



European Semester 2020-2021 country fiche on disability equality

Lithuania

February – 2021

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Directorate C — Social Affairs

Unit C3 — Disability & Inclusion

European Commission

B-1049 Brussels

European Semester 2020-2021 country fiche on disability equality

With comparative data annex provided by EDE

Lithuania

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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.

This country report has been prepared as input for the European Semester in 2021¹ and has been developed under Contract VC/2020/0273 with the European Commission.

¹ 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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Manuscript completed in February 2021

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021

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1 Executive summary and recommendations

1.1 Key points and main challenges for the European Semester in 2021

During 2020 the main problems and challenges with disability situation in Lithuania remained unchanged, despite improvement in the general situation:

- Only 29 % of working age people with disabilities participate in labour market.
- The risk of poverty and social exclusion of the disabled in Lithuania (43,6 %) is the third highest in the EU.
- In order to reduce poverty during 2019-2020 Lithuania Government mainly relied only on raising social benefits.
- Deinstitutionalization process is delay more than two years.
- From 340 healthcare institutions only 19 % is fully accessible for disabled.
- Number of children in special schools remains the same.

After the 2019 changes in the Law on social enterprise disabled persons organisations (DPO) declared even greater discrimination against people with disabilities in labour market.² Law on Social Enterprises continues to privilege work in segregated or less favourable environments rather than promoting inclusive open labour markets with specific incentives and reasonable accommodation for employers. National Audit Office of Lithuania³ states that only 6 % of persons who were involved in Employment growth programme remained in the labour market for longer than 3 months.⁴

In order to reduce poverty, during 2019-2020 Lithuania social policy reforms mainly rely on social benefits and do not match the European Pillar of Social Rights principles and Sustainable Development Goals. The majority of people with disabilities will not be able to use the new types of social services (personal assistant, assisted employment and in-work support assistance) due the lack of funding and availability.

In 2018, the Government prioritized six major reforms. Three of them cover education. Lithuania showed great will in the 2018 NRP⁵ to change the general situation in education and the 2020s were dedicated to the continuation of works prioritized in education reform. On the other hand, the data indicates that education reform is unlikely to have a significant effect on the educational opportunity and outcomes for persons with disabilities. Almost all of the reforms are directed to raising salaries for teachers, merging universities, optimize the school network.

² Article about DPO appeal to Lithuania President on the Law on social enterprises, <https://www.delfi.lt/verslas/verslas/neigaliej-i-kreipiasi-i-nauseda-po-reformas-diskriminacija-darbe-tik-isaugo.d?id=85037285>.

³ Supreme Audit Institution in Lithuania.

⁴ The National Audit Office points out the ineffective management of fixed programmes, https://www.vkontrole.lt/pranesimas_spaudai_en.aspx?id=24948.

⁵ *The national reform programme for 2018*, pp. 6-9; <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2018-european-semester-national-reform-programme-lithuania-en.pdf>.

1.2 Recommendations for Lithuania

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

- **Labour market:** the provisions of the Law on Employment Promotion and the Law on Social Enterprises must be connected with the Pillar of Social Rights principles. Provisions of the term of the subsidy must be harmonized, and provisions based exclusively on medical criteria should be abandoned, to focus more on individual need and opportunities of people with disabilities. Inefficient active labour market policies measures must be changed and new forms of supported employment and active labour market policies should be connected with UN CRPD and the Social Pillar principles.
Rationale: the participation of disabled people in the labour market remains low, despite general economic improvement. The existing disability assessment and support system is overly medicalized.
- **Social policies and healthcare:** poverty reduction for persons with disabilities should be harmonized with Sustainable Development Goal No 1 and the European Pillar of Social Rights principles, including a focus on active labour market participation.
The deinstitutionalization process should be accelerated and promote access to new types of social services, according to Sustainable Development Goal No 10 and the CRPD Article 19 and its General Comment No 5, accessible to all.
The Government must ensure that all health care services and facilities, including rehabilitation services, as well as health information, are accessible to persons with disabilities and consistent with the CRPD and the social model of disability.
Rationale: the risks of poverty or social exclusion of persons with disabilities in Lithuania is one of the highest in the EU. Poverty reduction measures rely mainly on raising social benefits rather than effective support for labour market participation and inclusion. There is a need to develop protection schemes that effectively avoid 'benefit traps'. Unmet needs for medical treatment are high for severely disabled people.
- **Education system:** legislative reform is needed, including a strategy and action plan for inclusive education and lifelong learning, in line with Education 2030 of UNESCO, Sustainable Development Goal No 4, the European Pillar of Social Rights principles on education and the CRPD Article 24 and its General Comment No 4. Denial of inclusive education should be considered as a form of discrimination. Inclusive curricula and inclusive school culture should be ensured. This requires inclusive education to be key part of national education strategy, including training of all teachers and staff on inclusive education values and learning methods. Government should ensure that every child with special needs could get pedagogical and other support depending on his education needs.
Rationale: education reform does not meet the standards of UN CRPD, UNESCO, the European Pillar of Social Rights and Sustainable Development Goal principles. There remains a high level of exclusion and segregation in the system.

