European comparative data on persons with disabilities

Equal opportunities, fair working conditions, social protection and inclusion
Analysis and trends

Data 2022

Stefanos Grammenos

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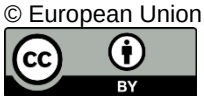

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Table 1: Synopsis of main statistical indicators for the EU (2021 onwards)

New definitions since 2021

	2021	2022
Disability prevalence (Age: 16+); %		
Persons with disabilities	25.2	27.0
Adult participation in learning (last 12 months) (Age: 25-64), %		
Persons with disabilities	-	20.0
Persons without disabilities	-	26.7
Early school leavers (Age: 18-24); %		
Persons with disabilities	16.4	19.2
Persons without disabilities	9.1	8.6
Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (Age:16-29); %		
Persons with disabilities	29.0	27.3
Persons without disabilities	13.2	12.0
Persons with tertiary education (Age: 30-34); %		
Persons with disabilities	34.3	35.7
Persons without disabilities	45.7	47.4
Disability pay gap (Age: 15-74), age adjusted; gap as a % of the pay of persons without disability		
	7.4 (2019)	8.8
Employment rate (Age: 20-64) (EU 2030 target: 78 % of population of same age); %		
Persons with disabilities	50.9	54.3
Persons without disabilities	74.8	76.2
Unemployment rate (Age: 20-64); % of persons in the labour force		
Persons with disabilities	17.9	15.1
Persons without disabilities	9.1	7.6
Youth unemployment rate (Age: 16-24); % of persons in the labour force		
Persons with disabilities	33.8	33.2
Persons without disabilities	22.8	19.4
Long term unemployment (Age: 20-64); % of persons in the labour force		
Persons with disabilities	8.5	7.3
Persons without disabilities	4.8	3.8
Activity rate (Age: 20-64); % of population in the labour force		
Persons with disabilities	62.0	64.0
Persons without disabilities	82.3	82.5

	2021	2022
Disability employment gap (current) (Age: 20-64) in percentage points		
Persons with disabilities	23.1	21.4
Very low work intensity (Age: 16-59); %		
Persons with disabilities	18.6	17.1
Persons without disabilities	6.6	5.7
Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers (Age: 16+); %		
Persons with disabilities	21.1	20.5
Persons without disabilities	14.9	14.5
Severely materially deprived persons (Age: 16+); %		
Persons with disabilities	10.9	10.5
Persons without disabilities	4.9	4.9
Persons at risk of poverty or exclusion (Age: 16+); %		
Persons with disabilities	29.7	28.8
Persons without disabilities	18.8	18.3
Persons at risk of poverty before and after social transfers (Age: 16-64)		
Persons with disabilities Before After	 50.6 22.7	 46.5 21.2
Persons without disabilities Before After	 30.9 15.1	 27.9 14.5
Persons with difficulties in self-care activities (Age: 16+)		
Persons with moderate diff.	-	4.7
Persons with severe diff.	-	2.0

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

Table 2: Synopsis of main statistical indicators for the EU (2021 and before)[1]

New definitions in 2021. Data for 2021 are not comparable to previous years.

	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

	2012	2013	2014	2015[2]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	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 the pay of persons without disabilities									
								7.4		
	Employment rate (Age: 20-64) (Europe 2030 target: 78 % of population of 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*, %									
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
	Severely materially deprived persons (Age: 16+); *new definition for 2021*, %									
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*, %									
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

	2012	2013	2014	2015[2]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	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.
Dis.: Persons with disabilities
Tot.: Total
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 European Pillar of Social Rights.

European Disability Expertise (EDE) provides independent scientific support to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (Social protection & social inclusion – Persons with disabilities). It aims to mainstream disability equality in EU policy processes, including implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This report presents independent data analysis on the situation of persons with disabilities conducted by the European Disability Expertise (EDE) for the Commission. Strong quantitative indicators have an important role in advocating for change but they require high-quality statistical data and related estimates.

1. Objectives of the study

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 also 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'.

In the wider EU policy context, EU disability policies should support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights,[3] 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 the 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.

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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 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.

In March 2021, the Commission presented the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.[4] The Action Plan presents three targets to be achieved by 2030: 1. At least 78 % of the population parenthesis 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.

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 report complements previous annual EDE and ANED (Academic Network of European Disability experts) reports. At the end of each chapter, we present a Statistical Annex with the relevant statistical tables. At the end of this report, we describe the methodological issues relating to the indicators discussed in this report.

2. 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:[5]

- 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.

The Pillar is supported by a scoreboard of key indicators to screen employment levels and social performances of participating Member States. The revised scoreboard presents a set of indicators which complete the Europe 2030 indicators.

Consequently, in this report we begin with an estimation of persons with disabilities. Then, we select a number of Pillar indicators which present a special interest for persons with disabilities. For each selected indicator, associated with a principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), we compare the situation of persons with and without disabilities. For the presentation, we follow the Pillar principles which are divided into three chapters:

1. Equal opportunities;
2. Fair working conditions; and
3. Social protection and inclusion.

We complete the report with indicators for long term care needs. This is a field of particular interest for persons with disabilities.

[4] 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.

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

For each selected indicator, we adopt the same definition as in the EU social indicators adopted by the Social Protection Committee and its Indicators Sub-Group.[6]

In this report, we present for each of the selected indicators:

- its relevance to EU disability policy / strategy;
- methodological issues;
- main findings by Member State; and
- 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 2022. A detailed description of the EU-SILC survey can be found in the Methodological Annex. The EU-SILC is an annual survey and enables us to present statistical indicators every year. Indeed, the question on disability, based on the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI), is included every year.

The European Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides quarterly and annual data and includes a question on disability every two years. However, the LFS survey inserted the GALI instrument for the first time in 2022. Available LFS data do not permit historical comparisons. Also, the Commission is currently assessing the results of this survey. Consequently, for the analysis of 2022, we will use the EU-SILC data and comment the LFS results in the annexes.

The historical statistical series ought to be treated with care. Indeed, the Europe 2030 strategy replaced the Europe 2020 strategy. Each strategy defined specific indicators for poverty and social exclusion. Although the general denomination / title is the same, the definition of the targets is not the same. Furthermore, the European surveys were revised in 2021, and the questions were no longer the same as in previous surveys.

While figures enable the reader to have a quick comparison across Member States, the interested reader can find detailed statistical data in the tables at the end of each relevant chapter. The metadata and the sources used are presented at the end of this report.

[6] See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8513&furtherPubs=yes.

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, notably, persons with disabilities and older persons.

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 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.[7]

The GALI question refers to a self-evaluation by 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.

Since 2021, the EU-SILC model question (PH030)[8] has been:

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 the 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.'

Eurostat notes (Commission 2021) that the period of at least the past six months is strictly related to the duration of the activity limitation and not to the duration of the health problem.

Eurostat notes[9] 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.

In the following analysis, 'strongly limited' and 'limited' will be used as a proxy for disability.

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7 The variables on health status represent the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM). They measure three different concepts of health: self-perceived health, chronic morbidity and activity limitation – disability. See 'Health variables of EU-SILC' at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/hlth_silc_01_esms.htm.

8 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.
Before 2021, the question was: 'For at least the past six months, to what extent have you been limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do? Would you say you have been 1. Severely limited, 2. Limited but not severely or 3. Not limited at all?'

9 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.

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.

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).[10]

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 these limitations: 1. Yes, to a large extent, 2. Yes, in some extent, 3. No, not at all, or 4. I don't know.' An alternative option might be: 1. All limitations; 2. Most limitations; 3. Certain limitations; 4. Some limitations; 5. None; 6. I don't know. An explanation could indicate that the term reasonable accommodation might include technical aids, the eradication of architectural barriers, etc. 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[11] 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.

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

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

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 drafting this report only EU-SILC 2021 microdata are available. The results are presented in the annexed metadata.

1.2.2 Prevalence of disability by Member State

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 27.0 % (25.2 % in 2021) of persons aged 16 and over declared a disability (activity limitation).

This represented about 99.9 million people with disabilities aged 16 and over living in private households (compared with 92.8 million in 2021). However, this number ought to be interpreted with caution. It includes all people with both moderate or severe disabilities, young and old. The implications for disability prevention or identification of support needs may vary considerably. In general, this indicates possible future demands for policy action but a distinction between moderate and severe disability, as highlighted below, might be more relevant for immediate policy priorities.

Table 3: Persons with disabilities living in private households in the EU 27, aged 16+, 2022

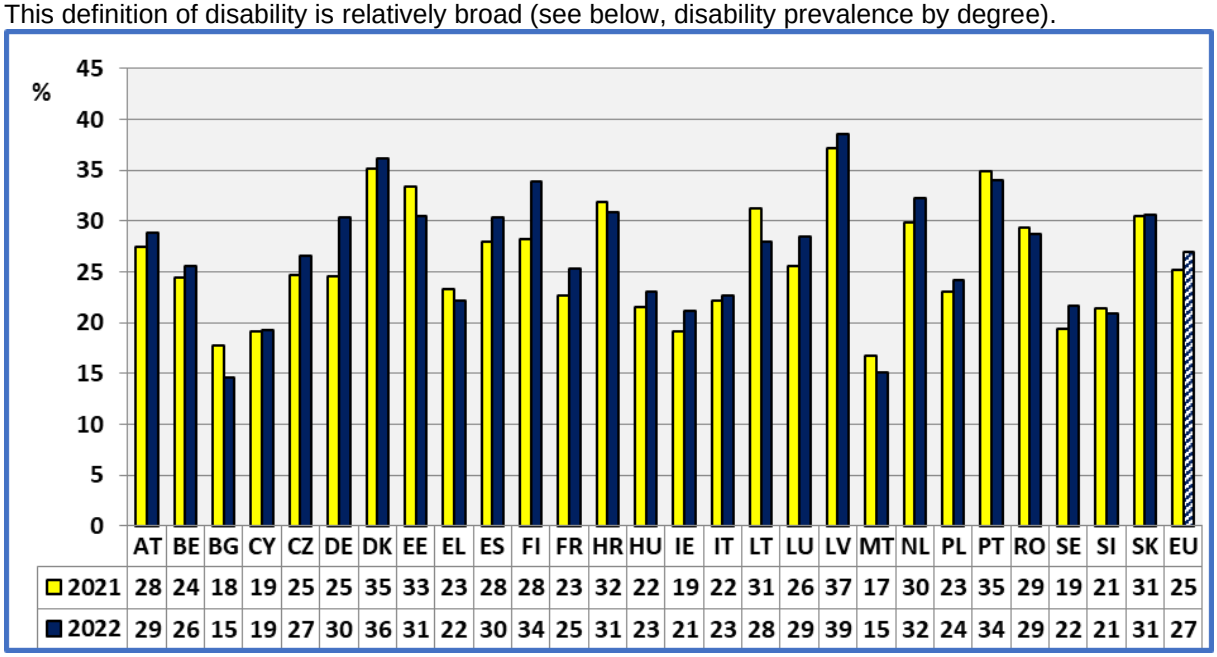
	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Total
	Number in millions (1 000 000)		
Total	269.7	99.9	369.7
Women	134.5	56.3	190.8
Men	135.2	43.6	178.9
	In percentage (%)		
Total	73.0	27.0	100
Women	70.5	29.5	100
Men	75.6	24.4	100

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 30 March 2024 and 2) EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

In the following figure, we present disability prevalence by Member State, in 2021 and 2022.

Figure 1: Percentage of persons with disabilities by Member State, 2021 and 2022

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
2021	28	24	18	19	25	25	35	33	23	28	28	23	32	22	19	22	31	26	37	17	30	23	35	29	19	21	31	25
2022	29	26	15	19	27	30	36	31	22	30	34	25	31	23	21	23	28	29	39	15	32	24	34	29	22	21	31	27

Note: Changes ought to be treated with care. In this context, 'EU' refers to 27 Member States. Disability is proxied by GALI (limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems). The supporting data are presented in the Annex (Statistical Tables).
The data for Bulgaria, Germany and Finland indicate a significant change between 2021 and 2022 and ought to be treated with caution. This has implications on the overall EU rate.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database. Data extracted on 30 March 2024.

1.2.3 Prevalence of disability among children

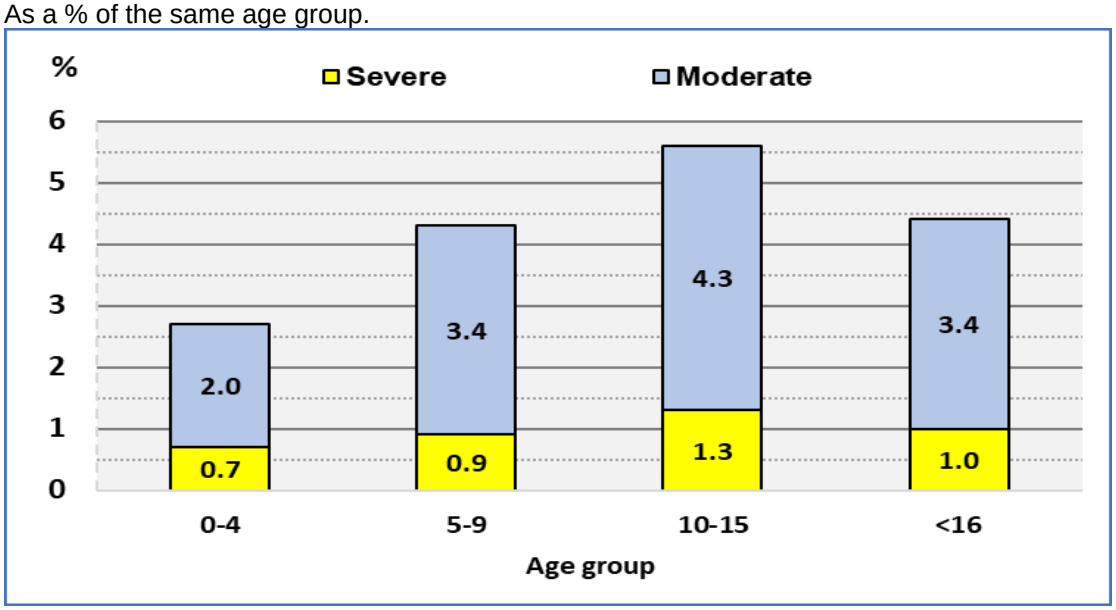
As noted above, the EU-SILC survey covers persons aged 16 and over living in private households. However, since 2021, an EU-SILC 2021 rolling module presents information on disability prevalence among children aged under 16.

The suggested question (RCH020) by Eurostat (2021) 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.

In the EU 27, in 2021, about 3.4 % of children had moderate disabilities and 1.0 % had severe disabilities. The overall disability rate for children, aged under 16 years, was 4.4 %. Across the EU Member States, the share of children with disabilities ranged from 9.3 % in Finland, down to the smallest share, 2.0 % in Cyprus and Malta.

Figure 2: Percentage of persons with disabilities by degree and age group, EU 2021

As a % of the same age group.



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/. Data extracted on 1 April 2024.

We may note a significant increase between the 0-4 and 5-9 age groups which may 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 children aged under 16 in the EU 27 was 4.0 %. This was broken down into 0.8 % with a severe disability and 3.2 % with a moderate disability.[12]

1.2.4 Persons with disabilities in institutions

A recent EDE report[13] 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.

1.2.5 Prevalence of disability by gender

At the EU level in 2022, about 29.5 % of women aged 16 and over declared a disability (activity limitation) in comparison with 24.4 % of men in the same age group.

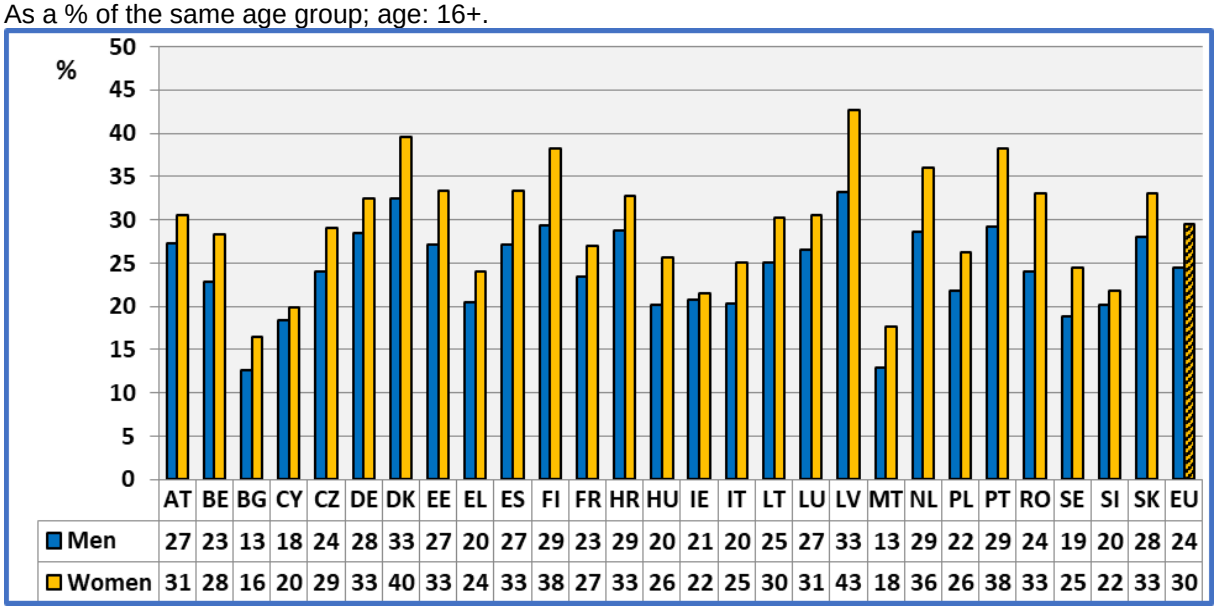
The prevalence of disability is higher among women, mainly due to the age composition: disability prevalence increases with age, and women have a longer life expectancy. However, other personal factors and socio-economic characteristics may also contribute to explaining the difference between men and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

[12] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch13__custom_10647644/default/table?lang=en&page=time:2021.

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

Figure 3: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and gender, 2022

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Men	27	23	13	18	24	28	33	27	20	27	29	23	29	20	21	20	25	27	33	13	29	22	29	24	19	20	28	24
Women	31	28	16	20	29	33	40	33	24	33	38	27	33	26	22	25	30	31	43	18	36	26	38	33	25	22	33	30

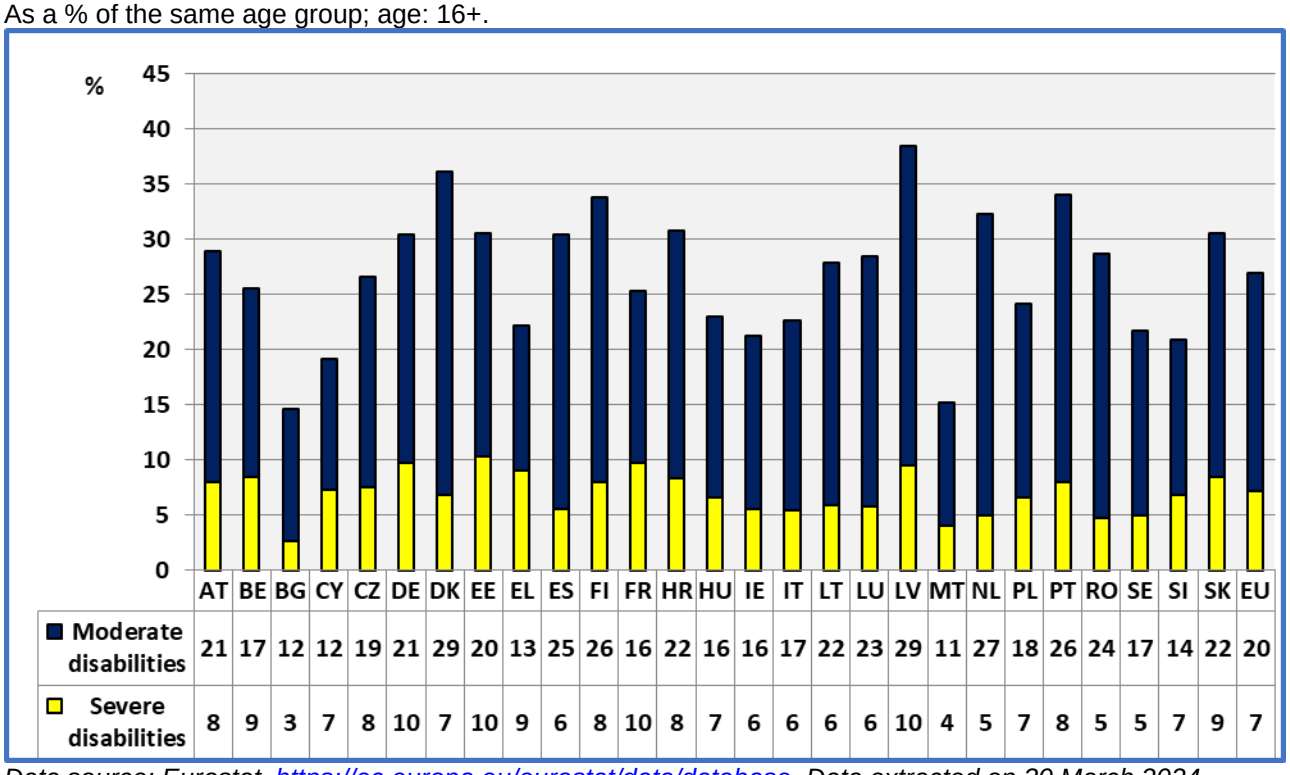
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database. Data extracted on 30 March 2024.

1.2.6 Degree of disability

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 7.2 % of persons aged 16 and over declared a severe disability (strongly limited). About 19.8 % declared a moderate disability. This amounted to 73.2 million persons with a moderate disability aged 16 and over living in private households, and 26.6 million persons with a severe disability.

Figure 4: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and degree of disability, 2022

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Moderate disabilities	21	17	12	12	19	21	29	20	13	25	26	16	22	16	16	17	22	23	29	11	27	18	26	24	17	14	22	20
Severe disabilities	8	9	3	7	8	10	7	10	9	6	8	10	8	7	6	6	6	6	10	4	5	7	8	5	5	7	9	7

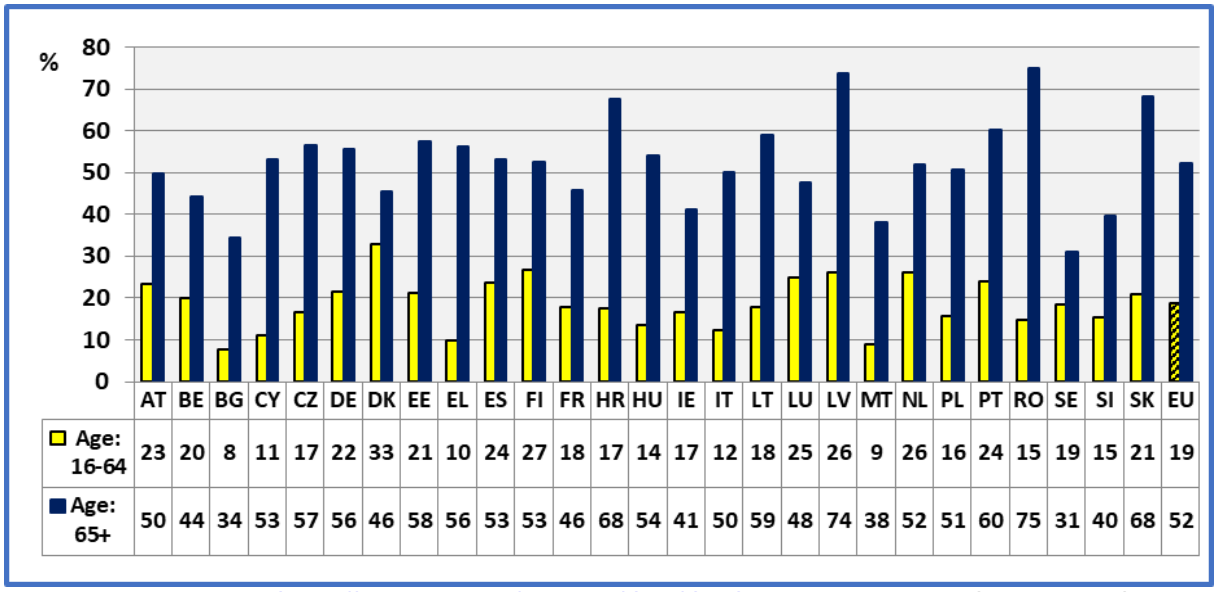
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database. Data extracted on 30 March 2024.

Concerning the degree of disability, it may be noted that the variation in the percentages covering severe disability across Member States 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 2022, persons with disabilities represented 18.7 % of persons aged 16-64 and 52.2 % of persons aged 65 and over. In total, there were around 51 million persons with disabilities aged 16-64 and about 49 million persons with disabilities aged 65 and over.

Figure 5: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State and age group, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Age: 16-64	23	20	8	11	17	22	33	21	10	24	27	18	17	14	17	12	18	25	26	9	26	16	24	15	19	15	21	19
Age: 65+	50	44	34	53	57	56	46	58	56	53	53	46	68	54	41	50	59	48	74	38	52	51	60	75	31	40	68	52

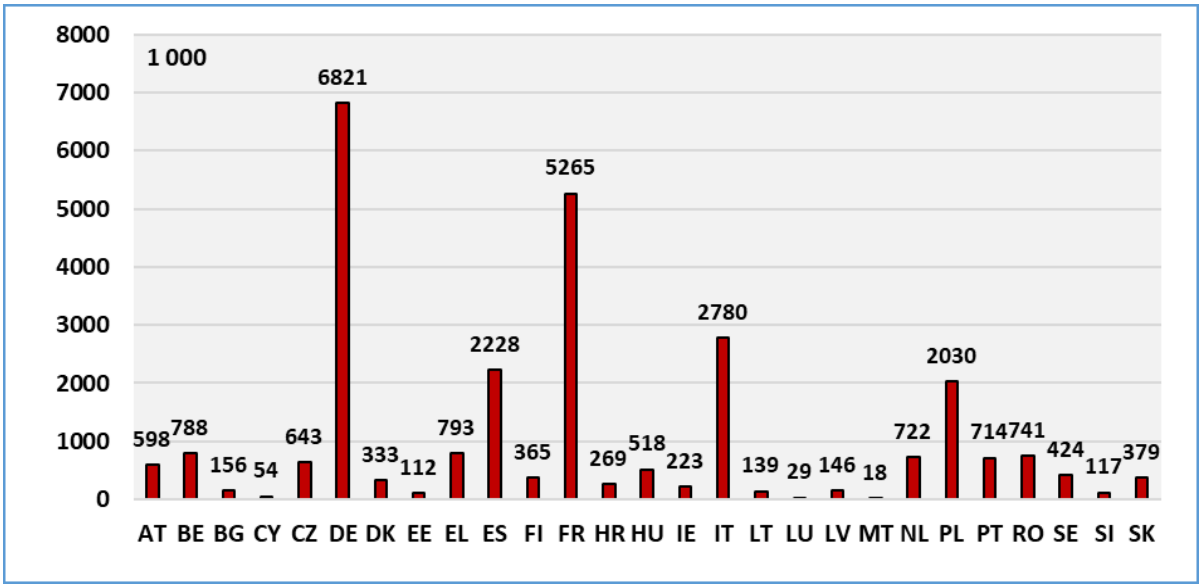
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database. Data extracted on 30 March 2024.

1.2.8 Population of persons with disabilities by age group and degree

The EU-SILC 2022 survey covered 370 million people aged 16 and over living in private households in the EU 27 (compared with 368 million in 2021).

In the age group 16 and over, there were about 27 million persons with severe disabilities. In the following figure, we present the absolute number of persons with severe disabilities in Member States in 2022.

Figure 6: Number of persons with severe disabilities by Member State, age 16+, 2022



Note: The data rely on self-assessments and ought to be treated with caution. The data are in thousands. So, in Austria, there were about 598 000 persons with severe disabilities, while in Germany, there were about 6 821 000 persons with severe disabilities.
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 12 July 2024; and 2) EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

In the 16-64 age group, there were about 39 million persons with moderate disabilities (compared with 36 million in 2021) and 12 million with severe disabilities (the same number as in 2021).

In the 65+ age group, there were about 34 million people with moderate disabilities (compared with 30 million in 2021) and 15 million with severe disabilities (the same number as in 2021).

In absolute numbers, the increase in the number of persons with disabilities between 2021 and 2022 stems mainly from an increase in the number of persons with moderate disabilities.

Table 4: Persons with disabilities by degree of disability and age group in the EU, 2022

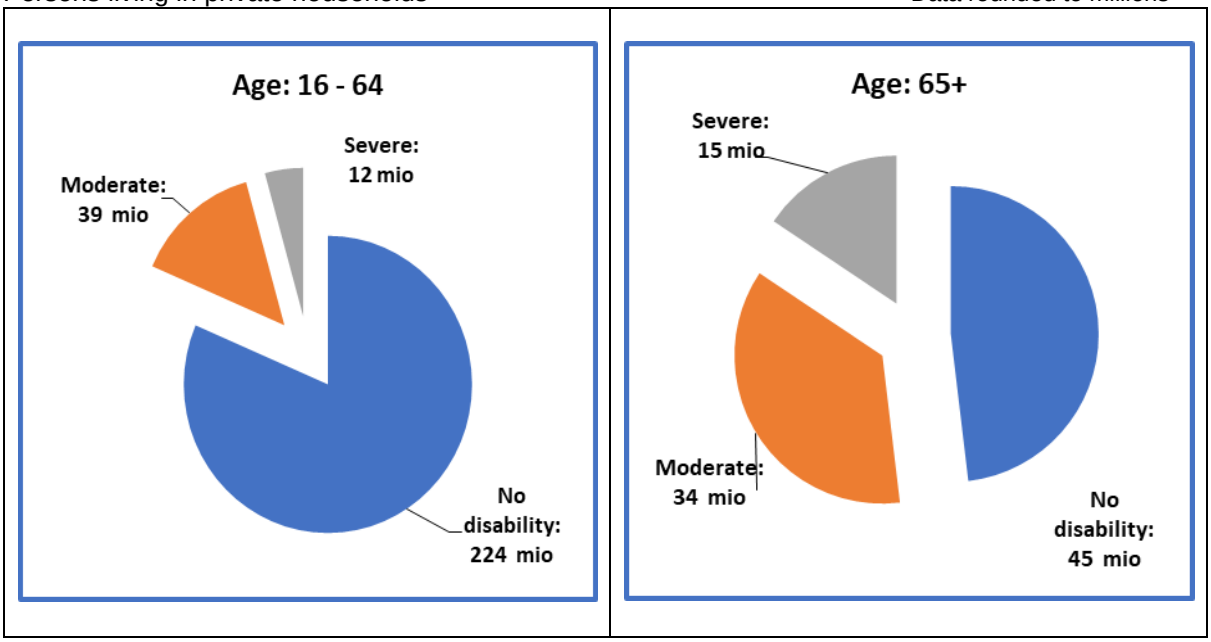
	Persons without disabilities	Persons with moderate disabilities	Persons with severe disabilities	Total
	Number in millions (1 000 000)			
Total 16+	269.8	73.3	26.5	369.7
Age: 16-64	224.4	39.1	11.8	275.4
Age: 65+	45.3	34.2	14.7	94.3
	In percentage (%)			
Total 16+	73.0	19.8	7.2	100
Age: 16-64	81.5	14.2	4.3	100
Age: 65+	48.1	36.3	15.6	100

Note: Persons living in private households.
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 12 July 2024; and 2) EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn 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 7: Population of persons with disabilities by degree of disability and age group, EU, 2022

Persons living in private households — Data rounded to millions



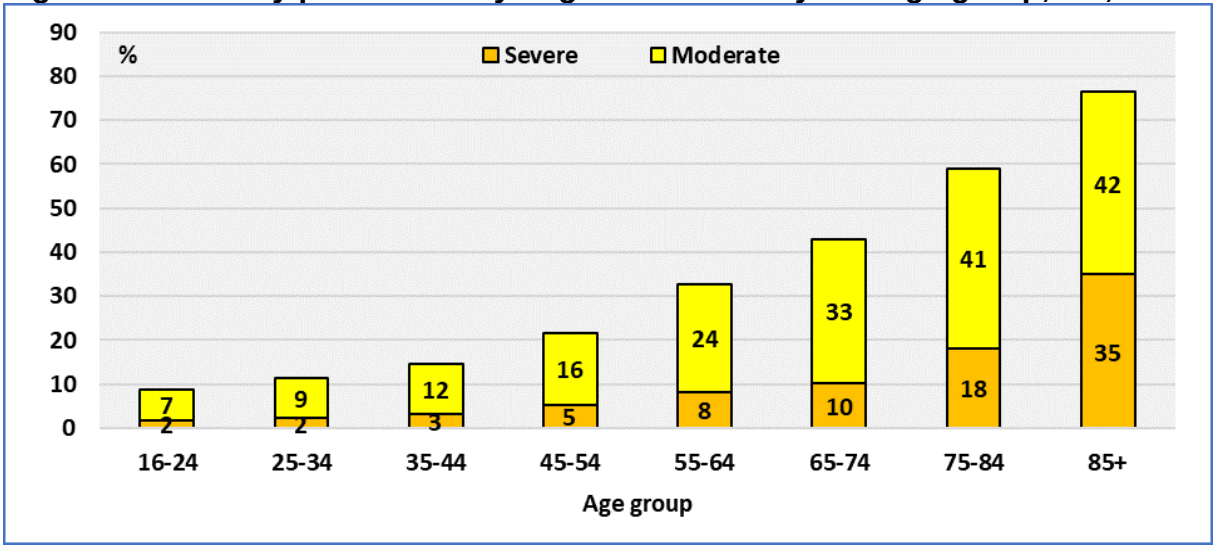
Data source: 1) Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, data extracted on 12 July 2024; and 2) EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Among people with disabilities, elderly people with disabilities represented 49.0 % of all people with disabilities (aged 16 and over living in private households).

The following figure presents disability prevalence in the EU 27 in 2022, by age group (of 10 years) and degree, in more detail. Among persons aged 16-24, there were 2 % (1.9 %) with severe disabilities and 7 % (6.9 %) with moderate disabilities. At the other extreme, in the 85+ age group, the respective rates were 35 % (34.9 %) and 42 % (41.5 %).

It may be noted that the proportion of persons with severe disabilities among all persons with disabilities increases with age. Persons with severe disabilities represented about 21.6 % of all persons with disabilities aged 16-24, while in the oldest age group, those aged 85 and over, they represented 45.7 % of all persons with disabilities.

Figure 8: Disability prevalence by degree of disability and age group, EU, 2022



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database. Data extracted on 2 April 2024.

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, this increasing trend reflects an ageing population. In a stable population 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. The age factor dominates any technological and medical innovation. This issue was discussed in previous EDE reports.

Another factor that may affect disability prevalence is the socio-economic deterioration following a financial crisis, specifically that which occurred in 2008-2009. The economic deterioration may 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).

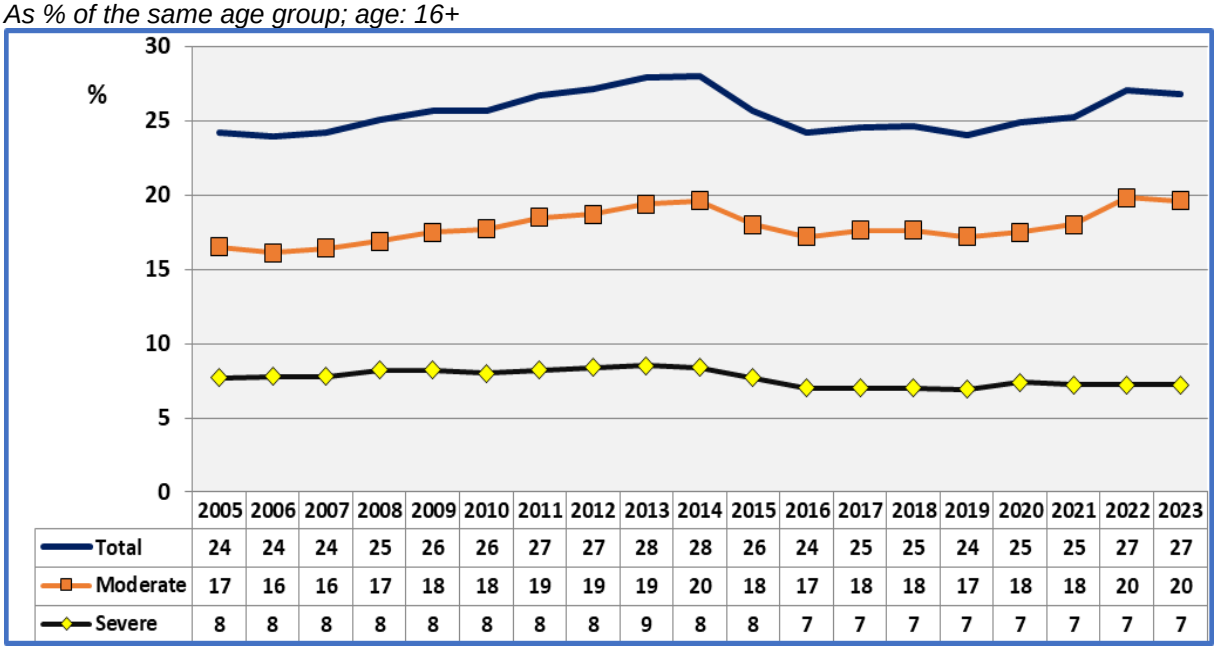
COVID-19 may be a further factor affecting disability prevalence, notably moderate disabilities. This can be observed in the upward movement since 2020.

As indicated above, in absolute numbers, the increase in the number of persons with disabilities between 2021 and 2022 stems mainly from an increase in the number of persons with moderate disabilities. This can be seen in the following figure.

Disability prevalence seems to have stabilized around 27 %, in 2022 and 2023.

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

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



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	24	24	24	25	26	26	27	27	28	28	26	24	25	25	24	25	25	27	27
Moderate	17	16	16	17	18	18	19	19	19	20	18	17	18	18	17	18	18	20	20
Severe	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Note: The decrease in 2015 and 2016 is mainly the result of changes concerning the definition of 'disability' in certain Member States, notably Germany and Italy. Data for 2005-2009 cover the EU 28. Data for 2023 are provisional.

Data source: EU-DSILC UDB and Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.

Data extracted on 30 March 2024.

1.3 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 children with disabilities in their own right, and 6. other cash benefits.

Persons who receive a disability benefit are not necessarily persons with severe disabilities according to the GALI indicator. Indeed, in certain Member States persons with a moderate disability receive a disability benefit. This implies that countries with generous social security schemes will tend to have a high number of persons receiving disability benefits. We have to note that persons receiving disability benefits have an administratively recognised disability while severe disability is a self-assessment. Consequently, the two groups might cover different persons.

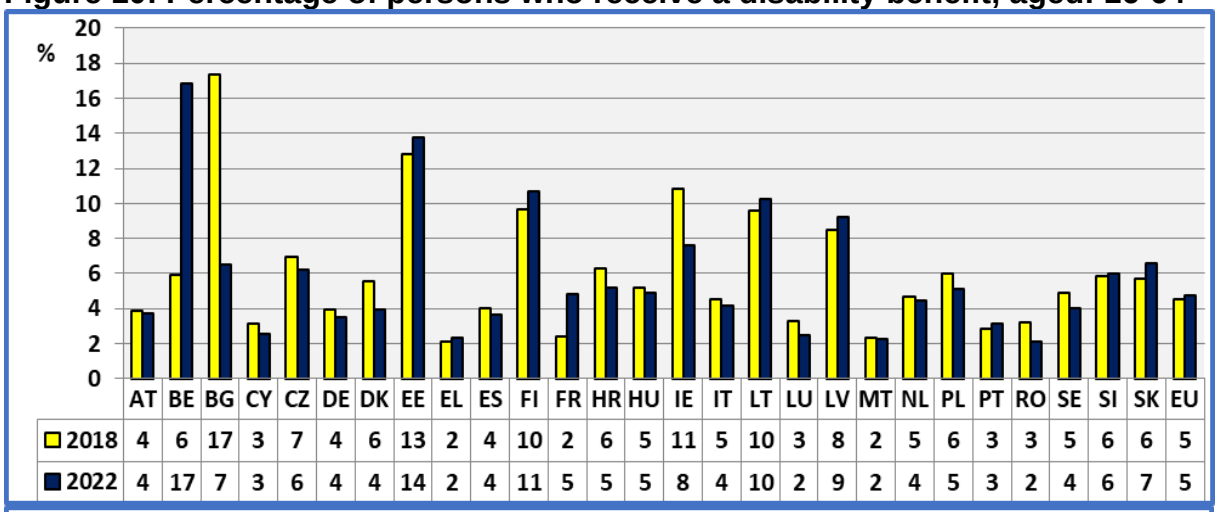
We present here the percentage of persons receiving a disability benefit. Given that, in several Member States, disability pensions are replaced by an ordinary retirement pension, we present data for the 16 to 64 age group. Lastly, persons with disabilities might under-report receiving disability benefits due to lack of information, etc.

In the EU 27 in 2022, the recipiency rate for persons aged 16 to 64 was 4.8 % (5.0 % in 2021).

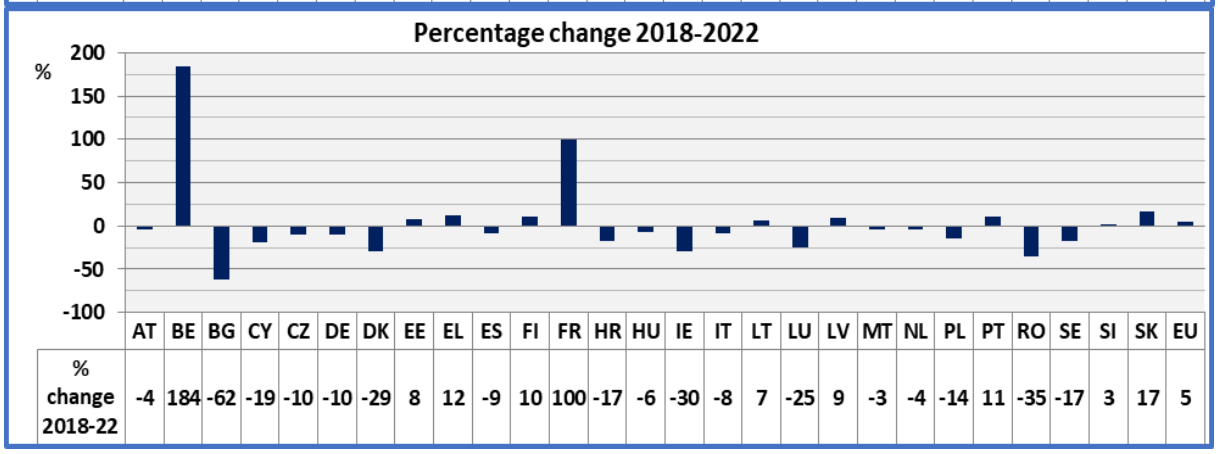
This represents 12 million beneficiaries of disability benefits in the EU in 2022. The ESSPROS[14] system gives about 15 million beneficiaries of disability pensions in 2021.

In the following figure, we may observe small relative changes, between 2018 and 2022, except, notably, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, and Ireland.

Figure 10: Percentage of persons who receive a disability benefit, aged: 16-64



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
2018	4	6	17	3	7	4	6	13	2	4	10	2	6	5	11	5	10	3	8	2	5	6	3	3	5	6	6	5
2022	4	17	7	3	6	4	4	14	2	4	11	5	5	5	8	4	10	2	9	2	4	5	3	2	4	6	7	5



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
% change 2018-22	-4	184	-62	-19	-10	-10	-29	8	12	-9	10	100	-17	-6	-30	-8	7	-25	9	-3	-4	-14	11	-35	-17	3	17	5

Note: Belgium changed the conditions governing long term sick leave in 2017. In 2018, the recipiency rate was 5.9 % but increased sharply afterwards. According to this modification, after nine months, under certain conditions, the employee can be considered as permanently incapacitated. Persons with health insurance benefits might declare receiving disability insurance benefits. The EU-SILC estimation gives 1 190 000 beneficiaries compared to 921 000 pensions beneficiaries, in 2021, according to ESSPROS.
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 & Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/spr_pns_ben__custom_12149826/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 15 July 2022.

1.4 Nature of disabilities

The EU-SILC survey for 2022 included the three-year module on health. The module collected information on functional limitations for the following variables:

[14] Eurostat (European system of integrated social protection statistics – ESSPROS), see: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/spr_pns_ben__custom_12149826/default/table?lang=en.

1. difficulty in seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses;
2. difficulty in hearing, even when using a hearing aid;
3. difficulty in walking or climbing steps;
4. difficulty in remembering or concentrating;
5. difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing; and
6. difficulty in communicating (using usual language, for example understanding or being understood by others).[15]

For each variable, possible answers were:

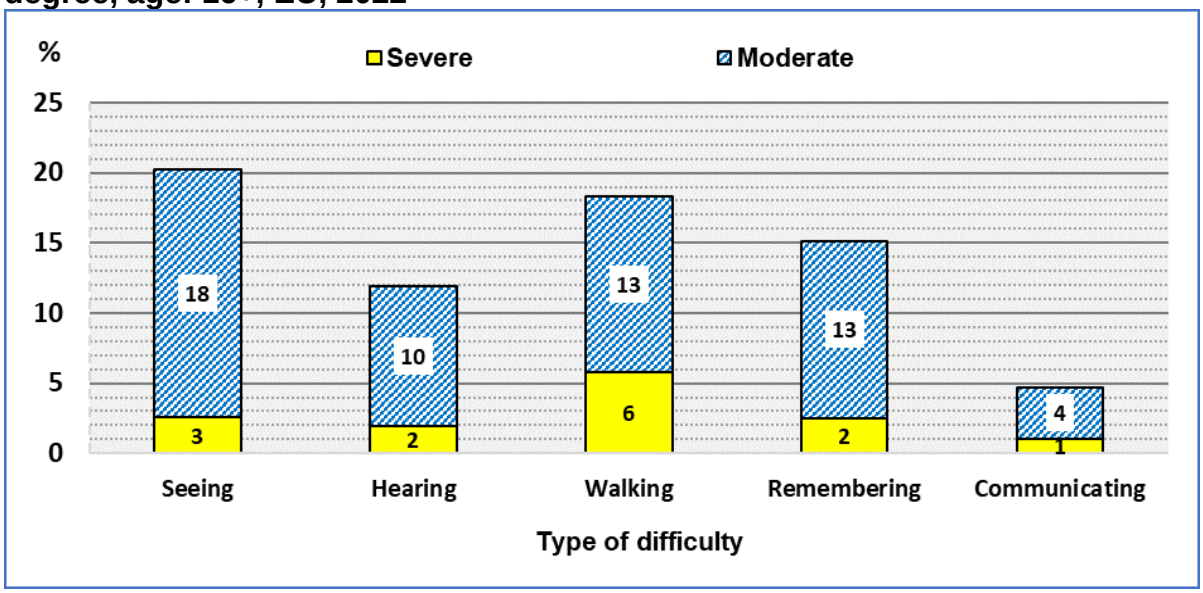
1. no, no difficulty;
2. yes, some difficulty (moderate);
3. yes, a lot of difficulty; and
4. cannot walk at all.

We have aggregated answers 3 and 4 under the term ‘severe difficulties.’

In the following figure, we can see that, among persons aged 16 and over in the EU 27 in 2022:

- 2.6 % had a severe difficulty in seeing;
- 1.9 % had a severe difficulty in hearing;
- 5.8 % had a severe difficulty in walking;
- 2.5 % had a severe difficulty in remembering; and
- 1.0 % had a severe difficulty in communicating.

Figure 11: Percentage of people with difficulties in basic functional activities by degree, age: 16+, EU, 2022



Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2.

The following table presents the number of persons with difficulties in functional activities by degree in the EU, in 2022, by degree.

[15] EU-SILC UDB 2022, Release 2023, Version 2, does not present difficulties with self-care.

Table 5: Persons with difficulties in functional activities by degree and type in the EU, age: 16+, 2022

The data cover persons living in private households.

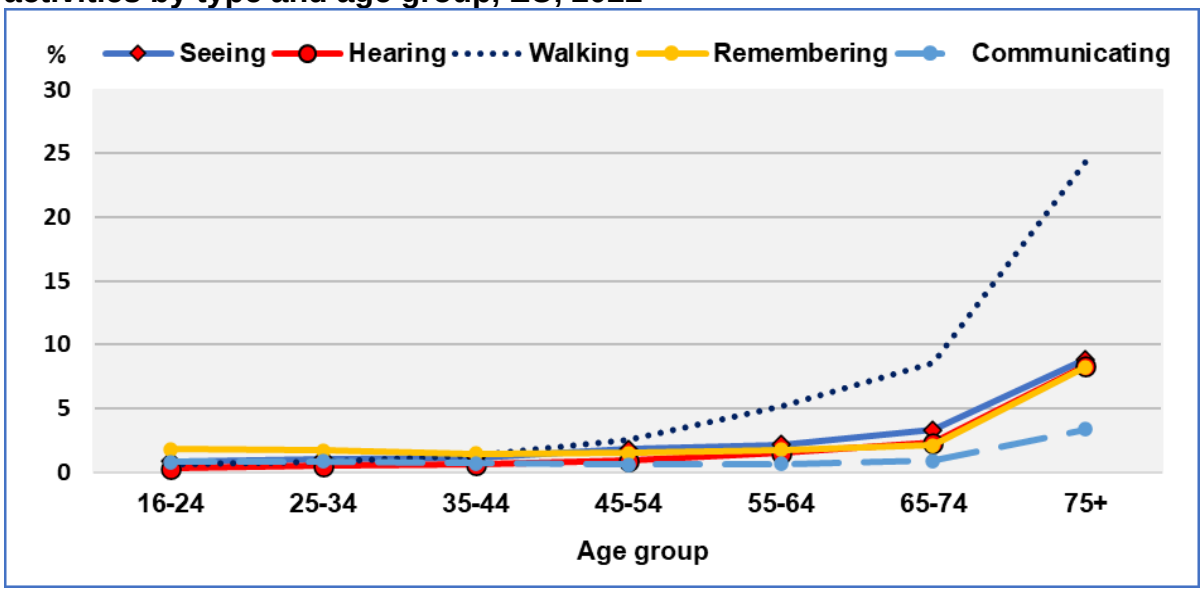
	Severe	Moderate	No difficulty	Total
	In percent (%)			
Seeing	2.6	17.7	79.7	100
Hearing	1.9	10.0	88.1	100
Walking	5.8	12.6	81.7	100
Remembering	2.5	12.7	84.9	100
Communicating	1.0	3.7	95.3	100
	In thousands (1 000)			
	Severe	**Moderate**	**No difficulty**	**Total**
Seeing	9 611	65 318	294 724	369 653
Hearing	7 134	36 780	325 738	369 653
Walking	21 440	46 428	301 822	369 690
Remembering	9 204	46 835	313 651	369 690
Communicating	3 844	13 603	352 205	369 653

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2. Further data can be downloaded from Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch19$dv_2264/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_p.dsb_pba.

The following figure depicts the evolution, by age group, in the percentage of persons with severe difficulties in functional activities in the EU, in 2022.

We may observe that the evolution of the percentage of persons with difficulties by type is similar for all functional activities at younger ages but diverge afterwards. The percentage of persons reporting difficulties in walking or climbing increases quickly after the age of 45-54 while the percentage of persons with difficulties in communicating displays the lowest growth in comparison to other functional activities.

Figure 12: Percentage of people with severe difficulties in basic functional activities by type and age group, EU, 2022



Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2. Further data can be downloaded from Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch19$dv_2264/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_p.dsb_pba.

The following table presents the percentage by age group, of persons in the EU reporting severe difficulties, in functional activities in 2022. The last column presents the total population by age group and helps to establish the absolute number of persons with severe difficulties by age group and type of functional activity.

Table 6: Percentage of people with severe difficulties in basic functional activities by type and age group, EU, 2022

The multiplication of the percentage by the total population in each age group gives the number of persons reporting severe difficulties for the specific functional activity and age group.
The data cover persons living in private households.

	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Communicating	EU Total population
	In percent (%)					In 1 000
16-24	0.9	0.3	0.6	1.8	0.8	40 110
25-34	1.0	0.5	0.9	1.7	0.8	51 358
3544	1.1	0.6	1.4	1.5	0.7	59 080
45-54	1.8	0.9	2.5	1.5	0.6	63 138
55-64	2.1	1.5	5.1	1.8	0.6	61 703
65-74	3.3	2.3	8.6	2.1	0.9	50 373
75+	8.9	8.4	24.4	8.2	3.4	43 892
Total 16+	**2.6**	**1.9**	**5.8**	**2.5**	**1.0**	**369 653**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2. Further data can be downloaded from Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch19$dv_2264/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_p.dsb_pba.

1.5 Statistical tables

Table 7: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State, 2022

The data include only persons living in private households (see note).

	2022						
	Total	Gender		Degree		Age group	
	In percentage (%) of the same age group						
	Total	Men	Women	Severe	Moderate	Total	Total
	16+					16-64	65+
AT	28.9	27.3	30.5	8.0	20.9	23.3	49.8
BE	25.6	22.9	28.3	8.5	17.1	20.1	44.1
BG	14.6	12.6	16.4	2.7	11.9	7.8	34.3
CY	19.2	18.4	19.9	7.3	11.9	11.2	53.2
CZ	26.6	24.0	29.1	7.6	19.0	16.7	56.5
DE	30.4	28.4	32.5	9.8	20.6	21.6	55.6
DK	36.1	32.5	39.6	6.9	29.2	33.0	45.6
EE	30.5	27.2	33.3	10.3	20.2	21.1	57.5
EL	22.2	20.4	24.0	9.0	13.2	9.9	56.1
ES	30.4	27.2	33.4	5.6	24.8	23.6	53.0
FI	33.9	29.4	38.3	8.0	25.8	26.6	52.6
FR	25.3	23.4	27.0	9.7	15.6	17.8	45.9
HR	30.8	28.7	32.7	8.4	22.4	17.4	67.6
HU	23.0	20.2	25.6	6.6	16.4	13.5	54.0
IE	21.1	20.8	21.5	5.6	15.6	16.5	41.2

IT	22.7	20.3	25.0	5.5	17.2	12.3	50.1
LT	27.9	25.1	30.3	5.9	22.0	17.8	59.1
LU	28.5	26.5	30.5	5.8	22.7	24.9	47.6
LV	38.5	33.2	42.6	9.5	28.9	26.2	73.7
MT	15.1	12.9	17.6	4.1	11.1	8.8	38.1
NL	32.3	28.6	36.0	5.0	27.3	26.2	52.0
PL	24.2	21.8	26.3	6.6	17.6	15.7	50.6
PT	34.0	29.2	38.2	8.0	26.0	24.0	60.2
RO	28.7	24.0	33.1	4.7	24.0	14.6	74.9
SE	21.7	18.9	24.5	5.0	16.7	18.5	31.1
SI	20.9	20.1	21.8	6.8	14.1	15.4	39.5
SK	30.6	28.0	33.1	8.5	22.1	20.9	68.1
EU	**27.0**	**24.4**	**29.5**	**7.2**	**19.8**	**18.7**	**52.2**
CH	31.7	27.8	35.6	5.6	26.1	27.4	47.1
NO	20.9	15.9	26.0	6.8	14.1	18.9	27.7

Note: All EU-SILC estimates cover only persons living in private households.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database.
Data extracted on 30 March 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 8: Percentage of people with disabilities by Member State, 2021

The data include only persons living in private households.

	2021						
	Total	**Gender**		**Degree**		**Age group**	
	In percent (%) of the same age group						
	Total	**Men**	**Women**	**Severe**	**Moderate**	**Total**	**Total**
	16+					**16-64**	**65+**
AT	27.5	26.1	28.9	7.9	19.6	21.8	49.1
BE	24.4	21.8	26.8	8.3	16.1	18.9	42.7
BG	17.7	15.0	20.2	3.4	14.3	10.0	40.3
CY	19.1	19.1	19.1	7.3	11.9	11.9	50.9
CZ	24.7	22.9	26.4	7.2	17.5	15.7	52.9
DE	24.5	23.2	25.9	24.5	0.0	17.0	43.5
DK	35.2	31.5	38.9	7.0	28.2	31.0	48.1
EE	33.4	30.2	36.2	11.2	22.3	24.8	59.6
EL	23.3	21.8	24.7	9.4	13.9	10.4	59.1
ES	28.0	24.9	30.8	5.3	22.6	21.7	49.0
FI	28.2	25.1	31.2	7.2	21.0	22.2	44.0
FR	22.7	20.6	24.7	8.3	14.5	16.3	40.6
HR	31.9	29.3	34.4	8.9	23.0	19.8	68.6
HU	21.5	18.3	24.3	5.7	15.7	13.1	49.6
IE	19.1	18.5	19.7	5.2	13.9	15.2	36.3
IT	22.2	19.9	24.4	6.5	15.7	12.6	47.7
LT	31.2	27.9	33.9	5.8	25.4	20.8	63.4
LU	25.5	23.2	28.0	6.0	19.5	22.5	43.7
LV	37.1	32.6	40.7	7.8	29.4	25.7	70.2
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	29.4	25.1	33.5	5.6	23.8	16.3	73.2
SE	19.4	16.8	22.0	4.3	15.1	16.7	27.6
SI	21.4	20.2	22.6	6.6	14.8	15.6	41.2
SK	30.5	27.3	33.4	9.4	21.0	21.5	65.8
EU	**25.2**	**22.7**	**27.5**	**8.6**	**16.6**	**17.5**	**48.5**

Note: All EU-SILC estimates cover only persons living in private households.
':' stands for missing data.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database. Data extracted on 30 March 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 9: Percentage of children with disabilities by age group, EU 2021

Age	Severe	Moderate	Total
0-4	2.0	0.7	2.7
5-9	3.4	0.9	4.3
10-15	4.3	1.3	5.6
Under 16	3.4	1.0	4.4

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database. Data extracted on 1 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 10: Percentage of persons who receive a disability benefit, aged: 16-64

	2010	2015	2018	2020	2021	2022
AT	4.7	4.7	3.9	4.2	3.9	3.7
BE	5.0	5.9	5.9	15.9	16.5	16.8
BG	7.7	7.0	17.3	8.3	8.0	6.5
CY	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.6
CZ	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.1	6.2
DE	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.5
DK	9.8	8.0	5.6	6.7	6.9	4.0
EE	8.5	12.1	12.8	13.5	14.0	13.8
EL	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3
ES	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.6
FI	10.4	10.1	9.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
FR	3.9	2.4	2.4	5.1	4.9	4.8
HR	10.3	7.1	6.3	5.5	5.0	5.2
HU	7.5	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.9
IE	12.1	11.4	10.8	7.0	7.3	7.6
IT	4.2	4.4	4.5	3.8	4.0	4.2
LT	7.7	10.9	9.6	10.9	10.1	10.2
LU	3.7	4.4	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.5
LV	7.1	7.3	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.3
MT	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3
NL	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.5
PL	6.8	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.1
PT	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.2
RO	4.9	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.1

SE	7.2	6.2	4.9	4.1	4.4	4.0
SI	6.8	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.0	6.0
SK	5.8	5.3	5.7	7.6	7.6	6.6
EU 27	**4.9**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**5.1**	**5.0**	4.8

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

Table 11: Population of people with disabilities by Member State, age: 16+, 2022

The data include only persons living in private households.
A wide definition of disability is used. The following table presents persons with severe disabilities.
The data are indicative and comparisons between years ought to be treated with caution.

	In thousands (1 000)								
	Disability			**Men**			**Women**		
	No	**Yes**	**Total**	**No**	**Yes**	**Total**	**No**	**Yes**	**Total**
	16+								
AT	5 311	2 162	7 474	2 658	998	3 656	2 653	1 164	3 817
BE	6 895	2 379	9 274	3 502	1 040	4 542	3 393	1 339	4 732
BG	4 937	843	5 779	2 418	349	2 767	2 518	494	3 012
CY	603	143	746	294	66	360	310	77	387
CZ	6 213	2 254	8 467	3 129	988	4 118	3 084	1 266	4 349
DE	48 375	21 225	69 600	24 360	9 663	34 023	24 015	11 563	35 577
DK	3 082	1 741	4 823	1 605	773	2 377	1 478	969	2 446
EE	756	331	1 087	370	138	508	386	193	579
EL	6 852	1 962	8 814	3 383	867	4 250	3 468	1 095	4 564
ES	27 690	12 087	39 777	14 070	5 257	19 327	13 620	6 830	20 450
FI	3 015	1 549	4 564	1 580	658	2 238	1 435	891	2 326
FR	40 558	13 723	54 282	19 845	6 062	25 907	20 713	7 661	28 374
HR	2 218	987	3 204	1 088	438	1 525	1 130	549	1 679
HU	6 040	1 810	7 850	2 952	747	3 700	3 088	1 062	4 150
IE	3 136	841	3 977	1 552	408	1 960	1 584	434	2 017
IT	39 054	11 485	50 539	19 492	4 965	24 457	19 562	6 521	26 083
LT	1 703	660	2 362	808	271	1 079	894	389	1 283
LU	364	145	508	191	69	260	173	76	248
LV	946	589	1 535	460	229	689	486	360	846
MT	370	66	437	198	29	227	173	37	209
NL	9 766	4 668	14 434	5 097	2 042	7 139	4 668	2 626	7 294
PL	23 333	7 428	30 761	11 504	3 207	14 711	11 828	4 221	16 049
PT	5 893	3 032	8 925	2 968	1 224	4 192	2 925	1 808	4 734
RO	11 241	4 528	15 769	5 779	1 825	7 604	5 462	2 703	8 165
SE	6 648	1 842	8 490	3 448	804	4 252	3 200	1 038	4 238
SI	1 361	361	1 722	689	173	862	672	187	860
SK	3 089	1 364	4 454	1 551	603	2 155	1 538	761	2 299
EU	**269 762**	**99 938**	**369 700**	**135 248**	**43 652**	**178 900**	**134 514**	**56 286**	**190 800**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 12: Population of persons with disabilities by degree and Member State, age: 16+, 2022

The data include only persons living in private households.
The data are indicative and comparisons between years ought to be treated with caution.

	In thousands (1 000)		
	Persons with disabilities		
	Severe	Moderate	Total
	16+		
AT	598	1 562	2 160
BE	788	1 586	2 374
BG	156	688	844
CY	54	89	143
CZ	643	1 609	2 252
DE	6 821	14 338	21 158
DK	333	1 408	1 741
EE	112	220	332
EL	793	1 163	1 957
ES	2 228	9 865	12 092
FI	365	1 177	1 543
FR	5 265	8 468	13 733
HR	269	718	987
HU	518	1 287	1 805
IE	223	620	843
IT	2 780	8 693	11 472
LT	139	520	659
LU	29	115	145
LV	146	444	589
MT	18	48	66
NL	722	3 940	4 662
PL	2 030	5 414	7 444
PT	714	2 321	3 035
RO	741	3 785	4 526
SE	424	1 418	1 842
SI	117	243	360
SK	379	984	1 363
EU	**26 615**	**73 191**	**99 806**

Note: Applying rounded percentages to total population has resulted in some marginal differences with previous tables.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 13: Population of people with disabilities by Member State, 2021

The data include only persons living in private households.
A wide definition of disability is used here (GALI).
The data are indicative and comparisons between years ought to be treated with caution.

	In thousands (1 000)								
	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 6 June 2023; and 2) EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Part II: Equal opportunities

2 Adult participation in learning

2.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Continuous education and training are 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 technology skills 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[16] 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, the Strategy 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,[17] 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,

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

[17] 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.

The EU target for 2030 requires that at least 60 % of all adults should participate in training each year,[18] but this is the target at the EU level and national targets are set 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 Definitions

Eurostat, in the framework of the revised Social Scoreboard,[19] presents a set of headline and secondary indicators. In the 'Equal opportunities' field, 'Adult participation in learning' constitutes a secondary indicator. Eurostat notes that the indicator 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. Eurostat uses the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS).

In the framework of EU 2030, statistics on 'Adult learning' refer to participation in formal and non-formal education and training during the previous 12 months. The main indicator on adult participation in learning refers to the 25-64 age group. Until 2021, the adult education survey (AES) was the only source providing data for adult participation in learning in the last 12 months. However, as the AES takes place only every six years, variables were introduced in the EU labour force survey (EU-LFS) to collect biennial data (starting in 2022).[20]

Eurostat notes that indicators on 'participation in education and training in the last 12 months' are considered to provide a more appropriate measure of participation in adult learning than indicators on 'participation in education and training in the last 4 weeks' as they present information about the share of people who were involved in education and training during a year. This longer period allows more activities to be captured and avoids seasonal effects.

For information, the EU-SILC survey reports only persons who are 'currently' participating in a formal education programme.[21] This proxy for adult participation in learning, is very restrictive in comparison with the EU-LFS or AES surveys.

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

[19] 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.

[20] Eurostat (2024), Information note: Participation in education and training during the last 12 months – differences between data available from two sources, Eurostat – Unit F.3: Labour market and lifelong learning, Luxembourg, 2024. See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser-backend/api/public/explanatory-notes/get/Info_note_TRNG_AL_20240423.pdf.

[21] In previous reports, we used the EU-SILC survey. Furthermore, 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).

2.2.2 Methodological issues

Eurostat presents adult participation in learning by disability status for 2022, since this was the year when GALI was introduced for the first time, in the EU-LFS.

For previous years, the main source of data was the Adult Education Survey (AES). From 2022, a question on 'limitation in activities because of health problems' (GALI) was introduced in both the AES and LFS survey.[22]

The Europe 2030 target for adult learning participation was based on the results of previous AES surveys. As noted, the target value is 60 % for the last 12 months and the age group covers persons aged 20-64. In order to avoid problematic comparisons, we have to note that the two surveys, AES and LFS provide different estimations for a relatively large number of countries. For example, at the EU level, for 2022, the AES shows a participation rate of 46.6 % compared to 25.1 % according to the LFS.[23] In the following, we will focus on the LFS survey for which data have been published by Eurostat.

2.2.3 Analysis by Member State

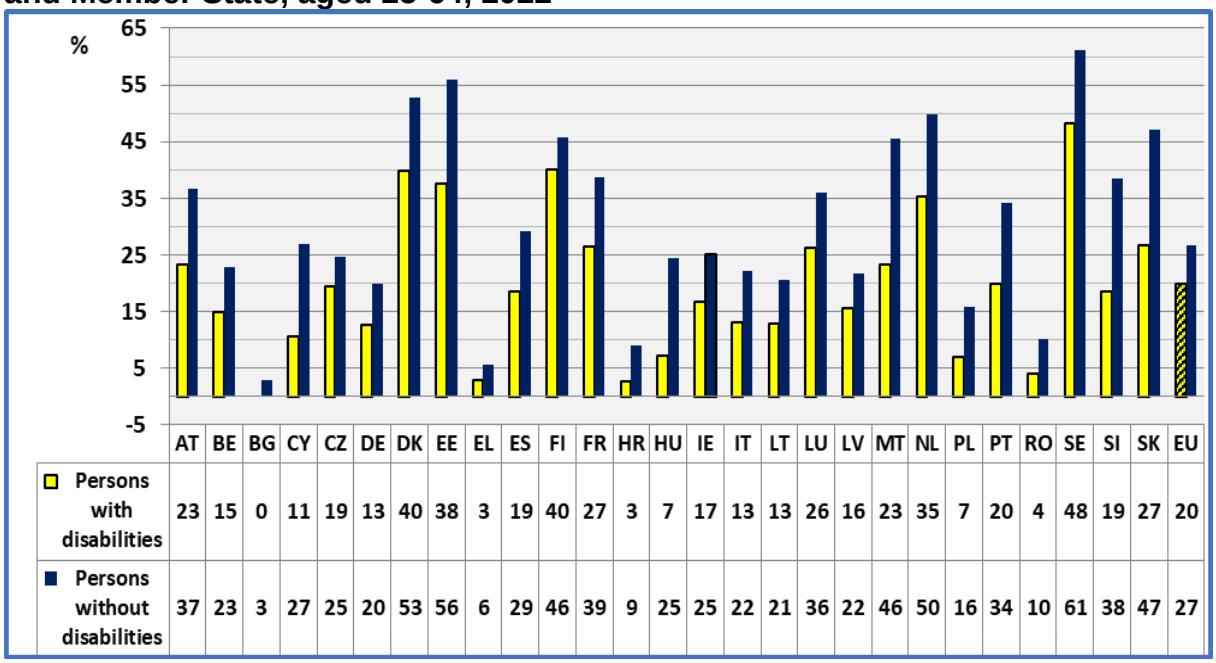
In the EU 27 in 2022, about 20.0 % of persons with disabilities, aged 25-64, participated in education and training during the last 12 months. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 26.7 %. The total rate was 25.1 %. For comparison, the AES survey provided an overall rate of 46.9 %.

