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Spain

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¹ European Disability Expertise (EDE) provides independent scientific support to the Commission's policy Unit responsible for disability issues. It aims to mainstream disability equality in EU policy processes, including implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. EDE senior experts Magdi Birtha and Felix Gross-Wohlgemuth from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research reviewed the 2024 Semester country fiches.

² For an introduction to the Semester process, see:
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/european-semester/how-european-semester-works/>.

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Table of contents

1	Executive summary and recommendations	6
1.1	Key points and main challenges for Spain in 2024	6
1.2	Recommendations for Spain	6
2	Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2024 Semester documents	9
2.1	Country Report (CR) and Country Specific Recommendations (CSR)	9
2.2	National Reform Programme (NRP) and Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP).....	10
2.3	Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans	11
3	Disability and the labour market – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies.....	13
3.1	Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities.....	13
3.2	Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester	17
4	Disability, social policies and healthcare – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies.....	21
4.1	Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities	22
4.2	Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester	24
5	Disability, education and skills – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies.....	30
5.1	Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities	30
5.2	Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester	32
6	Investment priorities in relation to disability.....	35
7	Annex: Disability data relevant to the Semester	39
7.1	Data relevant to disability and the labour market (2022).....	40
7.2	EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2022)	54
7.3	EU data relevant to disability and education (2022).....	62

1 Executive summary and recommendations

1.1 Key points and main challenges for Spain in 2024

Disability and the labour market

The employment rate for persons with disabilities aged 16-24 is lower than the EU average, while it is higher for the remaining age groups. Both men and women with disabilities in Spain have higher employment rates than the EU average. The disability employment gap is smaller for both genders compared to EU-wide gaps. Despite some improvements in 2022, the unemployment rate remains significantly higher in Spain than in the EU across all age groups, for populations with and without disabilities, with women facing additional disadvantages. However, in 2022, the activity rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 improved and surpassed the EU average, although the activity rate for those aged 16-24 remains lower.

Disability, social policies and healthcare

The risk of poverty for persons with disabilities is higher than for those without disabilities, affecting both men and women. This risk is particularly pronounced among individuals aged 16-64 with some limitations and those over 65 with severe limitations. In 2023, there was a slight but widespread increase in unmet needs for medical examinations, similar to the trend observed across the EU.

Disability, education and skills

Spain has a higher percentage of early school leavers with disabilities compared to the EU average, particularly among the 18-29 age group. However, the proportion of individuals with tertiary education is higher in Spain than in the EU, both for persons with and without disabilities.

Investment priorities in relation to disability

In terms of employment, efforts should focus on implementing and streamlining effective hiring incentives, enhancing skills development programmes, and improving employment services. For education, key priorities include reducing the rate of early school leavers, addressing regional disparities, fostering greater cooperation between educational institutions and businesses, and ensuring the labour market is supplied with relevant skills and qualifications. In the area of social protection and healthcare, strengthening coordination and collaboration between administrative bodies is essential.

1.2 Recommendations for Spain

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

Recommendation: Promotion of quality employment to reduce the risk of poverty for people with disabilities of working age.

Rationale: For youth with disabilities, active and inclusive policies regarding vocational training and employment must be promoted. For adults with disabilities, strict monitoring of compliance with quotas, together with flexible training activities and skills qualifications is a priority. Policies and resources to motivate persons with disabilities to work are required, for example, initiatives to improve motivation to take part in

vocational training and obtain qualifications. This could take the form of vouchers (similar to the current cultural voucher) for enrolment in and completion of training modules. More active employment policies and initiatives to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship are required, together with greater control of compliance with the reserved quotas for persons with disabilities. An increase in the percentage of reserved posts and their disaggregation by type of disability is suggested. More and better coordination from the state employment services is suggested. Quality jobs in the social economy, and alternatives such as supported employment or enclaves for workers with more severe disabilities should be promoted. In Spain, the relationship between existing qualifications and those needed or demanded in the labour market is lacking. This initiative is aligned within the RRP A Component 20: Strategic Plan for the Promotion of Vocational Training.

Recommendation: Reducing rates of post-secondary early school leavers with disabilities by adopting motivating and inclusive approaches.

Rationale: Spain does not comply with UN CRPD recommendations on inclusive education. Inclusion at an early age should be ensured through the reinforcement of inclusive education and control of exclusionary, discriminatory practices. The Ministry of Education has a funding line for actions in inclusive education, but funding for these practices is based on the size of schools or insularity. Funding inclusive practices in centres where the number of beneficiaries with disabilities is taken into account could serve as a motivational factor. Current study grants are not working as a motivating factor, as the amounts received are based on the financial capacity of families. Students can be motivated by direct measures.

Recommendation: Promotion of micro-credentials aimed at disadvantaged people in general and people with disabilities in particular, at Spanish universities. These micro-credentials must be aligned with PERTEs.

Rationale: This measure is aligned with the RRP's emphasis on upskilling and reskilling workers. The momentum of the Microcreds Plan can be used to align training efforts with the PERTEs. National and European statistics show that vocational qualifications of persons with disabilities are associated with better employment outcomes.

Recommendation: Promotion of financial support measures for older people with more severe disabilities, especially for housing. Prioritise the use of EU funds to fight poverty among vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, children and older people with care needs. Measures aimed at preventing poverty and loneliness and ensuring service quality and inclusion are suggested.

Rationale: In Spain, the share of at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) ranks among the highest in Europe. There is a need for more efficient and equitable management between regions to ensure the sustainability of aid. The European Social Funds (ESF+) are driving anti-poverty and anti-discrimination measures targeted at vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities. The efficacy of measures on housing and care in the community should be closely monitored. The percentage of persons with disabilities who suffer unwanted loneliness, abuse, precarious friendships and addictions is also higher than for persons without disabilities. Long-term care needs to be adjusted to monitor the adequacy of the benefits, their management and

quality standards. The quality of centres and services for long-term care needs to be guaranteed. Non-contributory cash benefits need to be monitored to ensure adequacy. Equity and cohesion of social and healthcare measures is needed. Social and person-centred care approaches should replace biomedical perspectives. The State Plan for Access to Housing 2022-2025 is an opportunity to monitor the effectiveness of this plan in persons with disabilities.

2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2024 Semester documents

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

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

The CR 2024¹ for Spain mentions (p. 70) that, despite decreasing since 2021, the AROPE rate ranked among the highest in the EU, at 26 %, compared to 21.6 % in the EU in 2022. This figure is even higher for persons with disabilities (30 %). EU cohesion policy funds such as the European Social Funds (ESF) are driving anti-poverty and anti-discrimination measures targeted at groups in a vulnerable situation, such as persons with disabilities (p. 11 and 32).

According to the Social Scoreboard,² Spain faces a critical situation regarding early leavers from education and training, gross disposable household income (GDHI) per capita growth, and the AROPE rate for children. In addition, young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), as well as the impact of social transfers (other than pensions) on poverty reduction deserve a closer look. There are persisting issues around employment, unemployment and underemployment rates.

In the preliminary observations to the Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) 2024,³ the Council recommended that action to deliver on the objectives of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) should also include an increase in consumption taxes while protecting vulnerable individuals with targeted compensatory measures (p. 8). In the CR, it is stated that in May 2024 the Commission assessed the 2019-2023 progress in the implementation of CSRs. These recommendations concern a wide range of policy areas that are related to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the assessment, at this stage of RRP implementation, 86 % of the CSRs focusing on structural issues from 2019 to 2023 have recorded at least 'some progress', while 12 % recorded 'limited progress' and 2 % 'no progress' (p. 27). The areas where 'some progress' has been made (p. 28-29), and where disability should be included as a mainstream dimension in relation to employment, are: (1) implementing and simplifying effective hiring incentives, (2) implementing effective skills development initiatives, (3) improving effective employment services, (4) reinforcing unemployment protection, particularly for atypical workers. All these measures should incorporate disaggregated information on disability type and severity within progress reports. This will help to identify improvements, not only for the general population but also for individuals with disabilities.

The areas where 'some progress' has been made (p. 28-29) and where disability should be included as a mainstream dimension in relation to education are: (1) reducing rates of school leavers; (2) improving educational outcomes and reducing regional disparities; (3) increasing cooperation between education and business to provide the labour market with relevant skills and qualifications; (4) increasing access to digital learning; (4) improving skills development, especially in the area of the green

¹ See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024SC0609>.

² See: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-pillar-of-social-rights/scoreboard>.

³ See: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/60c2e201-7e09-45fc-b9ba-e702a11a6796_en?filename=com_2024_609_1_en.pdf.

transition. As in the previous case, it is advisable to include disabilities or special educational needs – as it is termed in Spain – as outcome variables. This will enable the identification of the extent to which each broad initiative impacts students with disabilities.

The areas where ‘limited or some progress’ has been made (p. 28–29) and where disability should be included as a mainstream dimension in *relation to social protection and healthcare* are: (1) improving coordination and cooperation between administrations; (2) improving coverage and adequacy of minimum income schemes; (3) improving family support; (4) improving sustainable transport; (5) improving the electrification of buildings and electromobility. Each of these measures should incorporate information on beneficiaries, with a particular emphasis on data on disability type and severity.

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

As of 2024, the NRP will be replaced by the medium-term fiscal structural plans.⁴ Spain prepared its last NRP in 2023, which is the basis for this analysis.

There is little explicit reference to disability within the NRP. Some exceptions can be found in the section on Social Cohesion, where initiatives such as Inclusive Campuses (p. 42), the new disability regulations (p. 44), and the Spanish Disability Strategy 2022–2030 (p. 44)⁵ are mentioned. Similarly, disability is explicitly mentioned in Annex 4, which relates to measures implemented under the European Pillar of Social Rights. Overall, the NRP lacks disability mainstreaming. It gives the impression that disability is solely a matter of social protection, rather than a characteristic with the potential to create wealth. This perspective should be considered not only in social issues but also in economic matters.

Some examples of areas where the situation of persons with disabilities is relevant and it could have been mentioned are included in the paragraphs below.

First, in the area of *education* of the 2023 NRP, several initiatives could have benefited from specific mention of this group. Among the initiatives, it is worth highlighting the CODI and the School Code 4.0 programmes to increase digital skills in schools, and the PROA+ programme to reduce rates of early school leavers. Similarly, there is the Strategic Plan for the Promotion of Vocational Training, the Acreditas programme to obtain official recognition of professional competencies, the new law on university education (LOSU), and the Microcreds Plan aimed at certified skills by means of completing short courses at university.

Second, several actions in *socio-economic and healthcare domains* should have explicitly included this group in actions such as the Strategy for Children’s and

⁴ The first plans will be submitted to the European Commission in autumn 2024.

⁵ Available (in Spanish) at:
<https://www.hacienda.gob.es/CDI/ProgramaNacionaldeReformas/PNR2023.pdf>.

Adolescents' Rights,⁶ the Families Law;⁷ the reorganisation of non-contributory benefits, the regulation of the minimum living income, the modification of dependency benefits, the reform of the pension system, and the implementation of the state plan for access to housing. In the field of health, initiatives focused on improving the National Health System and medicines and medical devices should be highlighted. In addition, efforts have been made to implement different plans and programmes focused on health promotion. Also of special interest is the Strategic Economic Recovery and Transformation Project (PERTE) on Leading Edge Health.

Finally, the RRP includes 12 Strategic Economic Recovery and Transformation Projects (PERTEs), in which persons with disabilities should have been considered, either as beneficiaries of special interest in grants and incentives related to the implementation of these PERTEs, or as priority recipients of positive actions focused on skills training or professional qualification or requalification related to the new sources of employment represented by these PERTEs. This included the financing of new business models related to these strategic projects in which third sector and social economy companies or start-ups involving persons with disabilities are involved.

2.3 Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans

It is important that Semester plans align with national disability strategies. In Spain, this refers to the Spanish Disability Strategy (SDS) 2022-2030.⁸ In 2019, the UN Committee recommended Spain's adoption of an Action Plan for the previous 2014-2020 disability strategy. The new Spanish Disability Strategy 2022-2030 was approved in May 2022.⁹ It addresses seven strategic challenges: (1) Active citizenship and full exercise of human rights; (2) Social inclusion and participation; (3) Personal autonomy and independent living; (4) Support for families; (5) Equality and diversity; (6) Universal design and accessibility; and (7) Territorial cohesion, data and statistics, governance and civil dialogue, leadership and cooperation, innovation and digitisation, and sustainable development.

The 2023 NRP states that (p. 44) 'the Spanish Disability Strategy 2022-2030 will give effect to the rights of persons with disabilities and their families, through a cross-cutting approach and by involving the different public administrations. It includes the National Plan for the Healthy Well-being of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the 2nd National Plan for Universal Accessibility, and the Action Plan for the Strategy on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Additional measures aimed at promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities mentioned in the NRP are as follows:

- new regulation of the benefits of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency (SAAD);
- law on the accessibility of certain products and services;

⁶ Available (in Spanish) at: https://www.juventudeinfancia.gob.es/sites/mijui.gob.es/files/Estrategia_Estatal_Derechos_Infancia_yAdolescencia.pdf.

⁷ Available (in Spanish) at: https://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L15/CONG/BOCG/A/BOCG-15-A-11-1.PDF.

⁸ Available at: https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/Estrategia_Espanola_Discapacidad_2022_2030.pdf.

⁹ Available at: https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/Estrategia_Espanola_Discapacidad_2022_2030.pdf.

- reform of the general law on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion;
- new regulation of the procedure for the recognition, declaration and qualification of the degree of disability;
- new regulation on accessibility and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities for access to and use of goods and services available to the public;
- PERTE for the Social and Care Economy;
- 'Inclusive Campus Programme, Campus without limits'; and
- Inclusive Education and Emotional Well-being Programmes in the educational sphere.

In response to the UN CRPD 2019 recommendations concerning Article 19 of the Convention on living independently and being included in the community, and specifically aimed at designing, adopting and implementing a comprehensive deinstitutionalisation strategy and implementing safeguards to ensure the right to live independently and be included in the community across all regions (p. 9), Spain has developed the 'National Strategy for a New Community Care Model: A Deinstitutionalisation Process for 2024–2030'.¹⁰ We are currently in the process of implementing the first stage of the strategy. Close follow-up at both regional and national levels is advisable.

Relevant recommendations arising from participation in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are highlighted in the sections that follow. The last UN CRPD Committee recommendations to Spain were in 2019, with the most recent submission by Spain in 2018 and the most recent response from the Committee being the 2019 Concluding Observations. Nevertheless, on 18 March 2024¹¹ the CRPD held follow-up dialogue on the inquiry report of Spain. This is detailed below:

'The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities today held a follow-up dialogue on the inquiry report of Spain with representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, the Independent Monitoring Mechanism in Spain (CERMI), and the State Party.

In the discussion with organizations of persons with disabilities, speakers said the situation in Spain was worse than at the time of the Committee's visit in 2017. There had been significant backsliding, which could be seen in the alarming increase of children attending special schools. Segregation had almost doubled and there had been a 180 per cent increase in segregated classrooms. There was an impasse, and malpractice was being endorsed. If these children managed to complete secondary education, their certificates were often not issued. The pupils were being marginalised. Speakers expressed concern about the systematic violation of the rights of these children.'¹²

¹⁰ Downloadable (in Spanish) at: <https://estrategiadesinstitucionalizacion.gob.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Estrategia-para-nuevo-modelo-cuidados-en-la-comunidad.pdf>

¹¹ See: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/spain>.

¹² See: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2024/03/committee-rights-persons-disabilities-holds-follow-dialogue-inquiry-report-spain>.

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

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

Article 27 UN CRPD addresses ‘Work and employment’.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals: (a) Analyse and modify legislation, regulations and policies to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors, with particular emphasis on women with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in rural areas; (b) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is available and accessible for persons with disabilities with administrative safeguards, especially in cases of accidents that have led to disabilities in the workplace; (c) Adopt concrete measures to fully implement the legal quota established in the revised text of Act No. 9/2017 on public sector contracts.

3.1 Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities

The employment rate for persons with disabilities aged 16-24 is lower in Spain than it is in the EU, whereas it is higher for the remaining age groups. Men and women with disabilities have higher employment rates than the EU average, and the disability employment gap is smaller for men and women with disabilities, in comparison with EU gaps. In spite of some improvements in 2022, the unemployment rate is much higher in Spain than in the EU for all age groups, both for groups with and without disabilities, and women face additional disadvantages. In 2022 the activity rate improved, and this activity rate for persons with disabilities aged 20-64 is higher than the EU average, whereas age group 16–24 has a lower activity rate.

Data from European Union statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) indicate an employment rate for persons with disabilities in Spain of 57.8 % in 2022 (compared with a EU27 average of 54.3 %), compared to 72.2 % for other persons (compared with a EU27 average of 76.2 %). The 2022 employment rate for people with disabilities was 18.2 percentage points below the national 2030 headline target¹³ of a 76 % employment rate. Men with disabilities had an employment rate of 62 %, compared to women with disabilities who had an employment rate of 54.1 %.

The difference between persons with and without disabilities results in a disability employment gap of 14.6 percentage points for 2022 (estimated EU27 average gap: 21.4 percentage points, see Tables 2–4) or an employment chances ratio of 0.8. Women with disabilities had an employment gap of 12.4 percentage points (EU27 average: 18.9 percentage points), compared to 15.7 percentage points for men with disabilities (EU27 average: 23.3 percentage points). The most current Eurostat data estimate a disability employment gap of 13.8 percentage points for 2023 (EU27 average: 21.5 percentage points). The EU-SILC data refer to people who self-report

¹³ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan:
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en>.

limitations in everyday activities and may present a different picture to national data sources.

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 20.9 % and 14.1 % for persons with and without disabilities, respectively, in 2022 (see Tables 5-7) (EU27 averages: 15.1 % and 7.6 %). Women with disabilities had an unemployment rate of 23.4 % (EU27 average: 15.1 %), compared to men with disabilities, who had an unemployment rate of 18.1 % (EU27 average: 15.2 %).

The economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Spain was 73 % in 2022, compared to 84.1 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10) (EU27 average: 64 % and 82.5 % respectively). Women with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 70.7 % (EU27 average: 60.1 %), while men with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 75.8 % (EU27 average: 68.5 %). As of 2022, both indicators demonstrate more positive outcomes for Spain compared to the EU average.

These indications are further broken down by age groups and compared to previous years in the respective tables in the annex.

The Joint Employment Report 2024¹⁴ adopted by the Council on 11 March 2024 mentions that, in Spain, employment growth in 2022 was higher than the minimum yearly change required for reaching the 2030 national target. However, the employment rate is still in a 'critical situation', with levels below 70 % (p. 33). The unemployment rate is 'weak but improving' (p. 36). Statutory minimum wages have remained broadly constant (p. 39). In Spain, the share of persons aged 18 or over who are employed and at risk of poverty is higher than the EU average (p. 40). Gender pay gaps also persist (p. 41). Although Spain has reduced the percentage of temporary employment, it is one of the countries with the highest rate of temporary contracts, especially for young people, together with low transition rates to permanent contracts, and a large gap between temporary employed men and women (p. 70).

The Spanish Disability Strategy 2022-2030 (SDS)¹⁵ provides relevant data on employment, including data on the situation as at 2022 (with data mostly from 2020) and a specification of targets to be achieved by 2030. In terms of employment, it indicates that the employment rate of persons with disabilities is 34.3 %, in contrast to the employment rate of persons without disabilities, which is 76.1 %. The target for the year 2030 is for the employment rate for persons with disabilities to be 51 % (p. 99). It also points out that the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities is 22.20 %, compared to 15.40 % for persons without disabilities. The target for 2030 is to reduce the unemployment rate to 18 %. The long-term unemployment rate is 64.8 % for persons with disabilities and 44.2 % for persons without disabilities. The target for 2030 is to have a long-term unemployment rate of 52 % for persons with disabilities (p. 100). There is also an aim to increase the identification of non-compliance situations with the job reservations law for workers with disabilities (p. 101).

