

# THE 2030 AGENDA, SDGS AND DISABILITY

## The 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 marked the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

*Continued efforts are needed to ensure a sustainable and inclusive society  
that leaves no one behind.*

This report on the intersection of the 2030 Agenda, the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and disability issues continues the work undertaken in the [paper published on September 25th 2020 by Disability Hub Europe \(DHUB\)](#), and serves as an update to that analysis, offering a greater spotlight on the linkages between the greening of the economy and social issues, and further establishing the need to focus special attention on vulnerable groups – including persons with disabilities. Moreover, this paper features an analysis of a wide range of data linked to different SDGs and persons with disabilities, identifying specific impacts and opportunities.



### I. THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR FOCUSING ON DISABILITY

The 2030 Agenda, which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by member states at the United Nations Convention in 2015, offers a framework at a global, national, and local level to achieve a more disability-inclusive development.

The 2030 Agenda, through its comprehensive and inclusive focus embodies the statements “leave no one behind” as well as “reach the furthest behind first”, and is driving the necessary inclusion of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in the collective project of ensuring a sustainable future<sup>1</sup>.

Over 1 billion people around the world live with some kind of disability. Given this

reality, persons with disabilities are explicitly mentioned in 7 targets and 11 indicators<sup>2</sup> of the SDGs, in the areas of education, growth and employment, inequality, and universal accessibility. Moreover, inspired by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), this group is implicitly included in multiple additional goals, targets and indicators under various umbrella terms such as ‘for all’; ‘the vulnerable’; ‘most disadvantaged’; ‘non-discriminatory’; ‘equal access’; and ‘universal access’.

### II. THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

A strong interconnectedness exists between the protection of the natural environment

1. [The Sustainable Development Agenda](#). United Nations, 2015.

2. [UN Flagship Report on Disability and Sustainable Development Goals](#). United Nations, 2018.

and social development, despite often being ignored, discounted or not properly considered. Vulnerable people – including persons with disabilities – are more likely to experience the negative impacts related to limited resource availability, natural disasters, extreme weather, and other environmental issues, while also being among the earliest and most negatively affected by the transformation of the economy to meet environmental targets. Therefore, if not taken into account and given an active voice from the beginning, persons with disabilities can be left aside, thus failing to fully participate and benefit from the multiple opportunities created by the green and digital revolutions, most notably jobs in growing sectors, bringing with it the risk of creating additional barriers to inclusion. Therefore, environmental and social issues must necessarily be considered hand in hand in order to achieve a sustainable development.

Sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda can only be successfully achieved if the needs of persons with disabilities are fully considered, and equal access is ensured. Despite some noteworthy progress in recent years, it is of critical importance to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in this unprecedented time of important transformations in the global economy.

The limited availability of disaggregated development data for persons with disabilities restricts the capacity to identify, measure and monitor the gaps and barriers encountered by this collective in terms of achieving the SDGs. In this regard, target 17.18 states that data shall be disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity and disability when possible. The use of inclusive data responds to and facilitates the commitment to leave no one behind.

Persons with disabilities deserve the opportunity to thrive and have access to

disability-inclusive programs and services, as well as to benefit from a more sustainable and inclusive economy. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs offer an excellent opportunity to work together towards the implementation of a common disability inclusive agenda.

In this way, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can be used as an instrumental guide by organizations to measure the impact of their disability-related activities as well as monitor their progress.

### **III. DISABILITY AS A CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE. UNION OF EQUALITY: STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2021-2030**

As an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, explicitly mentioned in several goals and targets and referred indirectly in many others, disability should be acknowledged as a cross-cutting issue related not only to poverty, employment, healthcare, well-being and education, but also linked to climate change and environmental issues.

As such, persons with disabilities face considerable barriers in terms of access to healthcare, education, employment, recreation activities, as well as in terms of meaningful participation in political life. They have a higher risk of poverty or social exclusion (29%) than persons without disabilities (19%)<sup>3</sup> and face frequent instances of intolerance in their daily lives. For instance, over half of persons with disabilities say they personally felt discriminated against in 2020 in the European Union<sup>4</sup>.

The Covid-19 pandemic and its economic and social consequences have amplified these inequalities, as evidenced by the fact that persons with disabilities have experienced higher infection rates, suffered

3. [People with disability at higher risk of poverty and social exclusion](#). Eurostat, 2020.