For comparison, in the EU 27 in 2022, for the narrower definition of participation during the last four weeks, about 9.9 % of persons with disabilities, aged 25-64 were participating in an education and training programme. The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 13.3 %. The total rate was 12.5 %.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the lowest rates could be found in Croatia (2.6 %), Greece (3.0 %) and Romania (4.0 %), in ascending order. The highest rates could be found in Denmark (39.8 %), Finland (40.0 %) and Sweden (48.2 %), in ascending order.

[22] At the time of writing this report, Eurostat has published only LFS data.
[23] See Eurostat (2024), op. cit., for an analysis of these differences.

Figure 13: Adult participation in learning (last 12 months) by disability status and Member State, aged 25-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	23	15	0	11	19	13	40	38	3	19	40	27	3	7	17	13	13	26	16	23	35	7	20	4	48	19	27	20
Persons without disabilities	37	23	3	27	25	20	53	56	6	29	46	39	9	25	25	22	21	36	22	46	50	16	34	10	61	38	47	27

Note: The data for persons with disabilities are of low reliability in Bulgaria, Greece and Croatia.
Data source:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/trng_lfs_24__custom_11290235/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 9 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

It is important to note that the AES survey included a question on the main reasons for not participating in adult learning. Possible answers to this question included: Wanted to but encountered difficulties for personal reasons; Wanted to but encountered difficulties which were not due to personal reasons; and Did not want to. There was no option to indicate 'Wanted but encountered architectural or other disability related barriers'.

2.2.4 Disability gap in adult participation in learning

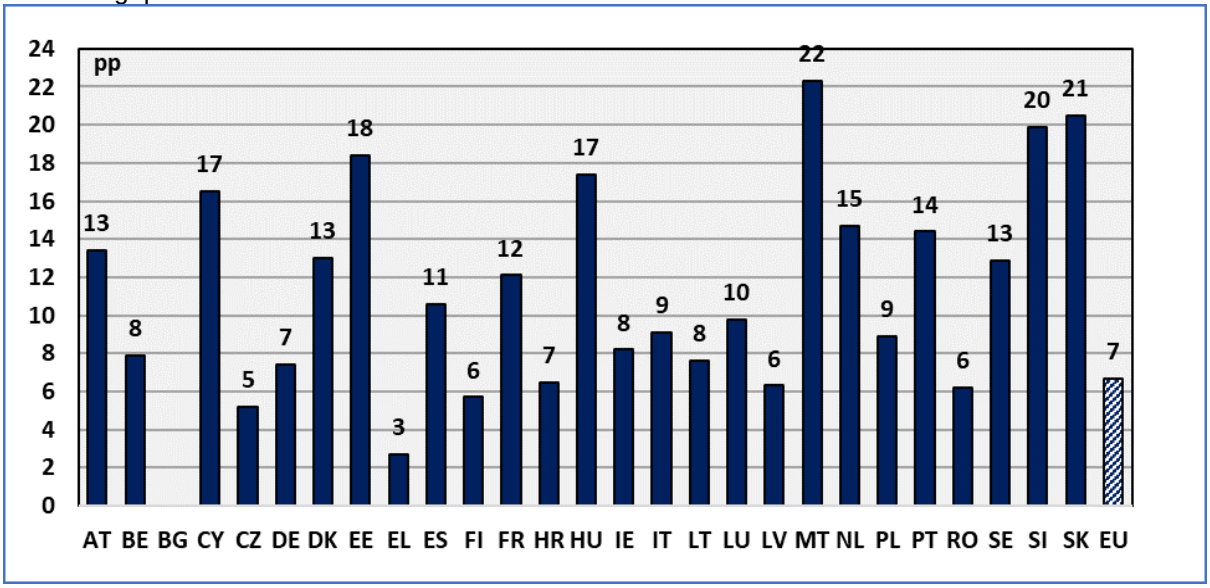
The following figure indicates that, in the EU 27 in 2022, the absolute disability gap was 6.7 percentage points (relative gap: 25.1 %).

The smallest absolute gaps could be found in Greece, Czechia and Finland, while the largest gaps could be found in Slovenia, Slovakia, and Malta.

If we consider the relative gaps, the smallest absolute gaps could be found in Finland (12.5 %), Sweden (21.1 %) and Czechia (21.1 %). The largest gaps were found in Cyprus (61.1 %), Hungary (71.0 %) and Croatia (71.4 %).

Figure 14: Disability gap in adult participation in learning (last 12 months) by Member State, age 25-64, 2022

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

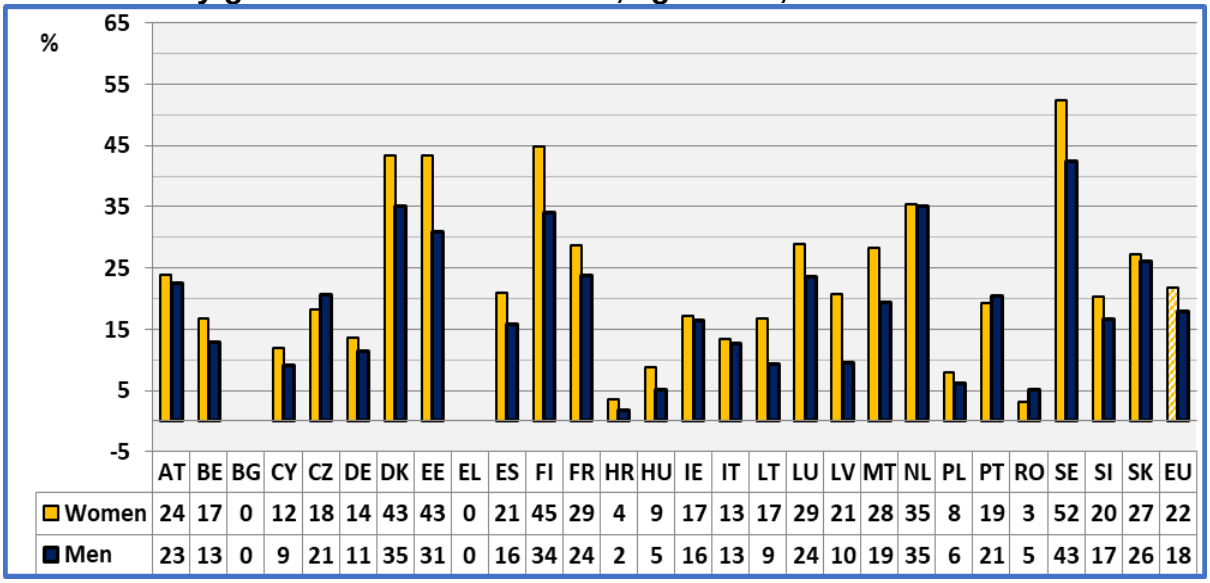


Data source:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/trng_lfs_24__custom_11290235/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 9 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

2.2.5 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 21.8 % of women with disabilities declared that they had participated in an education programme, in comparison with 18.0 % of men with disabilities. In 22 out of 25 Member States for which we possess information, the rate for women with disabilities was higher compared to men with disabilities.

Figure 15: Adult participation in learning (last 12 months) of persons with disabilities by gender and Member State, age 25-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Women	24	17	0	12	18	14	43	43	0	21	45	29	4	9	17	13	17	29	21	28	35	8	19	3	52	20	27	22
Men	23	13	0	9	21	11	35	31	0	16	34	24	2	5	16	13	9	24	10	19	35	6	21	5	43	17	26	18

Note: The data for persons with disabilities ought to be treated with caution due to low reliability in certain Member States (BG, EL, HR, LV, SI for men and BG, EL and HR for women).
Data source:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/trng_lfs_24__custom_11290235/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 9 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

2.2.6 Adult participation in learning by degree of disability

Due to the low reliability of data for persons with severe disabilities at country level, we present only the overall rates for the EU 27. In the EU 27, the rate of persons aged 25-64 who declared that they had participated, during the last 12 months, in an education programme decreases as the degree of disability increases. The rate was 26.7 % for persons without disabilities, 23.4 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 12.4 % for persons with severe disabilities.

2.3 Statistical tables

Table 14: Adult participation in learning (last 12 months) by disability status and gender, age 25-64, 2022

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Disability gap in pp	Women with disabilities	Men with disabilities
AT	23.2	36.6	33.8	13.4	23.9	22.5
BE	14.9	22.8	21.5	7.9	16.8	12.8
BG	:	3.0	2.9	:	:	:
CY	10.5	27.0	25.3	16.5	11.9	9.0
CZ	19.4	24.6	24.0	5.2	18.2	20.7
DE	12.6	20.0	17.1	7.4	13.7	11.4
DK	39.8	52.8	49.1	13.0	43.4	35.0
EE	37.5	55.9	52.3	18.4	43.4	30.9
EL	3.0	5.7	5.6	2.7	:	:
ES	18.6	29.2	27.9	10.6	20.9	15.8
FI	40.0	45.7	43.9	5.7	44.8	34.1
FR	26.5	38.6	36.3	12.1	28.7	23.7
HR	2.6	9.1	8.2	6.5	3.6	1.8
HU	7.1	24.5	23.2	17.4	8.8	5.1
IE	16.8	25.0	23.3	8.2	17.1	16.4
IT	13.0	22.1	21.3	9.1	13.4	12.7
LT	12.9	20.5	19.5	7.6	16.7	9.4
LU	26.3	36.1	33.9	9.8	28.8	23.6
LV	15.5	21.8	20.7	6.3	20.8	9.6
MT	23.3	45.6	43.4	22.3	28.3	19.4
NL	35.2	49.9	45.4	14.7	35.3	35.1
PL	7.0	15.9	15.0	8.9	7.9	6.1
PT	19.8	34.2	31.7	14.4	19.3	20.5
RO	4.0	10.2	9.6	6.2	3.1	5.1
SE	48.2	61.1	58.8	12.9	52.4	42.5
SI	18.5	38.4	36.2	19.9	20.3	16.6
SK	26.7	47.2	44.1	20.5	27.3	26.0
EU	**20.0**	**26.7**	**25.1**	**6.7**	**21.8**	**18.0**

Note: The data for persons with disabilities ought to be treated with caution due to low reliability in certain Member States (BG, EL, HR, LV, SI for men and BG, EL and HR for women).
Data source:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/trng_lfs_24__custom_11290235/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 9 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

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 to 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, aimed at achieving a European Education Area by 2025 and resetting education and training for the digital age.[24] 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'.

This 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.[25] 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.[26]

The revised social scoreboard[27] 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.

[24] See: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1743.
[25] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030'.
[26] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5538-2021-INIT/en/pdf.
[27] 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 Definitions

The indicator presents the percentage of the population aged 18-24 with 'at most lower secondary education who are not engaged in further education or training'. Eurostat[28] and the Member States use the LFS survey in order to monitor the percentage of early school leavers. The LFS survey included the GALI indicator in its 2022 run.

The classification of early school leavers refers to ISCED 2011 levels. It includes the following ISCED 2011 levels:[29]

- less than primary education (ISCED 0);
- primary education (ISCED 1); and
- lower secondary education (ISCED 2).

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

In 2022, the LFS survey and the EU-SILC data provided an estimate for the EU 27 of 9.5 % and 10.2 % respectively. National estimates may differ due to sampling differences.

As the LFS survey provides information on persons with and without disabilities every two years, we use 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 the requirements of changing technology 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 2022, about 19.2 % of young persons with disabilities aged 18-24 were early school leavers, in comparison with 8.6 % for young persons without disabilities. The EU total average rate was 10.2 %, against a target of less than 10 % for the EU.

For comparison, the LFS survey 2022, which included the GALI indicator, provided the result that at the EU 27 level in 2022, about 22.1 % of young persons with disabilities aged 18-24 were early school leavers in comparison with 8.4 % for young persons without disabilities. The EU total average rate was 9.5 %.

[28] See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_04_10_esmsip2.htm.

[29] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED 2011, see: https://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/international-standard-classification-of-education-isced-2011-en.pdf.

In 2022, early school leavers with disabilities aged 18-24 who were living in private households represented about 0.5 million persons out of approximately 2.7 million young persons with disabilities aged 18-24 living in private households. These estimations aim to establish an order of magnitude, and comparisons between years ought to be treated with caution.

These estimations might be biased due to small samples in several Member States, in the 18-24 age group. Also, we observe a significant discontinuity, between 2020 and 2021 in Germany, which may have affected the EU aggregate, due to the relatively important weight of Germany. The survey methodology changed in 2020 in Germany and in 2021 a new methodology was adopted for EU-SILC in all Member States.

Table 15: Early school leavers aged 18-24, EU, 2022

The data give an order of magnitude and comparisons with previous years ought to be done with caution.

	Not early school leavers	Early school leavers	Total
	In millions (1 000 000)		
Persons without disabilities	26.1	2.5	28.5
Persons with disabilities	2.2	0.5	2.7
Total	**28.3**	**3.0**	**31.2**
	In percentage (%)		
Persons without disabilities	91.4	8.6	100.0
Persons with disabilities	80.8	19.2	100.0
Total	**90.5**	**9.5**	**100.0**

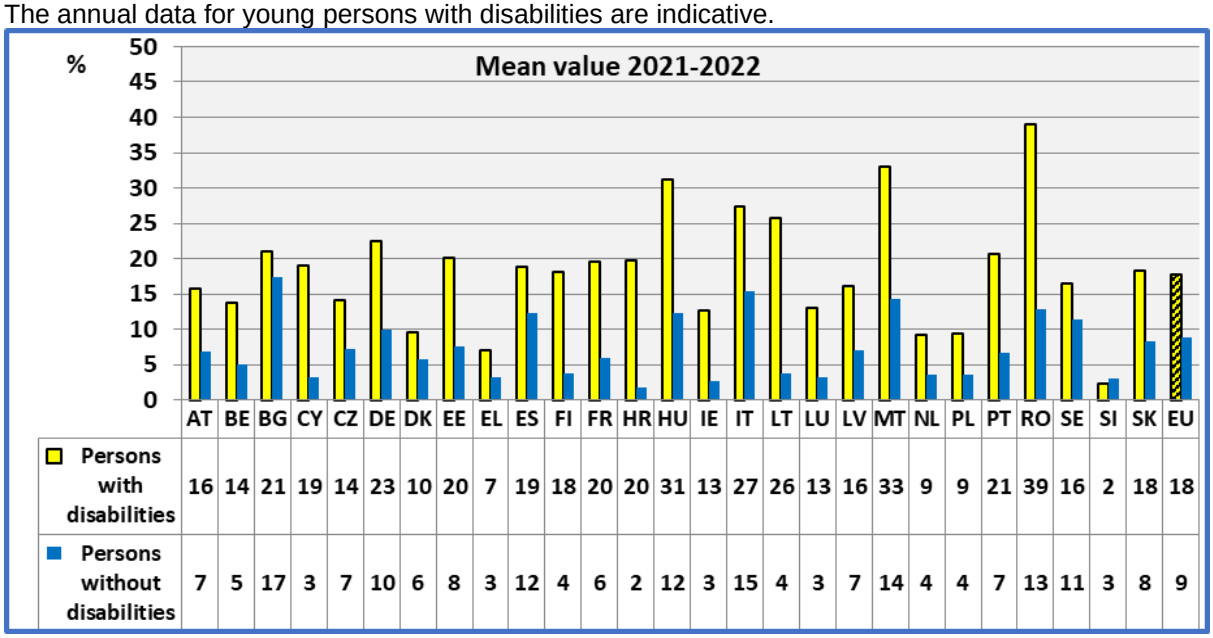
Note: The sample is relatively small in several countries. Data for Germany have a low reliability, and this might have affected the EU estimation for persons with disabilities.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

In nine 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 fewer 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 last two years.

In the EU 27, the percentage of early school leavers was 16.4 % in 2021 and 19.2 % in 2022, giving an arithmetic mean (or arithmetic average) for 2021-2022 of 17.8 % (rounded to 18 %; see following figure). Regarding the national means for the past two years, the lowest rates can be found in Slovenia, Greece, and the Netherlands. Similar results were found last year. The highest rates can be found in Hungary, Malta, and Romania, in ascending order. Similar results were found in the previous year.

Figure 16: Share of early school leavers by disability status, aged 18-24

The annual data for young persons with disabilities are indicative.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	16	14	21	19	14	23	10	20	7	19	18	20	20	31	13	27	26	13	16	33	9	9	21	39	16	2	18	18
Persons without disabilities	7	5	17	3	7	10	6	8	3	12	4	6	2	12	3	15	4	3	7	14	4	4	7	13	11	3	8	9

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 source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

The high rates of early school leavers among young persons with disabilities might indicate problems relating to accessibility and an absence of adapted programmes, among other reasons. 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

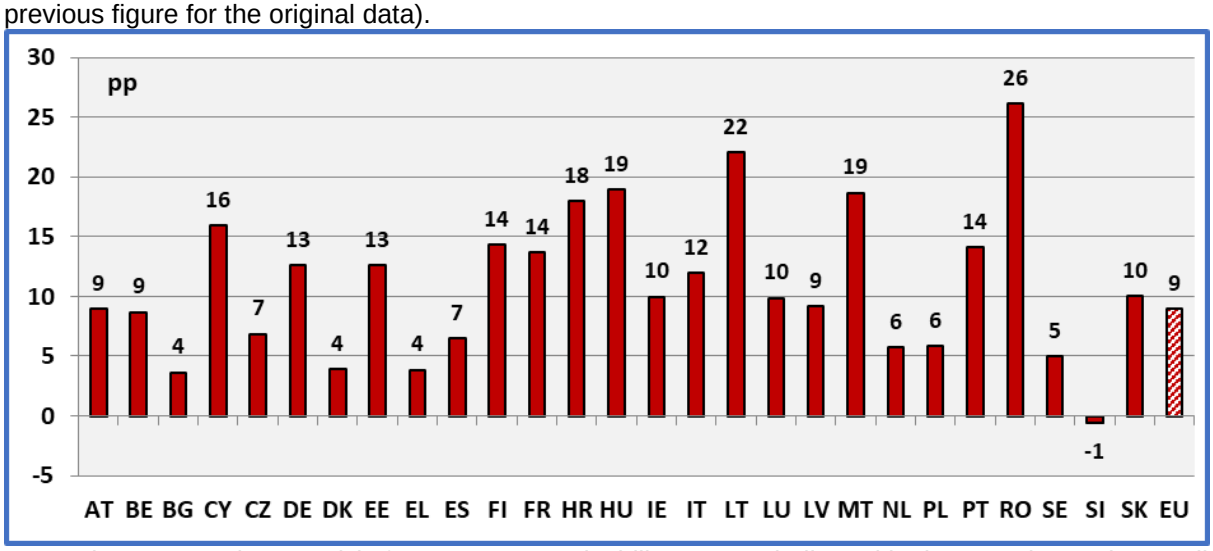
The disadvantage for young persons with disabilities in comparison with young persons without disabilities can be measured by the difference in the respective proportions of early school leavers. For 2022, we observe a disability gap of 10.6 percentage points.

As noted, the estimates for the 18-24 age group are not statistically robust, 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 2021-2022.

At the EU 27 level in 2021-2022, the gap between persons with and without disabilities was about 8.9 percentage points. The gap between young persons with and without disabilities was small in Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Greece, while the gap was relatively high in Hungary, Lithuania, and Romania, in ascending order.

Figure 17: Disadvantage (in early school leaving) of young persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, average 2021-2022

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



Note: The average (or mean) is for 2021-2022. 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, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2021-2022 for persons with and without disabilities, and then estimated the gap.

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

3.2.4 Early school leavers by gender

The following table indicates that at the EU 27 level in 2022, the proportion of early school leavers among young women with disabilities was 14.1 %, in comparison with 25.5 % among young men with disabilities.

Table 16: Share of early school leavers by disability status and gender, aged 18-24, EU, 2022

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

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	No	**Early school leavers**	**Total**	**No**	**Early school leavers**	**Total**
Men	74.5	25.5	**100**	90.1	10.0	**100**
Women	85.9	14.1	**100**	92.8	7.2	**100**
Total	**80.8**	**19.2**	**100**	**91.4**	**8.6**	**100**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release). Provisional data.

3.2.5 Early school leavers by degree

The degree of disability is an important factor. The rate of early school leavers, is 36.8 % for young persons with severe disabilities, aged 18-24, compared to 14.1 % for young persons with moderate disabilities and 8.7 % for persons without disabilities.

3.2.6 Evolution by Member State

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

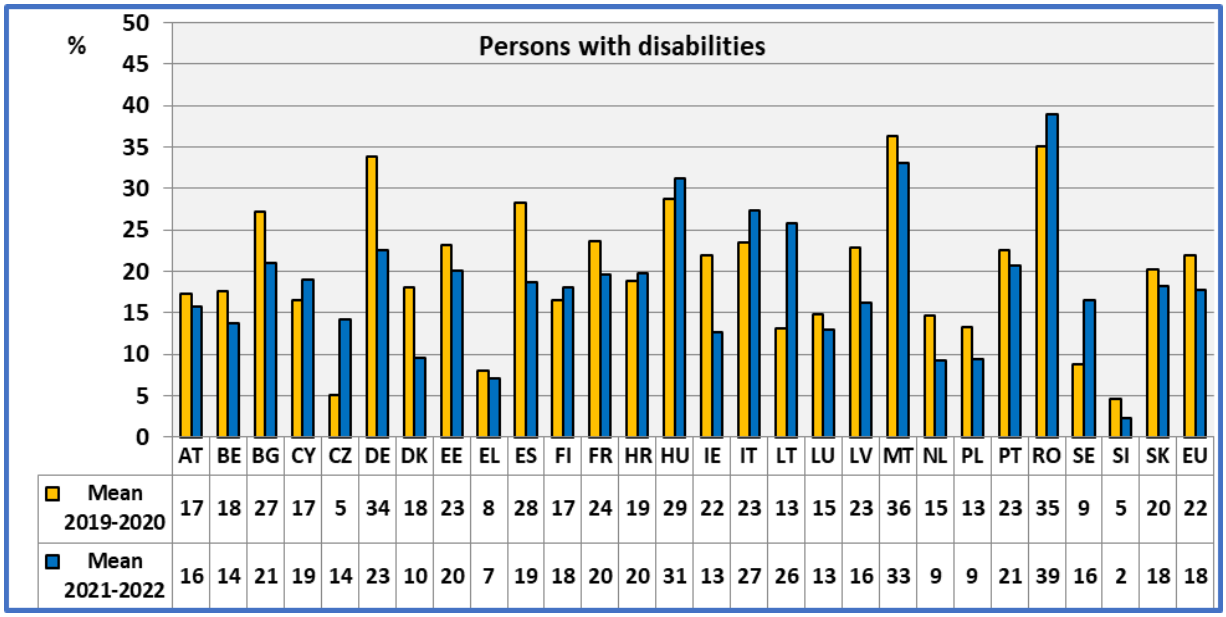
In the following figure, we compare 2019-2020 with 2021-2022. Despite the aggregation, the comparison is biased by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the period of 2020-2021 covers the two pandemic years.

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

In the EU 27, the rate of early school leavers among young persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, decreased from 21.9 % (2019-2020) to 17.8 % (2021-2022). This reduction of 4.1 percentage points is relatively important and ought to be treated with caution. While it indicates a tendency, the exact magnitude might be overstated. Similarly, 10 Member States experience a change greater (in absolute values) than 5 percentages points. Again, these rates indicate a tendency but the exact magnitude might be overstated.

Figure 18: Evolution of the share of early school leavers among persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, EU

Indicative data.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Mean 2019-2020	17	18	27	17	5	34	18	23	8	28	17	24	19	29	22	23	13	15	23	36	15	13	23	35	9	5	20	22
Mean 2021-2022	16	14	21	19	14	23	10	20	7	19	18	20	20	31	13	27	26	13	16	33	9	9	21	39	16	2	18	18

Note: See explanations in the text. The data in Germany might have been affected my changes in the methodology in 2020-2021.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

3.2.7 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 early school levers with disabilities.

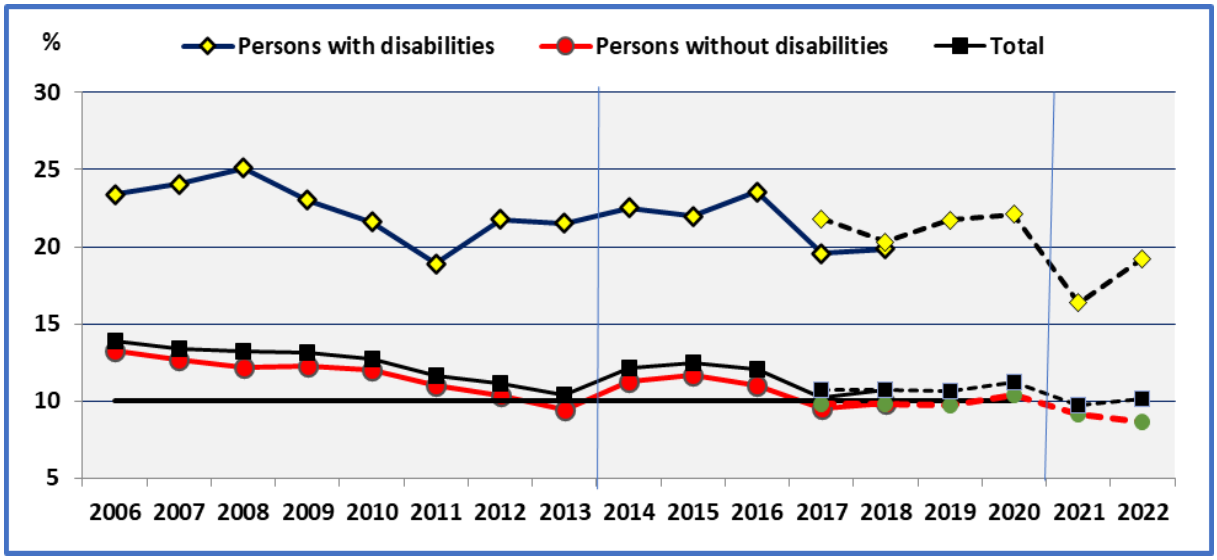
For young persons without disabilities, a long-term downward trend may be observed, bearing in mind that the years 2013-2014 are not comparable, due to a change in the definitions used for education levels.

The evolution for persons with disabilities is more erratic due to small sample sizes; 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 and in 2016 in Italy (also in 2017 in the United Kingdom). These countries have an important weight in the EU aggregate. Also, a change in methodology was adopted in all EU social surveys, in 2021.

The gap between young persons with and without disabilities remained high, and the results for 2021 and 2022 indicated that the gap might have decreased. However, due to erratic changes only additional years may confirm this trend.

Figure 19: Evolution of the shares of early school leavers, EU, aged 18-24

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



Note: Break in time series due to a new classification since 2014. Change in the definition of 'disability' in Germany and Italy in 2015 and 2016. In 2021, all EU social surveys adopted new rules.
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.) which 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.

For example, if we consider persons in the EU using the internet for interaction with public authorities in 2022, we find that:[30]

- 38.2 % persons aged 16 to 24 with severe disabilities use the internet;
- 54.7 % persons 16 to 24 with moderate disabilities use the internet; and
- 46.2 % persons aged 16 to 24 without disabilities use the internet.

The presence of disabilities may create more needs to interact with public authorities and this might explain the high rate of persons with moderate disabilities. Mobility difficulties could also push these persons to use this channel for interaction. However, persons with severe disabilities report a lower rate which may be due to barriers or insufficient skills.

3.3 Statistical tables

Table 17: Share of early school leavers by disability status and Member State, aged 18-24

Percentage of the population aged 18-24 with 'at most' lower secondary education and not in further education or training.
Due to the limited number of observations, estimates for persons with disabilities are indicative.

	2021			2022			Mean disability gap, 2021-2022
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Disability gap in pp
AT	19.1	7.0	8.2	12.4	6.6	7.2	8.9
BE	17.3	4.9	6.0	10.2	5.2	6.1	8.7
BG	(6.9)	18.1	17.6	(a)	16.6	16.8	3.6
CY	(24.6)	3.5	4.6	(13.4)	2.7	3.3	15.9
CZ	9.9	6.6	6.8	18.4	8.0	8.8	6.9
DE	19.0	10.2	10.8	26.1	9.8	12.4	12.6
DK	8.9	6.3	6.9	10.3	5.1	6.8	3.9
EE	15.6	7.8	9.0	24.7	7.2	9.3	12.6
EL	(3.9)	3.6	3.6	(10.3)	2.9	3.0	3.9
ES	17.5	13.6	14.0	20.0	10.9	11.9	6.5
FI	19.2	3.7	6.1	16.8	3.6	6.9	14.3
FR	17.9	5.8	6.5	21.3	6.0	7.5	13.7
HR	16.4	1.7	2.4	23.1	1.9	3.0	18.0
HU	(15.2)	13.5	13.6	(47.2)	11.0	12.4	18.9
IE	13.5	2.2	3.3	11.7	3.1	4.0	10.0
IT	18.4	15.6	15.7	36.3	15.3	16.5	11.9
LT	(25.4)	4.4	5.9	(26.1)	3.0	5.2	22.1
LU	1.6	2.5	2.4	24.4	3.8	5.8	9.9
LV	10.4	7.3	7.6	(22.0)	6.8	7.9	9.2
MT	(34.3)	17.6	18.6	(31.8)	11.1	11.7	18.7

[30] Eurostat notes that interaction with public authorities include activities conducted via a website or app of public authorities or public services for private purpose, consisting in the respondent accessing information about himself/herself stored by public authorities or public services; etc. Data refer to the last 12 months before the survey. The data source is the annual EU survey on the use of ICT in households and by individuals. See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/dsb_icteg01__custom_12189885/default/table?lang=en.

NL	7.5	3.9	4.4	11.0	3.1	6.3	5.7
PL	9.4	3.5	3.8	9.5	3.6	3.9	5.9
PT	20.0	7.3	8.8	21.4	5.9	7.5	14.1
RO	(39.0)	11.7	12.9	(38.9)	14.0	14.6	26.1
SE	22.4	15.6	16.4	10.5	7.4	8.8	5.0
SI	(2.9)	3.8	3.8	(1.9)	2.1	3.6	-0.6
SK	22.2	8.4	9.4	14.4	8.1	8.4	10.1
EU	**16.4**	**9.1**	**9.7**	**19.2**	**8.6**	**10.2**	**8.9**

Notes: Data in '()': number of observations in the sample between 20 and 49; 'a': fewer than 20 observations. Data for Slovakia in 2021 refer to 2020.
Mean disability gap 2021-2022: As indicated above, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2021-2022 for persons with and without disabilities, and we then estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

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

Percentage of the population aged 18-24 with 'at most' lower secondary education and not in further education or training.
Due to the limited number of observations, estimates for persons with disabilities are indicative.

	2019			**2020**			**Mean disability gap, 2019-2020**
	Yes	**No**	**Total**	**Yes**	**No**	**Total**	**Disability gap in pp**
AT	15.4	8.1	9.0	19.1	8.2	9.6	9.1
BE	13.7	7.7	8.3	21.6	7.0	8.3	10.3
BG	(16.3)	19.0	18.9	(38.2)	17.6	18.2	9.0
CY	8.0	7.1	7.1	(25.1)	5.4	6.4	10.3
CZ	(8.2)	7.6	7.7	(1.9)	6.5	6.2	-2.0
DE	30.0	5.7	7.4	37.8	9.2	11.1	26.4
DK	18.0	6.4	8.9	18.2	5.0	8.1	12.3
EE	20.3	7.3	9.5	26.0	6.2	8.8	16.4
EL	(7.8)	2.9	3.0	(8.2)	2.7	2.9	5.2
ES	32.4	15.1	15.7	24.0	13.9	14.5	13.7
FI	20.3	4.6	8.5	12.8	6.0	7.6	11.2
FR	19.2	8.0	8.9	28.0	6.3	8.0	16.4
HR	18.4	2.8	3.7	19.3	3.3	4.2	15.8
HU	17.1	11.5	11.7	(40.4)	11.3	12.7	17.4
IE	(28.3)	3.2	5.2	15.6	1.0	2.7	19.8
IT	27.0	19.9	20.2	19.8	22.1	22.0	2.4
LT	15.9	3.3	4.6	(10.2)	4.0	4.4	9.4
LU	17.0	11.0	11.7	12.7	11.3	11.4	3.7
LV	16.6	7.8	8.8	29.1	7.7	9.5	15.1
MT	a	20.0	20.6	(28.3)	19.7	20.0	16.5
NL	15.4	4.4	5.9	14.0	5.1	6.3	9.9
PL	10.5	4.2	4.5	16.2	2.6	3.4	9.9
PT	23.2	11.1	12.3	22.1	8.5	9.7	12.8
RO	41.4	11.3	13.0	28.9	13.5	14.3	22.7
SE	(6.5)	7.4	7.3	(11.1)	15.6	15.3	-2.7
SI	5.7	2.0	2.3	(3.6)	2.0	2.1	2.6

SK	18.3	9.5	10.1	22.2	8.4	9.4	11.3
EU	21.8	9.7	10.6	**22.1**	**10.4**	**11.2**	**11.9**

Notes: Data in '()': number of observations in the sample between 20 and 49; 'a': fewer than 20 observations. Data for Slovakia in 2021 refer to 2020.
Mean disability gap 2019-2020: As indicated above, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2019-2020 for persons with and without disabilities, and we then estimated the gap.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

Table 19: 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
2022				19.2	8.6	10.2

Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

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 may fail to adapt to new skill requirements, and they can suffer from an erosion of competence, which may, 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,[31] 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[32] 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 2022, the rate of young people aged 16-29 who were neither in employment nor in education and training was 13.4 %. The EU-LFS-based estimate for the 15-29 age group was 11.7 %.[33] The EU-SILC survey covers persons aged 16 to 29.

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

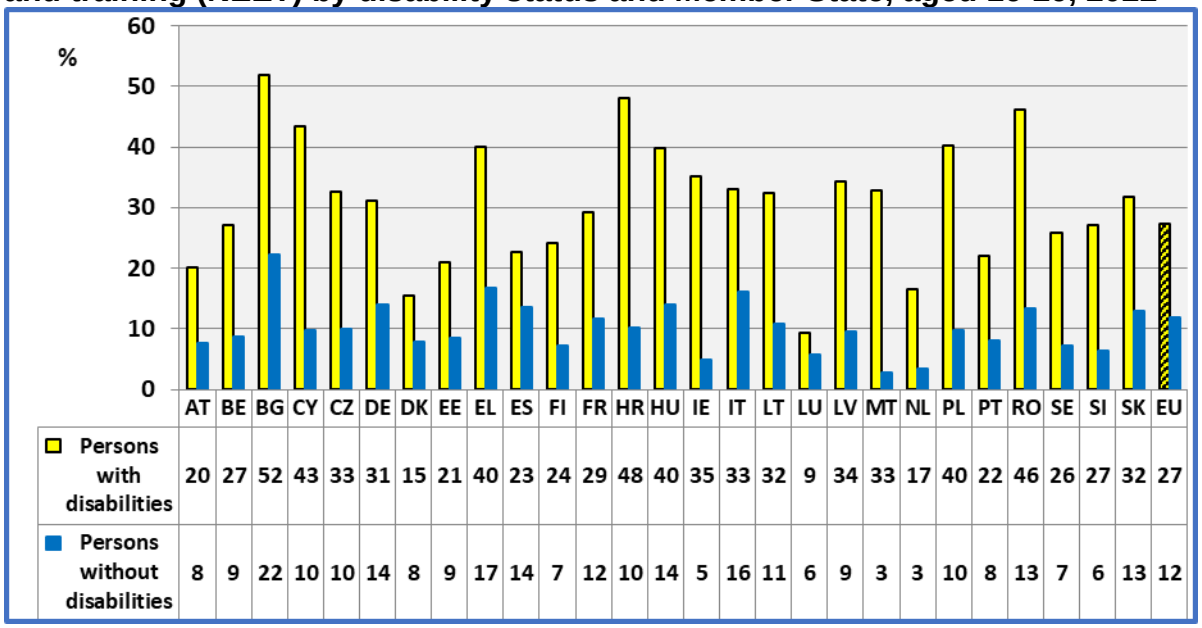
[32] European Commission (2021), *The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en.

[33] Data extracted on 18 March 2024 from [ESTAT]: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_08_20/default/table?lang=en.

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 27.3 % of young people with disabilities, aged 16-29, were neither in employment nor in education and training. This rate was 12.0 % for young persons without disabilities in the same age group.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the highest rates could be found in Romania, Croatia, and Bulgaria, in ascending order. The level was low in Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Figure 20: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and Member State, aged 16-29, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	20	27	52	43	33	31	15	21	40	23	24	29	48	40	35	33	32	9	34	33	17	40	22	46	26	27	32	27
Persons without disabilities	8	9	22	10	10	14	8	9	17	14	7	12	10	14	5	16	11	6	9	3	3	10	8	13	7	6	13	12

Note: The samples for Bulgaria and Malta are relatively small and the estimates are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

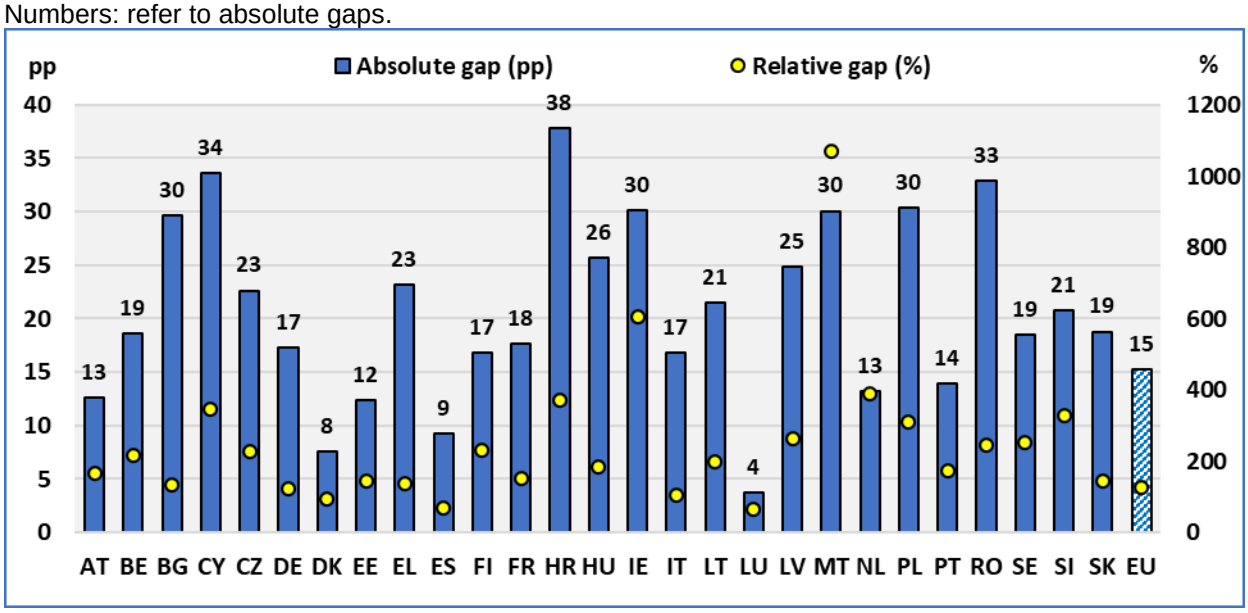
4.2.2 Disability gap in NEET rates

In the following figure, one may note that the absolute gap (difference) between persons with and without disabilities was 15.3 percentage points (127.5 % was the relative gap).

The highest absolute gaps could be found in Romania, Cyprus, and Croatia (in ascending order). The lowest absolute gaps could be found in Luxembourg, Denmark, and Spain.

Figure 21: Disability gap among young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by Member State, aged 16-29, 2022

Absolute gap = % Persons without disabilities – % Persons with disabilities
Relative gap = 100*(% persons without disabilities – % persons with disabilities) / % persons without disabilities.
Numbers: refer to absolute gaps.



Note: The samples for Bulgaria and Malta are relatively small and the estimates are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn 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 (30.0 %) was higher in comparison with the percentage for young women with disabilities (24.9 %). The situation was reversed among persons without disabilities.

Table 20: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and gender, aged 16-29, EU, 2022

	Persons with disabilities			Persons without disabilities		
	No NEET	NEET	Total	No NEET	NEET	Total
Men	70.0	30.0	100	89.9	10.1	100
Women	75.1	24.9	100	86.0	14.0	100
Total	**72.8**	**27.3**	**100**	**88.0**	**12.0**	**100**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

The sample of observations concerning young persons with disabilities aged 16-29 was relatively small (fewer than 50 observations) in nine Member States and did not enable us to study further gender issues.

4.2.4 NEET by degree of disability

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

The rates were 12.0 % for young persons without disabilities, 20.2 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 53.3 % for persons with severe disabilities.

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

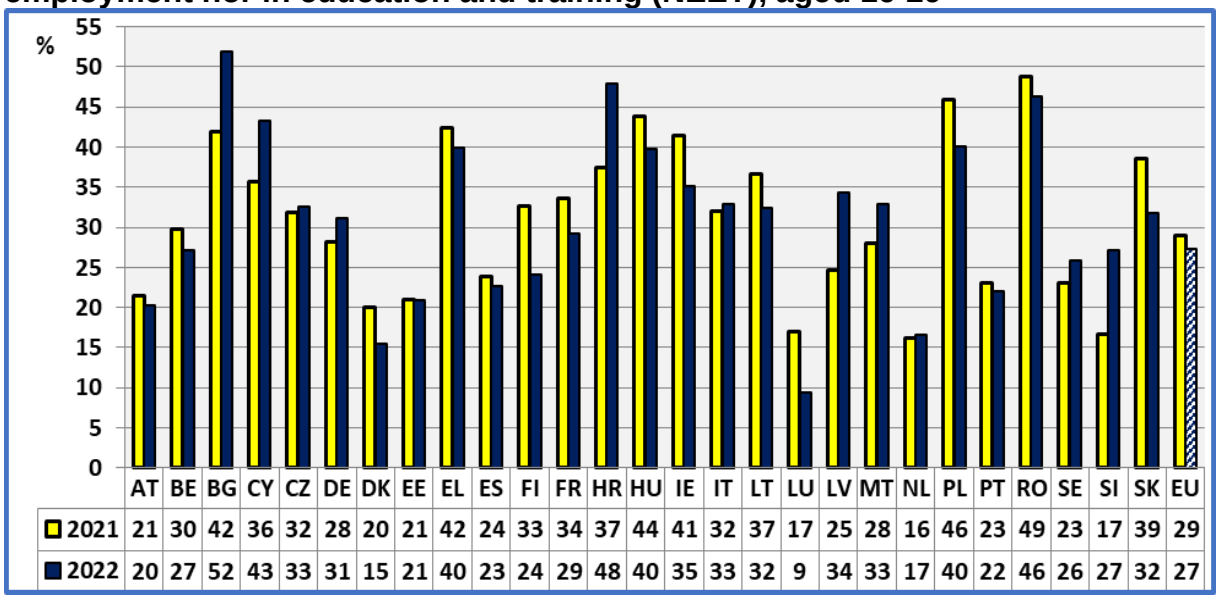
4.2.5 Evolution by Member State

In the EU 27, we observe a decline in 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 22: Evolution of the rate of persons with disabilities neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), aged 16-29



Note: The number of observations is lower than 100 in CY, EL, HU, LT, LV, MT, RO, SI.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

4.3 Statistical tables

Table 21: Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) by disability status and Member State, aged 16-29, EU, 2022

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Total	Absolute gap (pp)	Relative gap (%)
AT	20.2	7.6	9.0	12.6	166.1
BE	27.2	8.6	10.5	18.6	216.4
BG	(51.9)	22.3	22.9	29.6	133.1
CY	43.4	9.7	11.3	33.6	345.1
CZ	32.6	9.9	11.6	22.6	227.8

DE	31.2	14.0	15.7	17.2	123.5
DK	15.5	7.9	10.0	7.5	95.2
EE	20.9	8.6	9.8	12.3	143.9
EL	40.0	16.8	17.6	23.1	137.5
ES	22.7	13.5	14.6	9.2	68.2
FI	24.1	7.3	11.0	16.8	231.2
FR	29.3	11.6	13.1	17.7	152.2
HR	48.0	10.1	12.0	37.8	372.9
HU	39.7	14.1	15.2	25.7	182.7
IE	35.1	5.0	8.6	30.2	605.6
IT	33.0	16.2	17.0	16.8	103.5
LT	32.4	10.9	12.8	21.5	197.2
LU	9.4	5.7	6.2	3.7	64.2
LV	34.3	9.5	11.8	24.8	262.3
MT	(32.9)	2.8	3.9	30.1	1070.1
NL	16.5	3.4	5.5	13.2	390.5
PL	40.2	9.8	11.7	30.3	309.0
PT	22.0	8.0	9.7	13.9	173.6
RO	46.3	13.4	14.5	32.9	245.1
SE	25.8	7.3	10.7	18.5	253.4
SI	27.1	6.3	7.8	20.7	327.0
SK	31.8	13.0	14.1	18.8	144.1
EU	**27.3**	**12.0**	**13.4**	**15.3**	**127.5**

Note: The sample is smaller than 50 observations.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

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.[34] 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.[35] 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.[36]

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[37] 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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[34] See: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1743.

[35] European Commission (2021), 'Communication from the Commission – Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030', https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/692a886f-7cfc-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

[36] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5538-2021-INIT/en/pdf.

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

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 states that the share of 25 to 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 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 comprised fewer than 50 persons in 10 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.

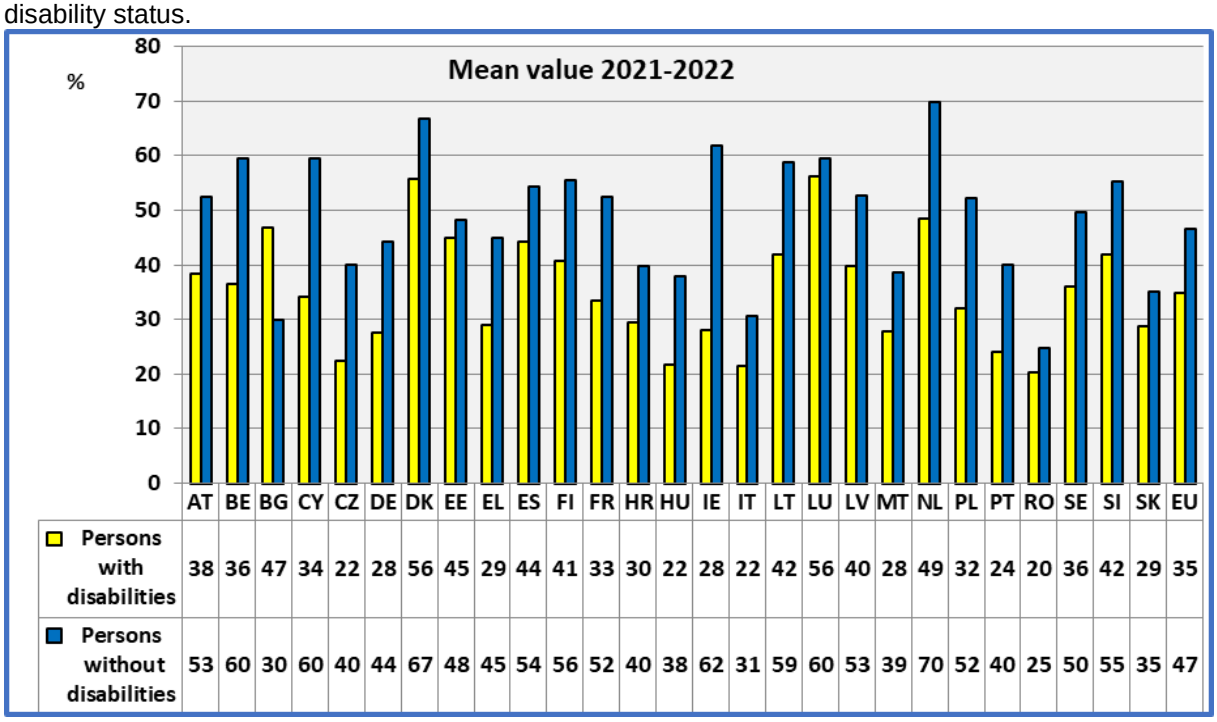
In the EU 27 in 2021-2022, the share of persons with disabilities, aged 30-34 who had completed tertiary or equivalent education was 35.0 %. The figure was 46.6 % for persons without disabilities, while the rate for all persons aged 30-34 was 45.3 %.[38]

The lowest rates for persons with disabilities can be found in Romania, Hungary, and Italy, in ascending order. The same results were found in previous years. The highest levels of achievement for persons with disabilities can be found in the Netherlands, Denmark, and Luxembourg.

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

Figure 23: 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 have completed a tertiary or equivalent education of the same age and disability status.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	38	36	47	34	22	28	56	45	29	44	41	33	30	22	28	22	42	56	40	28	49	32	24	20	36	42	29	35
Persons without disabilities	53	60	30	60	40	44	67	48	45	54	56	52	40	38	62	31	59	60	53	39	70	52	40	25	50	55	35	47

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

5.2.2 Disability gap in tertiary education

The disadvantage experienced by 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.

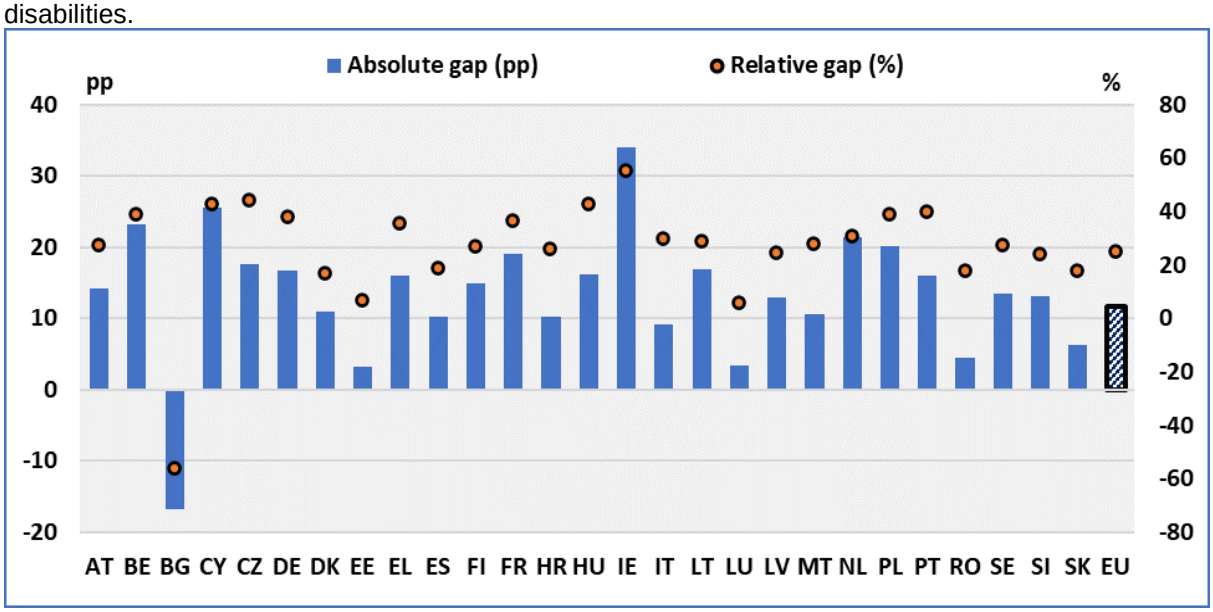
The annual estimates for the EU 27 are robust, but this is not the case regarding the annual estimates for several Member States. As noted, the sample size of persons with disabilities aged 30-34 is relatively small in 10 Member States. Consequently, for country comparisons, we prefer to use the mean of two consecutive years.

During 2021-2022, at the EU 27 level, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities, aged 30-34 was 11.6 percentage points. This represents a relative difference of 24.9 %.

The average absolute education gap is high in the majority of Member States.

Figure 24: Disability gap in tertiary education or equivalent by Member State, age 30-34, average 2021-2022

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



Average (or mean) 2021-2022 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, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2021-2022 for persons with and without disabilities, and we then estimated the difference (gap).
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

5.2.3 Tertiary education by gender

In the following, we present the annual data for 2022, since the EU aggregate is statistically robust.

Concerning gender in the EU in 2022, about 40.5 % of women with disabilities aged 30-34 had completed a tertiary or equivalent education, in comparison with 30.3 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 24: Percentage of persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education by disability status, aged 30-34, EU, 2022

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	69.7	30.3	**100**	57.6	42.4	**100**
Women	59.5	40.5	**100**	47.4	52.6	**100**
Total	**64.3**	**35.7**	**100**	**52.6**	**47.4**	**100**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

5.2.4 Evolution by Member State

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

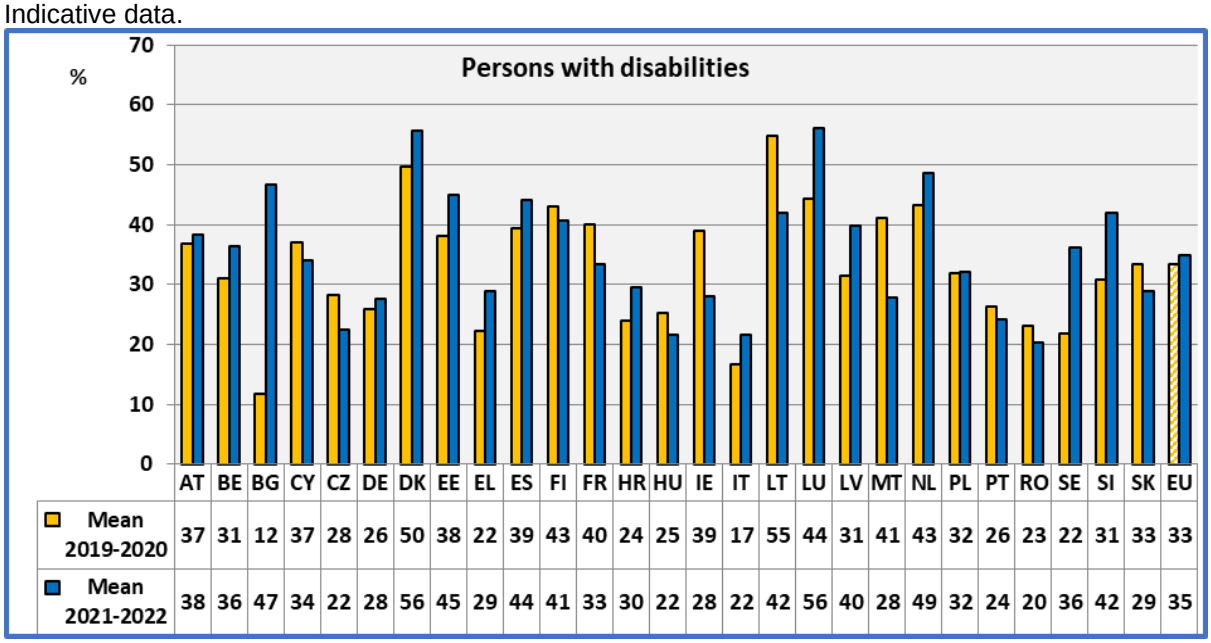
In the following figure, we compare 2019-2020 with 2021-2022. Despite the aggregation, the comparison is biased by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, 2020-2021 cover the two pandemic years and the special circumstances characterising these years.

Keeping in mind the above reservations, the following figure presents the changes 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 33.4 % (2019-2020) to 35.0 % (2021-2022). We observe an increase in 16 Member States.

Figure 25: Evolution of the share who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education among persons with disabilities, aged 30-34, EU

Indicative data.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Mean 2019-2020	37	31	12	37	28	26	50	38	22	39	43	40	24	25	39	17	55	44	31	41	43	32	26	23	22	31	33	33
Mean 2021-2022	38	36	47	34	22	28	56	45	29	44	41	33	30	22	28	22	42	56	40	28	49	32	24	20	36	42	29	35

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

5.2.5 Evolution at the EU level

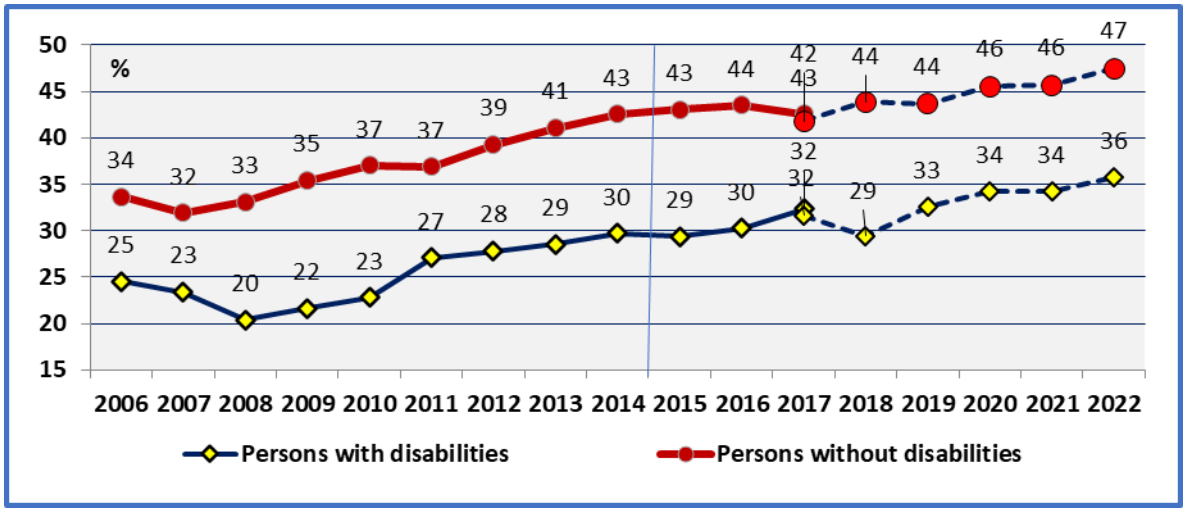
A continuous improvement may be observed in the situation of persons with disabilities. The small downward movement in 2015 was a result of the change in the definition of ‘disability’ in Germany.

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.

The gap has remained stable during the past few years. This disadvantage varies around 11.5 percentage points.

Figure 26: 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 of definitions in Germany, leading to a nominal downward movement.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

5.3 European Education Area indicator

5.3.1 General comments by Member State

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 25-64 age group increases the statistical robustness of the indicators.

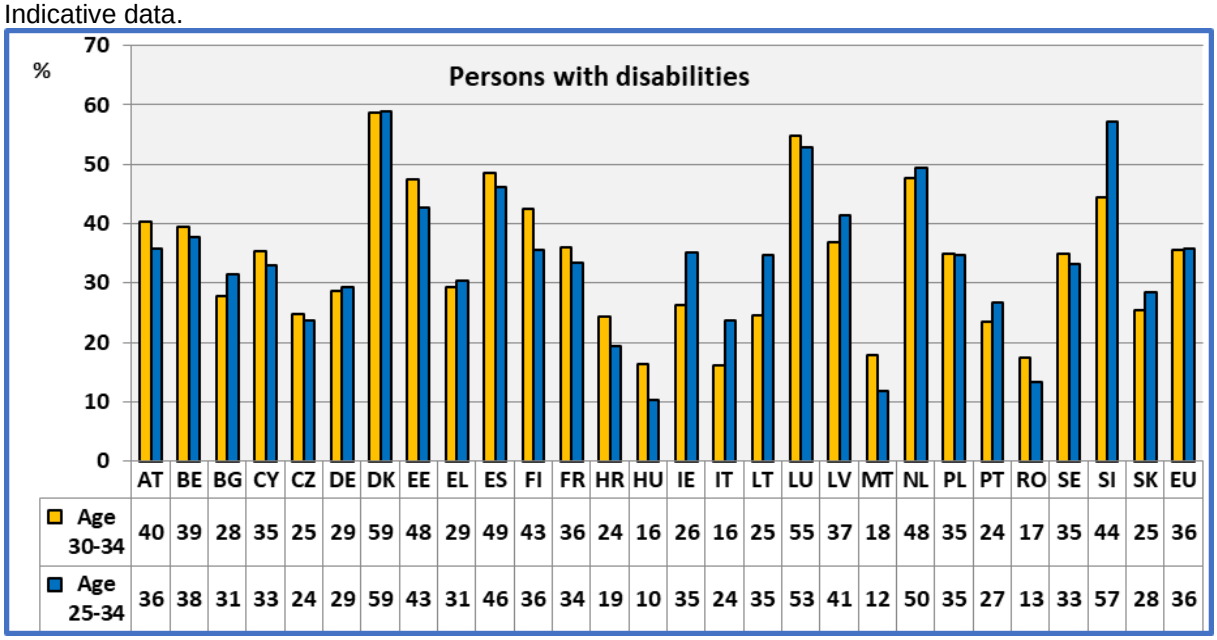
In the EU 27 in 2022, the rate of persons with disabilities aged 25-34 who had completed a tertiary or equivalent education was 35.7 % (also 35.7 % for those aged 30-34).[39] The equivalent rate for persons without disabilities was 47.4 %.

The following figure presents the rates for persons with disabilities, distinguishing persons aged 30-34 and 25-34. The national rates are strongly correlated (R^2=0.83). However, we note significant differences for several Member States. These differences may be the result of different age groups, sampling errors or different policies.

[39] The rates were 35.69 % (30-34) and 35.71 % (25-64).

Figure 27: Share who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education among persons with disabilities, aged 25-34, EU, 2022

Indicative data.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Age 30-34	40	39	28	35	25	29	59	48	29	49	43	36	24	16	26	16	25	55	37	18	48	35	24	17	35	44	25	36
Age 25-34	36	38	31	33	24	29	59	43	31	46	36	34	19	10	35	24	35	53	41	12	50	35	27	13	33	57	28	36

Note: Concerning the 25-34 age group, the sample comprises fewer than 50 observations in Bulgaria and Malta. Concerning the 30-34 age group, the sample comprised fewer than 50 observations in 10 Member States.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

5.3.2 Disability gap

In 2022, at the EU 27 level, the tertiary education gap between persons with and without disabilities aged 25-34 was 11.4 percentage points (11.7 for 30-34).

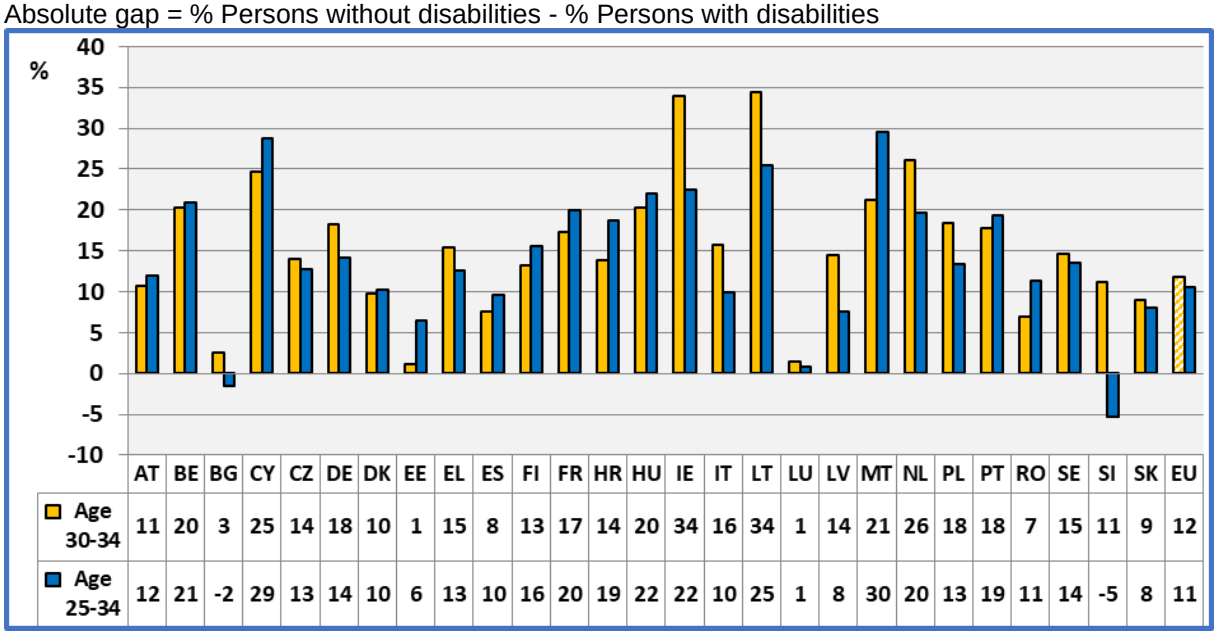
In the following figure, we may note that the gap is significant in several Member States, whatever age group we retain.

As noted, the data are indicative, notably for the 30-34 age group. Despite this reservation, the two national series (30-34 and 25-34 age groups) are strongly correlated (R^2=0.89). This can be visualised in the following figure. Large differences can be found in a limited number of Member States, keeping in mind that the age groups are different and a small difference is expected.

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

Figure 28: Disability gap in tertiary education or equivalent by Member State, 2022

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Age 30-34	11	20	3	25	14	18	10	1	15	8	13	17	14	20	34	16	34	1	14	21	26	18	18	7	15	11	9	12
Age 25-34	12	21	-2	29	13	14	10	6	13	10	16	20	19	22	22	10	25	1	8	30	20	13	19	11	14	-5	8	11

Note: Concerning the age group 25-34, the sample comprises less than 50 observations in Bulgaria and Malta. Concerning the age group 30-34, the sample comprised less than 50 observations in ten Member States.

Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

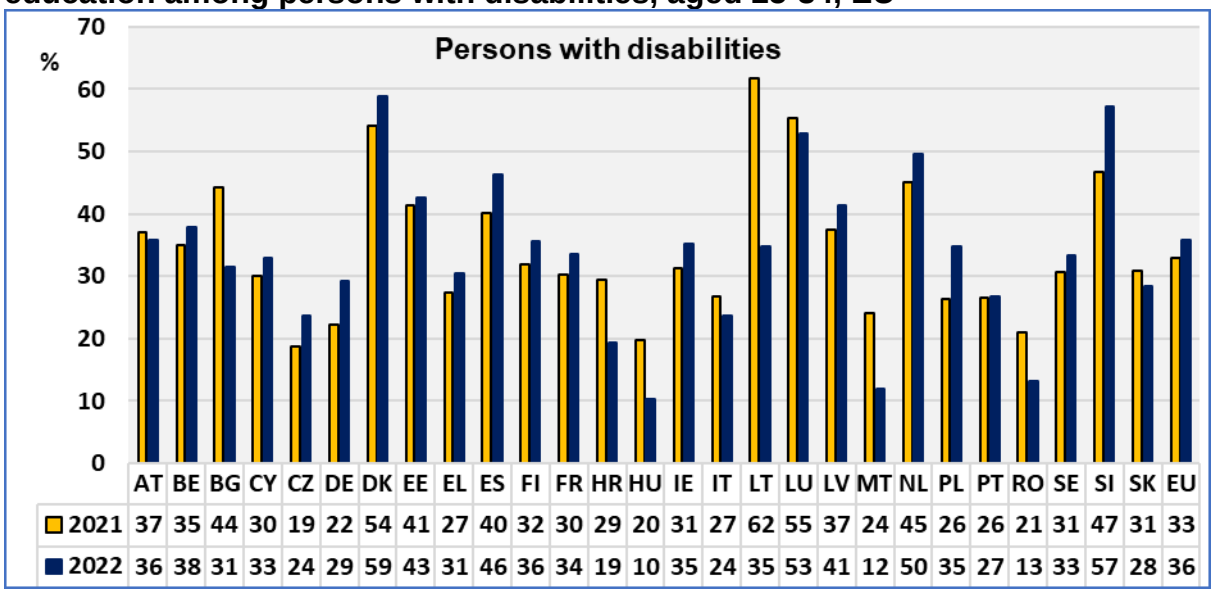
5.3.3 Evolution by Member State

In the following figure, we compare 2021 and 2022. However, the comparison might be biased by the special circumstances which prevailed during the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021.