¹⁴ Available at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/93b9c730-8da5-11ee-8aa6-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

¹⁵ Available at: https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/Estrategia_Espanola_Discapacidad_2022_2030.pdf.

Despite the previously indicated data, the 2024 State Report on the Labour Market for People with Disabilities¹⁶ shows that the main characteristic of persons with disabilities of working age is their low participation in the labour market.¹⁷ Only 35.3 % are active, compared to the 75.31 % activity rate for the general population. The employment rate of persons with disabilities is much lower than the employment rate for the general population (27.8 % vs 65.51 %). The unemployment rate is much higher for persons with disabilities (21.4 % vs 13.02 %). Between 2014 and 2022 there has been some progress, as the activity and employment rates have slightly increased while the unemployment rate has decreased. In contrast to the population without disabilities, women with disabilities have higher activity, employment and unemployment rates than men (p. 16). Of the total, 84.10 % of workers with disabilities are employed in the service sector (p. 19). In 2023, more men than women with disabilities were hired (p. 21). By age range, in 2023 there were more workers with disabilities over 44 years of age employed or unemployed, followed by workers with disabilities between 25 and 44 years of age and by workers under 25 years of age (p. 22 and 31). From 2022 to 2023, there was a decrease in contracts, both for persons without disabilities and for persons with disabilities, with the reduction for the latter group being slightly smaller (p. 21). These reductions can be at least partially explained by the entry into force of the labour reform in 2022. This reform is a consequence of the entry into force of Royal Decree-Law 32/2021 of 28 December, which introduces changes to hiring procedures, with the aim of reducing the temporary nature of employment (p. 26).

The Olivenza Report (2023)¹⁸ states that 19.8 % of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over report that they have never worked. The proportion of women with disabilities who have never worked (27.3 %) is three times higher than that of men with disabilities (8.6 %). Although unemployment is significantly higher in the population with disabilities, the most revealing indicator is that of labour inactivity, which in the case of the population with disabilities is as high as 35 %, i.e. two out of every three persons of working age are neither working nor looking for a job (p. 36 and 151).

Odismet's General Report (2024)¹⁹ underlines that the difference between the activity rate of the population with and without disabilities, as of 2022, is 42.7 percentage points (i.e. 78 % vs 35.3 %). The report also underlines that in 10 years the activity rate of persons with disabilities has only increased by 2.1 percentage points, which reveals

¹⁶ SEPE (2024) Informe del Mercado de Trabajo de las Personas con Discapacidad Estatal. SEPE. Available at: https://sepe.es/SiteSepe/contenidos/que_es_el_sepe/publicaciones/pdf/pdf_mercado_trabajo/2024/Informe-del-Mercado-de-Trabajo-de-las-Personas-con-discapacidad.-Estat-2024--Datos-2023--NIPO.pdf.

¹⁷ According to the Spanish law regulating the rights of persons with disabilities, since 2014, individuals with a certified disability of 33 % or higher, as well as those receiving a permanent disability pension (*incapacidad*), are considered persons with disabilities. Among the latter group are individuals with an 'absolute' or 'severe' disability, who, by law, are unable to work. Consequently, within the broader population of persons with disabilities, there is a subgroup who, by definition, cannot engage in any form of employment. This factor may account for the disparities observed in some of the aforementioned data.

¹⁸ Huete García, A. (Dir.) (2023) Olivenza Report. The situation of persons with disabilities in Spain 2023. Observatorio Estatal de la Discapacidad. Available at: <https://www.observatorioladiscapacidad.info/wp-content/uploads/INFORME-OLIVENZA-2023.pdf>.

¹⁹ Odismet (2024). *Informe General. Principales resultados. Informe 9*. Observatorio sobre discapacidad y Mercado de trabajo en España. Available at <https://odismet.es/sites/default/files/2024-04/Informe%209.pdf>.

the need for policies and resources to motivate this population group to work (p. 22-23). The report also notes that from 2013 to 2022 the activity rate of different groups of persons with disabilities has increased by 8.9 percentage points, with the exception of the group of persons with visual impairments, whose activity rate has reduced by 4.7 percentage points (p. 25). The data also indicate that a lower degree of disability is associated with a higher activity rate (p. 26). In addition, a higher educational level is associated with higher activity rates (p. 28). From 2013 to 2022 the activity rate of women with disabilities increased by more than four points (from 22.2 % to 26.9 %). For men with disabilities, the activity rate increased for the same period by more than two percentage points (from 26 % to 28.4 %) (p. 31). From 2013 to 2022, the employment of persons with disabilities experienced the highest growth in the 25-44 age group; the 16-24 age group has the lowest employment levels of the whole series analysed, while the 25-44 age group had the highest employment rates of all the years analysed (p. 32). From 2013 to 2022 the group of persons with disabilities aged 16 to 24 experienced the largest drops in the unemployment rate and, overall, over a decade, the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities has fallen by 13.6 points (p. 37). From 2013 to 2022, long-term unemployment affects women with disabilities more than men with disabilities (p. 39). In ten years, the percentage of contracts for persons with disabilities, of the total number of contracts made, has only grown by 0.6 tenths (p. 45). Specific contracts for persons with disabilities represent between 30 % and 40 % of the total contracts made with this group. These contracts include both those carried out in ordinary companies and those in special employment centres. From 2013 to 2023, these contracts increased by 51.1 %. Of the total contracts, 71.1 % were carried out in special employment centres. As a consequence of the 2021 labour reform, the percentage of specific contracts for persons with disabilities in special employment centres increased to 21.8 % in 2023, compared to 7.2 % in 2013 (p. 54).

Women with disabilities continue to be disproportionately employed on part-time contracts, almost 14 points on average above men in the last 10 years (p. 65). From 2010 to 2021, the wage gap between workers with or without disabilities has increased (p. 71). From 2013 to 2022, the number of persons with disabilities who are self-employed increased, although the self-employment rate is experiencing a progressive decline for both the population with disabilities and the population without disabilities. This reveals a lack of aid and support for entrepreneurship (p. 77).

The White Paper²⁰ on Employment and Disability (2023)²¹ argues that only 50.8 % of persons with disabilities participate in the labour market, in contrast to 75 % of persons without disabilities (p. 383). It continues by stating that the inactivity rate of women with a disability in Spain is currently 76.20 %. Regarding intersectionalities, additional difficulties arise when persons with disabilities have been victims of sexist violence or victims of sexual violence, or if they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex (p. 385). Those with the greatest barriers to accessing the labour market are persons with cerebral palsy, with mental health issues, with intellectual disabilities or with

²⁰ The White Paper on Employment and Disability is a reference document promoted by political institutions and representative disability organisations (Royal Board on Disability, the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, CERMI and the ONCE Foundation). This document offers a scientific study of the employment of people with disabilities and puts forward proposals for public and private policies on the subject.

²¹ White Paper on Employment and Disability (2023). Real Patronato sobre Discapacidad/ Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030. Available at: https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/Libro_blanco_empleo_discapacidad_2023.pdf.

autism spectrum disorder, as well as those with physical or sensory disabilities, with a disability equal to or greater than 65 % (p. 385). The percentage of illiterate persons with disabilities is double that of the population without disabilities (p. 388). This document proposes the need to establish different job reservation quotas for people with disabilities, so that different types of disabilities and intersectional ties can be prioritised. It also posits the suitability of increasing the reservation quota to 4 % while reducing the number of workers that a company must have to adhere to said quota from 50 to 25 workers (p. 406-407). Replacing alternative measures with the creation of a special fund for the employment of persons with disabilities (p. 409) is also among the proposals. In the field of public employment, the suggestion is to increase the 7 % reserved positions quota, as some autonomous communities such as Castile and Leon are already doing, where the reservation quota is 10 % (2 % for people with intellectual disabilities, and 8 % for people with other disabilities) (p. 410). It also presents the need for greater regulatory development on adaptations and adjustments to public jobs, both in the access process and in the performance of such adaptations and adjustments (p. 412-413).

3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

The White Paper on Employment and Disability (2023)²² offers several useful suggestions on policies to be implemented. With regards to contracts, the White Paper proposes the need to establish a specific legal regime for training contracts for persons with disabilities, depending on the type and degree of disability and the level of starting qualification (non-existent, intermediate, or university) and a specific regime for supported employment, through a job coach, and for the resources necessary for reasonable adjustments and the design of an individualised training plan (p. 417). With regards to bonuses for hiring disabled workers, the White Paper alludes to the wide diversity of existing regulations, which generates a high degree of legal uncertainty. It therefore presents the need to prepare a single text that facilitates access to information on existing aid (p. 422). Added to this is the broad diversity of existing incentives at autonomous level, and hence it is proposed that there should be homogenisation based on the coordination guidelines designed by the Public State Employment Service (p. 423). The document continues by stating that self-employed persons with disabilities represent 10.41 % of the total number of employed workers with disabilities, and the majority do not have hired workers. Therefore, there is a need to promote the self-employment of persons with disabilities. To promote self-employment in this population, the White Paper on Entrepreneurship and Disability (2022)²³, prepared by the ONCE Foundation with the collaboration of self-employed associations, offers some suggestions. This document proposes establishing a zero bonus for self-employed workers with disabilities that exempts them from paying municipal taxes and fees (p. 425).

Regarding the Special Employment Centres, the White Paper on Employment and Disability presents the need to equate the collective agreements of these centres with those corresponding to the sector of the activity carried out (p. 435). It also proposes

²² White Paper on Employment and Disability (2023). Real Patronato sobre Discapacidad/ Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030. Available at: https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/Libro_blanco_empleo_discapacidad_2023.pdf.

²³ Fundación ONCE, Inserta Empleo, ATA y UPTA (2022). Libro blanco sobre emprendimiento y discapacidad. Fundación ONCE-Vía Libre. <https://cutt.ly/XwrQJKVm>.

promoting remote working for this population, with regulation comparable to that which exists for the general population, taking into account Law 10/2021 of 9 July²⁴ on remote work (p. 435).

The document continues to present the need to update the financial aid granted to special employment centres, giving better treatment to 'social initiative' centres, compared to for-profit private centres. The former group accounts for around 51 % of all special employment centres and for about 60 % of persons with disabilities in protected employment. At the same time, it is advisable to equate the bonuses for hiring at for-profit special employment centres with those applicable to ordinary companies, thus avoiding the attraction towards special employment centres for what should be ordinary employment (p. 441).

With regard to labour enclaves, the document raises the need to implement more rigid control and stabilisation systems in an ordinary company, as well as flexibility in the number of persons (three to five) needed to form an enclave²⁵ (p. 442). On the other hand, supported employment is considered in the aforementioned document as an alternative of great interest for the employment of persons with severe disabilities in the ordinary market. Hence the need to promote the certification of job coaches and the recruitment, preferably on an indefinite and full-time basis, of persons with severe disabilities (p. 447).

The White Paper also analyses the role of the third sector and social economy as contributors to the development of active employment policies and posits the suitability of allocating public subsidies not only to certain social economy formulas (special employment centres, cooperatives, reintegration companies for the unemployed, and labour societies), but also to any non-profit entity, as foreseen by the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030²⁶ and the Spanish Strategy for Promotion of the Social Economy 2021-2027.²⁷

The data set out above, in addition to those included throughout this document, highlight the disadvantaged situation of persons with disabilities in all the aspects analysed. They also confirm the relevance of the implementation of the Spain's Disability Strategy 2022-2030 (SDS), in order to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response to all these challenges.

Concerning labour market policies, the SDS mentions action number 23 of the RRP on new public policies for a dynamic, resilient and inclusive labour market as the framework for reviewing the regulatory framework and updating the formulas for

²⁴ Law 10/2021 of 9 July on remote work. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2021/07/10/pdfs/BOE-A-2021-11472.pdf>.

²⁵ This figure implies the execution of a contract between, on the one hand, a company called 'collaborating company' belonging to the ordinary labour market and, on the other hand, a special employment centre that provides a group of disabled workers temporarily displaced to the work centre of the former in order to carry out works or services that are directly related to the ordinary activity of the former (Article 1.2 of Royal Decree 290/2004 of 20 February).

²⁶ Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. Available at <https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/agenda2030/documentos/eds-cast-acce.pdf>.

²⁷ Resolution of 17 May 2023, of the Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, by which the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 11 April 2023 is published, approving the Spanish Social Economy Strategy 2023-2027. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2023/06/01/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-13033.pdf>.

access to employment for persons with disabilities through the social economy (i.e. special social initiative employment centres) (p. 61).

The SDS also presents the need to strengthen the mechanisms for inspection of compliance with the reserve quota for workers with disabilities when granting aid under the RRP (p. 63).

The SDS mentions the UN recommendations made to Spain in the field of employment and in relation to compliance with the CRPD and stresses the need to continue making legislative and policy changes to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and those in rural areas, through mandatory quotas. It also stresses the need to ensure that reasonable accommodation is made in the workplace, especially in the case of work-related accidents resulting in disability (p. 24). The SDS sets out a series of strategic challenges related to social inclusion and participation which, in the field of employment, focus on: (1) Ensuring compliance with the reserve quota for jobs; (2) Drawing up a White Paper on Employment and Disability that includes the necessary legislative reforms and accentuates access to ordinary employment; (3) Strengthening access to employment for persons with disabilities through the social economy; (4) Boosting access to public employment and improving the application of the reserve quota; (5) Ensuring reasonable accommodation to enable access to and permanence in employment for persons with disabilities, and to improve the regulation and monitoring of situations of discrimination; (6) Promoting new business opportunities, entrepreneurship and self-employment in the care economy, established traditional professions, emerging economic activities in rural areas, opportunities in the digital economy and ecological transformation (p. 39-40).

Spain has introduced hiring incentives and subsidies for job creation. As mentioned in the Joint Employment Report 2024²⁸ (p. 42), ‘Spain adopted in January 2023 a law envisaging social security rebates for specific groups with low employability, such as the long-term unemployed and young NEETs. The new legal regime has a special focus on creating permanent employment, including a minimum contract duration of three years, and provides the general rule that the sum of social security rebates with any other hiring incentive cannot exceed 60 % of the wage cost of the contract’.

Likewise, the same report states that ‘in 2023, Spain passed the V Agreement for Employment and Collective Bargaining, which, besides proposing wage increases, also provides official recommendations for lower negotiation units on a number of employment-related issues, including employment contracts, training and skills or retirement’ (p. 44). Various measures related to public sector wages have been taken: The salaries of public employees have increased by 1.5 % retroactively from January 2022, in addition to a 2 % increase approved for 2022 (p. 44).

In addition, in line with the Social Economy Action Plan, in April 2023 the Council of Ministers approved a draft Comprehensive Law on the Social Economy, which aims to: i) improve the existing legal ecosystem with amendments to the Law on Cooperatives, the Law on Reintegration Companies and the Social Economy Law; ii) extend the definition of vulnerability and social exclusion; and iii) clarify the scope of

²⁸ Comisión Europea, Dirección General de Empleo, Asuntos Sociales e Inclusión, Joint Employment Report 2024: as adopted by the EPSCO Council on 11 March 2024, Oficina de Publicaciones de la Unión Europea, 2024. Available at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/365500>.

the social economy, incorporating new entities such as social enterprises. Spain also adopted the New Social Economy Strategy 2023-27 in April 2023 and nominated a Special Commissioner to coordinate the projects under the Strategic Investment Plan for the social and care economy (p. 44). By October 2024, the planned comprehensive law to promote the social economy will have been passed.²⁹ This legislation will amend various existing laws to ensure a more precise definition of social economy enterprises and prevent fraud. Significantly, the law uses the term ‘persons in vulnerable situations’ to avoid stigmatisation. It is foreseeable that this new regulation will have substantially positive effects for persons with disabilities and social economy enterprises that work with this group.

As stated in the NRP 2023³⁰ (p. 355) Spain has implemented several measures in relation to active support for employment, such as: 1) The Law on Employment,³¹ which, in its Article 54 on persons with disabilities seeking employment services, considered these groups a priority recipient of these services, as well as promoting their employability and the implementation of supported employment services; 2) The National Strategy to Promote Self-Employment 2021-2027³² considers the self-employed with disabilities as one of the target groups; 3) the 2022-2024 Action Plan³³ of the Youth Strategy 2022-2030 also considers young people with disabilities as a disadvantaged group; 4) Royal Decree 608/2023 of 11 July, which develops the RED Mechanism for Flexibility and Stabilisation of Employment,³⁴ from which workers with disabilities can also benefit; 5) Spanish Strategy for Safety and Health at Work 2023-2027,³⁵ which provides for actions at Special Employment Centres to improve the protection of workers with disabilities.

²⁹ Available (in Spanish) at: https://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L15/CONG/BOCG/A/BOCG-15-A-36-1.PDF.

³⁰ Spain National Reform Programme (2023). Available at https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/52196c49-7f7c-4094-be9e-c6a15f6a1690_es?filename=2023-Spain-NRP_es.pdf&prefLang=en.

³¹ Law 3/2023, of 28 February on Employment. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2023/BOE-A-2023-5365-consolidado.pdf>.

³² Resolution of 24 May 2023, of the Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, by which the Agreement of the Council of Ministers is published, of 22 June 2022, approving the National Strategy to Promote Self-Employment (ENDITA) 2022-202. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2023/06/01/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-13034.pdf>.

³³ Action Plan 2022-2024 of the Youth Strategy 2022-2030. Available at https://www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/adjuntos/2023/06/primer_plan_accion_juventud_2022_2024.pdf. Annexes of the Plan are available at https://www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/adjuntos/2023/06/anexo_primer_plan_accion_2022_2024.pdf.

³⁴ Royal Decree 608/2023 of 11 July which develops the RED Mechanism for Flexibility and Stabilisation of Employment. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2023/BOE-A-2023-16158-consolidado.pdf>.

³⁵ Resolution of April 20, 2023, of the Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, by which the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 14 March 2023 is published, approving the Spanish Workplace Health and Safety Strategy 2023-2027. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2023/04/28/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-10283.pdf>.

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

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

Article 28 UN CRPD addresses ‘Adequate standard of living and social protection’.

‘53. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that the national strategy for reducing poverty incorporates a disability perspective, including specific measures and an allocated budget; (b) Repeal the co-payments system for all services necessary for living independently in the community and ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to those services.’

Article 19 UN CRPD addresses ‘Living independently in the community’.

‘38. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities: (a) Recognize the right to personal assistance in law, ensuring that all persons with disabilities are entitled to personal assistance, with individualized criteria for their independent living in the community and with access to a wide range of person-directed or user-led support and the self-management of service delivery; (b) Discontinue the use of public funds to build residential institutions for persons with disabilities and invest in independent living arrangements in the community and in all general services to make those arrangements inclusive, guaranteeing their accessibility and availability for all persons with disabilities, to enable their inclusion and participation in all spheres of life; (c) Design, adopt and implement a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy and implement safeguards to ensure the right to live independently and be included in the community across all regions, by redirecting resources from institutions to community-based services and increasing budgetary support for persons with disabilities to enhance their equal access to services, including personal assistance.’

Article 25 UN CRPD addresses ‘Health’.

‘49. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure the accessibility and availability of health-care services for all persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas; (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have accessible information and that health-care services are provided with alternative means of communication, such as sign language interpretation, Braille, Easy Read and all required augmentative means for that purpose; (c) Guarantee universal access to accessible sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, and information and education, particularly for women and girls with disabilities, and integrate the right to reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.’

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate that the risk of poverty for persons with disabilities is higher than for persons without disabilities, both for men and women, especially for the 16-64 age group with some limitations, and for those over 65 with severe limitations. In 2023, there has been a generalised and slight increase in unmet needs for medical examination, similar to that experienced in the EU.

Data from EU-SILC indicate that the poverty risk rate for working age persons with disabilities in Spain was 21.7 % in 2022 (EU27 average: 21.2 %), compared to 18.4 % for other persons of similar age (EU27 average 14.5 %) – an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 3.3 percentage points (see Table 11). For people aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 4.3 percentage points (20.8 % for older persons with disabilities and 16.5 % for other persons of similar age). For women aged 16-64, the disability poverty gap was 3.2 percentage points (22.2 % for women with disabilities and 19 % without disabilities) and 3.3 percentage points for men aged 16-64 (21.1 % for men with disabilities and 17.8 % without disabilities).