4. [Disability in the EU: facts and figures - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#). European Council, 2022.

more extreme forms of isolation, and faced limited technological accessibility, among other issues. In the European Union context, the “Union of equality: strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030”<sup>5</sup> was launched in March 2021 with the purpose of responding to these multiple challenges and improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

Apart from Covid-19, the climate change and environmental crises also disproportionately affect persons with disabilities, including a lack of accessibility to emergency relief plans and response efforts, as well as the direct negative effects of carbon reduction policies that fail to consider their specific needs<sup>6</sup>.

However, these challenges also create opportunities for persons with disabilities that could, at the same time, benefit society as a whole. All these can be achieved through investments in employment, by reducing inequalities, improving access to healthcare, or promoting training opportunities for emerging green employment niches, such as building renovation and retrofitting and low carbon transport to increase energy efficiency and, simultaneously, address accessibility issues<sup>7</sup>. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs provide a framework to accelerate the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the European Disability Strategy, and the European accessibility act<sup>8</sup>.

#### **IV. CURRENT SITUATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WITHIN THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGS FRAMEWORK**

The need for timely, rigorous and comprehensive data on the intersection of sustainability and disability issues becomes paramount as we strive to ensure that the transition to a low-carbon

economy is just, fair and inclusive, leaving no one behind. The current section will highlight 14 of the 17 SDGs and analyze the situation and role of persons with disabilities in achieving them, highlighting that there remains work to be done in order to create a sustainable future inclusive for all. The facts and figures include data from 2019, when it hasn't been updated due to the pandemic, to 2022. Despite evident progress achieved in recent years, the data indicates that persons with disabilities still suffer important disadvantages compared to the rest of the population.

For the most part, the figures show data for persons with disabilities in the European Union or in specific European countries. However, occasionally, information has been complemented with worldwide data.

The sources that have been used include the following: Eurostat, European Union official documents, World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics or UNICEF reports among others. Due to these variety of sources, the report features different terms used to refer to persons with disabilities, including people with activity limitations, persons with functional difficulties, or inclusion or accessibility. Finally, the analysis includes brief recommendations on how we can help advance the different goals.

It is worth noting that the reduced availability of disaggregated data for persons with disabilities in some areas limits the comprehensiveness of the report and presents a barrier to achieving an inclusive sustainable development. Further work is needed in this area to ensure that these data gaps are addressed going forward.

5. [Union of equality: strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030](#). European Union, 2021.

6. [Disability and Climate Action](#). EDF, n.d.

7. [UN Flagship Report on Disability and Sustainable Development Goals](#). United Nations, 2018.

8. [Directive \(EU\) 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services](#). European Council, 2019.

1 NO  
POVERTY

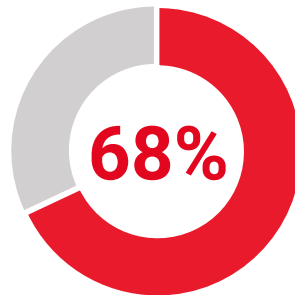


## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Persons with disabilities face physical, social, economic and/or environmental barriers, which may lead to poverty and hunger. The universality of SDG 1 covers all, including persons with disabilities. Although there are no direct references to disability in this SDG, its **indicator 1.3.1** establishes the need to measure the proportion of the population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, **distinguishing persons with disabilities**, among others.

### Facts and Figures

Persons with disabilities in the EU are **50% more likely to be at risk of poverty and social exclusion in 2022<sup>1</sup>**.



**29%**

of persons with activity limitations in 2020 in the EU are at risk of poverty and social exclusion as opposed to 19% of people with no activity limitation<sup>4</sup>.

**41%**

of persons in the EU with a disability **could not meet unexpected financial expenses in 2019<sup>2</sup>**.

of the EU population with an activity limitation would have been **at risk of poverty without social benefits, allowances or pensions in 2019<sup>3</sup>**.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

Public expenditure on **social protection** impacts equity as it improves financial security for those who are being left behind as a result of a disability, unemployment, housing deprivation and social exclusion. In addition to fighting poverty and addressing equity concerns, by generating **employment opportunities for people with disabilities**, businesses can also contribute to improving their bottom line.