Keeping in mind that the national samples are relatively small, 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 25-34, increased from 33.0 % to 35.7 %. We observe an increase in the majority of Member States.

Figure 29: Evolution of the share who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education among persons with disabilities, aged 25-34, EU



Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

5.4 Statistical tables

Table 25: 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).

	2021			2022			Mean disability gap 2021-2022
	Disability			Disability			Gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	36.3	54.1	51.4	40.4	51.0	49.6	10.7
BE	33.4	59.3	56.3	39.4	59.8	57.3	20.4
BG	(65.7)	29.6	31.0	(27.8)	30.3	30.2	2.5
CY	(32.8)	59.1	56.8	(35.4)	60.1	58.2	24.7
CZ	20.1	41.2	39.4	24.8	38.9	37.6	14.0
DE	26.7	41.8	40.5	28.6	46.9	44.8	18.3
DK	52.7	64.9	61.9	58.8	68.6	65.9	9.8
EE	42.4	47.8	46.8	47.6	48.8	48.6	1.2
EL	(28.7)	45.1	44.4	(29.3)	44.7	44.0	15.5
ES	39.9	52.8	50.9	48.5	56.1	54.9	7.6
FI	38.8	55.3	52.4	42.6	55.8	53.0	13.2
FR	30.9	51.5	49.5	36.0	53.3	51.3	17.4
HR	34.6	41.3	40.8	(24.4)	38.2	37.1	13.8
HU	(27.1)	39.1	38.6	(16.3)	36.6	35.6	20.3
IE	(29.6)	63.6	59.4	(26.3)	60.3	57.1	34.0
IT	26.9	29.3	29.1	16.2	31.9	30.7	15.7
LT	59.2	58.7	58.7	(24.6)	59.0	55.3	34.4
LU	57.4	62.7	61.6	54.9	56.4	56.1	1.5
LV	43.0	54.4	52.7	36.9	51.3	49.5	14.4
MT	(37.9)	37.9	37.9	(17.9)	39.1	38.2	21.3
NL	49.4	66.1	63.6	47.7	73.8	69.4	26.0
PL	29.1	51.0	49.4	35.0	53.4	51.9	18.4
PT	24.7	38.8	36.4	23.6	41.3	38.4	17.8

RO	23.3	25.2	25.0	(17.4)	24.3	23.9	6.9
SE	37.3	49.6	47.8	34.9	49.6	47.1	14.7
SI	(39.5)	54.7	53.1	(44.5)	55.6	54.6	11.1
SK	32.2	35.7	35.2	25.4	34.4	33.4	8.9
EU	**34.3**	**45.7**	**44.5**	**35.7**	**47.4**	**46.1**	**11.7**

Note: Data in '()': between 20 and 49 observations; 'a': fewer than 20 observations.
Mean disability gap 2020-2021: as indicated above, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2020-2021 for persons with and without disabilities, and we then estimated the gap. Data for Slovakia for 2021 refer to 2020.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB, different years.

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 levels 5-8 (data from 2014 onwards).

	2020			**2021**			**Mean disability gap 2020-2021**
	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 '()': between 20 and 49 observations; 'a': fewer than 20 observations.
Mean disability gap 2020-2021: as indicated above, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2020-2021 for persons with and without disabilities, and we then 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 levels 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 '()': between 20 and 49 observations; 'a': fewer than 20 observations.
Mean disability gap 2018-2019: as indicated above, we first took the arithmetic mean of 2018-2019 for persons with and without disabilities, and we then 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 levels 5-8 (data from 2014 onwards).

	2022			Disability gap 2022
	Disability			Gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	
AT	35.8	47.7	46.2	12.0
BE	37.9	58.8	56.4	21.0
BG	(31.5)	29.9	30.0	-1.5
CY	32.9	61.7	59.9	28.8
CZ	23.7	36.4	35.4	12.7
DE	29.3	43.5	41.9	14.2
DK	58.9	69.1	66.1	10.2
EE	42.6	49.1	48.3	6.4
EL	30.5	43.1	42.5	12.6
ES	46.3	55.9	54.4	9.6
FI	35.6	51.2	47.7	15.6
FR	33.5	53.6	51.3	20.0
HR	19.4	38.1	36.8	18.7
HU	10.4	32.3	31.2	22.0
IE	35.1	57.5	54.9	22.4
IT	23.7	33.5	32.9	9.9
LT	34.8	60.3	57.7	25.5
LU	52.9	53.8	53.7	0.9
LV	41.4	48.9	48.0	7.5
MT	(11.9)	41.5	40.3	29.6
NL	49.5	69.2	66.0	19.7
PL	34.7	48.1	47.0	13.4
PT	26.7	46.1	43.1	19.4
RO	13.3	24.7	24.1	11.4
SE	33.3	46.8	44.4	13.6
SI	57.2	52.0	52.4	-5.3
SK	28.4	36.5	35.8	8.1
EU	**35.7**	**46.3**	**45.1**	**10.6**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 29: 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 levels 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 release 2023, version 1 (spring release).

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

	EU 28		**EU Target**	**EU 27**	
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**2020: 40 % 2030: 45 %**	**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			45	34.3	45.7
2022			45	35.7	47.4

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.[40] 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[41] 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. The aim is to estimate the pay gap between persons with and without disabilities and the base for comparison are persons without disabilities (men and women).

The methodology applied to the gender statistical indicator may be used as a basis for the proposed indicator. The gender pay gap, which is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator set, is used to monitor progress towards gender equality. This indicator 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 here 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.

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

[41] 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).

The SES refers to enterprises with at least ten employees operating in all areas of the economy except public administration, as defined in the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE). The latest available data concern 2018.[42] The data of the 2022 round are expected to be available in December 2024. At the time of drafting this report, the LFS microdata that are available for research purposes do not include information on employees' income.

The following analysis draws on information collected by the EU-SILC survey in order to estimate the disability pay gap (see methodology in the Annex). The EU-SILC data provides information on gross employee income during the past 12 months, the number of months that people have 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 ten 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.

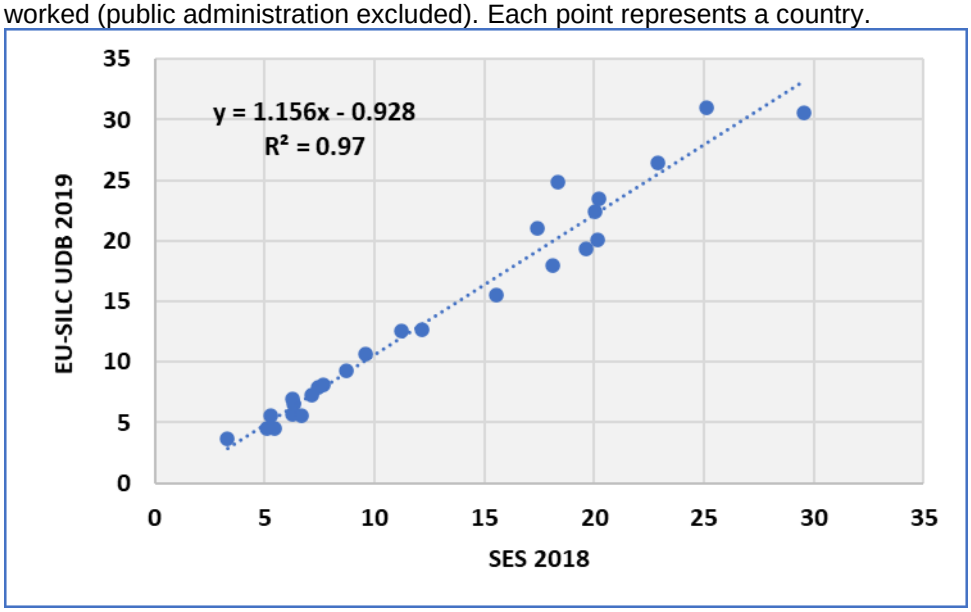
The indicator measures the difference between average gross earnings of paid employees with disabilities and those of paid employees without disabilities, as a percentage of the latter (representing the relative earnings advantage of that group).

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 a mean gross hourly employee income of EUR 15.4. The EU-SILC data refer to 2019 and the SES to 2018.

[42] Eurostat, Structure of earnings survey, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/structure-of-earnings-survey.

Figure 30: Mean gross hourly employee income, 26 Member States
All employees, aged 15-74, working in firms with ten 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), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/earn_ses2018_esms.htm. Data extracted on 26 May 2022 from [ESTAT].

Furthermore, Eurostat presents a gender pay gap in unadjusted form of 13.7 % in the EU 27 in 2019. This includes all employees working in firms with ten 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 2022 data, but these cannot be compared to SES 2018 data, the last available year from this survey, at the time of drafting this report.

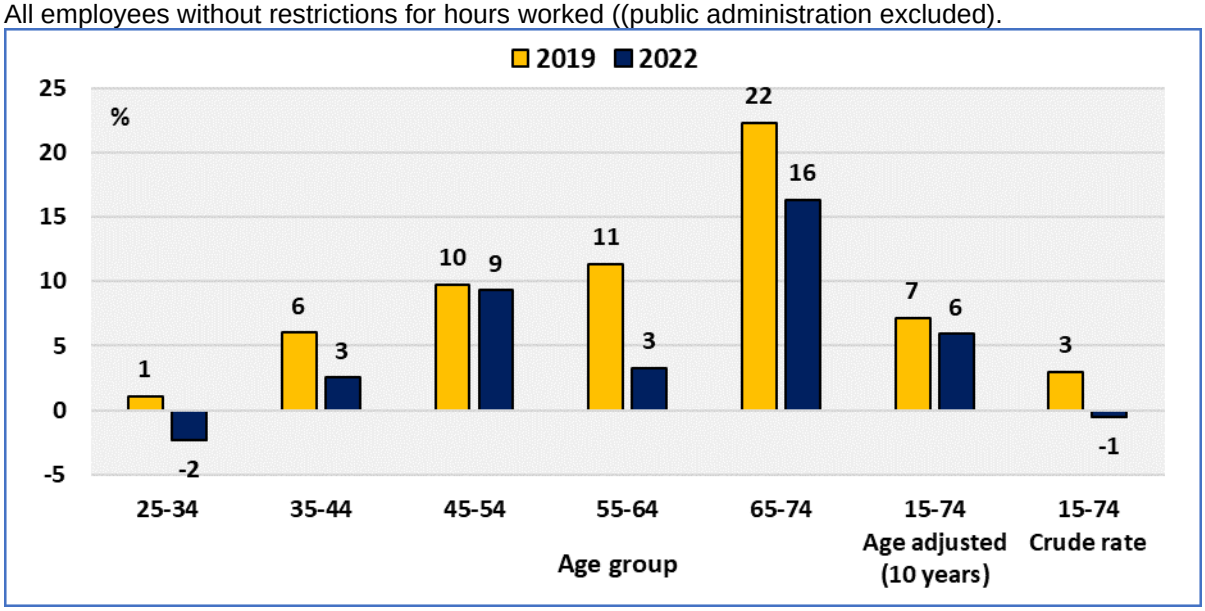
It should be noted that EU-SILC microdata covering 2022 refer to the last 12 months preceding the interview and consequently go into 2021. Hence, the data might have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and by significant national measures to retain employment and the standard of living during lockdown periods. This included notably large subsidy programmes. For the above reasons, 2021 data on wages are not representative of an ordinary labour market process.

Concerning the disability pay gap in the EU 27, for comparability reasons with the SES survey, we focus on employed persons aged 16-75, excluding those in public administration. However, the available EU-SILC UDB 2022 microdata do not provide information on the size of compagnies. Consequently, we include all companies and not just companies employing ten or more employees.

As noted in previous EDE reports, the disability pay gap is strongly affected by 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 the 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 that of persons without disabilities. Consequently, the crude rate might be misleading, since it compares two populations with very different age structure.

In order to avoid the above caveat, we present below the disability pay gap by age group, for 2019 and 2022 and the age adjusted rate. Using the age adjusted rates is equivalent to comparing two groups of persons with similar age structures. We may note that the wage gap decreased between 2019 and 2022.

Figure 31: Disability pay gap as a percentage, aged 15-74, EU, 2019 and 2022
All employees without restrictions for hours worked ((public administration excluded).



Note: The data cover all companies. The confidence intervals at 95 %, for the age group 25-34, are overlapping. The indicator for the age group 15-74 is an age standardised indicator. The age group for the standardisation is a 10-year age group. If we use a 5-year age group, we obtain a higher gap.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019 release 1 2021 (spring release) and EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

However, we have to note that the results are very sensitive to the length of the age group used for the age standardisation. We consider that the five-years age group standardisation is better for our comparison. In this case, the age adjusted wage gap is estimated at 8.8 %. In any case, whatever the method used, both indicate a statistically significant wage gap.

6.2.3 Disability pay gap by economic sector

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

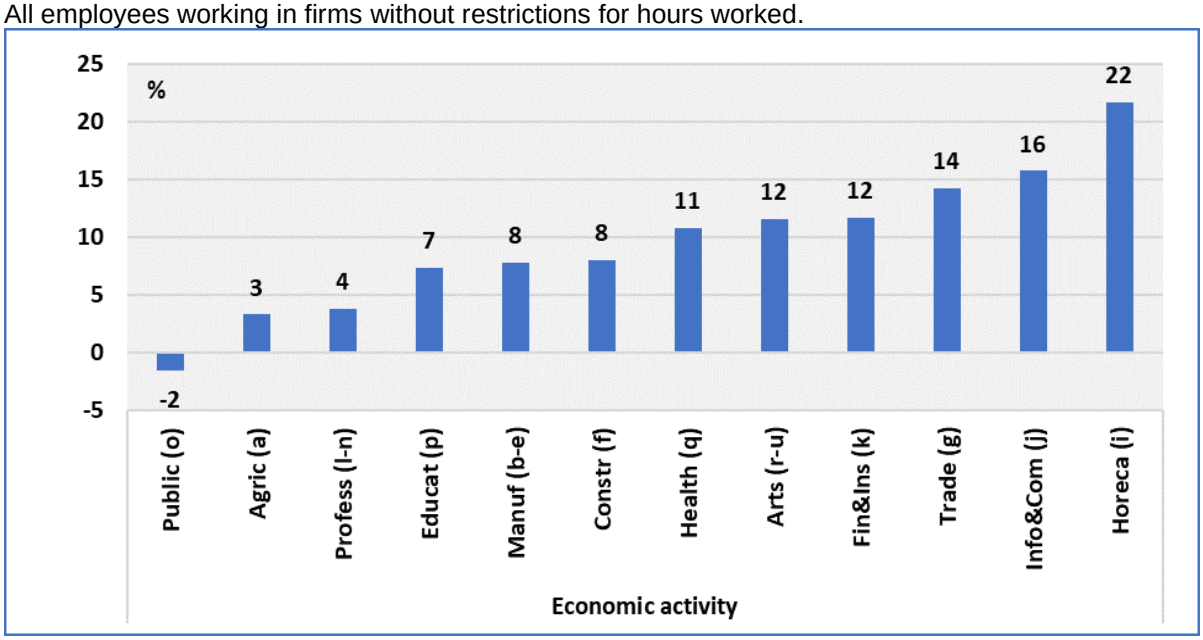
The EU-SILC UDB 2022 microdata that were available at the time of drafting this report do not provide information on the size of companies. However, the 2019 microdata indicated that small firms present a significantly lower disability pay gap in comparison with bigger companies (employing ten or more persons).[43] 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 economic activity (NACE rev. 2).[44] In the following figure, one can see that the disability gap is statistically not significant in public administration. We find the highest gap in accommodation and food activities (HORECA). The data were age-adjusted.

However, the data are indicative and require further analysis.

Figure 32: Disability pay gap, age adjusted, by economic activity, aged 16-74, EU, 2022

All employees working in firms without restrictions for hours worked.



Note: See statistical annex for the NACE rev. 2.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

6.2.4 Disability pay gap by gender

As before, our analysis includes employees, aged 15-75, not working in public administration and without restriction concerning hours worked. We use age adjusted rates.

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

[44] Eurostat, Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne, NACE) Rev. 2, see: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037342/Nace-Rev-2-3-digits-from-2008-onwards.pdf.

In the EU 27 in 2022, the gender pay gap among persons with disabilities was 8.5 %. This is the difference between the pay of women with disabilities and men with disabilities as a percentage of the latter. The equivalent gender pay gap among persons without disabilities was 17.0 %.

For comparison, the SES provided a crude gender wage gap of 15.2 % for 2018. Our indicator provides an equivalent rate of 14.4 % for 2019 and 16.1 % for 2022. These are crude rates.

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 2022, the disability pay gap for persons with moderate disabilities was 7.1 % (8.1 % in 2019), and for persons with severe disabilities it was 21.5 % (20.2 % in 2019).

6.3 Statistical tables

Table 31: Total gross employee income standardised by months employed and hours worked, not age adjusted, in EUR, 2022

Employees aged 15-74 (public administration excluded). Not age adjusted. All companies.

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	All	All/4.3 (Hourly earnings)	Mean hourly earnings
	EU-SILC 2022			SES 2018	
AT	95.2	85.1	93.4	21.7	17.4
BE	108.4	105.7	108.0	25.1	20.2
BG	19.7	17.6	19.6	4.5	3.3
CY	54.8	48.2	54.3	12.6	11.3
CZ	37.4	30.2	36.4	8.5	7.1
DE	110.5	104.7	109.5	25.5	19.7
DK	160.7	150.4	157.9	36.7	29.5
EE	42.7	37.6	41.9	9.7	7.5
EL	36.8	37.4	36.8	8.6	8.7
ES	56.0	52.3	55.2	12.8	12.2
FI	124.8	113.5	122.2	28.4	20.1
FR	87.3	81.0	86.4	20.1	18.1
HR	30.8	27.6	30.5	7.1	6.4
HU	28.8	22.4	28.2	6.6	5.5
IE	103.7	96.4	103.0	23.9	22.9
IT	66.1	60.5	65.5	15.2	15.6
LT	39.5	32.5	38.7	9.0	5.3
LU	156.3	151.7	155.2	36.1	25.1
LV	35.2	28.4	33.6	7.8	6.3
MT	57.6	54.5	57.4	13.3	11.9
NL	118.1	108.2	116.1	27.0	18.3
PL	28.7	28.3	28.6	6.7	6.3
PT	38.6	35.2	37.8	8.8	7.7
RO	25.2	21.6	24.9	5.8	5.1
SE	97.9	81.3	95.8	22.3	20.2
SI	57.4	44.5	55.8	13.0	9.6
SK	24.9	23.9	24.8	5.8	6.7
EU 27	**70.7**	**71.1**	**70.8**	**16.5**	**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, public administration excluded. The SES indicator focusses on companies employing 10+.

Mean hourly earnings: total, gross earnings in industry, construction and services (except public administration, defence, compulsory social security), in firms employing ten employees or more, EUR, 2018. Source: Structure of earnings survey 2018 (earn_ses2018), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/earn_ses2018_esms.htm.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release). Data extracted on 26 May 2022 from [ESTAT].

Table 32: Total gross employee income standardised by months employed and hours worked, age adjusted (5 years age group), in EUR, 2022

Employees aged 15-74 (public administration excluded). Age adjusted. All companies.

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	All	Relative gap in %
AT	82.6	113.2	109.9	27.0
BE	105.2	115.3	114.5	8.7
BG	17.0	19.2	19.1	11.5
CY	43.6	65.2	61.7	33.1
CZ	30.0	37.9	35.9	21.0
DE	102.1	108.6	107.8	6.0
DK	147.2	171.3	168.7	14.1
EE	35.8	41.1	40.0	13.0
EL	33.7	42.4	40.4	20.3
ES	62.3	75.4	71.5	17.4
FI	107.8	124.7	121.0	13.5
FR	78.6	86.6	85.3	9.2
HR	29.1	31.3	31.3	7.0
HU	23.2	30.4	28.9	23.7
IE	90.8	99.2	98.3	8.5
IT	54.1	68.0	64.6	20.4
LT	32.1	36.8	36.0	12.8
LU	174.8	170.0	171.5	-2.8
LV	27.2	31.8	31.0	14.3
MT	69.9	57.0	57.5	-22.7
NL	113.6	124.5	121.4	8.8
PL	28.8	28.5	28.5	-1.2
PT	35.4	43.1	40.1	17.9
RO	21.6	25.6	24.7	15.8
SE	80.9	97.0	94.8	16.6
SI	41.8	61.4	59.5	32.0
SK	27.0	23.6	25.8	-14.4
EU (26)	**65.6**	**71.9**	**70.3**	**8.8**

Relative gap: 100*(Persons without disabilities-Persons with disabilities) / (Persons without disabilities)
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 33: Total gross employee income standardised by months employed and hours worked, not age adjusted, EUR, 2019

Employees aged 15-74 working in firms employing ten 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 ten employees or more, EUR, 2018. Source: Structure of earnings survey 2018 (earn_ses2018), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/earn_ses2018_esms.htm.

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

Data extracted on 26 May 2022 from [ESTAT].

Table 34: Total gross employee income standardised by months employed and hours worked, age adjusted (5 years age group), in EUR, 2019

Employees aged 15-74 (public administration excluded). Age adjusted. All companies.

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	All	Relative gap in %
AT	76.5	97.4	90.6	21.4
BE	91.3	113.1	108.2	19.3
BG	12.0	15.0	14.7	19.6
CY	40.9	51.9	49.8	21.1
CZ	24.7	30.6	29.8	19.3
DE	77.7	77.8	76.6	0.1
DK	149.8	126.9	130.2	-18.1
EE	31.6	31.0	31.1	-2.0
EL	38.0	36.5	36.4	-4.1
ES	44.6	49.0	48.3	8.9
FI	95.6	97.9	96.3	2.3
FR	70.0	85.9	82.7	18.5
HR	25.1	28.4	27.3	11.7
HU	16.9	18.2	18.0	7.4
IE	94.3	109.6	108.8	14.0
IT	56.0	59.6	59.2	6.1
LT	21.3	25.0	24.6	14.8
LU	106.7	128.5	125.3	17.0
LV	25.9	29.2	27.9	11.2
MT	51.9	49.8	49.8	-4.1
NL	107.7	108.1	107.8	0.4
PL	19.6	25.2	24.0	22.3
PT	32.2	35.3	34.9	8.7
RO	19.2	19.4	19.4	1.0

SE	67.1	86.1	84.5	22.0
SI	51.0	46.6	57.2	-9.4
SK	24.6	22.6	23.2	-8.5
EU 27	**59.8**	**64.5**	**63.5**	**7.4**

Relative gap: 100*(Persons without disabilities-Persons with disabilities) / (Persons without disabilities)
Data source: EU-SILC UDB 2019, release 1 2021.

Table 35: Annual total gross employee income in EUR, 2022

Employees aged 15-74 (public administration excluded). Not age adjusted. All companies.

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Relative gap in %
AT	41 894	35 017	16.4
BE	47 221	38 555	18.4
BG	8 561	7 168	16.3
CY	24 736	20 154	18.5
CZ	17 757	13 626	23.3
DE	49 115	39 325	19.9
DK	71 617	58 478	18.3
EE	19 536	15 809	19.1
EL	16 315	16 644	-2.0
ES	24 544	22 519	8.2
FI	45 027	37 864	15.9
FR	37 716	30 747	18.5
HR	14 498	13 036	10.1
HU	11 827	9 700	18.0
IE	45 823	40 168	12.3
IT	27 553	25 370	7.9
LT	18 602	13 677	26.5
LU	72 162	63 369	12.2
LV	16 081	12 154	24.4
MT	26 512	24 446	7.8
NL	49 856	41 806	16.1
PL	13 243	12 042	9.1
PT	17 894	16 837	5.9
RO	12 009	10 459	12.9
SE	44 386	34 215	22.9
SI	25 954	19 794	23.7
SK	11 675	10 984	5.9
EU 27	**30 871**	**28 239**	**8.5**

Note: These data do not take into account months and hours worked.
Relative gap: 100*(Persons without disabilities-Persons with disabilities) / (Persons without disabilities)
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 36: Annual total gross employee income in EUR, 2019

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

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Relative gap in %
AT	41 952	37 758	10.0
BE	44 311	36 078	18.6
BG	7 144	5 368	24.9
CY	24 757	21 088	14.8
CZ	15 356	11 762	23.4
DE	38 776	32 870	15.2
DK	59 949	48 610	18.9
EE	15 948	13 435	15.8
EL	17 623	18 054	-2.4
ES	24 820	22 930	7.6

FI	43 439	37 905	12.7
FR	34 946	29 330	16.1
HR	13 402	11 587	13.5
HU	9 239	7 142	22.7
IE	44 543	36 828	17.3
IT	29 003	29 113	-0.4
LT	11 158	9 564	14.3
LU	65 849	54 325	17.5
LV	14 863	11 937	19.7
NL	44 120	37 304	15.4
PL	11 638	9 999	14.1
PT	17 243	15 032	12.8
RO	9 477	8 877	6.3
SE	41 057	27 275	33.6
SI	23 116	17 942	22.4
SK	11 400	10 338	9.3
EU (26)	**29 901**	**27 162**	**9.2**

Note: These data do not take into account months and hours worked.
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.

Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2)

A Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
B Mining and Quarrying
C Manufacturing
D Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply
E Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
F Construction
G Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
H Transportation and Storage
I Accommodation and Food Service Activities
J Information and Communication
K Financial and Insurance Activities
L Real Estate Activities
M Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
N Administrative and Support Service Activities
O Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security
P Education
Q Human Health and Social Work Activities
R Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
S Other Service Activities
T Activities of Households as Employers;
U Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies

Source: Eurostat, Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne, NACE) Rev. 2. See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037342/Nace-Rev-2-3-digits-from-2008-onwards.pdf*.*

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, persons 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 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[45] 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).

[45] European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part 1/2, https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5538-2021-INIT/en/pdf.

7.2 Assessment and analysis of main results and their evolution

7.2.1 Methodological issues

The GALI indicator is included in the LFS survey every two years, in even years (2022, 2024, etc.) whereas the EU-SILC survey includes GALI every year. Consequently, in the following, we use the EU-SILC survey. However, we present some elements for comparison between the EU-SILC and the LFS survey in the annexed metadata.

Eurostat uses the ILO definition of employment and the LFS survey in order to monitor the EU 2030 employment target. 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. The EU-SILC UDB microdata do not enable us to elaborate this indicator.

Both the EU-SILC and the LFS survey include the same question on self-declared current main activity status (from 2021 operation onwards (PL032)). It distinguishes:

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.

It is important to note that persons who worked for just one hour in the reference week would probably declare themselves to be unemployed but would be considered as employed according to the ILO definition. This means that the ILO employment rate will tend to be higher compared to the self-declared status. In the following, we use the self-declared status.

7.2.2 General comments

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

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 54.3 % of persons with disabilities aged 20-64 were employed, in comparison with 76.3 % of persons without disabilities. The employment rate for all persons aged 20-64 was 72.1 %. The EU 2030 employment target is 78.0 %.

At the EU 27 level, about 26.3 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64 living in private households) were employed, out of 48.4 million persons with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 37: Employment by disability status, aged 20-64, EU, 2022

	Not employed	Employed	Total
In millions (1 000 000)			
Persons without disabilities	48.9	157.1	206.1
Persons with disabilities	22.1	26.3	48.4
Total	70.9	183.0	254.0
In percentage (%)			
Persons without disabilities	23.8	76.2	100.0
Persons with disabilities	45.7	54.3	100.0
Total	27.9	72.1	100.0

Note: The data might present marginal differences from other tables due to rounding errors.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

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

On the contrary, the rate was relatively high in the Netherlands, Portugal and Luxembourg.

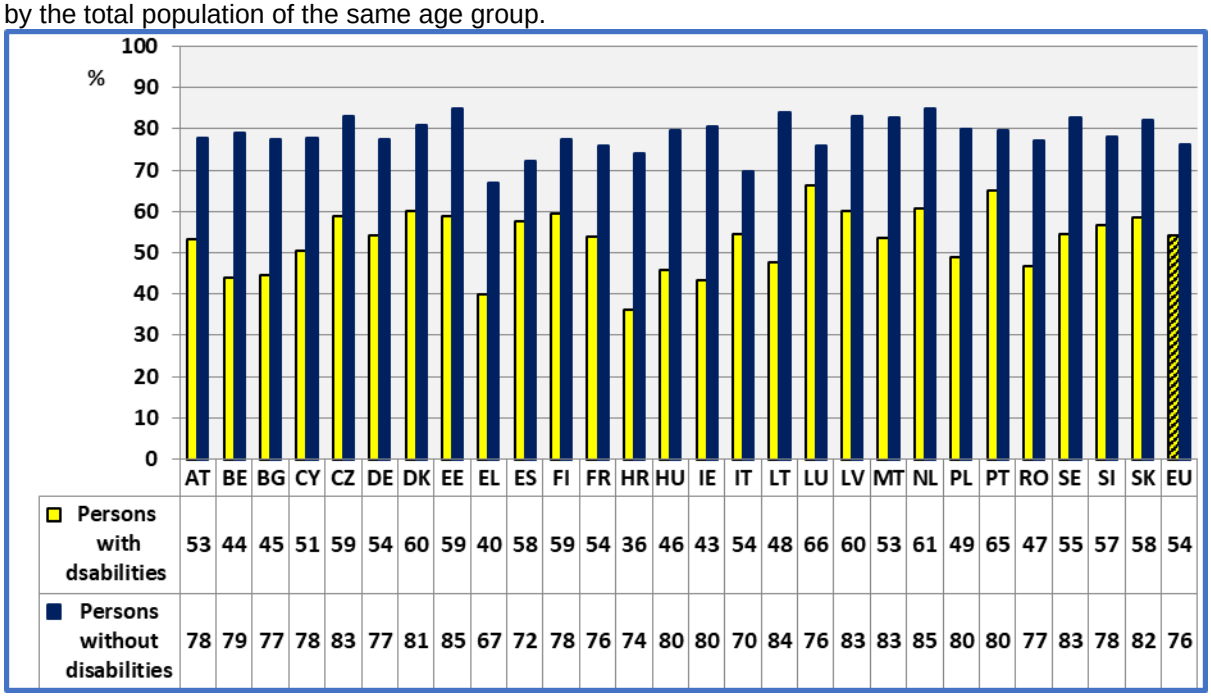
It may be noted that countries with similar employment rates for persons without disabilities displayed large and persistent differences for persons with disabilities. This means that there is potential for increasing the employment rate of people with disabilities in countries with lower employment rates for persons with disabilities.

In the EU 27 in 2022, the employment rate of people with disabilities was about 21.9 percentage points lower in comparison with the rate for people without disabilities. The relative difference was 28.8 %.[46] The disability employment gap will be studied further below. The above gap relies on self-assessed economic status. The employment gap below relies on a different definition.

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

Figure 33: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with dsabilities	53	44	45	51	59	54	60	59	40	58	59	54	36	46	43	54	48	66	60	53	61	49	65	47	55	57	58	54
Persons without disabilities	78	79	77	78	83	77	81	85	67	72	78	76	74	80	80	70	84	76	83	83	85	80	80	77	83	78	82	76

Note: Data for Germany are provisional. Given the important weight of Germany, this has an impact on the EU aggregate.

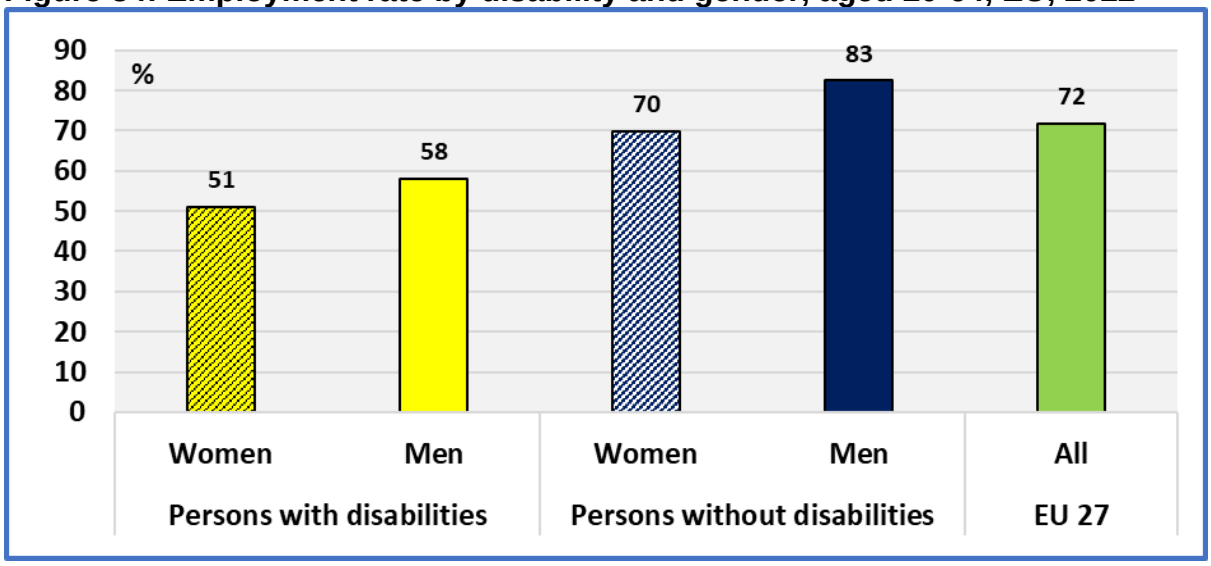
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

7.2.3 Employment by gender

In the EU 27, about 51.03 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were employed, in comparison with 58.1 % 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 7.1 percentage points.

Figure 34: Employment rate by disability and gender, aged 20-64, EU, 2022

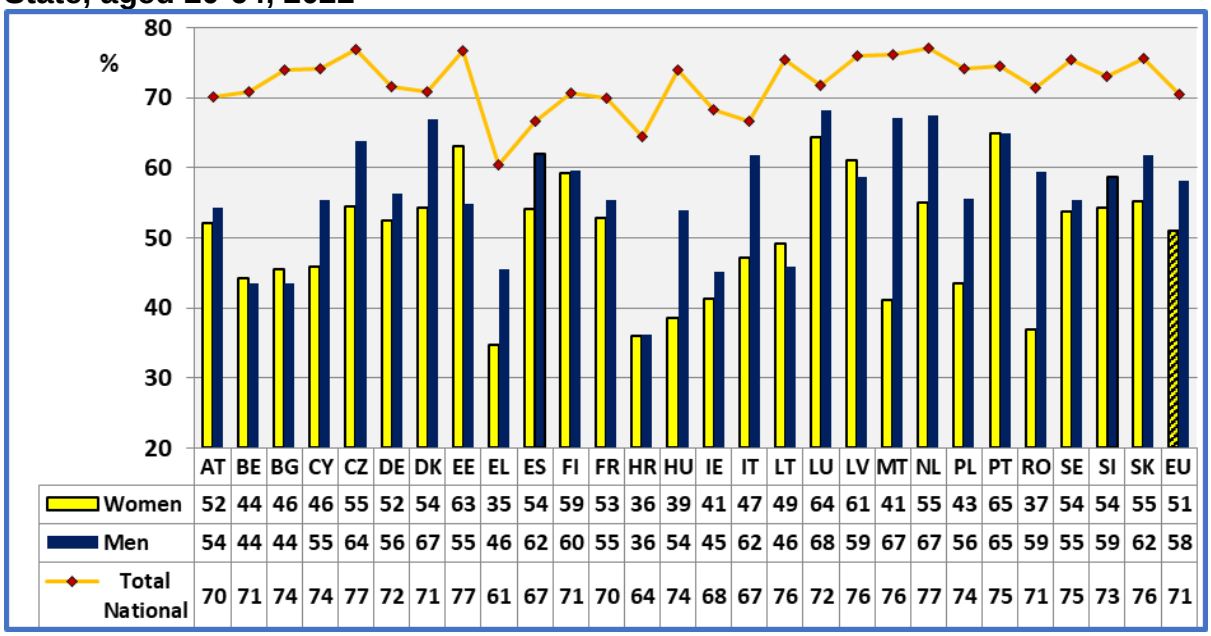


Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

In the following figure, it may be observed that the highest gender gaps, among persons with disabilities, can be found in Hungary (38.6 percentage points), Romania (36.9 percentage points), and Malta (41.1 percentage points). Data for Malta ought to be treated with caution due to the relatively small national sample size.

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

Figure 35: Employment rate for persons with disabilities by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Women	52	44	46	46	55	52	54	63	35	54	59	53	36	39	41	47	49	64	61	41	55	43	65	37	54	54	55	51
Men	54	44	44	55	64	56	67	55	46	62	60	55	36	54	45	62	46	68	59	67	67	56	65	59	55	59	62	58
Total National	70	71	74	74	77	72	71	77	61	67	71	70	64	74	68	67	76	72	76	76	77	74	75	71	75	73	76	71

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

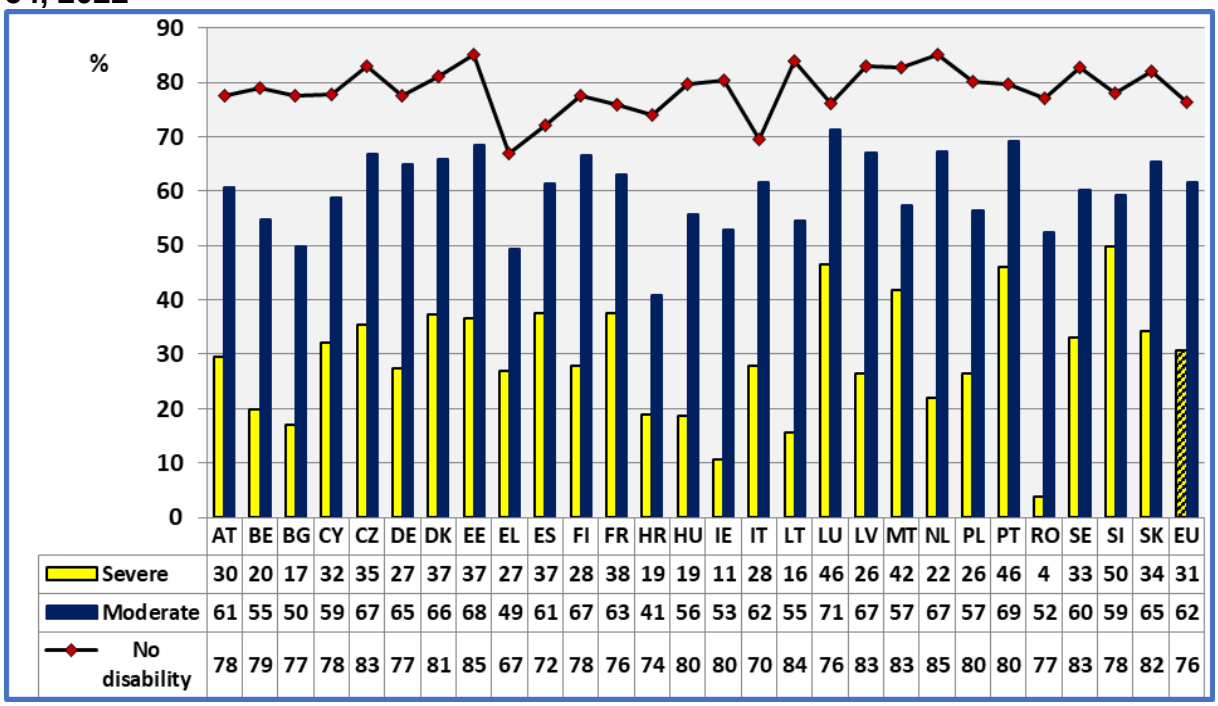
7.2.4 Employment by degree

Concerning the degree of disability, the employment rates for persons aged 20-64 in the EU were 30.7 % for persons with severe disabilities, 61.7 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 76.3 % for persons without disabilities.[47]

The countries with the highest employment rates for persons with severe disabilities were Portugal (46.1 %), Luxembourg (46.4 %) and Slovenia (49. %).

[47] In 2021, data for Germany did not distinguish between moderate and severe degree of disability. Consequently, comparisons with 2021 are not desirable.

Figure 36: Employment rate by degree of disability and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Severe	30	20	17	32	35	27	37	37	27	37	28	38	19	19	11	28	16	46	26	42	22	26	46	4	33	50	34	31
Moderate	61	55	50	59	67	65	66	68	49	61	67	63	41	56	53	62	55	71	67	57	67	57	69	52	60	59	65	62
No disability	78	79	77	78	83	77	81	85	67	72	78	76	74	80	80	70	84	76	83	83	85	80	80	77	83	78	82	76

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Persons with disabilities are overrepresented in elementary occupations, notably persons with severe disabilities, and this partly explains their low employment rate. In fact, among the nine occupational categories (ISCO-08),[48] persons with elementary occupations experience the lowest employment rate (see statistical annex). Of course other factors such as barriers might play also an important role.

7.2.5 Evolution of employment in the Member States

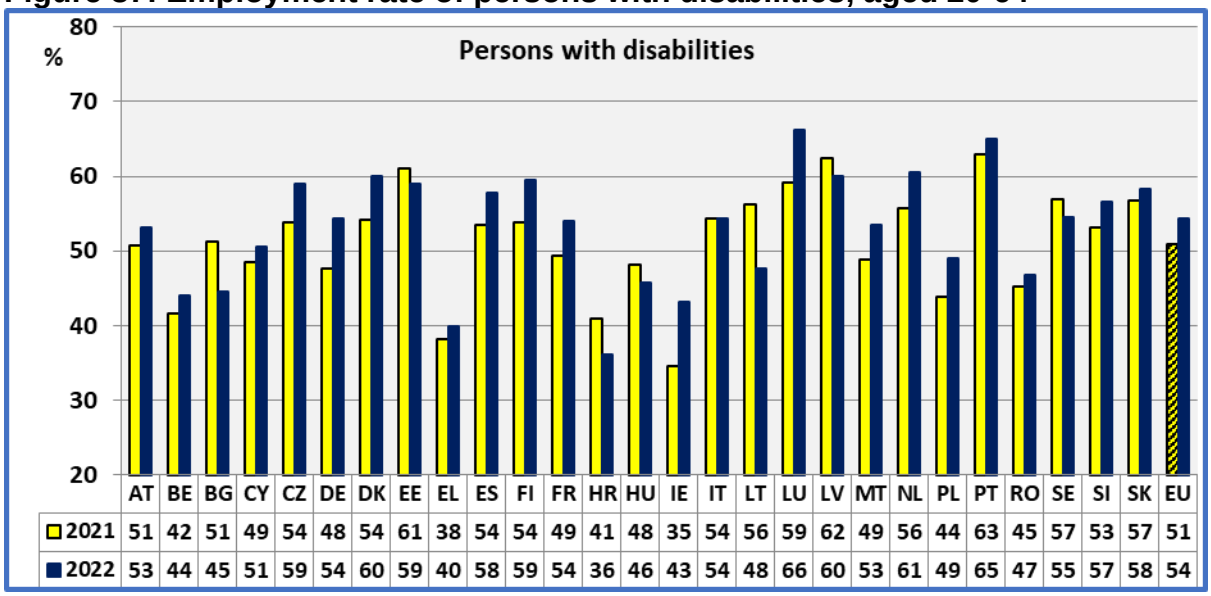
Comparisons between 2021 and 2022 ought to be treated with caution due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related restrictions affecting the organisation of the survey in 2021.

Both persons with and without disabilities experienced an increase in their employment rates. In the EU 27, the employment rate of persons with disabilities aged 20-64 increased between 2021 and 2022 by 3.4 percentage points. The respective employment rate increase for persons without disabilities was 0.4 percentage points.

Concerning Germany, there is a discontinuity of statistical series, over recent years and the change might be magnified by sample selection and methodology.

[48] ISCO-08 (International Standard Classification of Occupations), see: https://www.ilo.org/publications/international-standard-classification-occupations-2008-isco-08-structure.

Figure 37: Employment rate of persons with disabilities, aged 20-64



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
2021	51	42	51	49	54	48	54	61	38	54	54	49	41	48	35	54	56	59	62	49	56	44	63	45	57	53	57	51
2022	53	44	45	51	59	54	60	59	40	58	59	54	36	46	43	54	48	66	60	53	61	49	65	47	55	57	58	54

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn 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 from 2014 to 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 and 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 in 2020. However, the reduction in hours worked and active policies to preserve jobs mitigated this decrease.[49] Also, the SURE loan scheme[50] helped to dampen the slowdown.

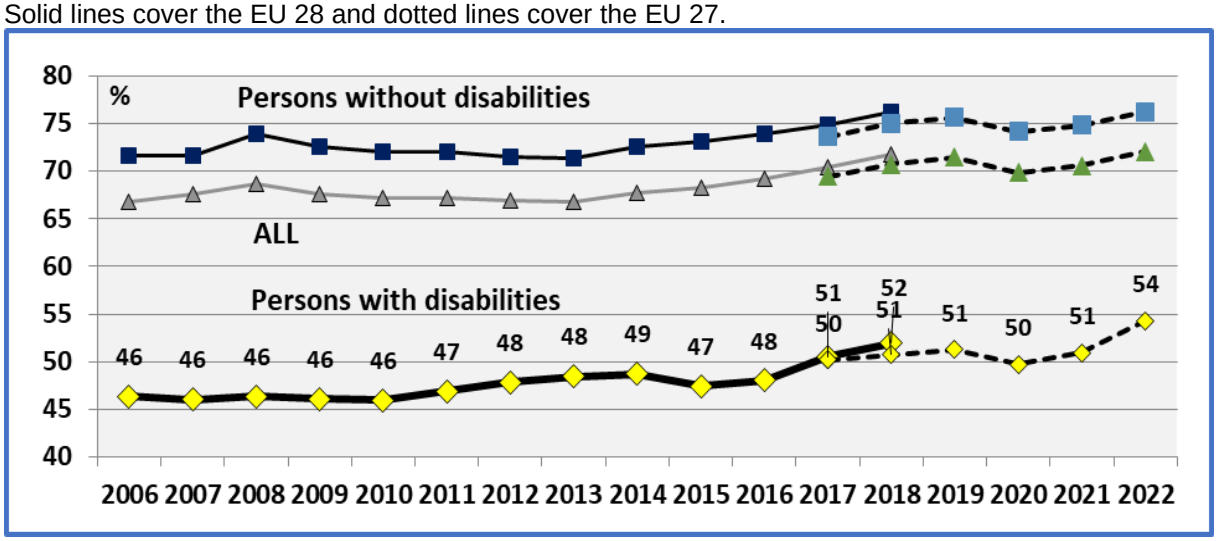
In 2021, the question on self-assessed economic status was slightly modified (see Metadata) and this might have impacted on the answers. Furthermore, the employment rate in Germany decreased sharply in 2020 and recovered gradually to find its 2019 level. This change at the national level might have been affected by the change in methodology in this Member State. Given the important weight of Germany in the EU aggregate, this has magnified any improvement in the EU employment rate of persons with disabilities.

[49] 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.

[50] 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. 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 38: Evolution of the employment rate of people with and without disabilities, aged 20-64

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



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

7.3 Employment by disability type

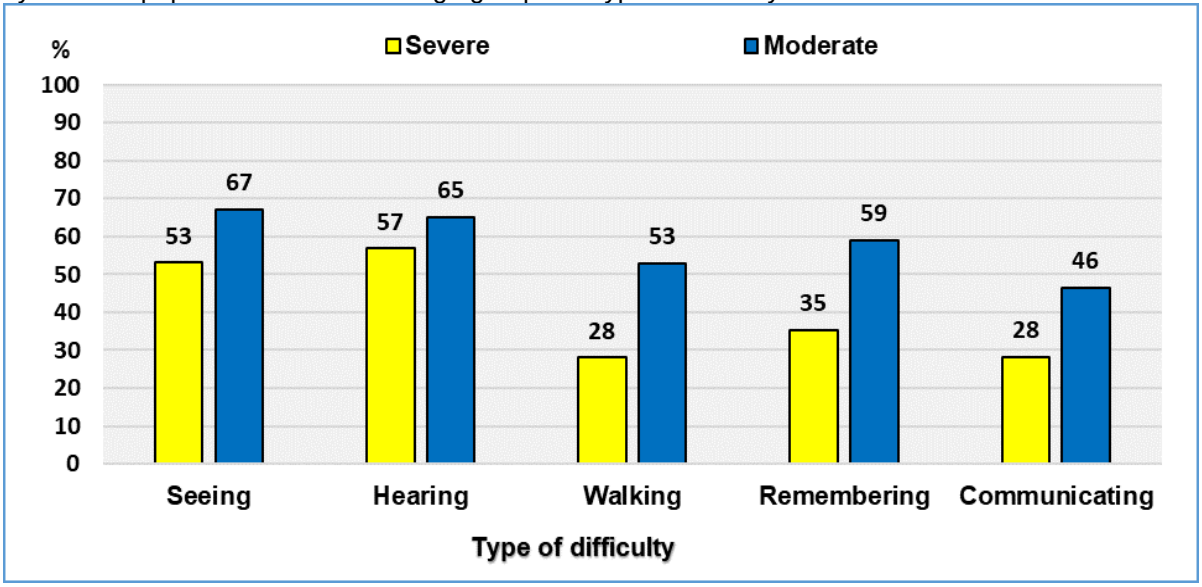
The EU-SILC ad hoc module 2022 on health includes a question of difficulty in basic functional activities. As explained in the discussion on disability prevalence, the question is different from the GALI question. Consequently, for comparability reasons, we keep the term type of difficulty. Since the model question uses the term 'difficulty in …', we use this term instead of disabilities.

In the following, we have aggregated the answers 'Yes, a lot of difficulty' and 'Cannot …at all' under the title severe difficulty. This avoids statistical problems due to small sampling.

The following figure reveals that persons who have severe difficulties in walking or climbing steps face the lowest employment rate. This raises the question of mobility from home to work, accessibility, and architectural barriers. Also, persons with communicating difficulties have a low employment rate. However, due to sampling limitations, the only robust indicators which can be drawn refer to difficulties in walking or climbing steps.

Figure 39: Employment rate by type and degree of difficulty, aged 20-64, 2022

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 and type of difficulty.



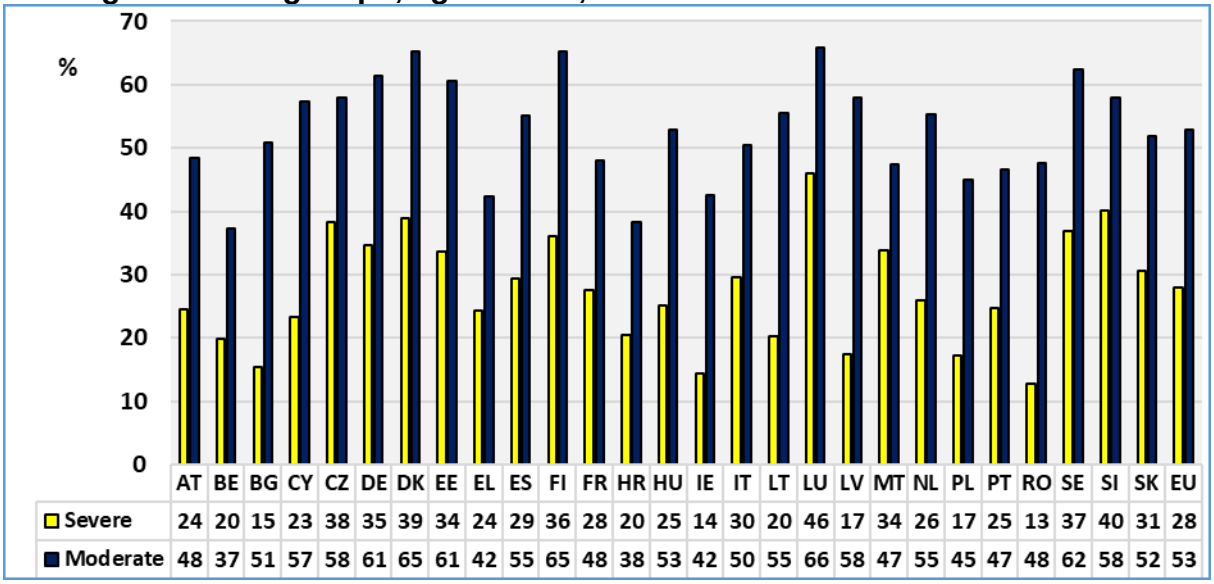
Note: The different functions include seeing (functional vision limitations of any kind even when wearing glasses), hearing (hearing limitations of any kind even if using a hearing aid), walking (functional limitations in getting around on foot), remembering (functional memory and concentration limitations), and communicating (functional limitations in understanding or being understood by others).

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

In the EU 27 in 2022, the employment rate of persons with severe difficulties in walking and climbing steps was 28.0 % compared to 52.9 % for persons with moderate difficulties. These rates cover persons aged 20 to 64.

The employment rate of persons who reported severe difficulties in walking is less than 20 % in Romania, Ireland, Bulgaria, Poland, Latvia and Belgium, in ascending order of employment rate.

Figure 40: Employment rate of persons with severe and moderate difficulties in walking or climbing steps, aged 20-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Severe	24	20	15	23	38	35	39	34	24	29	36	28	20	25	14	30	20	46	17	34	26	17	25	13	37	40	31	28
Moderate	48	37	51	57	58	61	65	61	42	55	65	48	38	53	42	50	55	66	58	47	55	45	47	48	62	58	52	53

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

7.4 Statistical tables

Table 38: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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	53.2	77.6	71.8	52.1	69.1	54.3	86.0	29.5	60.6	79.9
BE	44.0	79.0	71.6	44.3	75.5	43.6	82.3	19.8	54.9	80.0
BG	44.5	77.4	74.8	45.6	73.0	43.5	81.8	17.0	49.7	79.0
CY	50.6	77.7	74.6	46.0	72.6	55.4	83.1	32.1	58.8	80.0
CZ	58.9	83.1	78.9	54.6	75.4	63.9	90.5	35.5	66.9	82.2
DE	54.3	77.5	72.4	52.5	71.9	56.3	82.6	27.4	64.9	83.0
DK	60.0	81.0	73.9	54.4	78.4	67.0	83.4	37.3	65.8	80.0
EE	58.9	85.0	79.3	63.1	82.3	54.8	87.7	36.7	68.4	81.3
EL	40.0	66.8	64.1	34.8	56.2	45.5	77.5	26.9	49.3	71.1
ES	57.8	72.2	68.7	54.1	66.7	62.0	77.5	37.5	61.4	76.0
FI	59.4	77.5	72.6	59.3	75.3	59.6	79.3	28.0	66.6	80.0
FR	54.0	76.0	71.8	52.8	72.3	55.4	79.7	37.6	63.1	78.0
HR	36.1	74.1	67.3	36.0	68.5	36.2	79.8	18.9	40.9	75.0
HU	45.8	79.6	74.9	38.6	72.7	54.0	86.5	18.6	55.6	85.0
IE	43.2	80.4	74.1	41.3	73.9	45.2	87.1	10.8	52.9	78.2
IT	54.4	69.6	67.7	47.2	58.9	61.8	80.3	27.9	61.6	73.0
LT	47.7	84.0	77.2	49.2	81.2	46.0	86.9	15.6	54.6	80.7
LU	66.2	76.0	73.6	64.4	68.8	68.2	82.6	46.4	71.4	77.6
LV	60.0	83.1	76.8	61.0	79.3	58.7	87.1	26.3	67.2	80.0
MT	53.5	82.7	80.2	41.1	72.7	67.1	91.3	41.9	57.3	84.6
NL	60.6	85.0	78.4	55.1	83.4	67.4	86.5	22.0	67.2	82.5
PL	49.1	80.1	75.2	43.4	72.1	55.6	88.6	26.4	56.5	78.3
PT	65.0	79.7	76.1	65.0	76.9	65.0	82.5	46.1	69.2	80.0
RO	46.8	77.2	72.6	36.9	67.3	59.4	86.4	3.9	52.4	74.7
SE	54.5	82.7	77.5	53.8	78.0	55.5	86.9	33.1	60.1	82.0
SI	56.6	78.0	74.6	54.4	74.9	58.8	80.8	49.8	59.3	79.5
SK	58.4	82.1	77.0	55.2	75.9	61.8	88.0	34.1	65.5	76.5
EU	**54.3**	**76.3**	**72.1**	**51.0**	**69.9**	**58.1**	**82.5**	**30.7**	**61.7**	**78.0**

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 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 39: Employment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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 40: 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 41: 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 42: 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				54.3	76.3	72.1

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

Table 43: Employment rate by occupation, aged 16-64, EU, 2022

ISCO	Non-employed	Employed	Total
Managers (1)	11.8	88.2	100
Professionals (2)	11.7	88.3	100
Technicians (3)	17.0	83.0	100
Clerical (4)	22.5	77.5	100
Service (5)	29.0	71.0	100
Agriculture (6)	19.4	80.6	100
Craft (7)	21.4	78.6	100
Plant Operators (8)	21.9	78.1	100
Elementary (9)	33.4	66.6	100
Total	**20.7**	**79.3**	**100**

Note: The sample covers only persons for whose skills are known. The employment rate of persons with unknown skills is about 2 %. This explains the difference between the total here and the total of the previous table.
ISCO-08 (International Standard Classification of Occupations), see: https://www.ilo.org/publications/international-standard-classification-occupations-2008-isco-08-structure.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 44: Distribution of persons without disabilities by occupation, aged 20-64, EU, 2022

Includes those currently employed and last job of those not in employment (unemployed or inactive).

ISCO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
	%									
AT	5.7	23.9	18.0	9.0	16.2	3.4	11.2	5.1	7.5	100
BE	8.6	30.0	15.1	12.8	11.5	1.4	8.2	4.8	7.7	100
BG	5.9	15.9	9.2	6.2	20.8	3.0	12.2	12.3	14.4	100
CY	3.3	24.5	13.3	13.1	19.6	0.9	10.2	4.1	11.0	100
CZ	5.0	19.9	16.2	10.7	14.9	1.2	14.6	11.6	6.0	100
DE	4.9	25.6	20.8	13.8	12.9	1.1	9.6	5.1	6.3	100
DK	5.1	33.0	13.7	10.2	17.8	0.8	7.5	4.2	7.8	100
EE	10.6	25.3	16.1	6.3	11.6	1.3	11.8	11.0	6.2	100
EL	4.3	19.9	8.5	11.2	22.8	8.1	10.3	5.1	9.8	100
ES	3.2	20.0	13.2	12.6	18.7	2.2	10.4	7.2	12.5	100
FI	4.3	27.9	17.5	4.9	18.4	2.2	10.6	8.2	6.0	100
FR	7.7	24.1	18.3	8.8	13.8	2.2	9.2	7.1	8.8	100
HR	3.3	15.8	20.2	7.3	19.4	2.0	11.7	6.7	13.7	100
HU	4.1	19.3	13.6	7.6	13.4	3.7	14.3	12.8	11.2	100
IE	7.9	24.1	11.2	11.7	11.3	8.9	8.0	8.2	8.8	100
IT	3.9	18.9	17.6	12.0	15.5	1.6	12.2	6.7	11.6	100
LT	9.7	28.5	8.5	4.4	12.8	2.7	14.4	8.9	10.1	100
LU	6.4	32.1	24.3	9.5	10.2	0.7	4.9	3.3	8.7	100
LV	10.4	21.0	15.7	5.6	14.3	2.8	10.3	8.1	11.8	100
MT	11.0	21.6	15.5	9.7	17.9	0.8	9.0	6.6	7.9	100
NL	6.3	38.4	18.2	10.2	13.2	0.9	4.8	2.4	5.6	100
PL	5.7	18.1	11.7	8.5	14.0	9.8	14.6	10.5	7.0	100
PT	6.5	23.7	13.6	10.2	17.3	1.8	11.0	8.9	7.0	100
RO	2.5	19.0	8.0	4.4	16.5	8.2	17.1	13.8	10.5	100
SE	6.5	28.9	16.5	6.7	17.9	1.9	10.0	5.6	6.0	100
SI	4.0	27.2	17.0	8.7	14.0	2.2	10.8	8.7	7.4	100
SK	4.3	15.4	15.7	10.6	16.6	1.2	15.5	13.1	7.6	100
Total	**5.3**	**22.6**	**15.7**	**10.2**	**15.4**	**3.1**	**11.1**	**7.6**	**9.1**	**100**

ISCO-08: Managers (1), Professionals (2), Technicians (3), Clerical (4), Service (5), Agriculture (6), Craft (7), Plant Operators (8), Elementary (9). See ILO: https://www.ilo.org/publications/international-standard-classification-occupations-2008-isco-08-structure

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 45: Distribution of persons with disabilities by occupation, aged 20-64, EU, 2022

Includes those currently employed and last job of those not in employment (unemployed or inactive).

ISCO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
	%									
AT	3.7	12.3	13.7	9.7	21.6	6.0	12.6	7.1	13.4	100
BE	4.8	17.0	9.7	15.1	15.8	0.9	11.0	8.2	17.6	100
BG	3.4	14.8	10.0	5.5	16.1	4.1	14.3	13.8	17.9	100
CY	1.6	9.5	10.2	12.9	25.0	2.1	13.1	7.2	18.5	100
CZ	3.1	10.1	13.1	9.5	19.4	1.4	17.5	13.5	12.4	100
DE	3.0	15.1	18.4	14.3	16.5	1.2	12.1	7.4	12.0	100
DK	2.2	28.0	13.6	9.3	23.0	1.1	8.1	5.3	9.5	100
EE	5.3	15.8	11.3	6.0	14.1	1.8	14.5	15.9	15.4	100
EL	3.3	17.9	6.6	10.7	19.5	10.2	12.6	5.8	13.4	100
ES	2.3	14.1	13.0	11.7	19.6	2.7	13.3	6.9	16.5	100
FI	2.8	21.7	16.8	7.8	22.5	2.7	9.0	7.3	9.5	100
FR	4.6	15.6	14.4	9.4	17.5	2.6	12.0	9.2	14.6	100
HR	3.9	7.1	16.6	7.2	21.6	3.7	13.1	8.6	18.3	100
HU	2.3	7.6	9.9	6.5	15.6	4.0	14.2	17.8	22.1	100
IE	3.4	15.3	13.7	9.5	13.4	9.4	10.0	11.9	13.3	100
IT	3.3	17.2	14.7	12.9	15.3	1.7	14.7	8.4	11.8	100
LT	3.2	16.3	5.2	4.5	15.0	4.9	16.0	10.8	24.1	100
LU	6.0	22.9	21.0	9.6	12.5	1.1	6.1	5.2	15.7	100
LV	6.1	13.9	10.4	4.7	18.0	3.8	13.3	10.0	19.9	100
MT	5.6	14.6	15.8	11.5	22.7	0.7	8.6	9.2	11.3	100
NL	4.7	29.5	18.6	11.4	17.8	0.9	6.5	3.4	7.3	100
PL	4.9	10.4	10.4	7.0	16.4	12.1	15.2	10.5	13.3	100
PT	3.5	16.9	8.9	7.4	20.5	3.4	15.4	10.7	13.2	100
RO	1.3	9.9	6.8	3.2	18.2	10.4	24.4	13.3	12.5	100
SE	2.6	18.6	14.0	8.2	29.0	2.0	10.5	7.6	7.6	100
SI	2.8	14.4	13.4	7.9	16.0	4.5	16.6	13.1	11.2	100
SK	3.2	10.9	12.0	11.6	18.5	1.4	14.0	15.8	12.6	100
Total	**3.4**	**15.8**	**13.8**	**10.5**	**18.2**	**3.3**	**13.0**	**8.6**	**13.4**	**100**

ISCO-08: Managers (1), Professionals (2), Technicians (3), Clerical (4), Service (5), Agriculture (6), Craft (7), Plant Operators (8), Elementary (9). See ILO: https://www.ilo.org/publications/international-standard-classification-occupations-2008-isco-08-structure.

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 46: Employment rate of persons with difficulty in walking or climbing steps by Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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 with difficulty in walking or climbing steps. The data were not seasonally adjusted.

	Difficulty		
	Severe	**Moderate**	**No difficulty in walking or climbing steps**
AT	24.5	48.5	75.4
BE	19.8	37.4	75.9
BG	15.5	50.9	77.5
CY	23.3	57.4	76.5
CZ	38.3	57.9	81.3
DE	34.6	61.3	76.7
DK	38.8	65.3	76.8
EE	33.6	60.7	83.6
EL	24.3	42.3	65.7
ES	29.4	55.2	71.4
FI	36.1	65.2	74.7
FR	27.6	48.0	74.4
HR	20.5	38.3	70.6
HU	25.1	52.9	77.8
IE	14.3	42.4	77.8
IT	29.6	50.5	69.1
LT	20.3	55.4	81.2
LU	46.1	65.8	75.4
LV	17.5	57.9	80.4
MT	33.7	47.4	82.3
NL	25.9	55.2	81.5
PL	17.1	44.9	78.6
PT	24.7	46.6	77.7
RO	12.8	47.6	76.4
SE	36.8	62.5	79.8
SI	40.0	58.0	77.6
SK	30.5	51.9	80.4
EU	**28.0**	**52.9**	**74.8**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 47: Persons employed by economic sector and disability status, aged 20-64, EU 2022, Employed persons

	Disability beneficiaries			Degree of disability			
	No disability beneficiaries	Disability beneficiaries	Total	No disabilities	Moderate disabilities	Severe disabilities	Total
A	98.3	1.7	100	85.5	13.1	1.4	100
B	98.4	1.6	100	86.4	11.8	1.8	100
F	98.1	1.9	100	86.3	11.9	1.8	100
G	98.4	1.6	100	86.3	11.8	1.9	100
H	97.8	2.2	100	86.1	11.9	2.0	100
I	98.3	1.7	100	85.2	12.9	1.9	100
J	99.2	0.8	100	88.1	10.7	1.2	100
K	98.9	1.1	100	89.4	9.1	1.5	100
L	98.2	1.8	100	85.6	12.7	1.7	100
O	98.4	**1.6**	100	84.7	13.3	**2.0**	100
P	98.6	1.4	100	84.3	13.5	2.2	100
Q	97.0	3.0	100	81.6	15.6	2.8	100
R	98.2	1.8	100	83.9	13.9	2.2	100
Total	**98.2**	**1.8**	**100**	**85.4**	**12.6**	**1.9**	**100**

Note: A: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; B: Mining and Quarrying; C: Manufacturing; D: Electricity, Gas; E: Water Supply; F: Construction; G: Wholesale and Retail Trade; H: Transportation and Storage; I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities; J: Information and Communication; K: Financial and Insurance Activities; L: Real Estate Activities; M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities; N: Administrative and Support Service Activities; O: Public Administration and Defence; P: Education; Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities; R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; S: Other Service Activities; T: Activities of Households as Employers; U: Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies.

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 48: Persons working in the public sector by disability degree and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022 (EU-SILC)

	In percentage (%)			
	Without disabilities	With moderate disabilities	With severe disabilities	Total
AT	78.4	18.2	3.4	**100**
BE	83.6	13.0	3.4	**100**
BG	94.9	(4.5)	(0.6)	**100**
CY	87.4	10.4	2.2	**100**
CZ	90.4	7.7	2.0	**100**
DE	81.8	15.6	2.6	**100**
DK	76.1	20.1	3.8	**100**
EE	84.8	13.0	2.1	**100**
EL	92.9	5.3	1.9	**100**
ES	79.9	18.5	1.7	**100**
FI	74.9	23.1	2.0	**100**
FR	84.0	12.4	3.6	**100**
HR	92.2	(7.5)	(0.2)	**100**
HU	90.1	8.6	1.3	**100**
IE	93.6	(6.4)	(0.0)	**100**
IT	90.6	9.0	0.5	**100**

LT	87.7	(9.9)	(2.4)	**100**
LU	76.4	19.7	3.8	**100**
LV	82.8	16.7	0.5	**100**
MT	92.3	(6.3)	(1.4)	**100**
NL	78.3	21.1	0.6	**100**
PL	91.2	7.8	1.0	**100**
PT	80.7	17.6	1.7	**100**
RO	90.4	(9.6)	(0.0)	**100**
SE	86.7	9.8	3.5	**100**
SI	92.8	(5.6)	(1.6)	**100**
SK	79.6	19.6	0.8	**100**
EU	**84.7**	**13.3**	**2.0**	**100**

Note: Small samples in BG, HR, IE, LT, MT, RO and SI.
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

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 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, persons 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 Definitions of unemployment

Eurostat uses the results of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in order to monitor the unemployment rate in the EU. According to this approach, unemployed persons are persons who were not employed during the reference week, had actively sought work during the past four weeks and were available to begin working immediately or within two weeks.