In 2022, people with disabilities aged 16 to 64 had an at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate of 33.7 % compared to 24.4 % for people with disabilities aged 65 years or older. In 2023, the relative risk for the working-age population with disabilities amounted to 35.9 %, and for the older age group to 23.7 %.

For persons with disabilities of working age (16 to 64), the risk of poverty before social transfers in 2022 was 43 % and 21.7 % after transfers. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities (aged 18 to 64) was 13.2 % in 2022. In 2023 the rate amounted to 12.6 %.

Of interest to health policy are the data on self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (too expensive, too far to travel or waiting list). The rate for persons with disabilities (age 16+) in Spain was 2.9 % compared to 0.5 % for other persons, which is below the EU27 average of 4.7 % for people with disabilities in 2022.

The Olivenza Report 2023³⁶ indicates that, as of 2023, in 20 of the 25 indicators of social inclusion in which it is possible to compare the data on persons with disabilities with those of the general population, the situation of persons with disabilities is more unfavourable than that of the general population. Thus, the levels of severe material and social deprivation, moderate poverty and severe poverty are higher for the population with disabilities (p. 26). The percentages are also higher in several housing indicators: housing in precarious conditions, housing in a very degraded environment, and excessive housing expenses (p. 27). Likewise, in terms of healthcare, the percentage of disabled persons without the medical treatment they need, and without access to the medicines they need, is also higher than for the general population (p. 27). Along the same lines, the percentage of persons with disabilities who have suffered physical or psychological abuse, precarious friendships and addictions is also higher (p. 27). The report points out that 7.9 % of the population with disabilities has

³⁶ Huete García, A. (Dir.) (2023) Olivenza Report. The situation of persons with disabilities in Spain 2023. Observatorio Estatal de la Discapacidad. Available at <https://www.observatoriodeladiscapacidad.info/wp-content/uploads/INFORME-OLIVENZA-2023.pdf>.

felt discriminated against because of their disability and that 6.5 % of this population is institutionalised (p. 27).

- Adequate standard of living and social protection:

In the document entitled 'The State of Poverty: Monitoring of the EU 2030 Agenda indicators for the period 2015-2022'³⁷ published in October 2023 by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN),³⁸ it is pointed out that, in Spain, persons with disabilities face a much higher risk of poverty and/or exclusion than those without disabilities. In 2022, almost one in three persons with disabilities (30 %) was at risk of poverty and/or exclusion, while for persons without disabilities the figure is 22.7 %. Moreover, the AROPE gap between persons with or without disabilities has been increasing and was particularly high in 2020. After that date, in the years 2021 and 2022, there was a substantial improvement in the AROPE rate for persons with disabilities. In 2022, the AROPE rate for persons with disabilities aged 18-64 was 33.8 %, however, for persons with disabilities aged 65 and over it was 24.4 %. The poverty rate in 2022 remains higher for persons with disabilities (21.3 %) than for persons without disabilities (18.1 %) and is higher for women (22.5 %) than for men (19.8 %) with disabilities. In 2022, the rate of severe social and material deprivation among persons with disabilities (10.9 %) was double that of persons without disabilities (5.5 %).

The 2023 Operational Plan for the development of the national strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion 2019-2023³⁹ indicates that, in 2022, material deprivation increased. Five of the seven components of severe material deprivation have increased, namely: inability to keep the house at an adequate temperature, inability to cover unforeseen expenses, inability to afford to go on holiday for at least one week a year, inability to afford a meal of meat, chicken or fish at least every other day, and inability to own a car. The two components that increased the most in 2022 were: not being able to heat the home to an adequate temperature and not being able to cover unforeseen expenses.

- Living independently in the community:

According to data from the survey on populations with disabilities residing in centres (EDAD centres) for the year 2023:⁴⁰ (1) 94.7 % of persons residing in care centres had some form of disability; (2) The most frequent types of disabilities relate to self-care (88.6 %), doing household tasks (86.9 %) and mobility (86.2 %); (3) 52.8 % of persons with disabilities reported encountering some form of accessibility issue, either inside or outside the centre; (4) 94.4 % of persons with disabilities who reside in care centres never felt discriminated against because of their disability; (5) 74.2 % of persons with disabilities considered the contact they had with family, friends or acquaintances to be adequate; (6) Out of the 357 894 persons with disabilities residing in care centres,

³⁷ Available at <https://www.eapn.es/estadodepobreza/ARCHIVO/documentos/informe-ARPE-2023-pobreza-discapacidad.pdf>.

³⁸ The EAPN is a European network to combat poverty and social exclusion in Spain.

³⁹ Available at https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/inclusion/contenido-actual-web/190923_PO_2023_vfinal.pdf.

⁴⁰ Available at <https://www.ine.es/dyns/Prensa/en/EDAD2023.htm>.

8.2 % decide what and when to eat and 19.7 % when to wash themselves. These persons had greater autonomy to decide how and with whom to spend their free time and how to decorate their room with personal items.

According to the Census of Residential Centres of Social Services in Spain Situation Year 2022,⁴¹ there are 1 455 residential centres for persons with disabilities. This is equivalent to one residential centre of this type for every 2 300 persons with disabilities. Of the 1 187 centres from which data have been obtained for the study, 73 % are privately owned and non-profit making. The average is 34 bed places per centre, with the number of bed places in the privately owned and non-profit centres being lower (25.7 bed places per centre) than in the publicly owned and managed centres (52.4 bed places per centre). A total of 97.4 % of the bed places were covered on a permanent basis.

The profile of the residents in these centres is that of a man (58.4 %) with a recognised degree of dependency of I or II (49.2 %) or III (41.7 %) and aged under 65 (84.9 %). As regards the offer of proximity services (day centre, meal service and home help) in these centres, these are offered by 66.4 %, and are more frequent in non-profit centres (72.23 %) than in for-profit centres (43.75 %).

On average, 48.1 % of the rooms are double occupancy, 40.5 % of the rooms are single occupancy and the remaining 11.4 % are triple occupancy or higher. 28.1 % of the centres for persons with disabilities that responded to the questionnaire have a Universal Accessibility Management System certified according to the UNE 170001-2:2007 Standard. Eighty-one percent of the centres have direct access to the internet from the residents' rooms.

According to the 2024 report of the Barometer of Unwanted Loneliness in Spain,⁴² persons with disabilities experience a prevalence of unwanted loneliness 30 points higher than persons without disabilities (50.6 % compared to 19.1 %) and women with disabilities experience unwanted loneliness at a higher rate than men with disabilities (54.3 % compared to 45.7 %).

According to the study⁴³ on deinstitutionalisation processes and the transition to personalised and community-based support models for persons with disabilities,⁴⁴ of the more than four million persons with disabilities in Spain, 32 934 persons with disabilities are in residential centres.

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

The main relevant policies relate to the progressive implementation of the measures outlined in the SDGs. Thus, in the area of personal autonomy and independent living

⁴¹ Available at https://imserso.es/documents/20123/7034125/censo_centros_r_2022.pdf/0fa74538-4a22-2c09-6196-3578cc20b618.

⁴² Available at https://www.soledades.es/sites/default/files/contenidos/Informe_Barometro%20soledad-v2.pdf.

⁴³ The Study on the processes of de-institutionalisation and transition towards personalised and community-based support models (hereafter EDI Study or EDI Project), has been funded by the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 within the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. It has been developed by a research team from the University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain.

⁴⁴ Available at <https://estudiodesinstitucionalizacion.gob.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/3.-Estudio-EDI-Discapacidad.pdf>.

included within the strategic challenges related to Social Inclusion and Participation in the SDGs, the proposal (p. 41) is to reduce the high levels of poverty among persons with disabilities and, in particular, among women with disabilities, by strengthening social benefits so that they compensate for the additional costs of disability. In addition, concrete measures are proposed at national level, focusing on exploring the compatibility between social security pensions and benefits and employment, facilitating flexible transitions into and out of employment and from employment to inactivity (p. 72). Other measures focus on revising the regulation on persons with disabilities who require the non-contributory cash benefit, such as the Minimum Vital Income, to take into account the additional cost of disability; extending the benefit for a dependent child or minor to people over 18 years of age with a disability equal to or greater than 45 %; establishing support measures in the different autonomous communities, taking into account the additional cost of disability (p. 72).

The NRP 2023, with regard to the improvement of ‘Social and territorial cohesion and policies for future generations’, includes the following measures:

- social protection, which includes, among other improvements, the implementation of a plan for the reorganisation and general simplification of the non-contributory economic benefits of the General State Administration,⁴⁵ the regulation of the Minimum Living Income,⁴⁶ the Independent Evaluation of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependence,⁴⁷ the procedure for the recognition, declaration and qualification of the degree of disability,⁴⁸ and the publication of Spain’s Strategy on Disability 2022-2030;⁴⁹
- the pension system, including actions such as reforming the system to make it more equitable and sustainable;⁵⁰ and
- housing, which includes actions such as the implementation of the State Plan for Access to Housing 2022-2025,⁵¹ which includes a Housing Development Programme for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The NRP 2023 on ‘Macroeconomic stability and resilience’ refers to the health system and measures for immediate response to unforeseen circumstances. The NRP 2023

⁴⁵ Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2022/11/04/pdfs/BOE-A-2022-18143.pdf>.

⁴⁶ Royal Decree 789/2022 of 27 September, which regulates the compatibility of the Minimum Vital Income with income from work or self-employment,, in order to improve real opportunities for social and labour market inclusion of the beneficiaries of the labour inclusion. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2022/BOE-A-2022-15764-consolidado.pdf>.

⁴⁷ Available at: https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/inclusion/docs/estudio_evaluacion_saad_completo.pdf.

⁴⁸ Royal Decree 888/2022 of 18 October, which establishes the procedure for the recognition, declaration and qualification of the degree of disability. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2022/10/20/pdfs/BOE-A-2022-17105.pdf>.

⁴⁹ Available at: <https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/estrategia-espanola-discapacidad-2022-2030-def.pdf>.

⁵⁰ See Royal Decree-Law 2/2023 of 16 March on urgent measures to increase pensioners’ rights, reduce the gender gap and establish a new framework for the sustainability of the public pension system. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2023/BOE-A-2023-6967-consolidado.pdf>.

⁵¹ Royal Decree 42/2022 of 18 January, which regulates the ‘Bono Alquiler Joven’ (Youth Rental Voucher) and the State Plan for access to housing 2022-2025. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2022/BOE-A-2022-802-consolidado.pdf>.

also includes information on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in relation to healthcare, with measures such as:

- improvement of the Public Health Framework with the approval of different strategies and plans (e.g. the Spanish Strategy for Public Health;⁵² or the Plan for Primary and Community Care 2022-2023);⁵³
- approval of the draft law to improve the equity and cohesion of the National Health System,⁵⁴ update of the law on the use of medicines and medical devices,⁵⁵ and development of a draft law to regulate the financing and pricing of medicines and medical devices;⁵⁶ and
- launching the Strategic Economic Recovery and Transformation Project (PERTE) for Leading Edge Health.⁵⁷

Concerning adequate standard of living and social protection, several measures have been undertaken:

- The Operational Plan 2023 for the development of the national strategy to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion has been published.⁵⁸ This plan establishes that the Minimum Vital Income will be increased for persons with disabilities and how other pensions and benefits will be reassessed taking into account the presence of a disability.
- Royal Decree 675/2023 of 18 July, which modifies dependency benefits, has been published.⁵⁹ This amendment aims to promote flexibility and increase the possibilities for combining benefits from the SAAD in order to provide more personalised care.
- The proposal for the Families Law 2024,⁶⁰ which ensures full legal recognition of different types of families and their protection, is developed. It includes additional measures and services for families with children with disabilities; and

⁵² Available at https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/pdf/Estrategia_de_Salud_Publica_2022_Pendiente_de_NIPO.pdf.

⁵³ Available at <https://www.sanidad.gob.es/organizacion/consejoInterterri/docs/1434.pdf>.

⁵⁴ Available at https://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L15/CONG/BOCG/A/BOCG-15-A-29-1.PDF.

⁵⁵ Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2015/BOE-A-2015-8343-consolidado.pdf>.

⁵⁶ Available at https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ca/normativa/audiencia/docs/TEXTO_Y_MAIN_RD_FINANCIACION_PPSS_PARA_IP_Y_TA.pdf.

⁵⁷ Available at https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/sites/default/files/2024-04/PERTE_Salud_de_Vanguardia_Resumen_Ejecutivo_Actualizacion_2024.pdf.

⁵⁸ Available at https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/inclusion/contenido-actual-web/190923_PO_2023_vfinal.pdf.

⁵⁹ Royal Decree 675/2023 of 18 July, amending Royal Decree 1051/2013 of 27 December, regulating the benefits of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency, established in Law 39/2006 of 14 December on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2023/07/19/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-16651.pdf>.

⁶⁰ Available at https://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L15/CONG/BOCG/A/BOCG-15-A-11-1.PDF.

- The State Strategy for Children's and Adolescents' Rights (2023-2030) is developed.⁶¹ This strategy states that 'adopting a disability approach makes it possible to analyse, make visible and thus address inequalities between children with and without disabilities. It should be used systematically in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, regulatory measures and budgetary programmes, with the aim of promoting equality and combating discrimination; this is known as disability mainstreaming' (p. 9). The strategy recognises the increased economic vulnerability of these children and young people with disabilities. It also recognises the need for stronger support for educational inclusion. It sets out lines of action on issues such as deinstitutionalisation. In this respect, it indicates that in 2023 37 % of children with disabilities will be living in a residential facility and the objective is that by 2030 there will be no children under 10 years of age living in a residential facility. It also considers the need to reduce the digital divide among children and young people with disabilities.

Regarding living independently in the community, several policy measures are worthy of mention:

- The State Plan for Access to Housing 2022-2025 includes: (a) the programme for the promotion of housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities; (b) the Housing Rental Aid Programme, which contains additional benefits for persons with disabilities.
- Law 12/2023 of 24 May on the right to housing,⁶² which contains specific measures to support economically vulnerable persons, such as persons with disabilities, as well as information accessibility and universal accessibility measures.
- The State strategy for a new model of care in the community: A process of deinstitutionalisation (2024-2030),⁶³ which proposes measures to transform support and care systems for persons living in situations of dependency, vulnerability or exclusion.
- Regional regulations such as, for example, Law 1/2024 of 8 February on support for the life plan of persons with disabilities in Castille and Leon,⁶⁴ which aims to establish the professional support that must be provided to persons with disabilities, in a subsidiary manner to that provided by the natural environment and the community, so that they can live their lives respecting their will and preferences. It also aims to guarantee continuity of care throughout life, especially in the transitions inherent to each stage of the life cycle, as well as in situations of special vulnerability.

⁶¹ Available at https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/infancia-y-adolescencia/PDF/Conferencia_Sectorial/report_CERTIF_29_03_3023 ESTRATEGIA A CM.pdf.

⁶² Law 12/2023 of 24 May on the right to housing. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2023/BOE-A-2023-12203-consolidado.pdf>.

⁶³ Available at <https://estrategiadesinstitucionalizacion.gob.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Estrategia-para-nuevo-modelo-cuidados-en-la-comunidad.pdf>.

⁶⁴ Law 1/2024 of 8 February, on support for the life plan of persons with disabilities in Castille and Leon. Available at <https://bocyl.jcyl.es/boletines/2024/02/19/pdf/BOCYL-D-19022024-1.pdf>.

- Agreement on Common Criteria for the accreditation and quality of the centres and services of the SAAD,⁶⁵ which aims to guarantee the right of dependent persons to receive quality services regardless of where they live in Spain.
- Actions on accessibility: Royal Decree 193/2023⁶⁶ of 21 March, which regulates the basic conditions for accessibility and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities for access to and use of goods and services available to the public. This regulation establishes positive action measures and other complementary support aimed at compensating for the initial disadvantages experienced by persons with disabilities.

Healthcare services are discussed in the document Equity and the Right to Health and Healthcare for Persons with Disabilities: Situation in Spain 2023,⁶⁷ which states that the number of persons with disabilities is increasing due to the ageing of the population. In the State Strategy for a new model of care in the community: A process of deinstitutionalisation (2024-2030),⁶⁸ it is noted that the number of persons with disabilities is increasing due to the ageing population. The report notes that family care continues to be the backbone of long-term care in Spain, with almost 70 % of dependent persons being cared for by a family member alone. The main family carers are women: daughters, mothers and partners. The same is true for persons with disabilities. The traditional care model has, for decades, generated gender inequalities, and continues to do so today. This limits the autonomy, professional development and quality of life of women carers.

In the evaluation report of the system for the promotion of personal autonomy and care for dependent persons (SAAD) of 2022,⁶⁹ it is said that long-term care to meet the needs of dependent persons under the SAAD needs to be adjusted to address the inadequacy of benefits, the slow and complex management and quality, which has been questioned during the pandemic.

In response to the constraints outlined above, a number of initiatives have been launched:

- The First National Plan for the Healthy Well-being of Persons with Disabilities 2022-2026.⁷⁰ The plan includes six main lines of action, each with its own monitoring and evaluation. These lines relate to: (a) strengthening early care; (b) implementation of health and social services and programmes, with special consideration for women and girls with disabilities; (c) promotion of health and prevention of diseases and other factors causing disability; (d) promotion of healthy ageing throughout life; (e) prevention of the exacerbation of disabilities through the implementation of actions related to deinstitutionalisation, provision

⁶⁵ Available at: <https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/servicios-sociales/docs/AcuerdoSAAD.pdf>.

⁶⁶ Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2023/BOE-A-2023-7417-consolidado.pdf>.

⁶⁷ Available at <https://www.consaludmental.org/publicaciones/Equidad-derecho-salud-asistencia-discapacidad.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Available at <https://estrategiadesinstitucionalizacion.gob.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Estrategia-para-nuevo-modelo-cuidados-en-la-comunidad.pdf>.

⁶⁹ Available at mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/inclusion/docs/estudio_evaluacion_saad_completo.pdf.

⁷⁰ Available at https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/discapacidad/docs/Plan_Bienestar_Definitivo.pdf.

of personal assistance, and the updating of the Social Services Act; (f) research, training and awareness-raising.

- The National Health System Mental Health Strategy 2022-2026,⁷¹ which includes among its objectives, (a) to guarantee the exercise of autonomy and independent living rights; (b) to eradicate discrimination and promote social inclusion with a gender perspective, and to (c) minimise involuntary interventions on people with mental health problems while ensuring respect for the individual's dignity. Several specific objectives and recommendations are included for each general objective.
- As stated in the 2022 evaluation report on the system for the promotion of personal autonomy and care for dependent persons (SAAD),⁷² within the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan 2021 (RRP) (Government of Spain, 2020), the Spanish Government has launched the policy lever VIII 'New care economy and employment policy', which includes component 22: 'Shock plan for the care economy and reinforcement of inclusion policies'. I.1: 'Deinstitutionalisation, equipment and technology' (pilot projects to move from institutional to community-based services). With regard to long-term care (LTC), the objective of this Plan is to improve care for dependent persons by transforming the model of 'support and long-term care, to facilitate the transition to a deinstitutionalised model, Person-Centred Care (PCP) and the development of community services and home care'. The simplification of access procedures, the improvement in the quality of care and employment and the community and gender equality approach are part of the philosophy of the new policy being implemented through the dependency shock plan, the National Deinstitutionalisation Strategy and the investments of the Long-term Care and Support Plan.
- The National Health System's Digital Health Strategy (2021-2026)⁷³ does not mention any action related to the care of persons with disabilities as users of these services (e.g. universal accessibility, cognitive accessibility, etc.), or to the rights of persons with disabilities or national or international regulations in this regard.