2 Opportunities to mainstream disability equality in the Semester documents

2.1 [Country Report](#) for Lithuania (Staff Working Document)

In 2020, the Country Report for Lithuania included the following direct references to disability issues:

- 'p. 31 Among people with disabilities, about 43 % were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2018, compared to 29 % in the EU.
- p. 31 In September 2019, Lithuania updated its Law on social enterprises but it is too soon to assess its effect on the integration of people with disabilities into the labour market or on the development of the social economy in the country.'

The Country Report should continue to acknowledge the high rate risk of AROPE, as well as the specific risk of poverty, and the wide disability employment gap (estimated at 31 percentage points compared to 24.2 for the EU27 average in 2018).

The risk of poverty and social exclusion of disabled people in Lithuania (43.6 %) was the third highest in the EU in 2018. Only disabled in Bulgaria (49 %) and Latvia (44 %) were at higher risk.⁶ This trend remains almost the same from 2012. Commission staff in the next policy cycle should specifically target what kind of policy measures Lithuania Government is taking to reduce risk of poverty and social exclusion of disabled persons in Lithuania.

From a disability perspective it is important to strengthen opportunity for everyone to participate in labour market and receive sufficient income. In September 2019, Lithuania updated its Law on social enterprises, aiming to equalize conditions for people with disabilities to work both in social enterprises and in the open labour market. Commission staff should specifically target statistical information about changes in number of people with disabilities who participate in the open labour market and in social enterprises and compare amount of state support. Until 2019 only 4 % working age disabled persons worked in social enterprises at a cost of EUR 30 million, compared to 26 % working age disabled who worked in the open labour market with only EUR 3 million in state support.⁷

After changes in the Law on social enterprise disabled persons organisations (DPOs) declared even greater discrimination against people with disabilities in labour market.⁸ Current data indicates a decrease in the number of social enterprises from 173 (2019) to 149 (2020).⁹

⁶ Eurostat data: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20191029-2?fbclid=IwAR0znSr49fdq223504K-88QT6mlscY546uC4mBF7a2Kqgj_X10NutuVpepM.

⁷ Article about social enterprises <https://kauno.diena.lt/naujienos/verslas/ekonomika/seimas-nustate-nauja-socialiniu-imoniu-veiklos-tvarka-931161>.

⁸ Article about DPO appeal to Lithuania President on the Law on social enterprises, <https://www.delfi.lt/verslas/verslas/neigalieji-kreipiasi-i-nauseda-po-reformas-diskriminacija-darbe-tik-isaugo.d?id=85037285>.

⁹ *Employment Services Under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania 2020 data*; <https://uzt.lt/en/>.

On 27 June 2017, the Minister of Education and Science adopted Order No. V-527 Approval of the Action Plan on the Inclusion of Children in Education and Multidimensional Education 2017-2022. This plan specifically aims to reduce the number of children in special schools from 0.8 % of all children in education in 2017 to 0.6-0.5 % in 2020-2022. Despite this, the number of children in special schools remains the same as in 2018. Progress on this commitment should be monitored. The lack of success of employment services in generating employment outcomes for people with disabilities could be followed up in the next Semester cycle.

2.2 Country Specific Recommendation for Lithuania (CSR)

In 2020, the Country Specific Recommendation for Lithuania included the following direct references to disability issues:

- ‘19. The social safety net should be extended to support all groups, including the self-employed, atypical workers and the most vulnerable people. The provision of the main social services and social housing needs to be strengthened to support those in need.’

For 2021 Country Specific Recommendations should mention the risk of poverty and social exclusion of disabled people in Lithuania more specifically, which is one of the highest in the EU.

It would be important to require attention to the accessibility of public infrastructure when recommending major investment. For example, according to the 2020 National Reform program only 60 % of schools are accessible for children with disability¹⁰ and only 19 % of healthcare institutions are fully accessible for people with disabilities.¹¹

Another important topic is state support for people with disabilities who participate in the labour market. There is a need to focus on the effectiveness of supported employment and activation. For example, the National Audit Office of Lithuania¹² reports that only 6 % of persons involved in Employment growth programmes remained in the labour market for longer than three months.

¹⁰ 2020 European Semester National reform programme Lithuania
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020-european-semester-national-reform-programme-lithuania_lt.pdf.

¹¹ The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 2019 data <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/> (in Lithuanian).

¹² Supreme Audit Institution in Lithuania.

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

In 2016, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Lithuania:

[Article 27 UN CRPD](#) addresses Work and Employment.

‘52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, eliminate the concept of ‘working incapacity’ of persons with disabilities and develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes aimed at increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, by eliminating segregated work environments and investing in promoting vocational training, access to appropriately adjusted workplaces, the provision of reasonable accommodation and the training of private and public employers, as set out in target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.’

The main documents in which the Lithuanian Government commit to increase the employment rate of persons with disability is the Lithuanian Government 2016-2020 action plan¹³ and Lithuania National Programme for Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities for 2013-2020.¹⁴

3.1 Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate an employment rate for persons with disabilities in Lithuania of 49.8 % in 2018, compared to 80.3 % for other persons – 1 point below the EU27 average but resulting in a wide disability employment gap of approximately 31 percentage points (compared to an EU27 average gap of 24.2, see Tables 2-4).