The EU-SILC does not include the same questions as the LFS. However, the EU-SILC and the LFS both report the self-defined economic status. In the following, we will use this answer in order to estimate unemployment rates.

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 there is a need to encourage them to actively search for a job. 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-defined current economic status.

In the EU 27, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 20-64 was 15.1 %, in comparison with 7.6 % of people without disabilities in the same age group. The total unemployment rate was 8.7 %.

In the EU 27, about 4.6 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were unemployed, out of 30.7 million economically active persons with disabilities.

Table 49: Unemployment rate by disability status, aged 20-64, EU 27, 2022

	Employed	Unemployed	Total
In millions (1 000 000)			
Persons without disabilities	155.6	12.8	168.4
Persons with disabilities	26.0	4.6	30.7
Total	**181.7**	**17.4**	**199.1**
In percentage (%)			
Persons without disabilities	92.4	7.6	100.0
Persons with disabilities	84.9	15.1	100.0
Total	**91.3**	**8.7**	**100.0**

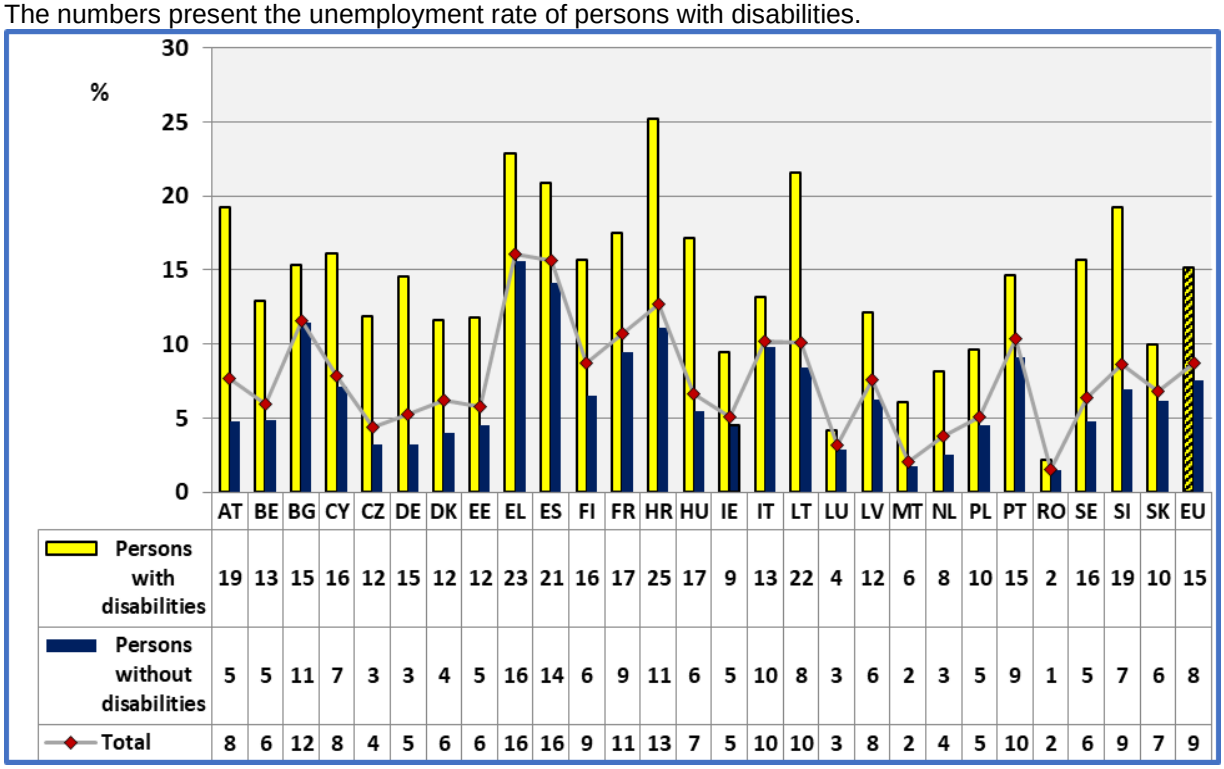
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

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 (R^2=0.56). 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 Lithuania, Greece and Croatia (in ascending order).

Figure 41: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.
The numbers present the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	19	13	15	16	12	15	12	12	23	21	16	17	25	17	9	13	22	4	12	6	8	10	15	2	16	19	10	15
Persons without disabilities	5	5	11	7	3	3	4	5	16	14	6	9	11	6	5	10	8	3	6	2	3	5	9	1	5	7	6	8
Total	8	6	12	8	4	5	6	6	16	16	9	11	13	7	5	10	10	3	8	2	4	5	10	2	6	9	7	9

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

8.2.3 Unemployment disability gap

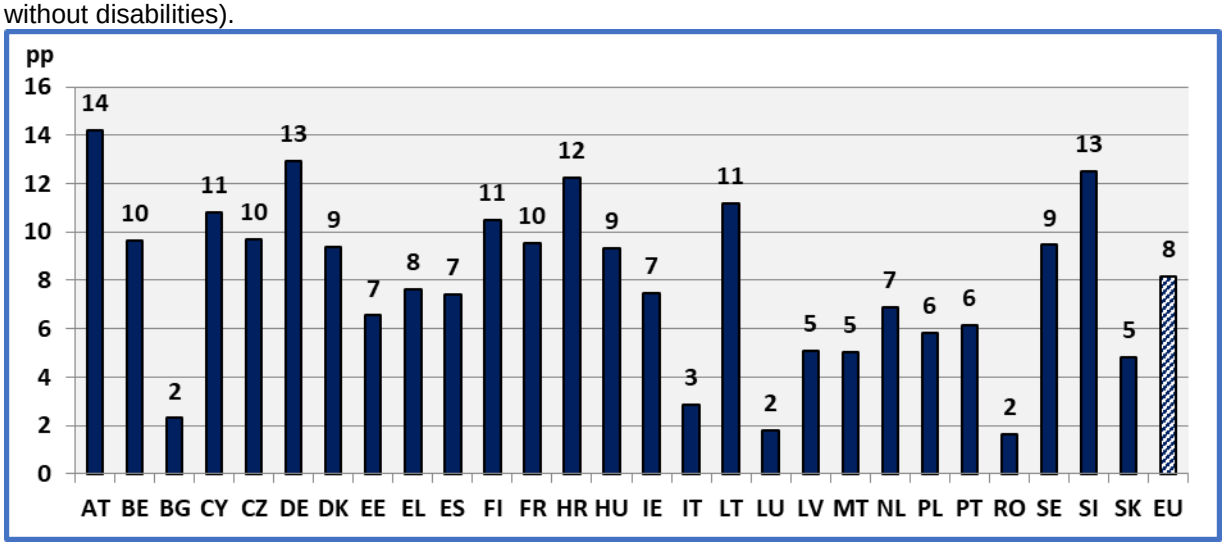
At the EU 27 level, there was an unemployment gap of 7.6 percentage points. However, this gap varied sharply across Member States.

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 (2021-2022). We have to note that 2021 has been characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the data ought to be treated with caution. If we compare unemployment rate gaps for 2019-2020 and 2021-2022, we find a significant but moderate correlation (R^2=0.53).

It may be noted that the gap was relatively high in Slovenia, Germany and Austria, in ascending order. Similar results were found in the previous year. On the other hand, the gap was relatively low in Romania, Luxembourg and Bulgaria, in ascending order.

Figure 42: Disadvantage of persons with disabilities concerning unemployment, aged 20-64, average 2021-2022, expressed in percentage points (pp)

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



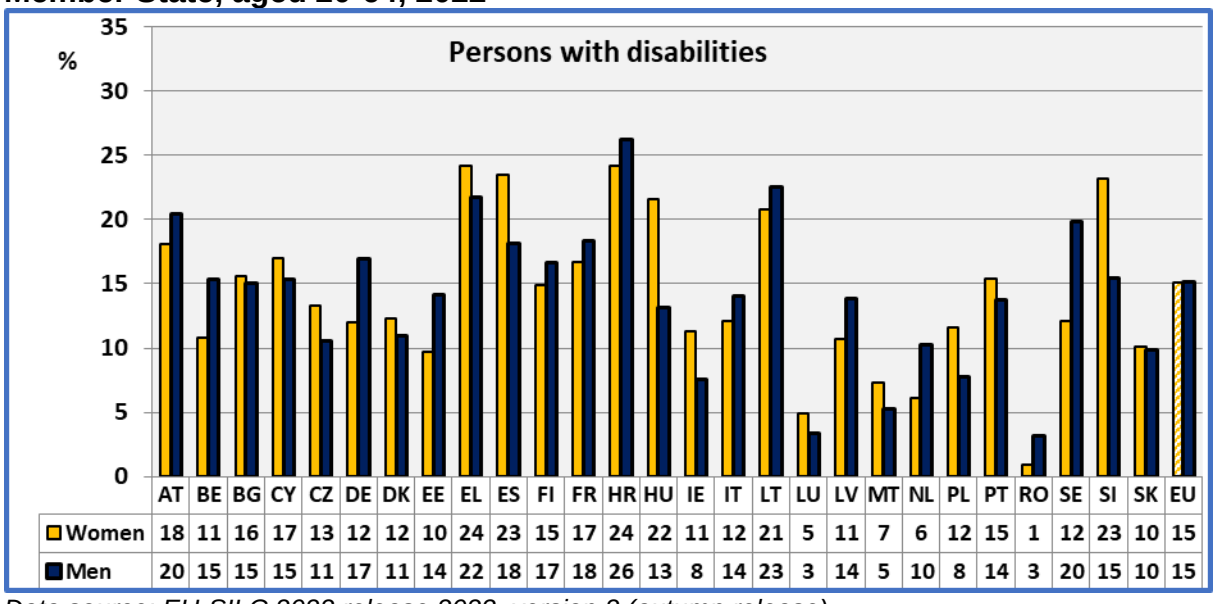
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

8.2.4 Unemployment rate by gender

In the EU 27, about 15.1 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were unemployed, in comparison with 15.2 % of men with disabilities. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 8.3 % (women) and 6.9 % (men). However, these data are indicative, and small differences ought to be treated with caution.

One may note the high unemployment rates of women with disabilities in Spain, Greece and Croatia (in ascending order). Similar results were found in previous years.

Figure 43: Unemployment rate of persons with disabilities by gender, and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022



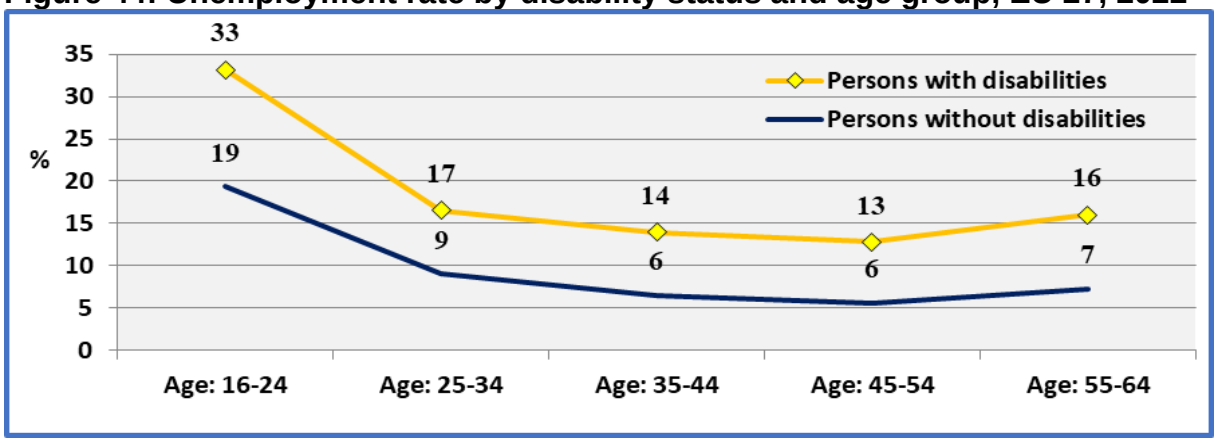
	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Women	18	11	16	17	13	12	12	10	24	23	15	17	24	22	11	12	21	5	11	7	6	12	15	1	12	23	10	15
Men	20	15	15	15	11	17	11	14	22	18	17	18	26	13	8	14	23	3	14	5	10	8	14	3	20	15	10	15

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn 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. The two shapes are similar, except for the age group 16-24. For young persons, the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities is more unfavourable compared to young persons without disabilities. However, due to sampling differences, the rates for this group ought to be treated with caution.

Figure 44: Unemployment rate by disability status and age group, EU 27, 2022



Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

In comparison to the previous year, the curve for persons with disabilities has shifted slightly downwards. Concerning persons with disabilities, the reduction of unemployment rate between 2021 and 2022 concerned mainly persons aged 35 to 64.

Table 50: Unemployment rate by age group, EU 27

Persons / Age group	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	16-64
	%, 2022					
With disabilities	33.2	16.6	13.9	12.8	16.0	15.2
Without disabilities	19.4	9.0	6.5	5.6	7.2	7.8
	%, 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**

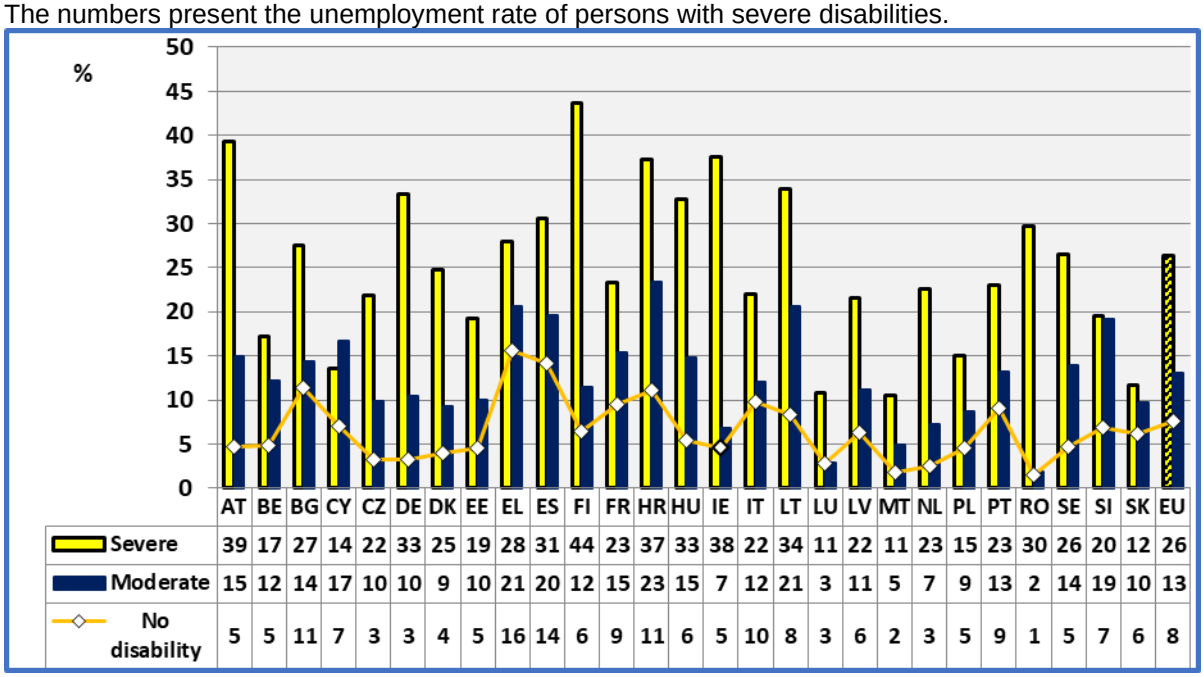
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

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 13.1 %, in comparison with 26.4 % for persons with severe disabilities.

Figure 45: Unemployment rate by degree of disability, aged 20-64, 2022

The numbers present the unemployment rate of persons with severe disabilities.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Severe	39	17	27	14	22	33	25	19	28	31	44	23	37	33	38	22	34	11	22	11	23	15	23	30	26	20	12	26
Moderate	15	12	14	17	10	10	9	10	21	20	12	15	23	15	7	12	21	3	11	5	7	9	13	2	14	19	10	13
No disability	5	5	11	7	3	3	4	5	16	14	6	9	11	6	5	10	8	3	6	2	3	5	9	1	5	7	6	8

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

8.2.7 Evolution at national level

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. Furthermore, 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 an overall decrease in the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities in 22 Member States, while in one, it is almost unchanged.

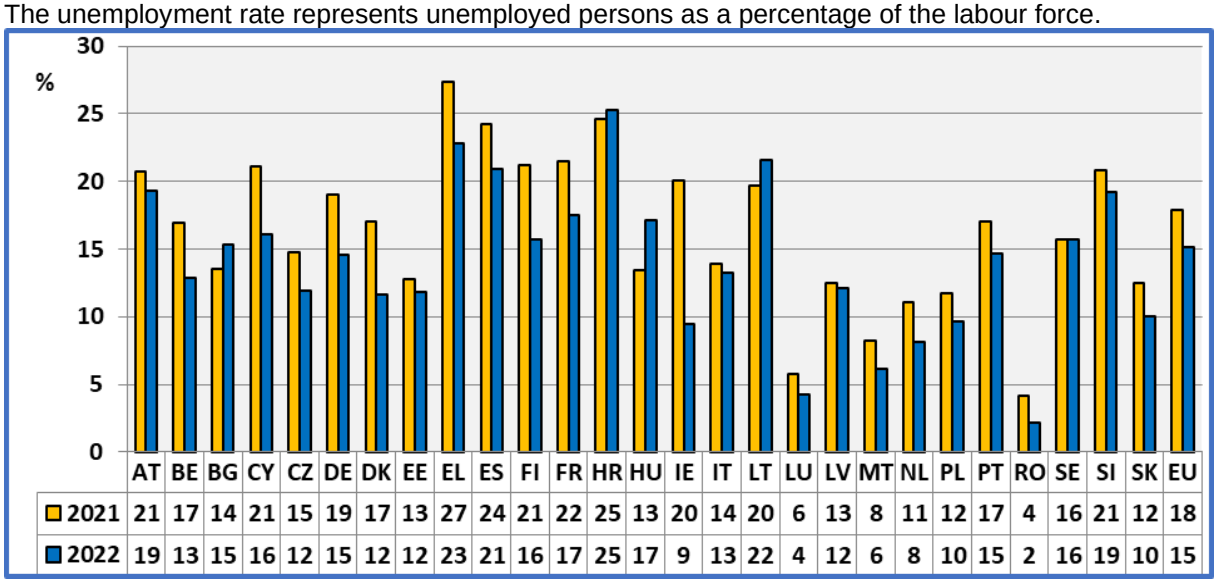
We may note important decreases in Belgium, Cyprus, Germany and Ireland which have to be validated in the coming years. The evolution in Germany from 2020 to 2022 is important and might partly be attributed to a change in collection methodology. This important decrease has affected the EU aggregate due to the weight of Germany.

The decreases in Finland and France are due to exceptionally high rates in 2021.

In summary, there is an improvement between 2021 and 2022, but the change may have been amplified by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and by sampling issues.

Figure 46: Persons with disabilities, evolution of the unemployment rate by Member State, aged 20-64. The changes are indicative.

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
2021	21	17	14	21	15	19	17	13	27	24	21	22	25	13	20	14	20	6	13	8	11	12	17	4	16	21	12	18
2022	19	13	15	16	12	15	12	12	23	21	16	17	25	17	9	13	22	4	12	6	8	10	15	2	16	19	10	15

Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release) and EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

8.2.8 Evolution at the EU level

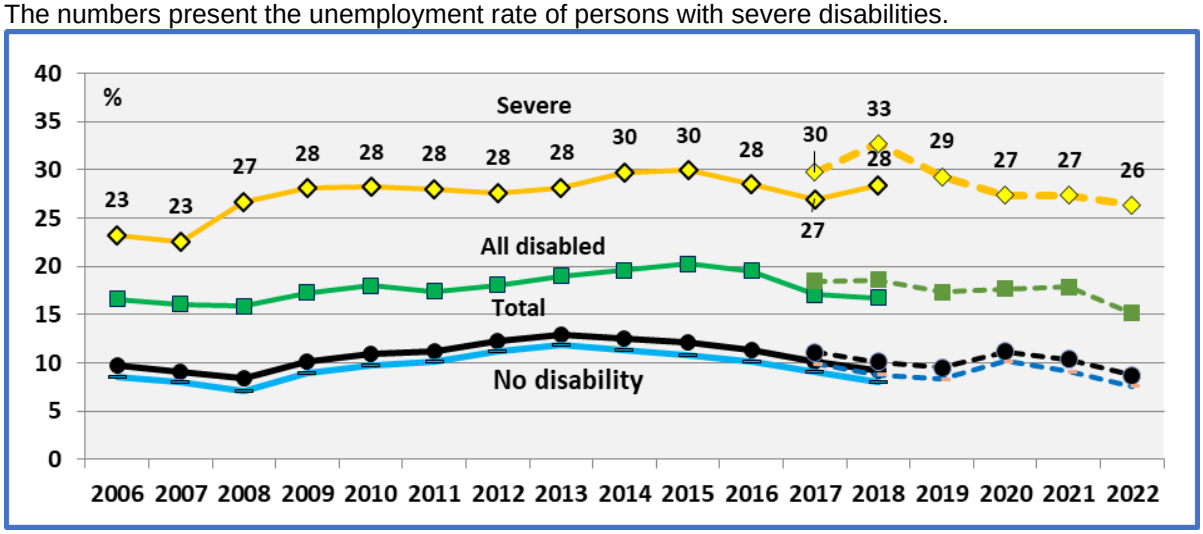
At the EU 27 level, there has been a continuous decrease in the total unemployment rate since 2013. Persons with disabilities have experienced a decrease in unemployment since 2015, although persons with severe disabilities experienced a more fluctuating rate.

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 but decreased to 15.1 % in 2022. The respective rates for persons without disabilities were 10.1 % (2020), 9.1 % (2021) and 7.6 % (2022).

Figure 47: Evolution of the unemployment rate for persons by disability status, aged 20-64, EU

Solid lines cover the EU 28 and dotted lines cover the EU 27.
The numbers present the unemployment rate of persons with severe disabilities.



Note: The data for the unemployment rate of persons with severe disabilities in 2021 is indicative, (the data for Germany are incomplete).
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 committed to the implementation of the reinforced Youth Guarantee in a Council Recommendation of October 2020.[51] 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, and an 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 2022, about 33.2 % of persons with disabilities aged 16-24 were unemployed, in comparison with 19.4 % of persons without disabilities. The gap was 13.9 percentage points. The overall rate for youth unemployment was 20.5 %.

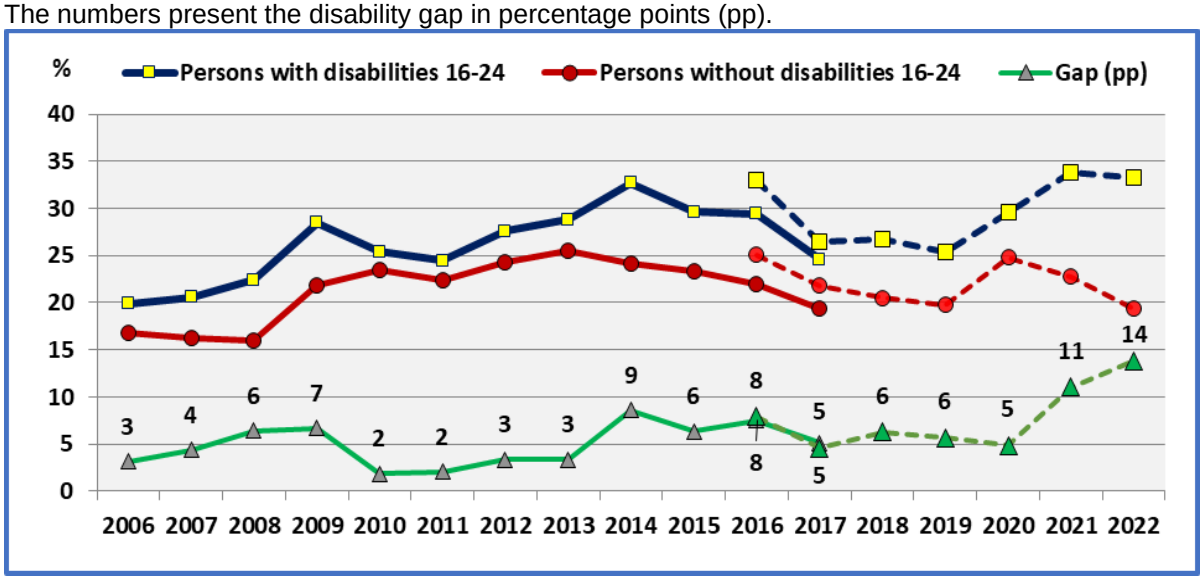
[51] See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en.

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 3 217 observations. Furthermore, due to small sample sizes (fewer than 50 persons with disabilities) and high non-response rate in certain countries, the data used here for 2022 are merely indicative.

In the following figure, one may note that the gap between persons with and without disabilities increased sharply in 2021 and 2022. The unemployment rate of young persons without disabilities decreased significantly, while the unemployment rate of young persons with disabilities remained stable.

Figure 48: Evolution of the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 16-24

Solid lines cover the EU 28 and dotted lines cover the EU 27.
The numbers present the disability gap in percentage points (pp).



Note: The indicators for 2020 and 2021 for persons with disabilities are indicative.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

8.3.3 Youth unemployment and education level

It is interesting to ascertain whether the large disability gap in youth unemployment is related to education.

If we consider only unemployed persons aged 16-24 in the EU, we find a high rate of early school leavers in both groups. This rate is 36.7 % for persons with disabilities and 34.3 % for persons without disabilities. These rates are much higher than the overall rate for young persons in this age group and reveal the need to foster education among both groups. The data refer to 2022.

However, if we consider only unemployed young persons, we risk a selection bias. Persons with low education levels might tend to be outside the labour force, given their low expectations finding a job. If we consider early school leavers in the age group 16-24 in the EU, we find similar rates as those discussed in previous chapters. The proportion of young persons with disabilities who are early school leavers is 17.3 %, while it is 8.1 % for young persons without disabilities.

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 can increase the mismatch between a person's current skills and the new skills required by technological developments. In addition, this can push unemployed persons to leave the labour force rather than continuing to search for a job.

The Commission notes[52] that almost half of unemployed persons 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 a report on the implementation of a Council recommendation. The Council recommendation puts forward three key steps: 1. encouraging the registration of long-term unemployed persons with an employment service; 2. providing each person registered long-term unemployed with an individual in-depth assessment to identify their needs and potential, at the very latest at 18 months of unemployment; and 3. offering a job integration agreement to all those registered long-term unemployed, at the very latest at 18 months.

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. According to Eurostat (2021), the variable should capture the duration of respondent's most recent spell of unemployment during the last five 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 that they are unemployed. This definition relies on self-defined economic status 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.

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

8.4.2 Long term unemployment rate by Member State

The long-term unemployment rate expresses the number of long-term unemployed persons aged 20-64 as a percentage of the active population of the same age. This is not the share of long-term unemployed as a percentage of all unemployed.

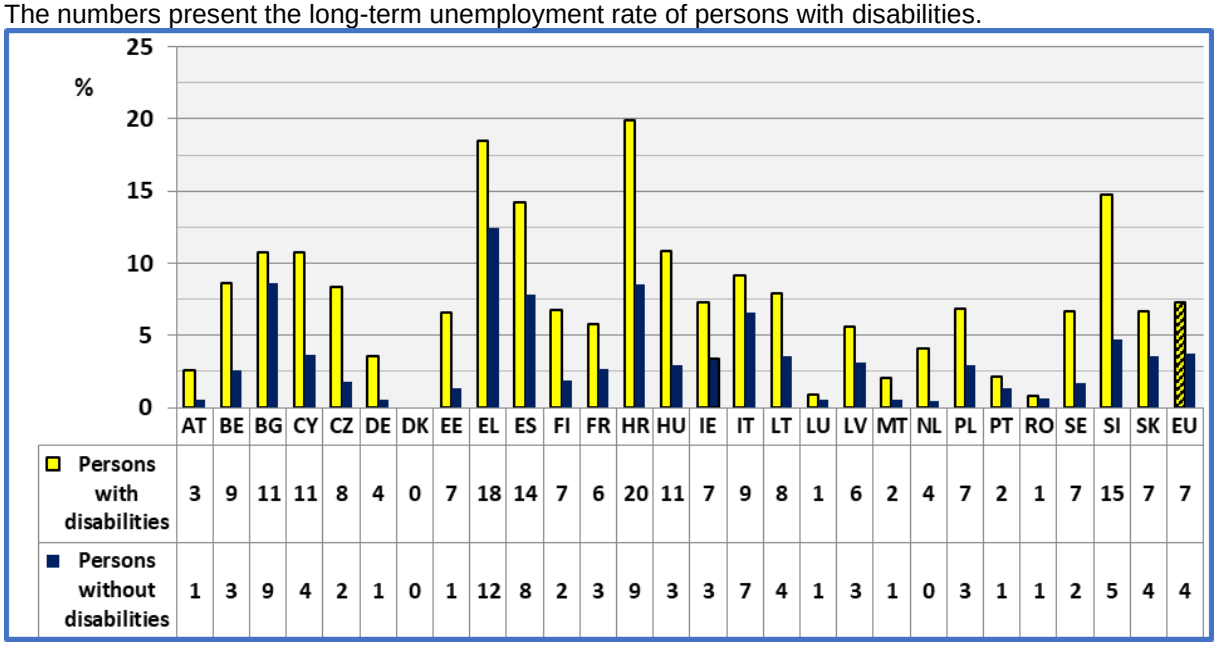
The long-term unemployment rate is a headline indicator in the 'Fair working conditions' field of the European Pillar of Social Rights Scoreboard.

In the EU 26 in 2022, about 7.3 % of active persons with disabilities aged 20-64 were long-term unemployed, in comparison with 3.8 % of persons without disabilities. The total rate for EU was 4.3 %.

The long-term unemployment rate of persons with disabilities was notably high in Slovenia, Greece and Croatia, in ascending order. The rates are close to zero in Denmark, Romania and Luxembourg.

Figure 49: Long-term unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	3	9	11	11	8	4	0	7	18	14	7	6	20	11	7	9	8	1	6	2	4	7	2	1	7	15	7	7
Persons without disabilities	1	3	9	4	2	1	0	1	12	8	2	3	9	3	3	7	4	1	3	1	0	3	1	1	2	5	4	4

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

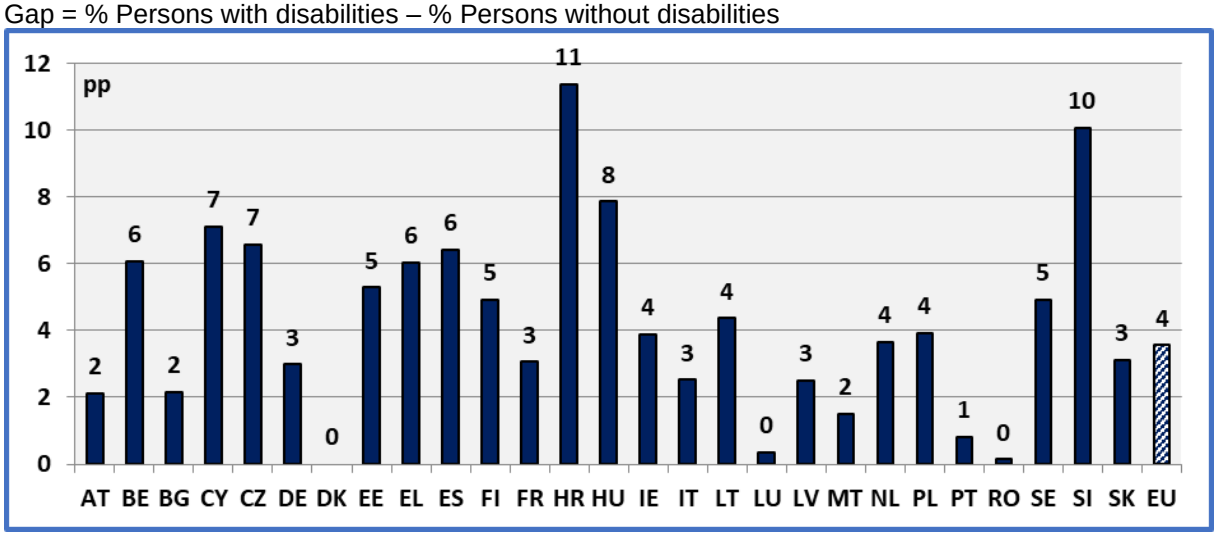
8.4.3 Disability long term unemployment gap

In the EU 27, we observe a disability gap of about 3.6 percentage points.

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

Figure 50: Disability long-term unemployment gap by Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

Gap = % Persons with disabilities – % Persons without disabilities



Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

8.4.4 Long term unemployment rate by gender

In the EU 26 in 2022, about 7.5 % of women with disabilities aged 20-64 were long-term unemployed. The equivalent rate for men with disabilities was 7.2 %.

In the case of persons without disabilities, the rates are 4.2 % for women and 3.4 % for men.

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

Table 51: Unemployment rate by duration, gender and disability status, aged 20-64, EU 26, 2022

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	84.8	8.0	7.2	100
Women	84.9	7.6	7.5	100
Total	**84.9**	**7.8**	**7.3**	**100**
Persons without disabilities				
Men	93.1	3.5	3.4	100
Women	91.7	4.1	4.2	100
Total	**92.4**	**3.8**	**3.8**	**100**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn 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 3.8 % for persons without disabilities, 6.6 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 11.5 % for persons with severe disabilities.

The long-term unemployment rate for persons with severe disabilities increased between 2021 and 2022, from 9.6 % to 11.5 %.

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

Table 52: Unemployment rate by duration and degree of disability, aged 20-64, EU, 2022

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	92.4	3.8	3.8	**100**
Moderate	86.9	6.5	6.6	**100**
Severe	73.6	14.9	11.5	**100**
Total	**91.3**	**4.4**	**4.3**	**100**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

8.5 Statistical tables

Table 53: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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	19.3	4.8	7.7	18.1	5.6	20.5	4.1	39.4	15.0	14.5
BE	12.9	4.9	6.0	10.8	5.0	15.4	4.8	17.2	12.2	8.1
BG	15.3	11.4	11.6	15.6	11.6	15.0	11.2	27.5	14.4	3.9
CY	16.1	7.1	7.9	17.0	7.8	15.4	6.4	13.6	16.7	9.0
CZ	11.9	3.2	4.4	13.3	3.5	10.5	2.9	21.9	9.8	8.7
DE	14.6	3.2	5.3	12.0	3.0	17.0	3.4	33.3	10.4	11.3
DK	11.7	4.0	6.2	12.3	4.0	11.0	3.9	24.8	9.3	7.7
EE	11.8	4.5	5.8	9.7	3.6	14.2	5.3	19.2	10.0	7.3
EL	22.9	15.6	16.1	24.2	20.1	21.8	11.9	28.0	20.6	7.3
ES	20.9	14.1	15.6	23.5	15.9	18.1	12.6	30.6	19.7	6.8
FI	15.7	6.5	8.7	14.9	5.1	16.7	7.6	43.6	11.5	9.2
FR	17.5	9.5	10.7	16.7	9.3	18.4	9.6	23.4	15.3	8.0
HR	25.3	11.1	12.7	24.2	12.0	26.3	10.4	37.3	23.3	14.1
HU	17.2	5.5	6.6	21.6	5.4	13.2	5.6	32.7	14.8	11.7
IE	9.4	4.6	5.1	11.4	5.3	7.6	3.9	37.6	6.9	4.9

IT	13.2	9.8	10.2	12.1	12.1	14.1	8.1	22.0	12.0	3.4
LT	21.6	8.4	10.1	20.8	8.7	22.5	8.1	34.0	20.7	13.2
LU	4.2	2.9	3.2	5.0	4.5	3.4	1.6	10.9	3.0	1.3
LV	12.1	6.2	7.6	10.7	6.3	13.8	6.2	21.5	11.2	5.9
MT	6.1	1.8	2.0	7.3	2.6	5.3	1.2	10.6	5.0	4.3
NL	8.2	2.6	3.8	6.1	3.0	10.3	2.2	22.6	7.2	5.6
PL	9.6	4.5	5.1	11.6	5.3	7.8	3.9	15.0	8.7	5.1
PT	14.7	9.1	10.3	15.4	9.5	13.7	8.8	23.0	13.3	5.6
RO	2.2	1.5	1.6	0.9	1.1	3.2	1.8	29.7	1.8	0.7
SE	15.7	4.8	6.3	12.1	5.2	19.9	4.4	26.5	13.9	11.0
SI	19.3	7.0	8.6	23.2	8.0	15.5	6.1	19.6	19.2	12.3
SK	10.0	6.2	6.8	10.1	6.7	9.9	5.8	11.6	9.7	3.8
EU	**15.1**	**7.6**	**8.7**	**15.1**	**8.3**	**15.2**	**6.9**	**26.4**	**13.1**	**7.6**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 54: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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 55: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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**

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

Table 56: Unemployment rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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 57: Evolution of unemployment rate by disability status, aged 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					26.4	15.1	7.6	8.7

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

Table 58: Evolution of youth unemployment rate by disability status, aged 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
2022			33.2	19.4

Data source: EU-SILC UDB.

Table 59: Structure of the unemployment rate by Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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	92.3	6.8	1.0	100
BE	94.0	2.6	3.4	100
BG	88.4	2.9	8.7	100
CY	92.2	3.6	4.3	100
CZ	95.6	1.7	2.7	100
DE	94.7	4.2	1.1	100
DK	93.8	6.2	0.0	100
EE	94.2	3.6	2.2	100
EL	83.9	3.2	12.9	100
ES	84.4	6.4	9.2	100
FI	91.3	5.7	3.1	100
FR	89.3	7.5	3.2	100
HR	87.3	2.9	9.8	100
HU	93.4	2.9	3.7	100
IE	94.9	1.3	3.8	100
IT	89.8	3.3	6.9	100
LT	89.9	6.0	4.1	100
LU	96.8	2.6	0.6	100
LV	92.4	3.9	3.7	100
MT	98.0	1.4	0.6	100
NL	96.2	2.5	1.3	100
PL	94.9	1.8	3.3	100
PT	89.7	8.8	1.5	100
RO	98.5	0.9	0.7	100
SE	93.7	3.9	2.4	100
SI	91.4	2.6	6.1	100
SK	93.2	2.8	4.1	100
Total	**91.3**	**4.4**	**4.3**	**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 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 60: Structure of the unemployment rate by disability and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed persons 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	95.2	4.2	0.5	100	80.7	16.7	2.6	100
BE	95.1	2.3	2.6	100	87.1	4.3	8.6	100
BG	88.6	2.8	8.6	100	84.7	4.6	10.8	100
CY	92.9	3.4	3.7	100	83.9	5.3	10.8	100
CZ	96.8	1.4	1.8	100	88.1	3.5	8.4	100
DE	96.8	2.7	0.6	100	85.5	11.0	3.5	100
DK	96.0	4.0	0.0	100	88.4	11.7	0.0	100
EE	95.5	3.2	1.3	100	88.2	5.3	6.6	100
EL	84.4	3.1	12.4	100	77.2	4.4	18.5	100
ES	85.9	6.3	7.8	100	79.1	6.7	14.2	100
FI	93.5	4.6	1.9	100	84.3	8.9	6.8	100
FR	90.5	6.8	2.7	100	82.5	11.7	5.8	100
HR	88.9	2.6	8.5	100	74.8	5.4	19.9	100
HU	94.5	2.6	3.0	100	82.8	6.4	10.8	100
IE	95.4	1.2	3.4	100	90.6	2.1	7.3	100
IT	90.2	3.2	6.6	100	86.8	4.1	9.1	100
LT	91.6	4.8	3.6	100	78.4	13.7	7.9	100
LU	97.1	2.3	0.6	100	95.8	3.3	0.9	100
LV	93.8	3.1	3.1	100	87.9	6.5	5.6	100
MT	98.2	1.2	0.5	100	93.9	4.1	2.0	100
NL	97.5	2.1	0.5	100	91.8	4.1	4.1	100
PL	95.5	1.6	2.9	100	90.4	2.8	6.8	100
PT	90.9	7.8	1.3	100	85.3	12.5	2.1	100
RO	98.5	0.8	0.7	100	97.8	1.4	0.8	100
SE	95.3	3.0	1.7	100	84.3	9.1	6.7	100
SI	93.1	2.2	4.7	100	80.7	4.5	14.8	100
SK	93.8	2.7	3.6	100	90.0	3.3	6.7	100
Total	**92.4**	**3.8**	**3.8**	**100**	**84.9**	**7.8**	**7.3**	**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 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 61: Structure of the unemployment rate by Member State, aged 20-64, 2021

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed persons 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 62: Structure of the unemployment rate by disability and Member State, aged 20-64, 2021

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed persons 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 63: Structure of the unemployment rate by Member State, aged 20-64, 2020

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

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

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

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, persons with a migrant background, the low-skilled, youth, older workers and persons with disabilities.[53]

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 notes that the European Pillar of Social Rights[54] 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 Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP)[55] 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 64.0 % of persons with disabilities were participating in the labour market (employed or unemployed), in comparison with 82.5 % of persons without disabilities. The total rate was 79.0 %.

It is important to note that the above rates rely on self-declared status. For comparison, the indicator used by Eurostat rely on the LFS survey and the ILO definition.

[53] 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.

[54] 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.

[55] 1. European Commission, (2021), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Guidance to Member States: Recovery and Resilience Plans', SWD(2021) 12 final, Part ½; 2. European Commission (2020), 'Commission Staff Working Document – Statistical Annex', SWD(2020) 275 final. See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/16624/9862137/2021_statistical_annex_en.pdf.

In the EU 27, about 30.9 million persons with disabilities (aged 20-64) were economically active, out of 48.3 million persons with disabilities in the same age group.

Table 65: Activity rate by disability status, aged 20-64, 2022

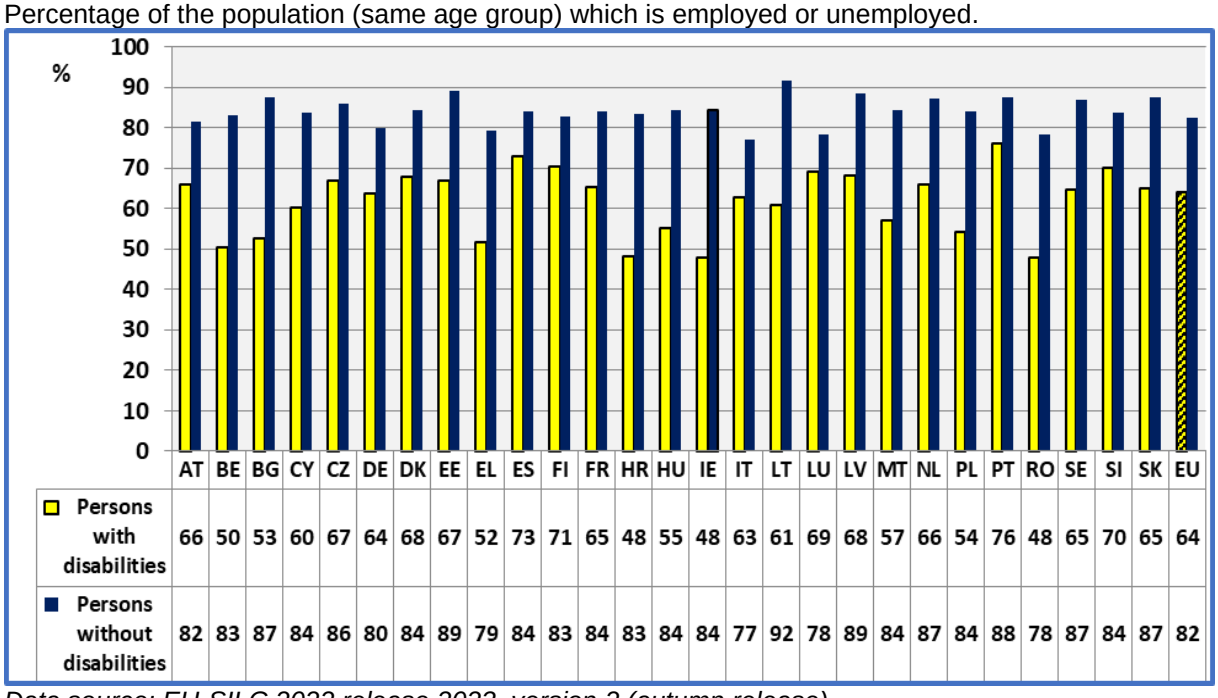
	Economically inactive (Not in the labour force)	**Economically active** (Employed or unemployed)	**Total**
In millions (1 000 000)			
Persons without disabilities	36.0	169.7	**205.7**
Persons with disabilities	17.4	30.9	**48.3**
Total	**53.4**	**200.6**	**254.0**
In percentage (%)			
Persons without disabilities	17.5	82.5	**100.0**
Persons with disabilities	36.0	64.0	**100.0**
Total	**21.0**	**79.0**	**100.0**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

The activity rate for persons with disabilities was particularly low in Ireland, Romania and Croatia, while it was relatively high in Finland, Spain and Portugal, in an increasing order.

Figure 51: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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



Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

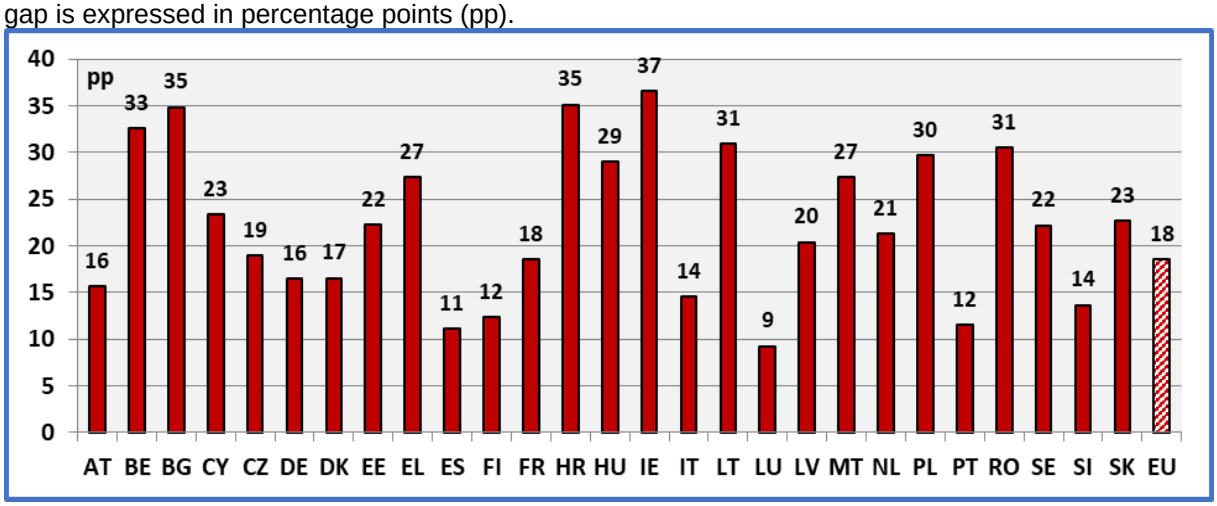
9.2.2 Disability activity gap

At the EU 27 level, there was a big difference between persons with and without disabilities. The absolute activity gap amounted to 18.5 percentage points. The relative difference was 22.4 %.

The activity gap was notably high in Bulgaria, Croatia and Ireland, in an increasing order, whereas it was relatively low in Luxembourg, Spain and Portugal.

Figure 52: Activity gap, aged 20-64, 2022

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 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

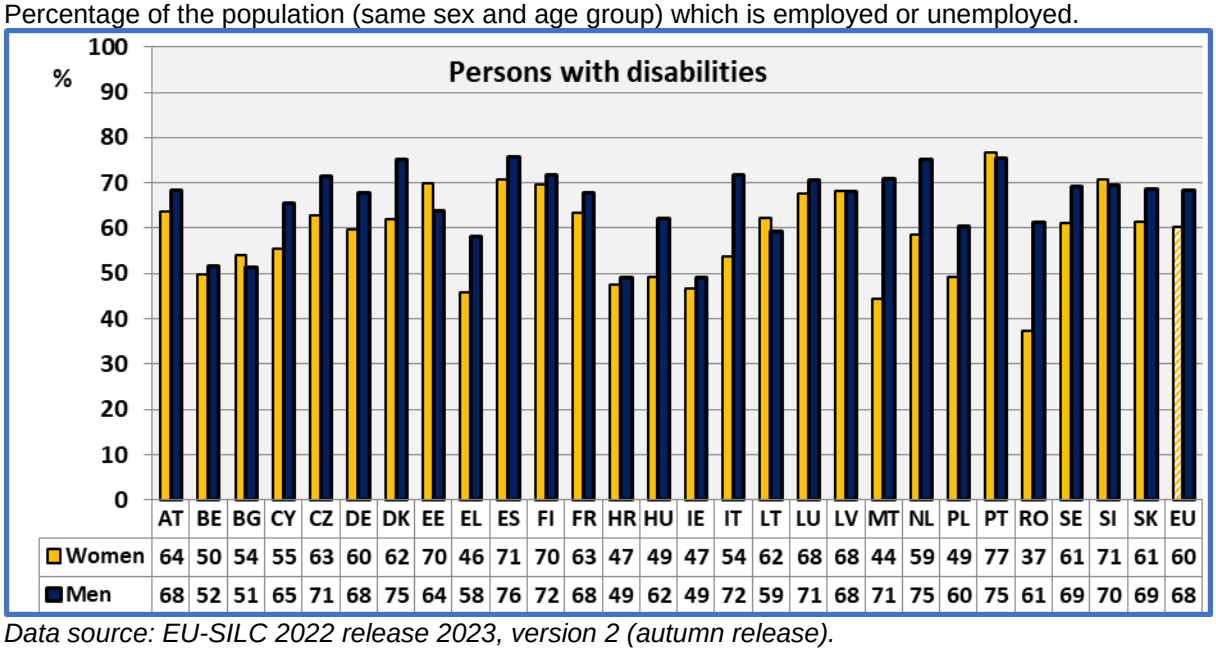
9.2.3 Activity rate by gender

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 (60.1 %) was lower in comparison with the rate for men with disabilities (68.5 %).

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

Figure 53: Persons with disabilities, activity rate by gender and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Women	64	50	54	55	63	60	62	70	46	71	70	63	47	49	47	54	62	68	68	44	59	49	77	37	61	71	61	60
Men	68	52	51	65	71	68	75	64	58	76	72	68	49	62	49	72	59	71	68	71	75	60	75	61	69	70	69	68

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

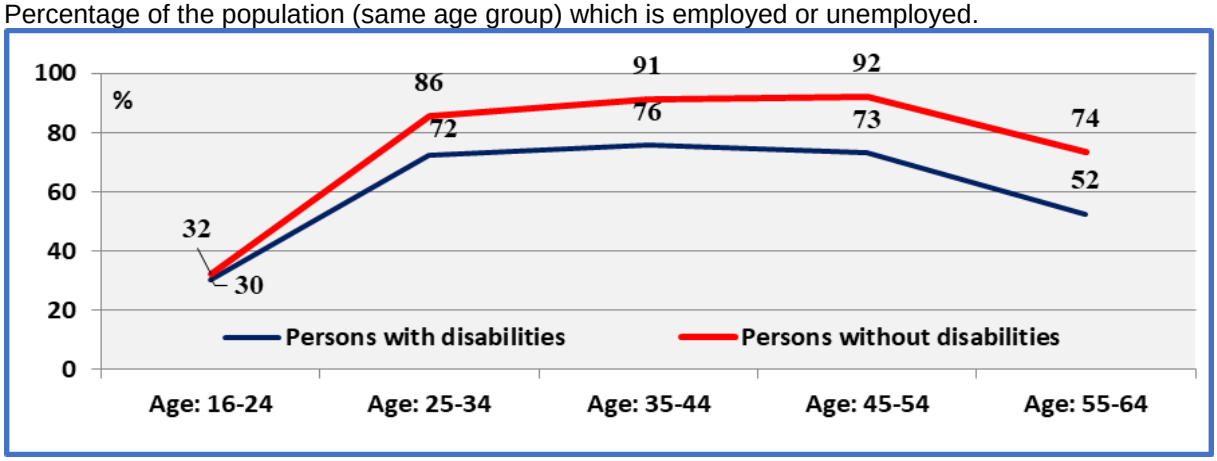
9.2.4 Activity rate by age

The evolution of the activity rate by age group was similar for persons with and without disabilities. However, the gap increases 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.

The disability gap decreased in the age group 55-64, between 2021 and 2022.

Figure 54: Activity rate by age group and disability status, EU 25, 2022
Percentage of the population (same age group) which is employed or unemployed.



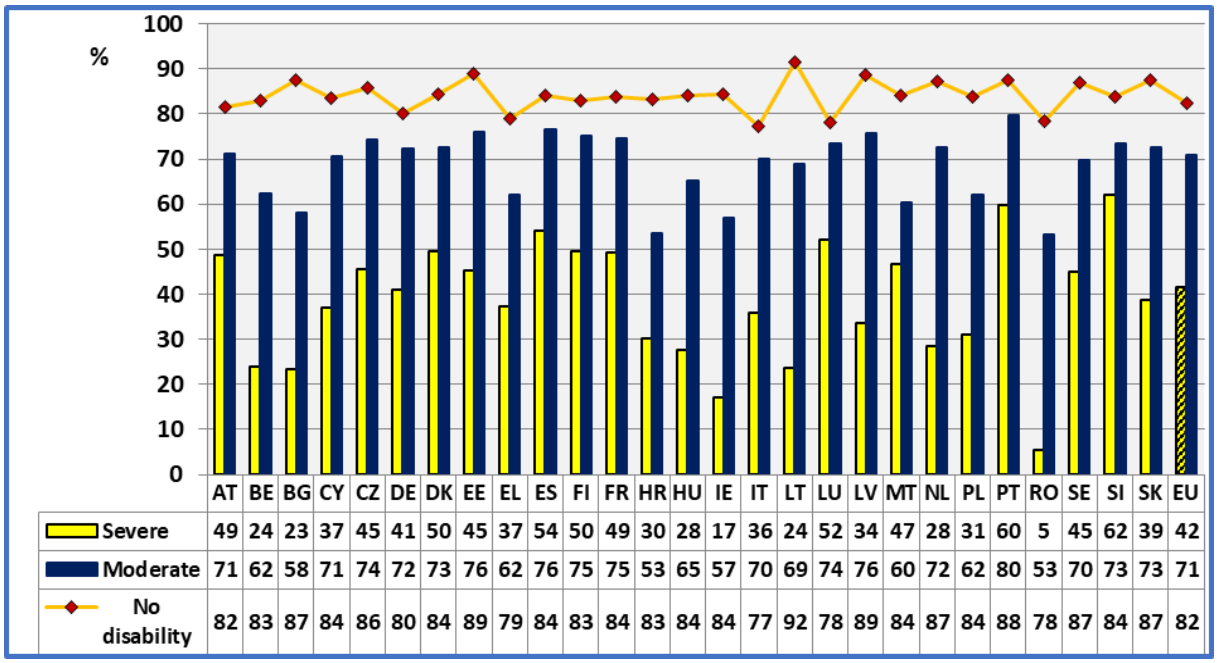
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

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, with moderate disabilities and with severe disabilities were, respectively, 82.5 %, 70.9 % and 41.7 %.

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

Figure 55: Activity rate by degree of disability and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Severe	49	24	23	37	45	41	50	45	37	54	50	49	30	28	17	36	24	52	34	47	28	31	60	5	45	62	39	42
Moderate	71	62	58	71	74	72	73	76	62	76	75	75	53	65	57	70	69	74	76	60	72	62	80	53	70	73	73	71
No disability	82	83	87	84	86	80	84	89	79	84	83	84	83	84	84	77	92	78	89	84	87	84	88	78	87	84	87	82

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

The data indicate that countries with similar activity rates for persons without disabilities presented big differences in their respective activity rates for people with disabilities. This means that there is potential for increasing the activity rate of persons 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 severe disabilities are not correlated with the national activity rates for persons without disabilities (R^2=0.00). It may be advanced that the general national context of economic activity does not determine the activity rate of persons with severe disabilities. This might be an indication that their activity rate depends more on specific factors relating to disability policy 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 were presented in previous annual reports.

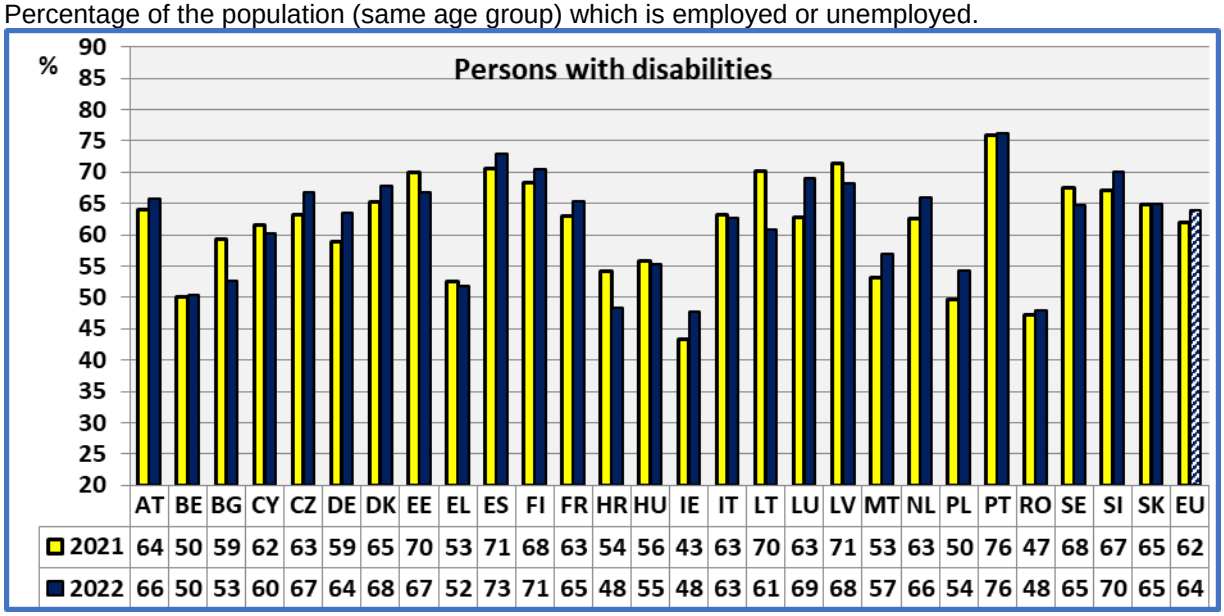
This might indicate that persons with disabilities, notably persons with severe disabilities, might not benefit from a general improvement in the labour market if they do not have the necessary support for work adaptations and technical aids.

9.2.6 Evolution at national level

In the EU 27 between 2021 and 2022, the activity rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 increased from 62.0 % to 64.0 %. The activity rate of persons without disabilities increased marginally from 82.3 % to 82.5 %.

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.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
2021	64	50	59	62	63	59	65	70	53	71	68	63	54	56	43	63	70	63	71	53	63	50	76	47	68	67	65	62
2022	66	50	53	60	67	64	68	67	52	73	71	65	48	55	48	63	61	69	68	57	66	54	76	48	65	70	65	64

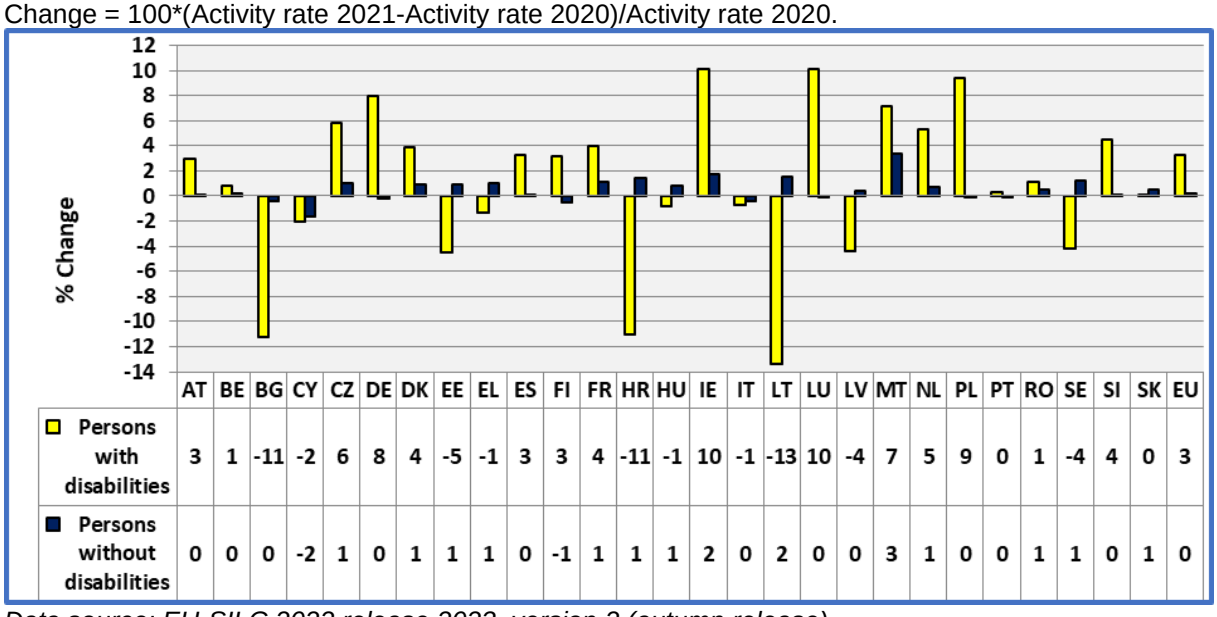
Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

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 impact on 2021 indicators.

As noted previously, 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 for 2021-2022.

Figure 57: Relative change in the activity rate between 2021 and 2022, aged 20-64

Change = 100*(Activity rate 2021-Activity rate 2020)/Activity rate 2020.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	3	1	-11	-2	6	8	4	-5	-1	3	3	4	-11	-1	10	-1	-13	10	-4	7	5	9	0	1	-4	4	0	3
Persons without disabilities	0	0	0	-2	1	0	1	1	1	0	-1	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

9.2.7 Evolution at the EU level

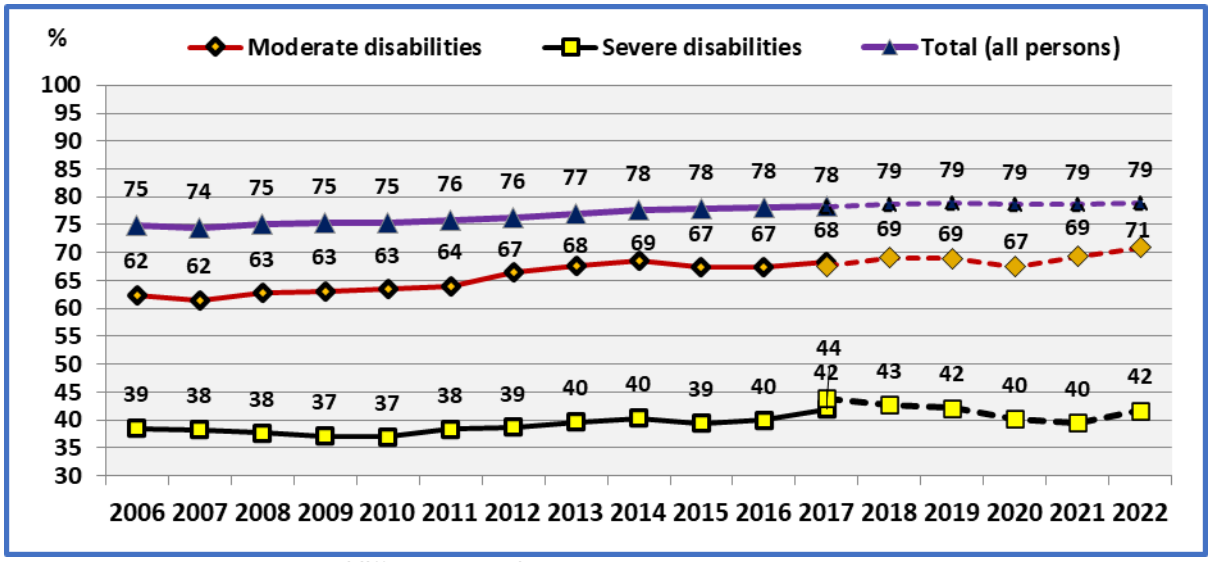
At the EU 27 level, there has been a continuous increase in the activity rates for the different groups since 2010. The apparent decrease of the activity rate between 2014 and 2015 was due to the change in the definition of disability in Germany and Italy.

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. Also, a discontinuity of German data series was observed in 2020 (due to a change in methodology) which affected the EU aggregate.

We may observe an upward trend in activity rates for all groups between 2021 and 2022. However, the activity gap between persons with and without disabilities remains high.

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

Dotted lines cover the EU 27.



Data source: EU-SILC UDB (different years).

9.3 Statistical tables

Table 66: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022

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	65.9	81.5	77.5	63.6	73.2	68.2	89.7	48.6	71.3	15.6
BE	50.5	83.0	76.4	49.7	79.4	51.5	86.4	23.9	62.5	32.5
BG	52.6	87.4	84.9	54.0	82.6	51.2	92.1	23.5	58.1	34.8
CY	60.3	83.6	82.1	55.4	78.7	65.5	88.8	37.1	70.6	23.3
CZ	66.9	85.8	81.4	62.9	78.2	71.4	93.2	45.4	74.2	18.9
DE	63.6	80.0	76.5	59.6	74.1	67.9	85.6	41.0	72.4	16.5

DK	67.9	84.4	77.8	62.0	81.7	75.2	86.8	49.6	72.6	16.5
EE	66.8	89.0	83.6	69.8	85.4	63.9	92.7	45.3	76.0	22.2
EL	51.8	79.1	75.6	45.9	70.3	58.1	88.0	37.3	62.1	27.3
ES	73.0	84.1	81.1	70.7	79.3	75.8	88.7	54.0	76.5	11.1
FI	70.5	82.9	80.0	69.6	79.4	71.6	85.9	49.6	75.3	12.4
FR	65.4	83.9	79.5	63.4	79.7	67.9	88.2	49.1	74.5	18.5
HR	48.3	83.4	76.5	47.4	77.8	49.1	89.1	30.1	53.4	35.1
HU	55.3	84.2	79.7	49.2	76.9	62.2	91.6	27.6	65.3	29.0
IE	47.7	84.3	76.6	46.5	78.0	48.9	90.7	17.3	56.8	36.5
IT	62.7	77.2	75.7	53.7	67.0	71.9	87.3	35.8	70.0	14.5
LT	60.8	91.7	85.9	62.1	89.0	59.3	94.5	23.6	68.8	30.9
LU	69.1	78.3	74.8	67.8	72.0	70.5	84.0	52.1	73.5	9.2
LV	68.2	88.6	83.7	68.3	84.6	68.1	92.9	33.6	75.6	20.4
MT	57.0	84.2	78.4	44.3	74.7	70.8	92.4	46.8	60.3	27.3
NL	66.0	87.2	80.7	58.7	86.0	75.1	88.4	28.4	72.5	21.3
PL	54.3	83.9	78.7	49.1	76.1	60.3	92.2	31.0	62.0	29.6
PT	76.1	87.7	84.6	76.8	85.0	75.3	90.4	59.8	79.8	11.5
RO	47.8	78.4	72.8	37.2	68.0	61.3	88.0	5.5	53.4	30.5
SE	64.7	86.9	82.7	61.2	82.3	69.2	90.9	44.9	69.8	22.2
SI	70.1	83.8	81.0	70.8	81.4	69.5	86.0	62.0	73.4	13.6
SK	64.9	87.5	81.9	61.4	81.3	68.6	93.3	38.6	72.5	22.6
EU	**64.0**	**82.5**	**78.7**	**60.1**	**76.2**	**68.5**	**88.6**	**41.7**	**70.9**	**18.5**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

Table 67: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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 between moderate and severe disabilities. Data for Slovakia are missing and have been replaced by 2020 data in the figures.
Data source: EU-SILC release 1 in 2023 (spring release).