⁷¹ English version available at https://www.sanidad.gob.es/areas/calidadAsistencial/estrategias/saludMental/docs/EstrategiaSaludMental_ingles.pdf.

⁷² Available at mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/inclusion/docs/estudio_evaluacion_saad_completo.pdf.

⁷³ Available at https://www.sanidad.gob.es/areas/saludDigital/doc/Estrategia_de_Salud_Digital_del_SNS.pdf.

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

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

Article 24 UN CRPD addresses ‘Education’.

‘The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to view inclusive education as a right, and grant all students with disabilities, regardless of their personal characteristics, the right to access inclusive learning opportunities in the mainstream education system, with access to support services as required. The Committee also recommends that the State party implement all other recommendations contained in the report on the inquiry. 47. The Committee recommends that the State party formulate a comprehensive inclusive education policy with strategies for promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education, including individualized human-rights based assessments of educational requirements and necessary accommodation, support for teachers, respect for diversity in ensuring the rights to equality and non-discrimination, and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society.’

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC 2022 estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with additional caution due to relatively wide confidence intervals, but they consistently indicate disability equality gaps. Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in Spain for 2022. Youth with disabilities (ages 18-24) tend to leave education early more than their peers of the same age groups without disabilities (20 % compared to 10.9 %). This holds true when the sample size is widened to age 18-29 (23.9 % compared to 13.5 %). The early leaving rate for persons with disabilities aged 18 to 24 was above the EU 2030 target of less than 9 %.⁷⁴ The average early leaving rate from education for the EU27 in 2022 was 19.2 %, compared to 8.6 % for persons without disabilities. Additional information from Eurostat⁷⁵ reveals that, in 2023, the share of ‘early school leavers’ (young persons aged 18-24 leaving education and training early) in the EU was 9.5 %. The share has steadily decreased over the last 10 years (from 11.8 % in 2013), bringing EU members closer to the target of reducing the rates of early education leavers to below 9.0 % by 2030. Compared with 2013, Spain has experienced one of the highest falls in early leavers (-9.9 percentage points). However, Spain has the second-highest share of early leavers in the EU (13.7 %).

Table 17 shows the completion rate of tertiary education disaggregated by disability and two age groups in Spain for 2022. Persons with disabilities (aged 30-34) were less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (48.5 % compared to 56.1 %). This is reinforced slightly in the wider age range of 25-34 years, which amounted to 46.3 %, compared to 55.9 % for people without disabilities. This is above the EU 2030 target of 45 %. Continuing with Eurostat,⁷⁶ in 2023, 43 % of the EU population aged

⁷⁴ European Education Area Strategic Framework: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/about-eea/strategic-framework>.

⁷⁵ See: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20240523-1>.

⁷⁶ See: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20240527-1>.

25-34 years had completed tertiary education (ISCED levels 5-8). This is 2 percentage points below the EU's 2030 target, which aims for 45 % of the EU population aged between 25 and 34 years to have tertiary education. At 52 %, Spain has already met the target. Scholarships and grants established for students with specific educational support needs,⁷⁷ including students with disabilities, do not seem to generate sufficient motivation to increase enrolment and success rates.

According to Eurostat,⁷⁸ in 2023, more than one in ten (11.2 %) young people aged 15 to 29 in the EU were not in employment or in education or training (NEET). The goal is to lower the NEET rate of young people aged 15-29 to 9 % by 2030. In Spain the rate is 13.3 %.

According to the latest data published by the Ministry of Education concerning students with educational support needs,⁷⁹ in the academic year 2022-2023,⁸⁰ a total of 966 924 pupils with specific educational needs received educational support during the 2022/2023 school year. This represents 12 % of all pupils in school. Of these, 262 732 (3.3 % of the total number of pupils in school) had special educational needs (SEN) associated with some type of disability or serious disorder. Of the 262 732 SEN students, the most frequent cases correspond to students with autism spectrum disorders (29.7 %), with intellectual disabilities (26.9 %), and with severe behavioural problems (26.1 %). The remaining 704 192 (8.7 % of the total number of students attending school) corresponds to students with other specific educational support needs (SESN), among which students in a situation of socio-educational vulnerability (36.0 %), with learning difficulties (31.0 %), with attention disorders (7.8 %), with mild and moderate language and communication development disorders (7.7 %), and with high intellectual abilities (7.3 %) stand out.

Considering only students with SEN, the SEN profile most present in classrooms is autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The predominant type of SEN in special education is a student with an intellectual disability, followed by a student with ASD. In pre-school, primary, secondary and post-secondary education, the most prevalent SEN is the student with ASD. In basic vocational training, the most prevalent student is the student with an intellectual disability. In intermediate and higher vocational training, students with severe behavioural disorders predominate.⁸¹

⁷⁷ See: <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2024/04/19/pdfs/BOE-B-2024-14197.pdf>.

⁷⁸ See: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20240613-1>.

⁷⁹ In Spain, legislation distinguishes between students with specific educational support needs and students with special educational needs. Students with specific educational support needs are those who require additional educational support due to any of the following characteristics: special educational needs, maturational delay, language and communication development disorders, attention or learning disorders, severe lack of knowledge of the language, socio-educational vulnerability, high intellectual abilities, late entry into the education system, personal conditions or school history.

Therefore, students with SEN are a subgroup within the broader group of students with specific educational support needs. This group includes students with intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory disability, autism spectrum disorder, specific language disorders affecting comprehension and expression, severe behaviour disorders, multiple disabilities, and general developmental delay.

⁸⁰ See: <https://estadisticas.educacion.gob.es/EducaDynPx/educabase/index.htm?type=pcaxis&path=/no-universitaria/alumnado/apoyo/2022-2023/acnee&file=pcaxis&l=s0>.

⁸¹ See: https://estadisticas.educacion.gob.es/EducaJaxiPx/Datos.htm?path=/no-universitaria/alumnado/apoyo/2022-2023/resumen/I0/&file=resumen_01.px.

The rate of SEN students in relation to the total number of students enrolled in non-university education is around 2-3 % in pre-primary, primary, secondary and intermediate vocational education and training. The rate in basic vocational training is around 7 %, while in higher vocational training this falls to less than 1 %.⁸²

In the VI Study on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Spanish University System⁸³ it is noted that, for the 2021-2022 academic year, the number of students with disabilities at Spanish universities was 22 156, which represents 1.6 % of the total student body. Of the 22 156 university students with disabilities, 48.10 % studied by distance learning and 51.9 % in person. 86.3 % were enrolled in public universities and 13.7 % in private universities. Furthermore, 50.9 % were women with disabilities, compared to 49.14 % who were men with disabilities. Of the total number of students with disabilities, 34.1 % have physical disabilities, followed by 13.3 % with intellectual or developmental disabilities, 10.9 % with sensory disabilities and, lastly, 4.0 % with a psychosocial or mental health disability.

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

At non-university levels, the following actions should be highlighted:

- The Ministry of Education has launched a programme to fund inclusive education.^{84 85} This programme aims to promote inclusive practices in pre-primary and primary education. It proposes awareness-raising, training and collaboration measures. Funding is mainly based on the size of schools. Alternative approaches for funding that prioritise the number of students with disabilities included could help increase inclusion outcomes.

The following initiatives also have a high potential for improving the situation of students with disabilities. Hence, disaggregated data on students with specific and special needs are required for all of them, in order to monitor the impact of this initiative on students with disabilities:

- The Ministry of Education has launched the Emotional Well-being in Education programme,⁸⁶ through which it offers financial support to the autonomous communities so that they can develop actions in the fields of emotional well-being and mental health from the perspective of educational intervention.
- Launch of the CODI – Digital Competences for Children Programme⁸⁷ – which seeks to guarantee digital inclusion from childhood. Through the design of methodologies, content and teaching materials, it aims to provide basic digital skills to children and adolescents at risk of digital exclusion. The programme is carried out during non-school hours and periods, integrated into extracurricular

⁸² See: https://estadisticas.educacion.gob.es/EducaJaxiPx/Datos.htm?path=/no-universitaria/alumnado/apoyo/2022-2023/resumen/I0/&file=resumen_03.px.

⁸³ Available at <https://www.fundacionuniversia.net/content/dam/fundacionuniversia/pdf/VI%20Estudio%20Universidad%20y%20Discapacidad%20ACCESIBLE.pdf>.

⁸⁴ See: <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2022/12/22/pdfs/BOE-A-2022-21791.pdf>.

⁸⁵ See: <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2024/06/19/pdfs/BOE-B-2024-22846.pdf>.

⁸⁶ See: <https://www.educacionfpydeportes.gob.es/mc/sgctie/cooperacion-territorial/programas-cooperacion/bienestar-emocional.html>.

⁸⁷ See: <https://espanadigital.gob.es/lineas-de-actuacion/programa-codi>.

activities or during the summer period, combines face-to-face and online training and corresponds to 50 hours of training for each student. It also has a gender perspective that is particularly focused on adolescent girls.

- Launch of the Programme for Guidance, Advancement and Educational Enrichment PROA⁸⁸ aimed at providing support and guidance to pupils in vulnerable educational situations and reducing school dropout and early school leaving rates.
- Launch of the School Code 4.0. Programme,⁸⁹ which aims to develop computational thinking and programming skills among teachers and students in public schools.
- To improve the inclusion of students with disabilities in the education system, the current educational legislation (LOMLOE),⁹⁰ in its 4th Additional Provision, commits itself to the following: in collaboration with the educational administrations, develop a 10-year plan so that ordinary educational centres have the necessary resources to cater for students with disabilities in the best possible conditions, thus complying with the UN CRPD (Article 24.2.e). The administrations will continue to provide the necessary support to special education centres, so that they become a point of reference and support for ordinary centres.
- At the vocational training level, the Ministry of Education has implemented the Acreditas programme.⁹¹ This programme enables people with at least 3 years of work experience or a minimum of 300 hours of training to obtain official recognition of their professional skills. The aim is to increase the chances of finding a job, to improve working conditions and to continue training. Thus, after completing the procedure, the person can receive information on further training required to obtain an official vocational qualification.
- Also in this vein, within the RRP, Component 20: Strategic Plan for the Promotion of Vocational Training,⁹² should also be highlighted as it can be a pathway for the training and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

At university level:

- The Ministry of Universities, within the framework of the RRP, has created a EUR 50 million fund for the development of the Microcreds Plan.⁹³ University micro-credentials are credentials gained from short courses (fewer than 15 ECTS credits) focused on the acquisition of specific knowledge, skills or competencies; they are flexible in format and adaptable to the diverse needs and availability limitations of adult students.

⁸⁸ See: <https://www.educacionfpydeportes.gob.es/mc/sgctie/cooperacion-territorial/programas-cooperacion/proa.html>.

⁸⁹ See: <https://espanadigital.gob.es/lineas-de-actuacion/programa-codigo-escuela-40>.

⁹⁰ Organic Law 3/2020 of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006 of 3 May on Education. Available at <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/12/30/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-17264.pdf>.

⁹¹ See: <https://todofp.es/acreditacion-de-competencias.html>.

⁹² See: https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/sites/default/files/2023-10/0310203_adenda_plan_de_recuperacion_componente20.pdf.

⁹³ See: <https://www.universidades.gob.es/plan-microcreds/>.

- Together with ONCE Foundation, there has been promotion of the 'Inclusive Campuses, Campuses without limits'⁹⁴ programme, aimed at enabling young people with disabilities to live and learn about the university experience first-hand during week-long stays on different university campuses.
- The new law on university education (LOSU)⁹⁵ proposes reserving 5 % of the places offered on the different courses of study for persons with disabilities. It also proposes grants, aid and exemptions for these students, as well as equal opportunities to participate in mobility programmes and other types of activities. It also establishes that universities must adopt positive action measures so that students with disabilities can enjoy an inclusive, accessible and adaptable university education, on an equal footing with the rest of the student body, making reasonable adjustments, both curricular and methodological, to teaching materials, teaching methods and the assessment system. It also establishes that universities must facilitate the use of sign languages by sign language users when necessary. It also establishes that universities must promote access to university studies for persons with intellectual disabilities and for other reasons of disability, by enabling studies to be adapted to their abilities.
- The amendment to the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation, which entered into force in September 2022,⁹⁶ provides that the duration of pre-doctoral contracts for persons with disabilities can be up to six years, two years longer than for a non-disabled pre-doctoral researcher. The duration of postdoctoral contracts for persons with disabilities can be extended to eight years, i.e. two years longer than for postdoctoral researchers without disabilities.

In adult education, the 2021-2025 SME digitisation plan is worth mentioning.⁹⁷ This includes support for digital entrepreneurship to foster a more innovative, dynamic and competitive economy, in line with the Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy. It also aims to mobilise public and private investment and maximise progress in the digitisation of companies, reduce existing gender gaps and take full advantage of the opportunities arising from the European funds of the different instruments of Next Generation EU.

⁹⁴ See: <https://campusinclusivos.fundaciononce.es/>.

⁹⁵ Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March, on the University System. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2023/BOE-A-2023-7500-consolidado.pdf>.

⁹⁶ Law 17/2022 of 5 September, amending Law 14/2011 of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation. Available at <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2022/BOE-A-2022-14581-consolidado.pdf>.

⁹⁷ Available at https://espanadigital.gob.es/sites/espanadigital/files/2022-06/210127_plan_digitalizacion_pymes.pdf.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

The RRP includes three groups of measures in which it is possible to set some priorities for persons with disabilities. Firstly, measures related to the green transition and, in particular, to the improvement of buildings, transport and the circular economy, should offer additional support to persons with disabilities and ensure access to information and support. The green transition is also an opportunity to develop training schemes that empower persons with disabilities and provide them with good employability opportunities. This, in turn, will lead to improvements in economic and social resilience.

Secondly, measures related to the digital transition and investment in digital skills training and digitisation of businesses, services and education should also have special funding streams for this group and need to be mentioned as a priority group. Third sector companies should also be supported in making this transition. Persons with disabilities should be given priority when it comes to receiving training (compulsory, tertiary, vocational and adult) in these new ways of accessing employment. As above, this will lead to improvements in economic and social resilience. As stated in the CR, the RRP also retains a strong social dimension with social protection measures, especially related to upskilling and reskilling workers (p. 30).

In terms of additional measures to improve economic and social resilience, the authors state that sustainable and adequate pensions must be ensured, taking into account the additional costs of disability and the additional costs of the post-pandemic and war years in Ukraine, with soaring energy prices affecting the shopping basket and the purchase of other products (healthcare, hygiene, etc.) that are essential for many of this population.

The funds of the RRP⁹⁸ are accessed through three channels: (1) through calls for proposals published by ministries, state-owned public companies, autonomous communities, city councils and other local entities; (2) through PERTEs or strategic projects that require collaboration between administrations, companies and research centres; and (3) through expressions of interest, which are consultations carried out by the different ministries to analyse possible areas of action.

It is important to point out that Spain has implemented the ELISA⁹⁹ data visualisation tool, which makes it possible to monitor calls for tenders and subsidies, as well as their resolution, both for funds managed directly by the General State Administration and for those managed at regional and local level. This allows the execution of the RRP to be monitored.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ See: <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos>.

⁹⁹ See: <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/ejecucion/elisa-el-plan-en-cifras>.

¹⁰⁰ After consultation of this database, it seems that, as of 31 May 2024, on average, almost half of the subsidies have gone to microenterprises (49.32 %), followed by foundations (24.86 %), large companies (11.67 %), temporary joint ventures (8.88 %) and, finally, households (5.27 %). Of the total number resolved, the highest percentage corresponds to lever I, urban and rural agenda (23.54 %), followed by lever II, sustainable infrastructure (19.15 %), lever V, modernisation of the industrial fabric (18.25 %), lever VI, science and health (10.81 %), lever III, energy transition (6.97 %), lever VIII, economy of care and employment (6.94 %), lever IV, 21st century administration (7.54 %), lever VII on education and training (5.13 %), and IX on culture and sport (1.40 %).

Concerning calls for proposals, it is also possible to access a list of open or closed calls for proposals, consisting of grants and subsidies or calls for tenders, within the framework of the RRP.¹⁰¹ Although it is desirable to make the application more user-friendly and with the possibility of searching by different fields and in different types of actions, the p. gives visibility and brings together information, which is a step forward in transparency and access to information. So far, and according to the search engine, a total of 117 projects with the descriptor 'disability' have been funded. Of them, 68 consist of calls for tenders (e.g. for the construction of centres¹⁰² or homes¹⁰³ for people with intellectual disabilities) and 49 consist of subsidies (e.g. for digital skills training¹⁰⁴ or for improving employability).¹⁰⁵

Of the total number of tenders (N = 68), more than half (51.5 %) are related to the provision of materials and equipment for centres for persons with disabilities (e.g. adapted vehicles,¹⁰⁶ cranes,¹⁰⁷ equipment for athletes,¹⁰⁸ robotic assistants,¹⁰⁹ accessible signage).¹¹⁰ Some 27.9 % relate to the subsidising of construction, rehabilitation or building expansion for centres for persons with disabilities (e.g. day centres,¹¹¹ occupational centres,¹¹² residence,¹¹³ and housing).¹¹⁴ Meanwhile, 20.6 % relate to actions for persons with disabilities (e.g. drafting of construction projects,¹¹⁵ awareness-raising campaigns,¹¹⁶ digitalisation of files,¹¹⁷ creation of accessible routes in nature,¹¹⁸ universal accessibility studies).¹¹⁹ It would be advisable for the database on the calls for proposals to include basic information such as mentioned above, on the type of action subsidised (work, equipment, action), rather than this having to be done by us for this report.

¹⁰¹ See: https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos/convocatorias?combine=discapacidad&field_tipo_convocatoria_value%5BLicitacion%5D=Licitacion&field_tipo_convocatoria_value%5BAyuda/subvencion%5D=Ayuda/subvencion&page=12.

¹⁰² See as an example (in Spanish): <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos/convocatorias/PLC/14388694/obras-para-la-construccion-de-un-centro-de-dia-para-personas-con-discapacidad-intelectual-mayores-de-50-anos-en-guadalajara>.

¹⁰³ See as an example (in Spanish): <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos/convocatorias/PLC/14388698/obras-para-la-construccion-de-cuatro-viviendas-con-apoyo-para-personas-con-discapacidad-intelectual-en-guadalajara>.

¹⁰⁴ See as an example (in Spanish): <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos/convocatorias/BDNS/751751/resolucion-de-la-entidad-publica-empresarial-red-es-m-p-por-la-que-se-convocan-las-ayudas-2024-para-actuaciones-de-formacion-en-competencias-basicas-digitales-en-el-marco-del-plan-de-recuperacion-transformacion-y-resiliencia>.

¹⁰⁵ See as an example (in Spanish): <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos/convocatorias/BDNS/602262/programa-integral-para-la-mejora-de-la-empleabilidad-y-la-insersion-para-personas-con-discapacidad-en-el-en-el-marco-del-plan-de-recuperacion-transformacion-y-resiliencia-financiado-por-la-union-europea-next-generation-eu>.

¹⁰⁶ [See here.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [See here.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [See here.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁰ [See here.](#)

¹¹¹ [See here.](#)

¹¹² [See here.](#)

¹¹³ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁴ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁵ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁶ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁷ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁸ [See here.](#)

¹¹⁹ [See here.](#)

Of the total number of subsidies (N = 49), 49 % relate to subsidies for construction (adaptation of housing,¹²⁰ day centres,¹²¹ residences,¹²² improvement of accessibility),¹²³ 40 % relate to subsidies for actions (e.g. improvement of employability,¹²⁴ improvement of SAAD services and actions,¹²⁵ projects to prevent institutionalisation,¹²⁶ to promote sport,¹²⁷ to promote dual training in special employment centres),¹²⁸ and 10.2 % relate to subsidies for material and equipment (for the promotion of autonomy,¹²⁹ adapted vehicles,¹³⁰ advanced personalised telecare).¹³¹ As in the previous case, additional fields should be included in the database to allow analyses such as those presented here. Additional fields must allow the actions to be related to the different levers, PERTEs, SDGs, CSRs, etc. The number of beneficiaries and personal characteristics (gender, disability, etc.), ensuring compliance with data protection law, would allow for much more precise analysis.

