6	21.0		22.9	10.6
CY	21.6	11.4		13.3	10.2
CZ	12.7	6.5		8.0	6.2
DE	22.4	14.1		16.2	8.3

DK	14.6	11.8	12.8	2.8
EE	34.0	16.3	22.2	17.7
EL	18.0	19.0	18.8	-1.0
ES	23.1	19.4	20.4	3.7
FI	13.5	10.3	11.2	3.2
FR	18.5	12.0	13.5	6.5
HR	31.8	14.1	19.8	17.7
HU	21.1	10.2	12.6	10.9
IE	25.9	9.7	12.8	16.2
IT	19.2	19.6	19.5	-0.4
LT	32.6	15.6	20.9	17.0
LU	19.2	14.7	15.9	4.5
LV	37.5	17.7	25.1	19.8
MT	27.1	14.2	16.3	12.9
NL	21.4	11.1	14.2	10.3
PL	22.0	13.4	15.4	8.6
PT	23.0	15.3	18.0	7.7
RO	26.0	19.0	21.1	7.0
SE	22.6	13.4	15.2	9.2
SI	19.7	10.0	12.1	9.7
SK	12.8	10.4	10.3	2.4
EU	**21.1**	**14.9**	**16.4**	**6.2**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 65: 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 gap in pp
	Disability			Disability			
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Total**	
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	23.1	13.8	16.1	9.3
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	16.3	11.9	13.0	4.4
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	22.6	11.1	13.4	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**	**21.0**	**14.8**	**16.3**	**6.2**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 17/03/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 66: 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.

	2021					
	Men		**Women**		**Total**	
	Disability		**Disability**		**Disability**	
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
AT	16.4	11.4	19.2	12.5	17.9	11.9
BE	20.2	9.4	17.7	10.7	18.8	10.1
BG	26.0	19.9	35.5	22.0	31.6	21.0
CY	20.5	10.0	22.6	12.7	21.6	11.4
CZ	9.4	5.3	15.3	7.7	12.7	6.5
DE	22.1	13.1	22.7	15.2	22.4	14.1
DK	15.6	10.9	13.8	12.9	14.6	11.8
EE	27.6	15.4	38.6	17.2	34.0	16.3
EL	17.0	18.8	18.8	19.2	18.0	19.0
ES	22.1	18.7	23.8	20.0	23.1	19.4
FI	13.4	10.5	13.6	10.1	13.5	10.3
FR	17.2	10.8	19.6	13.2	18.5	12.0
HR	28.8	12.9	34.2	15.3	31.8	14.1
HU	21.0	10.0	21.1	10.4	21.1	10.2
IE	23.8	9.2	27.7	10.2	25.9	9.7
IT	17.2	19.3	20.8	20.0	19.2	19.6
LT	26.7	13.6	36.7	17.5	32.6	15.6
LU	19.7	13.6	18.8	16.1	19.2	14.7
LV	31.5	15.2	41.3	20.0	37.5	17.7
MT	23.8	13.4	29.7	15.1	27.1	14.2

NL	22.4	10.4	20.6	11.8	21.4	11.1
PL	19.6	13.1	23.7	13.7	22.0	13.4
PT	21.8	14.9	23.9	15.8	23.0	15.3
RO	24.2	19.2	27.4	18.8	26.0	19.0
SE	22.9	12.9	22.3	14.0	22.6	13.4
SI	18.7	9.2	20.6	10.8	19.7	10.0
SK	11.3	10.0	13.9	10.8	12.8	10.4
EU	**19.7**	**14.2**	**22.1**	**15.5**	**21.1**	**14.9**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 67: 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	22.2	13.4	23.9	14.3	23.1	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	15.1	11.0	17.3	12.8	16.3	11.9
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	21.4	10.4	23.7	11.8	22.6	11.1
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	**19.6**	**14.1**	**22.0**	**15.5**	**21.0**	**14.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 17/03/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 68: 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.

	2021					
	Persons with disabilities			**Persons without disabilities**		
	16-64	**65+**	**16+**	**16-64**	**65+**	**16+**
AT	17.9	17.9	17.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
BE	20.3	16.6	18.8	9.3	13.6	10.1
BG	18.8	40.8	31.6	18.6	31.3	21.0
CY	18.8	24.4	21.6	11.0	14.4	11.4
CZ	13.0	12.3	12.7	6.2	8.5	6.5
DE	24.0	20.9	22.4	13.7	15.8	14.1
DK	16.5	10.8	14.6	11.8	12.1	11.8
EE	24.5	46.1	34.0	13.2	34.1	16.3
EL	24.4	14.8	18.0	20.2	11.4	19.0
ES	24.6	20.7	23.1	20.3	14.4	19.4
FI	12.0	15.6	13.5	10.2	10.6	10.3
FR	22.8	13.9	18.5	12.8	8.9	12.0
HR	26.1	36.8	31.8	13.0	22.7	14.1
HU	22.8	19.5	21.1	10.1	11.0	10.2
IE	25.7	26.2	25.9	8.5	17.0	9.7
IT	21.7	17.4	19.2	20.9	13.9	19.6
LT	23.5	41.9	32.6	14.1	25.9	15.6
LU	22.0	10.7	19.2	15.6	7.8	14.7
LV	26.7	48.9	37.5	15.0	37.4	17.7
MT	23.6	30.6	27.1	11.9	26.3	14.2
NL	23.9	17.5	21.4	10.2	15.3	11.1
PL	23.1	20.9	22.0	12.9	15.8	13.4
PT	23.5	22.4	23.0	15.1	16.6	15.3
RO	29.5	23.5	26.0	19.2	16.9	19.0
SE	24.8	18.5	22.6	14.3	10.3	13.4
SI	18.9	20.8	19.7	9.1	14.3	10.0
SK	14.0	11.3	12.8	10.6	8.2	10.4
EU	**22.6**	**19.4**	**21.1**	**15.2**	**13.6**	**14.9**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 69: 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	24.8	21.3	23.1	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	20.3	11.7	16.3	13.0	7.5	11.9
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	22.9	22.1	22.6	10.5	15.0	11.1
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	**22.1**	**19.8**	**21.0**	**15.0**	**14.2**	**14.8**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 17/03/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 70: 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				

Comparative data on persons with disabilities: Data 2021

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	21.0	14.8	16.3
2021					23.8	21.1	14.9	16.4

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat, data extracted from [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 71: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability, age group and year

	EU 28			EU 27		
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**
Age: 16-64						
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				22.1	15.0	16.2
2021				22.6	15.2	16.5

	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**ALL**
Age: 65+						
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				19.8	14.2	16.8
2021				19.4	13.6	16.4

Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat, data extracted from [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13   Severely materially and socially 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 and social deprivation (SMSD) is a component of AROPE.

Europe 2030 strategy has (re)defined the indicator as the proportion of the population experiencing an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (6 related to the individual and 7 related to the household).

13.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

13.2.1 Definition of severe material and social deprivation

This indicator presents the share of population with an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (7 related to the household and 6 related to the individual) include:

List of items at household level:

1.   Capacity to face unexpected expenses
2.   Capacity to afford paying for one-week annual holiday away from home
3.   Capacity to being confronted with payment arrears (on mortgage or rental payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments)
4.   Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day
5.   Ability to keep home adequately warm
6.   Have access to a car/van for personal use
7.   Replacing worn-out furniture

List of items at individual level:

1.   Having internet connection
2.   Replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones
3.   Having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)
4.   Spending a small amount of money each week on him/herself
5.   Having regular leisure activities

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[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.

6.   Getting together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month

Deprivation here refers to an enforced lack and not to a deliberate choice.

13.2.2 General comments

In 2021, about 10.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over were severely materially and socially deprived in comparison with 4.9 % of people without disabilities. The total was 6.4 %.

There was a wide range of situations across the Member States. The proportion of severely materially and socially deprived persons was low in Finland (2.2 %), Czechia (2.9 %) and Austria (3.7 %). It was relatively high in Hungary (17.7 %), Bulgaria (28.4 %) and Romania (31.5 %).

Figure 77: Percentage of persons severely materially and socially deprived by disability status and Member State, 2021

Percentage of population with an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (age 16+).
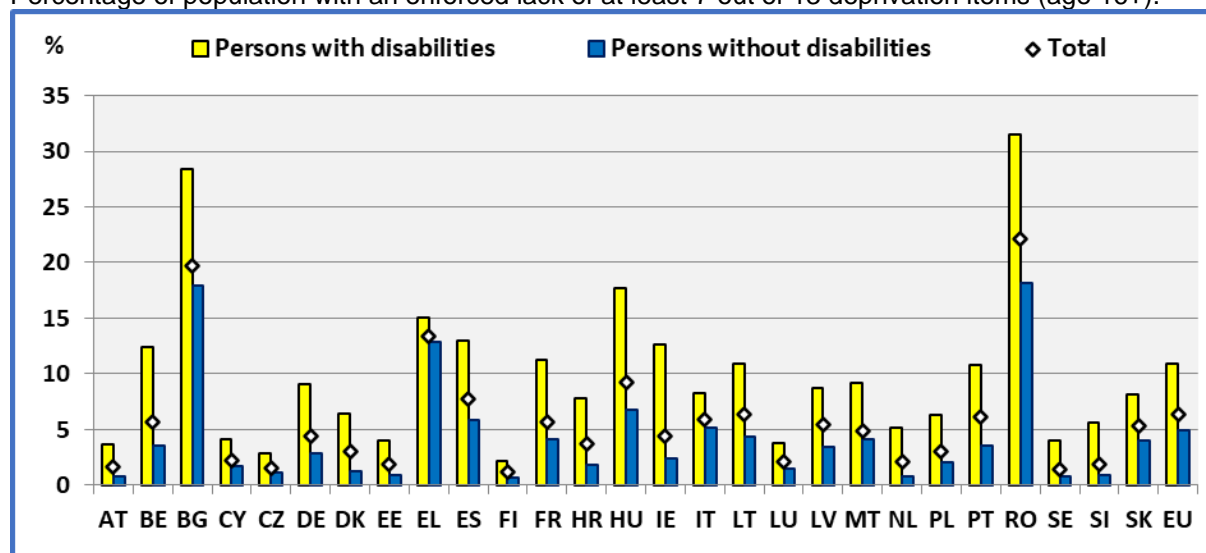
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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 7 out of 13 deprivation items. 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 and social 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 2021, this disadvantage was 6.0 percentage points among persons aged 16 and over.

This disadvantage ranges from a low 1.5 percentage points (Finland) to 13.3 percentage points (Romania).

Figure 78: Disadvantage of persons with disabilities concerning severe material and social deprivation, aged 16+, 2021

Disadvantage = (Percentage of persons with disabilities) – (Percentage of persons without disabilities); expressed in percentage points (pp).
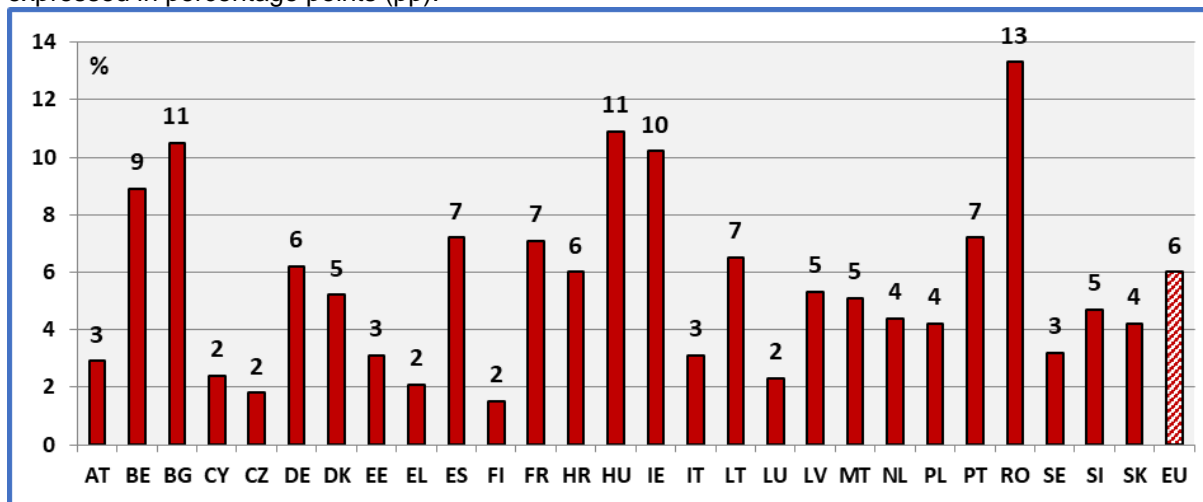
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.4 Severe material and social deprivation by gender

Concerning gender, in the EU 27, about 11.2 % of women with disabilities were severely materially deprived in comparison with 10.5 % of men with disabilities aged 16 and over. There was no gender gap among persons without disabilities.