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 20.0 % and 8.9 %, respectively in 2018 (see Tables 5-7) and the economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Lithuania was 62.2 %, compared to 88.2 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10). These indications are broken down by gender and age in the respective tables in annex.

In order to implement UN CRPD Committee (2016) and Country Specific (2020) recommendations Lithuania Government made changes in following law acts:

- Law on Employment;
- Law on Social enterprises;
- Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

Major changes have been made to the Law on Social enterprises but, in general, the overall situation has not changed much. In Lithuania only 29 % of working age persons registered with reduced work capacity were employed (compared to an EU-SILC

¹³ Lithuania Government 2016-2020 action plan <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/886c7282c12811e682539852a4b72dd4>.

¹⁴ National Programme for Social Integration of the Disabled for 2013-2020 (in Lithuanian) <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.437985/asr>.

employment estimate of 208 % for persons reporting severe activity limitation). Number of social enterprises decreased from 173 (2019) to 149 (2020).¹⁵

According to administrative data from the Employment Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, at the end of 2019 July 46,798 persons with reduced working capacity were employed and from that 6,779 worked in social enterprises.¹⁶ This indicates that from a total of 158,729 registered persons of working age only 29 % were employed.¹⁷ The number employed in established (adapted) working places per year was 158.¹⁸

Considering this situation in September 2019, Lithuania updated its Law on social enterprises. The aim of these changes was to equalize the conditions for people with disabilities to work both in social enterprises and in the open labour market. In September 2019, Lithuania also updated Law on Employment and introduced new labour market services for people with disabilities assisted employment and in-work support assistance.

These changes have connections with 2020 Country Specific Recommendations for increasing active labour market policy measures coverage.

3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed serious concern in 2016 about the low employment rate among persons with disabilities and the focus on segregated work environments, such as social enterprises, to which European Union funds are being directed. In 2019 only 4 % registered working age disabled persons worked in social enterprise, supported by EUR 30 million in state support, compared to 26 % who worked in the open labour market with EUR 3 million state support.¹⁹ During 2019 National Audit Office pointed out that people with disabilities are insufficiently integrated into labour market and the society despite fact that 900 million. Eur were allocated for them.²⁰ From 2014-2018 Employment Services Under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour made 308 inspections of social enterprises and in 69 inspections violations were identified.²¹

After the 2019 changes in the Law on social enterprise disabled persons organisations (DPO) declared even greater discrimination against people with disabilities in labour market. The biggest umbrella organisation which represents people with disabilities,

¹⁵ Employment Services Under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania 2020 data; <https://uzt.lt/en/>.

¹⁶ Employment Services Under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania 2019 data; <https://uzt.lt/en/>.

¹⁷ The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 2019 data <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/> (in Lithuanian).

¹⁸ The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 2019 data <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/> (in Lithuanian).

¹⁹ Article about social enterprises <https://kauno.diena.lt/naujienos/verslas/ekonomika/seimas-nustate-nauja-socialiniu-imoniu-veiklos-tvarka-931161>.

²⁰ The National Audit Office points out the ineffective management of fixed programmes, https://www.vkontrole.lt/pranesimas_spaudai_en.aspx?id=24948.

²¹ https://uzt.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Socialini_%C5%B3-%C4%AFmoni_%C5%B3-veiklos-ir-administravimo-analiz_%C4%97-2014-2018-m..docx (in Lithuanian).

the Lithuanian Forum of the Disabled (LNF) in their letter to Lithuania president stated that intensity of support for the disability subsidy cannot differ from the company in which people with disabilities work, whether in a regular company or in a social one.²² Law on Social Enterprises continues to privilege work in segregated or less favourable environments rather than promoting inclusive open labour markets with specific incentives and reasonable accommodation for employers.

Discrimination can be seen in correlation between Law on employment and Law on social enterprises. Both laws provide state support for disabled wage subsidy but on the other hand by Law on social enterprise a social company can receive constant wage subsidy but if a disabled person receives support under the Law on Employment he can receive support for a maximum of 24 months.²³

Also updates in the Law on social enterprise introduced ICD codes²⁴ which is based exclusively on the medical criterion and does not assess the individual opportunities of people with disabilities. These provisions of law which are exclusively based on medical criteria does not match with UN CRPD and social model of disability.²⁵

In September 2019, Lithuania also updated the Law on Employment and introduced new labour market services for people with disabilities for assisted employment and in-work support assistance. A shortcoming of in-work support assistance is the low hourly wage of specialists who should provide support – EUR 3.9 (minimum hourly wage EUR 3.72). Also, both of these new programs are financing directly from EU funds. Continuity of such programs after EU funding will end is important.