Concerning PERTEs, the Official State Gazette (BOE) publishes the different calls for applications for grants for projects to promote the different strategic plans (e.g. for electric vehicles).¹³² It would be advisable for the information p. on the PERTEs to be unified, so that it would be possible to access the same type of information (e.g. link to the publication of calls) for the different PERTEs. It is still very confusing to navigate between the different PERTEs to access information about calls, key dates, etc. For example, in the case of the PERTE on the circular economy, to access information on grants, you have to go to the News section where it appears that 'the grants for the promotion of Circular Economy 2024 are an initiative of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge managed through the Biodiversity Foundation'.¹³³ In this call, for example, it is stated that the beneficiaries can be: a) Social economy entities, b) Groups of social economy entities that are owned by at least one SME, start-up or social economy entity, c) Groups of social economy entities that are owned by at least one SME, start-up or social economy entity, or d) Groups of social economy entities that are owned by at least one SME, start-up or social economy entity.

Continuing with the PERTEs, another example of projects is related to the social and care economy,¹³⁴ covering calls for applications that are published and which are related to: a) Grants for the Integral Plan to Promote the Social Economy, where if a person with a disability participates as promoter, additional points are awarded; b) Grants to support the modernisation of third-sector entities, in which, as in all applications for grants in Spain, applicants must declare that they comply with the quota for the reservation of jobs for persons with disabilities, or with alternative

¹²⁰ [See here.](#)

¹²¹ [See here.](#)

¹²² [See here.](#)

¹²³ [See here.](#)

¹²⁴ [See here.](#)

¹²⁵ [See here.](#)

¹²⁶ [See here.](#)

¹²⁷ [See here.](#)

¹²⁸ [See here.](#)

¹²⁹ [See here.](#)

¹³⁰ [See here.](#)

¹³¹ [See here.](#)

¹³² See: <https://www.boe.es/eli/es/o/2023/07/05/ict736/dof/spa/pdf>.

¹³³ See: <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2022/12/07/pdfs/BOE-A-2022-20700.pdf>.

¹³⁴ See: <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/como-acceder-a-los-fondos/pertes/perte-de-economia-social-y-de-los-cuidados>.

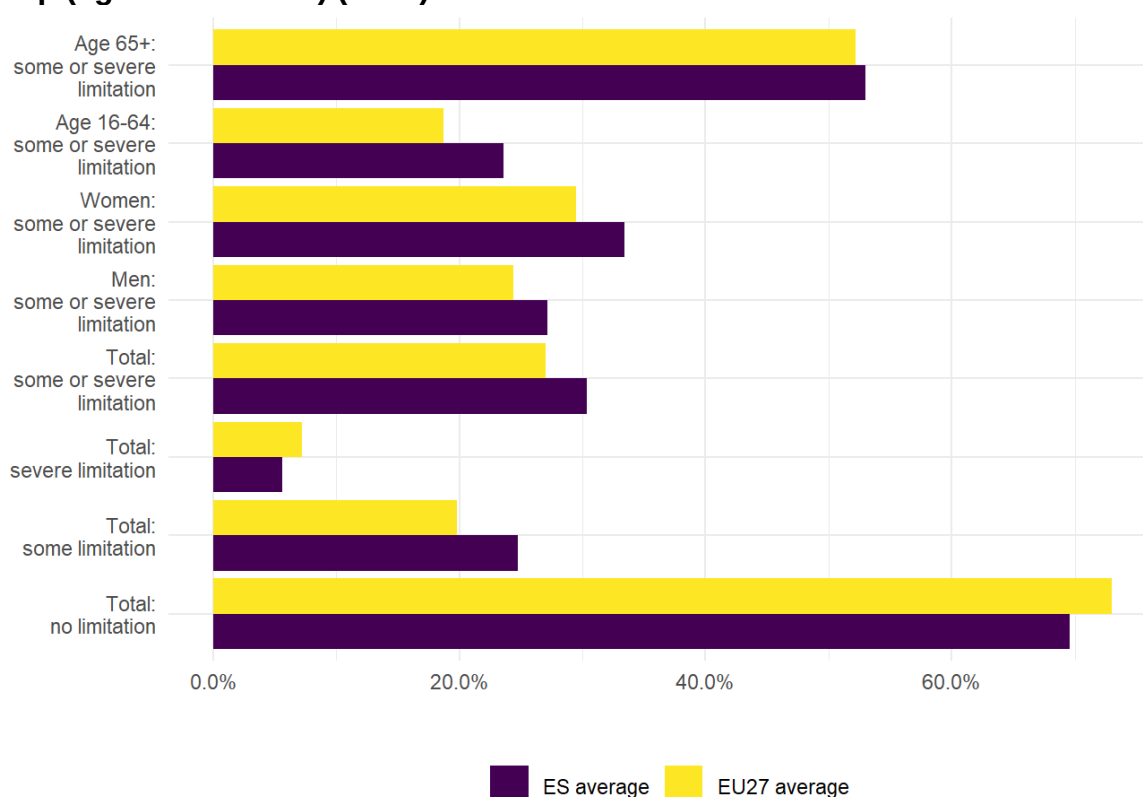
measures. In addition, these projects must include a commitment to promote the generation of new jobs for persons with disabilities, ensuring that 30 % of the workforce in each of these projects (accounting for cognitive accessibility and autism spectrum disorder) will be contracts for persons with disabilities; c) Calls for grants for innovative projects for the years 2022 and 2023, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, which focuses on awarding grants to social economy enterprises. The assessment of applications takes into account the degree to which the project contributes to equal opportunities and non-discrimination and the degree to which it takes into account the situation of persons with disabilities.

7 Annex: Disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database¹³⁵ and statistical reports.¹³⁶

Unless specified, the summary statistics are drawn from the most recent EU-SILC data available to researchers from Eurostat. The EU-SILC sample includes people living in private households and does not include people living in institutions (congregate households). The sampling methods vary somewhat in each country. The proxy used to identify people with disabilities (impairments) is whether, ‘for at least the past six months’, the respondent reports that they have been ‘limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do’ corresponding to Eurostat’s classification of ‘some or severe’ longstanding limitations.¹³⁷

Table 1: Disability prevalence (age 16+) by level of activity limitation, gender, age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)



Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12], extracted on 2024-07-29

¹³⁵ Eurostat Disability Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/disability/database>.

¹³⁶ Eurostat (2023) Disability statistics: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

¹³⁷ Eurostat (2021) Health variables in SILC - methodology: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Health_variables_in_SILC_-_methodology.

Disability prevalence (age 16+) by level of activity limitation, gender, age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	Age 65+: some or severe limitation
ES average	69.6 %	24.8 %	5.6 %	30.4 %	27.2 %	33.4 %	23.6 %	53.0 %
EU27 average	73.0 %	19.8 %	7.2 %	27.0 %	24.4 %	29.5 %	18.7 %	52.2 %
Note:								
Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12], extracted on 2024-07-29								

In subsequent tables, these data are used to indicate ‘disability’ equality gaps and trends relevant to the analytical chapters – for the labour market, social policies and healthcare, and education – by comparing outcomes for persons who do or do not report ‘some or severe activity limitations’.¹³⁸ National estimates for Spain are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.¹³⁹

7.1 Data relevant to disability and the labour market (2022)

Table 2a: Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation, disability, disability by gender (2022)



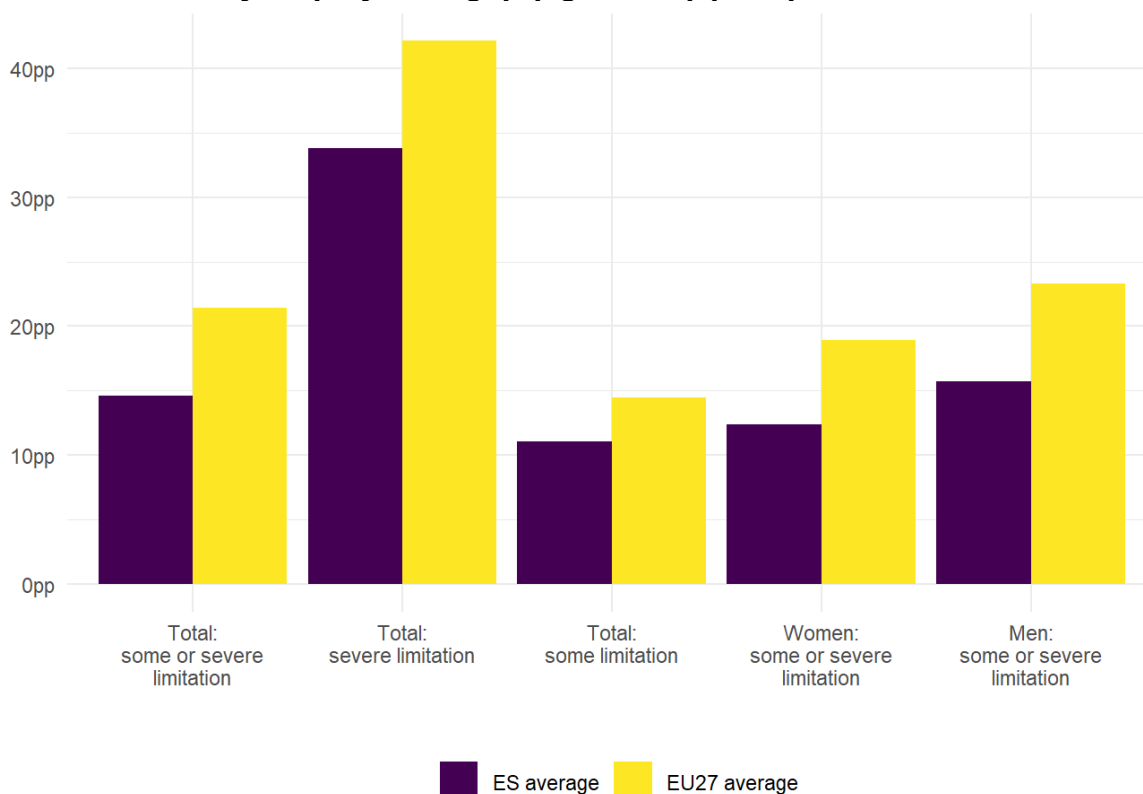
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

¹³⁸ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

¹³⁹ The United Kingdom's exit from the EU changed the EU average. EU27 averages have been affected also by time series breaks in other large countries, such as Germany.

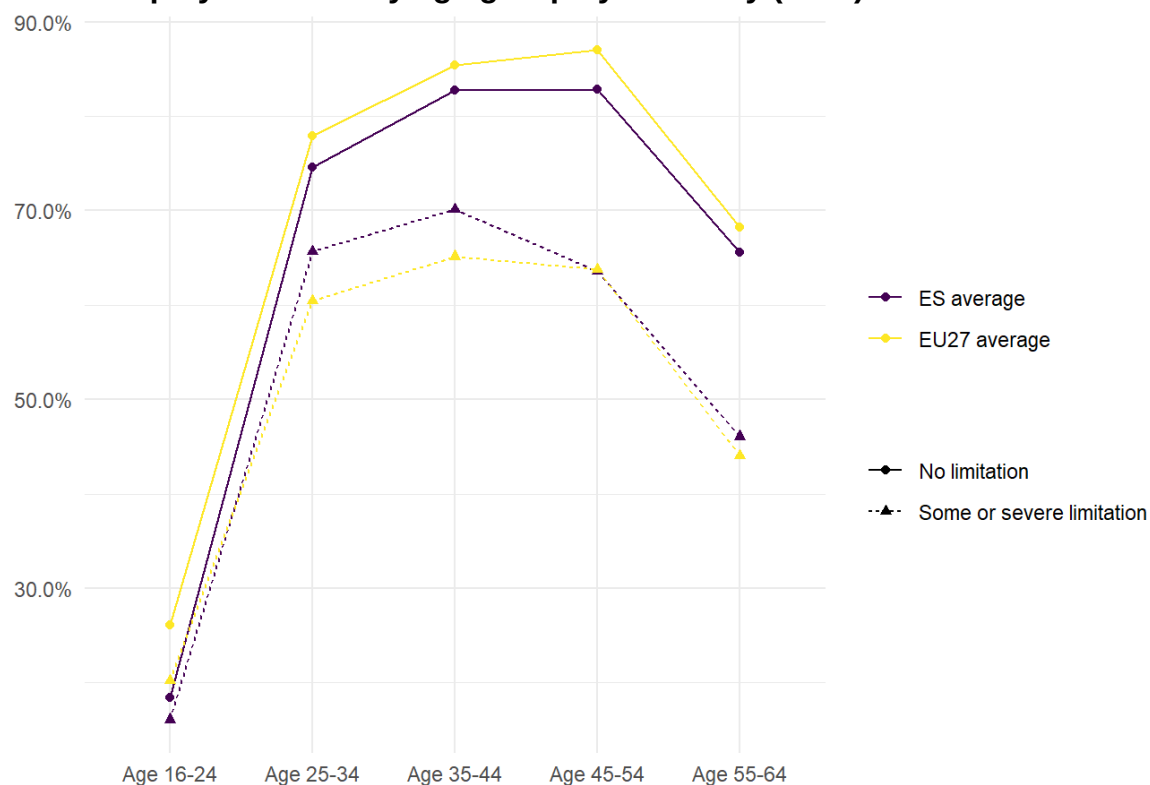
Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation, disability, disability by gender (2022)								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation
ES average	72.2 %	61.4 %	37.5 %	57.8 %	66.7 %	54.1 %	77.5 %	62.0 %
EU27 average	76.2 %	61.6 %	30.7 %	54.3 %	69.8 %	51.0 %	82.5 %	58.1 %
Note:								
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation								

Table 2b: Disability employment gap (age 20-64) (2022)



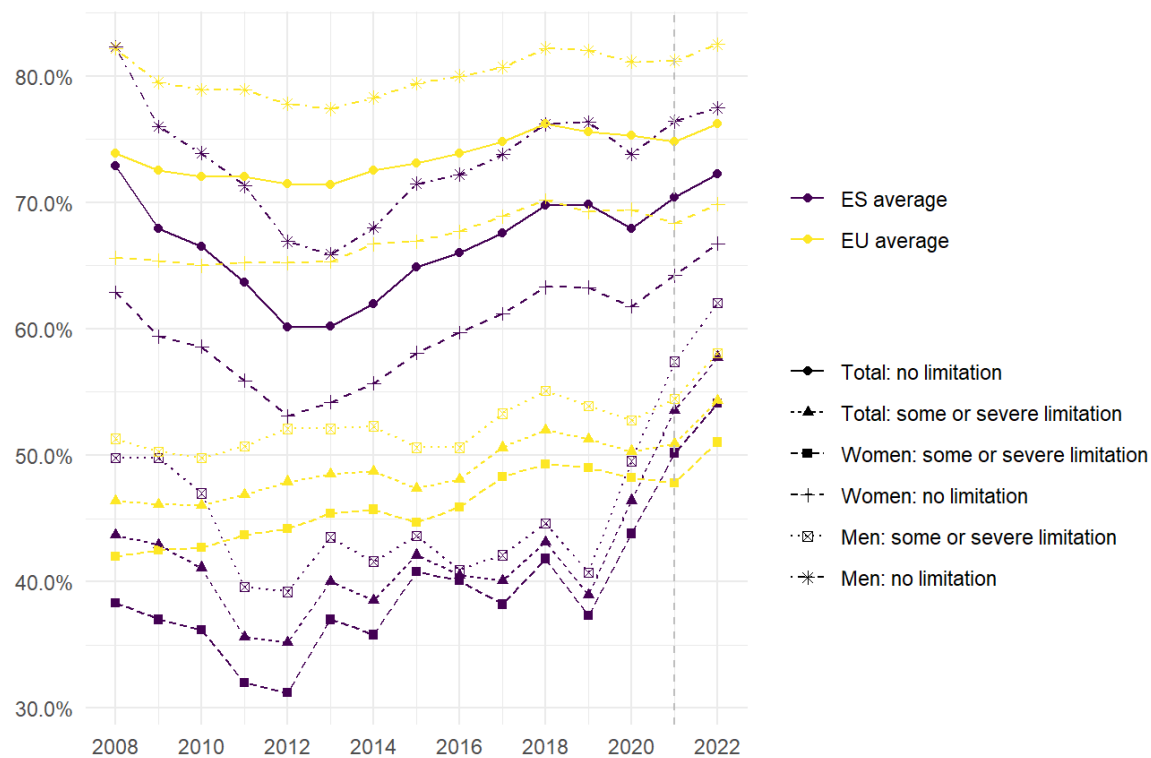
Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2024-07-29

Disability employment gap (age 20-64) (2022)					
	Total: some or severe limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation
ES average	14.6 pp	33.8 pp	11.1 pp	12.4 pp	15.7 pp
EU27 average	21.4 pp	42.1 pp	14.5 pp	18.9 pp	23.3 pp
Note:					
Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2024-07-29					

Table 3: Employment rate by age group by disability (2022)

Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

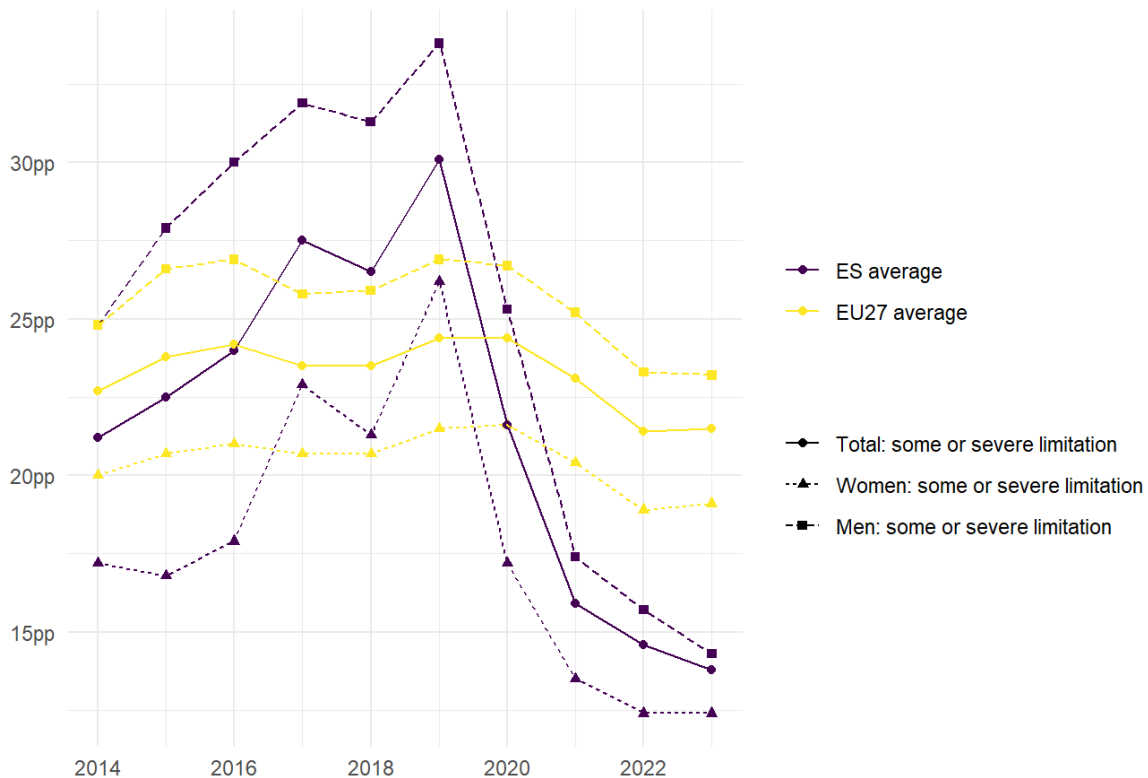
Employment rate by age group by disability (2022)						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
ES average	Some or severe limitation	16.1 %	65.7 %	70.1 %	63.6 %	46.1 %
ES average	No limitation	18.4 %	74.6 %	82.8 %	82.9 %	65.5 %
EU27 average	Some or severe limitation	20.2 %	60.5 %	65.2 %	63.7 %	44.0 %
EU27 average	No limitation	26.1 %	77.9 %	85.4 %	87.0 %	68.2 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