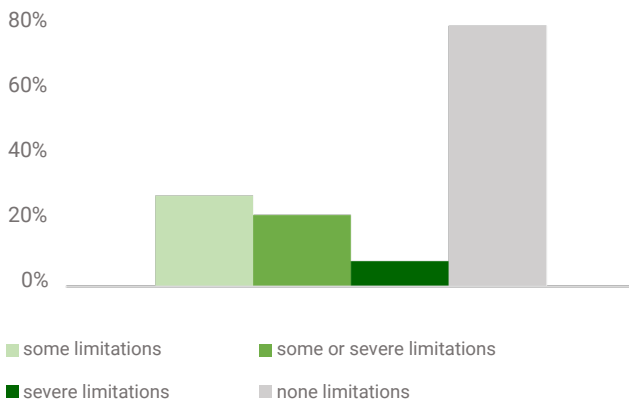
1. [Disability in the EU: facts and figures - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#). European Council, 2022.
2. [Disability statistics - financial situation - Statistics Explained \(europa.eu\)](#). Eurostat, 2019.
3. [Disability statistics - poverty and income inequalities - Statistics Explained \(europa.eu\)](#). Eurostat, 2019.
4. [People with disability at higher risk of poverty and social exclusion](#). Eurostat, 2020.

## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Health and well-being are essential for a full and productive life for persons with disabilities, as it affects one's ability to participate fully in work, in education and in the community. Consequently, it is of major concern to people with a disability as prevention and treatment are key factors to mitigate the impact of disabilities, resulting in higher health and well-being needs. No direct reference to disability is made in SDG 3, however **target 3.8** refers to **universal health coverage**.

### Facts and Figures

Self-perceived health as good or very good in the EU (%)<sup>5</sup>



Persons with disabilities in the EU report **4x more unmet healthcare needs**<sup>6</sup>.

Persons with disabilities are **3x more likely to be denied healthcare worldwide**<sup>8</sup>.

**50%** of persons with disabilities worldwide **are more likely to suffer catastrophic health expenditure**<sup>7</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

Provide **adequate public healthcare systems** and **include accessibility features** for people with disabilities, as well as free or **affordable healthcare programs** as to other citizens. Strengthen policies on the healthcare system and train health-care personnel on **disability inclusion**.

5. [Self-perceived health as good or very good in the EU](#). Eurostat, 2020. Note that data refer to EU-27.

6. [Disability in the EU: facts and figures - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#). European Council, 2022.

7. [Disability and health](#). WHO, 2021.

8. [Disability and health](#). WHO, 2021.

4



## Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Education is essential for people to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to prosper and thrive in life, and is a basic pillar for access to employment. **SDG 4** is built on **inclusive and equitable quality education for all, with specific references to persons with disabilities and accessibility of educational environments (targets 4.5 and 4.a, and indicators 4.5.1 and 4.a.1)**.

### Facts and Figures

People with disabilities in Europe were **2X more likely to leave school early** in 2021<sup>9</sup>.

**68%**

of countries worldwide had the **definition of inclusive education in their public policies in 2020**, leaving the rest of schools and children without a national framework<sup>11</sup>.

**17%**

of persons with disabilities (16-64 years) in Spain have received **tertiary education** against 37,4% of persons without disabilities, in 2020<sup>10</sup>.

**48%**

of children **aged 7 to 14 years worldwide with one or more difficulties read books** compared to 58% of children without functional difficulties in 2021<sup>12</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

It is essential to improve the **collection and disaggregation** by disability of educational indicators to identify gaps and areas of improvements. In addition, **trained educational specialists are needed to ensure an inclusive education** for people with disabilities, leaving no one behind.

9. [Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities](#). UNICEF, 2022.

10. [Persons with disabilities aged 16 to 64 years by level of training](#). ODISMET, 2020.

11. [Inclusion and education](#). UNESCO, 2020.

12. [Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities](#). UNICEF, 2022.



## Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Women and girls with disabilities experience **multiple discrimination** which includes socio-economic disadvantages, gender-based violence and marginalization. Women with disabilities tend to confront additional disadvantages that their male peers do not face. Moreover, some women become disabled as a result of **gender discriminatory practices**. Although this SDG does not explicitly refer to women with disabilities, persons with disabilities are recognized as a vulnerable group across the whole Agenda 2030, therefore also applying to this SDG as well.

### Facts and Figures

**22%**

of women with disabilities are living in households with very **low work intensity** in the EU against 7% of women with no disabilities<sup>13</sup>.