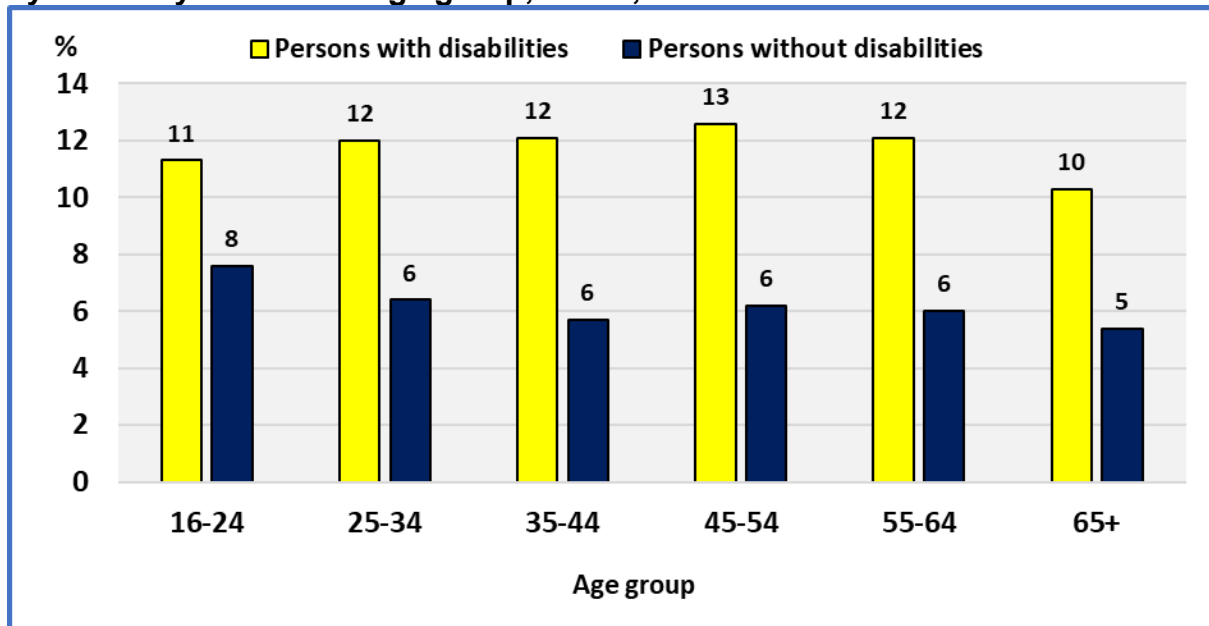**Figure 79: Percentage of persons severely materially and socially deprived by disability status and gender, aged 16+, EU, 2021**
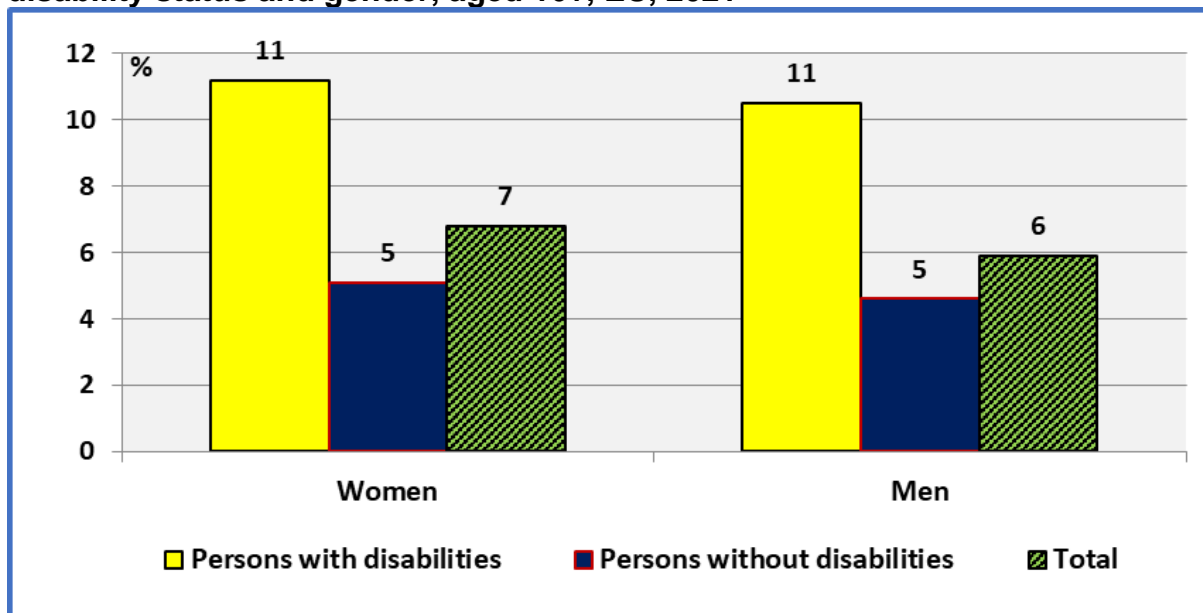
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the following figure indicates a high correlation between men and women who are severely materially deprived (R^2=0.97, n=27).

Figure 80: Percentage of persons with disabilities severely materially and socially deprived, by gender and Member State, aged 16+, EU, 2021
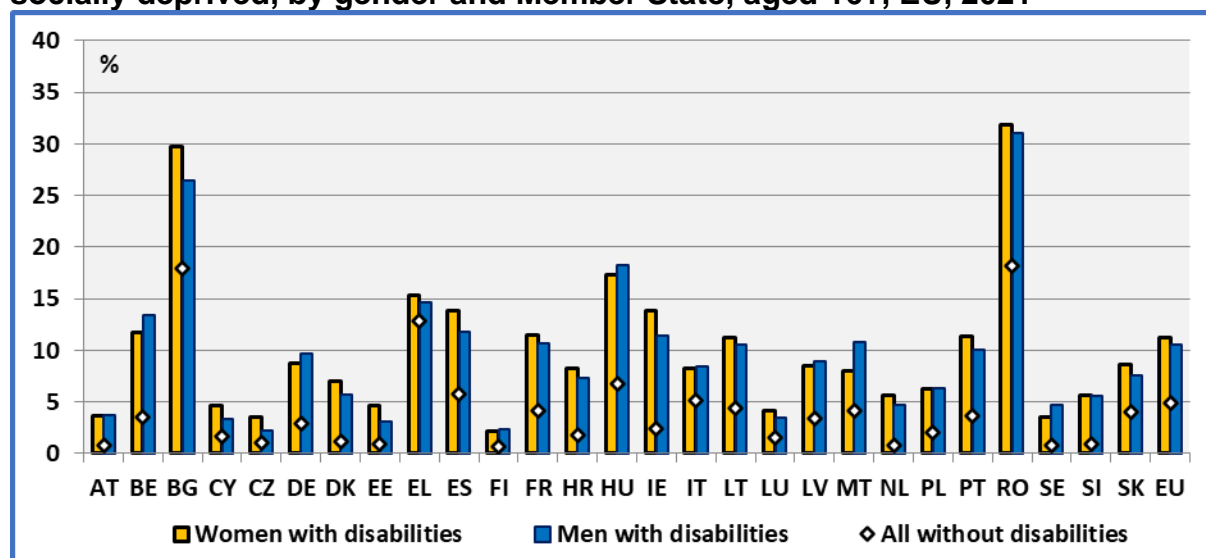
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.5 Severe material and social deprivation by age

Concerning age, in the EU 27, those in younger age groups presented a higher rate of severe material and social 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 55-64 and decreases thereafter.

Figure 81: Percentage of persons severely materially and socially deprived by age group and disability status, EU, 2021
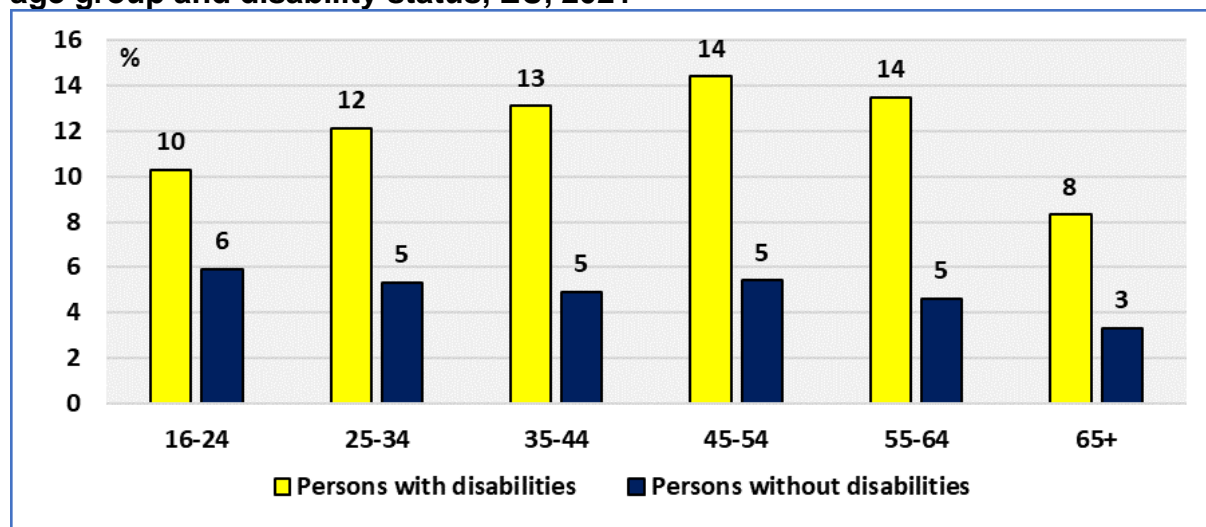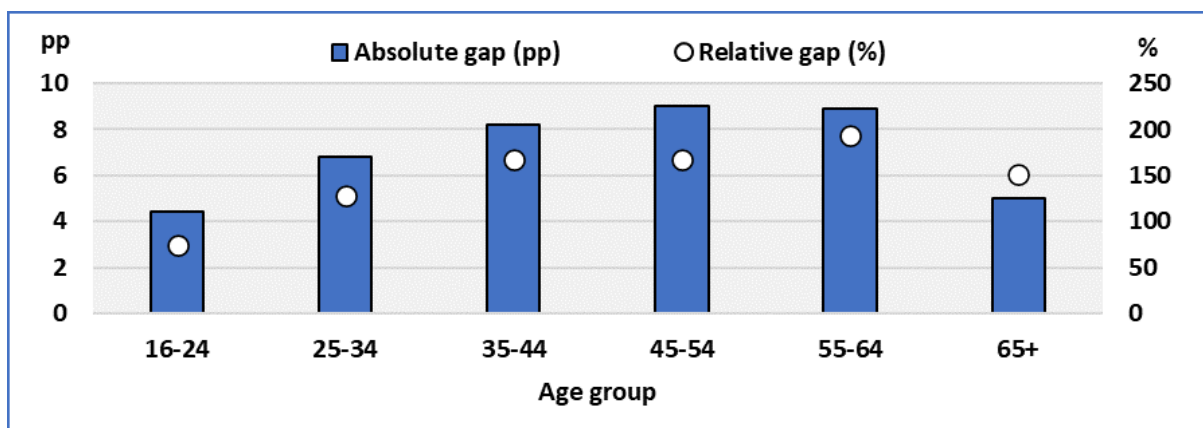
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.6 Severe material and social 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 9.6 % for persons with moderate disabilities aged 16 and over, and 14.1 % for persons with severe disabilities in the same age group. The rate was 4.9 % for persons without disabilities.

Figure 82: Percentage of persons severely materially deprived, by degree of disability and Member State, aged 16+, 2021
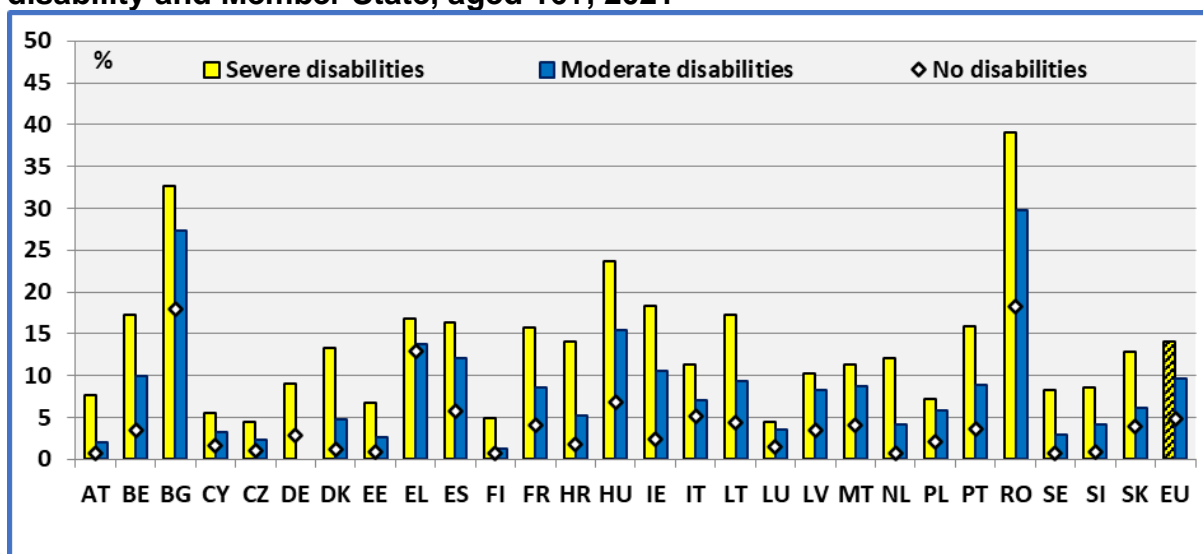
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.2.7 Evolution at national level

Concerning persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, we observed an improvement of the situation in the big majority of Member States (21 countries).