Table 4a: Trend – Employment rate (age 20-64) by disability and gender

Source: EU-SILC, own calculation
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

European Semester 2024 – 2025: country fiche on disability equality: Spain

Trend – Employment rate (age 20-64) by disability and gender																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ES average	Total: no limitation	72.9 %	67.9 %	66.5 %	63.7 %	60.1 %	60.2 %	62.0 %	64.9 %	66.0 %	67.6 %	69.8 %	69.8 %	67.9 %	70.4 %	72.2 %
ES average	Total: some or severe limitation	43.7 %	42.9 %	41.1 %	35.6 %	35.2 %	40.0 %	38.5 %	42.1 %	40.5 %	40.1 %	43.1 %	39.0 %	46.4 %	53.5 %	57.8 %
ES average	Women: some or severe limitation	38.3 %	37.0 %	36.2 %	32.0 %	31.2 %	37.0 %	35.8 %	40.8 %	40.1 %	38.2 %	41.8 %	37.3 %	43.8 %	50.2 %	54.1 %
ES average	Women: no limitation	62.9 %	59.4 %	58.6 %	55.9 %	53.1 %	54.2 %	55.7 %	58.1 %	59.7 %	61.2 %	63.3 %	63.3 %	61.8 %	64.2 %	66.7 %
ES average	Men: some or severe limitation	49.8 %	49.8 %	47.0 %	39.6 %	39.2 %	43.5 %	41.6 %	43.6 %	40.9 %	42.1 %	44.6 %	40.7 %	49.5 %	57.4 %	62.0 %
ES average	Men: no limitation	82.3 %	76.0 %	73.9 %	71.3 %	66.9 %	65.9 %	68.0 %	71.5 %	72.2 %	73.8 %	76.2 %	76.3 %	73.8 %	76.4 %	77.5 %
EU average	Total: no limitation	73.9 %	72.5 %	72.0 %	72.0 %	71.5 %	71.4 %	72.5 %	73.1 %	73.9 %	74.8 %	76.2 %	75.6 %	75.3 %	74.8 %	76.2 %
EU average	Total: some or severe limitation	46.4 %	46.1 %	46.0 %	46.9 %	47.9 %	48.5 %	48.7 %	47.4 %	48.1 %	50.6 %	52.0 %	51.3 %	50.3 %	50.9 %	54.3 %
EU average	Women: some or severe limitation	42.0 %	42.5 %	42.7 %	43.7 %	44.2 %	45.4 %	45.7 %	44.7 %	45.9 %	48.3 %	49.3 %	49.0 %	48.2 %	47.8 %	51.0 %
EU average	Women: no limitation	65.6 %	65.4 %	65.0 %	65.2 %	65.2 %	65.3 %	66.7 %	66.9 %	67.7 %	68.9 %	70.2 %	69.3 %	69.4 %	68.3 %	69.8 %
EU average	Men: some or severe limitation	51.3 %	50.3 %	49.8 %	50.7 %	52.1 %	52.1 %	52.3 %	50.6 %	50.6 %	53.3 %	55.1 %	53.9 %	52.8 %	54.5 %	58.1 %
EU average	Men: no limitation	82.2 %	79.5 %	78.9 %	78.9 %	77.8 %	77.4 %	78.3 %	79.4 %	80.0 %	80.7 %	82.2 %	82.0 %	81.1 %	81.2 %	82.5 %
Note:																
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation																
Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021																

Table 4b: Trend – Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by activity limitation by gender

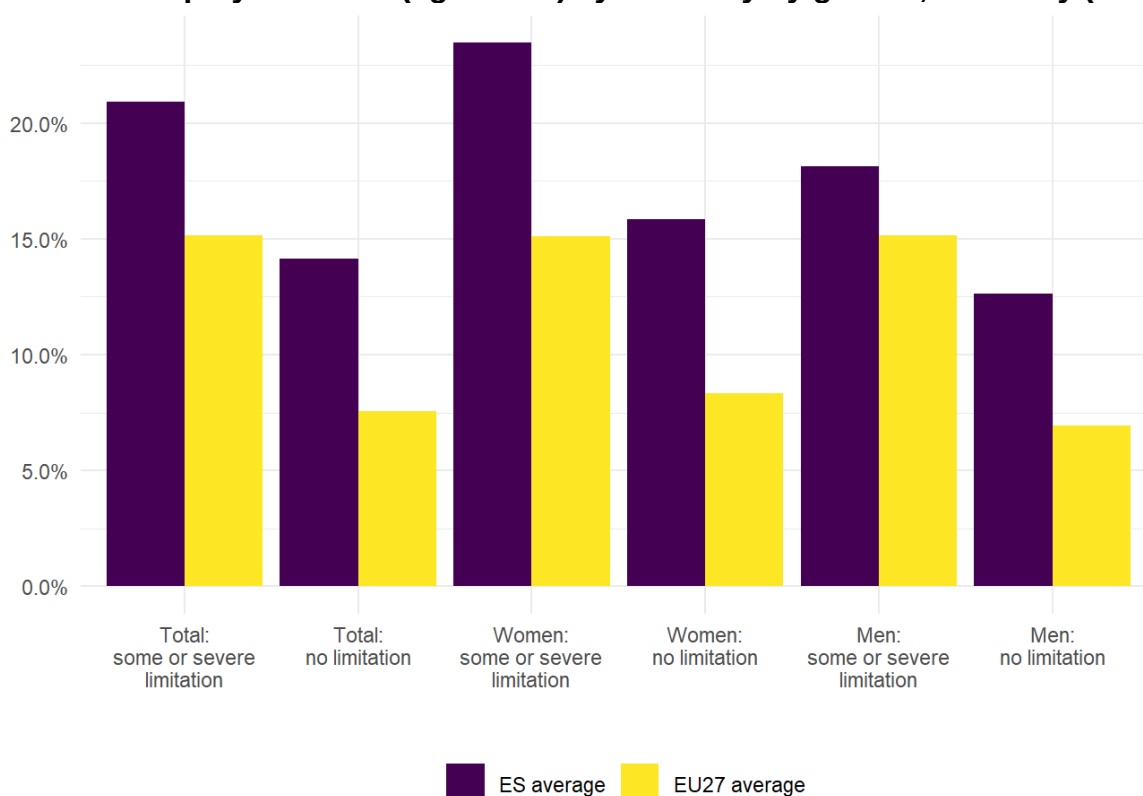
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2024-07-29

Trend – Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by activity limitation by gender		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ES average	Total: some or severe limitation	21.2 pp	22.5 pp	24.0 pp	27.5 pp	26.5 pp	30.1 pp	21.6 pp	15.9 pp	14.6 pp	13.8 pp
ES average	Women: some or severe limitation	17.2 pp	16.8 pp	17.9 pp	22.9 pp	21.3 pp	26.2 pp	17.2 pp	13.5 pp	12.4 pp	12.4 pp
ES average	Men: some or severe limitation	24.8 pp	27.9 pp	30.0 pp	31.9 pp	31.3 pp	33.8 pp	25.3 pp	17.4 pp	15.7 pp	14.3 pp
EU27 average	Total: some or severe limitation	22.7 pp	23.8 pp	24.2 pp	23.5 pp	23.5 pp	24.4 pp	24.4 pp	23.1 pp	21.4 pp	21.5 pp
EU27 average	Women: some or severe limitation	20.0 pp	20.7 pp	21.0 pp	20.7 pp	20.7 pp	21.5 pp	21.6 pp	20.4 pp	18.9 pp	19.1 pp
EU27 average	Men: some or severe limitation	24.8 pp	26.6 pp	26.9 pp	25.8 pp	25.9 pp	26.9 pp	26.7 pp	25.2 pp	23.3 pp	23.2 pp
Note:											

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2024-07-29

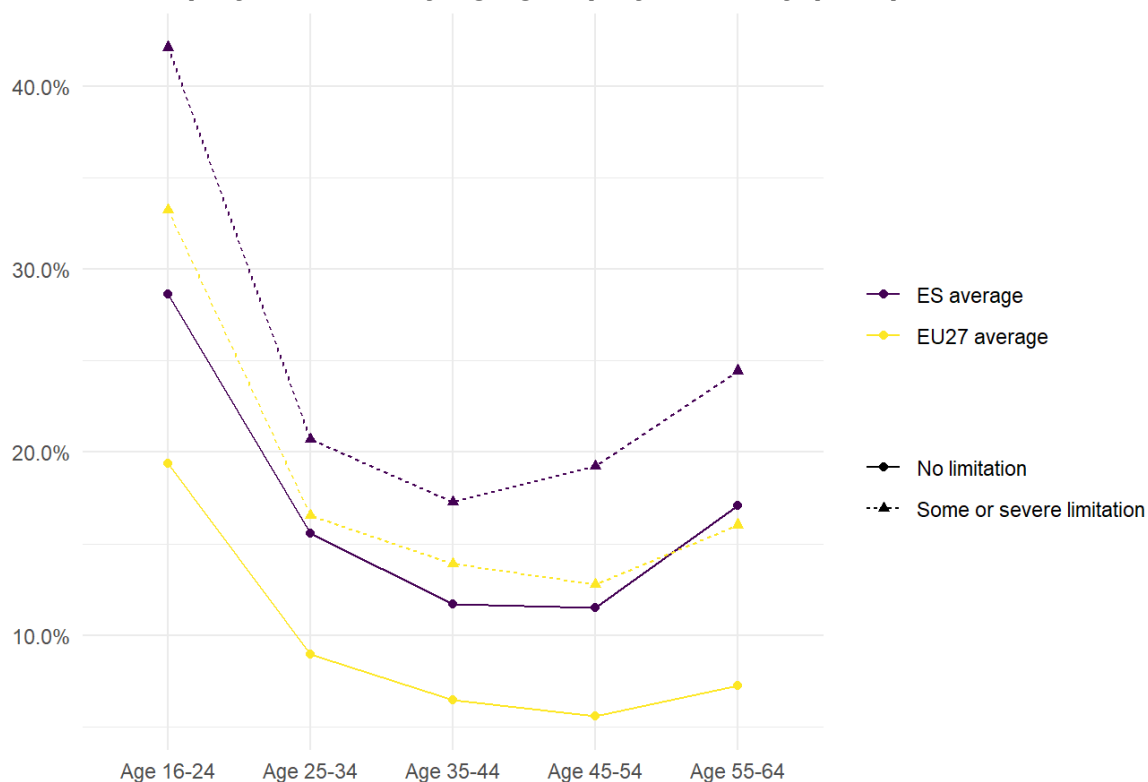
7.1.1 Unemployment

Table 5: Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender, disability (2022)



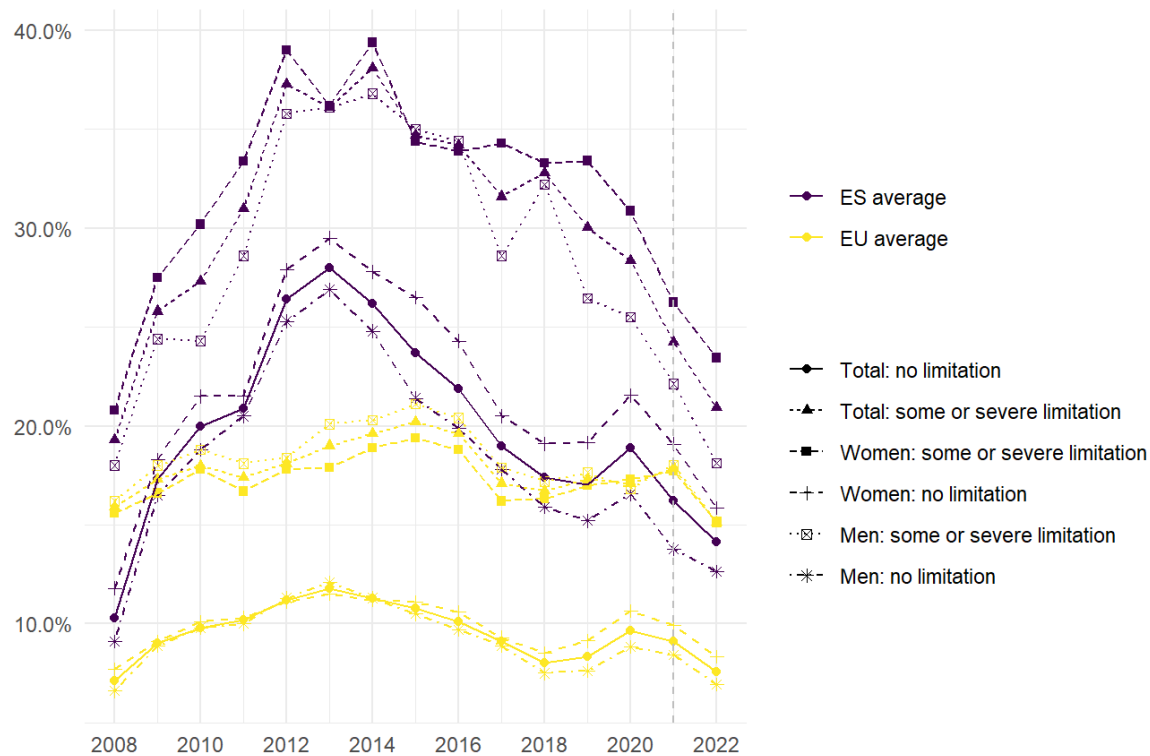
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender, disability (2022)						
	Total: some or severe	Total: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation
ES average	20.9 %	14.1 %	23.4 %	15.9 %	18.1 %	12.6 %
EU27 average	15.1 %	7.6 %	15.1 %	8.3 %	15.2 %	6.9 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

Table 6: Unemployment rate by age group by disability (2022)

Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Unemployment rate by age group by disability (2022)						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
ES average	Some or severe limitation	42.1 %	20.7 %	17.3 %	19.2 %	24.4 %
ES average	No limitation	28.6 %	15.6 %	11.7 %	11.5 %	17.1 %
EU27 average	Some or severe limitation	33.2 %	16.6 %	13.9 %	12.8 %	16.0 %
EU27 average	No limitation	19.4 %	9.0 %	6.5 %	5.6 %	7.2 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

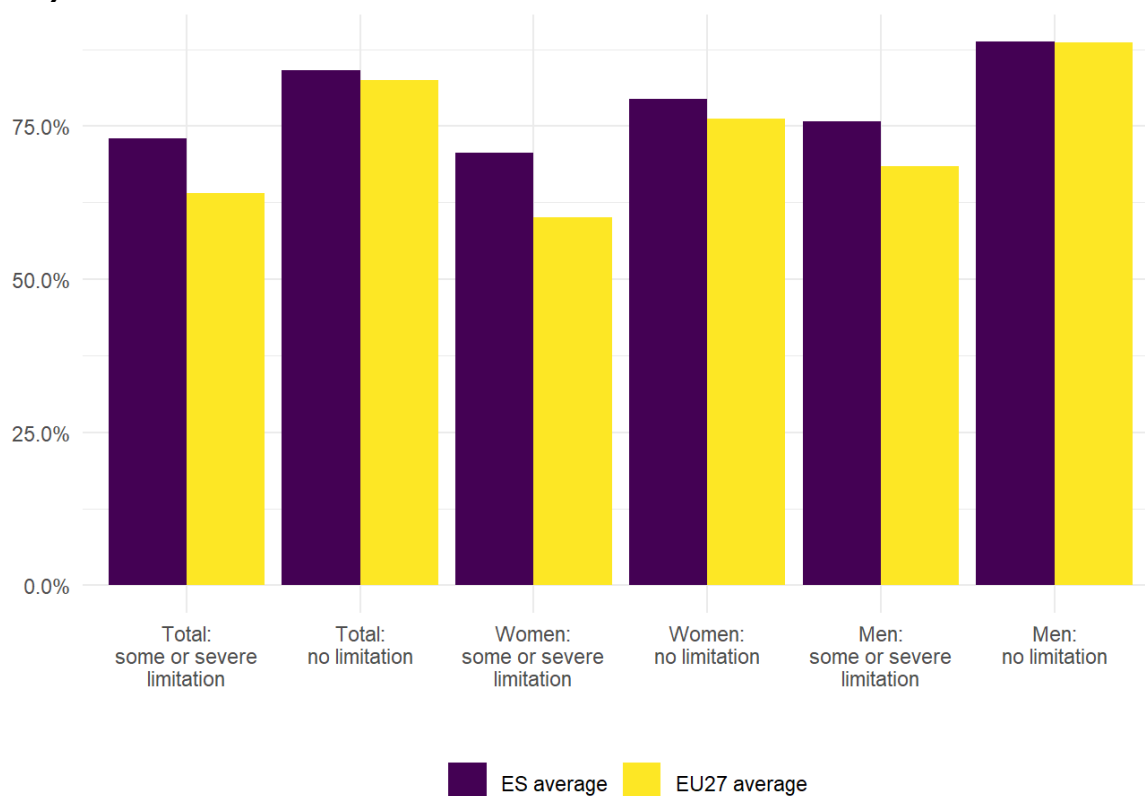
Table 7: Trend – Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender

Source: EU-SILC, own calculation
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

Trend – Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ES average	Total: no limitation	10.3 %	17.3 %	20.0 %	20.9 %	26.4 %	28.0 %	26.2 %	23.7 %	21.9 %	19.0 %	17.4 %	17.0 %	18.9 %	16.2 %	14.1 %
ES average	Total: some or severe limitation	19.3 %	25.8 %	27.3 %	31.0 %	37.3 %	36.1 %	38.1 %	34.7 %	34.2 %	31.6 %	32.8 %	30.0 %	28.4 %	24.2 %	20.9 %
ES average	Women: some or severe limitation	20.8 %	27.5 %	30.2 %	33.4 %	39.0 %	36.2 %	39.4 %	34.4 %	33.9 %	34.3 %	33.3 %	33.4 %	30.9 %	26.2 %	23.4 %
ES average	Women: no limitation	11.8 %	18.3 %	21.5 %	21.5 %	27.9 %	29.5 %	27.8 %	26.5 %	24.3 %	20.5 %	19.1 %	19.2 %	21.6 %	19.1 %	15.9 %
ES average	Men: some or severe limitation	18.0 %	24.4 %	24.3 %	28.6 %	35.8 %	36.1 %	36.8 %	35.0 %	34.4 %	28.6 %	32.2 %	26.4 %	25.5 %	22.1 %	18.1 %
ES average	Men: no limitation	9.1 %	16.5 %	18.8 %	20.5 %	25.3 %	26.9 %	24.8 %	21.4 %	19.9 %	17.8 %	15.9 %	15.2 %	16.6 %	13.8 %	12.6 %
EU average	Total: no limitation	7.1 %	9.0 %	9.8 %	10.2 %	11.2 %	11.8 %	11.3 %	10.8 %	10.1 %	9.1 %	8.0 %	8.3 %	9.7 %	9.1 %	7.6 %
EU average	Total: some or severe limitation	15.9 %	17.3 %	18.0 %	17.4 %	18.1 %	19.0 %	19.6 %	20.2 %	19.6 %	17.1 %	16.7 %	17.3 %	17.1 %	17.9 %	15.1 %
EU average	Women: some or severe limitation	15.6 %	16.6 %	17.8 %	16.7 %	17.8 %	17.9 %	18.9 %	19.4 %	18.8 %	16.2 %	16.3 %	17.0 %	17.3 %	17.7 %	15.1 %
EU average	Women: no limitation	7.7 %	9.1 %	10.1 %	10.3 %	11.1 %	11.5 %	11.2 %	11.1 %	10.6 %	9.3 %	8.5 %	9.1 %	10.6 %	9.9 %	8.3 %
EU average	Men: some or severe limitation	16.2 %	18.0 %	18.8 %	18.1 %	18.4 %	20.1 %	20.3 %	21.1 %	20.4 %	17.9 %	17.2 %	17.6 %	16.8 %	18.0 %	15.2 %
EU average	Men: no limitation	6.6 %	8.9 %	9.8 %	10.0 %	11.3 %	12.1 %	11.3 %	10.5 %	9.7 %	8.9 %	7.5 %	7.6 %	8.8 %	8.4 %	6.9 %
Note:																
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation																
Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021																