Table 68: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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 69: Activity rate by disability status and Member State, aged 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 70: Evolution of the activity rate, EU, aged 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
2022				70.9	41.7	79.0

Data source : EU-SILC UDB.

Part IV: Social 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, 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[56] 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. The disability employment gap is defined as the difference between the employment rates of persons without disabilities and persons with disabilities, aged 20-64.[57]

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

As noted, the ‘Disability employment gap’ statistical indicator, in unadjusted form, measures the difference between the employment rate for persons with disabilities and the employment rate for persons without disabilities. The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group.

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 does not enable us to measure employment according to the ILO definition.

[56] 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.

[57] See Eurostat: https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/tbrhqm5vm0zrcz3arcfg?locale=en.

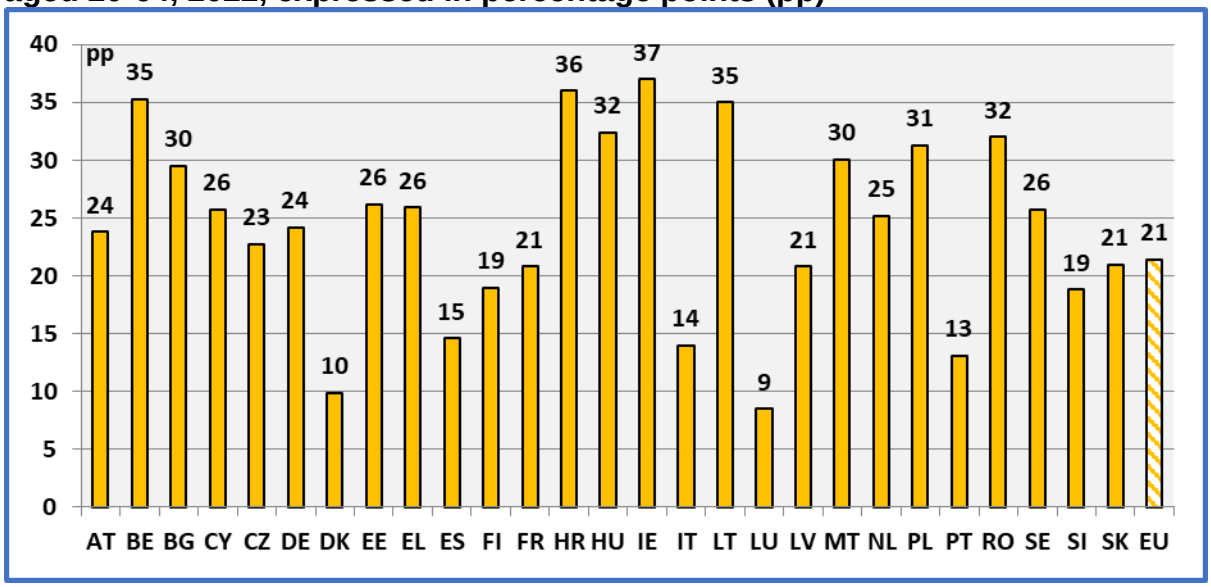
The disability employment gap (in percentage points), as a headline indicator in the Social Scoreboard (Pillar), relies on a different definition of employment. A person is considered as employed if he was employed (full or part-time) for more than five months, during the income reference period (during the previous 12 months).[58]

As shown in previous EDE annual reports, these two definitions of the disability employment gap are strongly correlated. The high correlation indicates that the proposed indicator is robust, whatever definition is adopted. Here, we adopt the definition used by the Social Scoreboard. The interested reader can consult the chapter on employment for alternative definitions of the disability employment gap.

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 21.4 percentage points.

We may observe that the highest disability employment gaps could be found in Belgium (35.3 percentage points), Croatia (36.0 percentage points) and Ireland (37.0 percentage points). The smallest employment gaps could be found in Luxembourg (8.5 percentage points), Denmark (9.9 percentage points) and Portugal (13.1 percentage points).

Figure 59: The employment gap between persons with and without disabilities, aged 20-64, 2022, expressed in percentage points (pp)



Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

10.2.2 Disability employment gap by gender

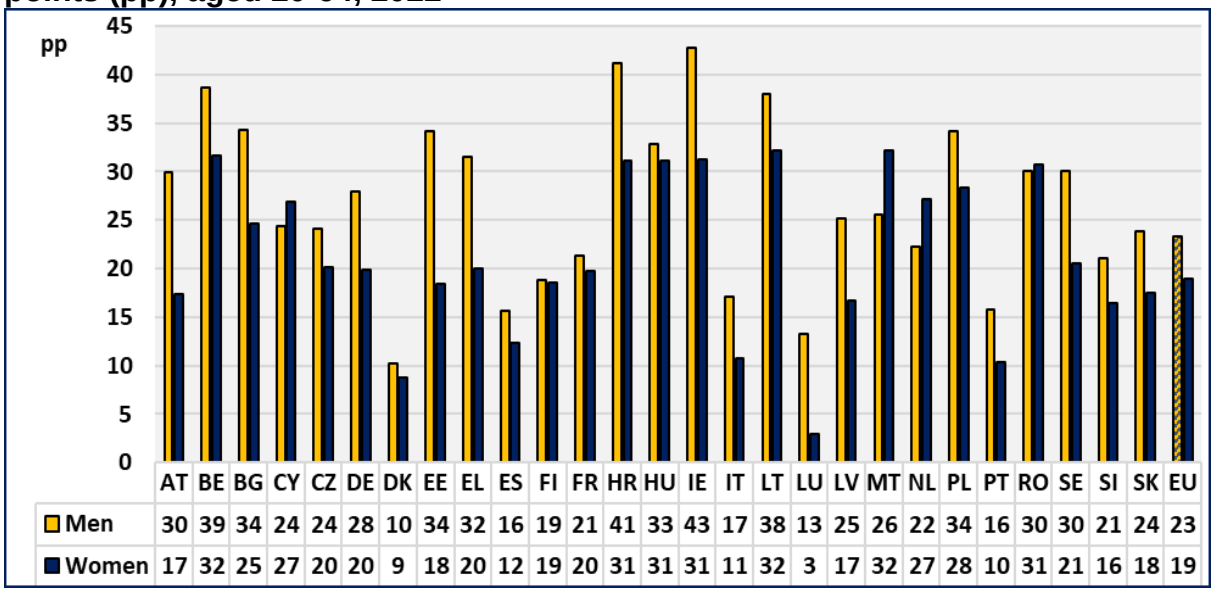
In the EU 27, the disability employment gap for women (women without disabilities in comparison with women with disabilities) amounted to 18.9 percentage points. This gap was 23.3 percentage points for men.

The lower participation of women in the labour force might explain the lower disability employment gap for women with disabilities compared to men with disabilities. In fact,

[58] EU-SILC (PX050: Activity status).

lower expectations concerning employment might lead some women with disabilities out of the labour force.

Figure 60: The disability employment gap by gender, expressed in percentage points (pp), aged 20-64, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Men	30	39	34	24	24	28	10	34	32	16	19	21	41	33	43	17	38	13	25	26	22	34	16	30	30	21	24	23
Women	17	32	25	27	20	20	9	18	20	12	19	20	31	31	31	11	32	3	17	32	27	28	10	31	21	16	18	19

Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

10.2.3 Disability employment gap by degree

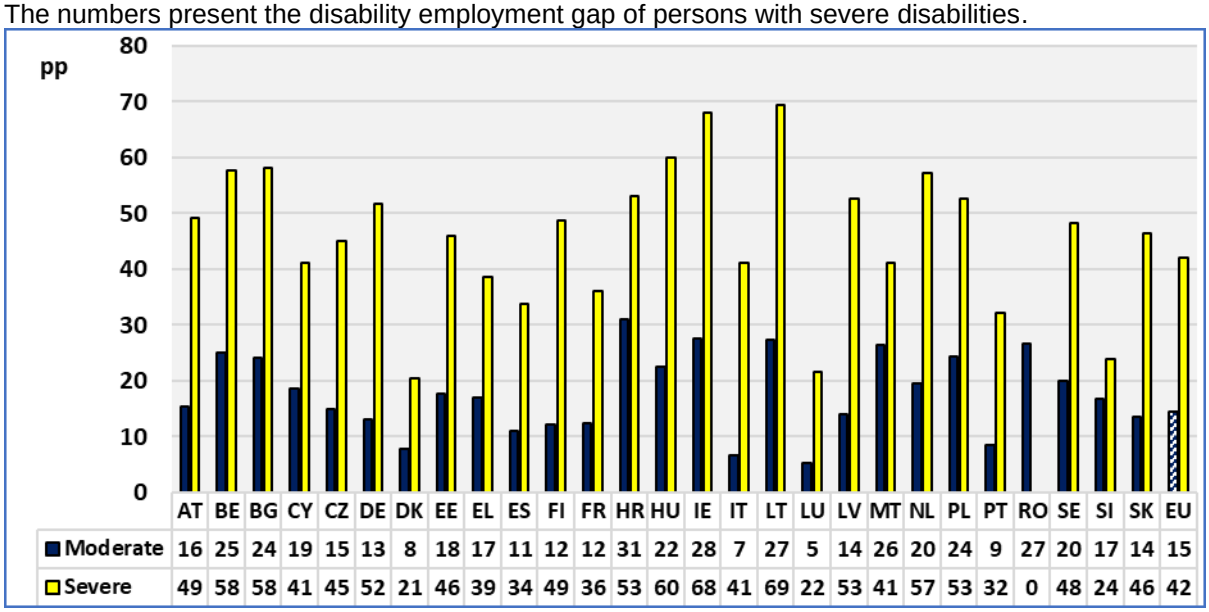
The degree of disability is an important factor.

In the EU 27, the disability employment gap for persons with moderate disabilities amounted to 14.5 percentage points, compared to 42.1 percentage points for persons with severe disabilities.

The figure indicates that persons with severe disabilities ought to constitute a priority target for policies aiming employment and social inclusion. Employment constitutes an important channel for the socio-economic integration in the EU.

Figure 61: The disability employment gap by degree of disability, expressed in percentage points (pp), aged 20-64, 2022

The numbers present the disability employment gap of persons with severe disabilities.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Moderate	16	25	24	19	15	13	8	18	17	11	12	12	31	22	28	7	27	5	14	26	20	24	9	27	20	17	14	15
Severe	49	58	58	41	45	52	21	46	39	34	49	36	53	60	68	41	69	22	53	41	57	53	32	0	48	24	46	42

Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

10.2.4 Evolution of the disability employment gap

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.

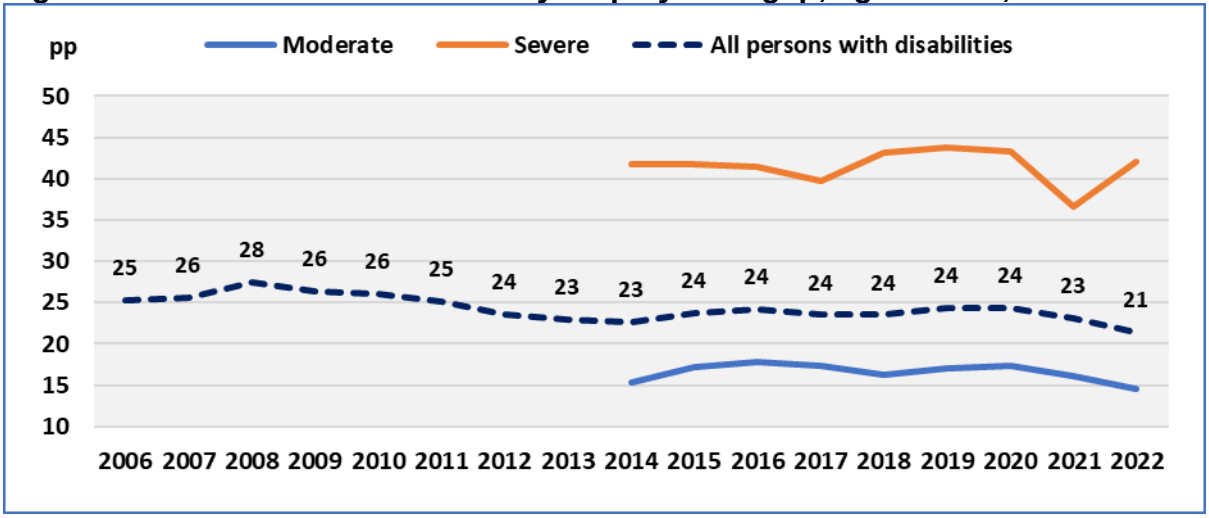
During the latter years, the absolute gap stabilised at around 23/24 percentage points.

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. Furthermore, the meaning of employment during lockdown periods may vary across countries.

Despite these reservations, we may note that the disability employment gap decreased in 2022. However, further analysis is required in order to assess whether this decrease is permanent or due to changes in definitions and mode of data collections introduced in 2021/2022.

Despite the above reservations, we may observe a long-term downward movement in the disability employment gap.

Figure 62: Evolution of the disability employment gap, aged 20-64, EU



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.
Data for 2006-2013 cover the EU 28 and are based on self-declarations (EU-SILC question PL031 on 'Self-defined current economic status'). According to this latter definition, the total gap in 2021 is 23.9 pp.
Data source: EU-SILC and Eurostat.

10.3 Statistical tables

Table 71: Disability employment gap by year and gender. Total, aged 20-64

Country	Persons with disabilities					
	2021			2022		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
AT	26.3	32.3	20.3	23.8	29.9	17.4
BE	38.0	41.4	34.4	35.3	38.6	31.7
BG	22.1	28.4	15.7	29.5	34.3	24.6
CY	27.0	27.1	27.4	25.7	24.4	26.9
CZ	25.9	26.3	24.8	22.7	24.1	20.2
DE	30.5	33.3	27.4	24.2	27.9	19.9
DK	7.9	8.5	6.3	9.9	10.2	8.8
EE	18.7	22.9	14.4	26.2	34.1	18.4
EL	23.8	30.0	17.9	25.9	31.5	20.0
ES	15.9	17.4	13.5	14.6	15.7	12.4
FI	22.2	24.7	19.3	19.0	18.8	18.5
FR	24.1	25.7	22.2	20.8	21.3	19.8
HR	28.7	33.1	24.5	36.0	41.2	31.1
HU	28.8	35.0	22.2	32.4	32.8	31.1
IE	41.3	44.7	37.8	37.0	42.7	31.2
IT	14.9	17.6	11.6	14.0	17.1	10.7
LT	23.9	28.8	19.4	35.0	38.0	32.2
LU	15.4	16.2	13.2	8.5	13.2	2.9
LV	16.6	22.9	10.8	20.8	25.2	16.7
MT	27.0	27.3	25.2	30.1	25.5	32.2
NL	25.8	23.7	27.3	25.2	22.3	27.2
PL	34.2	38.4	30.3	31.3	34.1	28.3

PT	16.2	16.3	15.6	13.1	15.8	10.3
RO	32.6	29.9	32.0	32.0	30.1	30.7
SE	19.9	25.1	14.4	25.7	30.1	20.5
SI	21.1	26.9	14.8	18.8	21.0	16.4
SK	25.3	28.3	21.4	21.0	23.9	17.5
EU	**23.1**	**25.2**	**20.4**	**21.4**	**23.3**	**18.9**

Note: Data in '()': low reliability; 'b': break in time series; ':' missing.
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 72: Disability employment gap by year and gender. Moderate, aged 20-64

Country	**Persons with moderate disabilities**					
	2021			**2022**		
	Total	**Males**	**Females**	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**
AT	16.9	20.5	13.1	15.5	19.8	10.8
BE	27.8	31.5	24.0	25.1	27.3	22.4
BG	17.0	24.7	9.3	24.1	28.4	19.7
CY	20.0	18.5	22.3	18.6	17.3	19.8
CZ	16.4	16.2	16.0	14.9	14.7	13.8
DE	:	:	:	13.1	15.3	10.2
DK	5.2	5.7	3.7	7.7	8.3	6.5
EE	11.0	12.9	8.9	17.8	25.2	10.5
EL	15.1	18.6	11.8	16.9	17.2	15.4
ES	12.8	13.7	10.9	11.1	11.4	9.5
FI	15.0	18.1	11.5	12.2	10.3	12.9
FR	16.0	16.0	15.3	12.3	11.8	12.1
HR	23.4	27.0	19.7	31.1	34.8	27.5
HU	20.4	26.9	13.6	22.4	20.2	23.2
IE	31.4	31.0	31.6	27.6	32.1	23.1
IT	8.8	8.1	7.9	6.6	6.9	5.7
LT	18.8	21.9	15.8	27.4	28.0	26.5
LU	10.7	10.5	9.9	5.2	10.3	-0.7
LV	10.9	16.3	5.9	14.0	16.8	11.1
MT	22.6	22.4	21.7	26.4	21.8	30.1
NL	20.9	18.4	22.6	19.6	15.1	22.5
PL	26.1	25.4	25.9	24.3	22.3	24.5
PT	12.4	9.6	13.8	8.6	8.4	7.9
RO	26.4	21.0	27.7	26.7	21.6	27.3
SE	13.0	17.1	8.4	19.9	22.8	15.9
SI	15.7	18.0	13.0	16.8	18.9	14.4
SK	15.1	16.2	12.8	13.6	16.3	10.2
EU	**16.1**	**16.4**	**14.7**	**14.5**	**14.6**	**13.3**

Note: Data in'()': low reliability; 'b': break in time series; ':' missing.
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 73: Disability employment gap by year and gender. Severe, aged 20-64

Country	Persons with severe disabilities					
	2021			2022		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
AT	55.4	65.4	45.1	49.2	57.3	41.0
BE	57.7	59.9	55.3	57.6	64.0	51.6
BG	47.4	46.4	:	58.1	:	:
CY	41.0	44.6	37.7	41.2	39.4	43.4
CZ	51.0	53.8	47.4	45.1	50.7	39.0
DE	30.5	33.3	27.4	51.8	57.7	45.5
DK	20.9	20.9	20.4	20.5	20.0	19.8
EE	39.6	46.5	31.9	45.9	52.7	38.6
EL	35.9	46.0	26.2	38.7	50.5	27.0
ES	31.9	34.9	28.8	33.8	37.7	29.7
FI	50.4	48.2	52.0	48.7	52.3	44.9
FR	40.0	43.8	36.3	36.0	38.5	33.3
HR	47.5	52.5	42.9	53.2	59.9	46.3
HU	53.8	56.1	51.4	60.1	65.6	54.5
IE	66.6	:	:	68.0	:	:
IT	35.9	44.6	27.7	41.1	51.4	30.8
LT	56.6	62.4	49.6	69.4	:	:
LU	29.5	37.4	21.9	21.6	25.7	16.2
LV	49.1	56.3	42.3	52.7	59.9	45.8
MT	41.8	45.2	36.2	41.2	40.2	37.3
NL	57.7	56.4	58.6	57.2	56.9	57.4
PL	54.7	65.4	44.1	52.7	63.0	42.6
PT	29.9	37.8	22.7	32.2	39.6	23.9
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:
SE	46.7	51.6	41.2	48.3	53.6	42.2
SI	35.3	49.5	19.9	23.9	25.8	21.9
SK	53.0	60.0	45.5	46.4	49.9	42.1
EU	**36.6**	**40.7**	**32.3**	**42.1**	**47.3**	**36.8**

Note: Data in '()': low reliability; 'b': break in time series; ':' missing.
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Part V: Social protection (overarching indicators)

11 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

11.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 28 of the UN Convention covers 'Adequate standard of living and social protection'. It provides in particular, 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 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'.

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 Pillar of Social Rights aims to build a more inclusive and fairer European Union. It covers, in particular, three broad dimensions of societal progress: the labour market; fair working conditions; and public support/social protection and inclusion.

As noted above, on 30 January 2023, the Council adopted a Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion. This Recommendation aims at combatting poverty and social exclusion.[59]

In a more targeted approach, the Council adopted a Recommendation establishing a European child guarantee in 2021.[60] 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 encouraged to identify children in need, notably children with disabilities.

[59] European Commission (2022), *Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion* {SWD(2022) 313 final}, Brussels, 28 September 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.

[60] 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&.

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, DG Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion specified how it will contribute to the Commission's priorities.[61] 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:

- people living in households with very low work intensity;
- those at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers; and
- severe material and social deprivation.

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.

In the following, we will give a summary presentation of the three components and then present the global indicator for people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

11.2 People living in households with very low work intensity

11.2.1 Definition of very low work intensity

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.

The 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.[62] The indicator is based on persons aged 18-59 (excluding students). The work intensity status is assigned to each household member.

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.

The 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

[61] 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.

[62] 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.

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 over are excluded from the indicator calculation'.[63]

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.

11.2.2 Analysis by Member State

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 2022, about 17.1 % of persons with disabilities were living in households with a very low work intensity (<20 %), in comparison with 5.7 % of persons without disabilities. This represents a difference of about 11.4 percentage points.

The percentage of persons with disabilities who were living in households with a very low work intensity (<20 %) varied, from 6.6 % (Romania) to 30.8 % (Belgium), across the Member States.

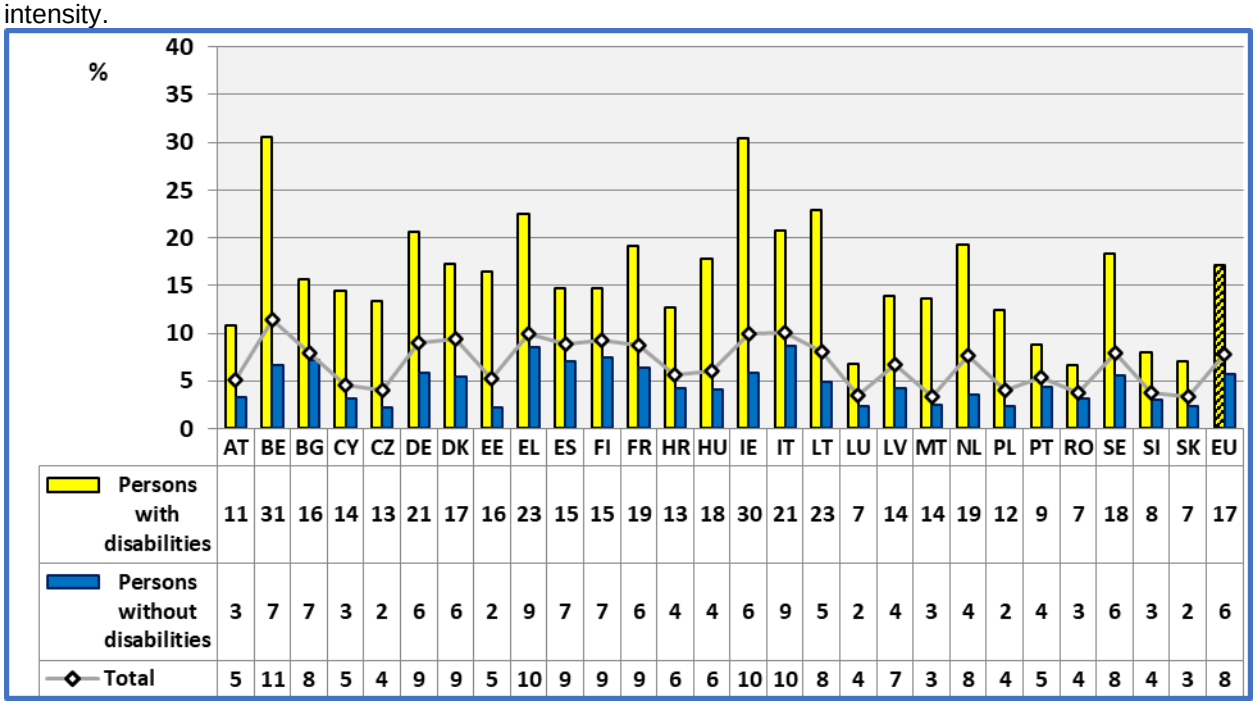
This indicator has to be treated with care, as work intensity is estimated at the household level and the same value is then attributed to all household members.

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

Figure 63: Percentage of persons living in households with low work intensity (Work Intensity < 20 %), aged 16-64, 2022

The indicator is based on persons aged 18-64 (excluding students, etc.). The same work intensity status is assigned to each household member aged 16 to 64.

The numbers present the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with low work intensity.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	11	31	16	14	13	21	17	16	23	15	15	19	13	18	30	21	23	7	14	14	19	12	9	7	18	8	7	17
Persons without disabilities	3	7	7	3	2	6	6	2	9	7	7	6	4	4	6	9	5	2	4	3	4	2	4	3	6	3	2	6
Total	5	11	8	5	4	9	9	5	10	9	9	9	6	6	10	10	8	4	7	3	8	4	5	4	8	4	3	8

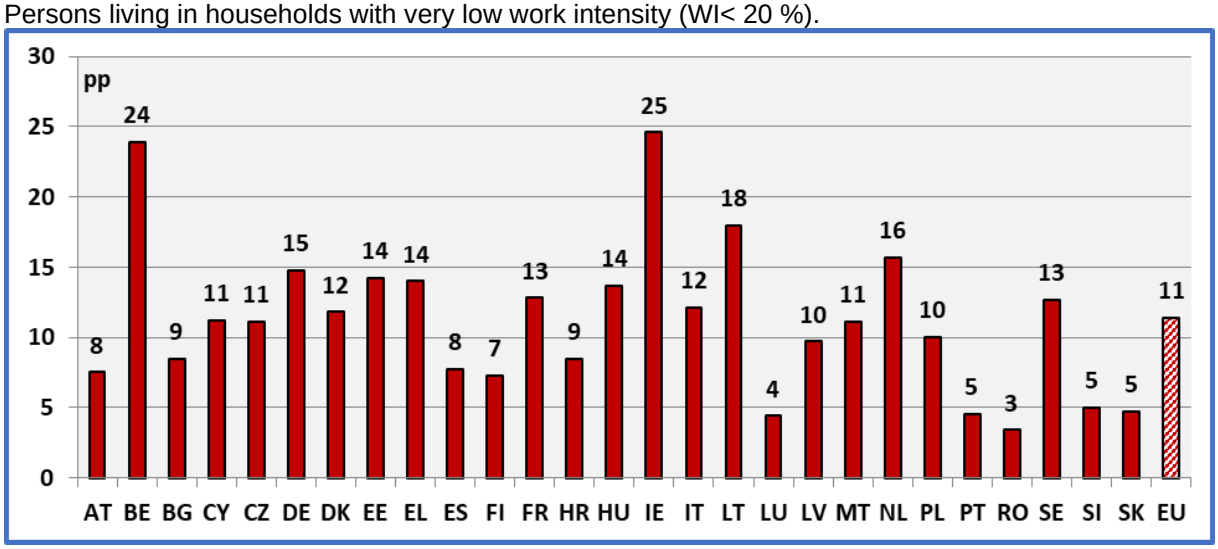
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040__custom_11000909/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.2.3 Disability gap in very low work intensity

In the EU 27 in 2022, the difference between persons with and without disabilities in the 16-64 age group amounted to about 11 percentage points (rounded).

The highest gaps could be found in Lithuania (18 percentage points), Belgium (24 percentage points) and Ireland (25 percentage points), in ascending order. The smallest gaps could be found in Romania (3 percentage points), Luxembourg (4 percentage points) and Portugal (5 percentage points).

Figure 64: Disability gap in very low work intensity, aged 16-64, 2022
Gap = % of persons with disabilities - % of persons without disabilities.
Persons living in households with very low work intensity (WI< 20 %).



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040__custom_11000909/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

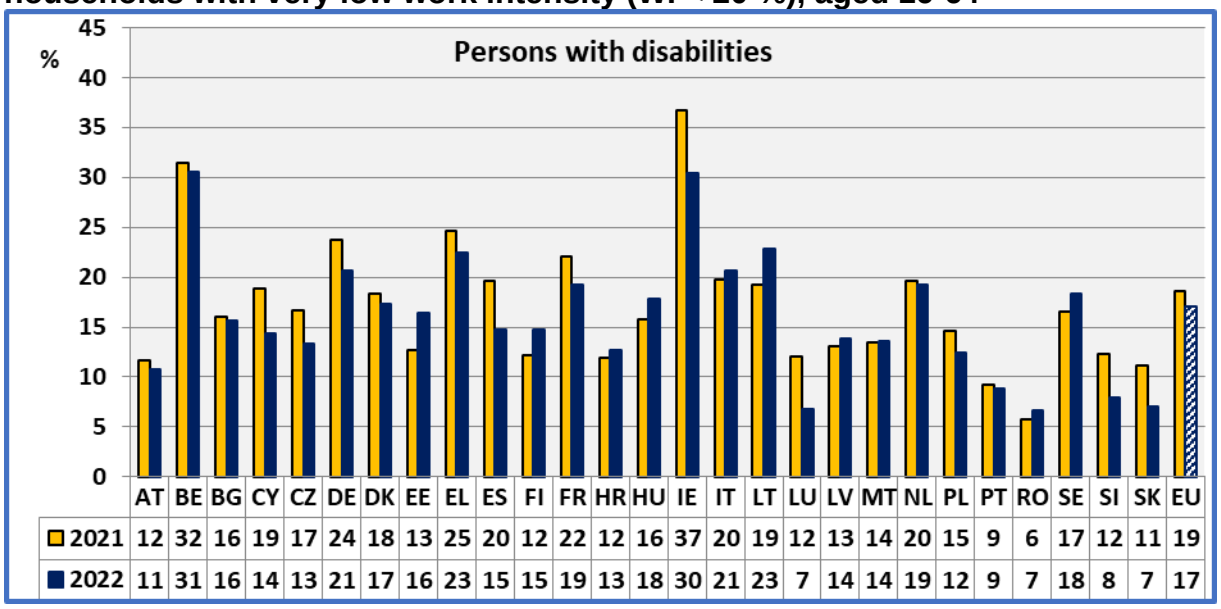
11.2.4 Evolution at national level

In the following graph, one may observe an improvement of the situation of persons with disabilities at the EU level between 2021 and 2022. In fact, the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with very low work intensity dropped from 18.6 % (2021) to 17.1 % (2022). This represents a decrease of 1.5 percentage points (8.1 % decrease).

An improvement was observed in the majority of Member States.

For comparison, the percentage of persons without disabilities living in households with very low work intensity dropped from 6.6 % (2021) to 5.7 % (2022). This represents a decrease of 0.9 percentage points (13.6 % decrease).

Figure 65: Evolution of the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households with very low work intensity (WI < 20 %), aged 16-64



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040__custom_11000909/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.2.5 Statistical tables

Table 74: 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 less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year.

	2021			2022			2022
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	11.7	4.9	6.4	10.8	3.3	5.1	7.5
BE	31.5	7.3	11.8	30.5	6.6	11.4	23.9
BG	16.0	6.8	7.7	15.7	7.2	7.9	8.5
CY	18.9	4.2	6.0	14.4	3.2	4.5	11.2
CZ	16.7	2.5	4.7	13.3	2.2	4.0	11.1
DE	23.8	6.5	9.5	20.6	5.8	9.0	14.8
DK	18.4	6.5	10.2	17.3	5.5	9.4	11.8
EE	12.7	2.6	5.1	16.4	2.2	5.2	14.2
EL	24.7	11.0	12.4	22.5	8.5	9.9	14.0
ES	19.6	9.6	11.8	14.7	7.0	8.8	7.7
FI	12.2	6.8	8.0	14.7	7.4	9.3	7.3
FR	22.1	7.1	9.6	19.2	6.4	8.7	12.8
HR	11.9	5.8	7.0	12.7	4.2	5.7	8.5
HU	15.8	3.1	4.8	17.8	4.1	6.0	13.7
IE	36.7	7.9	12.3	30.4	5.8	9.9	24.6
IT	19.7	9.8	11.1	20.7	8.6	10.1	12.1
LT	19.2	5.2	8.1	22.9	4.9	8.1	18.0
LU	12.0	3.7	5.5	6.8	2.4	3.5	4.4
LV	13.1	4.0	6.4	13.9	4.2	6.7	9.7

MT	13.5	3.6	4.7	13.6	2.5	3.4	11.1
NL	19.6	4.4	8.0	19.3	3.6	7.7	15.7
PL	14.6	2.5	4.4	12.4	2.4	4.0	10.0
PT	9.2	4.1	5.4	8.8	4.3	5.4	4.5
RO	5.8	2.7	3.2	6.6	3.2	3.7	3.4
SE	16.6	6.6	8.3	18.3	5.6	7.9	12.7
SI	12.3	2.4	4.0	8.0	3.0	3.8	5.0
SK	11.1	2.7	4.5	7.0	2.3	3.3	4.7
EU	**18.6**	**6.6**	**8.7**	**17.1**	**5.7**	**7.8**	**11.4**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe040__custom_11000909/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.3 People at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers

11.3.1 Definition of poverty

As noted above, on 30 January 2023, the Council adopted 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.[64]

In the framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion[65] defined a set of impact indicators that are relevant to the socio-economic field. They include, notably, people at risk of poverty.

In the framework of the above initiatives, 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).

11.3.2 Analysis by Member State

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 2022, about 20.5 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over faced a risk of poverty, in comparison with 14.5 % of persons without disabilities in the same age group. The percentage for all persons aged 16 and over was 16.1 %.

In 2022, the percentage of persons with disabilities who were living in households at risk of poverty was high in Bulgaria (37.0 %), Lithuania (37.7 %), and Estonia (44.4 %).

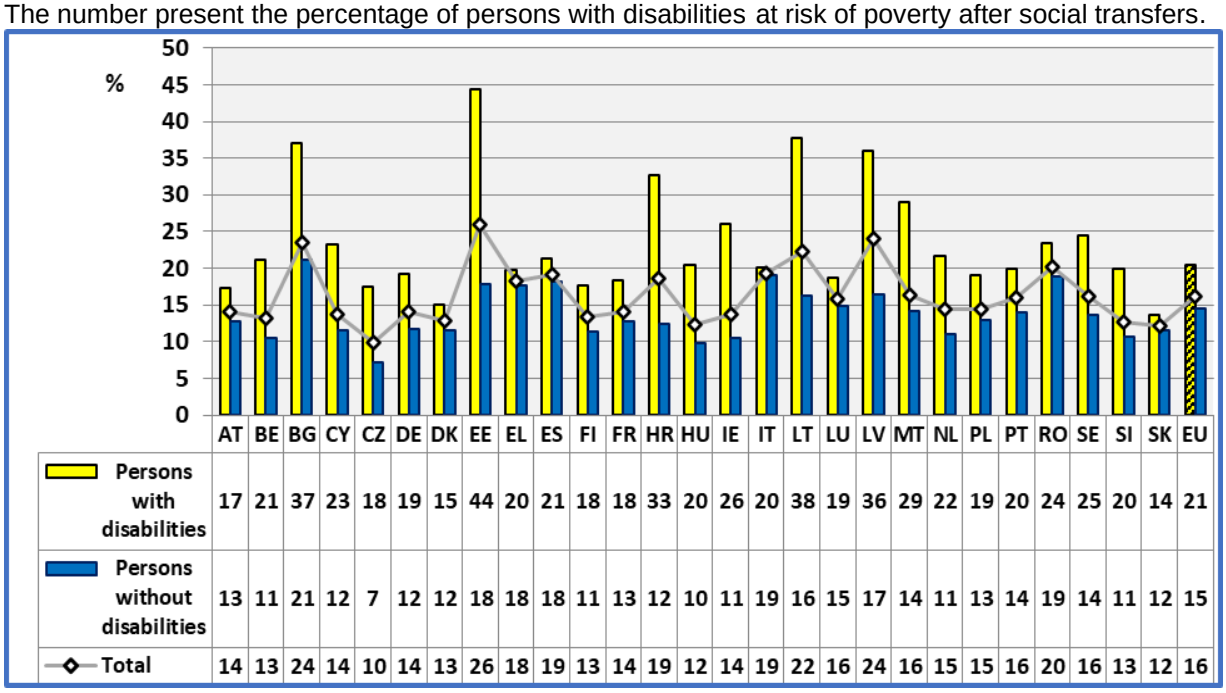
[64] European Commission (2022), *Proposal for a Council Recommendation On adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion* {SWD(2022) 313 final}, Brussels, 28 September 2022, COM(2022) 490 final. See: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10504#:~:text=The%20Council%20adopted%20today%20a,of%20those%20who%20can%20work.

[65] 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.

The rate was relatively low in Slovakia (13.6 %), Denmark (15.1 %) and Austria (17.3 %).

Figure 66: Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers (AROP), aged 16+, 2022

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).
The number present the percentage of persons with disabilities at risk of poverty after social transfers.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	17	21	37	23	18	19	15	44	20	21	18	18	33	20	26	20	38	19	36	29	22	19	20	24	25	20	14	21
Persons without disabilities	13	11	21	12	7	12	12	18	18	18	11	13	12	10	11	19	16	15	17	14	11	13	14	19	14	11	12	15
Total	14	13	24	14	10	14	13	26	18	19	13	14	19	12	14	19	22	16	24	16	15	15	16	20	16	13	12	16

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe020/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

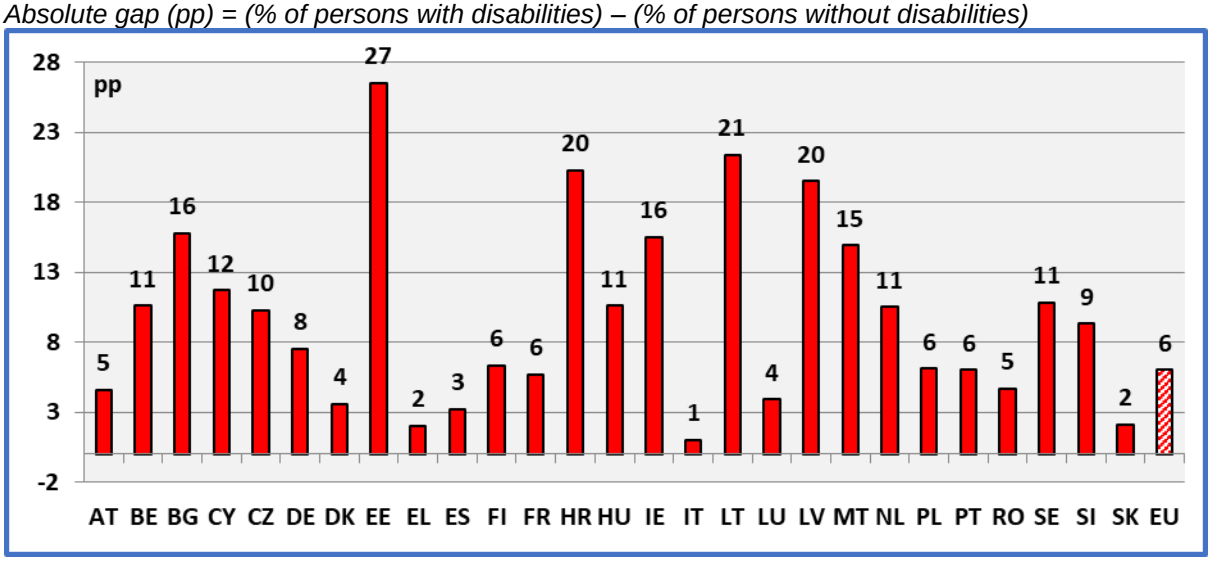
11.3.3 Disability poverty gap

In the EU 27 in 2022, 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 6.0 percentage points.

The highest absolute gaps could be found in Croatia (20.3 percentage points), Lithuania (21.4 percentage points) and Estonia (26.5 percentage points). The lowest gaps could be found in Italy (1.0 percentage points), Greece (2.0 percentage points) and Slovakia (2.1 percentage points). Similar results were found in previous years.

Figure 67: Disadvantage of persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities, at risk of poverty (AROP), aged 16+, 2022

Absolute gap (pp) = (% of persons with disabilities) – (% of persons without disabilities)



Data source: Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe020/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

In order to better capture the situation of persons with disabilities, we present below the evolution of the disability poverty gap 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. 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 might be different from those for persons aged 16-64.

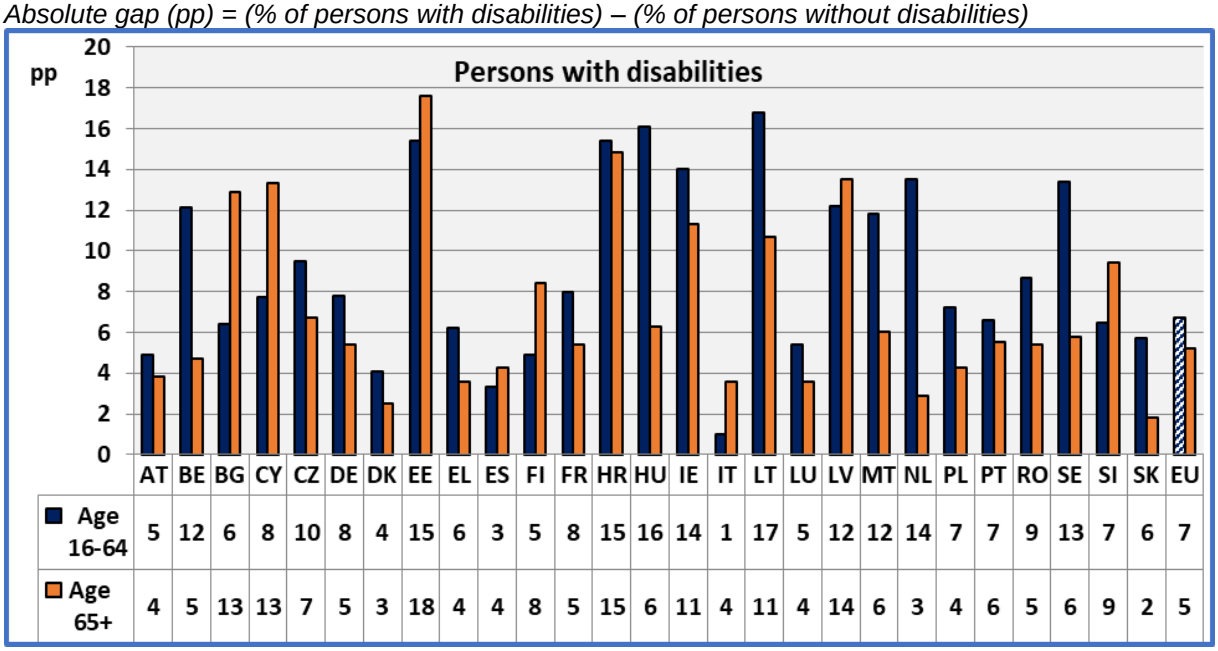
In the EU 27 in 2022, the absolute gap (difference) between persons with disabilities at risk of poverty and persons without disabilities at risk of poverty, aged 16-64, amounted to 6.7 percentage points. The gap, in the age group 65 and over, was 5.2 percentage points. This pattern can be found in most Member States.

Pension systems seem to guarantee a lower level of discrimination among elderly people, in the majority of Member States.

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 68: Disadvantage of persons with disabilities in comparison with persons without disabilities, at risk of poverty, by age group, 2022

Absolute gap (pp) = (% of persons with disabilities) – (% of persons without disabilities)



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Age 16-64	5	12	6	8	10	8	4	15	6	3	5	8	15	16	14	1	17	5	12	12	14	7	7	9	13	7	6	7
Age 65+	4	5	13	13	7	5	3	18	4	4	8	5	15	6	11	4	11	4	14	6	3	4	6	5	6	9	2	5

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe020/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.3.4 Evolution at national level

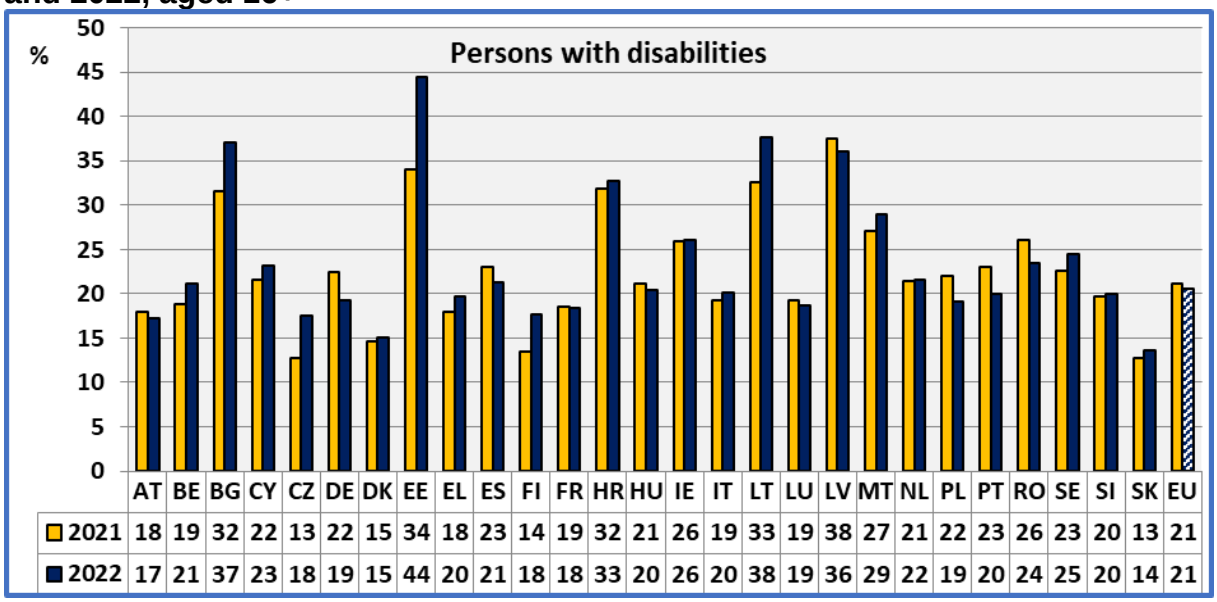
In the following graph, one may observe a small improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities at the EU level between 2021 and 2022. Indeed, the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers fell from 21.1 % (2021) to 20.5 % (2022). This represents a decrease of 0.6 percentage points (2.8 % decrease).

An improvement was observed in only 10 Member States but their weight in the EU aggregate is relatively important (e.g. Germany).

For comparison, the percentage of persons without disabilities living in households at risk of poverty after social transfers fell from 14.9 % (2021) to 14.5 % (2022). This represents a decrease of 0.4 percentage points (2.7 % decrease).

We have to remind that the collection of 2021 data have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in some Member States. Consequently, the comparison between 2021 and 2022 ought to be made with caution. For example, we observe important differences between 2021 and 2022 in Bulgaria, Czechia and Finland. However, if we compare 2020 and 2022, we find small differences in these Member States. Also, we observe a discontinuity in the Estonian data.

Figure 69: People with disabilities at risk of poverty after social transfers in 2021 and 2022, aged 16+



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe020/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip, Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.3.5 Statistical tables

Table 75: Percentage of persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, aged 16+

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).

	2021			2022			2022
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	17.9	11.9	13.6	17.3	12.7	14.0	4.6
BE	18.8	10.1	12.2	21.1	10.5	13.2	10.6
BG	31.6	21.0	22.9	37.0	21.2	23.5	15.8
CY	21.6	11.4	13.3	23.2	11.5	13.7	11.7
CZ	12.7	6.5	8.0	17.5	7.2	9.9	10.3
DE	22.4	14.1	16.2	19.2	11.7	14.0	7.5
DK	14.6	11.8	12.8	15.1	11.5	12.8	3.6
EE	34.0	16.3	22.2	44.4	17.9	26.0	26.5
EL	18.0	19.0	18.8	19.7	17.7	18.2	2.0
ES	23.1	19.4	20.4	21.3	18.1	19.1	3.2
FI	13.5	10.3	11.2	17.6	11.3	13.4	6.3
FR	18.5	12.0	13.5	18.4	12.7	14.1	5.7
HR	31.8	14.1	19.8	32.7	12.4	18.7	20.3
HU	21.1	10.2	12.6	20.4	9.8	12.3	10.6
IE	25.9	9.7	12.8	26.0	10.5	13.8	15.5
IT	19.2	19.6	19.5	20.1	19.1	19.4	1.0
LT	32.6	15.6	20.9	37.7	16.3	22.3	21.4
LU	19.2	14.7	15.9	18.7	14.8	15.9	3.9
LV	37.5	17.7	25.1	36.0	16.5	24.0	19.5

MT	27.1	14.2	16.3	29.0	14.1	16.3	14.9
NL	21.4	11.1	14.2	21.6	11.1	14.5	10.5
PL	22.0	13.4	15.4	19.1	13.0	14.5	6.1
PT	23.0	15.3	18.0	20.0	14.0	16.0	6.0
RO	26.1	19.0	21.1	23.5	18.8	20.2	4.7
SE	22.6	13.4	15.2	24.5	13.7	16.1	10.8
SI	19.7	10.0	12.1	20.0	10.7	12.7	9.3
SK	12.8	10.4	11.1	13.6	11.5	12.2	2.1
EU	**21.1**	**14.9**	**16.4**	**20.5**	**14.5**	**16.1**	**6.0**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe020/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 76: Percentage of persons at risk of poverty after social transfers, by age group, 2022

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).

	Age: 16-64			**Age: 65+**		
	Disability			**Disability**		
	Yes	**No**	**Gap in pp**	**Yes**	**No**	**Gap in pp**
AT	17.5	12.6	4.9	16.8	13.0	3.8
BE	21.4	9.3	12.1	20.6	15.9	4.7
BG	25.0	18.6	6.4	44.8	31.9	12.9
CY	18.9	11.2	7.7	27.1	13.8	13.3
CZ	15.8	6.3	9.5	18.9	12.2	6.7
DE	19.0	11.2	7.8	19.4	14.0	5.4
DK	15.6	11.5	4.1	14.2	11.7	2.5
EE	28.6	13.2	15.4	61.0	43.4	17.6
EL	24.6	18.4	6.2	17.4	13.8	3.6
ES	21.7	18.4	3.3	20.8	16.5	4.3
FI	16.4	11.5	4.9	19.1	10.7	8.4
FR	21.3	13.3	8.0	15.4	10.0	5.4
HR	26.3	10.9	15.4	37.3	22.5	14.8
HU	25.9	9.8	16.1	16.0	9.7	6.3
IE	22.9	8.9	14.0	31.5	20.2	11.3
IT	20.8	19.8	1.0	19.6	16.0	3.6
LT	30.2	13.4	16.8	44.7	34.0	10.7
LU	20.9	15.5	5.4	12.7	9.1	3.6
LV	26.8	14.6	12.2	45.3	31.8	13.5
MT	23.3	11.5	11.8	33.7	27.7	6.0
NL	23.7	10.2	13.5	18.2	15.3	2.9
PL	20.1	12.9	7.2	18.1	13.8	4.3
PT	20.7	14.1	6.6	19.2	13.7	5.5
RO	27.8	19.1	8.7	20.8	15.4	5.4
SE	26.9	13.5	13.4	20.3	14.5	5.8
SI	16.3	9.8	6.5	24.6	15.2	9.4
SK	17.7	12.0	5.7	8.7	6.9	1.8

EU	**21.2**	**14.5**	**6.7**	**19.7**	**14.5**	**5.2**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe020/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.4 Persons who are severely materially and socially deprived

11.4.1 Definition of severe material and social deprivation

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.[66] The framework 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.

The 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).

This indicator presents the share of the 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).

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; and
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; and
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.

[66] 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.

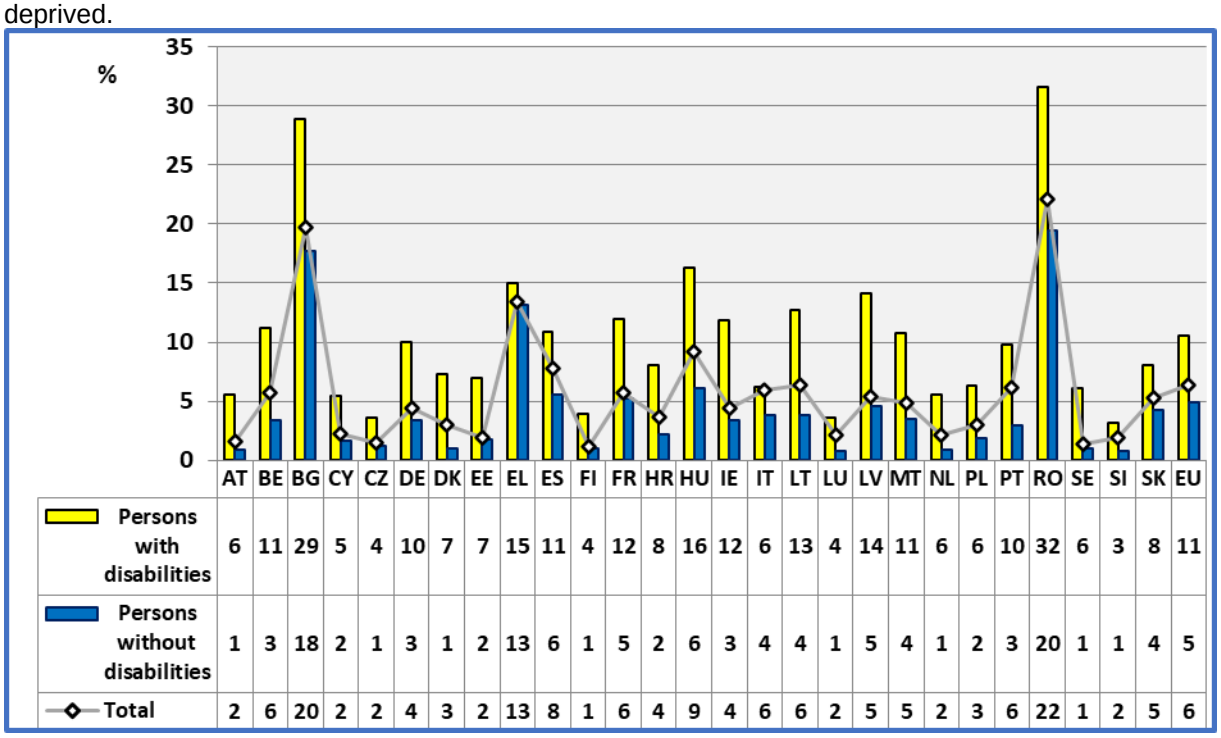
11.4.2 Analysis by Member State

In 2022, about 10.5 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over were living in households at risk of severe material and social deprivation, 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 Slovenia (3.2 %), Czechia (3.6 %) and Luxembourg (3.6 %). It was relatively high in Hungary (16.3 %), Bulgaria (28.9 %) and Romania (31.6 %). In these latter countries, the situation was similar in 2021.

Figure 70: Percentage of persons severely materially and socially deprived by disability status and Member State, 2022

Percentage of population with an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (age 16+).
The numbers present the percentage of persons with disabilities severely materially and socially deprived.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	6	11	29	5	4	10	7	7	15	11	4	12	8	16	12	6	13	4	14	11	6	6	10	32	6	3	8	11
Persons without disabilities	1	3	18	2	1	3	1	2	13	6	1	5	2	6	3	4	4	1	5	4	1	2	3	20	1	1	4	5
Total	2	6	20	2	2	4	3	2	13	8	1	6	4	9	4	6	6	2	5	5	2	3	6	22	1	2	5	6

Data source: Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dm010__custom_11058940/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 24 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

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.

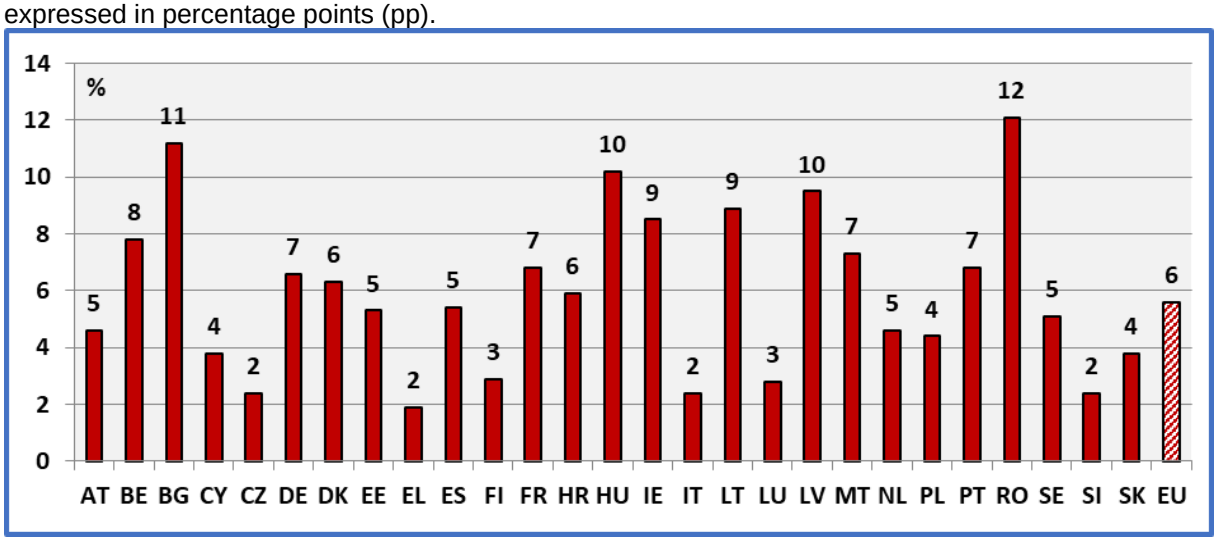
11.4.3 Disability gap in severe material and social deprivation

If we define disadvantage as the difference in respective rates between persons with and without disabilities, we find that, in the EU 27 in 2022, this disadvantage was 5.6 percentage points among persons aged 16 and over.

This disadvantage ranges from a low 1.9 percentage points (Greece) to 12.1 percentage points (Romania).

Figure 71: Disadvantage of persons with disabilities in severe material and social deprivation, aged 16+, 2022

Disadvantage = (Percentage of persons with disabilities) – (Percentage of persons without disabilities); expressed in percentage points (pp).

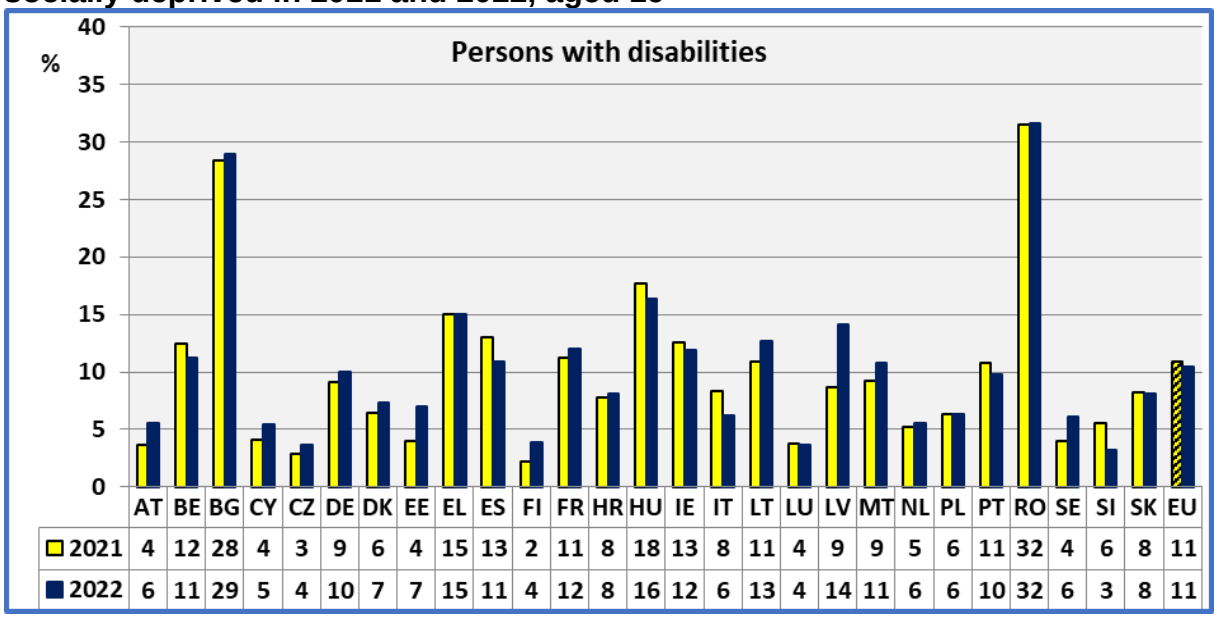


Data source: Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dm010__custom_11058940/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 24 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.4.4 Evolution at national level

Concerning persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, we observed an improvement in the situation (decrease in percentage), in nine Member States. This resulted in a relatively small decrease at the EU level, of the percentage of persons with disabilities who were severely materially and socially deprived.

Figure 72: Percentage of persons with disabilities severely materially and socially deprived in 2021 and 2022, aged 16+



Data source: Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dm010__custom_11058940/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 24 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.4.5 Statistical annex

Table 77: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of severe material and social deprivation by disability status and Member State, 2022, aged 16+

Percentage of population with an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (age 16+).

	2021			2022			2022
	Disability			Disability			Disability gap in pp
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
AT	3.7	0.8	1.6	5.5	0.9	2.2	4.6
BE	12.4	3.5	5.7	11.2	3.4	5.4	7.8
BG	28.4	17.9	19.7	28.9	17.7	19.3	11.2
CY	4.1	1.7	2.2	5.4	1.6	2.3	3.8
CZ	2.9	1.1	1.5	3.6	1.2	1.8	2.4
DE	9.1	2.9	4.4	10.0	3.4	5.4	6.6
DK	6.4	1.2	3.0	7.3	1.0	3.3	6.3
EE	4.0	0.9	1.9	7.0	1.7	3.3	5.3
EL	15.0	12.9	13.4	15.0	13.1	13.5	1.9
ES	13.0	5.8	7.8	10.9	5.5	7.1	5.4
FI	2.2	0.7	1.2	3.9	1.0	2.0	2.9
FR	11.2	4.1	5.7	12.0	5.2	6.9	6.8
HR	7.8	1.8	3.7	8.1	2.2	4.1	5.9
HU	17.7	6.8	9.2	16.3	6.1	8.5	10.2
IE	12.6	2.4	4.4	11.9	3.4	5.2	8.5
IT	8.3	5.2	5.9	6.2	3.8	4.4	2.4
LT	10.9	4.4	6.4	12.7	3.8	6.3	8.9
LU	3.8	1.5	2.1	3.6	0.8	1.6	2.8
LV	8.7	3.4	5.4	14.1	4.6	8.3	9.5
MT	9.2	4.1	4.9	10.8	3.5	4.6	7.3
NL	5.2	0.8	2.1	5.5	0.9	2.3	4.6
PL	6.3	2.1	3.0	6.3	1.9	2.9	4.4
PT	10.8	3.6	6.1	9.8	3.0	5.3	6.8
RO	31.5	18.2	22.1	31.6	19.5	23.0	12.1
SE	4.0	0.8	1.4	6.1	1.0	2.1	5.1
SI	5.6	0.9	1.9	3.2	0.8	1.3	2.4
SK	8.2	4.0	5.3	8.1	4.3	5.4	3.8
EU	**10.9**	**4.9**	**6.4**	**10.5**	**4.9**	**6.4**	**5.6**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dm010__custom_11058940/default/table?lang=en.
Data extracted on 24 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.5 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

11.5.1 Definition of risk of poverty or 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.

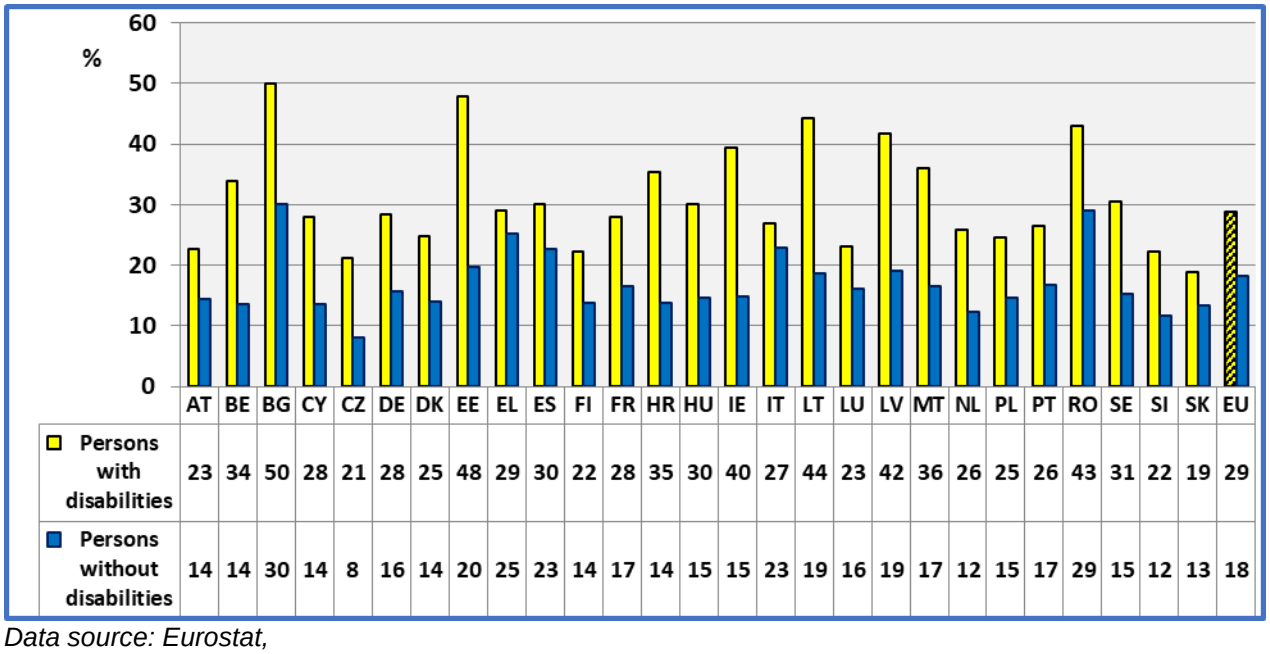
11.5.2 Analysis by Member State

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 28.8 % of people with disabilities aged 16 and over were living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 18.3 % of persons without a disability in the same age group. The percentage for all persons aged 16 and over was 21.1 %.

Concerning persons with disabilities, the lowest rates could be found in Slovakia (18.8 %), Czechia (21.1 %) and Finland (22.2 %). The highest rates could be found in Lithuania (444.3 %), Estonia (47.8 %) and Bulgaria (49.9 %).

Figure 73: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+, 2022

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).
The numbers present the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	23	34	50	28	21	28	25	48	29	30	22	28	35	30	40	27	44	23	42	36	26	25	26	43	31	22	19	29
Persons without disabilities	14	14	30	14	8	16	14	20	25	23	14	17	14	15	15	23	19	16	19	17	12	15	17	29	15	12	13	18

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.5.3 Disability gap in AROPE

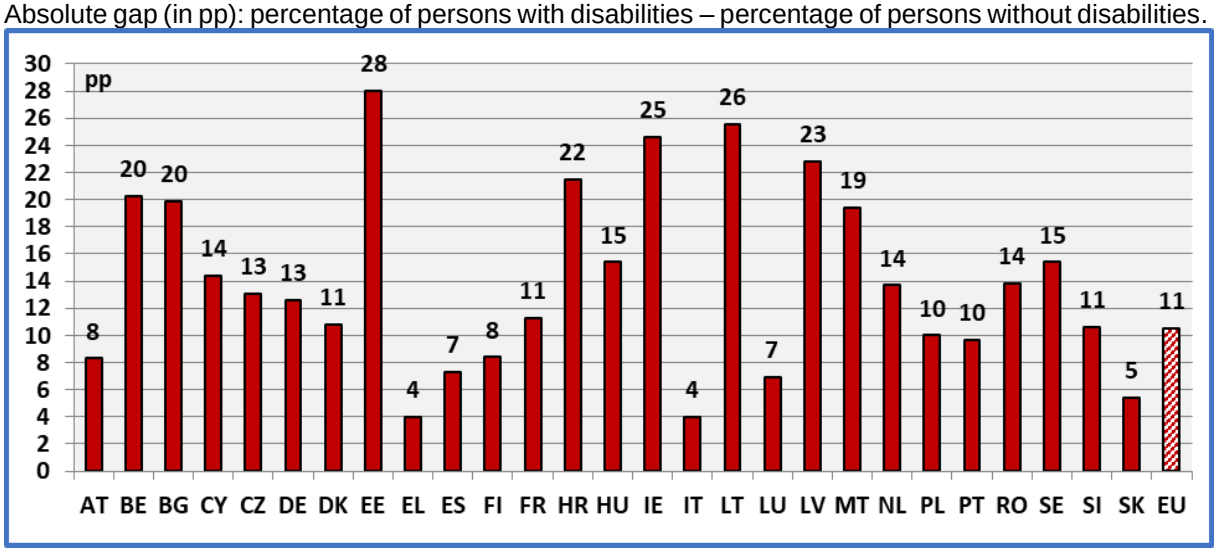
In the EU 27 in 2022, the absolute gap between persons with and without disabilities amounted to 10.5 percentage points.