The Commission 2019 Country Report for Lithuania noted that many people with disabilities are not in work. It also noted that participation by people with disabilities in ALMP in Lithuania was low,²⁶ which might be one of the reasons. Such tendencies did not change during 2019. The Commission 2020 Report noted that spending and coverage of active labour market policies decreased in 2019.²⁷ This puts further pressure on the labour market integration of the long term unemployed and vulnerable groups (including disabled persons). Another concerning thing was reported by National Audit Office of Lithuania²⁸ which states that only 6 % of persons who were involved in Employment growth programme remained in the labour market for longer than 3 months.²⁹ To sum up, there are concerns about the effectiveness of the active labour market measures and policies for disabled persons in Lithuania.

²² Article about DPO appeal to Lithuania President on the Law on social enterprises <https://www.delfi.lt/verslas/verslas/neigalieji-kreipiasi-i-nauseda-po-reformas-diskriminacija-darbetik-isaugo.d?id=85037285>.

²³ Example is about person with disability who has working capacity rated between 30 and 40 %.

²⁴ International Classification of Diseases.

²⁵ Waddington, L. and Priestley, M. (2020), *A human rights approach to disability assessment*, <http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/164671/>.

²⁶ 2019 Country Report Lithuania https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports_en.

²⁷ 2020 Country Report Lithuania <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020SC0514&from=EN>.

²⁸ Supreme Audit Institution in Lithuania.

²⁹ The National Audit Office points out the ineffective management of fixed programmes, https://www.vkontrole.lt/pranesimas_spaudai_en.aspx?id=24948.

Table A: Number of ALMP participants

Years	Total number of persons with disabilities who are working age	Number of persons with disabilities who are working	Employment rate	Number of ALMP participants
2019	158,729	45,675	28,77 %	1,531
2018	158,812	47,770	30,07 %	2,362
2017	162,575	47,133	28,99 %	2,365

Source: The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Note: number of persons refers only to those assessed as having reduced working capacity

Recommendations for Lithuania Government:

The provisions of the Law on Employment Promotion and the Law on Social Enterprises must be connected with the Pillar of Social Rights principles. Regarding these provisions the term of the subsidy must be harmonized between the two forms of support. The Law on Social Enterprises should be changed, abandoning provisions for assessment exclusively on medical criteria and focus more individual opportunities of people with disabilities. Ineffective or inefficient active labour market policies measures must be changed. The Government must show more attention to disabled persons in the development of new forms of supported employment and active labour market policies which must be connected with the UN CRPD and the Pillar of Social Rights principles.

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

In 2016, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Lithuania:

[Article 28 UN CRPD](#) addresses Adequate standard of living and social protection.

‘52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, eliminate the concept of ‘working incapacity’ of persons with disabilities and develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes aimed at increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, by eliminating segregated work environments and investing in promoting vocational training, access to appropriately adjusted workplaces, the provision of reasonable accommodation and the training of private and public employers, as set out in target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.’

[Article 19 UN CRPD](#) addresses Living independently in the community.

‘40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organisations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) adopt an adequately funded strategy for deinstitutionalization ensuring a range of community-based services for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, including for children with intellectual and/or psychosocial impairments, including their right to live independently in the community, with the possibility of individualized personal assistance support services in their home;
- (b) effectively implement the action plan for the implementation of the national programme for the social integration of persons with disabilities for the period 2013-2019 at all levels of the State;
- (c) adopt a moratorium on new admissions of children into institutionalized care;
- (d) eliminate excessive waiting time for receiving support services by investing in developing new services and rendering existing services accessible and inclusive and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sufficient financial resources for independent living and improved access to accessible services in the community.’

[Article 25 UN CRPD](#) addresses Health.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) take appropriate legislative measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to free and affordable health-related habilitation and rehabilitation goods and services;
- (b) train health personnel on the human rights model of disability, including on the right to free and informed consent, and ensure the accessibility of health-care facilities and equipment to ensure that all such facilities and equipment, including in hospitals and in the practices of dentists, gynaecologists and obstetricians, are accessible to persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairments;

(c) ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and ensure also the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

National disability strategies or action plans may also be relevant to these issues - such as the Lithuanian Government 2016-2020 action plan³⁰ and Lithuania National Programme for Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities for 2013-2020.³¹

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate the poverty risk rate for working age persons with disabilities in Lithuania was 28.4 % in 2018, compared to 15.9 % for other persons of similar age - an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 12 percentage points (see Table 14). For people aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 8.4 points (41.1 % for older persons with disabilities and 32.7 % for other persons of similar age). The tables in annex also indicate the respective rates of AROPE and break these down by gender as well age.

The Commission 2020 country report noted that income inequality and the poverty rate in Lithuania remain among the highest in the EU. The risk of poverty or social exclusion for disabled persons in Lithuania (43.6 %) is the third highest in the EU. Only disabled in Bulgaria (49 %) and Latvia (44 %) are at higher risk.³² This trend remains almost the same from 2012. Summarising these facts, the issue of social exclusion remains a key challenge for Lithuania's social policy.