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Figure 83: Percentage of persons with disabilities severely materially and socially deprived in 2020 and 2021, aged 16+
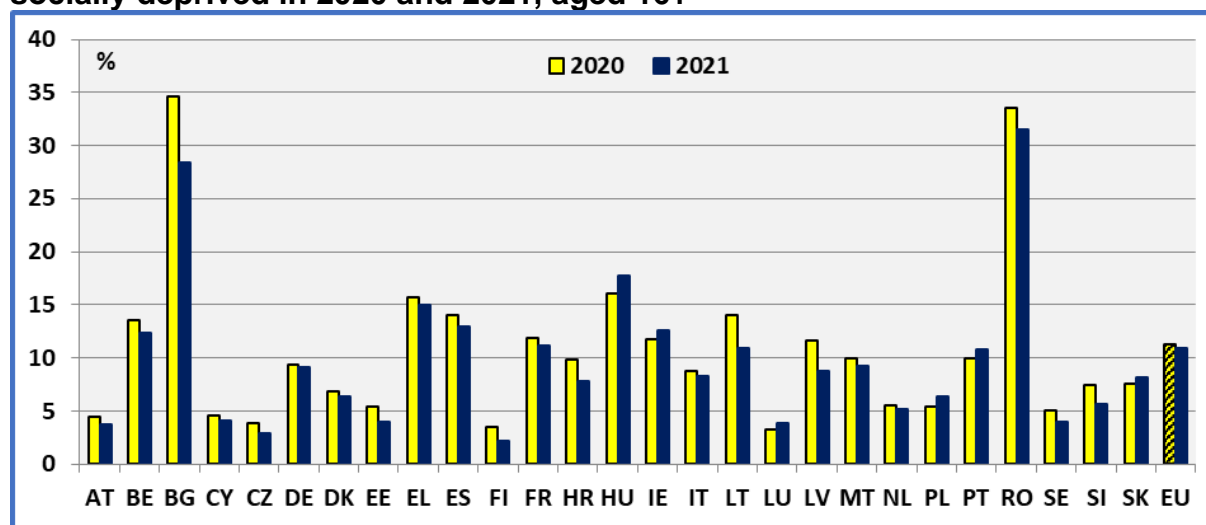
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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. Since 2013, an improvement (decrease in poverty) has been observed for all groups.

The new definition of severely materially and socially deprived people has increased significantly the share of persons with disabilities severely deprived and the gaps between persons with and without disabilities.

Figure 84: Percentage of persons severely materially and socially deprived, aged 16+, EU
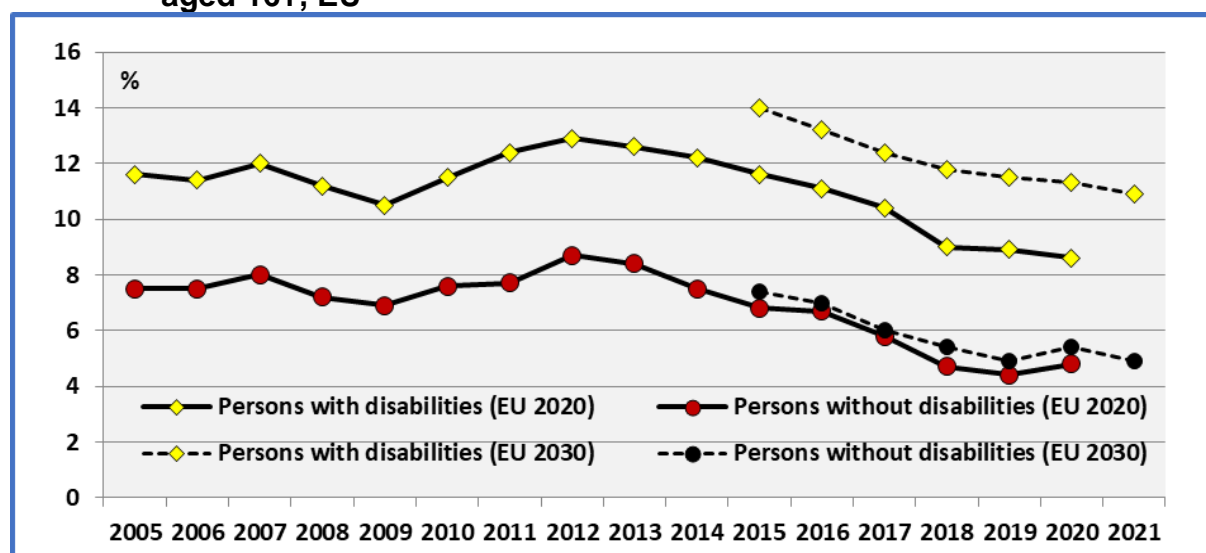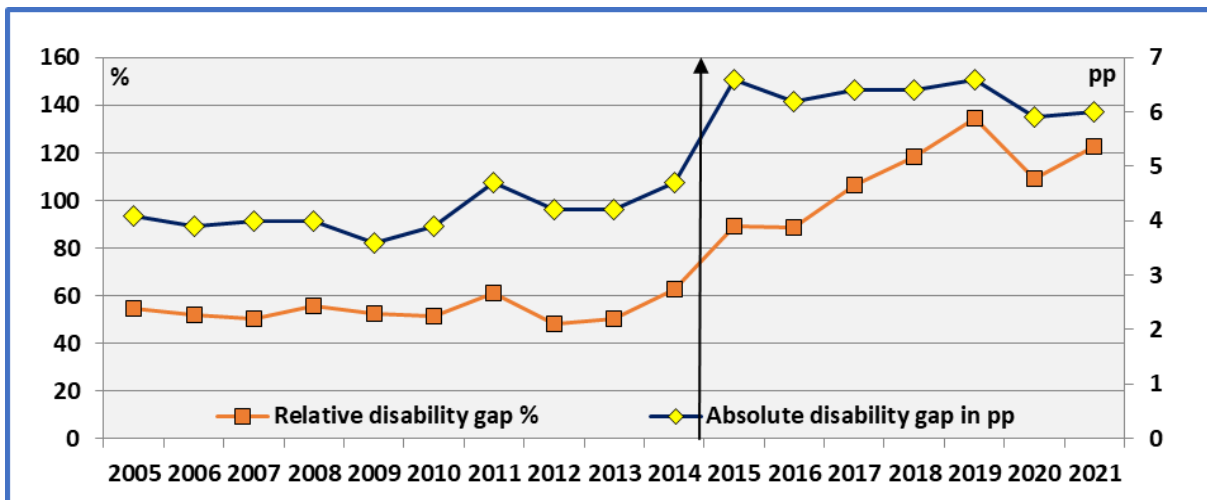
Note: From 2005 to 2009: EU 28 and from 2010 onwards: EU 27.
Gaps: before 2015, they are based on EU 2020 definitions; from 2015 onwards, they are based on EU 2030 definitions.
Absolute gap: (% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities).
Relative gap: 100*(% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).
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. The ability to keep home adequately warm is part of the material and social deprivation items. Here, we will analyse it in detail.

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.[86] In addition, fragile persons are more vulnerable to bad heating conditions. Given that 82.6 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over reported a long-standing health problem, in comparison with 16.4 % of persons without disabilities, in the EU 27[87], in 2021, 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 11.3 % (10.6 % in 2020) of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over declared that they were unable to keep their home adequately warm. This rate was 6.2 % (6.5 % in 2020) for persons without disabilities. The total rate was 7.5 % (same in 2020) for the same age group.

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[86] 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.
[87] Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT].

Figure 85: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2021
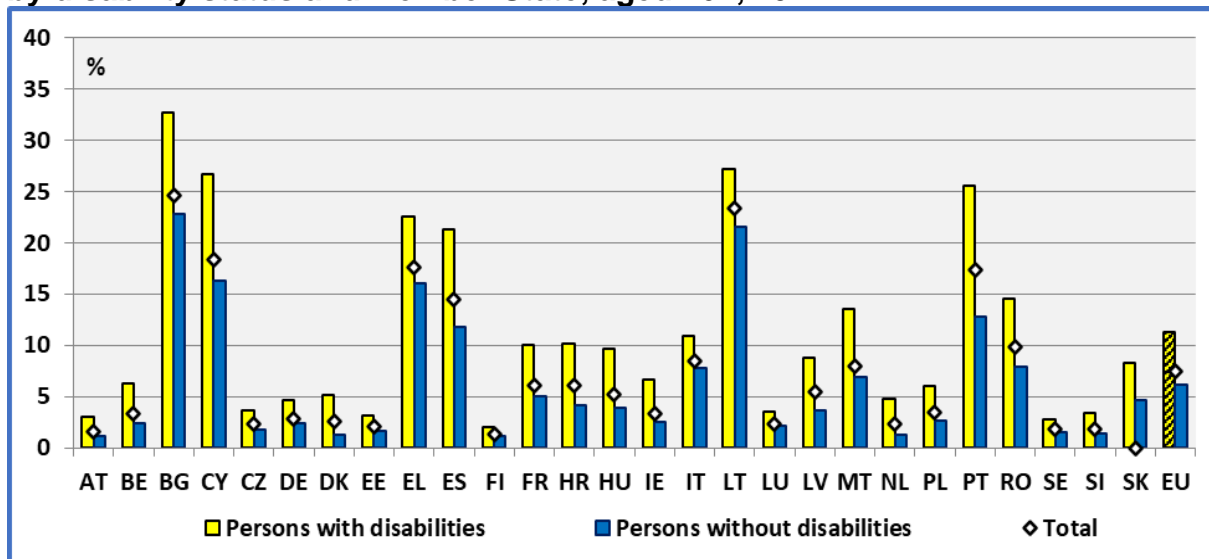
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

It may be noted that, for persons with disabilities, the level of inability to keep their home adequately warm was notably high in Cyprus (26.7 %), Lithuania (27.2 %) and Bulgaria (32.7 %).

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.

Figure 86: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and age group, EU 27, 2021

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

13.4 Statistical tables

Table 72: Percentage of persons living in households which are severely materially and socially deprived by disability status and Member State, aged 16+
Definition adopted by Europe 2030 strategy

	2020			2021			2021 disability gap in pp
	Disability			Disability			
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	4.4	1.5	2.4	3.7	0.8	1.6	2.9
BE	13.5	3.9	6.3	12.4	3.5	5.7	8.9
BG	34.6	20.2	22.6	28.4	17.9	19.7	10.5
CY	4.6	1.8	2.4	4.1	1.7	2.2	2.4
CZ	3.9	1.1	1.9	2.9	1.1	1.5	1.8
DE	9.4	2.9	4.5	9.1	2.9	4.4	6.2
DK	6.8	1.5	3.2	6.4	1.2	3.0	5.2
EE	5.4	0.9	2.4	4.0	0.9	1.9	3.1
EL	15.7	13.6	14.1	15.	12.9	13.4	2.1
ES	14.0	6.3	8.0	13.	5.8	7.8	7.2
FI	3.5	0.9	1.8	2.2	0.7	1.2	1.5
FR	11.9	4.5	6.3	11.2	4.1	5.7	7.1
HR	9.8	2.2	4.7	7.8	1.8	3.7	6.0
HU	16.1	7.4	9.4	17.7	6.8	9.2	10.9
IE	11.7	3.2	5.1	12.6	2.4	4.4	10.2
IT	8.7	5.5	6.2	8.3	5.2	5.9	3.1
LT	14.0	5.2	8.1	10.9	4.4	6.4	6.5
LU	3.2	1.0	1.5	3.8	1.5	2.1	2.3
LV	11.6	4.1	7.1	8.7	3.4	5.4	5.3
MT	10.0	3.9	4.8	9.2	4.1	4.9	5.1
NL	5.5	0.8	2.1	5.2	0.8	2.1	4.4
PL	5.4	1.7	2.6	6.3	2.1	3.0	4.2
PT	10.0	3.3	5.5	10.8	3.6	6.1	7.2
RO	33.5	21.2	24.4	31.5	18.2	22.1	13.3
SE	5.0	1.2	1.6	4.	0.8	1.4	3.2
SI	7.4	1.4	2.7	5.6	0.9	1.9	4.7
SK	7.6	3.0	4.5	8.2	4.0	5.3	4.2
EU	**11.3**	**5.4**	**6.9**	**10.9**	**4.9**	**6.4**	**6.0**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 73: Percentage of persons living in households which are severely materially and socially deprived by gender, disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2020