**20% women vs 29% men**

with disabilities in the EU are in full-time employment<sup>15</sup>.

**15% women vs 17% men**

with disabilities in the EU graduate from **tertiary education**<sup>14</sup>.

Women with disabilities in Europe are **5x more likely to face violence than other women in 2021**<sup>16</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

It is key to support the **empowerment of women and girls** with disabilities through programs and trainings to reduce the economic, social and political gender gaps. Targeted policies and actions for women and girls with disabilities from an intersectional approach, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective into disability policies, and a disability perspective into gender policies, is key in all areas of intervention (health, education, employment, climate change etc.).

13. [Living in households with low work intensity in the EU](#). Eurostat, 2020.

14. [Gender Equality Index 2021](#). EIGE, 2021.

15. [Eurostat, Women and gender equality](#). EDF, 2021.

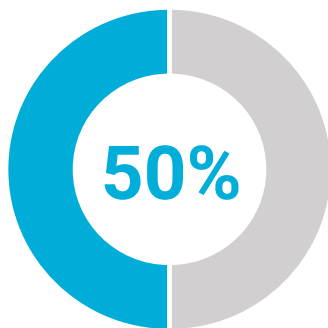
16. [Disability in the EU: facts and figures - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#). European Council, 2022.



## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

People with disabilities encounter significant barriers in access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (**WASH**), which often results from a lack of accessibility in their household or communities. Moreover, people with disabilities face additional barriers such as discrimination when using public facilities. No direct reference is made to people with disabilities in this SDG; however, they are included in **targets 6.1 and 6.2** that include calls for universal and equitable access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all including those in vulnerable situations.

### Facts and Figures



of children with disabilities around the world do **not have basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services**<sup>17</sup>.

**2.7%**

of persons with disabilities do **not have an indoor flushing toilet** in Europe against 1.8% of persons without disabilities<sup>18</sup>.

**2.6%**

of persons with disabilities do **not have a shower or bath in their dwelling** in Europe against 1.6% of people without disabilities<sup>19</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

**WASH programs** should **measure and monitor the impact** on persons with disabilities to identify potential risks and barriers. Moreover, it is critical to invest in making **water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in households and facilities** outside the household (restaurants, hotels, public facilities) accessible for people with disabilities.

17. [Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities](#). UNICEF, 2022.

18. [No indoor flushing toilet](#). Eurostat, 2020.

19. [No bath or shower in their dwelling](#). Eurostat, 2020.

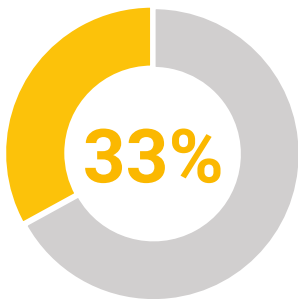




## Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

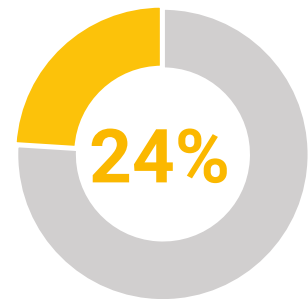
Persons with disabilities often have a greater electricity demand due to more time spent in their homes or the need for assistive technology equipment as a result of a health condition. Moreover, households with people with disabilities tend to have lower incomes, being at higher risk of energy poverty. SDG 7 makes no specific reference to disability, however, **target 7.1** calls for **universal access to energy**.

### Facts and Figures



of households in the EU with people with disabilities are in the **lowest income quantile**. Low incomes translate into low energy use<sup>20</sup>.

Household of people with disabilities in the EU earn and consume **10%** less energy than other households<sup>21</sup>.



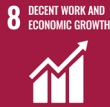
of households with people with disabilities are at risk of **energy poverty** in the EU<sup>23</sup>.

All Country-Specific Recommendations (CSR) of **the European Semester** include energy poverty as a risk to vulnerable people as a key recommendation, resulting from the war in Ukraine<sup>22</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

Implement **social welfare programs** specifically directed at supporting energy bills for households with people with disabilities. In addition, public institutions should make efforts to **prioritize energy access for people with disabilities that need assistive technology equipment**.