High gaps could be found in Ireland (24.6 percentage points), Lithuania (25.6 percentage) and Estonia (28.0 percentage points). In contrast, small gaps could be

found in Greece (4.0 percentage points), Italy (4.0 percentage points) and Slovakia (5.4 percentage points).

Figure 74: The poverty and social exclusion gap between persons with and without disability, aged 16+, 2022

Absolute gap (in pp): percentage of persons with disabilities – percentage of persons without disabilities.



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

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

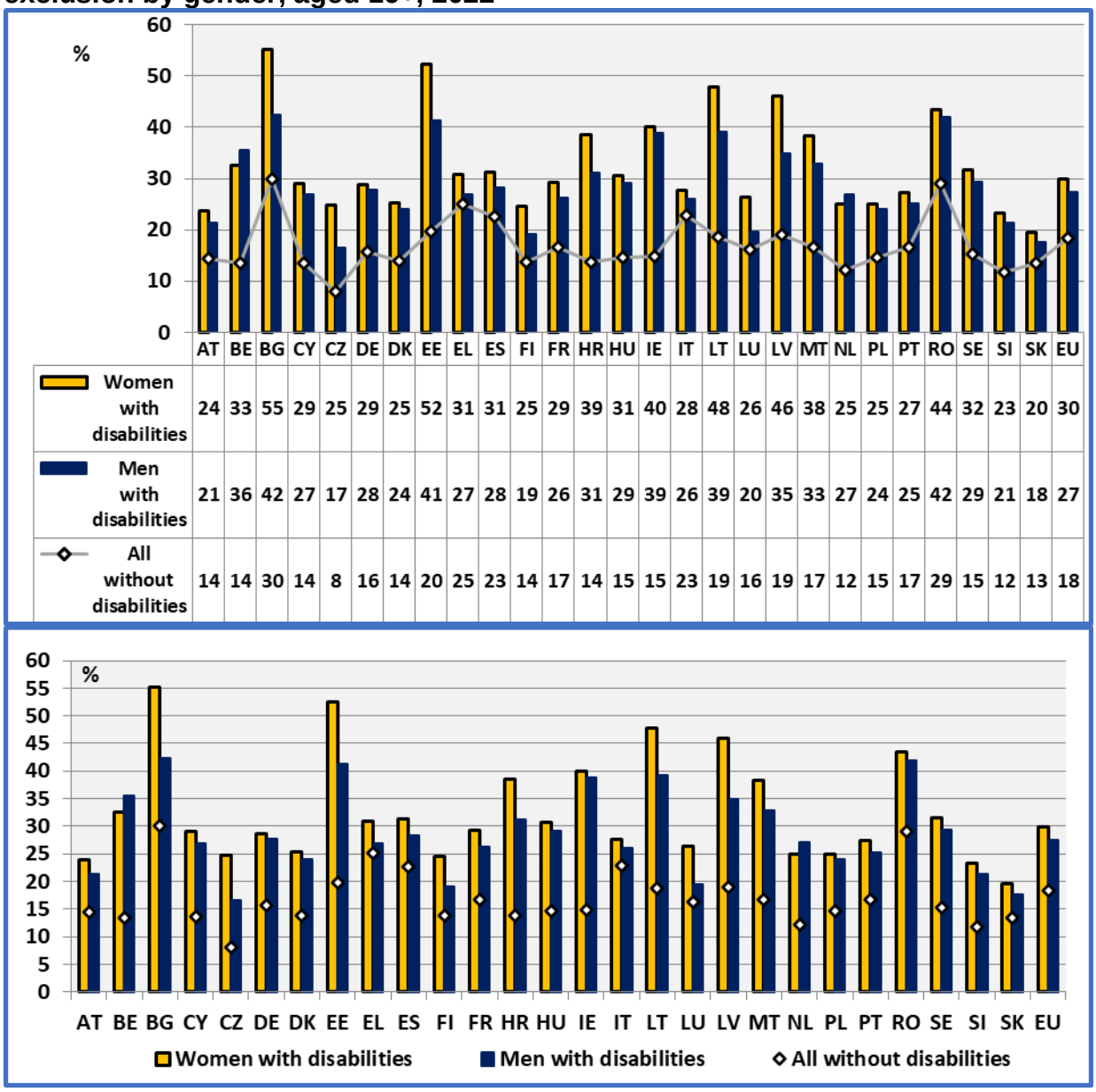
In the EU 27 in 2022, about 29.8 % of women with disabilities aged 16 and over were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 27.4 % of men with disabilities in the same age group.

The gender gap among persons with disabilities was high in Estonia (11.1 percentage points), Latvia (11.1 percentage points) and Bulgaria (12.7 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 2.4 percentage points. For comparison, the global disability gap, between persons with and without disabilities, is 10.5 percentage points.

These data might underestimate the gender gap. In fact, the indicator is established at the household level and the same value is then attributed to all household members. Consequently, it does not take into account inequalities inside households.

Figure 75: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by gender, aged 16+, 2022



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.5.5 Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by age group

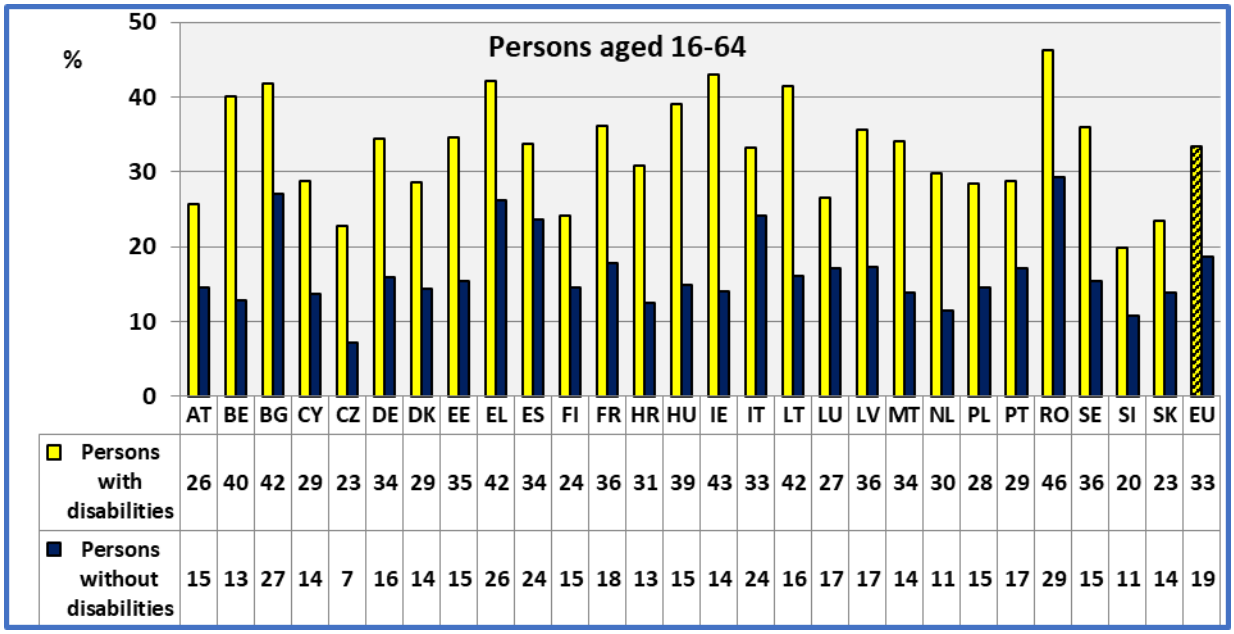
Analysis by age group reveals interesting aspects.

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 33.4 % of people with disabilities aged 16-64 were living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in comparison with 18.7 % of persons without a disability in the same age group. The difference amounts to 14.7 percentage points. In relative terms, it is 78.6 % (relative to persons without disabilities).

Figure 76: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16-64, 2022

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.

The numbers present the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion.



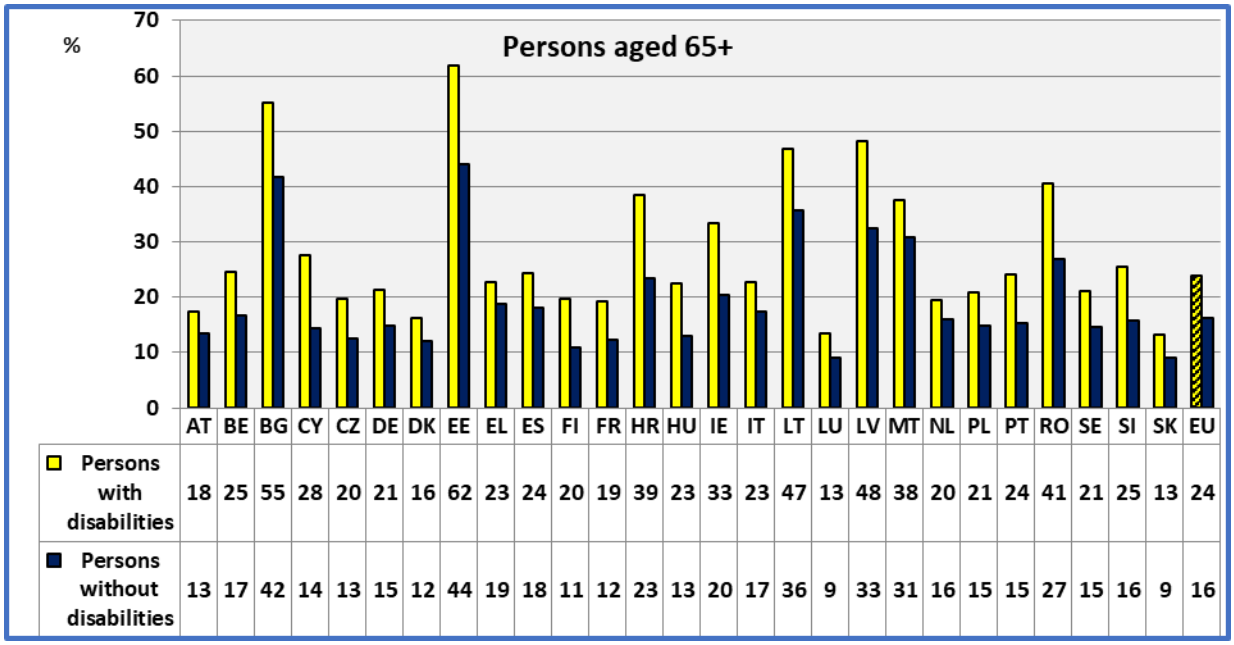
	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	26	40	42	29	23	34	29	35	42	34	24	36	31	39	43	33	42	27	36	34	30	28	29	46	36	20	23	33
Persons without disabilities	15	13	27	14	7	16	14	15	26	24	15	18	13	15	14	24	16	17	17	14	11	15	17	29	15	11	14	19

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

In the EU 27 in 2022, about 23.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 65 and over were living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion (33.4 % for the age group 16-64), in comparison with 16.3 % of persons without disabilities in the same age group (18.7 % for persons aged 16-64). The difference amounts to 7.6 percentage points (14.7 percentage points for the age group 16-64). In relative terms, it is 46.6 % (78.6 % for the age group 16-64.

Figure 77: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 65+, 2022

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.
The numbers present the percentage of persons with disabilities living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	18	25	55	28	20	21	16	62	23	24	20	19	39	23	33	23	47	13	48	38	20	21	24	41	21	25	13	24
Persons without disabilities	13	17	42	14	13	15	12	44	19	18	11	12	23	13	20	17	36	9	33	31	16	15	15	27	15	16	9	16

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

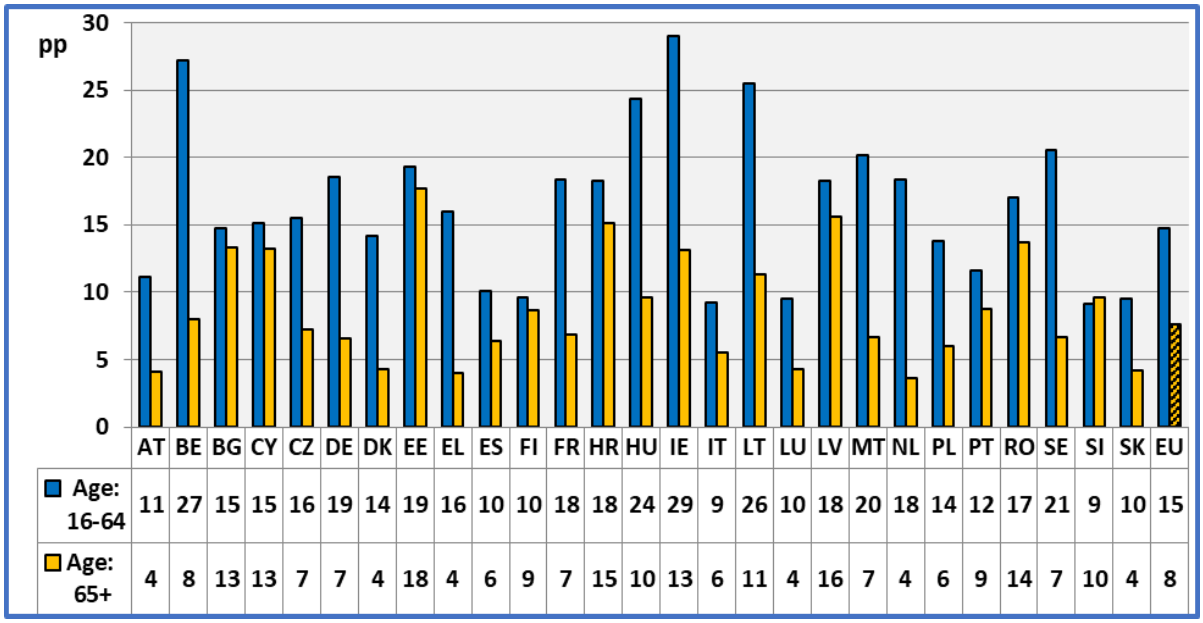
In the following figure, we may observe that the disadvantage (gap) is higher in the age group 16-64 compared to those aged 65 and over, in almost all Member States (except Slovenia).

In the EU 27 in 2022, the absolute disability gap is 14.7 percentage points among persons aged 16-64 compared to 7.6 percentage points among persons aged 65 and over.

We may advance the hypothesis that retirement pensions significantly reduce the gap in several Member States. However, the combination of labour policies and social protection among the age group 16-64 does not seem very efficient in reducing the gap in several Member States.

Figure 78: Absolute gap between persons with and without disability by age group, 2022

Absolute gap (in pp): percentage of persons with disabilities in AROPE – percentage of persons without disabilities in AROPE.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Age: 16-64	11	27	15	15	16	19	14	19	16	10	10	18	18	24	29	9	26	10	18	20	18	14	12	17	21	9	10	15
Age: 65+	4	8	13	13	7	7	4	18	4	6	9	7	15	10	13	6	11	4	16	7	4	6	9	14	7	10	4	8

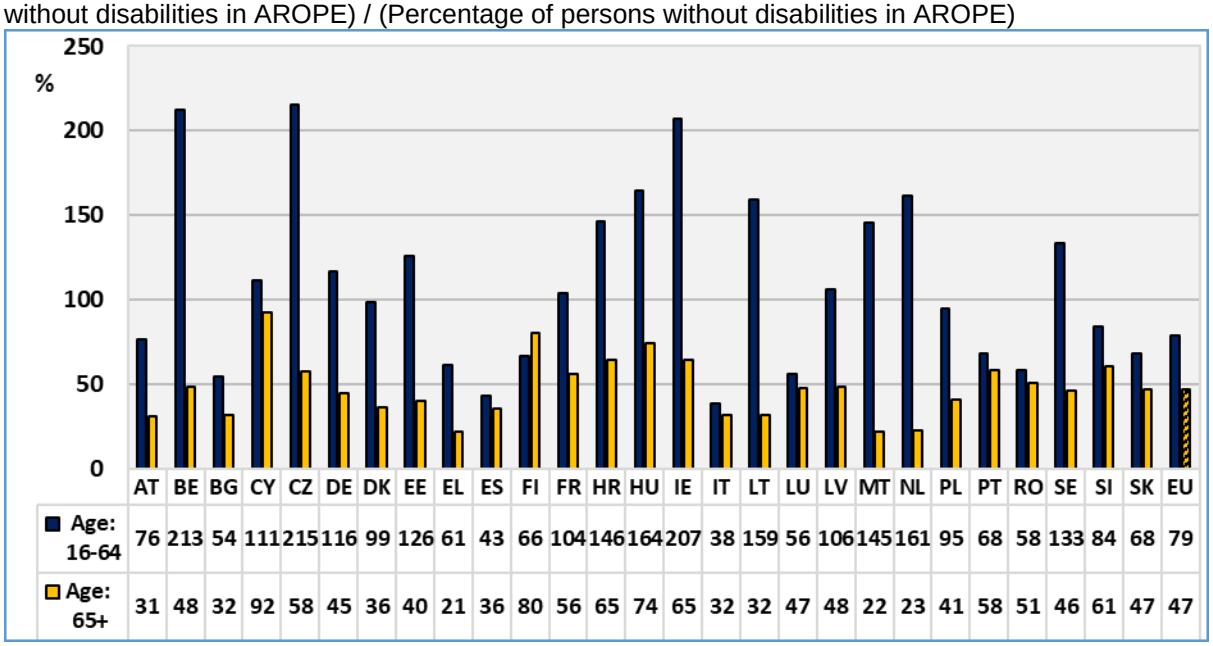
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

In the EU 27 in 2022, the relative disability gap is 78.6 % among persons aged 16-64 compared to 46.6 % among persons aged 65 and over.

The relative disability gap among persons aged 16-64 is higher than 200 % in Ireland, Belgium and Czechia. This means that the difference between persons with and without disabilities is more than double the rate for persons without disabilities. For comparison, among persons aged 65 and over, this rate is less than 50 % in the majority of Member States.

Figure 79: Relative gap between persons with and without disability by age group, 2022

Relative gap (%): 100*(Percentage of persons with disabilities in AROPE – Percentage of persons without disabilities in AROPE) / (Percentage of persons without disabilities in AROPE)



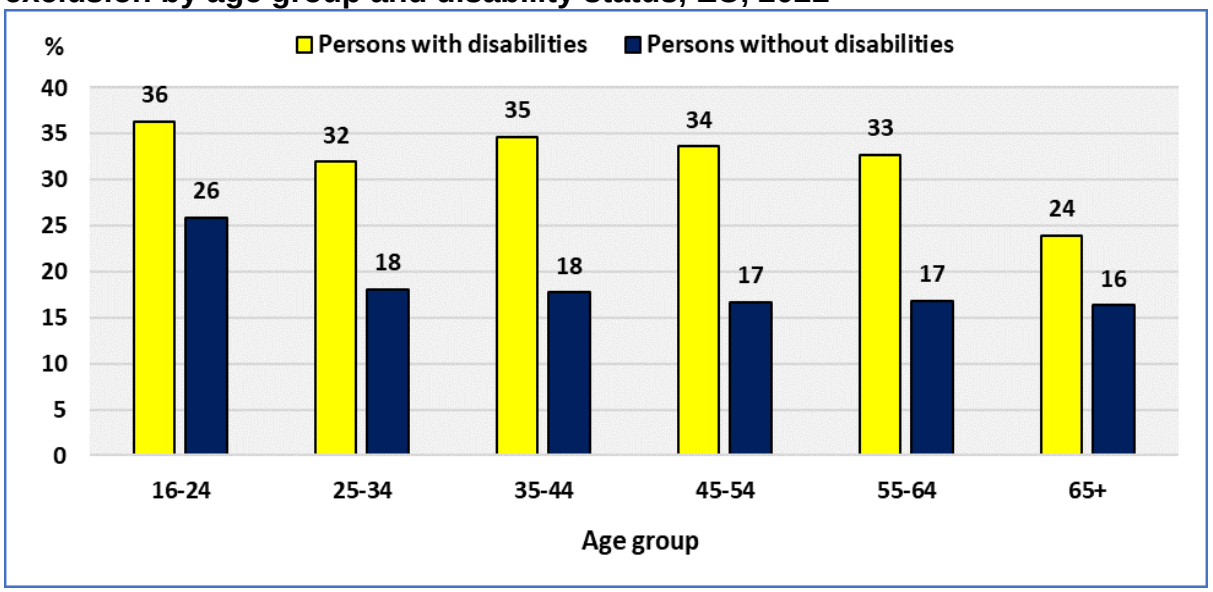
	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Age: 16-64	76	213	54	111	215	116	99	126	61	43	66	104	146	164	207	38	159	56	106	145	161	95	68	58	133	84	68	79
Age: 65+	31	48	32	92	58	45	36	40	21	36	80	56	65	74	65	32	32	47	48	22	23	41	58	51	46	61	47	47

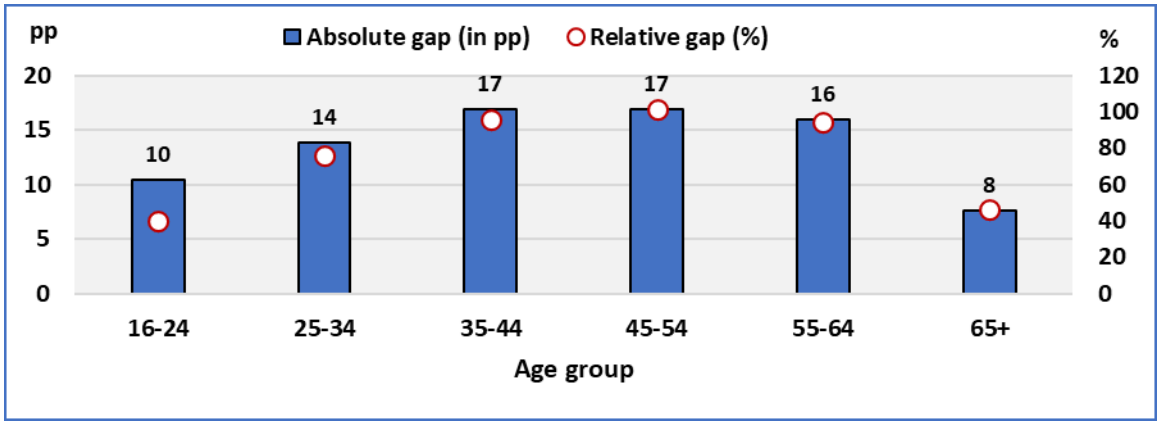
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

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. Retirement pensions and social protection targeting elderly people decrease significantly the gaps.

Figure 80: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age group and disability status, EU, 2022





Absolute gap: (% persons with disabilities – % Persons without disabilities).
Relative gap: 100*(% persons with disabilities – % Persons without disabilities) / (% Persons without disabilities).
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 25 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

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 main routes to take people out of poverty or social exclusion are 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.

11.5.6 Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion

The EU-SILC 2021 survey included a three-year rotating module on disability among persons aged under 16 years. This enables us to present poverty or social exclusion among young persons with disabilities.

In the EU 27 in 2021, about 31.6 % of children with disabilities aged less than 16 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 under 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 1 million children, aged under 16.

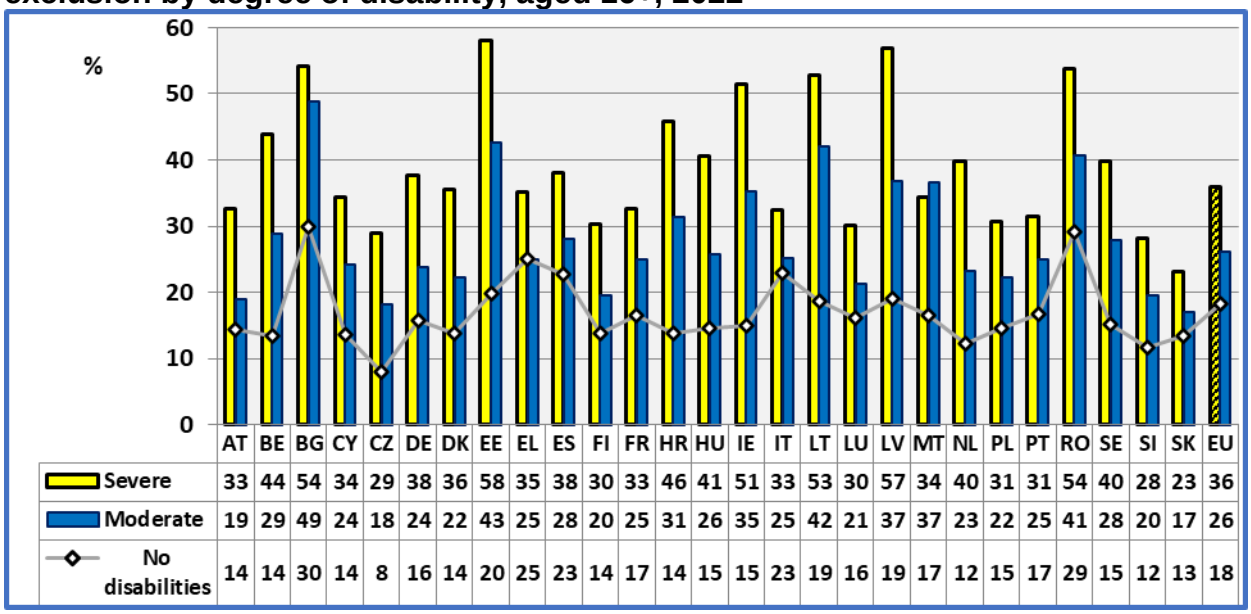
Generally, families with three children or more experience relatively higher rates of poverty or social exclusion. This rate tends to increase with the number of children.

11.5.7 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 2022, about 35.9 % of persons with severe disabilities faced a risk of poverty or social exclusion. This rate was 26.2 % for persons with moderate disabilities and 18.3 % for persons without disabilities. Consequently, persons with severe disabilities ought to be considered as a priority target for policy action.

Figure 81: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree of disability, aged 16+, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Severe	33	44	54	34	29	38	36	58	35	38	30	33	46	41	51	33	53	30	57	34	40	31	31	54	40	28	23	36
Moderate	19	29	49	24	18	24	22	43	25	28	20	25	31	26	35	25	42	21	37	37	23	22	25	41	28	20	17	26
No disabilities	14	14	30	14	8	16	14	20	25	23	14	17	14	15	15	23	19	16	19	17	12	15	17	29	15	12	13	18

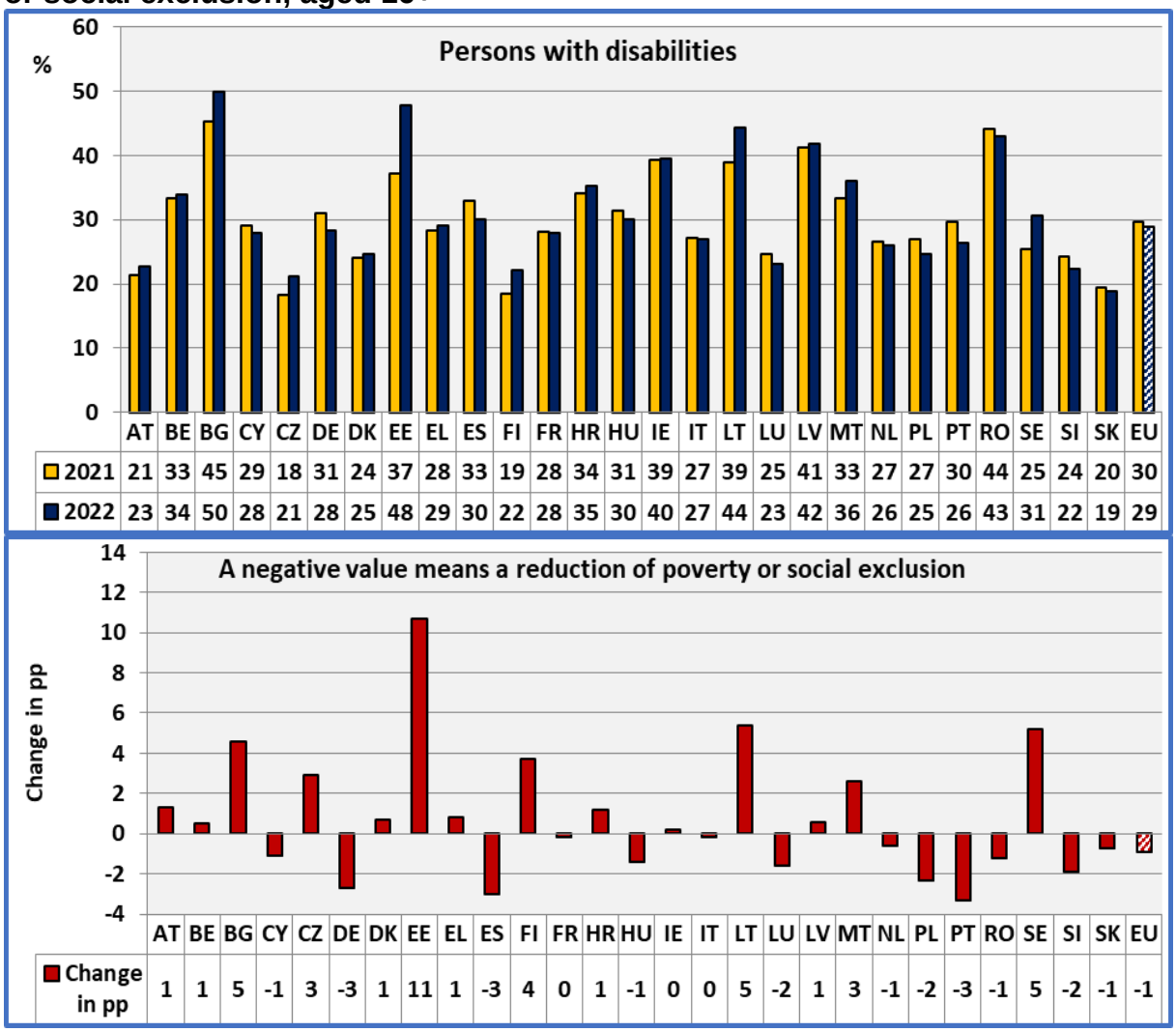
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.5.8 Evolution in the Member States

In the EU 27, in 2022, about 28.8 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over faced a risk of poverty or social exclusion. This rate was 29.7 % in 2021. This represents a reduction of 0.9 percentage points.

The following figure indicates an improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities between 2021-2022 in 13 Member States (decrease in the risk of poverty or social exclusion).

Figure 82: Evolution of the share of persons with disabilities at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+



Note: Data for Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden ought to be treated with caution due to sampling issues.
Data source: Eurostat, The data in the figures are rounded to the nearest unit. This explains why the difference in pp does not correspond to the difference in the first figure.
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.5.9 Number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion

In the following table, we present the number of persons in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion aged 16 and over in 2022.

We may note that about 28.5 million persons with disabilities and 49.6 million persons without disabilities are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Persons with disabilities represent 36.5 % of all persons in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion aged 16 and over in 2022.

The above indicates that persons with disabilities ought to be a priority target group in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Proposed policy measures ought to consider their specific characteristics and needs. This will ensure that the proposed measures will be effective in reducing poverty or social exclusion.

Table 78: Number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, age 16+, 2022

	Not at risk of poverty or social exclusion	At risk of poverty or social exclusion	Total
In millions (1 000 000)			
Persons without disabilities	220.7	49.6	**270.4**
Persons with disabilities	70.8	28.5	**99.3**
Total	**291.5**	**78.1**	**369.7**
In percentage (%)			
Persons without disabilities	81.6	18.3	**100.0**
Persons with disabilities	71.3	28.7	**100.0**
Total	**78.9**	**21.1**	**100.0**
In percentage (%)			
Persons without disabilities	75.7	63.5	**73.1**
Persons with disabilities	24.3	36.5	**26.9**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 (autumn release).

11.6 Analysis of trends of AROPE at the EU level

11.6.1 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.

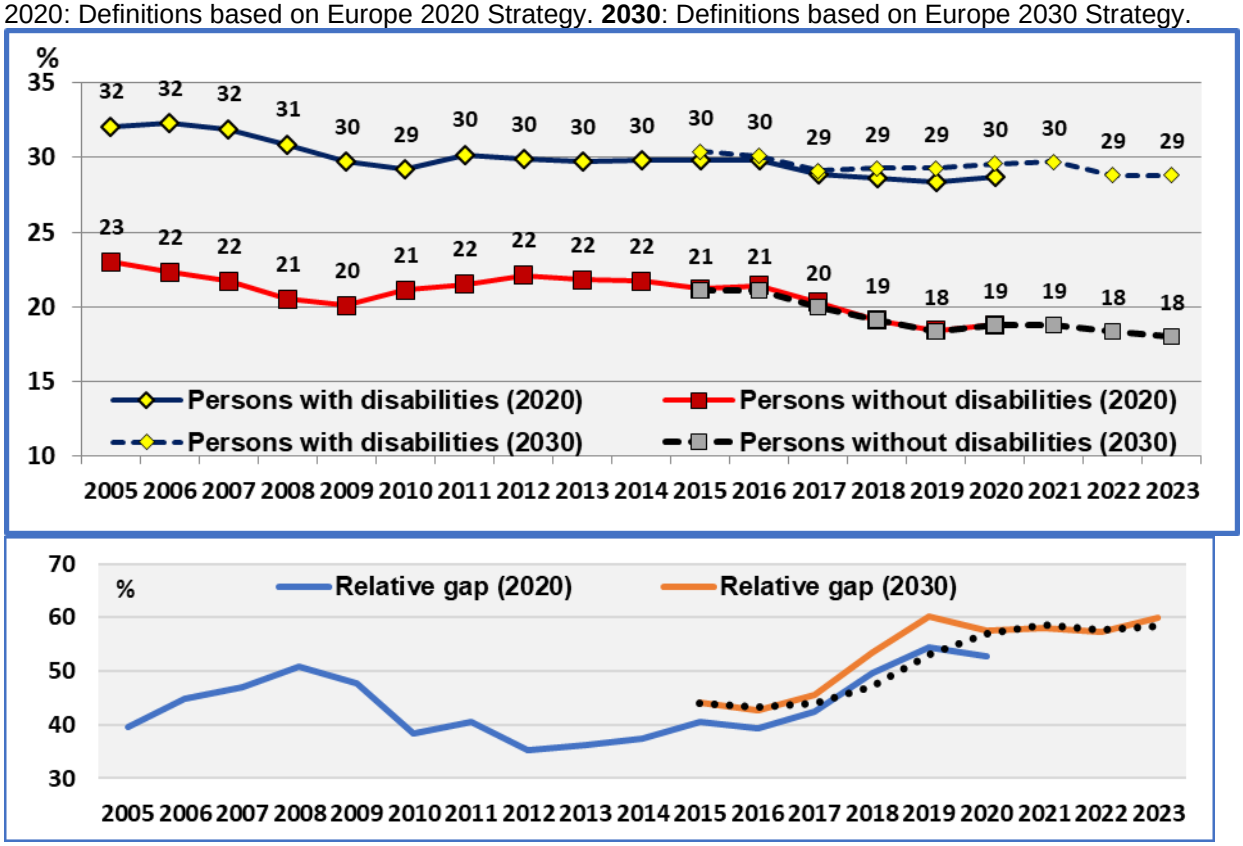
The extensive policy interventions during 2020 to maintain jobs have mitigated the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The change was relatively small at the EU level.

Between 2021 and 2022, we note a relatively small reduction of poverty and social exclusion both for persons with and for persons without disabilities.

Provisional data for 2023 indicate that the situation for persons with disabilities has been stable between 2022 and 2023.

Figure 83: Evolution of the 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 term (3 years moving average).
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat. Data extracted from [ESTAT].

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

11.6.2 Evolution at the EU level by poverty component

As noted, the headline indicator 'People at risk of poverty or social exclusion' (AROPE) 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. If a person shares several disadvantages, he is counted only once.

The following figure presents the evolution of the headline indicator AROPE and its three constituents.

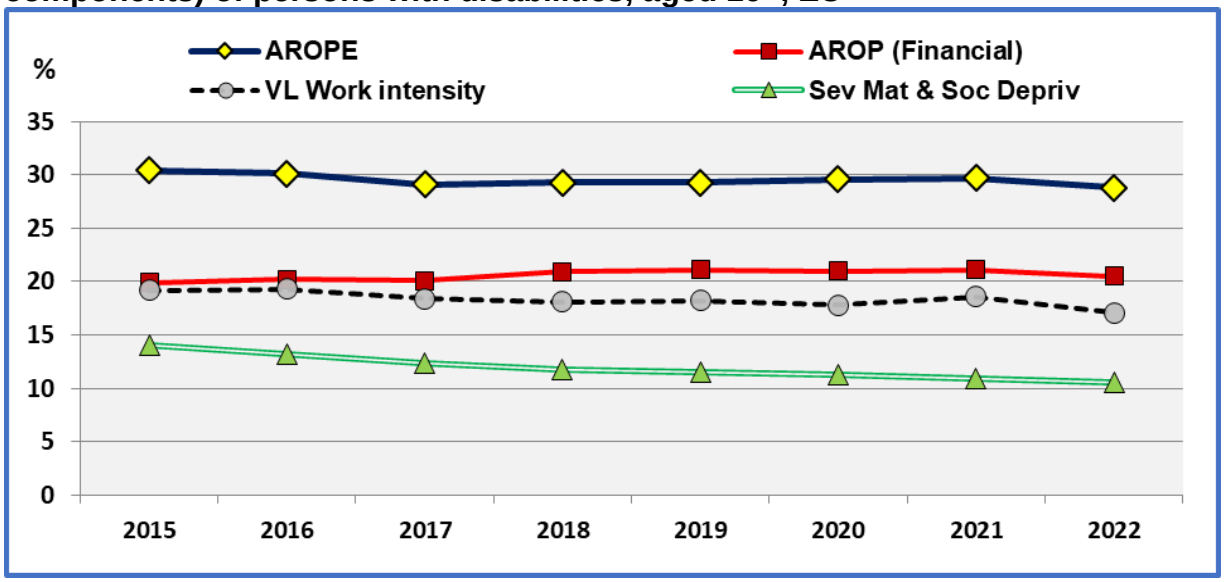
We may observe a continuous decline of the rate of persons at risk of severe material deprivation. The decline is relatively slow but steady.

The indicator financial poverty (AROP) and low work intensity indicator are more volatile and depend on labour market fluctuations. Indeed, the percentage of persons at low work intensity decreases as the labour market improves. This explains the downward movement between 2016 and 2020 and the decrease after the COVID-19 pandemic.

One might expect the percentage of persons with disabilities at risk of (financial) poverty to decrease as the labour market improves. The following figures indicates that this does not hold, however. Between the relatively good years of 2017 to 2019, we observe an increase of this indicator. This countercyclical movement could be explained by different factors. We may retain here that an improvement on the labour market might benefit persons without disabilities at a first stage. Also, this improvement might have a relatively small impact on persons with disabilities, since they have a low activity rate. Furthermore, wages may increase relative to disability pensions increasing the percentage of persons at risk of (financial) poverty.

Given the evolution of the three forces behind the AROPE indicator, we may note that AROP is the one dominating the shape of AROPE during recent years.

Figure 84: Evolution of the risk of poverty or social exclusion (and its components) of persons with disabilities, aged 16+, EU



AROPE: poverty or social exclusion; AROP: (financial) poverty; VL Work intensity: very low work intensity; Sev Mat & Soc Depr: Severe material and social deprivation.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 30 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.6.3 Evolution at the EU level by age group

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.

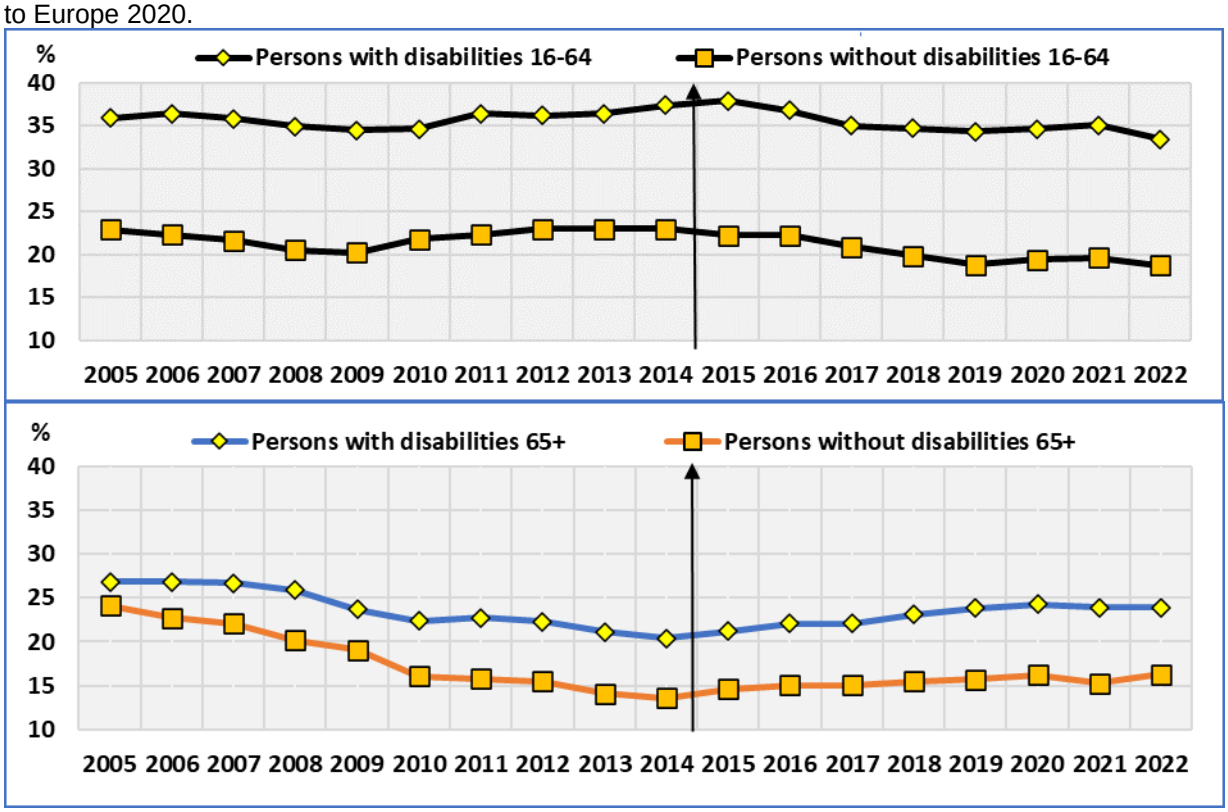
Since 2015, the situation of persons aged 16-64 has followed a favourable situation in the labour market. This is translated in a downward movement in the relevant figure. However, this was reversed in 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic but improved between 2021and 2022.

During recent years, however, elderly people experienced a deterioration in their situation which was reversed with the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 the elderly

relative to economically active people during a recession. The relative situation of elderly is reversed during growth periods. If wages adjust quicklier compared to pensions, during growth periods, then the situation of pension receivers is deteriorated relative to wage earners.

Figure 85: Evolution of the percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age group, EU

From 2015 and afterwards the indicators are based on Europe 2030 definitions. Before 2015, they refer to Europe 2020.



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 30 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

11.6.4 Evolution at the EU level by degree of disability

As indicated above, persons with severe disabilities face a greater risk than persons with moderate or no disabilities.

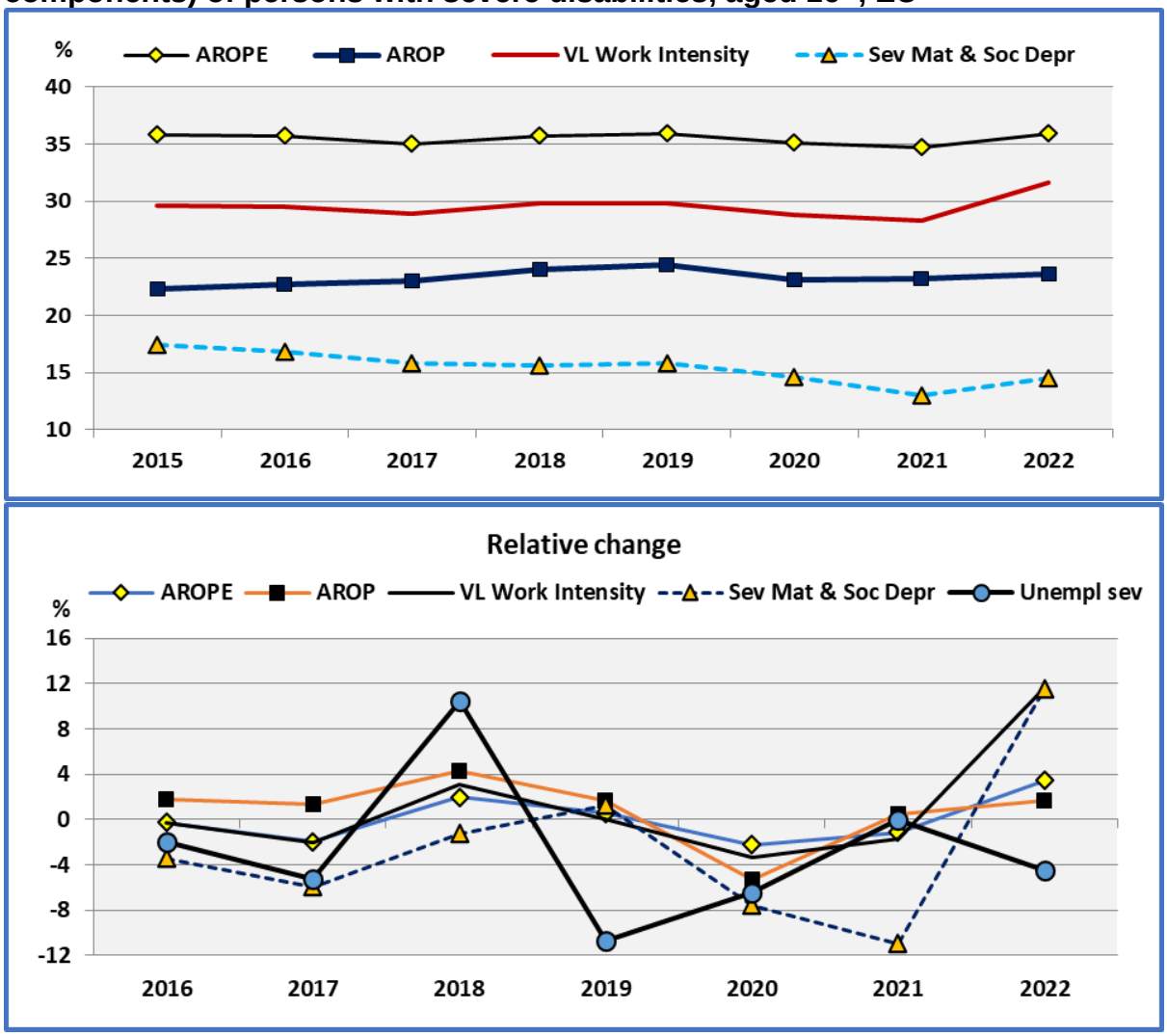
In the EU 27 in 2022 about 35.9 % of persons with severe disabilities face a risk of poverty or social exclusion.

In the following figure, we may note a downward trend concerning persons with severe disabilities at risk of severe material and social deprivation. On the contrary, (financial) poverty and very low work intensity are fluctuating around a constant rate. The figure presenting relative changes from one year to the next indicates that these fluctuations are generally correlated with changes in unemployment rate, except for the period 2021-2022.

We have to note that the German series present a discontinuity. The 2021 level of AROPE for persons with severe disabilities is very low compared with before the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 level. This rate was 38.9 % in 2019, 31.0 % in 2021

and 37.7 % in 2022. This discontinuity might be the result of a change in the collection methodology in Germany. Given the important weight of Germany in the EU aggregate, this has affected the EU level.[67]

Figure 86: Evolution of the risk of poverty or social exclusion (and its components) of persons with severe disabilities, aged 16+, EU



Note: Relative change = 100*(Value Year t+1– Value Year t) / (Value Year t)
AROPE: poverty or social exclusion; AROP: (financial) poverty; VL Work intensity: very low work intensity; Sev Mat & Soc Depr: Severe material and social deprivation; Unempl sev: unemployment rate of persons with severe disabilities.
Data source: EU-SILC and Eurostat.

It is interesting to compare the evolutions of persons with severe disabilities with those of persons without disabilities. In the following figure, we present the difference (in percentage points) between persons with severe disabilities and persons without disabilities for the risk of poverty and social exclusion (and the three components).

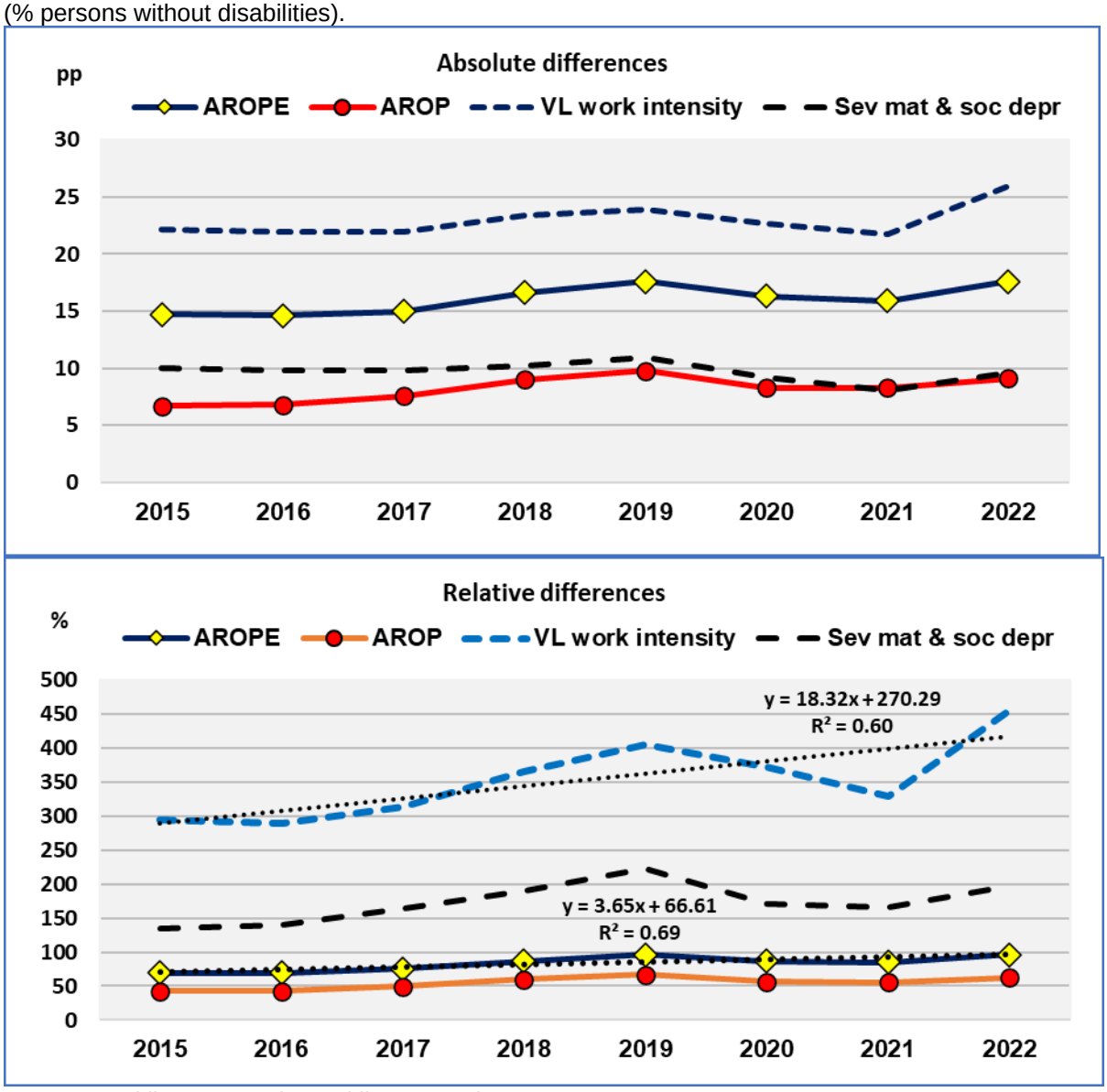
We observe a relative deterioration of the situation of persons with severe disabilities compared to persons without disabilities over time. The synthetic indicator AROPE

[67] For an in-depth analysis see: Eurostat, 2023, *Note on the indicator "Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion – EU2030 target" (ILC_PECS01) containing adjusted estimates of "Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age and sex" ILC_PEPS01N and its components for Germany and the EU relative to 2019,* Directorate F – Social statistics, F.4 – Income and living conditions; Quality of life, Luxembourg 2023. Contact person: Emilio.DI-MEGLIO@ec.europa.eu.

shows a slow upward trend. Still, the gap tends to increase because the trend of very low work intensity grows faster. This reveals the importance of work in the reduction of inequalities.

Figure 87: Evolution of the gap in poverty or social exclusion (and its components) of persons with severe disabilities relative to persons without disabilities, aged 16+, EU

Absolute differences = % persons with severe disabilities – % persons without disabilities
Relative differences = 100*(% persons with severe disabilities – % persons without disabilities) / (% persons without disabilities).



Note: Dotted lines are estimated linear trends.
AROPE: poverty or social exclusion; AROP: (financial) poverty; VL Work intensity: very low work intensity; Sev Mat & Soc Depr: Severe material and social deprivation.
Data source: EU-SILC and Eurostat.

11.7 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.

	2021			2022				2022			
	Disability			Disability			Gap in pp	Persons with disabilities		Degree of disability	
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total		Women	Men	Severe	Moderate
AT	21.4	14.0	16.0	22.7	14.4	16.8	8.3	23.8	21.4	32.6	18.9
BE	33.3	13.6	18.4	33.8	13.5	18.7	20.3	32.5	35.6	43.9	28.8
BG	45.3	29.8	32.5	49.9	30.0	32.9	19.9	55.1	42.4	54.1	48.9
CY	29.1	13.9	16.8	28.0	13.6	16.4	14.4	29.0	26.9	34.4	24.1
CZ	18.2	7.6	10.2	21.1	8.0	11.5	13.1	24.7	16.6	28.9	18.1
DE	31.0	17.6	20.8	28.3	15.7	19.6	12.6	28.7	27.8	37.7	23.8
DK	24.0	14.4	17.8	24.7	13.9	17.8	10.8	25.3	24.0	35.5	22.2
EE	37.1	17.2	23.9	47.8	19.8	28.4	28.0	52.4	41.3	58.0	42.7
EL	28.3	27.4	27.6	29.1	25.1	26.	4.0	30.8	26.9	35.1	25.0
ES	33.0	24.5	26.9	30.0	22.7	24.9	7.3	31.3	28.3	38.1	28.1
FI	18.5	12.7	14.3	22.2	13.8	16.6	8.4	24.5	19.1	30.4	19.6
FR	28.1	15.8	18.6	27.9	16.6	19.5	11.3	29.3	26.2	32.6	25.0
HR	34.1	15.5	21.5	35.3	13.8	20.4	21.5	38.6	31.2	45.8	31.4
HU	31.4	14.9	18.4	30.0	14.6	18.1	15.4	30.6	29.2	40.5	25.8
IE	39.3	14.6	19.4	39.5	14.9	20.1	24.6	40.0	38.9	51.4	35.2
IT	27.1	24.3	24.9	26.9	22.9	23.8	4.0	27.6	26.0	32.5	25.1
LT	38.9	17.8	24.4	44.3	18.7	25.9	25.6	47.8	39.2	52.9	42.0
LU	24.7	17.3	19.2	23.1	16.2	18.2	6.9	26.4	19.5	30.2	21.3
LV	41.2	19.6	27.6	41.8	19.0	27.7	22.8	46.0	34.9	56.8	36.9
MT	33.4	17.0	19.7	36.0	16.6	19.5	19.4	38.4	32.8	34.3	36.6
NL	26.5	12.3	16.5	25.9	12.2	16.6	13.7	25.0	27.0	39.8	23.3
PL	26.9	14.8	17.6	24.6	14.6	17.	10.0	25.0	24.0	30.7	22.3
PT	29.7	18.5	22.4	26.4	16.7	20.	9.7	27.3	25.2	31.4	24.9
RO	44.1	28.4	33.1	42.9	29.1	33.1	13.8	43.5	41.9	53.7	40.7
SE	25.4	14.7	16.7	30.6	15.2	18.6	15.4	31.6	29.4	39.9	27.8
SI	24.2	11.0	13.8	22.3	11.7	13.9	10.6	23.2	21.4	28.1	19.5
SK	19.5	12.6	14.7	18.8	13.4	15.	5.4	19.6	17.6	23.2	17.0
EU	**29.7**	**18.8**	**21.5**	**28.8**	**18.3**	**21.1**	**10.5**	**29.8**	**27.4**	**35.9**	**26.2**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 80: Percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, degree, and Member State, 2022

Definition adopted by Europe 2030 Strategy.

	Age: 16-64			Age: 65+			Gender/Degree (aged 16+)			
	Disability			Disability			Men		Women	
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
AT	25.7	14.6	17.2	17.5	13.4	15.5	31.8	16.9	33.3	20.5
BE	40.0	12.8	18.2	24.6	16.6	20.1	45.4	31.0	42.8	27.1
BG	41.8	27.1	28.2	55.1	41.8	46.4	43.5	42.2	60.9	53.7
CY	28.7	13.6	15.3	27.5	14.3	21.3	34.5	22.4	34.4	25.7
CZ	22.7	7.2	9.8	19.7	12.5	16.6	23.5	13.9	33.0	21.3
DE	34.4	15.9	19.9	21.4	14.8	18.5	39.1	22.2	36.5	25.1
DK	28.6	14.4	19.1	16.3	12.	14.0	33.8	21.7	36.9	22.6
EE	34.6	15.3	19.3	61.8	44.1	54.3	52.0	36.0	62.1	47.4
EL	42.2	26.2	27.8	22.7	18.7	21.0	35.7	21.1	34.6	28.2
ES	33.7	23.6	26.0	24.4	18.	21.4	38.7	26.0	37.7	29.8
FI	24.1	14.5	17.0	19.6	10.9	15.5	30.4	15.3	30.5	22.8
FR	36.1	17.7	21.0	19.2	12.3	15.4	32.6	22.3	32.6	27.2
HR	30.8	12.5	15.7	38.5	23.4	33.6	42.8	27.0	48.0	34.9
HU	39.1	14.8	18.1	22.6	13.0	18.2	40.7	24.4	40.4	26.7
IE	43.0	14.0	18.8	33.4	20.3	25.7	55.4	32.9	47.5	37.4
IT	33.3	24.1	25.2	22.8	17.3	20.0	36.2	22.8	29.6	26.9
LT	41.5	16.0	20.5	46.9	35.6	42.3	47.0	37.1	56.8	45.3
LU	26.6	17.1	19.5	13.4	9.1	11.2	29.9	17.2	30.5	25.3
LV	35.6	17.3	22.1	48.1	32.5	44.0	49.5	30.2	61.1	41.0
MT	34.1	13.9	15.7	37.5	30.8	33.3	30.7	33.5	36.5	39.3
NL	29.8	11.4	16.2	19.5	15.9	17.8	47.8	22.8	32.8	23.7
PL	28.4	14.6	16.8	20.8	14.8	17.9	33.0	20.3	28.9	23.6
PT	28.7	17.1	19.8	24.	15.2	20.5	31.1	23.1	31.6	26.1
RO	46.3	29.3	31.8	40.6	26.9	37.2	51.9	40.1	54.7	41.2
SE	35.9	15.4	19.2	21.2	14.5	16.6	45.2	24.2	35.1	30.6
SI	19.9	10.8	12.2	25.4	15.8	19.6	27.4	18.4	28.8	20.5
SK	23.4	13.9	15.9	13.2	9.	11.9	24.2	15.3	22.4	18.5
EU	**33.4**	**18.7**	**21.5**	**23.9**	**16.3**	**20.2**	**36.7**	**24.0**	**35.3**	**27.8**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 18 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 81: Percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability status, gender and Member State, aged 16+

Definition adopted by Europe 2030 Strategy.

	2020			2021				2021			
	Disability			Disability			Gap in pp	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, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=hlth.
Data extracted on 7 April 2023 from [ESTAT].

Table 82: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 16+, EU

		Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
	Europe 2020 Strategy				
EU 28	2005	32.1	23.0		
	2006	32.3	22.3		
	2007	31.9	21.7		
	2008	30.9	20.5		
	2009	29.7	20.1		
EU 27	2010	29.2	21.1		
	2011	30.2	21.5		
	2012	29.9	22.1		
	2013	29.7	21.8		
	2014	29.8	21.7		
	2015	29.8	21.2		
	2016	29.8	21.4		
	2017	28.9	20.3		
	2018	28.6	19.1		
	2019	28.4	18.4		
	2020	28.7	18.8		
	Europe 2030 Strategy				
	2015			30.4	21.1
	2016			30.1	21.1
	2017			29.1	20.0
	2018			29.3	19.1
	2019			29.3	18.3
	2020			29.6	18.8
	2021			29.7	18.8
	2022			28.8	18.3
	2023			28.8	18.0

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

Table 83: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age group, EU

		Age: 16-64		Age: 65+	
		Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
	Europe 2020 Strategy				
EU 28	2005	35.9	22.9	26.8	24.1
	2006	36.4	22.3	26.8	22.7
	2007	35.8	21.6	26.7	22.1
	2008	34.9	20.5	25.9	20.2
	2009	34.5	20.2	23.7	19.1
EU 27	2010	34.6	21.8	22.4	16.1
	2011	36.4	22.3	22.7	15.8
	2012	36.2	23.0	22.3	15.5
	2013	36.4	23.0	21.1	14.1

	2014	37.4	23.0	20.4	13.6
	2015	37.7	22.4	20.3	13.9
	2016	36.9	22.6	21.3	15.0
	2017	35.1	21.3	21.6	15.1
	2018	34.6	19.9	21.7	15.0
	2019	34.4	18.7	22.7	15.6
	2020	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	35.1	19.6	23.9	15.3
	2022	33.4	18.7	23.9	16.3

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

Table 84: Percentage of persons with disabilities living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by component, aged 16+, EU

A person declaring several disadvantages is counted only once in AROPE.

	AROPE	**AROP (Financial)**	**Very Low Work intensity**	**Material deprivation & social exclusion**
2011	**30.2**	19.1	**23.9**	**12.4**
2012	**29.9**	18.8	**22.8**	**12.9**
2013	**29.7**	18.7	**23.0**	**12.6**
2014	**29.8**	19.4	**24.3**	**12.2**
2015	30.4	19.9	19.2	14.0
2016	30.1	20.2	19.3	13.2
2017	29.1	20.1	18.4	12.4
2018	29.3	20.9	18.1	11.8
2019	29.3	21.1	18.2	11.5
2020	29.6	21.0	17.8	11.3
2021	29.7	21.1	18.6	10.9
2022	28.8	20.5	17.1	10.5

Note: data in bold refer to Europe 2020 definitions. Europe 2030 did not change the definition of AROP.
Abbreviations: AROPE: poverty or social exclusion; AROP: (financial) poverty; VL Work intensity: very low work intensity; Sev Mat & Soc Depr: Severe material and social deprivation; Unempl sev: unemployment rate of persons with severe disabilities.
Data source: EU-SILC UDB and Eurostat. Data extracted from [ESTAT].

Table 85: Percentage of persons living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree and component, aged 16+, EU

A person declaring several disadvantages is counted only once in AROPE.
Gap (Absolute difference) = % persons with severe disabilities – % persons without disabilities.
Relative gap (relative difference) = 100*(% persons with severe disabilities – % persons without disabilities) / (% persons without disabilities).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
AROPE (poverty or social exclusion)								
Severe	35.8	35.7	35.0	35.7	35.9	35.1	34.7	35.9
With disabilities	30.4	30.1	29.1	29.3	29.3	29.6	29.7	28.8
None	21.1	21.1	20.0	19.1	18.3	18.8	18.8	18.3
Gap in pp	14.7	14.6	15.0	16.6	17.6	16.3	15.9	17.6
Relative gap %	69.7	69.2	75.0	86.9	96.2	86.7	84.6	96.2
AROP (financial poverty)								
Severe	22.3	22.7	23.0	24.0	24.4	23.1	23.2	23.6
With disabilities	19.9	20.2	20.1	20.9	21.1	21.0	21.1	20.5
None	15.6	15.9	15.4	15.0	14.6	14.8	14.9	14.5
Gap in pp	6.7	6.8	7.6	9.0	9.8	8.3	8.3	9.1
Relative gap %	42.9	42.8	49.4	60.0	67.1	56.1	55.7	62.8
Very low work intensity								
Severe	29.6	29.5	28.9	29.8	29.8	28.8	28.3	31.6
With disabilities	19.2	19.3	18.4	18.1	18.2	17.8	18.6	17.1
None	7.5	7.6	7.0	6.4	5.9	6.1	6.6	5.7
Gap in pp	22.1	21.9	21.9	23.4	23.9	22.7	21.7	25.9
Relative gap %	294.7	288.2	312.9	365.6	405.1	372.1	328.8	454.4
Severe material & social deprivation								
Severe	17.4	16.8	15.8	15.6	15.8	14.6	13.0	14.5
With disabilities	14.0	13.2	12.4	11.8	11.5	11.3	10.9	10.5
None	7.4	7.0	6.0	5.4	4.9	5.4	4.9	4.9
Gap in pp	10.0	9.8	9.8	10.2	10.9	9.2	8.1	9.6
Relative gap %	135.1	140.0	163.3	188.9	222.4	170.4	165.3	195.9

Note: Severe: persons with severe disabilities; With disabilities: all persons with disabilities; None: persons without disabilities.
Data source: Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe010/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_ilc.dsb_ilcip. Data extracted on 2 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

12 Persons at risk of poverty before and after social transfers

12.1 Definitions

The impact of social security / social protection systems can be examined from different perspectives. In the following, we will compare the percentage of persons at risk of poverty before social transfers (including pensions) and the equivalent rate after social transfers.

This is not an actuarial analysis focussing for example on redistribution between, successive cohorts, the life cycle, etc. Our approach does not compute the present value of lifetime benefits and contributions for each individual or a group of persons.

Another restriction in the present analysis relates to the fact that the impact of social transfers cannot be measured by simply adding or subtracting transfers. This affects economic behaviours, and the global resulting impact is not a mechanical addition or subtraction from income.[68] Our analysis is not based on a general equilibrium approach.

Furthermore, transfers do not distinguish disability benefits based on insurance schemes and disability allowances based on non-contributory social or assistance policies.

Given that pensions are treated as a social transfer (and not the benefit of a contribution), it is interesting to extend the analysis by age group and to distinguish, in particular, economically active persons and retired persons.

The Social Protection Committee (Indicators Sub-group) has retained the 'Impact of social cash transfers (excluding pensions) on poverty risk reduction for persons with disabilities (16+)' in its Portfolio of EU Social Indicators.[69] The Committee notes that the reference population is persons aged 16+ with moderate or severe disabilities, based on the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) approach.

The indicator aims to measure the effect of social transfers on the reduction of income poverty.

12.2 Poverty alleviation of social transfers

Eurostat presents the at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers. This is calculated as the share of people with an equivalised disposable income before social transfers that is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold as calculated after social transfers.[70]

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[68] For an in-depth discussion see: Guio, A.-C., Marlier, E., Nolan, B. (eds) (2021), *Improving the understanding of poverty and social exclusion in Europe*, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union. For example, their analysis shows that measuring the effects of social transfers on the reduction of income poverty in net or gross terms does matter. The authors conclude that, this might have an important impact on the estimated country rankings, which are frequently used for policy recommendations.

[69] Social Protection Committee, Indicators Sub-group (2022), *Portfolio of EU Social Indicators for the Monitoring of Progress Towards the EU Objectives for Social Protection and Social Inclusion*; Publications Office of the European Union.

[70] See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:At-risk-of-poverty_rate.