In order to reduce poverty, during 2019-2020 Lithuania mainly relied on raising social benefits.³³ Despite fact that Commission in recommendations noted that overall scale and design of the tax and benefit system is not managing to align resources with objectives in social protection. Due to indexation³⁴ in 2019 pensions increased by almost 8 %. On the other hand, pensions still remain too low to protect the elderly against poverty and social exclusion.³⁵

One of the reasons of disabled poverty is employment. Lithuania still doesn't have system to avoid 'benefit traps'. This conclusion can be drawn from the number correlation of working disabled people which does not change and remain almost the same during past 5 years. Despite that mainly due to demographical changes we can see significant changes in unemployment rates (see Table 5 in annex).

³⁰ Lithuania Government 2016-2020 action plan <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/886c7282c12811e682539852a4b72dd4>.

³¹ National Programme for Social Integration of the Disabled for 2013-2020 (in Lithuanian) <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.437985/asr>.

³² Eurostat data: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20191029-2?fbclid=IwAR0znSr49fdq223504K-88QT6mlscY546uC4mBF7a2Kqgj_X10NutuVpepM.

³³ Social assistance pension base raised from EUR 112 to EUR 140, state supported income raised from EUR 102 to EUR 125, target compensations base raised to EUR 117, <https://socmin.lrv.lt/en/administrative-services/social-statistics>.

³⁴ Government in 2018 indexed basic amounts of social benefits. The pension indexation coefficient is determined by the average change in the earnings of all employees in the country over past seven years.

³⁵ 2019 the risk of poverty and social exclusion of the disabled in Lithuania (43.6 %).

Table B: Number of people with disabilities who participate in labour market

Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Disabled who participate in labour market	47,335	48,256	47,133	47,770	46,798

Source: Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

Note: number of persons refers to the number assessed with reduced work capacity

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

Deinstitutionalisation process. During 2020, after two years delay, Lithuania started its second institutional care system reorganisation project phase.³⁶ This includes six regions of Lithuania.³⁷ In total, 11 social care institutions are reorganising. The Lithuanian Forum of the Disabled (LNF) states that the community of people with disabilities is concerned about ongoing reform because it is targeted only at people in institutional care. People with disabilities and their (foster) families in the community also continue to receive insufficient support services, so they are reverting to apply for care in institutions. This creates a closed circle of institutional care, which can only be broken by a sufficient network of flexible and personalized services in communities.³⁸ This conclusion can be confirmed by Ministry of Social Security and Labour data. The number of places in care institutions has been reducing yet in 2019 428 disabled persons (30 % of them of working age) were waiting to enter institutional care.

Table C: Number of places in care institutions for disabled persons

Years	2017	2018	2019
Places in social care institutions	6,903	6,447	5,934

Source: The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Healthcare services. In 2016, the Lithuania Disability Forum in its alternative report to UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities mentioned that 'access to health resort services, much needed by persons with disabilities, is limited as a result of the lack of accessibility and attitudinal barriers. Persons with reduced mobility and women with disabilities go through especially a lot of difficulties, as well as humiliation, in this area. As well there is shortage of follow-up care services provided'.³⁹

The Commission 2020 Country Report noted that the overall health of the population in Lithuania remains among the worst in the EU.⁴⁰ Despite this situation at the moment

³⁶ According previous plan second phase should end in 2020, <http://www.pertvarka.lt> (in Lithuanian).

³⁷ In total where is 10 regions in Lithuania.

³⁸ Lithuanian Forum of the Disabled (LNF) statement about deinstitutionalization process <https://www.lnf.lt/deinstitucionalizacija/?lang=lt> (in Lithuanian).

³⁹ The Lithuanian Disability Forum (2016) *Alternative Report: Prepared for the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the discussion of the Initial Report of the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT_%2fCRPD_%2fCSS_%2fLTU_%2f23330&Lang=en.

⁴⁰ 2020 Country Report Lithuania https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-european-semester-country-reports_en.

there are no major legislative reforms concerning disabled healthcare. The 2020 National Reform Programme for Lithuania refers to structural healthcare system changes, but nothing is orientated to disabled. According to data from 340 healthcare institutions only 19 % are fully accessible for disabled people.⁴¹ The situation with healthcare institutions accessibility for disabled has not changed from 2017. National Audit Office of Lithuania states that 20 % of registered patients do not come to doctor's appointment.⁴² Since the rate of unmet medical needs (Table 15, i.e. 'Too expensive or too far to travel or waiting list') is also high for severely disabled persons in Lithuania this conclusion might be connected with accessibility of healthcare institutions. Two country studies were prepared by the ANED network concerning access to and the accessibility of healthcare to disabled persons in Lithuania in 2014.⁴³

New type of social services. The Commission 2020 Country Report noted that the social protection system in Lithuania provides limited protection to the most vulnerable groups and the risk of social exclusion is amplified by limited access to public services. In response to this situation the Government started a new type of social services which should cover all Lithuanian municipalities – personal assistant, assisted employment and in-work support assistance.⁴⁴ The aim of these new services is to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to receive all necessary support in their community.

The main shortcoming of these new social services is their funding. All new forms of community based social services (temporary respite care, protected housing, personal assistant, assisted employment and in-work support assistance) at the moment are financed from EU funds. The Lithuanian government and municipalities have not expressed any commitment to finance such services when the measure 'Reform of Institutional Care' (No. 08.4.1-ESFA-V-405) will end.

