



# Disability in the EU SDGs indicators: Ensuring that no one is left behind

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The [European Disability Forum](#) (EDF) presents this position paper in response to the draft report of EUROSTAT on the European Union (EU) – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators circulated on 21<sup>st</sup> March to civil society organisations. The [2030 Agenda](#) adopted by the United Nations in New York has 11 references to persons with disabilities and the [SDGs](#) have 19 references, including the technical ask to disaggregate data by disability.

However, EUROSTAT has overlooked persons with disabilities in its latest indicators draft. Now there is an opportunity to ensure this gap is filled and for the EU to include disability related indicators in line with the 2030 Agenda and the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities (UN CRPD).

The European Commission (EC) has a legal obligation under the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD) to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities. The EC is also legally bound to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full equality under the law. EUROSTAT has also the technical capacity to measure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its approach to the SDGs, and in this paper we outline why and how this could be done. Here are four guiding recommendations:

- **The systematic disaggregation of data by disability**
- **The insertion of the SDGs disability indicators in the EU SDGs indicators**
- **The provision of leadership from the EU in the application of the obligations under the UN CRPD in the context of the SDGs**
- **The participation of persons with disabilities throughout the process**

The SDGs are an exceptional platform to fight poverty and social exclusion. It is also an opportunity for the European Union to “develop a human rights-based indicators system in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations” as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in its [Concluding observations on the initial report of the European Union](#) (p. 9). EDF would like to provide more information about the four recommendations made for stronger SDGS EU indicators:



## 1. The systematic disaggregation of data by disability

The European Disability Forum believes the European Commission should be driving a strong process for better data collection and evidence. One of the core elements of the SDGs is its clear position on data disaggregation, which is in line with the ambition of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. This means that data has to also be disaggregated by disability as outlined in the SDGs chapeau (introduction) “[Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics \(General Assembly resolution 68/261\)](#)” (p.15).

In the list of EU SDGS indicators draft, there are 28 indicators that can be disaggregated by disability either because it is technically feasible or because data on disability is already available from the European Statistical System (ESS). The European Disability Forum provides in annex 1 the list of these 28 indicators.

**Recommendation:** We urge Eurostat to disaggregate systematically data by disability for the 28 indicators suggested (See annex 1). We also recommend using the [Washington Group Short set of questions](#) to be used as methodology to disaggregate data by disability.

## 2. The insertion of the SDGs disability indicators in the EU SDGs indicators

The European Disability Forum notices the EU indicators lack the strong ambition of the Agenda 2030 which has a very clear commitment to leave no one behind. As mentioned previously, there are no indicators on disability in the current draft while data on disability in the [SDGs](#) have to be collected in 11 indicators, with a total of 19 references to disability in the overall document. We believe the European Commission has a unique opportunity to take public leadership as the frontrunner on disability inclusive development, with the possibility to influence available evidence, policies and practice in Europe and worldwide.

**Recommendation:** We ask Eurostat to reinstate the 11 disability indicators that have been removed from the initial agreed SDGs framework (See annex 2 for Disability indicators in the SDGs).



### 3. The provision of leadership from the EU in the application of the obligations under the UN CRPD in the context of the SDGs

The UN CRPD is a legally binding framework to promote, protect and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities. The EU ratified it on the 23rd December 2010. When the CRPD expert committee reviewed the EU's implementation of the CRPD in 2015, the Committee was concerned at "[the lack of consistent and comparable data on persons with disabilities in the European Union, and the lack of human right indicators](#)" (p. 9). The European Commission has a legal duty to ensure persons with disabilities are reached and included in the SDGs indicators of the EU.

**Recommendation:** We recommend Eurostat to provide a strong leadership for harmonised indicators on disability-inclusive development with a systematic approach to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities.

### 4. The participation of persons with disabilities throughout the process

The European Disability Forum believes that the SDGs must be implemented and monitored with the inclusion of all people to ensure no one is left behind. It is clear that persons with disabilities, through organisations of persons with disabilities, should be consulted and involved in the Eurostat's efforts to reach everyone.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the development of groups inclusive of persons with disabilities at both the national and European levels to support all stages of the implementation and the monitoring of the SDGs.