Definition adopted by Europe 2030 strategy

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities			Disabilities		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Severe	Moderate	No
AT	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	7.6	2.1	0.8
BE	13.4	11.7	12.4	3.4	3.7	3.5	17.2	10.0	3.5
BG	26.4	29.7	28.4	16.8	18.9	17.9	32.6	27.3	17.9
CY	3.4	4.7	4.1	1.4	2.0	1.7	5.5	3.2	1.7
CZ	2.2	3.5	2.9	1.0	1.2	1.1	4.4	2.3	1.1
DE	9.7	8.7	9.1	2.8	3.0	2.9	9.1	:	2.9
DK	5.7	7.0	6.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	13.3	4.7	1.2
EE	3.1	4.6	4.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	6.8	2.6	0.9
EL	14.6	15.3	15.	11.8	13.9	12.9	16.8	13.8	12.9
ES	11.8	13.8	13.	5.4	6.1	5.8	16.4	12.1	5.8
FI	2.3	2.2	2.2	0.5	1.0	0.7	4.9	1.3	0.7
FR	10.7	11.5	11.2	3.7	4.6	4.1	15.8	8.6	4.1
HR	7.3	8.2	7.8	1.7	1.9	1.8	14.1	5.3	1.8
HU	18.3	17.3	17.7	6.2	7.5	6.8	23.7	15.5	6.8
IE	11.4	13.8	12.6	2.0	2.9	2.4	18.3	10.5	2.4
IT	8.4	8.3	8.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	11.3	7.1	5.2
LT	10.5	11.2	10.9	4.3	4.5	4.4	17.3	9.4	4.4
LU	3.5	4.1	3.8	1.2	1.7	1.5	4.4	3.6	1.5
LV	9.0	8.5	8.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	10.2	8.3	3.4
MT	10.8	8.0	9.2	3.4	4.8	4.1	11.3	8.7	4.1
NL	4.7	5.7	5.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	12.1	4.1	0.8
PL	6.3	6.3	6.3	1.9	2.2	2.1	7.2	5.9	2.1
PT	10.1	11.3	10.8	3.2	4.1	3.6	15.9	8.9	3.6
RO	31.1	31.8	31.5	17.3	19.2	18.2	39.0	29.7	18.2
SE	4.7	3.5	4.	0.6	1.1	0.8	8.2	2.9	0.8
SI	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.7	1.1	0.9	8.6	4.2	0.9
SK	7.6	8.6	8.2	4.0	4.1	4.0	12.8	6.1	4.0
EU	**10.5**	**11.2**	**10.9**	**4.6**	**5.1**	**4.9**	**14.1**	**9.6**	**4.9**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 74: 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.

Definition adopted by Europe 2020 strategy

	2019			2020			2020 disability gap in pp
	Disability			Disability			
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
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 75: 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.

Definition adopted by Europe 2020 strategy

	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 76: Percentage of persons living in households which are severely materially deprived, EU 27*, aged 16+
Definition adopted by Europe 2020 strategy

	Total	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Europe 2020			
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
Europe 2030			
2015	7.4	14.0	7.4
2016	7.0	13.2	7.0
2017	6.0	12.4	6.0
2018	5.4	11.8	5.4
2019	4.9	11.5	4.9
2020	5.4	11.3	5.4
2021	4.9	10.9	4.9

* : Data for 2005-2009 cover EU 28.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat.

Table 77: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2021

	2021			2021 disability gap in pp
	Disability			
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	
AT	3.0	1.1	1.6	1.9
BE	6.3	2.4	3.3	3.9
BG	32.7	22.8	24.6	9.9
CY	26.7	16.3	18.3	10.4
CZ	3.7	1.8	2.3	1.9
DE	4.7	2.4	2.9	2.3
DK	5.1	1.3	2.6	3.8
EE	3.1	1.6	2.1	1.5
EL	22.5	16.1	17.6	6.4

ES	21.3	11.8	14.5	9.5
FI	2.0	1.1	1.4	0.9
FR	10.0	5.0	6.1	5.0
HR	10.2	4.2	6.1	6.0
HU	9.6	3.9	5.2	5.7
IE	6.6	2.5	3.3	4.1
IT	10.9	7.8	8.5	3.1
LT	27.2	21.5	23.3	5.7
LU	3.5	2.1	2.4	1.4
LV	8.8	3.6	5.5	5.2
MT	13.5	6.9	8.0	6.6
NL	4.8	1.3	2.3	3.5
PL	6.0	2.7	3.5	3.3
PT	25.6	12.8	17.3	12.8
RO	14.6	7.9	9.8	6.7
SE	2.8	1.5	1.8	1.3
SI	3.4	1.4	1.8	2.0
SK	8.3	4.6	5.8	3.7
EU	**11.3**	**6.2**	**7.5**	**5.1**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 78: Percentage of persons unable to keep their home adequately warm by disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2020

	2020			2020 disability gap in pp
	Disability			
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	
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	4.9	5.3	1.7
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	10.2	5.2	6.4	5.0
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	**10.7**	**6.5**	**7.5**	**4.2**

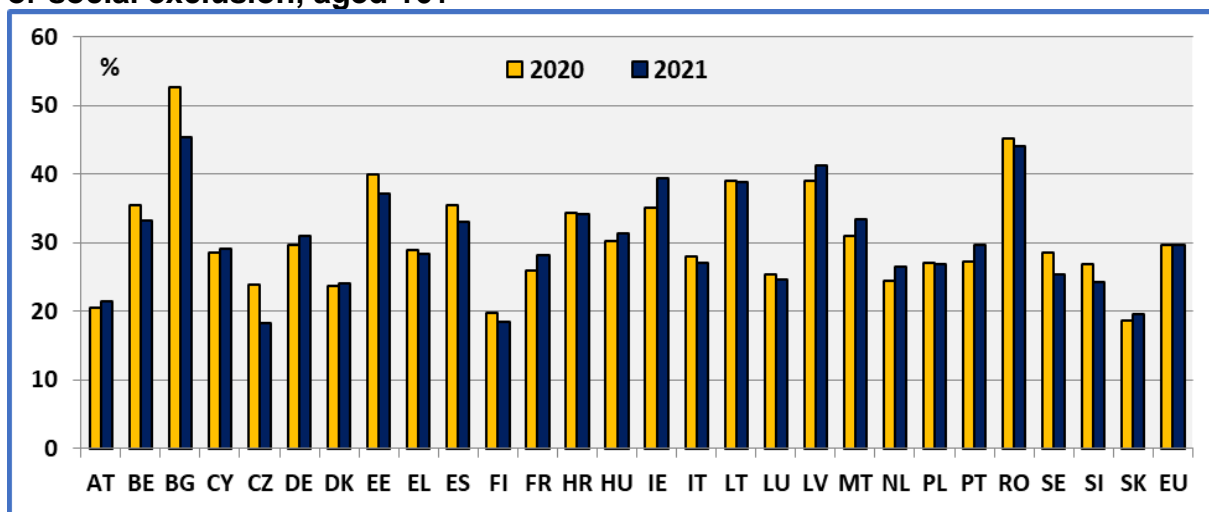*Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 24/03/2023 [ESTAT],*
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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 Strategy notes that 'alongside fair employment, adequate social protection, including retirement schemes, is an essential prerequisite to ensure an adequate income for a decent standard of living of persons with disabilities and their families'.

As noted above, the Council adopted, on 30 January 2023, a Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion. This Recommendation aims at combatting poverty and social exclusion[88].

In a more targeted approach, the Council, on 2021, adopted a Recommendation establishing a European child guarantee[89]. The aim of this Recommendation is to prevent and combat social exclusion by guaranteeing access of children in need to a set of key services, thereby also contributing to upholding the rights of the child by combating child poverty and fostering equal opportunities. Member States are recommended to identify children in need, notably children with disabilities.

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.[90] 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.

The indicator 'People at risk of poverty or social exclusion' (AROPE) is a main indicator for monitoring the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion. The headline indicator combines three sub-indicators: the at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers, the severe material and social deprivation, 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 and socially deprived, or living in households with very low work intensity. Persons present in several sub-indicators are counted only once.

14.2　Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

14.2.1　General comments

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 29.7 % 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 21.5 %.

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[88]　Op. cit. European Commission (2022).
[89]　COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 establishing a European Child Guarantee. See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1428&langId=en&.
[90]　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.

Concerning people with disabilities, the lowest rates could be found in Czechia (18.2 %), Finland (18.5 %) and Slovakia (19.5 %). On the other hand, the highest rates could be found in Latvia (41.2 %), Romania (44.1 %) and Bulgaria (45.3 %).

Figure 87: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+, 2021

Percentage of persons who are either at risk of poverty or severely materially and socially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. Crude rates (not age-adjusted).
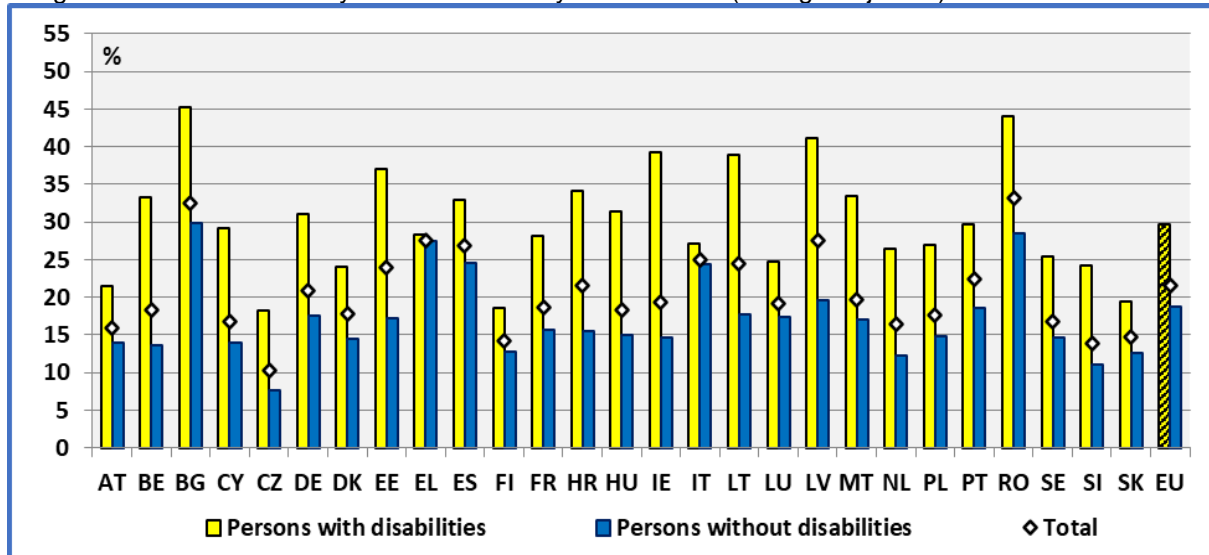
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

14.2.2 Disability gap in AROPE

In the EU 27 in 2021, the absolute gap between persons with and without disabilities amounted to 10.9 percentage points (relative gap: 58.0 %).

High gaps could be found in Lithuania (21.1 percentage), Latvia (21.6 percentage points) and Ireland (24.7 percentage points). On the contrary, small gaps could be found in Greece (0.9 percentage points), Italy (2.8 percentage points) and Finland (5.8 percentage points).

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Figure 88: The poverty and social exclusion gap between persons with and without disability, aged 16+, 2021

Absolute gap (in pp): Percentage of persons with disabilities – Percentage of persons without disabilities.
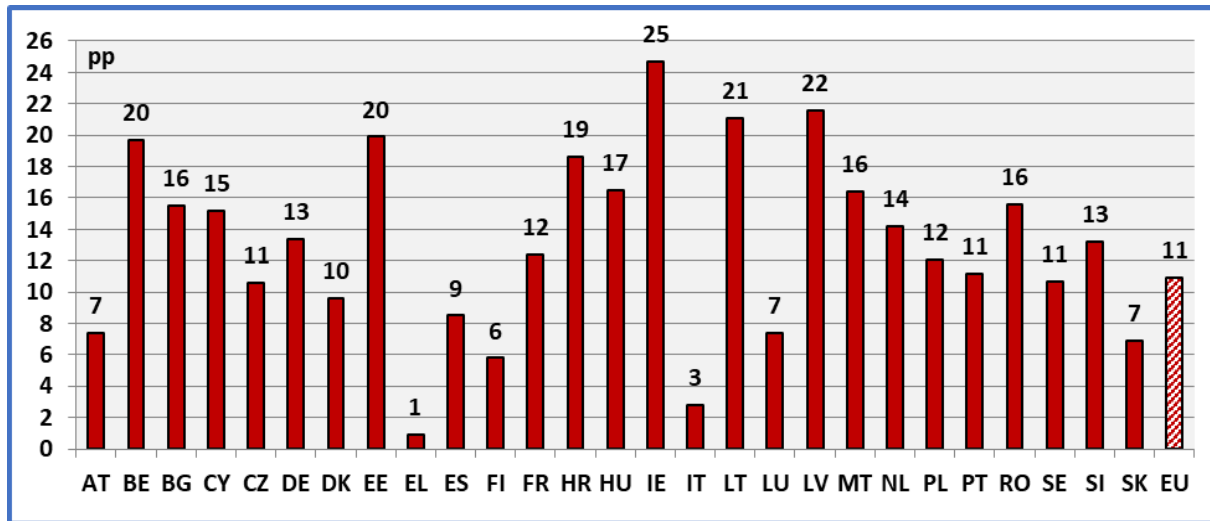
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

14.2.3 Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by gender

In the EU 27 in 2020, about 30.6 % of women with disabilities aged 16 and over were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 28.5 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

The gender gap among persons with disabilities was high in Latvia (9.8 percentage points), Lithuania (10.5 percentage points) and Estonia (11.4 percentage points). However, due to small samples in these countries, the data are indicative.