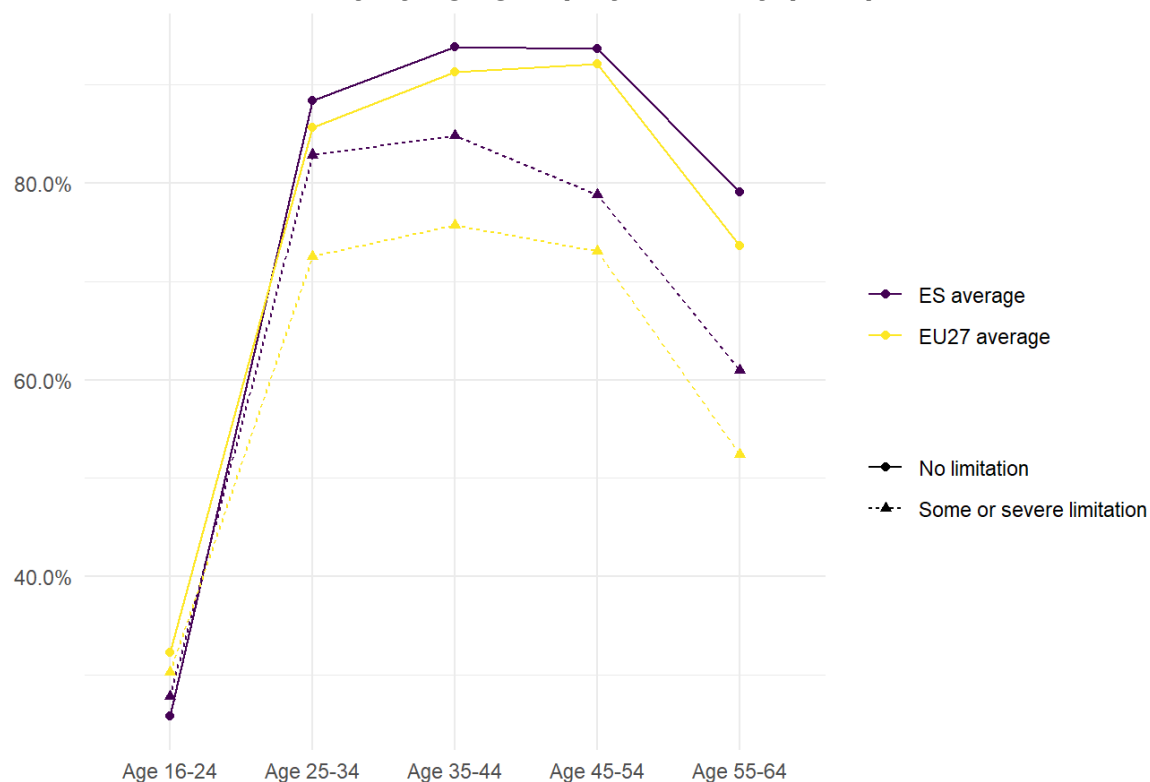
7.1.2 Economic activity

Table 8: Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by gender by disability, disability (2022)



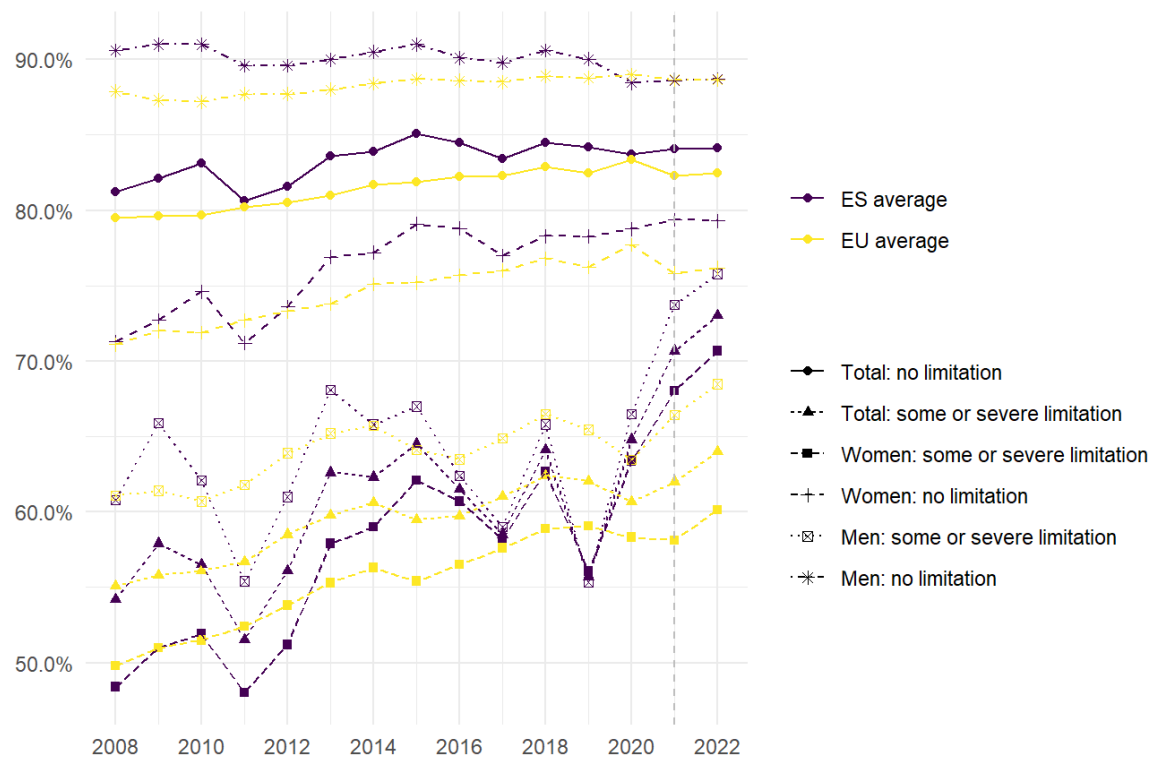
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by gender by disability, disability (2022)						
	Total: some or severe limitation	Total: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation
ES average	73.0 %	84.1 %	70.7 %	79.3 %	75.8 %	88.7 %
EU27 average	64.0 %	82.5 %	60.1 %	76.2 %	68.5 %	88.6 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

Table 9: Economic activity by age group by disability (2022)

Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Economic activity by age group by disability (2022)						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
ES average	Some or severe limitation	27.8 %	82.8 %	84.8 %	78.8 %	61.0 %
ES average	No limitation	25.8 %	88.4 %	93.8 %	93.7 %	79.1 %
EU27 average	Some or severe limitation	30.3 %	72.5 %	75.7 %	73.1 %	52.4 %
EU27 average	No limitation	32.3 %	85.6 %	91.3 %	92.1 %	73.6 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

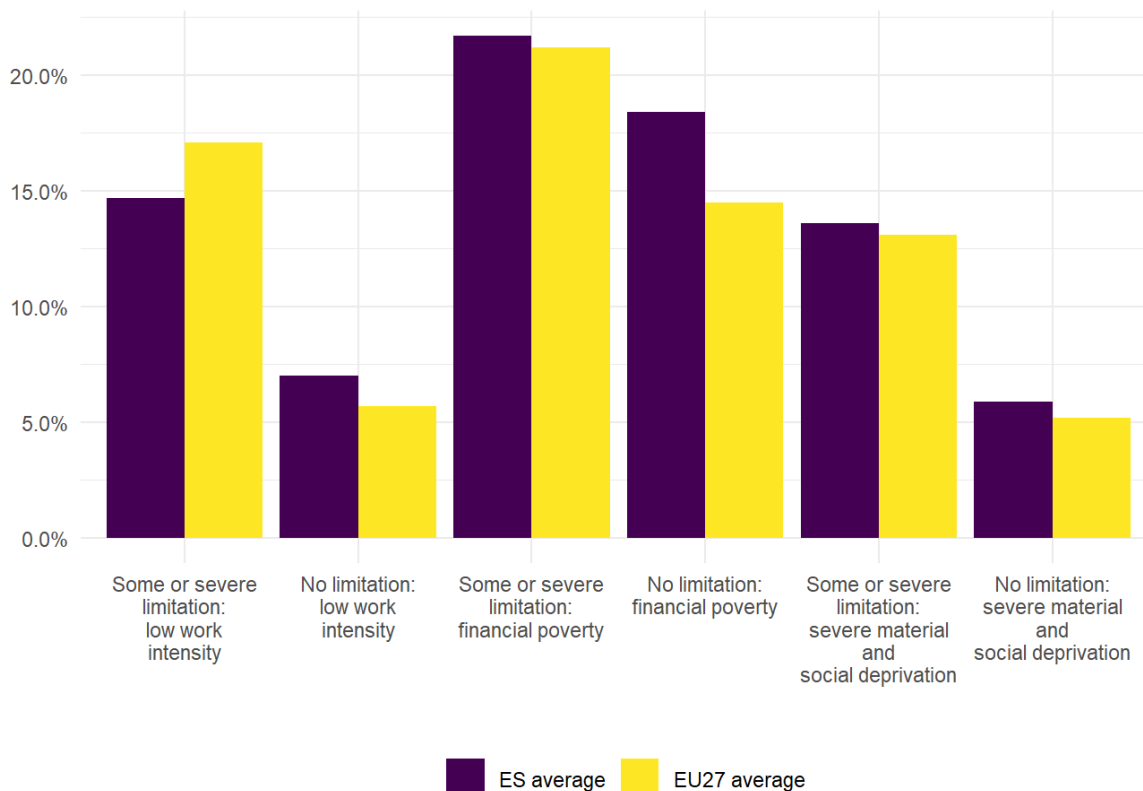
Table 10: Trend – Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender

Source: EU-SILC, own calculation
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

Trend – Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ES average	Total: no limitation	81.2 %	82.1 %	83.1 %	80.6 %	81.6 %	83.6 %	83.9 %	85.1 %	84.5 %	83.4 %	84.5 %	84.2 %	83.7 %	84.1 %	84.1 %
ES average	Total: some or severe limitation	54.2 %	57.9 %	56.5 %	51.5 %	56.1 %	62.6 %	62.3 %	64.5 %	61.5 %	58.5 %	64.1 %	55.7 %	64.8 %	70.7 %	73.0 %
ES average	Women: some or severe limitation	48.4 %	51.0 %	51.9 %	48.0 %	51.2 %	57.9 %	59.0 %	62.1 %	60.7 %	58.2 %	62.7 %	56.1 %	63.4 %	68.0 %	70.7 %
ES average	Women: no limitation	71.3 %	72.7 %	74.6 %	71.2 %	73.6 %	76.9 %	77.2 %	79.1 %	78.8 %	77.0 %	78.3 %	78.3 %	78.8 %	79.4 %	79.3 %
ES average	Men: some or severe limitation	60.8 %	65.9 %	62.1 %	55.4 %	61.0 %	68.1 %	65.8 %	67.0 %	62.4 %	59.0 %	65.8 %	55.3 %	66.5 %	73.7 %	75.8 %
ES average	Men: no limitation	90.6 %	91.0 %	91.0 %	89.6 %	89.6 %	90.0 %	90.5 %	91.0 %	90.1 %	89.8 %	90.6 %	90.0 %	88.4 %	88.6 %	88.7 %
EU average	Total: no limitation	79.5 %	79.6 %	79.7 %	80.2 %	80.5 %	81.0 %	81.7 %	81.9 %	82.2 %	82.3 %	82.9 %	82.5 %	83.4 %	82.3 %	82.5 %
EU average	Total: some or severe limitation	55.1 %	55.8 %	56.1 %	56.7 %	58.5 %	59.8 %	60.6 %	59.5 %	59.7 %	61.0 %	62.4 %	62.0 %	60.7 %	62.0 %	64.0 %
EU average	Women: some or severe limitation	49.8 %	51.0 %	51.5 %	52.4 %	53.8 %	55.3 %	56.3 %	55.4 %	56.5 %	57.6 %	58.9 %	59.0 %	58.3 %	58.1 %	60.1 %
EU average	Women: no limitation	71.1 %	72.0 %	71.9 %	72.7 %	73.3 %	73.8 %	75.1 %	75.2 %	75.7 %	76.0 %	76.8 %	76.2 %	77.7 %	75.8 %	76.2 %
EU average	Men: some or severe limitation	61.1 %	61.4 %	60.7 %	61.8 %	63.9 %	65.2 %	65.7 %	64.1 %	63.5 %	64.9 %	66.5 %	65.4 %	63.5 %	66.4 %	68.5 %
EU average	Men: no limitation	87.9 %	87.3 %	87.2 %	87.7 %	87.7 %	88.0 %	88.4 %	88.7 %	88.6 %	88.5 %	88.9 %	88.8 %	89.0 %	88.7 %	88.6 %
Note:																
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation																
Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021																

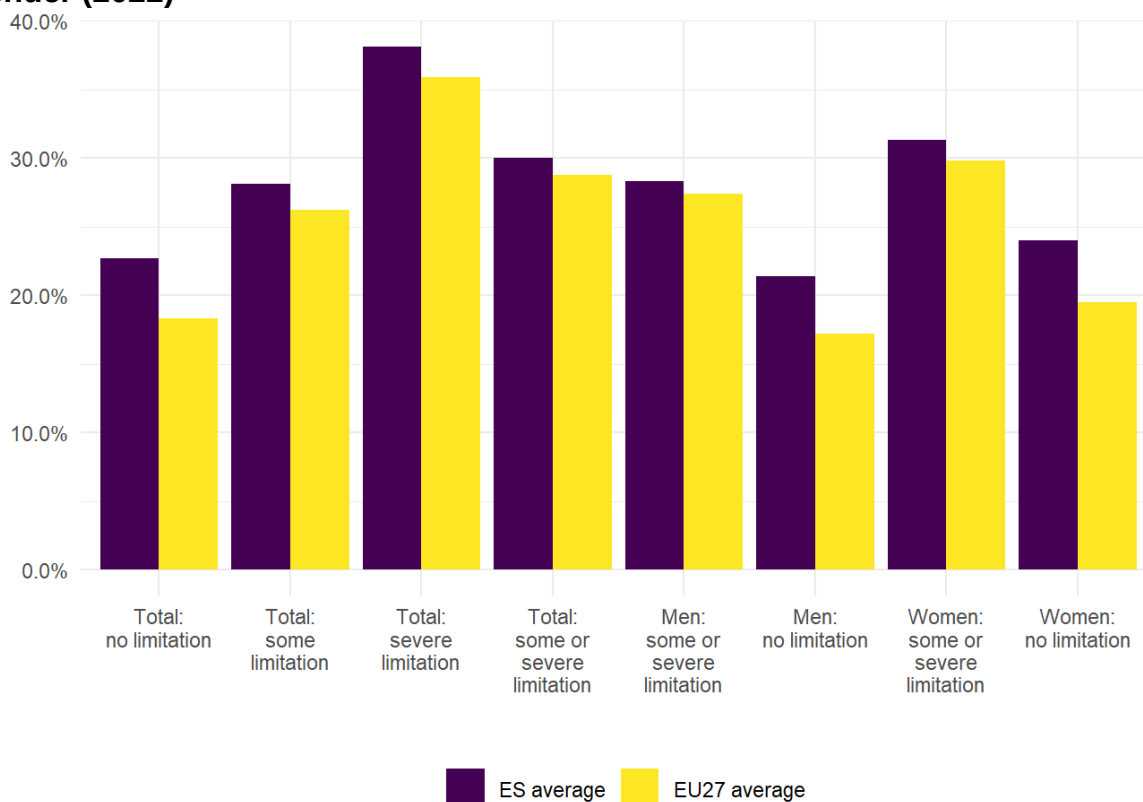
7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2022)

Table 11: Main types of poverty risk by activity limitation (age 16-64) (2022)



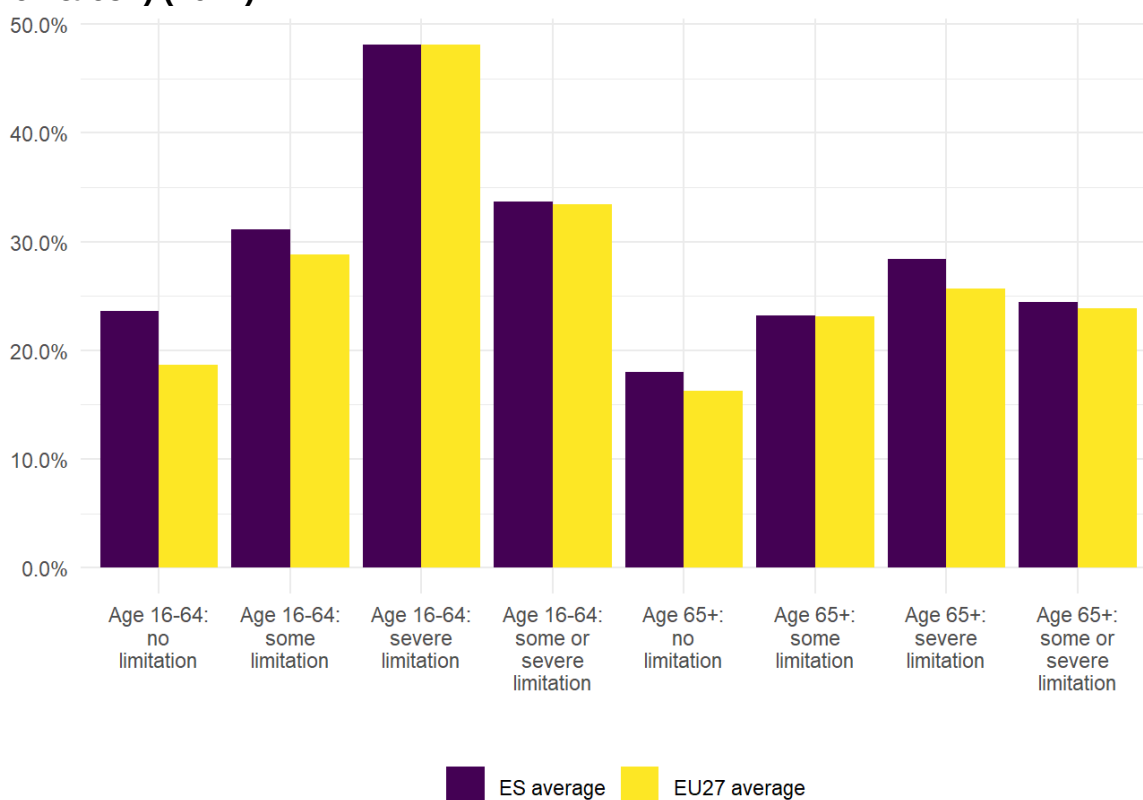
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2024-07-29

Main types of poverty risk by activity limitation (age 16-64) (2022)						
	Some or severe limitation: low work intensity	No limitation: low work intensity	Some or severe limitation: financial poverty	No limitation: financial poverty	Some or severe limitation: severe material and social deprivation	No limitation: severe material and social deprivation
ES average	14.7 %	7.0 %	21.7 %	18.4 %	13.6 %	5.9 %
EU27 average	17.1 %	5.7 %	21.2 %	14.5 %	13.1 %	5.2 %
Note:						
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2024-07-29						

Table 12: At risk of poverty or social exclusion (age 16+) by activity limitation by gender (2022)