Another shortcoming is the availability of new social services. The Government expect until the end of 2021 to provide personal assistant services for just 1,550 people with disabilities.⁴⁵ This number is definitely not enough compared with the number who received social assistance services from community-based projects.⁴⁶

Another shortcoming of in-work support assistance is the hourly wage of specialists who should provide support – EUR 3.9 (minimum hourly wage in Lithuania – EUR 3.72). In practice it will be hard to find qualified professionals who could provide the services properly with such a salary.

⁴¹ The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 2019 data <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/> (in Lithuanian).

⁴² The National Audit Office points out the ineffective management of fixed programmes, https://www.vkontrole.lt/pranesimas_spaudai_en.aspx?id=24948.

⁴³ ANED (2014) Health, Lithuania, <https://www.disability-europe.net/theme/health?country=lithuania>.

⁴⁴ National Reform Programme for Lithuania Government in 2020.

⁴⁵ Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania information, <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/aktualu-negalia-turintiems-zmonems-siuloma-plesti-asmeninio-asistento-paslauga-ir-suteikti-lengvatu-seniorams-su-negalia> (in Lithuanian).

⁴⁶ 11,642 people with disabilities received social assistance services from community-based projects in 2019.

To sum up, Lithuanian social policy reforms mainly rely on social benefits and do not match the European Pillar of Social Rights principles and Sustainable Development Goals. The majority of people with disabilities will not be able to use the new types of social services due the lack of funding and availability.

Recommendations for Lithuanian Government:

- The Government should develop schemes which could effectively avoid 'benefit traps'. Poverty reduction policy should be harmonized with Sustainable Development Goal No 1. and the European Pillar of Social Rights principles. In order to reduce poverty government should cease to rely mainly on raising social benefits and start reforms which are aimed at active labour market measures and greater participation of disabled persons in the labour market.
- The Government should make a clear commitment to finance new types of community based social services after EU funding will end.
- The Government should accelerate the deinstitutionalisation process and focus not only on people living in institutional care. New type social services, according Sustainable Development Goal No 10 and the CRPD art 19 and its General Comment No 5, must be more accessible to every disabled person to avoid readmission to institutional care.
- The Government must ensure that all health care services and facilities, including rehabilitation services, as well as all information provided, are accessible to persons with disabilities and consistent with the CRPD and the social model of disability.

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

In 2016, the UN CRPD Committee made the following recommendations to Lithuania:

[Article 24 UN CRPD](#) addresses Education.

‘46. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a coherent strategy on inclusive education in the mainstream educational system in accordance with article 24 of the Convention and with reference to Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8. Through such a strategy, the State party should:

- (a) ensure the accessibility of school environments, the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible and adapted materials and curricula, and the compulsory pre-service and in-service training of all teachers on inclusive education;
- (b) secure a sufficient number of accessible means of transport to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities;
- (c) set clear timelines, targets, baselines and indicators to secure time-bound and measurable progress;
- (d) allocate effective and adequate financial, material and adequately trained human resources.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee a legally enforceable right to inclusive, quality and free primary education and to affordable secondary education on an equal basis with others.

48. The Committee also recommends that the State party facilitate access for persons with disabilities to tertiary education and vocational training, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation in higher education.’

Documents which are relevant to these issues in Lithuania:

- Lithuania’s Progress Strategy ‘Lithuania 2030’;⁴⁷
- National Education Strategy 2013-2022.⁴⁸

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The estimates available from EU-SILC 2018, based on a limited sample, indicate early school leaving rates for disabled young people similar to the EU average (see Table 16 in annex) but this is very big change compared to previous years and a multi-year average may be more indicative of the true situation (historical data series suggest above 40 % of early leaving among the disability group).⁴⁹ In addition it must be mentioned that the total number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools

⁴⁷ https://lr.v.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN_version/Useful_information/lithuania2030.pdf.

⁴⁸ <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/library/state-education-strategy-2013-2022> (in Lithuanian only).

⁴⁹ According to EU-SILC 2016 data, the average early school leaving rate for disabled young people (18-24) was as high as 46 %, and 44.6 % in 2015, but the 2018 sample indicated just 17.9 %.

every year decreased,⁵⁰ with similar tendency between vocational school, college and university students with disability (see Table below).

Table D: Number pupils and students with a disability in educational institutions

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Vocational school	1,334	1,346	1,359	1,332	1,283	1,085
College	410	301	242	181	141	108
University	367	419	362	314	279	244

Source: Lithuanian official statistics

The corresponding estimate for tertiary education is low (Table 17).

Data from ITC Education Management Information System under the Ministry of Education and Science indicates that in 2019-2020 children with special needs made up 12.5 % (41,347) of all children in mainstream education classes. Children in special classes in mainstream education schools make 0.18 % of all children in Lithuania in 2018 and in special schools 1.18 % of all children in Lithuania. SEN classification of pupils is not necessarily synonymous with those who are disabled.