At the EU level, this gender gap among persons with disabilities is 2.1 percentage points. For comparison, the global disability gap, between persons with and without disabilities is 10.9 percentage points.

Figure 89: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by gender, aged 16+, 2021
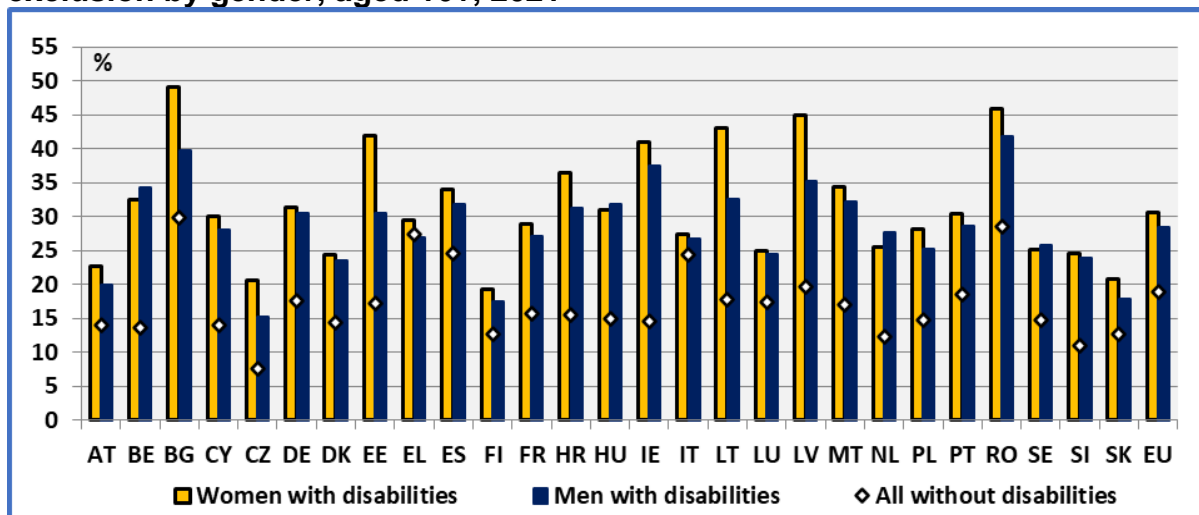
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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 90: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age group and disability status, EU, 2021
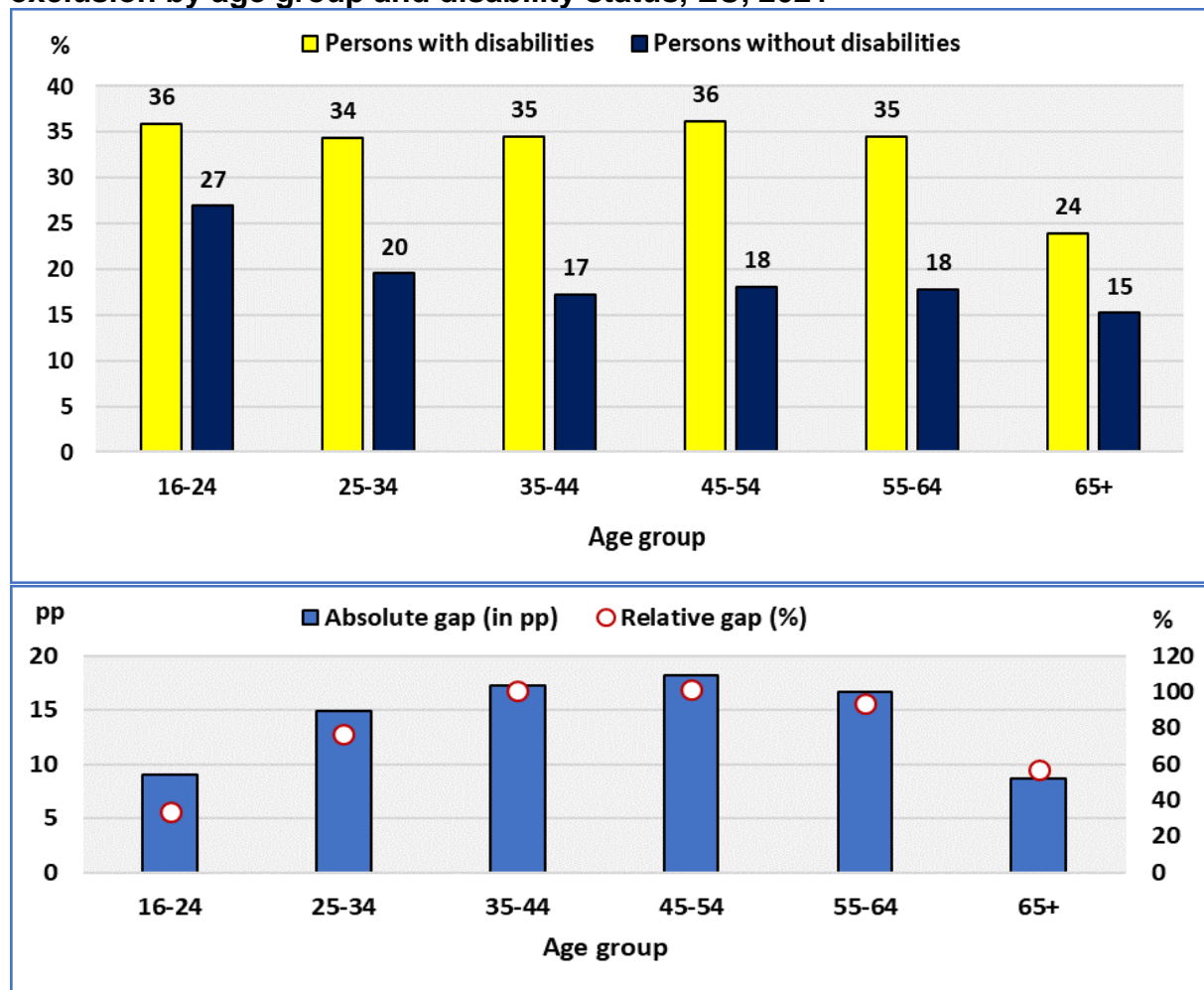
Absolute gap: (% persons with disabilities – % Persons without disabilities).
Relative gap: 100*(% persons with disabilities - % Persons without disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

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 64 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 Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion

The EU-SILC 2021 survey includes a three-year rotating module on disability among persons aged less than 16 years. This enables us to present poverty or social exclusion among young disable.

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 31.6 % of children with disabilities aged less than were living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 23.7 % of children without a disability in the same age group. The percentage for all children aged less than 16 was 24.0 %. For comparison, the percentage for persons aged 16 and over was 21.5 %.

This represents about 16 million children aged less than 16, living in private households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, out of a total of 68 million children. The number of children with disabilities living in households at risk of poverty amounts to about one million children, aged less than 16.

Generally, families with three children or more experience relatively higher rates of poverty or social exclusion. This rate tends to increase with the number of children.

14.2.6 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.

In the EU 27, in 2021, about 36.2 % of persons with severe disabilities face a risk of poverty or social exclusion. This rate was 27.0 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 18.8 % for persons without disabilities.

Figure 91: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree of disability, aged 16+, 2021
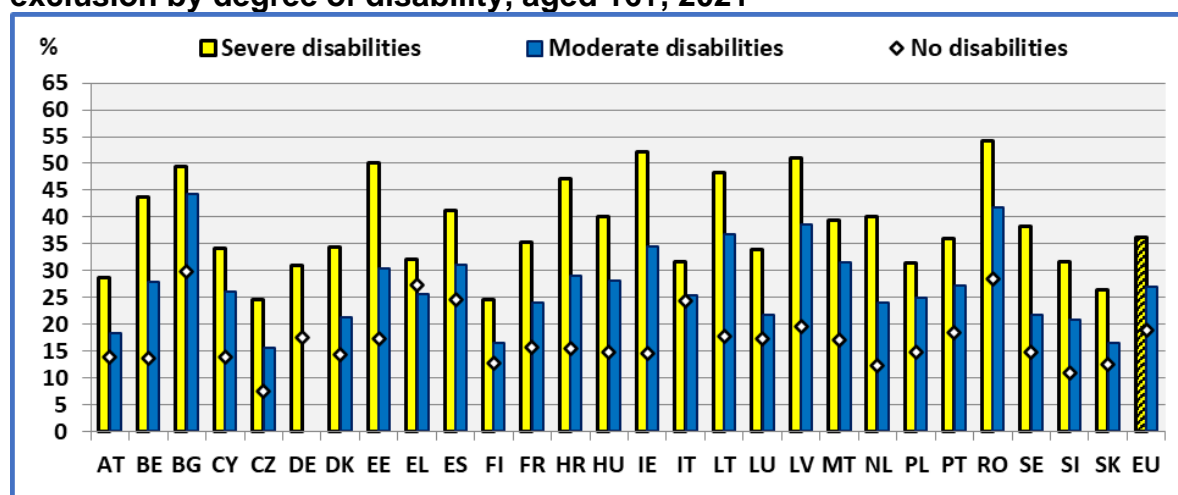
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

14.2.7 Evolution in the Member States

The comparison between 2020 and 2021 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.[91]

The following figure indicates an improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities between 2020-2021 in 15 Member States (decrease in the risk of poverty or social exclusion).

Figure 92: Evolution of the share of persons with disabilities at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT], https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

14.2.8 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.

The extensive policy interventions during 2020 to maintain jobs have mitigated the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The change was relatively small at the EU level.

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[91] 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 93: Percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+, EU
2020: Definitions based on Europe 2020 strategy. 2030: Definitions based on Europe 2030 strategy.
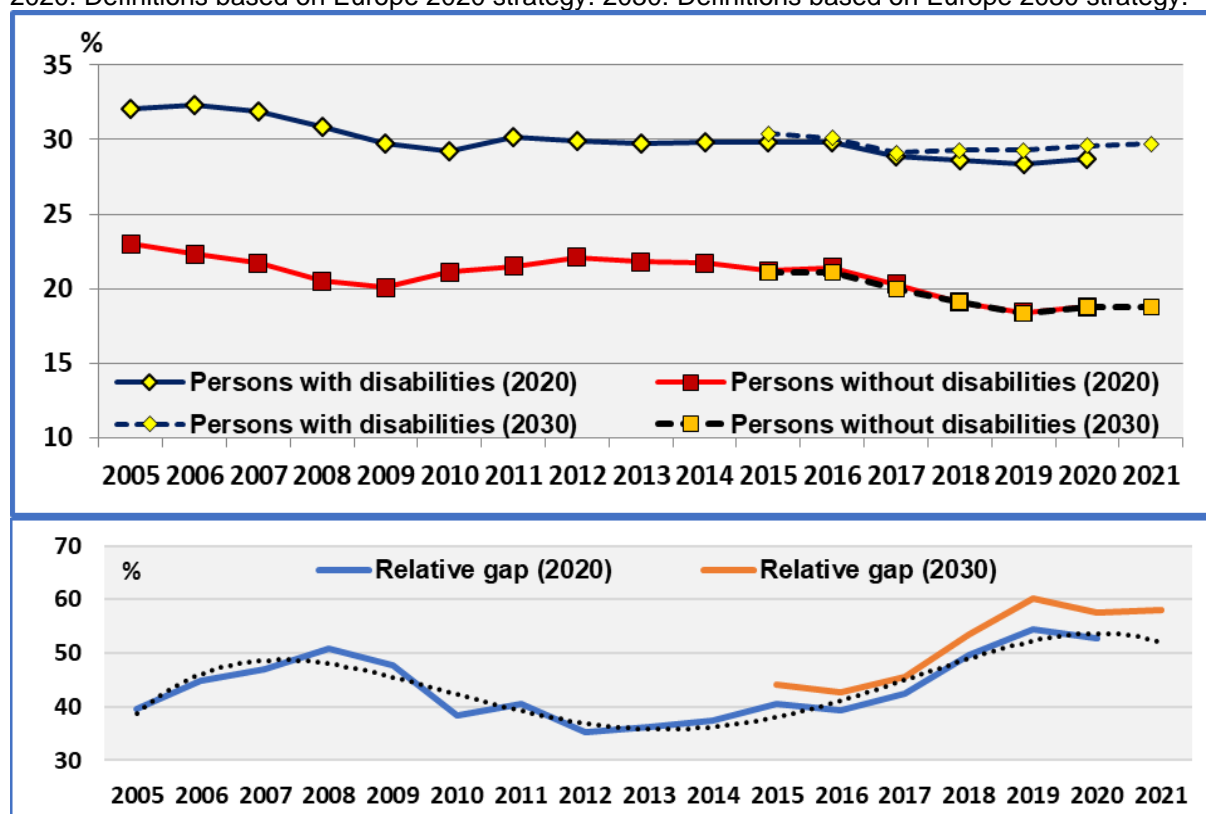
Note: Relative gap = 100*(% persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.
EU 28 before 2010. EU 27 from 2010 and later.
Dotted line in gap figure: fitted cyclical terne.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

The new definition (based on Europe 2030 Strategy) of this indicator provides a slightly higher risk of poverty or social exclusion for persons with disabilities in comparison to Europe 2020 definition.