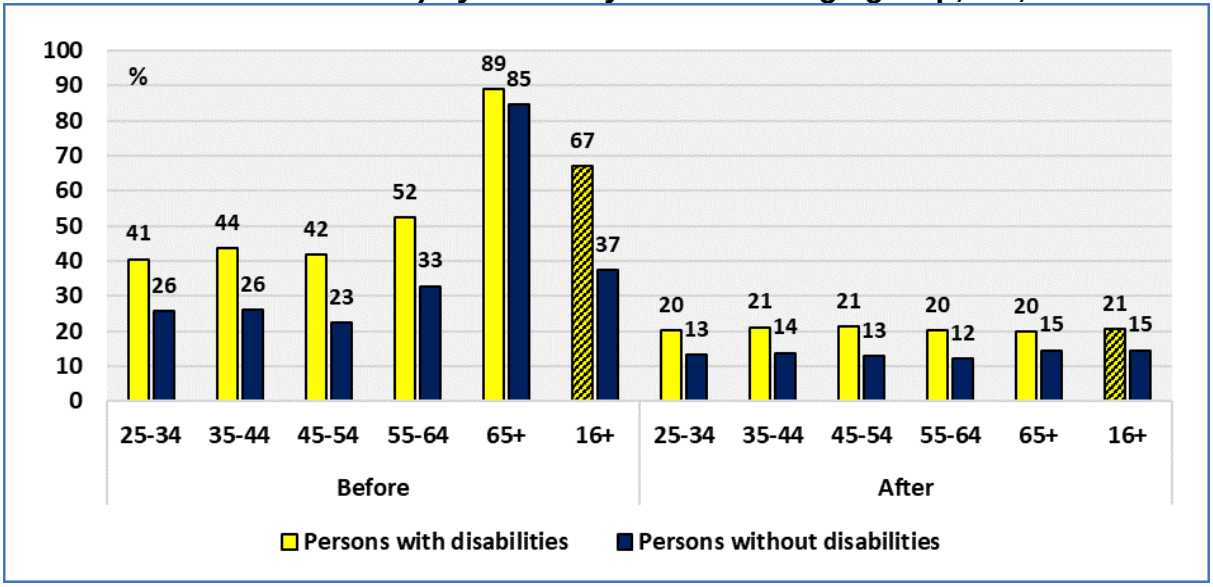
Social transfers cover the social help given by central, state or local institutional units. They include:[71]

- old-age (retirement) and survivors' (widows' and widowers') pensions;
- unemployment benefits;
- family-related benefits;
- sickness and invalidity benefits;
- education-related benefits;
- housing allowances;
- social assistance; and
- other benefits.

In the following figure, we may observe that, in the EU, in 2022, the percentage of persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, at risk of poverty before transfers is 67.1 %. This rate is reduced to 20.5 % after social transfers. The equivalent rates for persons without disabilities are 37.3 % and 14.5 %.

Considering the reservations noted above, we can say, in a simplified way, that 67.1 % of the EU population with disabilities would have been at risk of poverty, but after taking account of social transfers (pensions being included in social transfers) the share was reduced to 20.5 %.

Figure 88: Persons at risk of poverty before and after social transfers (pensions included in social transfers) by disability status and age group, EU, 2022



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

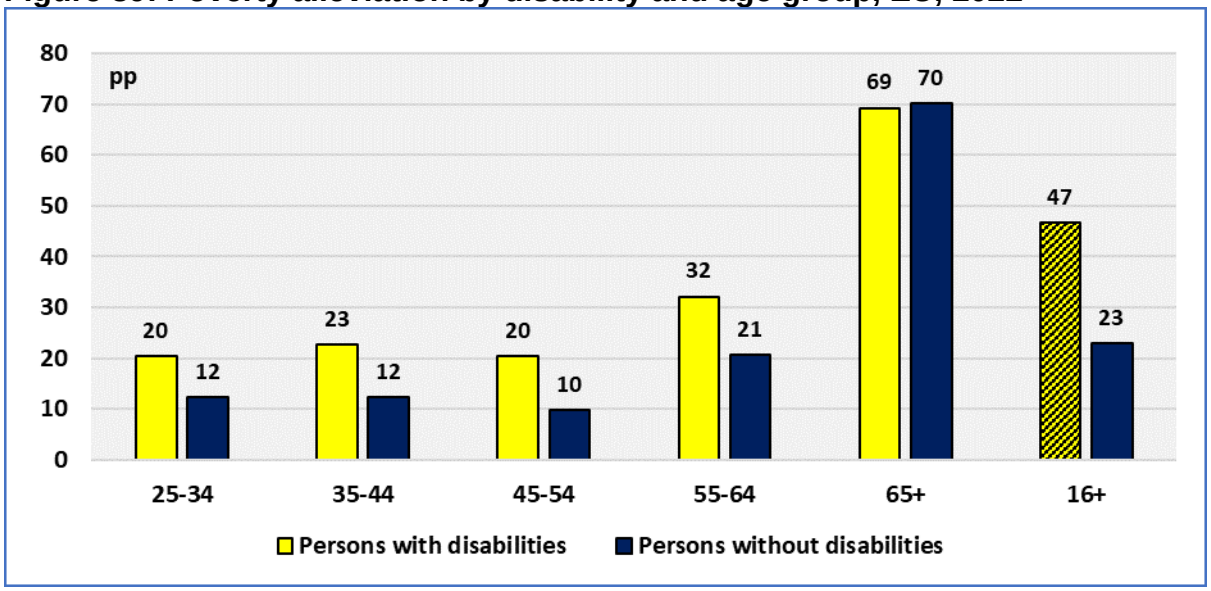
We may observe that persons with disabilities, aged 16 and over, experience a poverty alleviation of 46.6 percentage points compared to 22.8 percentage points for persons without disabilities.

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

Analysis by age group indicates that the reduction of poverty is great for persons aged 65 and over although it should be noted that this is the consequence of the arbitrary decision to treat retirement pensions as social transfers. In fact, recent policies have tended to establish a retirement pension system based on capitalisation. This means that retirement pensions cannot be treated as a social transfer. While the hypothesis aims to simplify the comparison, it brings a significant bias to the analysis. For this reason, in the remaining analysis, we will focus on persons aged 16-64.

However, this does not eliminate all bias due to the treatment of retirement pensions as social transfers. In fact, many persons receive early retirement pensions in the age group 55-64. This explains the relatively high alleviation rates in this age group.

Figure 89: Poverty alleviation by disability and age group, EU, 2022



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en*. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].*

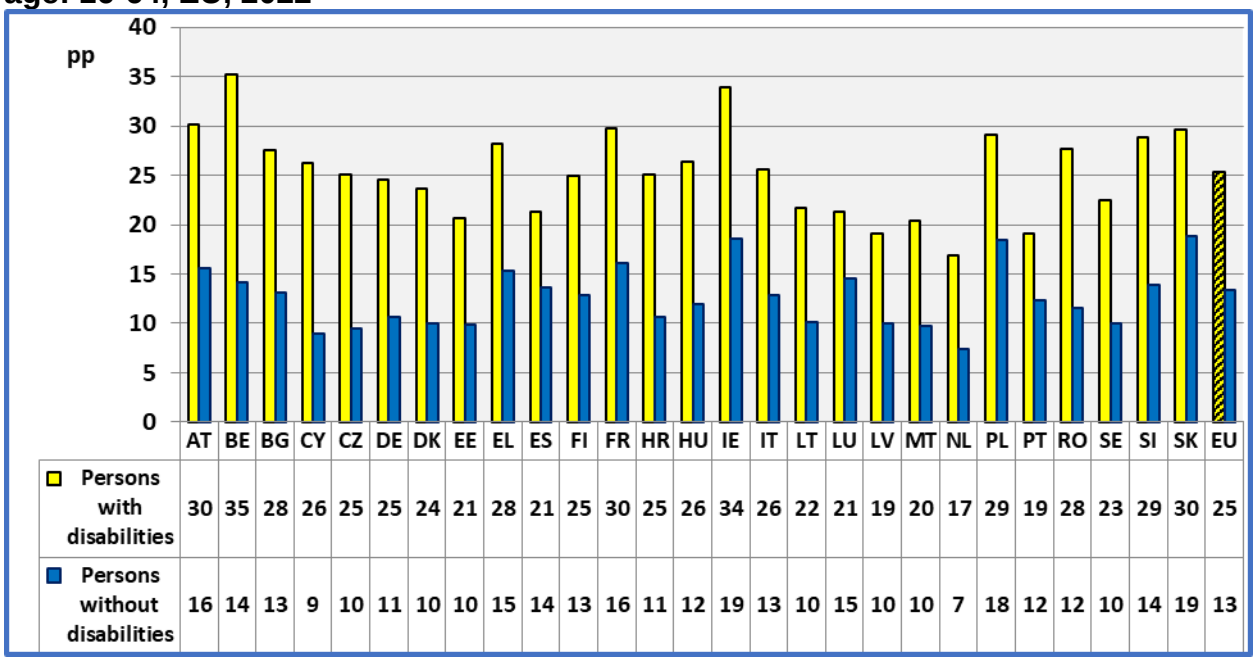
12.3 Poverty alleviation of social transfers by Member State

As explained above, we focus here on persons aged 16-64.

In the EU in 2022, the absolute reduction of the risk of poverty after social transfers amounted to 25.3 percentage points for persons with disabilities and 13.4 percentage points for persons without disabilities.

In absolute terms, poverty alleviation was higher among persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities, in all Member States. Concerning persons with disabilities aged 16-64, the reduction of poverty was relatively high in Austria (30.1 percentage points), Ireland (33.9 percentage points) and Belgium (35.2 percentage points).

Figure 90: Absolute poverty alleviation by disability status and Member State, age: 16-64, EU, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	30	35	28	26	25	25	24	21	28	21	25	30	25	26	34	26	22	21	19	20	17	29	19	28	23	29	30	25
Persons without disabilities	16	14	13	9	10	11	10	10	15	14	13	16	11	12	19	13	10	15	10	10	7	18	12	12	10	14	19	13

Note: Absolute poverty alleviation: decrease of poverty rates before and after social transfers, in absolute values. It is estimated for persons with and without disabilities.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en*. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].*

The absolute decrease does not represent correctly the importance of social transfers in reducing the risk of poverty. In fact, a decrease from 30 % to 25 % (relative change in absolute values: 16.7 %) is not equivalent to a decrease from 20 % to 15 % (relative change in absolute values: 25.0 %). Consequently, in the following, we present the relative decrease in poverty by Member State.

In the EU in 2022, the relative reduction of the risk of poverty after social transfers amounted to 54.4 % [(46.5 % – 21.2 %) / 46.5 %] for persons with disabilities, aged 16-64, and 48.0 % [(27.9 % – 14.5 %) / 27.9 %] for persons without disabilities in the same age group.[72]

In relative terms, poverty alleviation was higher among persons with disabilities, compared to persons without disabilities, in the majority of Member States. Concerning persons with disabilities, aged 16-64, the relative reduction in poverty was relatively high in Slovakia (62.6 %), Austria (63.2 %) and Slovenia (63.9 %).

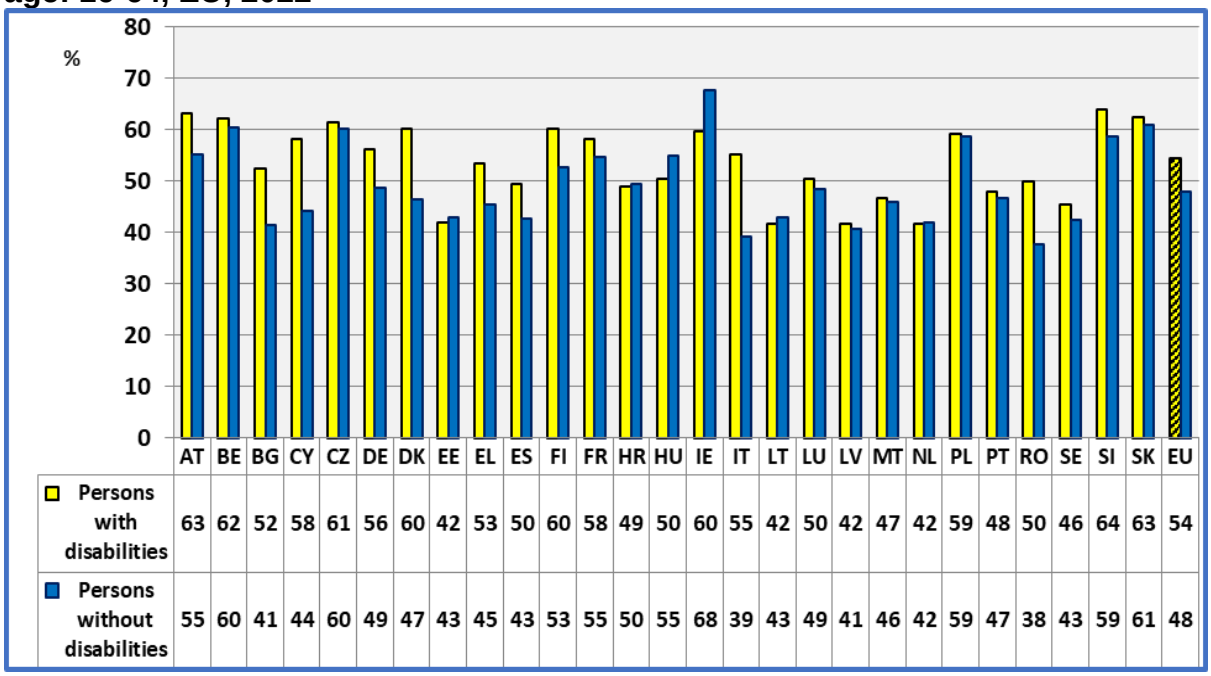
The relative decrease in poverty among persons with disabilities was lower compared to persons without disabilities in six Member States (in decreasing order of differences in absolute values these were: Ireland, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, Croatia and the Netherlands).

[72] Our reference for comparison is the situation before social transfers. For a relative change, we could write: 100*(21.2-46.5)/46.5=-54.4. To facilitate the discussion, we prefer to work with: 100*(46.5 % – 21.2 %) / 46.5=54.4 and speak about a reduction of 54.4 %.

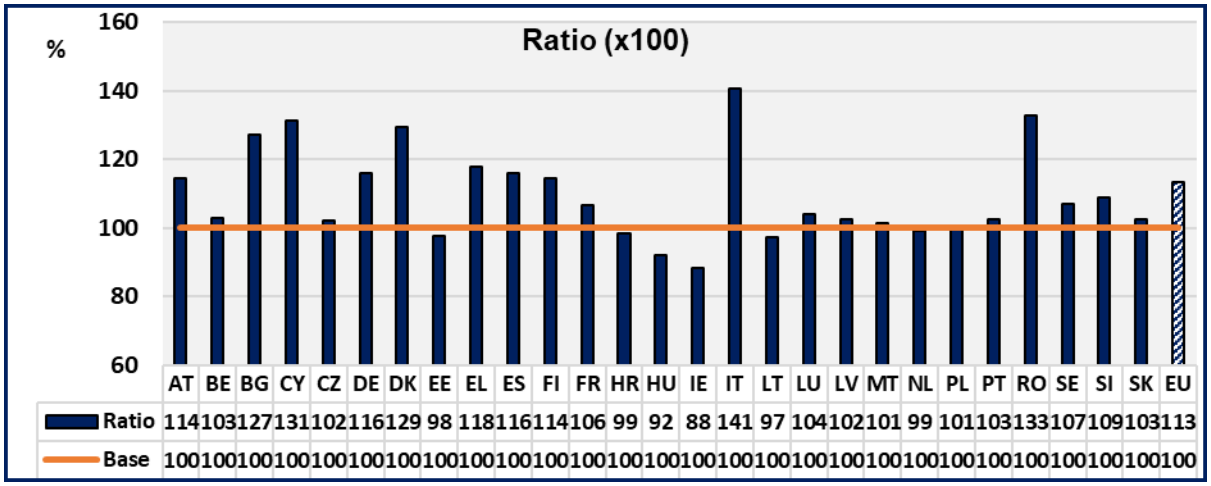
Another way to measure the impact of social transfers in reducing the disadvantage of persons with disabilities relative to persons without disabilities is to consider the ratios of relative poverty decreases. A ratio higher than 100 means that the relative decrease among persons with disabilities is greater compared to persons without disabilities. Consequently, the gap is decreasing.

The following figures indicate that social transfers have a strong impact in reducing the relative gap (between persons with and without disabilities), in Cyprus (ratio: 131.2 %), Romania (132.8 %) and Italy (140.5 %). In contrast, social transfers in the Netherlands (ratio: 99.0 %), Croatia (98.6 %), Estonia (97.7 %), Lithuania (97.3 %), Hungary (92.0 %) and Ireland (88.2 %) seem to be failing to reduce the disability poverty gap. In fact, in these countries, the relative gap before social transfers is lower compared to the relative gap after social transfers, at least for 2022. The policy of social transfers, at least for the transfers noted above, have an adverse impact on persons with disabilities in comparison to persons without disabilities. However, the data for countries with relatively small samples (Estonia and Lithuania) or with ratios close to '100' (Netherlands and Croatia) need further study in order to assess the robustness of the above observations. The analysis by year below sheds more light on this issue.

Figure 91: Relative poverty alleviation by disability status and Member State, age: 16-64, EU, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Persons with disabilities	63	62	52	58	61	56	60	42	53	50	60	58	49	50	60	55	42	50	42	47	42	59	48	50	46	64	63	54
Persons without disabilities	55	60	41	44	60	49	47	43	45	43	53	55	50	55	68	39	43	49	41	46	42	59	47	38	43	59	61	48



Note:
Relative poverty alleviation: decrease in poverty rates before and after social transfers, expressed as a percentage, in absolute values, estimated for persons with and without disabilities.
Ratio = 100*(Relative poverty alleviation of persons with disabilities / Relative poverty alleviation of persons without disabilities). A ratio higher than 100 means that the poverty gap is decreasing.
Data source: Eurostat,
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

12.4 Poverty alleviation of social transfers by gender

EU-SILC data might underestimate gender differences. In fact, income is estimated at the household level and the same value is attributed to all household members.

In the following table, we present the percentage of persons at risk of poverty for persons with and without disabilities by gender and age group, before and after social transfers (pensions being included in social transfers).

First, we may observe that the relative decrease in poverty is high for all groups considered. The relative decrease for a specific group (given disability status, gender, and age group) measures the difference before and after social transfers as a percentage of the initial situation (before social transfers). We may observe that all these relative changes are positive meaning that social transfers have reduced poverty among the specific group.

However, the relative decreases of poverty are not the same across groups. This means that social transfers have a bigger impact in reducing poverty for some groups compared to other groups.

What is of interest is to assess whether the gap between persons with and without disabilities is decreasing. At this end, we retain the relative gap, which is the difference between the poverty level of a specific group of persons with disabilities (given gender and age) compared to persons without disabilities (of the same gender and age), expressed as a percentage of the former group.

We may observe that the relative poverty decrease (percentage change before and after social transfers) of men with disabilities is higher compared to the equivalent rate of persons without disabilities, for all age groups. This means that the relative gap (persons with disabilities versus persons without disabilities) is decreasing when we

compare the situation before and after social transfers. For men, social transfers reduce the disadvantage of men with disabilities compared to men without disabilities.

For women, we may observe that there is a tendency to reduce the relative gap between women with disabilities and women without disabilities, as a result of social transfers, except for the age group 55-64.

Concerning women aged 55-64, about 54.5 % of women with disabilities are at risk of poverty (before social transfers) compared to 37.9 % of women without disabilities in the same age group. This represents a relative gap of 30.5 % ((54.5-37.9)/54.5).

After social transfers, the respective poverty rates are 19.6 % and 12.7 %. The resulting relative gap is 35.2 %. Social transfers have increased the relative gap for this specific group by 4.7 percentage points.

The (absolute) reductions in poverty levels before and after social transfers does not necessarily imply a reduction of relative gaps and a convergence of poverty rates. In our example, social transfers have an adverse effect on women with disabilities aged 55-64.

Table 86: Persons at risk of poverty (AROP) before and after social transfers by gender, age and disability status, EU, 2022

		25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
		Persons at risk of poverty				Convergence indicators			
Persons with disabilities									
Before	**Total**	40.5	43.7	41.7	52.4				
	Males	41.2	46.1	43.0	49.9				
	Females	40.0	41.6	40.7	54.5				
						Relative decrease persons with disabilities			
After	**Total**	20.1	21.1	21.4	20.3	50.4	51.7	48.7	61.3
	Males	20.4	21.7	22.2	21.1	50.5	52.9	48.4	57.7
	Females	19.9	20.6	20.6	19.6	50.3	50.5	49.4	64.0
Persons without disabilities									
Before	**Total**	25.6	26.0	22.5	32.8				
	Males	24.1	25.0	22.2	27.5				
	Females	27.1	27.1	22.9	37.9				
						Relative decrease persons without disabilities			
After	**Total**	13.3	13.8	12.8	12.2	48.0	46.9	43.1	62.8
	Males	12.4	13.1	12.5	11.8	48.5	47.6	43.7	57.1
	Females	14.3	14.6	13.1	12.7	47.2	46.1	42.8	66.5

	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
	Relative gap before			
Males	41.5	45.8	48.4	44.9
Females	32.3	34.9	43.7	30.5

	Relative gap after			
Males	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2
Females	28.1	28.1	28.1	28.1
	Net impact (Convergence if >0))			
Males	2.3	6.1	4.7	0.8
Females	4.1	5.7	7.3	**-4.7**

Note:
Relative decrease: measures the change of poverty rates of a given group, before and after social transfers. It is estimated for persons with and without disabilities.
Relative gap: measures the difference of poverty rates between persons with and without disabilities, for given gender and age group. It is estimated before and after social transfers.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

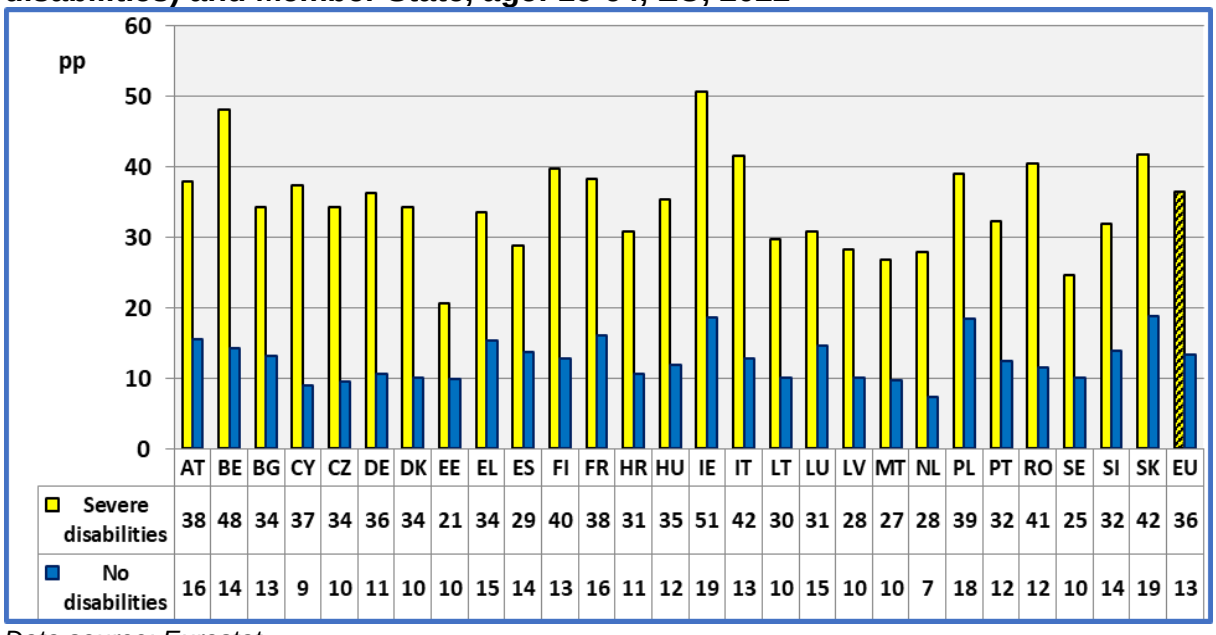
12.5 Poverty alleviation of social transfers by Member State and degree

As before, we focus here on persons aged 16-64. Since our goal is to analyse whether social transfers reduce the risk of monetary poverty, we shall compare the situation of persons with and without disabilities.

In the EU in 2022, the absolute reduction of the risk of poverty after social transfers amounted to 36.4 percentage points for persons with severe disabilities and 13.4 percentage points for persons without disabilities.

In absolute terms, poverty alleviation was higher for persons with severe disabilities, compared to persons without disabilities, in all Member States. Concerning persons with severe disabilities aged 16-64, the reduction in poverty was relatively high in Slovakia (41.7 percentage points), Belgium (48.1 percentage points) and Ireland (50.7 percentage points). A similar ranking was found for all persons with disabilities.

Figure 92: Absolute poverty alleviation by disability status (severe and no disabilities) and Member State, age: 16-64, EU, 2022



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Severe disabilities	38	48	34	37	34	36	34	21	34	29	40	38	31	35	51	42	30	31	28	27	28	39	32	41	25	32	42	36
No disabilities	16	14	13	9	10	11	10	10	15	14	13	16	11	12	19	13	10	15	10	10	7	18	12	12	10	14	19	13

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

However, as noted above, the absolute decrease does not correctly represent the impact of social transfers in reducing poverty. Consequently, in the following, we present the relative decrease in poverty by Member State.

In the EU in 2022, the relative reduction of the risk of poverty after social transfers amounted to 57.7 % for persons with severe disabilities aged 16-64, and 48.0 % for persons without disabilities of the same age group.

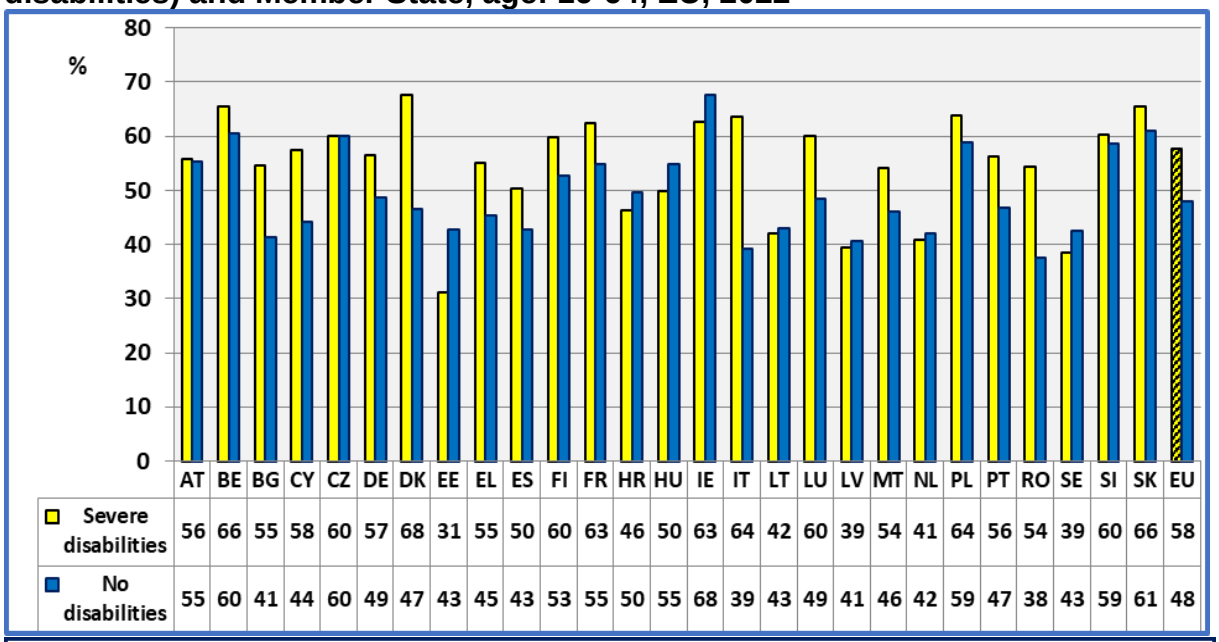
In relative terms, poverty alleviation was higher among persons with severe disabilities compared to persons without disabilities in the majority of Member States. Concerning persons with disabilities aged 16-64, the relative reduction of poverty was high in Belgium (65.5 %), Slovakia (65.6 %) and Denmark (67.7 %).

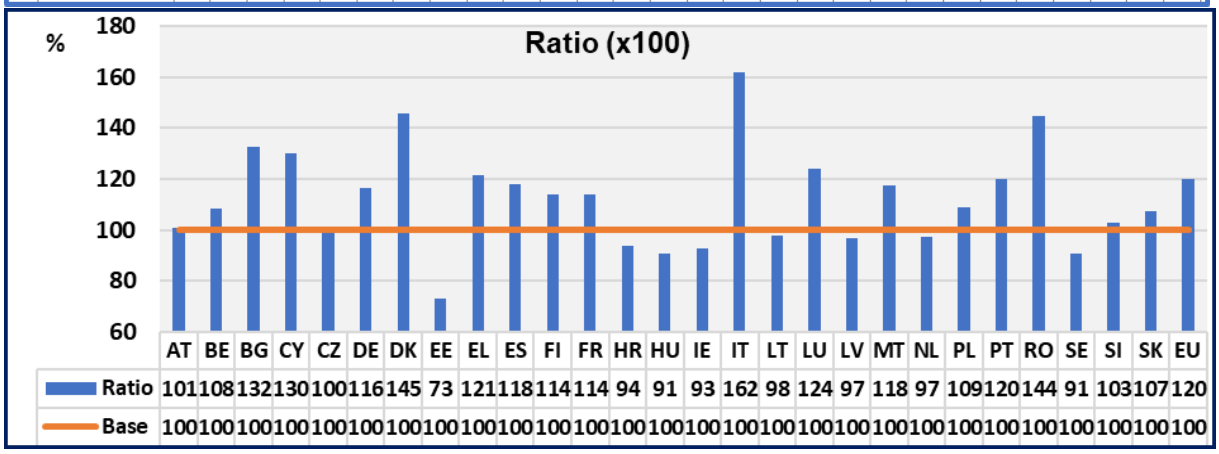
The relative decrease in poverty among persons with severe disabilities was lower compared to persons without disabilities in nine Member States (in decreasing order of differences in absolute values: Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden, Croatia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and Czechia).

Another way to measure the impact of social transfers in reducing the disadvantage of persons with disabilities relative to persons without disabilities is to consider the ratios of relative poverty alleviations before and after social transfers. A ratio higher than 100 means that the relative decrease among persons with severe disabilities is higher compared to persons without disabilities. Consequently, the relative gap is decreasing.

The following figures indicate that social transfers have a strong impact in reducing the relative gap (between persons with severe and no disabilities) in Romania (144.5 %), Denmark (145.5 %) and Italy (161.9 %) whereas social transfers in Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden, Croatia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Lithuania and Czechia seem to fail to reduce the relative poverty gap. In fact, in these countries, the relative gap after social transfers is higher compared to the relative gap before social transfers, at least for 2022. The policy of social transfers, at least for the transfers noted above, has an adverse impact on persons with severe disabilities relative to persons without disabilities. However, further study would be required in order to assess the robustness of the above observations.

Figure 93: Relative poverty alleviation by disability status (severe and no disabilities) and Member State, age: 16-64, EU, 2022





Note: Ratio = 100*(Relative poverty alleviation of persons with severe disabilities / Relative poverty alleviation of persons without disabilities). A ratio higher than 100 means that the poverty gap is decreasing.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

12.6 Annual change of poverty alleviation by Member State

In the following, we analyse the evolution of relative poverty alleviation between 2021 and 2022.

At this end, we retain the relative changes before and after social transfers for each group. In other terms, we calculate the relative poverty decrease for persons with and without disabilities for each year.

Social transfers reduce poverty rates for both groups, but the importance of this reduction is not the same. A higher relative poverty reduction among persons with disabilities relative to persons without disabilities means that the relative gap between the two groups is reduced.

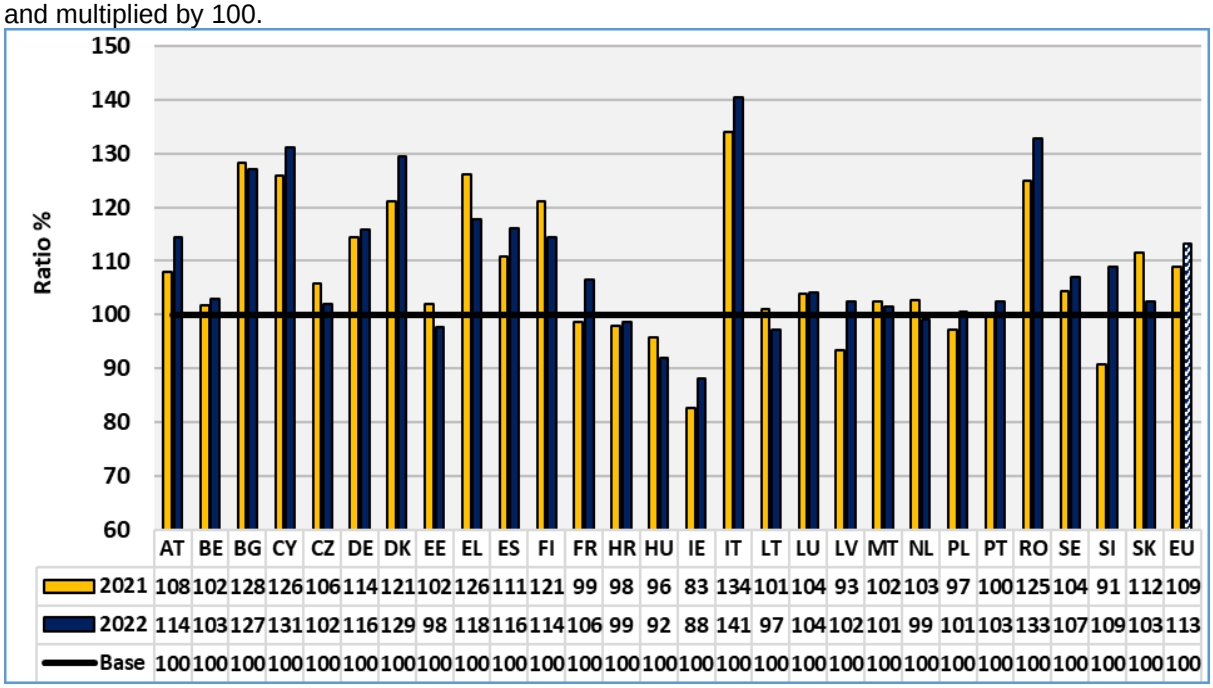
For each year, we present the ratio of the relative poverty alleviation of persons with disabilities divided by the relative poverty alleviation of persons without disabilities, in absolute values and multiplied by 100. If the ratio is higher than 100, then the relative gap is reduced; otherwise, it is increased.

We do not expect significant changes between 2021 and 2022. The regime of social transfers is relatively stable and any modification might require time before it can produce its full impact. However, social transfers in 2021 were affected by exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the ratio of relative changes presents a relatively large confidence interval. Consequently, relatively large changes ought to be treated with caution.

In the following figure, we may note that a certain number of Member States have a social transfers system which is disadvantageous for persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities (e.g. in Croatia, Hungary and Ireland).

Figure 94: Ratios of relative poverty alleviations following social transfers by Member State and year, age: 16-64

For each year and Member State, the ratio is equal to: Relative poverty alleviation of persons with disabilities divided by the relative poverty alleviation of persons without disabilities, in absolute values and multiplied by 100.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
2021	108	102	128	126	106	114	121	102	126	111	121	99	98	96	83	134	101	104	93	102	103	97	100	125	104	91	112	109
2022	114	103	127	131	102	116	129	98	118	116	114	106	99	92	88	141	97	104	102	101	99	101	103	133	107	109	103	113
Base	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

The above conclusion might sound counter-intuitive. In fact, in all countries examined here, social transfers reduce the absolute rate of persons at risk of poverty when we compare the situation before and after social transfers. This holds both for persons with and without disabilities. The issue is that this reduction does not have the same importance for each group.

In the annexed statistical tables, we can see the impact of social transfers on persons with disabilities relative to persons without disabilities, notably in Ireland, Hungary and Croatia.

The results at national level are provisional and sampling bias might affect them. Consequently, we will have to monitor the evolution of the results in the coming years and assess whether the above conclusions are a temporary statistical bias or a permanent characteristic.

We have to note that the situation before social transfers might reflect economic forces and these forces might generate inequalities. These inequalities change over time. This means that, with a given social transfers system, the relative disability gap, after social transfers, might increase, if the conditions for granting disability benefits are independent from economic forces.

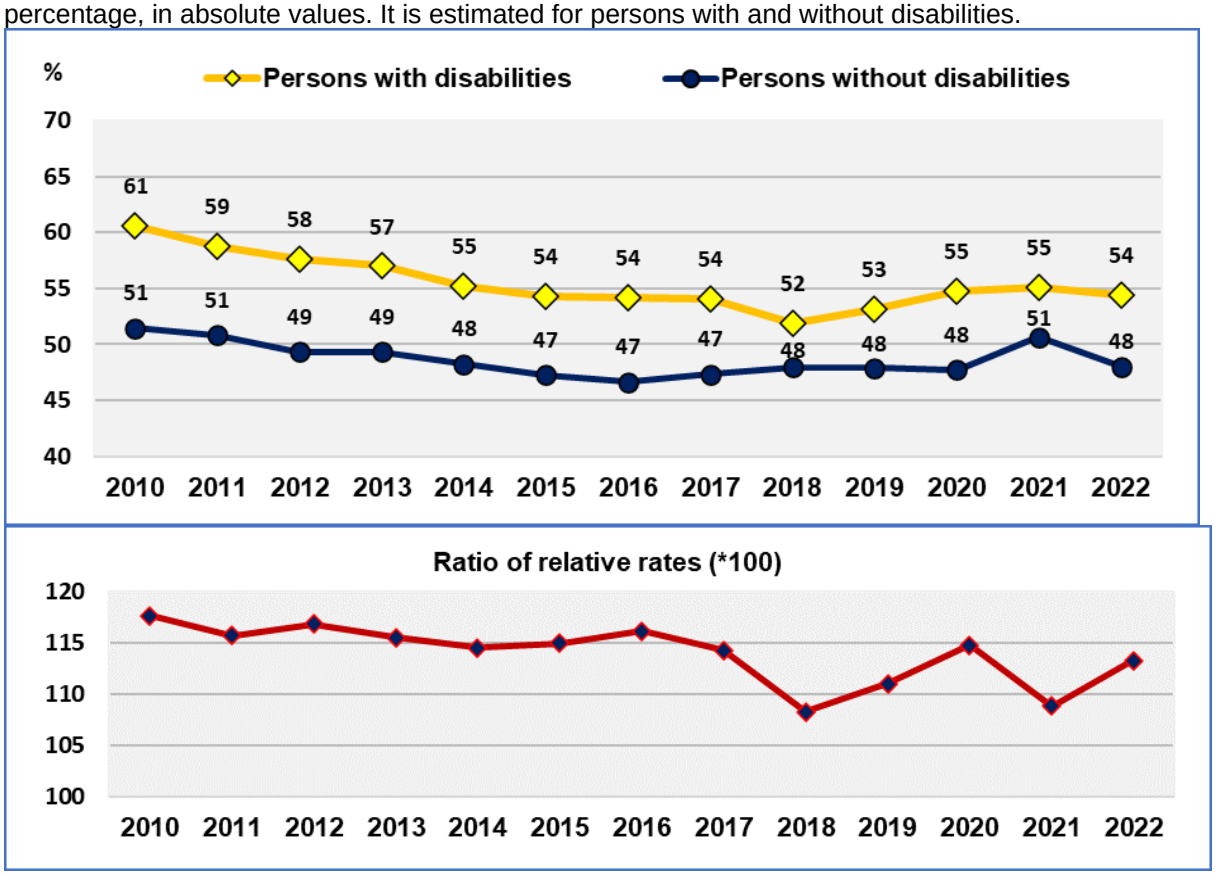
12.7 Evolution of poverty alleviation at EU level

In the following figure, we may note that the impact of social transfers tends to reduce the disadvantage of persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities. In fact, the relative reduction in poverty among persons with disabilities was higher compared to persons without disabilities, following social transfers.

The higher the ratio of relative poverty decreases (ratio of decreases for persons with and without disabilities), the bigger the convergence, compared to the situation before transfers. The extent of this convergence between persons with and without disabilities, was generally stable from 2010 to 2016 but there has been an erratic fluctuation since. As noted above, the COVID-19 pandemic and the extensive policy intervention at that time might have been one cause.

Figure 95: Relative poverty alleviation by disability status, age: 16-64, EU

Relative poverty alleviation: decrease of poverty rates before and after social transfers, expressed as a percentage, in absolute values. It is estimated for persons with and without disabilities.



Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

12.8 Statistical tables

Table 87: Persons at risk of poverty (AROP) before and after social transfers by disability status and Member State, aged 16-64, EU, 2022

The comparison is between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities.

	Persons at risk of poverty				Comparison between persons with and without disabilities				Comparison for each group before and after		
	Before social transfers		After social transfers		Relative gap				Decrease in poverty		
	Disability		Disability		%		pp	%	%		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Before	After	Diff	Diff %	Dis	NoDis	Ratio
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	In percentage (%)				100* (1-2)/1	100* (3-4)/3	5-6	100* (5-6)/5	100* (1-3)/1	100* (2-4)/2	100* 9/10
AT	47.6	28.2	17.5	12.6	40.8	28.0	12.8	31.3	63.2	55.3	114.3
BE	56.6	23.5	21.4	9.3	58.5	56.5	1.9	3.3	62.2	60.4	102.9
BG	52.6	31.7	25.0	18.6	39.7	25.6	14.1	35.6	52.5	41.3	127.0
CY	45.1	20.1	18.9	11.2	55.4	40.7	14.7	26.5	58.1	44.3	131.2
CZ	40.9	15.8	15.8	6.3	61.4	60.1	1.2	2.0	61.4	60.1	102.1
DE	43.5	21.8	19.0	11.2	49.9	41.1	8.8	17.7	56.3	48.6	115.8
DK	39.2	21.5	15.6	11.5	45.2	26.3	18.9	41.8	60.2	46.5	129.4
EE	49.2	23.1	28.6	13.2	53.0	53.8	-0.8	-1.5	41.9	42.9	97.7

EL	52.8	33.7	24.6	18.4	36.2	25.2	11.0	30.3	53.4	45.4	117.6
ES	43.0	32.1	21.7	18.4	25.3	15.2	10.1	40.0	49.5	42.7	116.1
FI	41.3	24.3	16.4	11.5	41.2	29.9	11.3	27.4	60.3	52.7	114.5
FR	51.1	29.4	21.3	13.3	42.5	37.6	4.9	11.6	58.3	54.8	106.5
HR	51.4	21.6	26.3	10.9	58.0	58.6	-0.6	-1.0	48.8	49.5	98.6
HU	52.3	21.7	25.9	9.8	58.5	62.2	-3.7	-6.2	50.5	54.8	92.0
IE	56.8	27.5	22.9	8.9	51.6	61.1	-9.6	-18.5	59.7	67.6	88.2
IT	46.4	32.6	20.8	19.8	29.7	4.8	24.9	83.8	55.2	39.3	140.5
LT	51.9	23.5	30.2	13.4	54.7	55.6	-0.9	-1.7	41.8	43.0	97.3
LU	42.2	30.1	20.9	15.5	28.7	25.8	2.8	9.9	50.5	48.5	104.1
LV	45.9	24.6	26.8	14.6	46.4	45.5	0.9	1.9	41.6	40.7	102.4
MT	43.7	21.3	23.3	11.5	51.3	50.6	0.6	1.2	46.7	46.0	101.5
NL	40.6	17.6	23.7	10.2	56.7	57.0	-0.3	-0.6	41.6	42.0	99.0
PL	49.2	31.3	20.1	12.9	36.4	35.8	0.6	1.5	59.1	58.8	100.6
PT	39.8	26.5	20.7	14.1	33.4	31.9	1.5	4.6	48.0	46.8	102.6
RO	55.5	30.6	27.8	19.1	44.9	31.3	13.6	30.2	49.9	37.6	132.8
SE	49.4	23.5	26.9	13.5	52.4	49.8	2.6	5.0	45.5	42.6	107.0
SI	45.1	23.7	16.3	9.8	47.5	39.9	7.6	16.0	63.9	58.6	108.9
SK	47.3	30.8	17.7	12.0	34.9	32.2	2.7	7.7	62.6	61.0	102.5
EU	**46.5**	**27.9**	**21.2**	**14.5**	**40.0**	**31.6**	**8.4**	**21.0**	**54.4**	**48.0**	**113.3**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 88: Persons at risk of poverty (AROP) before and after social transfers by disability status (severe/ No-disabilities) and Member State, aged 16-64, EU, 2022

The comparison is between persons with severe disabilities and persons without disabilities.

	Persons at risk of poverty				**Comparison between persons with and without disabilities**				**Comparison for each group before and after**		
	Before social transfers		**After social transfers**		**Relative gap**				**Decrease in poverty**		
	Disability		**Disability**		**%**		**pp**	**%**	**%**		
	Severe	**No**	**Severe**	**No**	**Before**	**After**	**Diff**	**Diff %**	**Sev**	**NoDis**	**Ratio**
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	%				100* (1-2)/1	100* (3-4)/3	5-6	100* (5-6)/5	100* (1-3)/1	100* (2-4)/2	100* 9/10
AT	68.1	28.2	30.1	12.6	58.6	58.1	0.5	0.8	55.8	55.3	100.9
BE	73.4	23.5	25.3	9.3	68.0	63.2	4.7	7.0	65.5	60.4	108.4
BG	62.7	31.7	28.4	18.6	49.4	34.5	14.9	30.2	54.7	41.3	132.4
CY	65.0	20.1	27.6	11.2	69.1	59.4	9.7	14.0	57.5	44.3	129.9
CZ	57.0	15.8	22.8	6.3	72.3	72.4	-0.1	-0.1	60.0	60.1	99.8
DE	64.0	21.8	27.8	11.2	65.9	59.7	6.2	9.4	56.6	48.6	116.3
DK	50.7	21.5	16.4	11.5	57.6	29.9	27.7	48.1	67.7	46.5	145.5
EE	66.3	23.1	45.6	13.2	65.2	71.1	-5.9	-9.0	31.2	42.9	72.9
EL	61.0	33.7	27.4	18.4	44.8	32.8	11.9	26.6	55.1	45.4	121.3
ES	57.5	32.1	28.6	18.4	44.2	35.7	8.5	19.3	50.3	42.7	117.8
FI	66.3	24.3	26.6	11.5	63.3	56.8	6.6	10.4	59.9	52.7	113.7

FR	61.1	29.4	22.9	13.3	51.9	41.9	10.0	19.2	62.5	54.8	114.2
HR	66.6	21.6	35.7	10.9	67.6	69.5	-1.9	-2.8	46.4	49.5	93.7
HU	71.0	21.7	35.6	9.8	69.4	72.5	-3.0	-4.4	49.9	54.8	90.9
IE	80.8	27.5	30.1	8.9	66.0	70.4	-4.5	-6.8	62.7	67.6	92.8
IT	65.3	32.6	23.8	19.8	50.1	16.8	33.3	66.4	63.6	39.3	161.9
LT	70.7	23.5	41.0	13.4	66.8	67.3	-0.6	-0.8	42.0	43.0	97.7
LU	51.3	30.1	20.5	15.5	41.3	24.4	16.9	41.0	60.0	48.5	123.8
LV	71.6	24.6	43.4	14.6	65.6	66.4	-0.7	-1.1	39.4	40.7	96.9
MT	49.7	21.3	22.8	11.5	57.1	49.6	7.6	13.3	54.1	46.0	117.6
NL	68.4	17.6	40.4	10.2	74.3	74.8	-0.5	-0.7	40.9	42.0	97.4
PL	61.0	31.3	22.0	12.9	48.7	41.4	7.3	15.0	63.9	58.8	108.8
PT	57.5	26.5	25.2	14.1	53.9	44.0	9.9	18.3	56.2	46.8	120.
RO	74.6	30.6	34.1	19.1	59.0	44.0	15.0	25.4	54.3	37.6	144.5
SE	63.8	23.5	39.2	13.5	63.2	65.6	-2.4	-3.8	38.6	42.6	90.6
SI	52.9	23.7	21.0	9.8	55.2	53.3	1.9	3.4	60.3	58.6	102.8
SK	63.6	30.8	21.9	12.0	51.6	45.2	6.4	12.3	65.6	61.0	107.4
EU	**63.1**	**27.9**	**26.7**	**14.5**	**55.8**	**45.7**	**10.1**	**18.1**	**57.7**	**48.0**	**120.1**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 89: Persons at risk of poverty (AROP) before and after social transfers by disability status, Member State and year, aged 16-64, EU

(Continued on next page)

The comparison is between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities.

	Persons at risk of poverty							
	Before social transfers				**After social transfers**			
	2021		**2022**		**2021**		**2022**	
	Disability		**Disability**		**Disability**		**Disability**	
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	%							
AT	50.1	29.4	47.6	28.2	17.9	11.9	17.5	12.6
BE	60.6	26.9	56.6	23.5	20.3	9.3	21.4	9.3
BG	42.9	33.1	52.6	31.7	18.8	18.6	25.0	18.6
CY	50.7	22.0	45.1	20.1	18.8	11.0	18.9	11.2
CZ	42.2	17.9	40.9	15.8	13.0	6.2	15.8	6.3
DE	53.4	26.4	43.5	21.8	24.0	13.7	19.0	11.2
DK	41.8	23.6	39.2	21.5	16.5	11.8	15.6	11.5
EE	43.9	23.3	49.2	23.1	24.5	13.2	28.6	13.2
EL	55.4	36.3	52.8	33.7	24.4	20.2	24.6	18.4
ES	48.6	36.6	43.0	32.1	24.6	20.3	21.7	18.4
FI	43.2	25.3	41.3	24.3	12.0	10.2	16.4	11.5
FR	54.6	31.3	51.1	29.4	22.8	12.8	21.3	13.3
HR	49.3	25.0	51.4	21.6	26.1	13.0	26.3	10.9
HU	59.7	28.5	52.3	21.7	22.8	10.1	25.9	9.8
IE	62.5	29.6	56.8	27.5	25.7	8.5	22.9	8.9

IT	49.5	36.0	46.4	32.6	21.7	20.9	20.8	19.8
LT	45.3	26.9	51.9	23.5	23.5	14.1	30.2	13.4
LU	47.2	32.1	42.2	30.1	22.0	15.6	20.9	15.5
LV	42.6	25.0	45.9	24.6	26.7	15.0	26.8	14.6
MT	45.8	22.6	43.7	21.3	23.6	11.9	23.3	11.5
NL	44.3	18.5	40.6	17.6	23.9	10.2	23.7	10.2
PL	53.6	31.1	49.2	31.3	23.1	12.9	20.1	12.9
PT	42.8	27.5	39.8	26.5	23.5	15.1	20.7	14.1
RO	56.5	31.1	55.5	30.6	29.5	19.2	27.8	19.1
SE	49.5	27.4	49.4	23.5	24.8	14.3	26.9	13.5
SI	47.0	26.7	45.1	23.7	18.9	9.1	16.3	9.8
SK	46.6	28.4	47.3	30.8	14.0	10.6	17.7	12.0
EU	**50.6**	**30.6**	**46.5**	**27.9**	**22.7**	**15.1**	**21.2**	**14.5**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 90: Persons at risk of poverty (AROP) before and after social transfers by disability status, Member State and year, aged 16-64, EU
(Continued from previous page)

The comparison is between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities.

	Comparison between persons with and without disabilities				**Comparison for each group before and after social transfers**				**Convergence**	
	Relative gap				**Relative poverty decrease**				**Ratios of relative poverty decrease**	
	2021		**2022**		**2021**		**2022**		**2021**	**2022**
	Before		**After**						**100* Dis/No**	
	2021	**2022**	**2021**	**2022**	**Dis**	**No**	**Dis**	**No**		
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	100* (1-2)/1	100* (3-4)/3	100* (5-6)/5	100* (7-8)/7	100* (1-5)/1	100* (2-6)/2	100* (3-7)/3	100* (4-8)/4	100* 13/14	100* 15/16
	%									
AT	41.3	40.8	33.5	28.0	64.3	59.5	63.2	55.3	108.0	114.3
BE	55.6	58.5	54.2	56.5	66.5	65.4	62.2	60.4	101.6	102.9
BG	22.8	39.7	1.1	25.6	56.2	43.8	52.5	41.3	128.2	127.0
CY	56.6	55.4	41.5	40.7	62.9	50.0	58.1	44.3	125.8	131.2
CZ	57.6	61.4	52.3	60.1	69.2	65.4	61.4	60.1	105.9	102.1
DE	50.6	49.9	42.9	41.1	55.1	48.1	56.3	48.6	114.4	115.8
DK	43.5	45.2	28.5	26.3	60.5	50.0	60.2	46.5	121.1	129.4
EE	46.9	53.0	46.1	53.8	44.2	43.3	41.9	42.9	101.9	97.7
EL	34.5	36.2	17.2	25.2	56.0	44.4	53.4	45.4	126.2	117.6
ES	24.7	25.3	17.5	15.2	49.4	44.5	49.5	42.7	110.9	116.1
FI	41.4	41.2	15.0	29.9	72.2	59.7	60.3	52.7	121.0	114.5
FR	42.7	42.5	43.9	37.6	58.2	59.1	58.3	54.8	98.5	106.5
HR	49.3	58.0	50.2	58.6	47.1	48.0	48.8	49.5	98.0	98.6
HU	52.3	58.5	55.7	62.2	61.8	64.6	50.5	54.8	95.7	92.0
IE	52.6	51.6	66.9	61.1	58.9	71.3	59.7	67.6	82.6	88.2

IT	27.3	29.7	3.7	4.8	56.2	41.9	55.2	39.3	133.9	140.5
LT	40.6	54.7	40.0	55.6	48.1	47.6	41.8	43.0	101.1	97.3
LU	32.0	28.7	29.1	25.8	53.4	51.4	50.5	48.5	103.9	104.1
LV	41.3	46.4	43.8	45.5	37.3	40.0	41.6	40.7	93.3	102.4
MT	50.7	51.3	49.6	50.6	48.5	47.3	46.7	46.0	102.4	101.5
NL	58.2	56.7	57.3	57.0	46.0	44.9	41.6	42.0	102.6	99.0
PL	42.0	36.4	44.2	35.8	56.9	58.5	59.1	58.8	97.2	100.6
PT	35.7	33.4	35.7	31.9	45.1	45.1	48.0	46.8	100.0	102.6
RO	45.0	44.9	34.9	31.3	47.8	38.3	49.9	37.6	124.9	132.8
SE	44.6	52.4	42.3	49.8	49.9	47.8	45.5	42.6	104.4	107.0
SI	43.2	47.5	51.9	39.9	59.8	65.9	63.9	58.6	90.7	108.9
SK	39.1	34.9	24.3	32.2	70.0	62.7	62.6	61.0	111.6	102.5
EU	**39.5**	**40.0**	**33.5**	**31.6**	**55.1**	**50.7**	**54.4**	**48.0**	**108.9**	**113.3**

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 91: Persons at risk of poverty (AROP) before and after social transfers by disability status, aged 16-64, EU, 2010-2022

	Persons at risk of poverty				**Relative changes before and after social transfers**		
	Before social transfers		**After social transfers**				
	Persons with disabilities	**Persons without disabilities**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**Persons with disabilities**	**Persons without disabilities**	**Difference of rates**
	%						**pp**
2010	50.5	30.3	19.9	14.7	60.6	51.5	9.1
2011	51.7	30.7	21.3	15.1	58.8	50.8	8.0
2012	50.3	30.4	21.3	15.4	57.7	49.3	8.3
2013	50.5	30.6	21.7	15.5	57.0	49.3	7.7
2014	51.4	31.1	23.0	16.1	55.3	48.2	7.0
2015	51.9	30.9	23.7	16.3	54.3	47.2	7.1
2016	51.5	31.1	23.6	16.6	54.2	46.6	7.6
2017	50.1	30.0	23.0	15.8	54.1	47.3	6.8
2018	49.3	29.4	23.7	15.3	51.9	48.0	4.0
2019	48.9	28.4	22.9	14.8	53.2	47.9	5.3
2020	48.9	28.7	22.1	15.0	54.8	47.7	7.1
2021	50.6	30.6	22.7	15.1	55.1	50.7	4.5
2022	46.5	27.9	21.2	14.5	54.4	48.0	6.4

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dpe030__custom_11191116/default/table?lang=en. Data extracted on 3 May 2024 from [ESTAT].

13 Long term care needs

13.1 Relevance to EU policy / strategy

Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities covers living independently and being included in the community. It provides that States Parties to the Convention recognise the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others. It notes that appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right include, notably, the following:

'(a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
(b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential, and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;
(c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.'

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[73] stresses the need for 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 about the situation of persons with disabilities.

The health and long-term care strand of the Open Method of Coordination focuses on indicators related to social protection. This is structured along the three objectives of the health and long-term care strand: access to care and inequalities in outcomes, quality of care, and long-term sustainability of systems.

In the following, we present the percentage of persons with self-care difficulties, persons with long-term care needs and long-term care expenditure.[74]

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

[74] 'Long-term care is defined as a range of services and assistance for people who, as a result of mental and/or physical frailty and/or disability over an extended period of time, depend on help with daily living activities and/or are in need of some permanent nursing care.' European Commission (2021): *'Long-term care report: Trends, challenges and opportunities in an ageing society, Vol. 1'*. Joint report prepared by the Social Protection Committee (SPC) and the European Commission (DG EMPL).

13.2 Persons with self-care difficulties

The EU-SILC 2022 three year rolling module on health includes a question on self-care. The suggested question is: 'Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing? Would you say…'

1. no, no difficulty;
2. yes, some difficulty;
3. yes, a lot of difficulty; or
4. cannot do at all.

In the following table, answers 3. and 4. have been aggregated into severe difficulties.

In the EU in 2022, about 6.7 % of persons aged 16 and over declared difficulties in self-care. This rate increases sharply after the age of 74.

Table 92: Percentage of persons with difficulties in self-care activities by age group, EU, 2022

Persons living in private households.

	Moderate or severe	Moderate	Severe	None
16 – 24	1.3	0.8	0.6	98.7
25 – 34	1.5	0.9	0.6	98.5
35 – 44	1.9	1.3	0.7	98.1
45 – 54	2.9	2.1	0.8	97.1
55 – 64	5.0	3.8	1.2	95.0
65 – 74	8.6	6.5	2.0	91.4
75+	29.1	19.8	9.2	70.9
Total	**6.7**	**4.7**	**2.0**	**93.3**

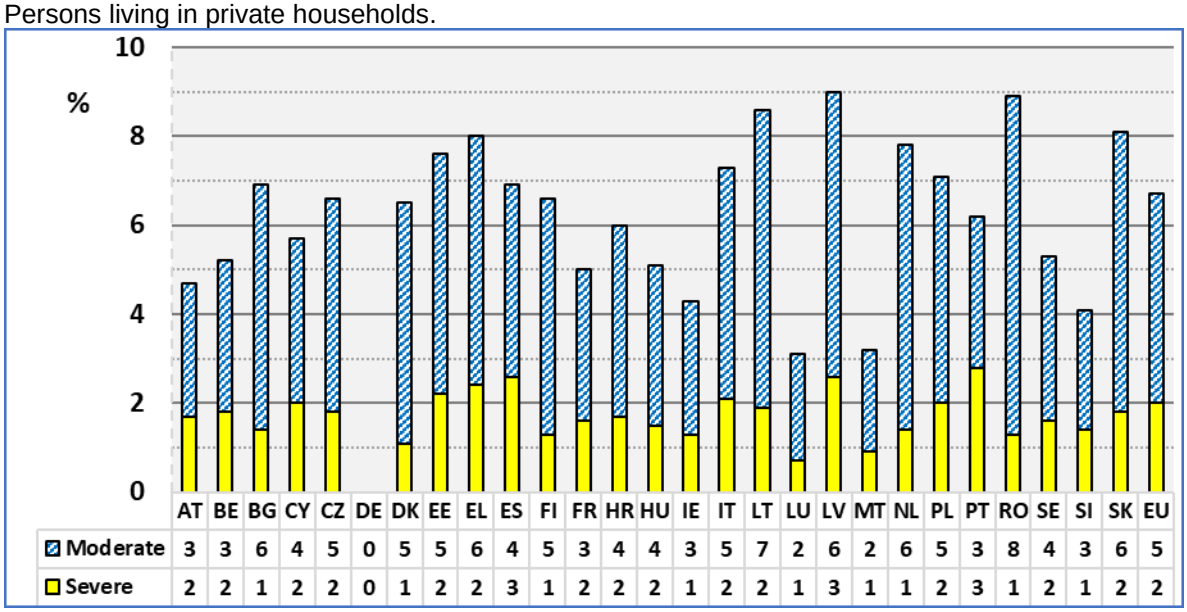
Note: The data are Eurostat estimates. Eurostat does not present data for Germany.
Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch19$dv_2264/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_p.dsb_pba. Data extracted on 27 July 2024 from [ESTAT].

13.2.1 Analysis by Member State

In the following figure, we may observe a big variability across Member States. However, in absolute values, the rate of severe difficulties varies between 1 % and 2 % in the large majority of Member States. We may consider this population as a priority target group.

Figure 96: Percentage of persons with difficulties in self-care by degree and Member State, aged 16+

Persons living in private households.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
Moderate	3	3	6	4	5	0	5	5	6	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	7	2	6	2	6	5	3	8	4	3	6	5
Severe	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	2

Note: Data for Germany are of a low reliability.

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch19$dv_2264/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_p.dsb_pba. Data extracted on 27 July 2024 from [ESTAT].

The EU-SILC 2022 three year rolling module on health does not include any question on needs and their satisfaction. This is covered by the EHIS survey. Consequently, we present below the results of this survey. The latest survey took place in 2019.

We have to note that the question included in the EU-SILC is a simple question, while the EHIS contains several detailed questions. Also, the EU-SILC covers persons aged 16 and over while the EHIS survey covers persons aged 55 and over (65 and over before 2019).

13.3 Long term care needs

In this part, we will analyse the need for help with personal care and/or household activities.

The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS wave 3), run in 2018-2019, collected information on performance and help received or needed concerning the main Activities of Daily Living (ADL) (personal care activities) and the main instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) (household activities).

Concerning personal care activities, a question (PC1) asks: ‘Do you usually have difficulty doing any of these activities without help? 1. No difficulty; 2. Some difficulty; 3. A lot of difficulty; 4. Cannot do at all / Unable to do.’

Activities related to personal care include:

A. feeding yourself;
B. getting in and out of a bed or chair;
C. dressing and undressing;
D. using toilets; and

E. bathing or showering.

Several answers are possible.

The next question (PC2) is to be asked only for respondents who have declared having difficulty in at least one activity.
This question (PC2) asks: ‘Do you usually have help for any of these activities? 1.Yes, with at least one activity; 2. No.’
If the answer in the previous question is affirmative (PC2 = 1), the interviewer asks ‘Would you need more help?’ If the answer in the previous question is negative (PC2 = 2), the interviewer asks: ‘Would you need help? 1. Yes, with at least one activity; 2. No.’

Any kinds of help are considered: help from another person, the use of technical aids or housing adaptation.

A similar set of questions covers household activities (HA). The survey focusses on:

A. preparing meals;
B. using the telephone;
C. shopping;
D. managing medication;
E. light housework;
F. occasional heavy housework; and
G. taking care of finances and everyday administrative tasks.

This enables us to present an estimation of the need for help with personal care or household activities. The above questions cover only persons aged 55 and over. The previous EHIS wave 2 survey covered only persons aged 65 and over. The survey covers persons living in private households.

In previous EDE reports, we have analysed in detail needs by personal care activities and by household activities. In the following, we focus on aggregated data covering both personal care and household activities.

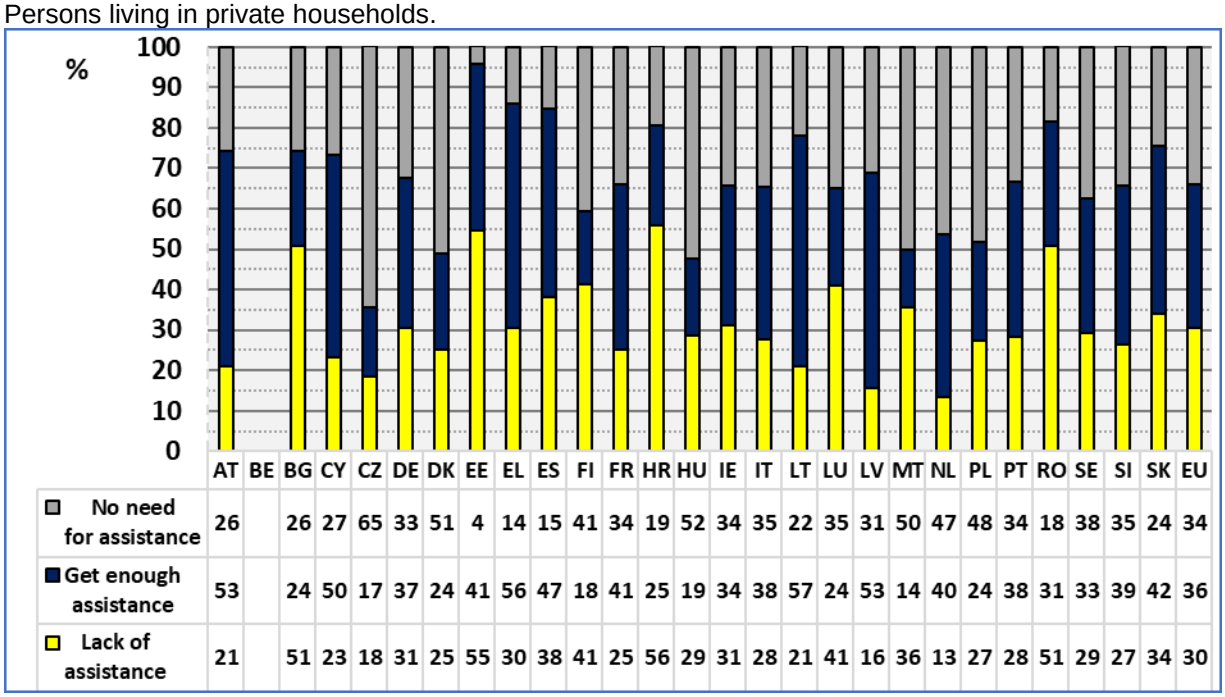
13.3.1 Analysis by Member State

In the EU 27 in 2019, considering persons aged 55 and over who usually had difficulty doing personal care and household activities, about 30.4 % were lacking assistance (need help or need more help), 35.5 % declared getting enough assistance and about 34.1 % declared no need for assistance.

We may observe important differences across Member States. Concerning the lack of assistance, we may note that this rate is 13.3 % in the Netherlands, about 15.6 % in Latvia and about 18.4 % in Czechia. The highest rates can be found, in increasing order, in Romania (50.9 %), in Estonia (54.6 %) and in Croatia (55.9 %).

Figure 97: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities, aged 55+

Persons living in private households.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
No need for assistance	26		26	27	65	33	51	4	14	15	41	34	19	52	34	35	22	35	31	50	47	48	34	18	38	35	24	34
Get enough assistance	53		24	50	17	37	24	41	56	47	18	41	25	19	34	38	57	24	53	14	40	24	38	31	33	39	42	36
Lack of assistance	21		51	23	18	31	25	55	30	38	41	25	56	29	31	28	21	41	16	36	13	27	28	51	29	27	34	30

Note: Data for Belgium are incomplete.