20. [Characterizing the energy use of disabled people in the European Union towards inclusion in the energy transition](#). Ivanova, D. and Middlemiss, L., 2021.  
 21. [Characterizing the energy use of disabled people in the European Union towards inclusion in the energy transition](#). Ivanova, D. and Middlemiss, L., 2021.  
 22. [CSR: The European Commission published Country-Specific Recommendations as part of the European Semester Process analyses poor performances on policy issues in the Member States](#). European Commission, 2022.  
 23. [The European Semester](#). The European Union, 2021.

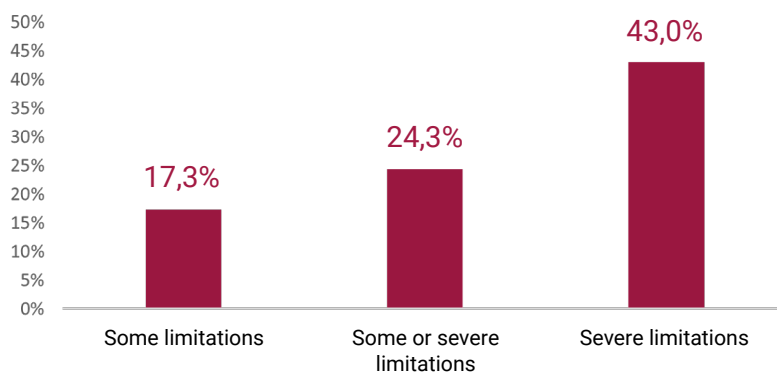


## Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Persons with disabilities face significant difficulties in entering the labour market, due to discrimination, lack of access to training and insufficient accessibility in the workplace, amongst others, resulting in higher rates of **unemployment and economic inactivity**. Within **SDG 8 Target 8.5 and indicators 8.5.1 and 8.5.2**, explicitly address the necessity to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including **persons with disabilities**, as well as equal pay for work of equal value.

### Facts and Figures

Disability employment gap by level of activity limitation in the EU in 2020<sup>24</sup>



**38%** of persons with disabilities in the EU were inactive vs. 18% of persons without disabilities in 2020. And **50.8%** of persons with disabilities are in employment compared to 75% without disabilities<sup>25</sup>.

In countries such as Spain, specific statistical analysis have been developed regarding **employment and persons with disabilities**, highlighted by the existence of a data repository, [ODISMET](#), promoted by **Fundación ONCE** with the co-funding of the **European Social Fund**.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

Put in place **efficient training** programmes for persons with disabilities. **Adapt workplaces** to be accessible for persons with disabilities. Moreover, provide **reasonable accommodation to employees with disabilities** such as technical solutions, working arrangements, training measures and awareness-raising measures. Work on the awareness of **companies and employers**. Establish **public policies** that seek the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce, and provide opportunities in the growing digital and green economy.

24. [Eurostat](#). European Commission, 2020.

25. [EU disability strategy 2021-2030](#). European Commission, 2020.



## Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

When building resilient infrastructure to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, accessibility must be a key part of the equation. Innovation and resilient industrialization is essential to reinforcing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. Although **SDG 9** does not explicitly reference persons with disabilities, **target 9.2** mentions inclusive and sustainable industrialization, which has a direct link to accessibility.

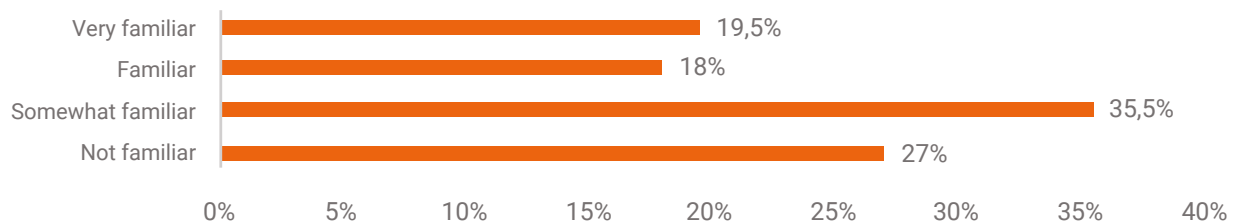
### Facts and Figures

#### Only 4 out of the 27 EU member states

have officially notified the European Commission that they finalized the transposition of the EU Web accessibility directive and published their national laws as of July 2022<sup>26</sup>.

In some countries only **14%** of persons with disabilities use the internet around the world as of 2018<sup>27</sup>.