As noted above, persons aged 16-64 and persons aged 65 and over do not share the same characteristics. The following figures indicate that the two groups have followed different paths.

Since 2015, the situation of persons aged 16-64 has followed a favourable situation in the labour market. This is translated in a downward movement in the relevant figure. However, this was reversed in 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the contrary, during recent years, elderly people experienced a deterioration in their situation which was reversed in 2021. As noted in previous reports, 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.

Figure 94: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU

From 2015 and afterwards the indicators are based on Europe 2030 definitions. Before 2015, they refer to Europe 2020.
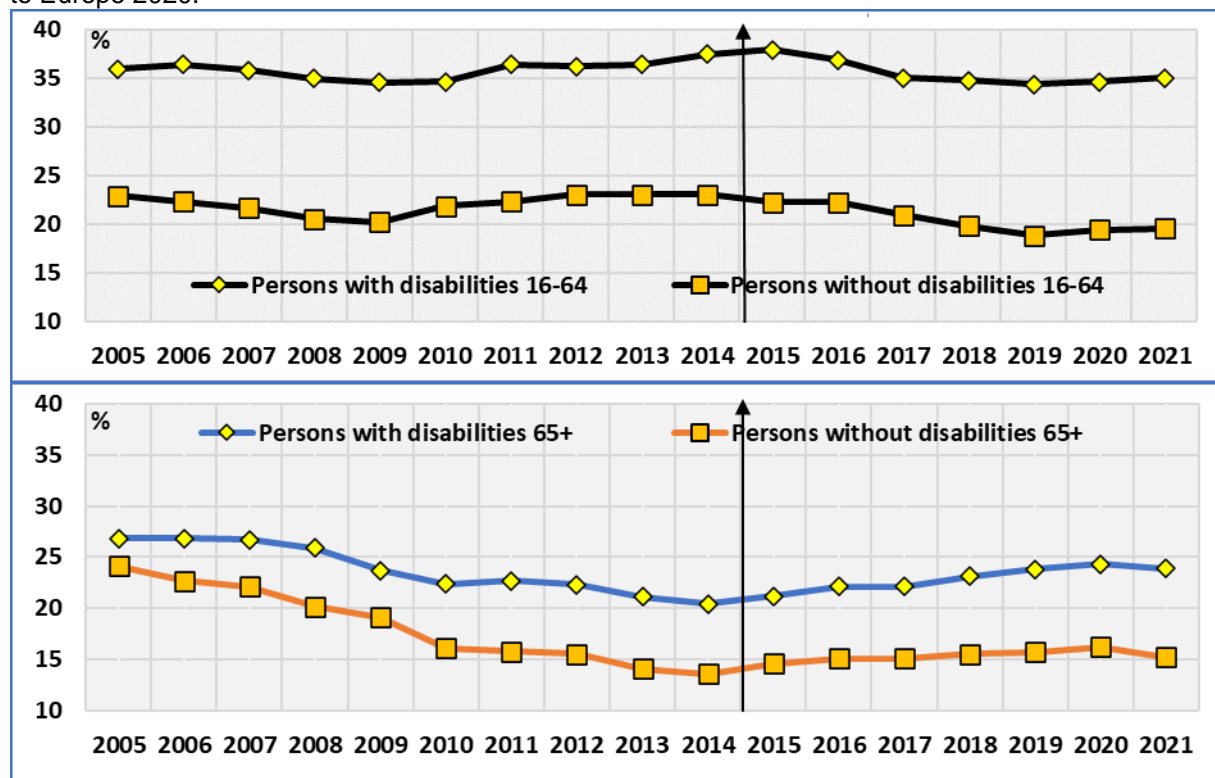
Note: EU 28 before 2010 and EU 27 from 2010 and later.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]).

14.3 Statistical tables

Table 79: Percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, gender and Member State, aged 16+

Definition adopted by Europe 2030 strategy

	2020			2021			Gap in pp	2021			
	Disability			Disability				Persons with disabilities		Degree of disability	
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total		Women	Men	Severe	Moderate
AT	20.6	13.2	15.5	21.4	14.0	16.0	7.4	22.7	19.9	28.6	18.4
BE	35.5	14.8	20.0	33.3	13.6	18.4	19.7	32.5	34.3	43.8	27.9
BG	52.7	30.6	34.2	45.3	29.8	32.5	15.5	49.0	39.8	49.4	44.3
CY	28.5	13.9	17.2	29.1	13.9	16.8	15.2	30.1	28.1	34.2	26.0
CZ	23.8	8.9	13.3	18.2	7.6	10.2	10.6	20.6	15.2	24.6	15.5
DE	29.7	17.1	20.2	31.0	17.6	20.8	13.4	31.4	30.5	31.0	:
DK	23.7	14.3	17.4	24.0	14.4	17.8	9.6	24.4	23.6	34.5	21.4
EE	39.9	16.6	24.2	37.1	17.2	23.9	19.9	41.9	30.5	50.2	30.5
EL	29.0	26.2	26.8	28.3	27.4	27.6	0.9	29.4	26.9	32.2	25.7
ES	35.4	23.3	26.1	33.0	24.5	26.9	8.5	33.9	31.8	41.3	31.1
FI	19.7	12.4	15.0	18.5	12.7	14.3	5.8	19.3	17.5	24.5	16.4
FR	26.0	15.6	18.2	28.1	15.7	18.6	12.4	28.9	27.1	35.3	24.0
HR	34.4	14.5	21.0	34.1	15.5	21.5	18.6	36.4	31.3	47.2	29.0

HU	30.2	14.9	18.4	31.4	14.9	18.4	16.5	31.0	31.9	40.1	28.2
IE	35.0	15.1	19.1	39.3	14.6	19.4	24.7	41.0	37.4	52.1	34.5
IT	27.9	23.4	24.4	27.1	24.3	24.9	2.8	27.4	26.7	31.6	25.3
LT	39.0	18.3	25.1	38.9	17.8	24.4	21.1	43.1	32.6	48.4	36.7
LU	25.4	16.9	19.0	24.7	17.3	19.2	7.4	25.0	24.4	34.0	21.8
LV	39.0	18.3	26.5	41.2	19.6	27.6	21.6	45.0	35.2	51.1	38.5
MT	31.0	17.5	19.4	33.4	17.0	19.7	16.4	34.4	32.2	39.4	31.6
NL	24.5	11.7	15.4	26.5	12.3	16.5	14.2	25.5	27.6	40.1	24.1
PL	27.1	15.3	18.2	26.9	14.8	17.6	12.1	28.1	25.3	31.5	25.0
PT	27.3	16.2	19.8	29.7	18.5	22.4	11.2	30.4	28.6	36.0	27.3
RO	45.2	30.9	34.6	44.1	28.5	33.1	15.6	45.8	41.8	54.3	41.7
SE	28.6	15.6	17.3	25.4	14.7	16.7	10.7	25.1	25.8	38.2	21.7
SI	26.8	11.6	15.0	24.2	11.0	13.8	13.2	24.5	23.8	31.6	20.9
SK	18.7	10.1	12.8	19.5	12.6	14.7	6.9	20.7	17.9	26.5	16.4
EU	**29.6**	**18.8**	**21.5**	**29.7**	**18.8**	**21.5**	**10.9**	**30.6**	**28.5**	**36.2**	**27.0**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.

Table 80: Percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, gender and Member State, aged 16+
Definition adopted by Europe 2020 strategy

	2019			2020				2020			
	Disability			**Disability**			**Gap in pp**	**Persons with disabilities**		**Degree of disability**	
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Total**		**Women**	**Men**	**Severe**	**Moderate**
AT	22.2	13.6	16.5	22.3	13.7	16.4	8.7	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	32.2	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	14.1	26.7	18.2	29.7	21.3
DE	28.7	14.9	17.9	30.4	17.8	20.9	12.6	31.8	28.8	34.7	26.9
DK	20.3	15.2	16.8	21.8	14.0	16.6	7.7	22.6	20.7	35.3	18.5
EE	40.0	17.6	25.4	40.3	16.8	24.5	23.5	43.9	35.5	45.9	37.8
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	34.2	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	24.2	15.3	17.6	8.9	25.2	22.9	29.5	20.9
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	34.1	15.5	19.3	18.6	34.3	33.8	44.5	30.1
IT	29.5	24.1	25.3	28.4	24.0	25.0	4.4	29.2	27.3	30.6	27.4
LT	39.9	20.1	26.4	38.7	18.8	25.3	19.9	43.5	31.3	51.3	35.5
LU	26.0	17.1	19.4	26.4	18.1	20.2	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	42.3	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	12.7	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	29.1	15.7	17.4	13.4	29.0	29.1	35.5	26.1
SI	23.7	11.7	15.1	27.0	12.5	15.7	14.6	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**	**28.7**	**18.8**	**21.3**	**9.8**	**29.6**	**27.5**	**34.1**	**26.4**

Data source: EU SILC UDB release 1, 2022, rev. 1.

Table 81: 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**
		Europe 2020 Strategy			
	2005	35.9	22.9	26.8	24.1
	2006	36.4	22.3	26.8	22.7
EU 28	**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
	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
EU 27	**2019**	34.4	18.7	22.7	15.6
	2020	34.1	19.5	22.8	15.6
		Europe 2030 Strategy			
	2015	37.9	22.2	21.2	14.6
	2016	36.8	22.2	22.1	15.1
	2017	35.0	20.9	22.1	15.1
	2018	34.7	19.8	23.1	15.5
	2019	34.3	18.8	23.8	15.7
	2020	34.6	19.4	24.3	16.2
	2021	35.0	19.5	23.9	15.2

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[92] 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.

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[92] 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).

Eurostat[93] 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 20.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over declared themselves to be in good or very good health in comparison with 85.2 % of persons without disabilities. The total for the same age group was 69.1 %.

Health deteriorates with age, but this deterioration is more rapid for persons with disabilities, This means that prevention and rehabilitation ought to begin at an early age.

Figure 95: Share of people who declare good or very good health by age group and disability status, EU, 2021
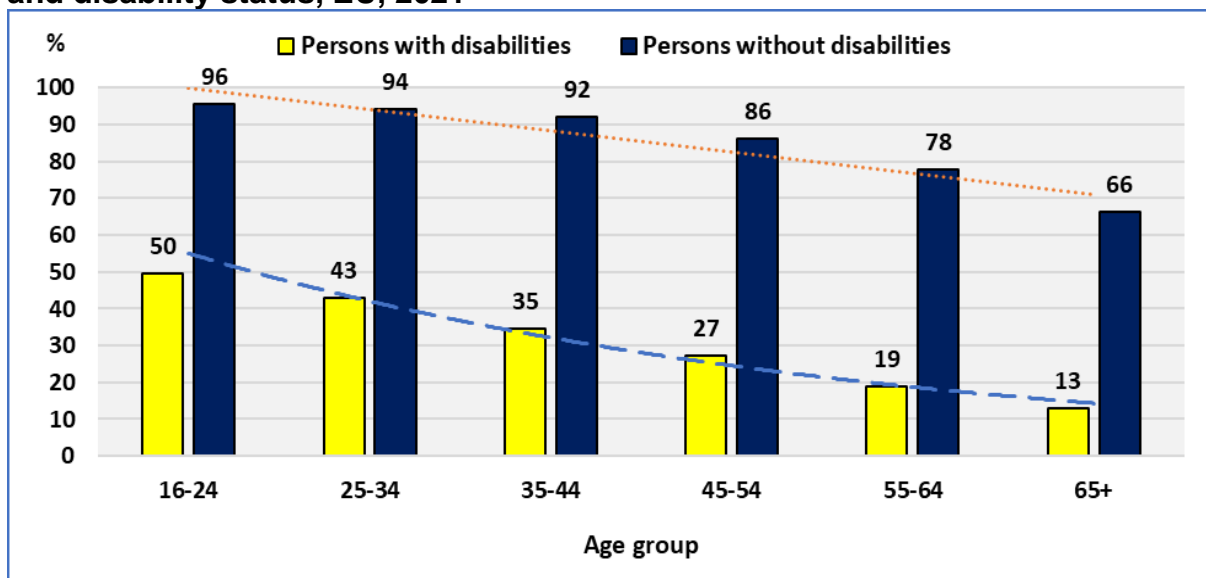
Note: The dotted line is the best fit for persons without disabilities and the dotted line is the best fit for persons with disabilities.
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT],
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/HLTH_DH010__custom_2857784/default/table?lang=en.