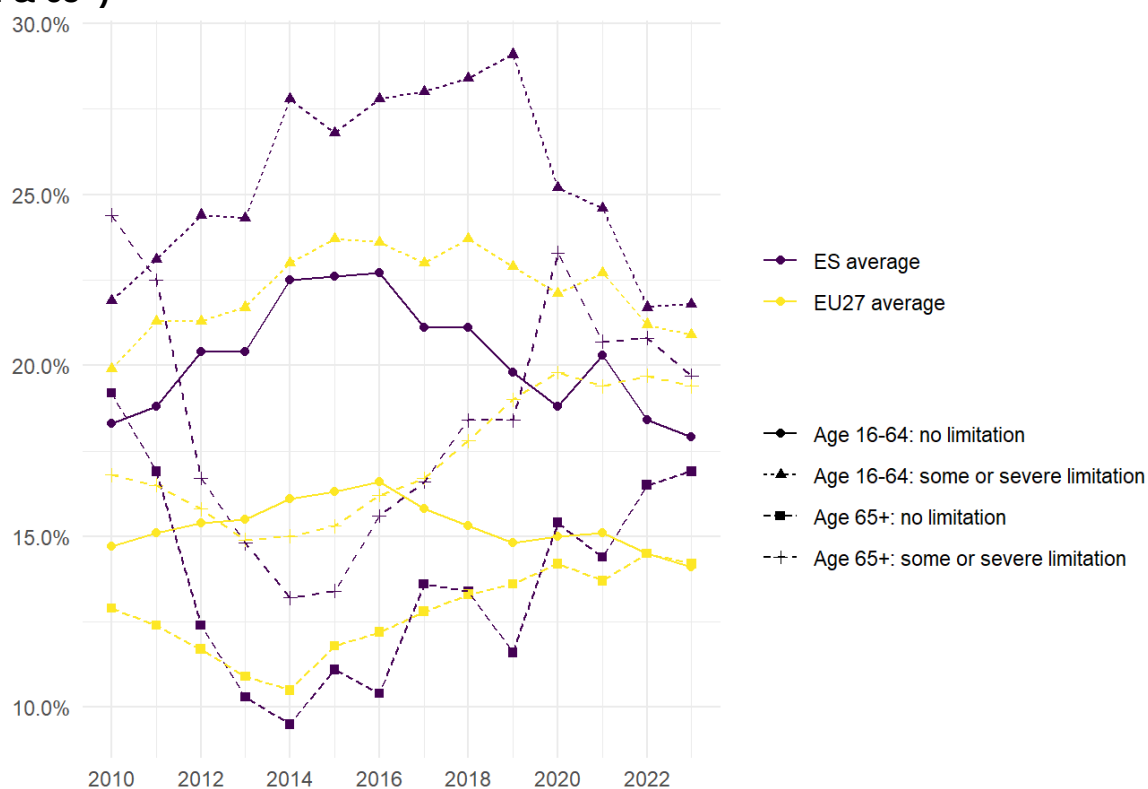
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29

At risk of poverty or social exclusion (age 16+) by activity limitation by gender (2022)								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation
ES average	22.7 %	28.1 %	38.1 %	30.0 %	28.3 %	21.4 %	31.3 %	24.0 %
EU27 average	18.3 %	26.2 %	35.9 %	28.8 %	27.4 %	17.2 %	29.8 %	19.5 %
Note:								
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29								

Table 13: At risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability by age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)

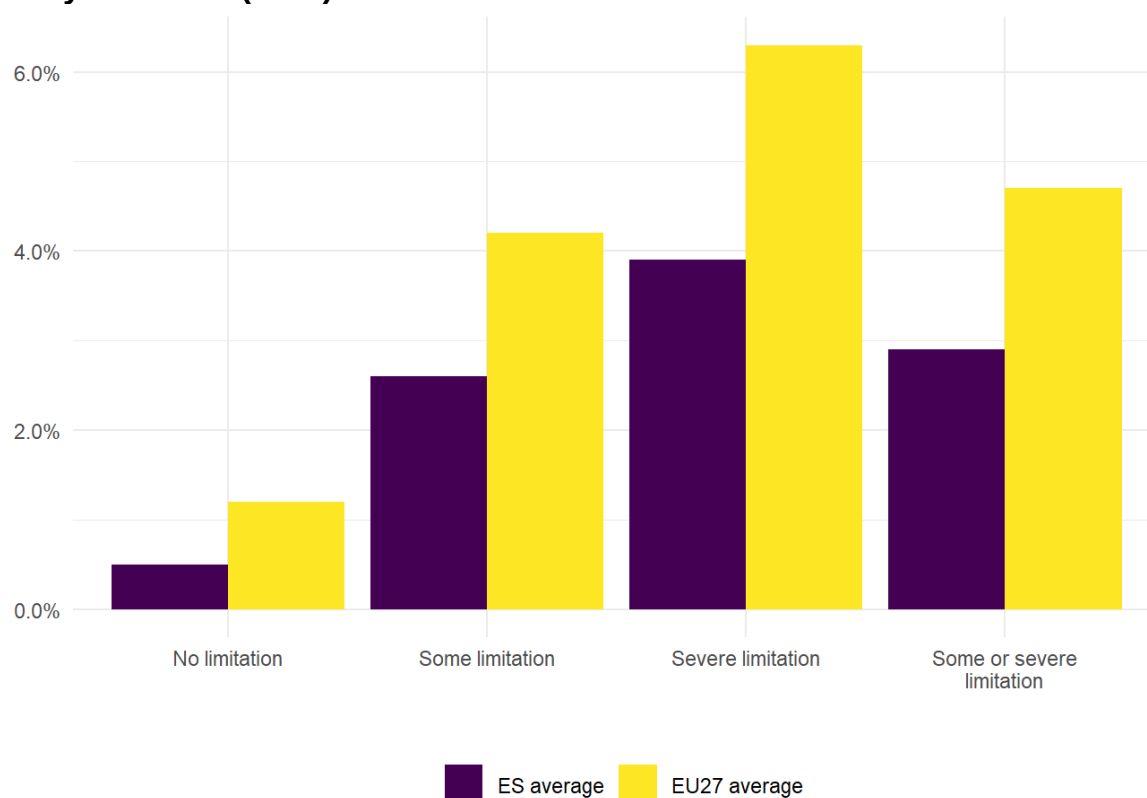
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29

At risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability by age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)								
	Age 16-64: no limitation	Age 16-64: some limitation	Age 16-64: severe limitation	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	Age 65+: no limitation	Age 65+: some limitation	Age 65+: severe limitation	Age 65+: some or severe limitation
ES average	23.6 %	31.1 %	48.1 %	33.7 %	18.0 %	23.2 %	28.4 %	24.4 %
EU27 average	18.7 %	28.8 %	48.1 %	33.4 %	16.3 %	23.1 %	25.7 %	23.9 %
Note:								
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29								

Table 14: Trend – At risk of poverty by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)

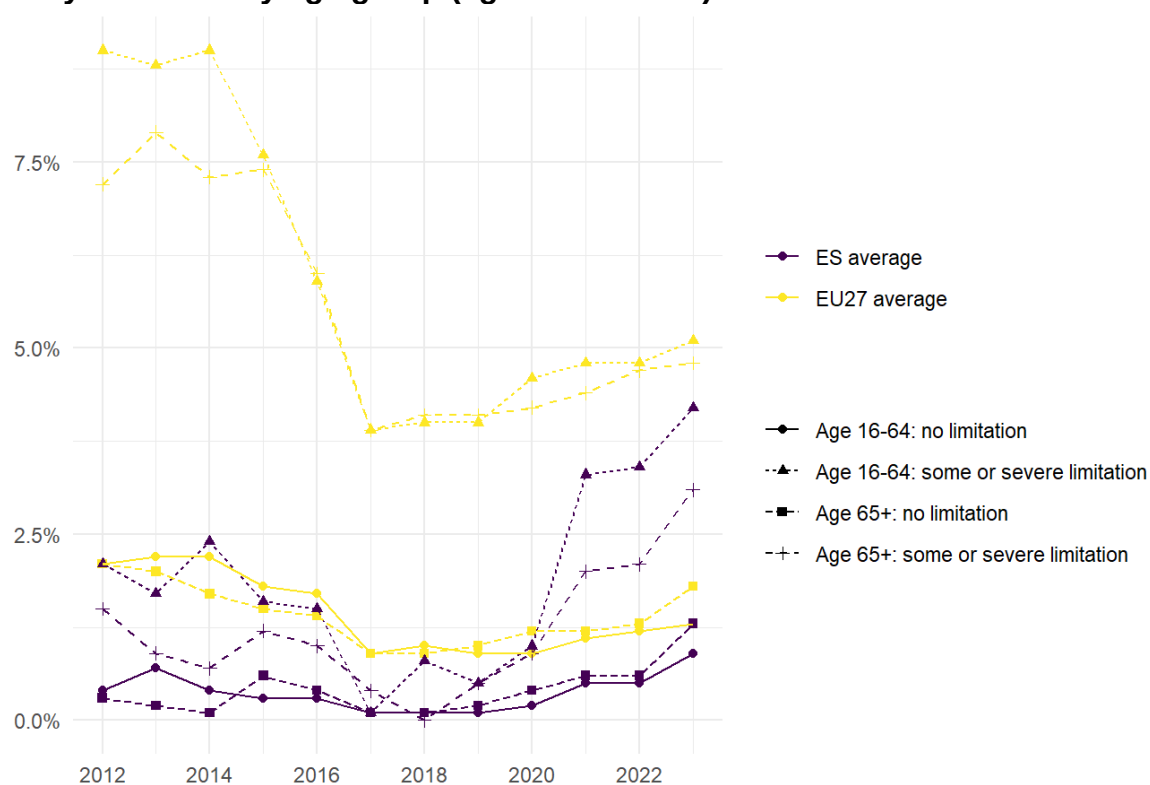
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2024-07-29

Trend – At risk of poverty by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)															
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ES average	Age 16-64: no limitation	18.3 %	18.8 %	20.4 %	20.4 %	22.5 %	22.6 %	22.7 %	21.1 %	21.1 %	19.8 %	18.8 %	20.3 %	18.4 %	17.9 %
ES average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	21.9 %	23.1 %	24.4 %	24.3 %	27.8 %	26.8 %	27.8 %	28.0 %	28.4 %	29.1 %	25.2 %	24.6 %	21.7 %	21.8 %
ES average	Age 65+: no limitation	19.2 %	16.9 %	12.4 %	10.3 %	9.5 %	11.1 %	10.4 %	13.6 %	13.4 %	11.6 %	15.4 %	14.4 %	16.5 %	16.9 %
ES average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	24.4 %	22.5 %	16.7 %	14.8 %	13.2 %	13.4 %	15.6 %	16.6 %	18.4 %	18.4 %	23.3 %	20.7 %	20.8 %	19.7 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: no limitation	14.7 %	15.1 %	15.4 %	15.5 %	16.1 %	16.3 %	16.6 %	15.8 %	15.3 %	14.8 %	15.0 %	15.1 %	14.5 %	14.1 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	19.9 %	21.3 %	21.3 %	21.7 %	23.0 %	23.7 %	23.6 %	23.0 %	23.7 %	22.9 %	22.1 %	22.7 %	21.2 %	20.9 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: no limitation	12.9 %	12.4 %	11.7 %	10.9 %	10.5 %	11.8 %	12.2 %	12.8 %	13.3 %	13.6 %	14.2 %	13.7 %	14.5 %	14.2 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	16.8 %	16.5 %	15.8 %	14.9 %	15.0 %	15.3 %	16.2 %	16.7 %	17.8 %	19.0 %	19.8 %	19.4 %	19.7 %	19.4 %
Note:															
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2024-07-29															

Table 15a: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by activity limitation (2022)

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29

Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by activity limitation (2022)				
	No limitation	Some limitation	Severe limitation	Some or severe limitation
ES average	0.5 %	2.6 %	3.9 %	2.9 %
EU27 average	1.2 %	4.2 %	6.3 %	4.7 %
Note:				
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29				

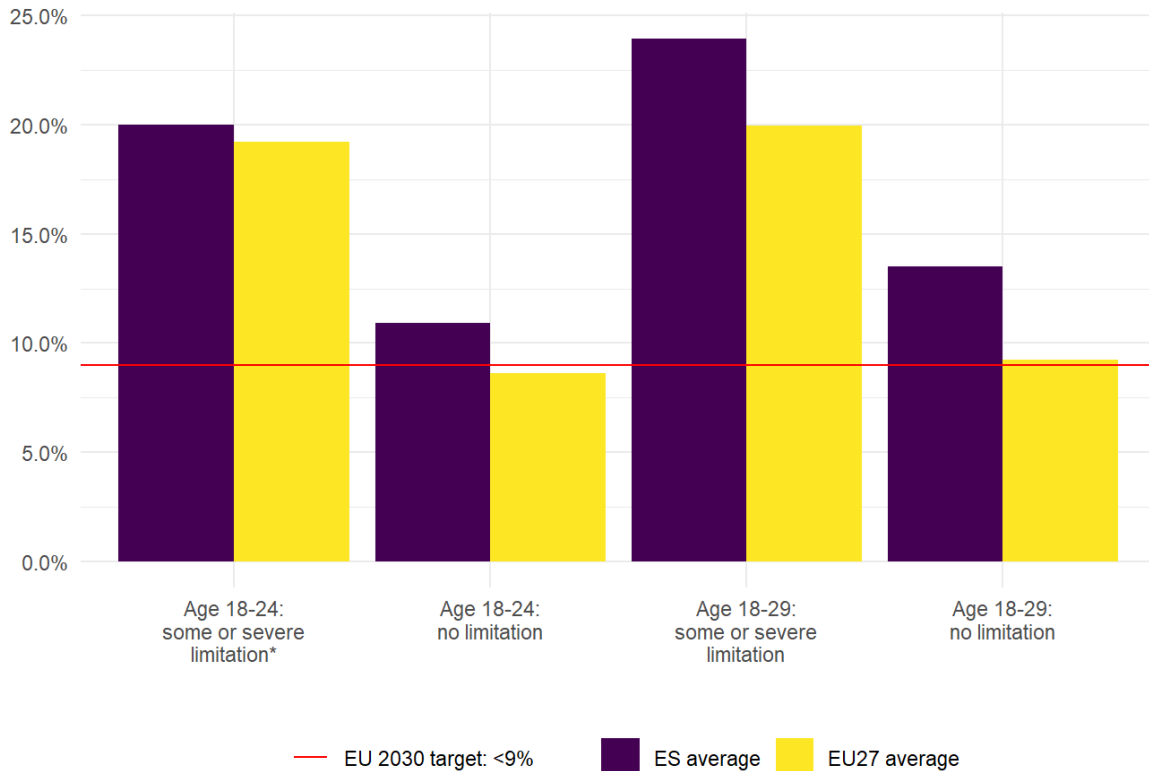
Table 15b: Trend – self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29

Trend – self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)													
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ES average	Age 16-64: no limitation	0.4 %	0.7 %	0.4 %	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.9 %
ES average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	2.1 %	1.7 %	2.4 %	1.6 %	1.5 %	0.1 %	0.8 %	0.5 %	1.0 %	3.3 %	3.4 %	4.2 %
ES average	Age 65+: no limitation	0.3 %	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.6 %	0.4 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.4 %	0.6 %	0.6 %	1.3 %
ES average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	1.5 %	0.9 %	0.7 %	1.2 %	1.0 %	0.4 %	0.0 %	0.5 %	0.9 %	2.0 %	2.1 %	3.1 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: no limitation	2.1 %	2.2 %	2.2 %	1.8 %	1.7 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	0.9 %	0.9 %	1.1 %	1.2 %	1.3 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	9.0 %	8.8 %	9.0 %	7.6 %	5.9 %	3.9 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.6 %	4.8 %	4.8 %	5.1 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: no limitation	2.1 %	2.0 %	1.7 %	1.5 %	1.4 %	0.9 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	1.2 %	1.2 %	1.3 %	1.8 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	7.2 %	7.9 %	7.3 %	7.4 %	6.0 %	3.9 %	4.1 %	4.1 %	4.2 %	4.4 %	4.7 %	4.8 %
Note:													
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29													

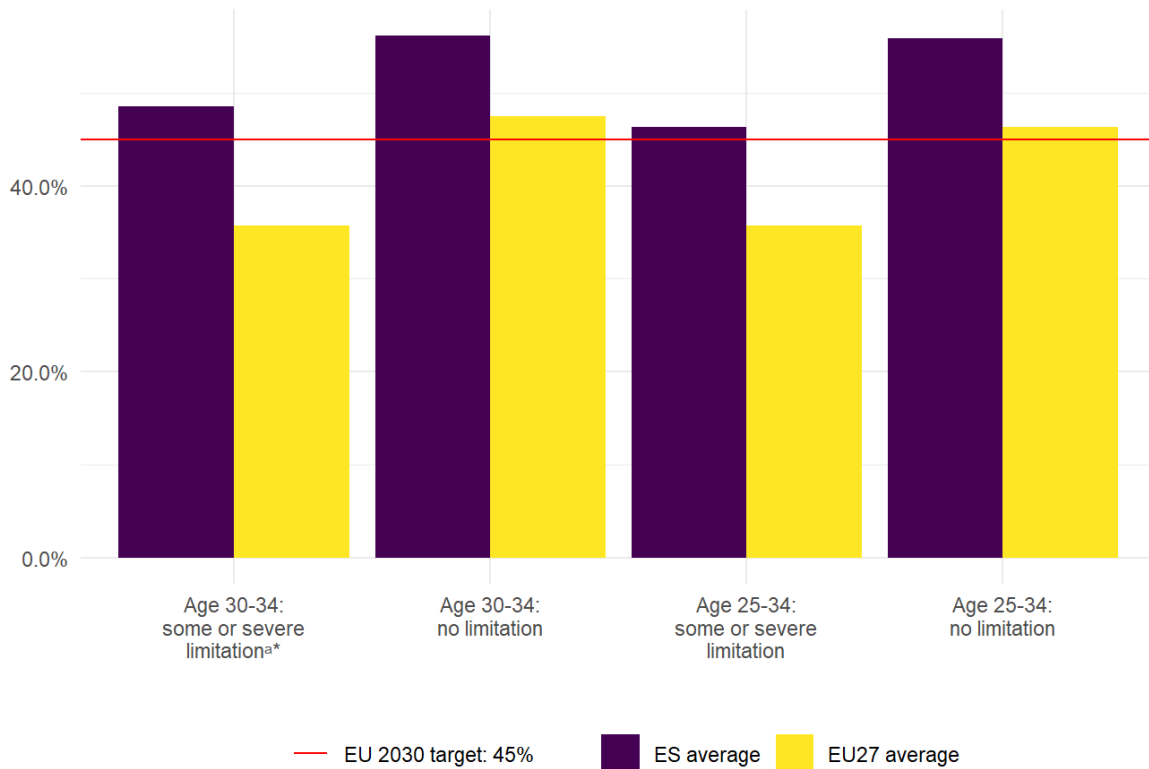
7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education (2022)

Table 16: Early school leavers (age 18-24 & 18-29) by disability (2022)



Note: * indicative data
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Early school leavers (age 18-24 & 18-29) by disability (2022)				
	Age 18-24: some or severe limitation*	Age 18-24: no limitation	Age 18-29: some or severe limitation	Age 18-29: no limitation
ES average	20.0 %	10.9 %	23.9 %	13.5 %
EU27 average	19.2 %	8.6 %	19.9 %	9.2 %
Note:				
Note: * indicative data				
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation				

Table 17: Tertiary education (age 30-34 & 25-34) by disability (2022)

Note: ^a 20 to 49 observations in Spain, * indicative data
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Tertiary education (age 30-34 & 30-39) by disability (2022)				
	Age 30-34: some or severe limitation ^{a*}	Age 30-34: no limitation	Age 25-34: some or severe limitation	Age 25-34: no limitation
ES average	48.5 %	56.1 %	46.3 %	55.9 %
EU27 average	35.7 %	47.4 %	35.7 %	46.3 %
Note:				
Note: ^a 20 to 49 observations in Spain, * indicative data Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation				

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