## Annex 1: SDGs EU indicators to disaggregate by disability

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
01.11	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
01.12	People at risk of poverty after social transfers	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
01.13	Severely materially deprived people	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
01.14	People living in households with very low work intensity	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
01.21	Housing cost overburden	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>



	<b>sustainable agriculture</b>				
02.14	Daily consumption of fruits and vegetables	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every > 3 years	ESS (EHIS)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
03.11	Healthy life years and life expectancy at birth	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
03.14	Self-perceived health	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
03.25	Death rate due to chronic diseases	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS	Eurostat
03.31	Suicide death rate, by age group - Total	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS	Eurostat
03.41	Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care (due to monetary constraints)	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>



	<b>opportunities for all</b>				
04.10	Early childhood education and care	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS	Eurostat
04.20	Early leavers from education and training	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat
04.30	Tertiary educational attainment	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat
04.31	Employment rate	As soon as LFS will add the GALI	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat



	of recent graduates	questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.			
04.40	Lifelong learning	As soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
05.20	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local government	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.	every year	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-decision-making/database/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-decision-making/database/index_en.htm</a>	DG JUST; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
<b>Goal 6</b>	<b>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
06.11	Share of total population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat





	indoor flushing toilet in their household	and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.			
<b>Goal 7</b>	<b>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
07.10	Percentage of people affected by fuel poverty (inability to keep home adequately warm)	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 8</b>	<b>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
08.20	Young people neither in	Data disaggregation by disability is	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat



	employment nor in education and training (15-24 years)	possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.			
08.30	Total employment rate	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat
08.31	Long-term unemployment rate	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC. In addition, as soon as LFS will add the GALI questions as	every year	ESS (LFS)	Eurostat



		being asked by DG EMPL, the data will be available in LFS.			
<b>Goal 10</b>	<b>Reduce inequality within and among countries</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
10.11	Real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS	Eurostat
10.25	Income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	Data disaggregation is necessary and can be collected through household surveys.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 11</b>	<b>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
11.11	Share of total population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat



11.21	Distribution of population by level of difficulty in accessing public transport	Data disaggregation by disability is possible. The data is already available and the indicators published annually using SILC.	a-periodic	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat
<b>Goal 16</b>	<b>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</b>	<b>Data disaggregation by disability</b>	<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Data provider</b>
16.10	Death due to homicide, assault, by sex	Data disaggregation by disability is necessary.	every year	ESS	Eurostat
16.19	Share of population which reported occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area	Data disaggregation by disability is possible.	every year	ESS (SILC)	Eurostat



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## Annex 2: Disability indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals

### List of disability-inclusive indicators and the tier system assigned to them

Disability is mentioned 19 times in the Sustainable Development Goals: once in the introduction, seven times in targets and 11 times in the indicators. One indicator is in Tier I, four indicators are in Tier II and five indicators are in Tier III. One indicator (4.5.1) is in all three tiers depending on indice.

- **Introduction.** Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, **disability** and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (General Assembly resolution 68/261).
- **Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere**
  - Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, **persons with disabilities**, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable. **Tier II, custodian agency: ILO**
- **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**
  - Target 4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including **persons with disabilities**, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
    - Indicator 4.5.1: Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as **disability status**, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated. **Tier I/II/III depending on indice, custodian agency UNESCO-UI**



- Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, **disability** and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
  - Indicator 4.a.1: Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for **students with disabilities**; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions). **Tier II, custodian agency UNESCO-UIS**
- **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**
  - Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and **persons with disabilities**, and equal pay for work of equal value
    - Indicator 8.5.1: Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and **persons with disabilities**. **Tier II, custodian agency ILO**
    - Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and **persons with disabilities**. **Tier I, custodian agency ILO**
- **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**
  - Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, **disability**, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
    - Indicator 10.2.1: Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and **persons with disabilities**. **Tier III, custodian agency World Bank**
- **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**
  - Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, **persons with disabilities** and older persons



- Indicator 11.2.1: Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and **persons with disabilities**. **Tier II, custodian agency UN-Habitat**
- Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and **persons with disabilities**
  - Indicator 11.7.1: Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and **persons with disabilities**. **Tier III, custodian agency UN-Habitat**
  - Indicator 11.7.2: Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, **disability status** and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months. **Tier III, custodian agency UNODC**
- **Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**
  - Indicator 16.7.1: Proportions of positions (by sex, age, **persons with disabilities** and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions. **Tier III, custodian agency UNDP**
  - Indicator 6.7.2: Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, **disability** and population group. **Tier III, custodian agency UNDP**
- **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**
  - Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, **disability**, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.