In the following graph, it may be noted that a small deterioration occurred for persons with disabilities between 2020 and 2021.

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[93] See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_03_20/.

Figure 96: Evolution of the share of people who declare good or very good health by disability status, aged 16+, EU
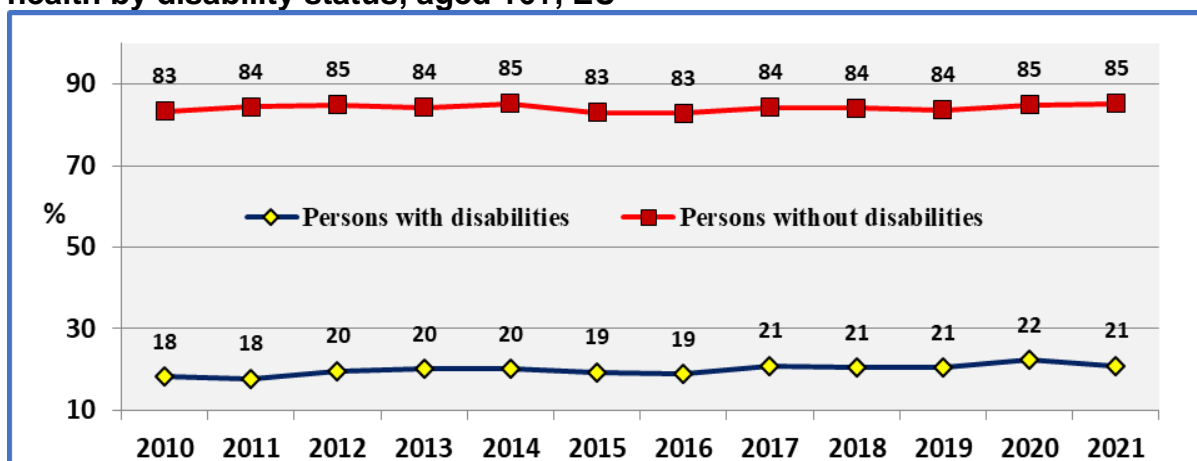
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT].

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[94] 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.

15.3.2 Analysis by Member State

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 4.6 % 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 1.1 % for persons without disabilities. The total was 2.0 %.

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[94] See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_03_60/.

Concerning persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, the rates were high in Romania (13.6 %), Estonia (13.7 %) and Greece (19.6 %). A similar ranking was found in previous years.

Figure 97: Percentage of persons who report unmet needs for medical examination by disability status and Member State, aged 16+, 2021
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.
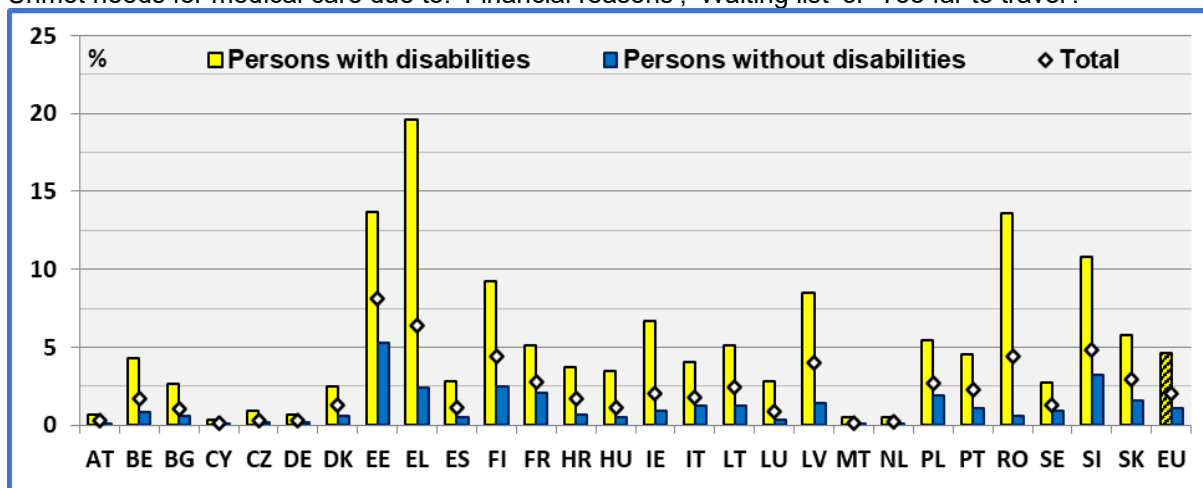
Data for Germany (DE) refer to 2019.
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT].

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 98: Disability gap concerning unmet needs for medical examination by Member State, age 16+, 2021
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.
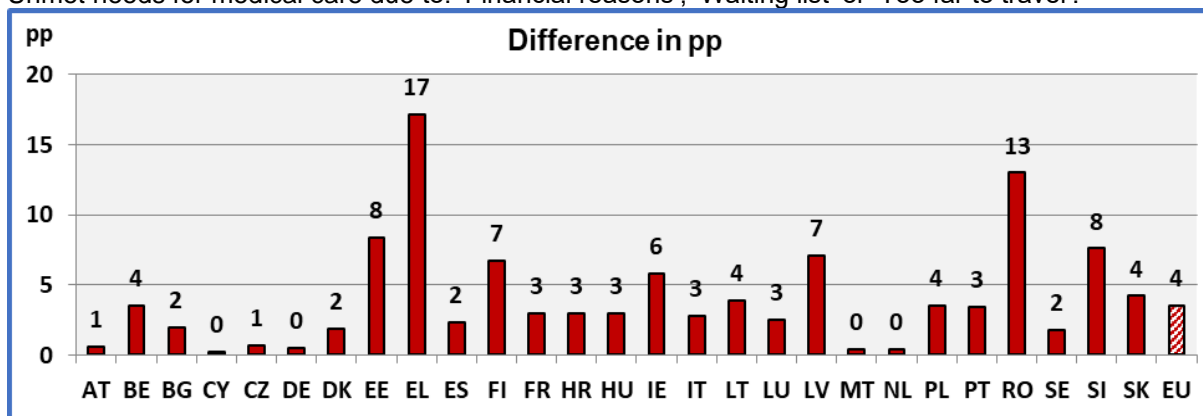
Difference in pp (Gap): % persons with disabilities - % persons without disabilities.
Note: Data have been rounded to facilitate comparison. Data for Germany (DE) refer to 2019.
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT].

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 99: Percentage of persons who reported unmet needs for medical examination by gender and disability status, aged 16, EU, 2021
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.
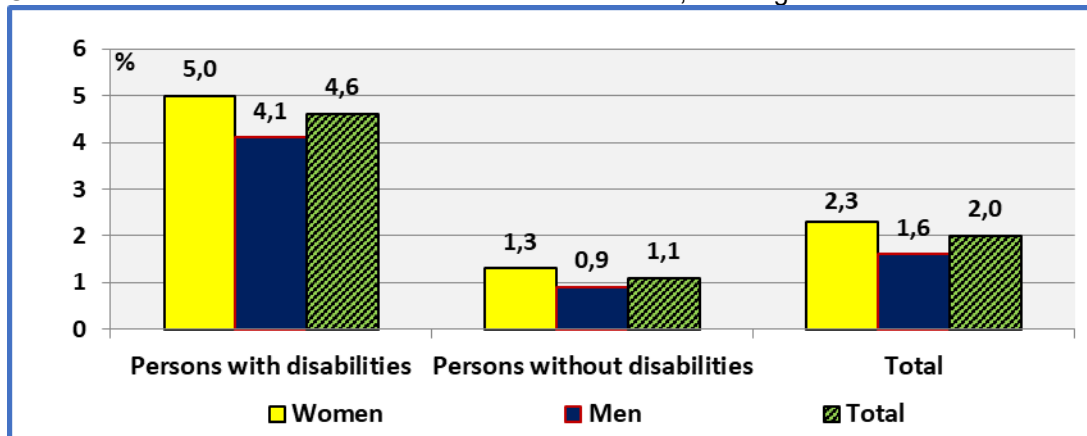
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT].

15.3.5 Analysis by age

The rate for persons with disabilities was higher in comparison with persons without disabilities, at all age groups.

The total increases with age, notably, because the weight of persons with disabilities increases with age and this pushes the total upwards.

Figure 100: Percentage of persons who reported unmet needs for medical examination by age group and disability status, EU, 2021
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.
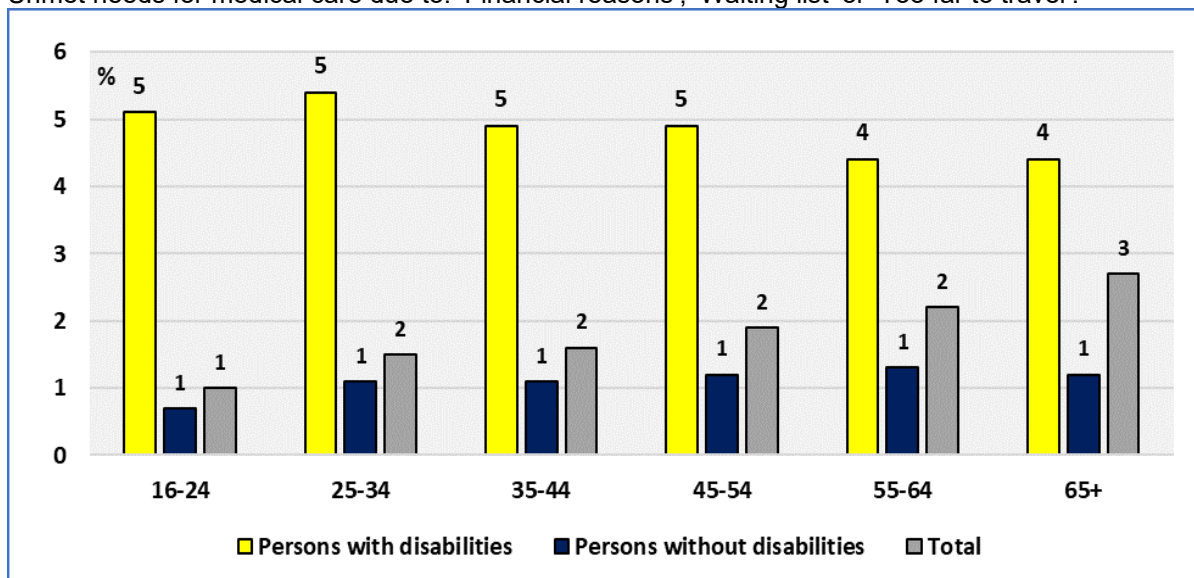
Note: Data have been rounded to facilitate comparison.
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT].

15.3.6 Evolution at EU level

In the following figure, we may observe the deterioration of unmet medical needs for both groups, during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

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. This 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.[95]

Figure 101: Percentage of persons who report unmet needs for medical examination by disability status, aged 16+, EU
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.
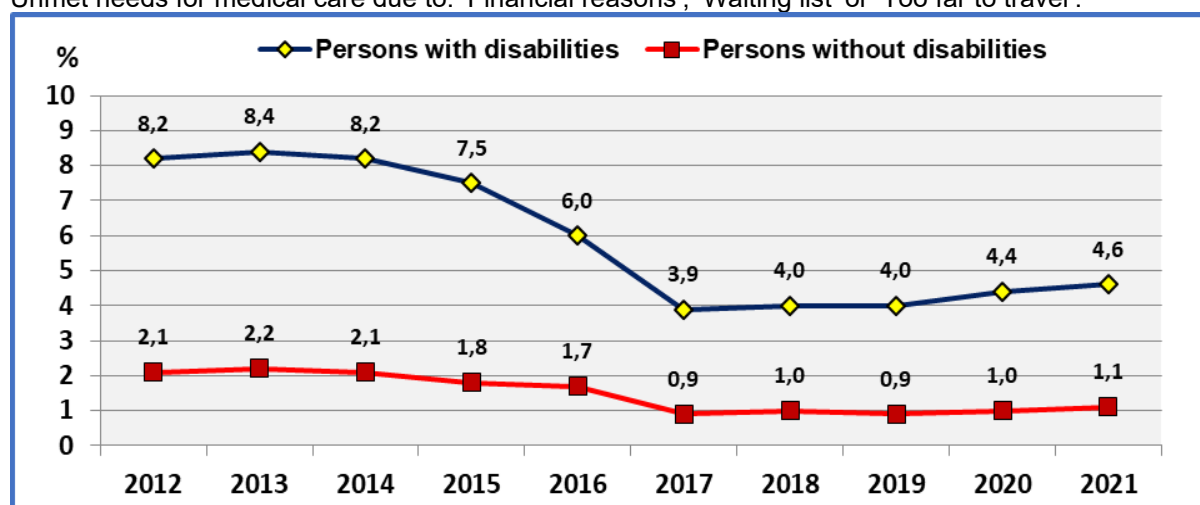
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT]

Till now, we have considered unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'. If we consider all reasons, in 2019, in the EU 27, about 3.1 % of persons aged 16 and over declared unmet needs for any reason. The equivalent rate for 2021 was 4.8 %. For persons with disabilities, this rate increased from 6.2 % (2019) to 10.3 % (2021).