On 27 June 2017, the Minister of Education and Science adopted the order No. V-527 Approval of the Action Plan on the Inclusion of Children in Education and Multidimensional Education 2017-2022. The plan specifically aimed to reduce the number of children in special schools from 0.8 % of all children in education in 2017 to 0.6-0.5 % in 2020-2022. Despite this, the number of children in special schools remains the same as in 2018. Progress on this commitment should be monitored. According to administrative data the number of children who attended special schools has not changed. Despite aspirations for inclusion in education, the number of children with disabilities in special classes increased in line with the number assessed with SEN.⁵¹

Table E: Number of children with special needs

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of children with special needs	38,656	38,846	38,859	40,279
From total number:				
Attending special schools	3,638	3,680	3,656	3,686
Special classes in mainstream schools	986	1,023	1,110	1,159
Mainstream classes	34,032	34,143	34,093	35,711

Source: Lithuanian official statistics

⁵⁰ During 2015 in mainstream schools, there were 4407 children with disabilities and in 2019 – 3870. Article about the need for special pedagogical assistance <http://www.svietimonaujienos.lt/specialiosios-pedagogines-pagalbos-poreikis-didinant-itraukti-svietime/> (in Lithuanian).

⁵¹ Number of special schools slightly changed from 2015 – 47, till 2018 – 44 schools.

On the other hand, Lithuania has seen significant changes in the number of children with special needs who attend preschool activities.

Table F: Number of children with special needs participating in pre-school education

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of children with special needs participating in pre-school education	17,372	18,388	20,920	24,092

Source: Lithuanian official statistics

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

In 2018, the Government prioritized six major reforms. Three of them cover education. Lithuania showed great will in the 2018 NRP⁵² to change the general situation in education and the 2020s were dedicated to the continuation of works prioritized in education reform. Some legal acts were adopted which, in the long term, should make a big difference. Those steps are linked with 2019 CSR, which should be followed up. One of the recommendations for Lithuania was to improve quality and efficiency at all education and training levels, including adult learning. On the other hand, the data indicates that education reform is unlikely to have a significant effect on the educational opportunity and outcomes for persons with disabilities (although it is unclear from a single year whether the 2018 early leaving data represents a lack of reliability or a dramatic improvement). Almost all of the reforms are directed to raising salaries for teachers, merging universities, optimize the school network.⁵³

Inclusive education

On 31 June 2020, the Parliament adopted the amendment of the Law on Education⁵⁴ (came into force on 1 September 2024). The changes finally eliminated discriminatory provisions which allowed educational institutions not to accept children who need psychological, special pedagogical, special or social pedagogical assistance. This change is a step forward for inclusive education and connects with the European Pillar of Social Rights principles on education. Otherwise, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Jonas Ruskus noted that Parliament did not show the will to eliminate the options for children to enter special schools or classes.⁵⁵

Another concerning thing is the lack of specialist support for children with special needs. From statistical data we can see that number of children with special needs

⁵² The national reform programme for 2018 (pp. 6-9); <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2018-european-semester-national-reform-programme-lithuania-en.pdf>.

⁵³ Lithuania: The national reform programme for 2020 (pp. 12-16); https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020-european-semester-national-reform-programme-lithuania_it.pdf.

⁵⁴ Republic of Lithuania, Law on education; <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/a396c630c07711eaae0db016672cba9c> (in Lithuanian).

⁵⁵ Article in newspaper about changes in Law on education; <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/pozicija/679/1183920/jonas-ruskus-negalia-turinciu-vaiku-teises-politiku-rankose> (in Lithuanian).

every year became higher (see Table E above). However, for example, the number of speech therapists and special pedagogues in general education schools is decreasing. During the 2018-2019 school years 28 % of all schools in Lithuania did not have a single special pedagogue or speech therapist.⁵⁶ From statistical data we can see a great lack of specialists to provide support for children with hearing or visual impairments. According to ITC Education Management Information System data, during 2018-2019 in general schools there were 4,849 children with significant, and 117 with very significant, special needs. Among them, 654 had complex disabilities, 349 with various visual or hearing impairments, blindness or deafness. In 2019-2020 were 28 teachers for children with visual impairments. It is important to note that many of them (18 from 28) are working in Vilnius and Kaunas. This means that the help of these specialists is almost unavailable in other cities and regions. The National Audit Office of Lithuania states that 23 municipalities do not transport children to education institutions.⁵⁷ To summarize, Lithuania's education reform does not match the European Pillar of Social Rights principles on education.

Table G: Number of speech therapists, special pedagogues and surdologist in general education schools

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Special pedagogues	470	460	445	456	447
Speech therapists	464	451	442	451	433
Surdologist	23	19	20	17	14

Source: Lithuanian official statistics

Finally, we should mention the situation of children with intellectual disabilities. Usually children with intellectual disabilities do not get an education that would be adapted to individual abilities and interests, in inclusive education settings. Since 2011 these pupils no longer have the option to study in general education schools under an adapted programme of secondary education. The legal framework applies to all the pupils with intellectual disabilities without being mindful of each student's support needs.⁵⁸ This might contribute to the apparent rise in special schooling.