#### Level of familiarity of professionals and other stakeholders with the EU Web Accessibility Directive in 2020<sup>28</sup>



### How can we help achieve this goal?

Include **accessibility** and take into account persons with disabilities when **fostering innovation**. **Inclusive industrialization** should pursue the adaptability to persons with disabilities in the value chain. Provide **affordable internet access** for persons with disabilities. Make sure persons with disabilities can **access ICT** through training programmes, accessibility policies and involvement of persons with disabilities at every development stage.

26. [Member States are running late with the European Accessibility Act](#). EDF, 2022.

27. [UN Flagship Report on Disability and Sustainable Development Goals](#). United Nations, 2018.

28. [Mapping the European Digital Accessibility Field](#). Oncins, E., 2020.

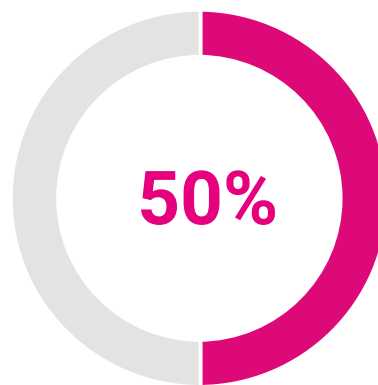


## Reduce inequality within and among countries

Persons with disabilities are highly impacted by inequalities around the world. As they represent a minority group, persons with disabilities face discrimination, unequal opportunities and income inequalities. **SDG 10** pursues the reduction of inequalities. Specifically, **target 10.2 and indicator 10.2.1** aim to empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion of all, **including persons with disabilities**.

### Facts and Figures

Less than **1 in 10 Europeans** mention 'inclusion of persons with disabilities' as an important issue for the future of Europe (**8%**)<sup>30</sup>.



**1/3** of persons with disabilities face discrimination **around the world**<sup>32</sup>.

**50%**  
of persons with disabilities felt discriminated against in the EU in 2019<sup>31</sup>.

**41%**  
of persons with disabilities could not meet **unexpected financial expenses in the EU in 2019**<sup>33</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

Raise awareness about persons with disabilities through **public campaigns to combat misinformation and negative stereotypes**. Establish policies that **protect persons with disabilities** from any form of discrimination. Increase **public expenditure and support** to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of persons with disabilities.

30. [Eurobarometer](#). European Commission, 2021.

31. [Eurobarometer](#). European Commission, 2019.

32. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022](#). United Nations, 2022.

33. [Eurostat](#). European Commission, 2019.



## Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Cities should provide accessibility and take into account persons with disabilities in order to become sustainable communities. **Target 11.2** specifically mentions that sustainable transport must pay attention to the needs of **persons with disabilities**. **Target 11.7** takes into account **persons with disabilities** in order to provide accessibility to green and public spaces. Furthermore, despite not explicitly mentioning **persons with disabilities**, **target 11.3** seeks sustainable and inclusive urbanizations and **target 11.9** encourages the implementation of policies for inclusion. Disability is also mentioned in **indicators 11.2.1, 11.7.1 and 11.7.2**.

### Facts and Figures

In some countries, more than **30%** of persons with disabilities find that transport and public spaces are not accessible<sup>34</sup>.

In Sweden, Greece and the United Kingdom, there is at least a **10%** difference in the overburden rate between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities, when it comes to housing costs<sup>35</sup>.

According to a 2019 Eurocities survey, out of the 22 EU cities surveyed, **45%** included the provision of adequate accessible and affordable housing in their policy areas<sup>36</sup>.

**50%** (11 out of 22 European cities surveyed) have a **local strategy or action plan** to promote the **inclusion of persons with disabilities**<sup>37</sup>.

Around **11%** of persons with disabilities in OECD countries spend over 40% of their disposable income on housing costs, compared with around 8% of persons without disabilities<sup>38</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

**Public and private expenditures to adapt buildings, transport and infrastructure** to improve their sustainability and provide accessibility for persons with disabilities. Develop **national policies and laws** that guarantee access to adequate and affordable housing for persons with disabilities. **Raise awareness on disability among communities and decision makers** and create the enabling environment where persons with disabilities are included without discrimination and can participate equally in their communities.

34. [Making cities and communities inclusive and sustainable for persons with disabilities](#). United Nations, 2018.