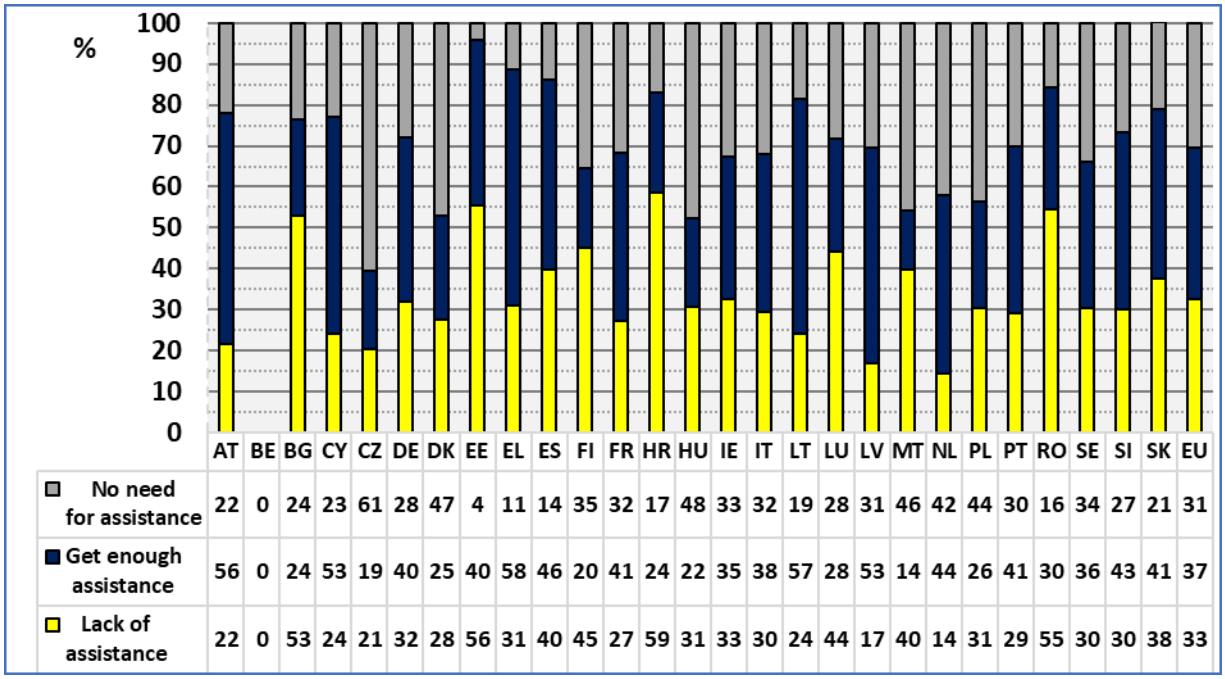
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

In order to enable a comparison with previous EDE reports, we present below the rates for persons aged 65 and over. The rates are similar to those for the age group 55 and over.

In the EU 27, in 2019, considering persons who usually had difficulty doing personal care and household activities, aged 65 and over, about 32.5 % were lacking assistance (need help or need more help), 37.0 % declared getting enough assistance and about 30.5 % declared no need for assistance.

We may observe important differences across Member States. Concerning the lack of assistance, we may note that this rate is 14.3 % in the Netherlands, about 16.8 % in Latvia and about 20.5 % in Czechia. The highest rates can be found, in an increasing order, in Romania (54.5 %), in Estonia (55.6 %) and in Croatia (58.7 %).

Figure 98: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities, aged 65+



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
No need for assistance	22	0	24	23	61	28	47	4	11	14	35	32	17	48	33	32	19	28	31	46	42	44	30	16	34	27	21	31
Get enough assistance	56	0	24	53	19	40	25	40	58	46	20	41	24	22	35	38	57	28	53	14	44	26	41	30	36	43	41	37
Lack of assistance	22	0	53	24	21	32	28	56	31	40	45	27	59	31	33	30	24	44	17	40	14	31	29	55	30	30	38	33

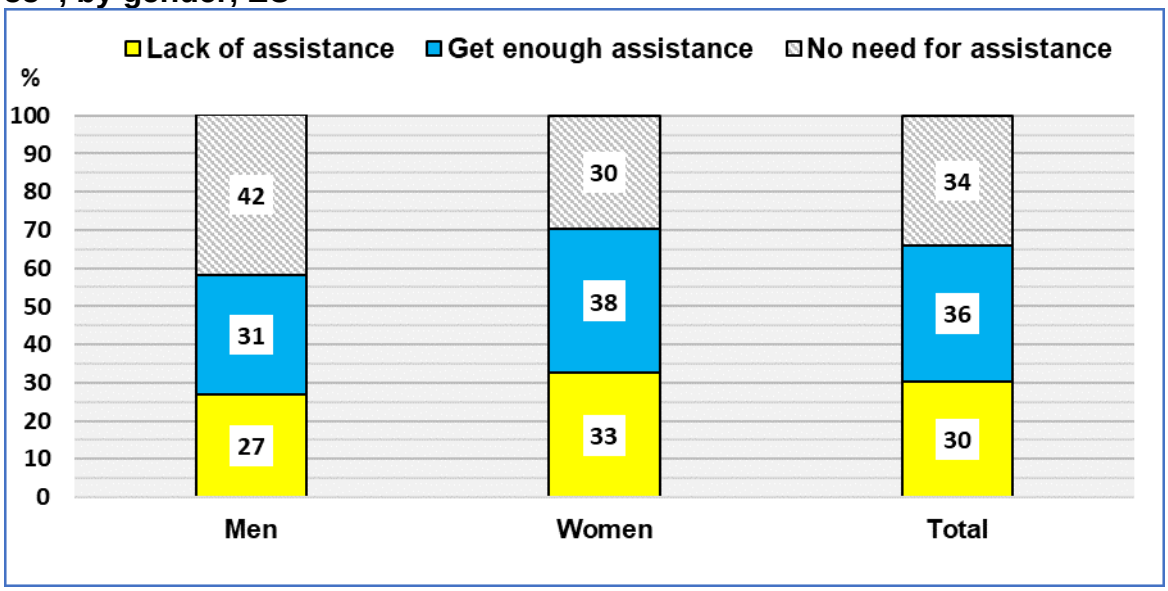
Note: Data for Belgium are incomplete.
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

13.3.2 Analysis by gender

In the EU 27, in 2019, considering women who usually had difficulty doing personal care and household activities aged 55 and over, about 32.5 % were lacking assistance (26.9 % for men), about 37.8 % declared getting enough assistance (31.4 % for men) and about 29.7 % declared no need for assistance (41.8 % for men).

Advanced econometric analysis (see annex) indicates that the difference between men and women is due to an age composition effect. If we compare more detailed age groups, the difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 99: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities, aged 55+, by gender, EU

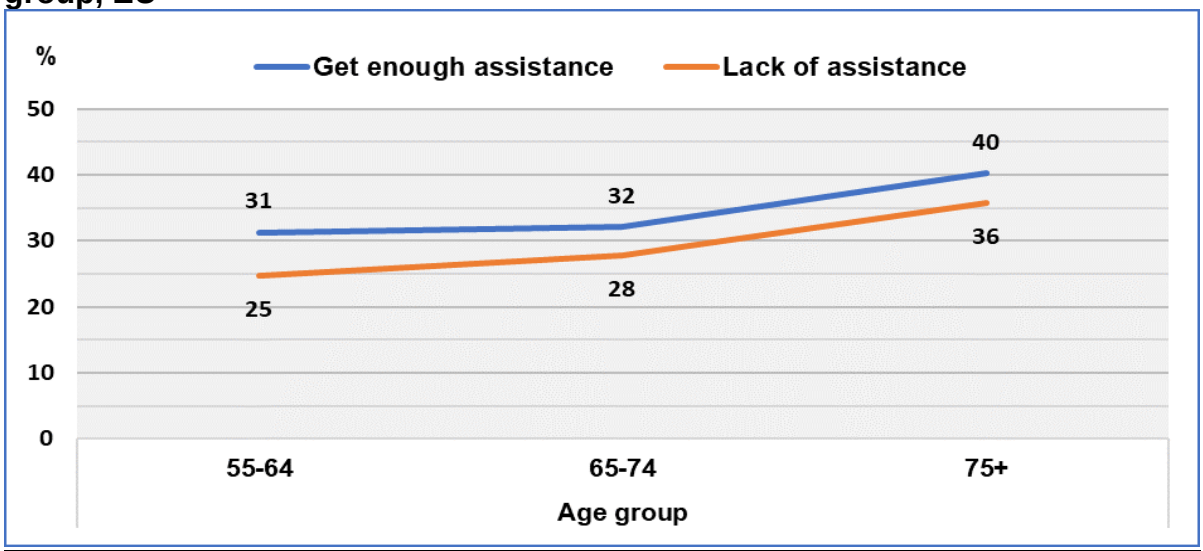


Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

13.3.3 Analysis by age

Analysis by age group indicates that a significant increase takes place after the age of 65.

Figure 100: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities by age group, EU



Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

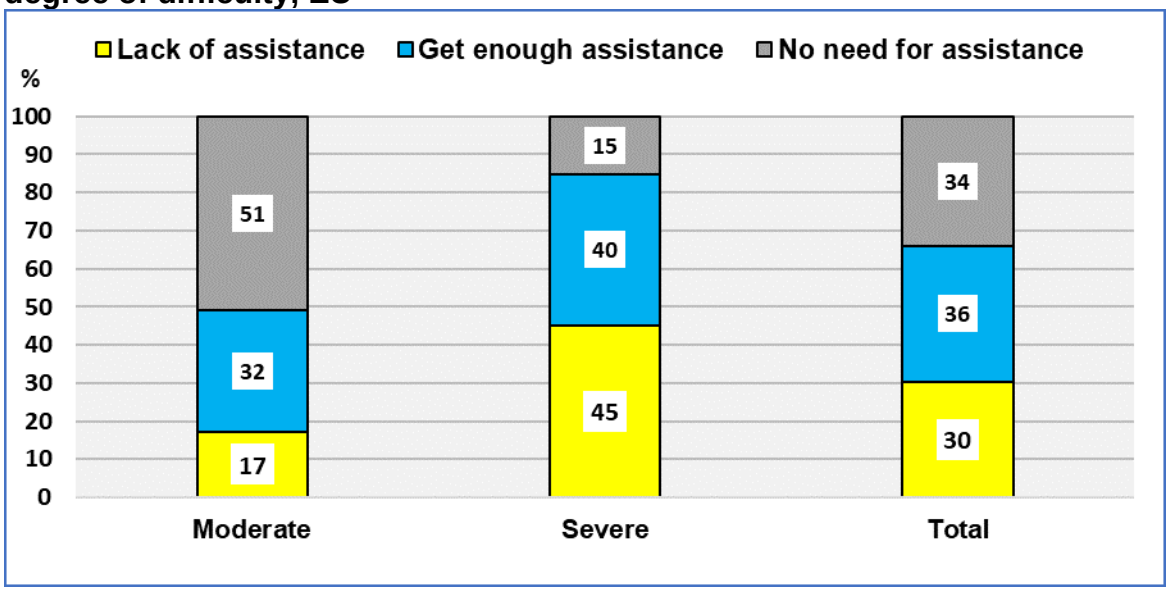
13.3.4 Analysis by degree of difficulty

The degree of difficulty is an important factor affecting needs.

In the EU 27, in 2019, considering persons with severe difficulties in at least one personal care or household activity aged 55 and over, about 45.2 % declared lack of assistance with these activities. The equivalent rate for persons with moderate difficulties was 17.3 %.

It is clear that persons with severe difficulties ought to be a priority target for policy.

Figure 101: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities by degree of difficulty, EU

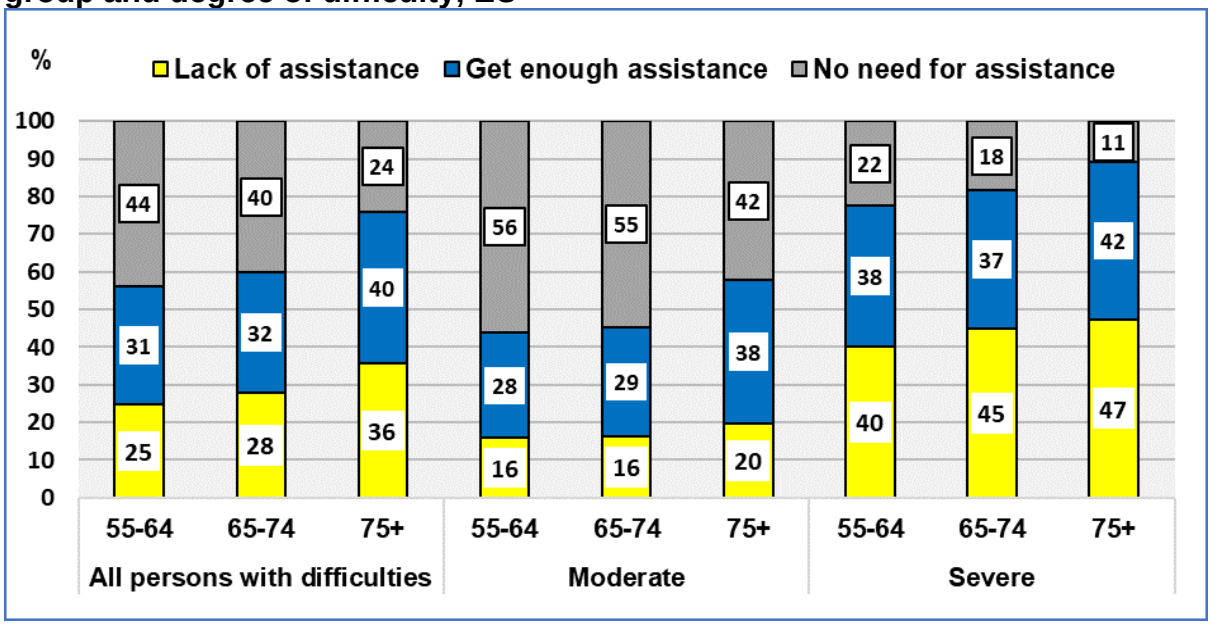


Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

13.3.5 Analysis by age and degree of difficulty

The following figure reveals that the degree of difficulty is the dominant factor and age is a secondary factor. In fact, even for the age group 55-64, the percentage of persons with severe difficulties declaring a need for assistance is very high (40.1 %).

Figure 102: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities by age group and degree of difficulty, EU

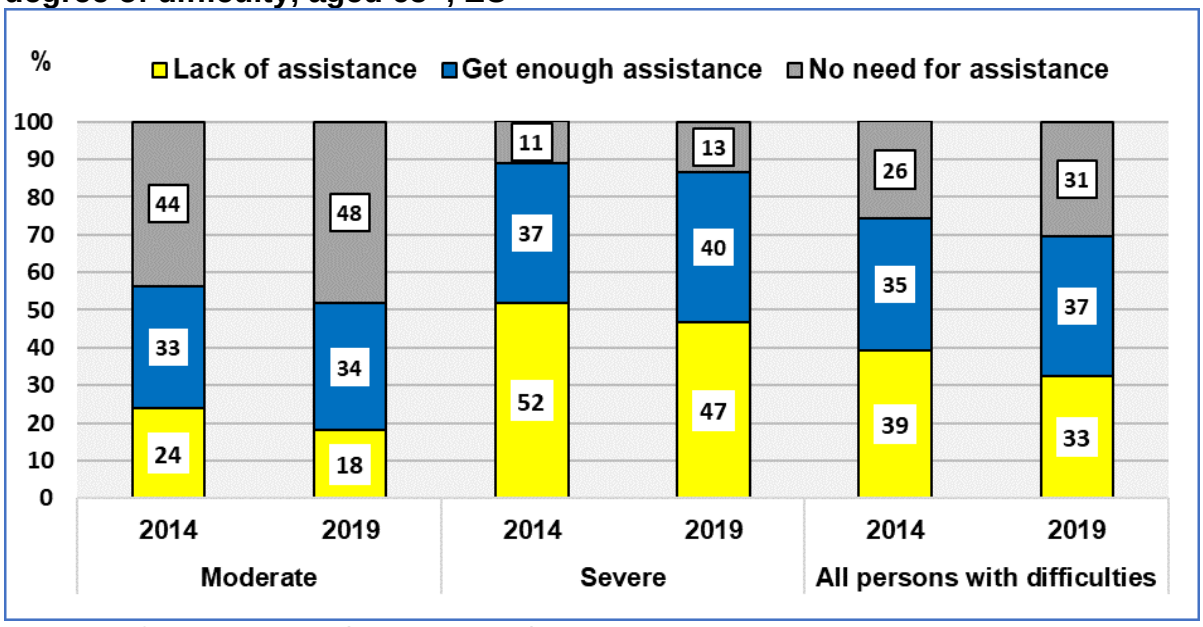


Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

13.3.6 Evolution at EU level

In the following figure, we may observe an improvement of the situation between 2014 and 2019. In fact, in the EU 27, the percentage of persons with difficulties, aged 65 and over, declaring a need for assistance decreased from 39.4 %, in 2014, to 32.5 %, in 2019. The rates for persons with severe difficulties were 51.8 % (2014) and 46.6 % (2019), respectively.

Figure 103: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of assistance with these activities by degree of difficulty, aged 65+, EU



Note: Data for 2014 cover only persons aged 65+.
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

13.3.7 Predictors of needs for assistance in personal care and/or household activities

Assistance in personal care and/or household activities is important for independent living and active participation in the community. This section aims to identify factors which can predict needs in personal care and/or household activities.

We have run an econometric analysis covering persons aged 65 and over who declare that they need assistance in personal care and/or household activities. The endogenous/dependent variable is the binary variable of needing assistance (1) and having enough assistance (0) in personal care and/or household activities. We have used as exogenous / explanatory variables:

- age as a binary variable: age 65-74 (0) and age 75+ (1);
- gender as a binary variable: men (0) – women (1);
- education level: a variable from 1 to 4 to indicate primary, lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary education levels;
- social support: a binary variable indicating if the person lives alone (0) or with others (1), using household size, and whether the person can expect help from neighbours in case of need (1) or not (0);
- depression: feeling down, depressed, or hopeless put at ‘1’, otherwise ‘0’;
- income: equivalised household income level in quintiles (1 to 5);
- mean national long-term care (health) expenditure per capita (euros in purchasing power standards, divided by 100, 2021). This includes a range of medical and personal care services;
- degree of disability: we introduced three levels of disability in order to take into account the impact of the degree of disability. We used the GALI question which is a broader concept compared to difficulty in ADL or IADL. No disability is the base for comparison, for moderate and severe limitations; and
- dummy variables are used for national characteristics (EU 27, Iceland, Norway, and Serbia – but Belgium, Spain, and Norway dropped due to incomplete data or collinearities).

We run probit regressions reporting change in probabilities. The results of the regressions are presented in the statistical tables. The coefficients indicate the change in probabilities if we pass from ‘0’ to ‘1’, for example from a state of living alone (0) to living with others (1). Consequently, the figures indicate the change (increase / decrease) in the probability of declaring a need for help (or more help) in comparison to a reference person. In the case of education and household income, this measures the change when we pass to a higher level.

Alternative specifications and variables were tested (weighted and not weighted). The representative estimation (see statistical tables) provides the following conclusions:

- age, gender, and education are not significant at 5 %;

- social support is significant at 5 %: a person's ability to count on neighbours or the family decreases the probability of expressing a need for help and assistance, compared to persons without this opportunity. This is often called informal care in opposition to professional long-term care provided by public or private services;

- income is significant at 5 %. Passing from a lower to a higher income quintile decreases the expressed needs (or lack of assistance) by 3 percentage points. Higher income persons may afford the cost of certain types of help / assistance and thus express less lack of or need for more help. Persons with lower levels of income are more likely to express long-term care needs;

- an increase of mean national long-term care (health) expenditure per capita increases the probability declaring a lack of assistance or need for more assistance with personal care or household activities. The variable average national long-term care expenditure per capita is used as a proxy for professional long-term care. One might expect the opposite indication, since greater provision of long-term care might satisfy certain needs and thus lower declared needs. This requires further research and is discussed below;

- being depressed increases sharply the level of needs; and

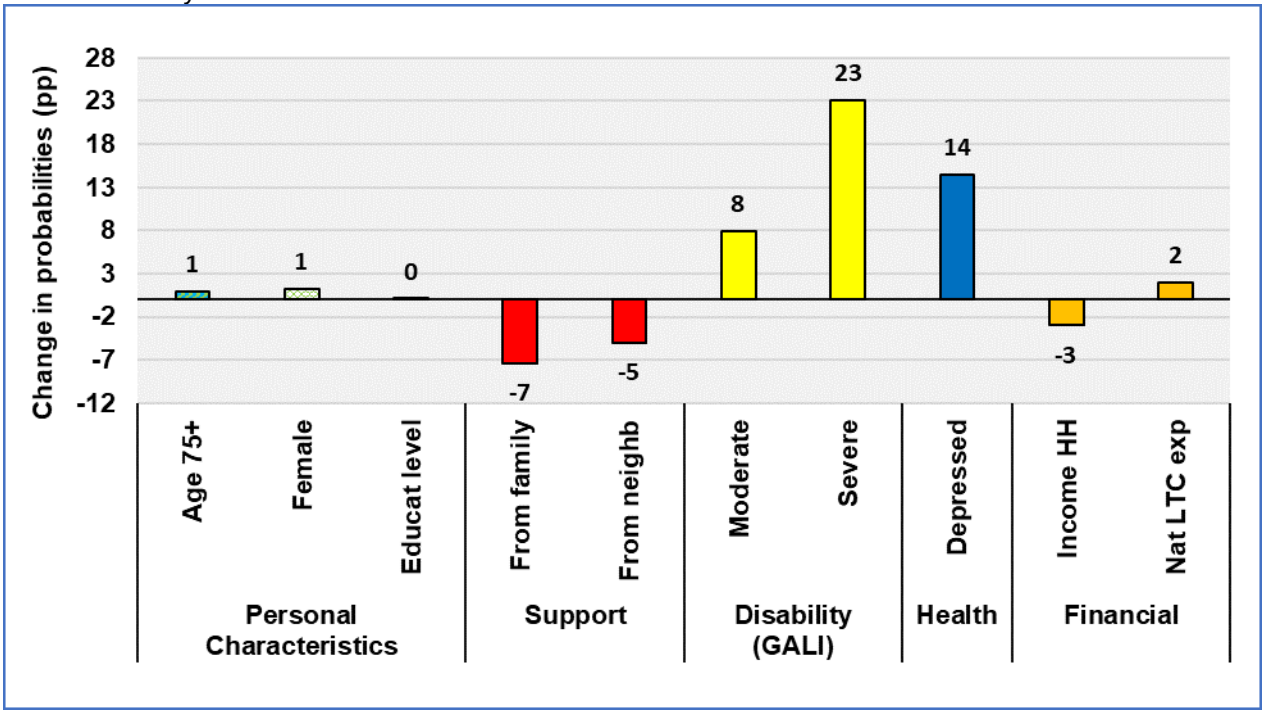
- the impact of the degree of disability is significant at 5 % and has a substantial impact.

The following figure summarises the above results.

Figure 104: Change in probability of declaring a lack of help or a need for more help with personal care or household activities, age 65+, 2019

The sample covers persons declaring difficulties in personal care activities and/or household activities who receive enough help (0) or lack/need more help (1).

How to read the figure: Living with others decreases the probability to declare a need for help/assistance by 7 percentage points in comparison to those living alone. Having a severe disability increases the probability to declare a need for help/assistance by 23 percentage points in comparison to a person without disability.



Note: Dummy variables for countries are not reported here. The estimated coefficient dF/dx is for a discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1. The coefficients of the binary probit indicate the change in probabilities expressed in percentage points. Education and income are numeric variables from 1 to 4 and 1 to 5 respectively. The mean national long term care expenditure is expressed in euros (PPS, divided by 100). The data cover EU 27, Iceland, Norway, and Serbia. Belgium, Spain and Norway are dropped due to incomplete data or collinearities.

For more information, see statistical tables.

Data source: EHIS wave 3, 2019; version October 2022.

The main conclusions are that policy ought to focus on persons with severe disabilities living in low-income households. Support from family might alleviate needs. This means that a policy of family allocations and subsidies for house adaptations might favour maintaining dependent persons in the community.

Further econometric analysis indicates that assisting dependent persons with housework greatly decreases their need for help or more help and constitutes a strong incentive for maintaining them in the community.

13.4 Long-term care expenditure

Eurostat presents statistics on long-term care (health) expenditure.[75] This includes a range of medical and personal care services that are consumed with the primary goal of alleviating pain and suffering and reducing or managing the deterioration in health status in patients with a degree of long-term dependency. Eurostat notes that such

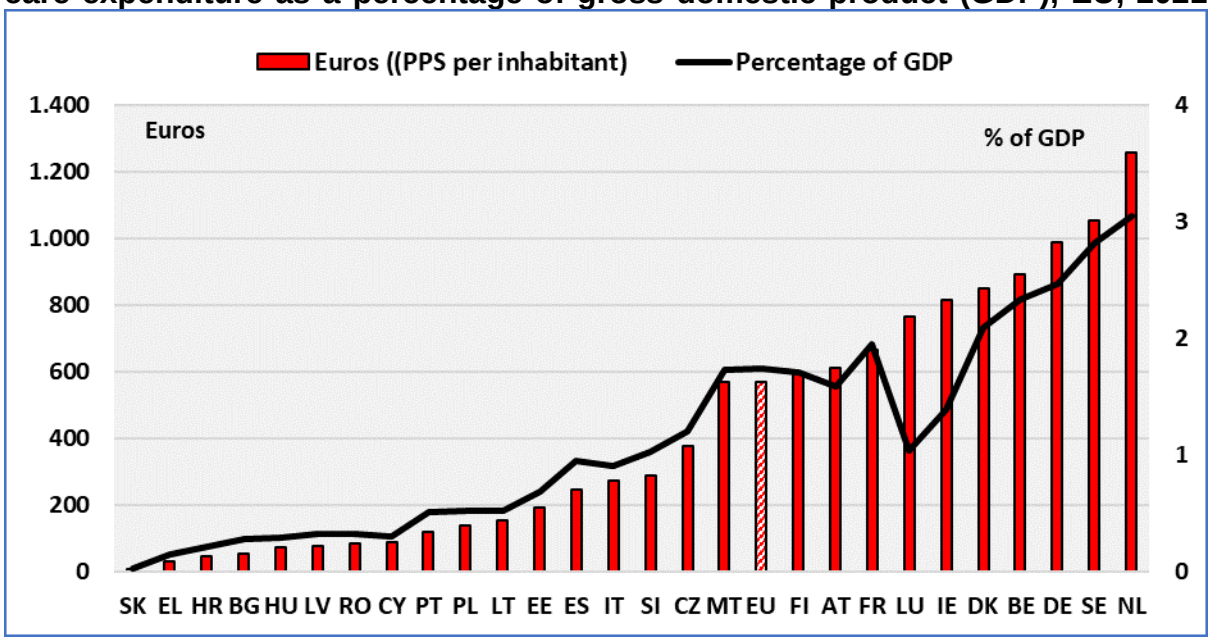
[75] See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00214__custom_10724844/default/table.

services cover home-based care, which means the medical, ancillary, and nursing services that are consumed by patients at their home.

In the following figure, we present long-term care expenditure per inhabitant (in euros adjusted for price differences and expressed in purchasing power standard (PPS))[76] and long-term care expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

We may note a large variation across Member States. The lowest expenditure per inhabitant can be found in Slovakia (EUR 7 PPS), Greece (31) and Croatia (47). The highest levels can be found in Germany (991), Sweden (1 056) and Netherlands (1 257). The EU average is EUR 571 (571 PPS).

Figure 105: Long-term care expenditure per inhabitant (in PPS) and long-term care expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), EU, 2021



Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 5 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

The two measures are strongly correlated.

In the following, we present the relationship between long-term care expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) and adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita in the EU.

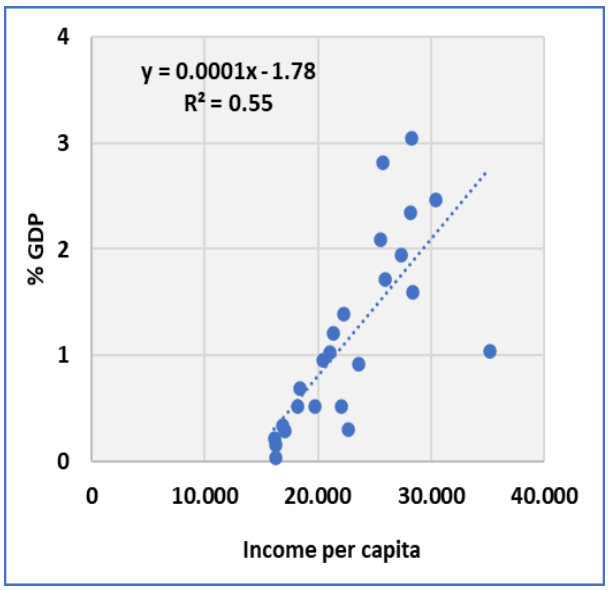
In the following figures, we may observe that the proportion of GDP spent on long-term care increases as gross disposable income per capita increases. As above, income is adjusted to consider the fact that one euro does not buy the same basket of goods across Member States. The following figure covers the EU (except Bulgaria, Malta and Romania).

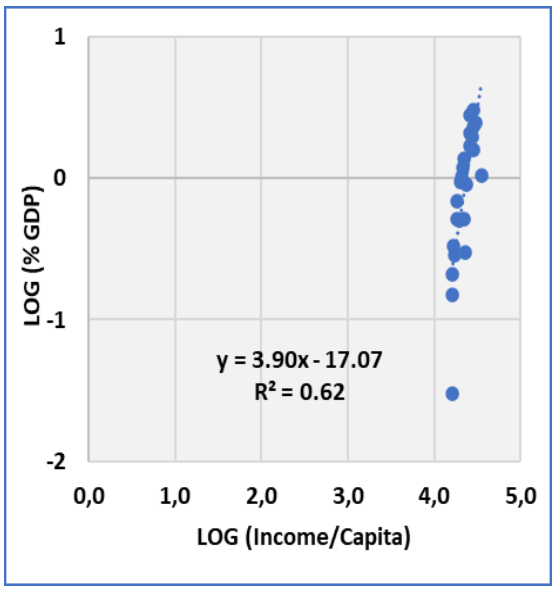
[76] 'PPS is the technical term used by Eurostat for the common currency in which national accounts aggregates are expressed when adjusted for price level differences using PPPs.' Since price differences across borders mean that different amounts of euros are needed, for the same goods and services, depending on the country, the unit of account has to be adjusted for the comparison across countries. See Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Purchasing_power_standard_(PPS).

Furthermore, we may note that long term care expenditure increases at a higher rate than income. As a result, the proportion of income spent on long term care increases. This is known as Engel's Law. The proportion of income spent on food decreases as income increases while the proportion of income spent on certain services increases as income increases.

To summarise, expenditure share on long-term care increases as the economy grows. In countries with low incomes, the choice between necessities and long-term care might be more difficult to reconcile compared to higher income countries. In the low-income countries, traditional caregiving arrangements (informal care) might prevail – with a notably negative impact on women's labour participation. Consequently, in poor countries, the creation and financing of a network of professional long-term care services might be a priority, while higher income countries might focus on diversification, efficiency, and the quality of professional long-term care services. A uniform policy at the EU level might increase inequalities across Member States.

Figure 106: Relationship between long-term care expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) and gross disposable income of households per capita, EU, 2021





Note: Each point represents an EU Member State except Bulgaria, Malta, and Romania due to missing adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita.
Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 19 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

For the given sample of countries, a multiple regression analysis testing the relationship between long-term care expenditure as a percentage of (GDP) (dependent variable) and the independent / explanatory variables (gross disposable income of households per capita and share of the population aged 65 and over) reveals that disposable income is the dominant factor (see statistical tables). In fact, countries with higher shares of elderly people have a relatively low expenditure as a percentage of GDP (e.g. Greece and Portugal).

13.5 Statistical tables

Table 93: Percentage of persons with difficulties in self-care by degree and Member State, aged 16+

Persons living in private households.

	Age 16+			
	Moderate or severe	**Moderate**	**Severe**	**None**
AT	4.8	3.0	1.7	95.2
BE	5.2	3.4	1.8	94.8
BG	6.9	5.5	1.4	93.1
CY	5.7	3.7	2.0	94.3
CZ	6.6	4.8	1.8	93.4
DE	:	:	:	:
DK	6.5	5.4	1.1	93.5
EE	7.6	5.4	2.2	92.4
EL	8.0	5.6	2.4	92.0
ES	6.9	4.3	2.6	93.1
FI	6.6	5.3	1.3	93.4
FR	5.0	3.4	1.6	95.0
HR	6.0	4.3	1.7	94.0
HU	5.0	3.6	1.5	95.0
IE	4.3	3.0	1.3	95.7
IT	7.3	5.2	2.1	92.7
LT	8.6	6.7	1.9	91.4
LU	3.0	2.4	0.7	97.0
LV	9.0	6.4	2.6	91.0
MT	3.2	2.3	0.9	96.8
NL	7.8	6.4	1.4	92.2
PL	7.1	5.1	2.0	92.9
PT	6.3	3.4	2.8	93.7
RO	8.9	7.6	1.3	91.1
SE	5.3	3.7	1.6	94.7
SI	4.2	2.7	1.4	95.8
SK	8.1	6.3	1.8	91.9
EU	**6.7**	**4.7**	**2.0**	**93.3**

Note: Data for Germany are of low reliability.

Data source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_hch19$dv_2264/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_p.dsb_pba. Data extracted on 27 July 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 94: Percentage of persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of / enough assistance with these activities

1. Lack of assistance 2. Get enough assistance 3. No need for assistance

	Age 55+				Age 65+				
	Lack	**Enough**	**No need**	**Total**	**Lack**	**Enough**	**No need**	**Total**	**Lack**
AT	20.9	53.2	25.9	100	21.6	56.3	22.1	21.6	100
BE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
BG	50.9	23.5	25.6	100	52.8	23.6	23.6	52.8	100
CY	23.1	50.2	26.6	100	24.0	53.0	22.9	24.0	100
CZ	18.4	17.1	64.6	100	20.5	18.9	60.6	20.5	100
DE	30.6	36.9	32.5	100	31.9	40.2	27.9	31.9	100
DK	25.2	23.8	51.0	100	27.5	25.3	47.1	27.5	100
EE	54.6	41.1	4.4	100	55.6	40.3	4.0	55.6	100
EL	30.4	55.6	14.0	100	31.0	57.5	11.4	31.0	100
ES	38.2	46.5	15.4	100	39.8	46.2	14.0	39.8	100
FI	41.3	18.2	40.5	100	45.0	19.6	35.4	45.0	100
FR	25.1	41.0	33.9	100	27.3	40.9	31.8	27.3	100
HR	55.9	24.8	19.4	100	58.7	24.2	17.1	58.7	100
HU	28.5	19.1	52.4	100	30.7	21.5	47.8	30.7	100
IE	31.2	34.4	34.4	100	32.5	34.8	32.7	32.5	100
IT	27.8	37.5	34.7	100	29.5	38.4	32.0	29.5	100
LT	21.0	56.9	22.2	100	24.0	57.3	18.7	24.0	100
LU	41.0	24.0	35.0	100	44.1	27.6	28.3	44.1	100
LV	15.6	53.3	31.1	100	16.8	52.7	30.5	16.8	100
MT	35.6	14.3	50.1	100	39.9	14.3	45.8	39.9	100
NL	13.3	40.2	46.5	100	14.3	43.7	42.0	14.3	100
PL	27.4	24.2	48.4	100	30.5	26.0	43.5	30.5	100
PT	28.2	38.3	33.5	100	29.2	40.6	30.1	29.2	100
RO	50.9	30.7	18.4	100	54.5	29.7	15.8	54.5	100
SE	29.2	33.3	37.5	100	30.4	35.8	33.8	30.4	100
SI	26.5	39.1	34.5	100	30.0	43.2	26.8	30.0	100
SK	34.0	41.6	24.4	100	37.7	41.2	21.2	37.7	100
EU	**30.4**	**35.5**	**34.1**	**100**	**32.5**	**37.0**	**30.5**	**32.5**	**100**
IS	24.9	49.8	25.3	100	21.8	52.5	25.6	21.8	100
NO	28.7	48.6	22.7	100	28.6	49.8	21.5	28.6	100

Note: Data for Belgium are incomplete.

Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 9 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 95: Results of the dprobit regression. Endogenous variable: persons with difficulties in personal care and/or household activities declaring a lack of / enough assistance with these activities, age 65+

Binary: '0' Has enough assistance with personal and/or household activities; '1' Lack or needs more.

	Number of observations	24 124			
	Wald $\chi^2(36)$	3 864			
	Pseudo R^2	0.10			
		Probability*	SE	t	Significance level
Gender	*Male: base for comparison*				
	Female	1.2	0.7	1.7	ns
Age	*65-74: base for comparison*				
	75+	1.0	0.7	1.4	ns
Educat.	*Education level (1 to 4)*	0.0	0.3	0.1	ns
Social support	Live with others (0: alone. 1: with others)	-7.3	0.7	-10.6	1 %
	Can count on neighbours (0/1)	-5.0	0.8	-6.1	1 %
Disability	*No disability: base for comparison*				
	Moderate	7.9	0.9	9.0	1 %
	Severe	23.0	0.9	24.8	1 %
Health	*No depression: base for comparison*				
	Depressed	14.4	0.7	21.8	1 %
Financial	Household income (varies from 1 to 5)	-3.0	0.3	-10.7	1 %
	Mean Nat LTC exp (EUR 100, PPS)	2.0	0.4	4.8	1 %
	Country dummies not reported				
obs. P: 0.472; pred. P: 0.469					

Countries: EU 27, Iceland, Norway and Serbia (Belgium, Spain and Norway dropped due to incomplete data or collinearities).

SE: standard error. **n.s**.: not significant at 5 %.

***:** The estimated coefficient dF/dx is for a discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1. The coefficients of the binary probit indicate the change in probabilities varying from 0 to 1. Here, they are transformed in %.

Data source: EHIS wave 3, 2019; version October 2022.

Table 96: Long-term care expenditure and income, EU, 2021

	Long-term care expenditure		Income
	Expenditure per inhabitant; euros adjusted (in purchasing power standard (PPS)	Percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)	Gross disposable income of households per capita; euros adjusted (in PPS)
AT	610	1.59	28 425
BE	893	2.34	28 227
BG	55	0.28	:
CY	89	0.30	22 669
CZ	379	1.20	21 378
DE	991	2.47	30 453
DK	850	2.09	25 571
EE	193	0.69	18 375
EL	31	0.15	16 256
ES	247	0.95	20 478
FI	598	1.71	25 921
FR	667	1.95	27 400
HR	47	0.21	16 138
HU	72	0.29	17 091
IE	815	1.39	22 300
IT	275	0.91	23 609
LT	155	0.52	22 091
LU	767	1.04	35 186
LV	76	0.33	16 929
MT	570	1.73	:
NL	1 257	3.05	28 265
PL	141	0.52	18 237
PT	121	0.51	19 717
RO	84	0.33	:
SE	1 056	2.82	25 792
SI	291	1.03	21 062
SK	7	0.03	16 308
EU	**571**	**1.74**	**24 266**

Data source: Eurostat. Data extracted on 5 April 2024 from [ESTAT].

Table 97: OLS regression (Dependent variable: Long-term care expenditure as a percentage of GDP), EU 24, 2021

Each country represents an observation.

1. Data in absolute values

Number of observations: 24				
R-squared = 0.60 (Adj. R-squared = 0.56)				
F (2, 21) = 15.87				
	Coeff.	**SE**	**t**	**Significance level**
Share of persons aged 65+ in percentage of total population	0.091	0.055	1.65	ns
Gross disposable income of households per capita (Euros adjusted. in PPS)	0.138	0.025	5.62	1 %
Constant	-3.811	1.354	-2.81	1 %
Ramsey omitted variable test: F(3,18) = 1.54 (Prob > F = 0,239)				

2. Data in log

Number of observations: 24				
R-squared = 0.69 (Adj. R-squared = 0.66)				
F (2, 21) = 23.56				
	Coeff.	**SE**	**t**	**Significance level**
Share of persons aged 65+ in percentage of total population	2.454	1.114	2.2	5 %
Gross disposable income of households per capita (Euros adjusted. in PPS)	4.192	0.614	6.82	1 %
Constant	-20.592	4.176	-4.93	1 %
Ramsey omitted variable test: F(3,18) = 4.58 (Prob > F = 0,015)				

Note: The data cover 24 EU Member States. Data for Bulgaria. Malta and Romania are missing.
SE: standard error. **n.s**.: not significant at 5 %.
Data source: Eurostat. See previous table.

Annex I: Metadata

1. Prevalence of disability

Methodology

The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey[77] 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); and
- activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems).

From 2021 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 the 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 to which they are limited in activities that people usually do because of health problems for at least the past six months. The exact question is: 'Limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems for at least the last 6 months' and possible answers are:

- yes, strongly limited;
- yes, limited;
- no, not limited.

The survey covers all individuals aged 16 years and over living in private households. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population. It includes persons aged 16 and over living in private households.

Information concerning health and limitations is not collected for all persons in all countries. In Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and

[77] 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://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/e9a5d1ad-f5c7-4b80-bdc9-1ce34ec828eb/DOCSILC065%20operation%202018_V5.pdf.

Slovenia the questions relating 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 is 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, the Netherlands, Sweden, Slovenia, Iceland and Norway, the author has used personal cross-sectional weighting for selected persons (pb060). Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weighting (pb040).

The author has used ‘age at the date of interview’ for indicators concerning the prevalence rate, the labour market and educational issues. The author has used ‘age at the end of the income reference’ period for income related indicators as well as for labour intensity. However, for Malta, the author has only ‘age at the end of the income reference’. Data for Malta are aggregated by five-year groups.

Notes

EU-SILC estimates may underestimate the number of persons 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 over.

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 (spring version, autumn version and subsequent updates for a specific year).

Comparison between LFS and EU-SILC

As noted, the GALI indicator is to be implemented in all EU social micro-data collections. Concerning the LFS survey, this indicator is included every two years in even years (2022, 2024, etc.). The LFS is the largest EU survey.

The model question is the same for the EU-SILC and the LFS survey but sample selection differs between the two surveys. In the LFS, there should be a minimum sample overlap of 20 % between the same quarters in consecutive years and of 50 % between consecutive quarters.[78] The EU-SILC collects both cross-sectional and longitudinal data. Each year, one sub-sample (replication) rotates out and a new one

[78] Eurostat, Statistics Explained, EU Labour Force Survey – new methodology from 2021 onwards; see: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_Labour_Force_Survey_-_new_methodology_from_2021_onwards.

is drawn as a substitute. From the second year onwards, at the start of each new year one replication must be introduced and retained for four years.[79]

Another important difference concerns the data collection period. The LFS is a continuous quarterly survey, providing annual averages, while the EU-SILC takes place at a fixed period, usually the first six months, although this differs across Member States. The seasonality impact is well known in employment statistics but little is known about its impact on disability prevalence. There is some indication that there is a seasonality impact on disability prevalence in the EU-SILC data, after correction for gender, age, education, etc.

Differences between LFS and other social surveys have been found. For example, concerning education, important differences were found between the Adult Education Survey (AES) and the LFS survey. Eurostat[80] has presented a certain number of elements which might explain these differences. Similar arguments could be advanced in our case. We may retain different survey purposes, interviewer training and methodological differences between the surveys.

The EU-SILC microdata indicates that there is an urban-rural difference in disability prevalence in raw data. However, this difference disappears if we take into account other characteristics (age, education, etc.). Since both samples are representative of the population, we ought not to expect significant differences from sample selection mode, sampling unit, data collection mode, etc.

In the following figure, we may observe that the LFS provides a systematically lower estimation compared to the EU-SILC estimations. In fact, except Finland, where the difference is marginal, the percentage provided by the EU-SILC is higher compared to the LFS percentage, in all Member States. The LFS provides a rate of 19.5 % (age: 15 and over), while the EU-SILC gives a rate of 26.9 % (age: 16 and over), in the EU.

We have to note that there is a structural relationship between the two surveys. In fact, there is a significant correlation (R^2=0.65) between the national disability prevalence rates, indicating that there is a common base behind the two series.

This might mean that some basic structural characteristics might explain differences between LFS and EU-SILC, rather than sampling methodologies.

While the GALI indicator is introduced in both surveys, there are important differences in the sequence of questions. In fact, the EU-SILC survey asks first (1) what the self-perceived general health is; secondly (2) if the person suffer from any chronic (long-standing) illness or condition; and finally (3) about any limitations in activities because of health problems. In the LFS survey, only two out of the three MEHM variables are

[79] Eurostat, 2022, *Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables, 2022 operation (Version 4),* DocSILC065 (2022 operation), Directorate F: Social Statistics, Unit F-4: Quality of life. See: https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/94141a49-a4a7-48bc-89f7-df858c27d016/Methodological%20guidelines%202022%20operation%20v4.pdf.

[80] Eurostat, 2024, Information note: Participation in education and training during the last 12 months – differences between data available from two sources Adult education survey (AES) vs. EU labour force survey (EU-LFS), Eurostat – Unit F.3: Labour market and lifelong learning, 2024.

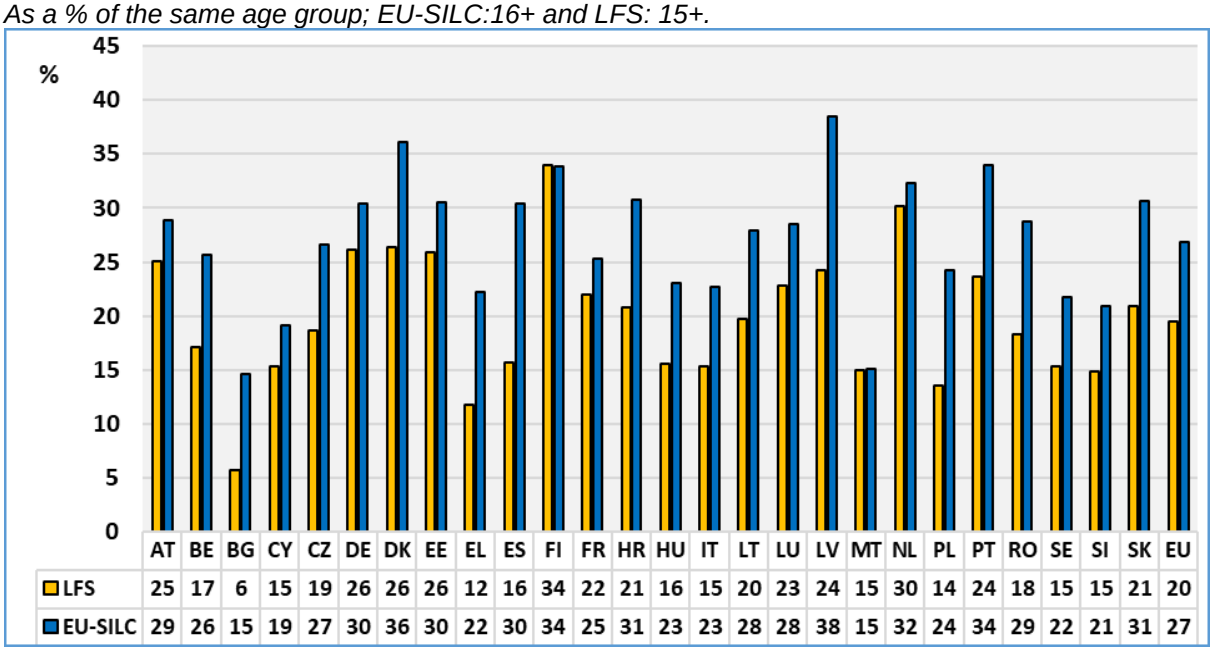
collected: (1) the variables on self-perceived general health; and (2) those on limitation in activities because of health problems.[81]

The question on long-standing health problems is not part of the LFS. This restricts the horizon of the LFS interviewee, who focusses on labour issues. In fact, if the interviewee has a chronic illness which has an impact on activities in everyday life, he/she might not report this in the LFS survey, if these limitations are not severe or if they do not affect work activities. Past LFS surveys (2011) indicate that the prevalence of work-related disabilities is lower than for more general concepts.

We may advance that the above hypothesis implies that the threshold over which a person will declare a disability in the LFS, is systematically higher compared to the EU-SILC or at least, that the array of activities considered in the EU-SILC is smaller compared to the LFS. There is some statistical evidence that the interviewers do not use the same thresholds in assessing disability.[82]

Figure 107: Percentage of persons with disabilities by Member State and survey, 2022

As a % of the same age group; EU-SILC:16+ and LFS: 15+.



	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	EU
LFS	25	17	6	15	19	26	26	26	12	16	34	22	21	16	15	20	23	24	15	30	14	24	18	15	15	21	20
EU-SILC	29	26	15	19	27	30	36	30	22	30	34	25	31	23	23	28	28	38	15	32	24	34	29	22	21	31	27

Data source: EU-SILC 2022 release 2023, version 2 and LFS 2022.

[81] This part draws on an ongoing study on 'Comparability of disability data across the EU' funded by the European Parliament (reference: Service order No IP/A/EMPL/IC/2024-031).

[82] We have run stereotype logistic regressions. The estimated thresholds (Φ) are presented below. For the methodology see: https://www.stata.com/manuals/rslogit.pdf.

Table 98: Percentage of persons with disabilities by Member State, age: 15+, 2022 (LFS)

The data include only persons living in private households.
The data are derived from the LFS survey.

	In percentage (%)				
	Persons without disabilities	**Persons with disabilities**	**Total**	**Severe**	**Moderate**
	15+				
AT	74.9	25.1	100	17.5	7.6
BE	82.9	17.1	100	10.1	7.0
BG	94.3	5.7	100	3.9	1.8
CY	84.7	15.3	100	8.3	7.0
CZ	81.3	18.7	100	13.9	4.8
DE	73.9	26.1	100	18.5	7.6
DK	73.6	26.4	100	21.3	5.0
EE	74.1	25.9	100	16.4	9.5
EL	88.2	11.8	100	8.7	3.1
ES	84.3	15.7	100	9.7	6.0
FI	66.1	33.9	100	27.0	7.0
FR	78.1	21.9	100	13.5	8.5
HR	79.3	20.7	100	14.4	6.3
HU	84.4	15.6	100	12.2	3.4
IT	84.6	15.4	100	10.1	5.3
LT	80.3	19.7	100	16.2	3.6
LU	77.3	22.8	100	17.3	5.5
LV	75.8	24.2	100	17.3	6.9
MT	85.0	15.0	100	12.2	2.9
NL	69.9	30.1	100	24.2	6.0
PL	86.5	13.5	100	9.4	4.1
PT	76.3	23.7	100	18.4	5.3
RO	81.7	18.3	100	14.7	3.6
SE	84.7	15.3	100	12.4	2.9
SI	85.2	14.8	100	10.0	4.8
SK	79.1	20.9	100	13.6	7.3
EU	**80.5**	**19.5**	**100**	**13.5**	**6.0**

Note: Data for IE are missing.
Data source: LFS 2022.

Table 99: Percentage of persons with disabilities by age group, EU, 2022

	15-24	**25-34**	**35-44**	**45-54**	**55-64**	**65-74**	**75+**
LFS	5.1	7.1	9.6	15.0	25.2	31.7	51.4
EU-SILC	8.8	11.3	14.7	21.5	32.6	42.9	63.5

Data source: LFS 2022 and EU-SILC UDB 2022.

Results of the stereotype logistic regressions

We have run stereotype logistic regressions. The results indicate that the two samples (LFS and EU-SILC) share certain basic characteristics.

The endogenous variable is disability (0: no disability; 1: moderate; and 2: severe). The author has used the following explanatory variables: sex01, age, age squared, education level (5 levels), 1-adult-household01, and dummy variables for countries.

The estimated thresholds (Φ) are presented below. For the methodology, see: https://www.stata.com/manuals/rslogit.pdf.

The author makes the hypothesis that there is a threshold over which the interviewee will declare a disability. Following this reasoning, this threshold varies from 0 (no disability) to 1 (severe disability). The stereotype logistic regression gives the following thresholds over which a person will declare a moderate disability:
EU-SILC 2022: 0.78 (0.22);
LFS 2022: 0.90 (0.10).

Endogenous variable: Limited012 (0: No disability, 1: Moderate, 2: Severe)				
	Without skill variables Age 15+/16+			
	LFS 2022		**EU-SILC 2022**	
	Coeff	se	Coeff	se
Sex 01	0.10	*0.01*	0.18	*0.01*
Age	0.05	*0.00*	0.02	*0.00*
Age squared	0.00	*0.00*	0.00	*0.00*
Education levels (0 to 5)	-0.33	*0.00*	-0.27	*0.01*
One Adult household 01	0.33	*0.01*	0.34	*0.01*
National dummies (Not reported here)				
/phi1_1 (Constrained)	1		1	
/phi1_2[a]	**0.10**	*0.01*	**0.22**	*0.01*
/phi1_3 (Base)	0		0	
/theta1	3.84	*0.04*	3.63	*0.07*
/theta2	0.95	*0.01*	1.41	*0.03*
/theta3 (Base)	0		0	
Limited012=2 is the base outcome applied by Stata. This has to be reversed in order to have 0 for no disability, phi1_2 as the threshold for moderate disability and 1 for severe disability.				

Coeff.: coefficient; se: standard error.
Note: The data are provisional.
Methodology: https://www.stata.com/manuals13/rslogit.pdf.
Data sources: EU-SILC UDB 2022 and LFS 2022

2. Early school leavers

Methodology

The Europe 2030 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). This indicator is based on annual averages of quarterly data.

The classification to be used for this variable is the International ‘Standard Classification of Education’ (ISCED 2011) which includes nine categories for educational attainment:

- ISCED 0: Early childhood education (‘less than primary’);
- ISCED 1: Primary education;
- ISCED 2: Lower secondary education;
- ISCED 3: Upper secondary education;
- ISCED 4: Post-secondary non-tertiary education;
- ISCED 5: Short-cycle tertiary education;
- ISCED 6: Bachelor’s or equivalent level;
- ISCED 7: Master’s or equivalent level; and
- ISCED 8: Doctoral or equivalent level.

Early leavers from education are 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’).

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 between ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

Notes

Analysis by Member State and 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, the author has used the average of several years.

EU-SILC survey estimates cannot be compared with administrative data.

Comparison between LFS and EU-SILC estimates

In 2022, the LFS survey and the EU-SILC survey included the GALI indicator with the same model question.

In the EU 27 in 2022, the LFS indicates that 22.1 % of young persons with disabilities aged 18-24 were early school leavers compared with 19.2 according to the EU-SILC. This higher rate of early school leavers might be the result of the lower disability prevalence and the higher importance of persons with severe disabilities in the LFS estimation.

Both surveys report high disability gaps. The LFS gives 13.7 percentage points and the EU-SILC gives 10.6 percentage points.

Concerning the national rates of early school leavers among persons with disabilities, aged 18-24, the two surveys provide different estimates. The difference in percentage points is lower than three percentage points in Germany, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden. Despite the significant annual variations provided by the EU-SILC survey for Germany, the LFS and the EU-SILC provide similar results.

As noted in the discussion of disability prevalence, the two surveys provide different prevalence rates. Different disability prevalence rates mean that the characteristics of the two populations associated with the two samples (LFS and EU-SILC) are not similar. This affects the indicators describing the education and labour characteristics.

3. 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 self-defined current economic status.

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; and
8. other.

Notes

The author has included persons in ‘compulsory military or community service’ in the group of persons in employment or education. However, this group is marginal, generally comprising, about 0.07 % of the relevant sample.

Comparison between LFS and EU-SILC

In 2022, the LFS survey and the EU-SILC survey included the GALI indicator with the same model question. The question on economic status is included in both surveys.

In the EU 27 in 2022, the LFS indicates that 28.1 % of persons with disabilities aged 15-29 were neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET). This rate was 27.3 % for the EU-SILC.

Both surveys report high disability gaps in NEET. The LFS gives 17.3 percentage points and the EU-SILC shows a gap of 15.3 percentage points.

Concerning the national rates of persons with disabilities neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), the LFS tends to provide higher rates compared to the EU-SILC survey. Still, there is a good correlation between the two series. As noted in the discussion of prevalence, the LFS presents a smaller disability prevalence compared to the EU-SILC and this might mean that the LFS sample is closer to the severe disability compared to the EU-SILC survey.

4. Persons who have completed a tertiary or equivalent education

Methodology

The Europe 2030 indicator covers persons aged 25 to 34.
The Europe 2020 indicator covered the age group 30-34.

Eurostat presents an indicator based on the Labour Force survey (LFS). The data are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU-LFS survey data. The EU-SILC data present the situation at a specific date of the year.

Tertiary education covers ISCED 2011 levels 5, 6, 7 and 8.

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.

The classification to be used for this variable is the International ‘Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) which includes nine categories for educational attainment’:

- ISCED 0: Early childhood education (‘less than primary’);
- ISCED 1: Primary education;
- ISCED 2: Lower secondary education;
- ISCED 3: Upper secondary education;
- ISCED 4: Post-secondary non-tertiary education;
- ISCED 5: Short-cycle tertiary education;
- ISCED 6: Bachelor’s or equivalent level;
- ISCED 7: Master’s or equivalent level; and
- ISCED 8: Doctoral or equivalent level.

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, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has 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.

5. Employment rate

Methodology

In 2021 the question on self-assessed economic status was slightly modified and this might had an impact on 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; and
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; and

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.

For data distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ persons in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, the author has 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 can use either question PL032 (PL031) on self-defined current economic status or question PX050 on activity status (a mean like indicator for past income period). Eurostat uses the EU-SILC PX050 question for data published on its webpage.

Comparison between LFS and EU-SILC

As noted, both the LFS and the EU-SILC survey have included GALI in 2022. However, even if we retain the same definition of employment, there might be differences between the results of the two surveys. For example, the LFS presents annual averages while the EU-SILC presents the situation at a specific period of the year. Consequently, the EU-SILC data are not seasonally adjusted.

Another source of differences stems from the use of different definitions of employment. Eurostat uses the ILO definition of employment. Here, the author has used a different definition: the self-declared status. It is important to note that persons who worked for just one hour in the reference week would probably declare themselves to be unemployed but would be considered as employed according to the ILO definition. This means that the ILO definition of employment will tend to be higher than the estimations based on the self-declared status.

Despite the above caveats, we obtain the same results if we retain all persons and the same definition of employment (self-assessed economic status). In fact, for all persons aged 20-64, both surveys provide quasi the same employment rate. The LFS gives 72.0 % and the EU-SILC 71.7 % (if we include all persons, including those for whom we have no information on disability). The data cover the EU 27.

However, when we focus on persons with disabilities (GALI), the LFS survey gives an employment rate of 46.6 % for persons with disabilities, compared to 54.3 % for the EU-SILC for the same year, age group and definition.

Apart from the reasons given above explaining discrepancies between the results of the two surveys, there is a specific reason linked to disability. In the discussion of disability prevalence, we noted that the LFS presents a population of persons with disabilities which is closer to severe disabilities than the EU-SILC survey. Consequently, we expect to find a lower employment rate with LFS data than with EU-SILC data.

Table 100: Employment rate of persons by disability degree and Member State, aged 20-64, 2022 (LFS)

	In percentage (%)		
	With disabilities	**Without disabilities**	**Total**
AT	52.9	77.6	72.8
BE	35.2	76.0	69.8
BG	9.1	77.7	75.0
CY	43.9	80.7	77.2
CZ	75.0	80.1	79.6
DE	52.3	78.9	74.0
DK	50.2	83.1	75.3
EE	59.4	84.0	79.2
EL	18.4	67.6	65.8
ES	36.9	73.6	69.3
FI	59.0	79.4	73.5
FR	51.6	76.5	72.0
HR	29.2	73.1	67.9
HU	27.3	81.3	77.5
IT	37.7	67.3	64.7
LT	41.3	84.7	79.3
LU	50.3	61.0	58.8
LV	49.8	80.2	75.3
MT	47.4	83.8	80.4
NL	54.5	83.9	76.5
PL	30.9	79.5	75.3
PT	53.0	80.5	76.2
RO	26.2	72.8	68.9
SE	56.2	82.1	78.7
SI	46.0	78.7	75.4
SK	47.0	78.5	74.3
EU	**46.6**	**75.9**	**71.9**

Note: Excluding Ireland due to missing values.
Data source: LFS 2022.

6. Unemployment rate

Methodology

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed.

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; and
8. other.

Before 2021, EU-SILC 2009 onwards included a question (PL031) on ‘Self-defined current economic status’. The possible answers were:

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; and
11. other inactive person.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

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), the variable should capture the duration of respondent’s most recent spell of unemployment during the last five years from the date of the interview.

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

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

Notes

The data here may be slightly different from those presented by Eurostat on its web page.[83] Indeed, Eurostat presents estimates using the results of the Labour Force Surveys (LFS).

The author uses the EU-SILC UDB microdata on self-declarations. The ILO definition does not include those who are not actively searching for a job.

7. 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.

A new classification of self-declared economic status was adopted in 2021 (see Employment).

For estimations distinguishing 'limited' and 'not limited' people in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

Notes

In order to make this indicator comparable to Europe 2030 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 persons with disabilities who participate in the labour force. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the sample.

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

8. Disability pay gap

Methodology

Concerning the gender pay gap, Eurostat notes[84] 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 ten 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.

Regarding a 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 ten persons.

We retain the age group 15-74 in order to increase the sample and have comparable results with the gender pay gap.

The author includes 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.

The author standardises (divides) 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 or other job (PL100). The hours worked refer to the current situation.

[84] Eurostat, Gender pay gap in unadjusted form (sdg_05_20) ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_05_20_esmsip2.htm.

‘Employee’ refers to self-defined current economic status (PL032). Before 2021, the author included (PL031): 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 persons who would regard themselves as full-time students or homemakers may be classified employed according to the ILO definition if they have a part-time job.

We retain persons working in units (PL130) employing more than ten persons. This variable refers to the main job. However, this variable is not always included in the EU-SILC UDB microdata.

When we adjust for age, we use the total EU age structure. The 5-year age groups are preferred to the 10-year age groups for age adjustment.

Note

Previous ANED reports presented a disability pay gap for employed persons aged 20-64, age adjusted, in firms employing ten or more, without any standardisation by the number of months employed.

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.

9. Very low work intensity

Methodology

For Europe 2030: People aged 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 to or less than 20 % of their total combined work-time potential during the previous year.

For Europe 2020: Persons aged 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.

The author summarises 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:[85]

- the number of months during the income reference period for which information on his/her activity status is available (the ‘workable’ months: NWAm); and

[85] 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.

- 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 the income reference period.

In each household. EU-SILC UDB (User Data Base) calculates the derived variables:

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

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

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

Work intensity (RX040) is a continuous variable from 0 to 1 (People older than 59 has WORK_INT = 99). This 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.

People living in households with very low work intensity are those 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, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

The author has 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, the author presents the percentage of persons 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, factors other than unemployment may affect it.

For more information see: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_work_intensity.

10. 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, the author estimates the percentage of 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[86] first computes 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. 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 the poverty level if its household equivalised disposable income is less than 60 % of the median national household equivalised disposable income.

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

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too. Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040).

The author has 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 the extra health costs of elderly people.

For more information see:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ilc_sieusilc.htm.

[86] 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.

11. Severely materially and socially deprived persons

Methodology

Under the Europe 2030 Strategy, this indicator presents the share of the 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). These 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; and
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; and
6. getting together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month.

Under the 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, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovenia, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights for selected persons (pb060). This holds true for Iceland and Norway too.

Otherwise, the author has used personal cross-sectional weights (pb040). In addition, the author has 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.

For more information see:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ilc_sieusilc.htm.

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

Methodology

Under 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).

Under 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.

However, the total population is 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 over.

For estimations distinguishing ‘limited’ and ‘not limited’ people in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia, the author has 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 over. 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.

For more information see:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ilc_sieusilc.htm.

13. 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.

The author has used 'age at the date of interview' for indicators concerning disability prevalence, labour market and education issues. The author has 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. The income data presented here are annual covering 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 the sets of variables (i) and (ii), 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, the 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 the 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; and 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 and accessibility of microdata

The cross-sectional and the longitudinal data are produced annually.

In June 2024, the latest available version of microdata, accessible to researchers, were those from 2023 (autumn release) covering 2022.

References concerning the 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).

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

The EU-SILC sample

Table 101: EU-SILC UDB 2022 – Sample characteristics*

	Question PH030_F				Limitations (Question: PH030)			
Country	**Not-selected**	**Missing**	**Filled**	**Sample**	**No**	**Moderate**	**Severe**	**Total**
	Not-weighted							
AT	-	8	10 183	10 191	7 197	2 178	808	10 183
BE	-	122	14 757	14 879	10 606	2 738	1 413	14 757
BG	-	13	18 229	18 242	14 597	2 909	723	18 229
CY	-	-	9 789	9 789	7 267	1 541	981	9 789
CZ	-	-	18 742	18 742	12 237	4 550	1 955	18 742
DE	-	30 073	40 419	70 492	26 850	9 165	4 404	40 419
DK	4 731	42	9 487	14 260	5 554	3 171	762	9 487
EE	-	1 111	11 606	12 717	7 556	2 668	1 382	11 606
EL	-	-	23 006	23 006	16 110	4 088	2 808	23 006
ES	-	895	56 023	56 918	38 047	14 579	3 397	56 023
FI	8 446	153	11 371	19 970	7 594	2 970	807	11 371
FR	-	658	31 009	31 667	23 359	4 810	2 840	31 009
HR	-	197	17 026	17 223	10 732	4 512	1 782	17 026
HU	-	57	14 431	14 488	10 312	2 942	1 177	14 431
IE	-	34	9 117	9 151	7 276	1 418	423	9 117
IT	-	1 726	38 088	39 814	27 692	7 834	2 562	38 088
LT	-	658	9 829	10 487	6 501	2 602	726	9 829
LU	-	284	7 321	7 605	5 116	1 763	442	7 321
LV	-	726	9 564	10 290	5 625	2 937	1 002	9 564
MT	-	20	8 901	8 921	7 247	1 207	447	8 901
NL	11 821	296	14 060	26 177	8 675	4 526	859	14 060
PL	-	5 434	35 122	40 556	25 309	7 112	2 701	35 122

PT	-	18	26 844	26 862	16 931	7 672	2 241	26 844
RO	-	-	15 389	15 389	9 900	4 597	892	15 389
SE	7 834	170	8 431	16 435	6 765	1 328	338	8 431
SI	10 926	-	8 092	19 018	6 085	1 322	685	8 092
SK	-	49	11 499	11 548	6 898	3 169	1 432	11 499
EU	**43 758**	**42 744**	**488 335**	**574 837**	**338 038**	**110 308**	**39 989**	**488 335**

*'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 those not selected (see methodology).
Data source: 10. EU-SILC UDB 2022 – release 2 2023 (autumn release).

14. Methodological note on LFS

The EU-LFS is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on the labour participation of people aged 15 and over and on people outside the labour force. Those living in institutional or collective households are not included.

Definition of 'disability'

GALI was introduced in the 2022 round.

Characteristics of the sample

In 2021, the quarterly EU-LFS sample size was around 1.1 million people.

Age

The survey covers persons aged 15 and over.

Seasonality

The EU-LFS survey provides quarterly and annual results.

Data sources

Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey.

15. Methodological note on AES

The Adult Education Survey (AES) covers adult participation in education and training (formal, non-formal and informal learning) and is one of the main data sources for EU lifelong learning statistics.

The survey was carried out in 2007, 2011, 2016 and 2022.

The survey provides the following information:

- participation in formal education, non-formal education and training and informal learning;

- characteristics of the learning activities;
- volume of instruction hours;
- reasons for and obstacles to participation;
- access to information on learning possibilities;
- employer financing and costs of learning; and
- self-reported language skills.

Definition of 'disability'

GALI was introduced in the 2022 round.

Characteristics of the sample

The survey covers the resident population aged 25-64 up to 2016 AES and 18-69 as from 2022 AES. The 12 months before the interview are used as the reference period for participation in education and training.

Age

The survey covers the resident population aged 25-64 up to 2016 AES and 18-69 as from 2022 AES.

Seasonality

The 12 months before the interview are used as the reference period for participation in education and training. Consequently, the data are annual and exempt from seasonal bias.

Data sources

Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/adult-education-survey.

16. 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. Eurostat, ESSPROS, see: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/spr_exp_sum/default/table?lang=en&category=spr.spr_expend.

7. European Health Interview Survey 3 (EHIS), 2018.

8. EU-Labour Force Survey 2022.

9. EU-SILC UDB 2018 – Release 1 2020.

10. EU-SILC UDB 2019 – Release 1 2021.

11. EU-SILC UDB 2020 – Release 1 2022.

12. EU-SILC UDB 2020 – Release 1 2022. rev.1.

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

14. EU-SILC UDB 2022 – Release 2 2023 (autumn 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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