15.4 Statistical tables

Table 82: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability and Member State, age 16+
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.
Percentage of population of the same age group.

	2020			2021			2021
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Total**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**Total**	**Disability gap in pp**
AT	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.6
BE	3.8	0.7	1.5	4.3	0.8	1.7	3.5
BG	3.8	1.0	1.4	2.6	0.6	1.0	2.0

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[95] 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.

CY	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
CZ	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.7
DE	:	:	:	:	:	:	(0.5)
DK	3.7	0.7	1.7	2.5	0.6	1.3	1.9
EE	20.4	9.4	13.0	13.7	5.3	8.1	8.4
EL	18.9	2.7	6.5	19.6	2.4	6.4	17.2
ES	0.9	0.3	0.4	2.8	0.5	1.1	2.3
FI	11.3	2.2	5.4	9.2	2.5	4.4	6.7
FR	4.8	1.9	2.6	5.1	2.1	2.8	3.0
HR	3.9	0.3	1.5	3.7	0.7	1.7	3.0
HU	2.4	0.3	0.7	3.5	0.5	1.1	3.0
IE	4.8	1.3	2.0	6.7	0.9	2.0	5.8
IT	:	:	:	4.0	1.2	1.8	2.8
LT	3.0	1.1	1.7	5.1	1.2	2.4	3.9
LU	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.8	0.3	0.9	2.5
LV	10.2	2.1	5.3	8.5	1.4	4.0	7.1
MT	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.4
NL	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4
PL	4.1	1.1	1.9	5.4	1.9	2.7	3.5
PT	3.1	0.8	1.6	4.5	1.1	2.3	3.4
RO	16.4	0.6	4.7	13.6	0.6	4.4	13.0
SE	5.1	1.0	1.5	2.7	0.9	1.3	1.8
SI	5.7	1.8	2.7	10.8	3.2	4.8	7.6
SK	7.6	1.2	3.2	5.8	1.6	2.9	4.2
EU	**4.4**	**1.0**	**1.8**	**4.6**	**1.1**	**2.0**	**3.5**

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.
The gap for Germany (DE) refers to 2019.
: Missing data
Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 10/05/2023 [ESTAT]

Table 83: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability and age group, EU 2020
Percentage of population of the same age group.
Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total
16-24	5.1	0.7	1.0
25-34	5.4	1.1	1.5
35-44	4.9	1.1	1.6
45-54	4.9	1.2	1.9
55-64	4.4	1.3	2.2
65+	4.4	1.2	2.7
Total	**4.6**	**1.1**	**2.0**

Data source: Eurostat, data extracted on 07/04/2023 [ESTAT]

Table 84: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability status, age 16+, EU

Unmet needs for medical care due to: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' or 'Too far to travel'.

	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	4.4	1.0
2021	4.6	1.1

Data source: Eurostat (Data extracted from [ESTAT]) and EU-SILC UDB.

Annex I: Metadata

1.   Prevalence of disability

Methodology

The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey[96] 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).

Since 2021
From 2021 and onwards, the EU-SILC question (question PH030) was slightly modified. The question on duration has been isolated and clearly stated.

The new question is: question 1: 'Are you limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do?

Would you say you are… severely limited, limited but not severely, or not limited at all?'

If answer to Question 1 is 'severely limited' or 'limited but not severely', question 2 asks: 'Have you been limited for at least the past 6 months? Yes, No.'

Before 2021
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.

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[96] 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.

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, 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 since 2021
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.

The specification 'currently' reduces sharply the number of persons. On the contrary, the Eurostat indicator refers to 'the last four weeks'. The two indicators are not comparable.

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.

Proposed indicator before 2021
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.

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 Labour Force survey (LFS). 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-LFS survey data.

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 disabilities in the sample, notably in the age group 30-34.

6.   Employment rate

Methodology

Since 2021
In 2021, the question on self-assessed economic status was slightly modified and this might have impacted the answers.

From 2021 operation onwards (PL032):

1.   Employed
2.   Unemployed
3.   Retired
4.   Unable to work due to long-standing health problems
5.   Student, pupil

6.   Fulfilling domestic tasks
7.   Compulsory military or civilian service
8.   Other:

Before 2021
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

Unemployment rate
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.

Since 2021
In 2021, the question on self-assessed economic status was slightly modified and this might have impacted the answers.

From 2021 operation onwards (PL032):

1.   Employed
2.   Unemployed
3.   Retired
4.   Unable to work due to long-standing health problems
5.   Student, pupil
6.   Fulfilling domestic tasks
7.   Compulsory military or civilian service
8.   Other

Before 2021
EU-SILC 2009 onwards included 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).

Long-term unemployment (since 2021)
Following the modifications brought into the EU-SILC 2021 survey, the EU-SILC reports the duration of the most recent unemployment spell (PL271).
The question covers persons aged 16 to 74 years old. According to Eurostat (2021, op. cit. 2021), the variable should capture the duration of respondent's most recent unemployment spell during the last 5 years from the date of the interview.

If the person is currently unemployed, then the most recent unemployment spell refers to the current one.

These estimations are not comparable with long-term unemployment rate of previous years.

Notes

The data here may be slightly different from those presented by Eurostat on its web page.[97] 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.

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'.

A similar methodology was adopted in 2021 with the new classification (see Employment).

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[97]   See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database

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 disabilities 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[98] 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 disabilities.

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.

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[98] Eurostat, Gender pay gap in unadjusted form (sdg_05_20) ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

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 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

Europe 2030
People from 0-64 years living in households where the adults (those aged 18-64, but excluding students aged 18-24 and people who are retired according to their self-defined current economic status or who receive any pension (except survivors' pension), as well as people in the age bracket 60-64 who are inactive and living in a household where the main income is pensions) worked a working time equal or less than 20 % of their total combined work-time potential during the previous year.

Europe 2020
People from 0-59 years living in households where the adults (those aged 18-59, but excluding students aged 18-24) worked a working time equal or less than 20 % of their total combined work-time potential during the previous year.

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:[99]

- 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:

$$\text{TNWm} = \sum_{household\,members} \text{NWm}$$

$$\text{TNWAm} = \sum_{household\,members} \text{NWAm}$$

$$\text{WI} = \frac{TNWm}{TNWAm} \quad \text{(WI: Work Intensity)}$$

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).

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.

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[99]   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.

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.

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

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 / 64.

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.

More information can be found in: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_work_intensity.

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 (persons with and without disabilities) 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[100] 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.

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[100] 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.

The EU-SILC survey also provides information on disability. Consequently, we may estimate the percentage of persons with disabilities 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

As noted above, special allowances aimed to compensate for disability related barriers might artificially reduce poverty rates among elderly persons with disabilities. In addition, the indicator does not take into account extra health costs of elderly people.

More information can be found in:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ilc_sieusilc.htm.

12.   Persons severely materially and socially deprived

Methodology

Europe 2030 strategy
This indicator presents the share of population with an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (7 related to the household and 6 related to the individual) include:

List of items at household level:

1.   Capacity to face unexpected expenses
2.   Capacity to afford paying for one-week annual holiday away from home
3.   Capacity to being confronted with payment arrears (on mortgage or rental payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments)
4.   Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day
5.   Ability to keep home adequately
6.   Have access to a car/van for personal use
7.   Replacing worn-out furniture

List of items at individual level:

1.   Having internet connection
2.   Replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones
3.   Having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)
4.   Spending a small amount of money each week on him/herself
5.   Having regular leisure activities
6.   Getting together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month

Europe 2020 strategy
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. 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.

More information can be found in:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ilc_sieusilc.htm

13. People at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)

Methodology

Europe 2030
"People at risk of poverty or social exclusion" includes the indicator on risk of poverty or social inclusion, AROPE, which is the main indicator to monitor the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion.

The collection also includes the three components of AROPE, namely the at-risk-of-poverty (AROP) indicator, persons living in households with very low work intensity (LWI) indicator, and the severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD).

Europe 2020
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. Persons present in several sub-indicators are counted only once.

Information concerning disability 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 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.

More information can be found in:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ilc_sieusilc.htm.

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. 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 May 2023, the latest available microdata accessible to researchers were those of 2023 (Spring release) but without Slovakia.

Methodology of EU-SILC

European Commission – Eurostat (2016), *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 (2018), *Methodological guidelines, and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2018 operation (Version July 2019)*, DocSILC065 (2018 operation).

European Commission – Eurostat (2020), *Methodological guidelines, and description of EU-SILC target variables – 2020 operation (Version April 2020)*, DocSILC065 (2020 operation).

European Commission – Eurostat (2021), *Methodological Guidelines and description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2021 operation 2021 (Version 7)*, DocSILC065 (2021 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

European Commission – Eurostat, Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life.

Table 85: EU-SILC UDB 2021 - Sample characteristics*

Country	Question PH030_F				Limitations (Question: PH030)			
	Not-selected	Missing	Filled	Sample	No	Moderate	Severe	Total
	Not-weighted							
AT	0	7	10 428	10 435	7 473	2 114	841	10 428
BE	0	85	13 728	13 813	10 355	2 251	1 122	13 728
BG	0	0	15 221	15 221	11 998	2 562	661	15 221
CY	0	0	8 940	8 940	6 907	1 245	788	8 940
CZ	0	1	15 752	15 753	11 104	3 321	1 327	15 752
DE	0	28 520	25 328	53 848	18 877	0	6 451	25 328
DK	5 615	20	7 816	13 451	4 748	2 470	598	7 816
EE	0	533	11 835	12 368	7 794	2 730	1 311	11 835
EL	0	0	24 333	24 333	17 119	4 312	2 902	24 333
ES	0	225	43 456	43 681	31 065	10 026	2 365	43 456
FI	8 775	100	9 307	18 182	6 777	1 968	562	9 307
FR	0	228	25 356	25 584	19 840	3 535	1 981	25 356
HR	0	138	17 118	17 256	10 466	4 713	1 939	17 118
HU	0	85	14 340	14 425	10 465	2 848	1 027	14 340
IE	0	26	9 828	9 854	7 830	1 464	534	9 828
IT	0	2 617	31 510	34 127	23 186	5 827	2 497	31 510
LT	0	610	9 904	10 514	6 302	2 873	729	9 904
LU	0	365	8 632	8 997	6 165	1 986	481	8 632
LV	0	528	11 199	11 727	6 576	3 629	994	11 199
MT	0	21	8 760	8 781	6 981	1 361	418	8 760
NL	12 682	442	14 800	27 924	9 587	4 383	830	14 800
PL	0	4 038	31 261	35 299	22 874	5 965	2 422	31 261
PT	0	301	23 429	23 730	14 334	6 813	2 282	23 429

RO	0	0	15 288	15 288	9 831	4 419	1 038	15 288
SE	8 322	47	8 842	17 211	7 249	1 259	334	8 842
SI	9 753	0	7 164	16 917	5 271	1 264	629	7 164
SK	0	113	11 913	12 026	7 440	3 061	1 412	11 913
EU	**45 147**	**39 050**	**435 488**	**519 685**	**308 614**	**88 399**	**38 475**	**435 488**

*'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).

Note: Available data for Germany do not distinguish degree of disability. Data for Germany are indicative due to a high rate of non-response. However, unless noted, data reported here do not present discontinuities from previous years. Data for Slovakia refer to 2020.

Source: 10. EU-SILC UDB 2021 - Release 1 2023 (spring release).

17. 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 (2019), *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.

4. European Commission – Eurostat (2020), *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.

5. European Commission – Eurostat (2021), *Methodological Guidelines and description of EU-SILC Target Variables – 2021 operation 2021 (Version 7)*, DocSILC065 (2021 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. EU-SILC UDB 2020 - Release 1 2022, rev.1

10. EU-SILC UDB 2021 - Release 1 2023 (spring release).

List of tables

Classification of Countries

BE   Belgique/België
BG   Bulgaria
CZ   Czechia
DK   Denmark
DE   Deutschland
EE   Estonia
IE   Ireland
EL   Elláda
ES   España
FR   France
HR   Croatia
IT   Italia
CY   Cyprus
LV   Latvia
LT   Lithuania
LU   Luxembourg
HU   Hungary
MT   Malta
NL   Nederland
AT   Österreich
PL   Poland
PT   Portugal
RO   Romania
SI   Slovenia
SK   Slovak republic
FI   Suomi
SE   Sverige

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