35 - 38. [A crisis on the horizon Ensuring affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities](#). OECD, 2021.

36 - 37. [A new decade of making cities disability-inclusive](#). Eurocities, 2019. Note that only 22 European cities surveyed.

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

For consumption and production to be sustainable, not only environmental factors should be taken into account but also social factors that include, for example, accessibility of new products or making sure persons with disabilities are taken into account in all production and consumption processes. **SDG 12** does not mention persons with disabilities, although **target 12.6** encourages companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting.

### Facts and Figures

Although **SDG 12** is more related to a circular economy and sustainable consumption and production, it could also serve as an enabler to include persons with disabilities in all production and consumption processes. How can production and consumption be labelled as sustainable without taking into account persons with disabilities? **Accessibility should be part of the equation.**

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in production and consumption patterns is also an untapped business opportunity as, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), over a **billion people** in the world and **100 million people in the EU live with a disability**. Moreover, this number is **expected to double** up to 2 billion **by 2050**. In addition, the rapidly **aging population**, especially in the EU, offers additional market opportunities for adapting production patterns in terms of accessibility to respond to emerging needs.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

When ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, make sure the **necessities of persons with disabilities** are taken into account, for example, in terms of accessibility of the products and its advertisement. **Universal accessibility and Design for All** play an important role when making the value chain more inclusive. Public and private procurement policies and practices (including social clauses, for example) can act as an important enabler.

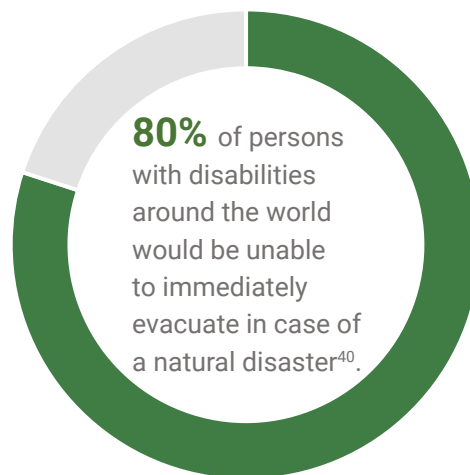


## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Persons with disabilities will be one of the vulnerable groups most impacted by climate change. Extreme weather events could leave persons with disabilities at risk, as they could, for example, have extra difficulties in adapting their homes or face increased health issues. Although **SDG 13** does not explicitly mention persons with disabilities, **target 13.5** aims to promote mechanisms to raise capacity for climate change-related planning and management including a specific focus on the most vulnerable societal groups.

### Facts and Figures

Climate adaptation policies reveal that **only 45 State Parties to the Paris Agreement** currently refer to persons with disabilities, most of them EU countries<sup>39</sup> (2022).



Around **200 million people will be climate refugees by 2050**. According to the World Health Organization, **15% of the global population has a disability, which means 30 million of those climate refugees will require adapted support**<sup>41</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

When addressing climate change, measures in terms of **protection or adaptability plans** should take into account persons with disabilities. Provide persons with disabilities with the training and tools necessary for accessing emerging **green jobs** and for taking advantage of the additional opportunities made available by the expanding green economy.

39. [Status on disability inclusion in climate commitments and policies \(2022\)](#). International Disability Alliance, 2022.

40. [Human Rights Council 2020 rights of persons with disabilities in context of climate change](#). United Nations, 2020.

41. [The Intersection of Disability and Climate Change](#). Cacciatore, G., 2021.

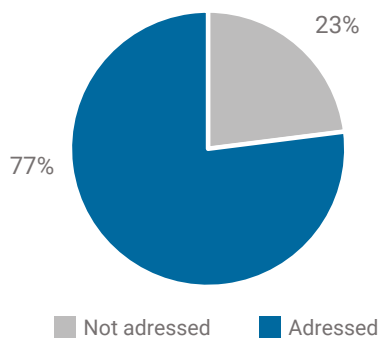


## Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

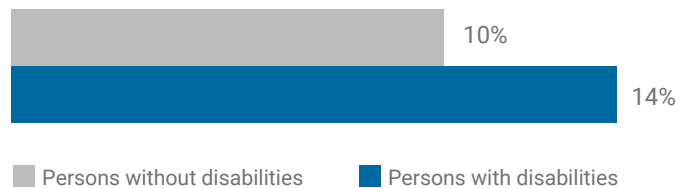
Institutions are core elements for the achievement of peaceful and inclusive societies. Persons with disabilities should be taken into account and be represented by institutions and public entities. **Target 16.1** has the goal to reduce violence everywhere, and persons with disabilities are frequently targets of violence. **Target 16.7.** seeks to ensure responsive, inclusive (including explicit references to persons with disabilities in **indicators 16.7.1 and 16.7.2.**), participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and **target 16.c** aims to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies.

### Facts and Figures

According to a 2019 Eurocities survey, **in 77%** of the cases **Disability questions** are **addressed** across several departments and are part of an **integrated policy planning, out of 22 European cities surveyed**<sup>42</sup>.



**2020 EU 27 persons affected by crime, violence or vandalism**<sup>43</sup>.



**800.000 EU citizens with disabilities**

are deprived of the right to vote in European Parliament election by national rules justifying their exclusion on the basis of their disabilities or mental health issues<sup>44</sup>.

### How can we help achieve this goal?

Protect persons with disabilities against any form of violence through **effective policies and institutions**. Guarantee **accessibility in voting polls** and take measures so that persons with disabilities **feel represented by public institutions**. **Develop mechanisms for reporting discrimination** where persons with disabilities can file or report incidents.

42. [A new decade of making cities disability-inclusive](#). Eurocities, 2019. Note that only 22 European cities surveyed.

43. [Crime, violence or vandalism in the area by level of activity limitation, sex and age](#). Eurostat, 2020. Note that the data refer to EU-27.

44. [EU disability strategy 2021-2030](#). European Commission, 2020.



## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Cooperation is needed to build a sustainable world without leaving anyone behind. Effective partnership and cooperation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities must be built to achieve an inclusive and sustainable world. Persons with disabilities are explicitly mentioned in **SDG 17, target 17.18** regarding the **availability of high quality data disaggregated by disability**, nevertheless, **targets 17.6 and 17.7** that seek to enhance global and effective partnership for sustainable development should encourage collaboration for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects.

### Facts and Figures

Quantitative data specifically linked to persons with disabilities could not be found for SDG 17. The Global Goals can only be achieved through partnerships between all relevant parties in society. In terms of persons with disabilities, **partnership, knowledge sharing, and cooperation** can ensure the achievement of an inclusive and sustainable growth, involving all public authorities, business, education and academia, civil society, media and disability representative organizations. In this regard, **data could be gathered and disclosed**, for example, in terms of the number of entities that collaborate in the inclusion of persons with disabilities; the number of knowledge sharing hubs on accessibility and inclusion; or the results and progress, related to aspects of disability and inclusion, that have been achieved in terms of implementing the SDGs. This paper aims to contribute to this aim.

Some examples of multistakeholder partnerships that specifically work for and support persons with disabilities include: [International Labor Organization \(ILO\) Global Business and Disability Network GBDN](#), or [Disability Hub Europe \(D-hub\)](#) – the initiative behind this report –, or national examples such as [Foro Inserta Responsable](#) (Spain).

### How can we help achieve this goal?

**Strengthen collaboration** between entities, public institutions, companies and all stakeholders to work towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities to make sure no one is left behind.

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# ABOUT:



The main goal of Fundación ONCE for the Cooperation and Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities (Fundación ONCE) is to promote the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families, particularly focusing on the areas of training, employment and the universal accessibility of environments, products and services. Based in Spain and founded by ONCE (the National Organisation of the Spanish Blind), Fundación ONCE has extensive experience in the labour inclusion of people with disabilities, and has collaborated across borders with private companies, governments at all levels and other organisations from civil society, making the disability dimension in this field much more visible.

Website: [www.fundaciononce.es](http://www.fundaciononce.es)



The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of over 100 million persons with disabilities in Europe. It works as an independent non-governmental organisation (NGO) that brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. Run by persons with disabilities and their families, it represents a strong united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

Website: <https://www.edf-feph.org/>

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**This paper has been promoted by the European Disability Forum (EDF) and Fundación ONCE in the framework of Disability Hub Europe**

**Disability Hub Europe** is a European initiative led by Fundación ONCE and co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), aimed at building a reference space (“hub”) for best practice exchange, dissemination, mutual learning and raising awareness on the binomial Disability and Sustainability. **DHub partners** are:



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**September 2022**