Tertiary education

The number of students with disabilities had been decreasing significantly in Lithuania. In 2015 there were 367 students who indicated their disability status at universities and 410 in colleges. In 2019-2020, 244 students at universities and 108 in colleges (see Table D, above). Students with disabilities compose about 0.3 %⁵⁹ of the student population in Lithuania, where the total number of students in 2020 was 105,942 (counting university and college students).

⁵⁶ Data from ITC Education Management Information System under the Ministry of Education and Science, <https://www.svis.smm.lt/pedagogai/> (in Lithuanian).

⁵⁷ The National Audit Office points out the ineffective management of fixed programmes, https://www.vkontrole.lt/pranesimas_spaudai_en.aspx?id=24948.

⁵⁸ Since 2011 the pupils with disabilities, who have high or very high support needs due to intellectual disabilities, and who have completed a basic education programme, can follow an adapted vocational training programme or a three-year programme of Social skills education. This programme can be offered in the special schools and a few general education schools. The Order of the Minister of Education and Science No. 122-5771 of 30 September 2011.

⁵⁹ Lithuanian official statistics data.

Recommendations for Lithuania Government

Lithuania should revise national legislation on education and include an action plan with provisions for inclusive education and lifelong learning, according to the Education 2030 of UNESCO, Sustainable Development Goal No 4, the European Pillar of Social Rights principles on education and the CRPD art 24 and its General Comment No 4. Denial of inclusive education should be considered as a form of discrimination. Inclusive curricula and inclusive school culture should be ensured. This requires inclusive education to be key part of national education strategy, including training of all teachers and staff on inclusive education values and learning methods. Government should ensure that every child with special needs could get pedagogical and other support depending of his education needs.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

6.1 Updates on use of existing EU funds (to 2020)

In the 2014-2020 period, Lithuania benefits from ESIF funding of EUR 8.4 billion, implemented through three national programmes. This represents an average of EUR 2,849 per head of population from the EU budget over the period.

At the moment Lithuania is deploying ESF (European Social Fund) funding to boost employment and help disadvantaged groups get access to job opportunities. It is also investing in the education system to ensure young people have the skills they will need to prosper.

Throughout the period 2014-2020, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour remains responsible for the implementation of measures falling under Priority 7 'Promotion of high-quality employment and participation in the labour market' and Priority 8, 'Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty' of the Operational Programme for the European Union Funds Investments in 2014-2020 ('OP 2014-2020'). A total of EUR 564 million from the EU funds is allocated for implementation of these measures (including funding of the European Social Fund, ESF) of EUR 460.4 million, and funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of EUR 103.6 million. Co-funding amounts to another EUR 93 million. Both priorities of the OP 2014-2020 provide for implementation of 27 measures, including 4 measures to be funded with ERDF funding (for development of infrastructure), and 23 measures, with ESF funding.

Measures and projects related to disability and currently implemented under Priority 7

Measure No. 07.3.1-ESFA-V-402 'Professional Rehabilitation of the Disabled'

Purpose of the measure: improved employment of the disabled based on professional rehabilitation.

Budget of the measure: ESF funding of EUR 17 million.

Expected results: approximately 5,000 disabled people are expected to benefit from services of professional rehabilitation.

Implementation progress of the measure: in Q1 2015, ESF project 'Support for the disabled' was launched, mainly targeted at improved employment of disabled people through services of professional rehabilitation as follows: restoration of person's capacity to work, vocational competency and ability to get involved into the labour market using educational, social, psychological, rehabilitation and other impact measures. Programme (cycle) of professional rehabilitation includes assessment of professional skills, vocational guidance and consulting, restoration of professional skills or development of new ones, assistance in finding employment, support at workplace. In the period from Q1 2015 to 2020, over 36,577 disabled people have been referred to the professional rehabilitation programme.

Project web link: <https://uzt.lt/es-investicijos/profesine-reabilitacija/>.

Measure No. 07.3.1-EFA-V-401 'Integration of the Unemployed into the Labour Market'

Purpose of the measure: granting or improvement of professional qualification and competencies of the unemployed, development of practical working skills, promotion of their territorial mobility, and improvement of motivation. Priority is given to the long-term, unskilled unemployed, those with long unemployment history, and the elderly.

Budget of the measure: EUR 186.6 million, including ESF funding of EUR 152,6 million and funding from the State budget of EUR 34 million.

Expected results: involvement of 85,000 unemployed in the activities of the projects funded is expected, including at least 30,000 unemployed over the age of 54 years.

Since 2014, the projects under the measure have reached almost 560,000 unemployed.

Project web link: <https://uzt.lt/es-investicijos/igyvendinami-projektai/>.

Measures and projects related with disabled and currently implemented under Priority 8

Measure No. 08.4.1-ESFA-V-405 'Reorganisation of Institutionalised Care'

Purpose of the measure: development of environment for efficient and sustainable transition from institutionalized care to the system of family- and community-based services.

Budget of the measure: EUR 32.7 million, including ESF funding of EUR 26,6 million and funding from the State budget of EUR 6,1 million.

Expected results: 1,901 families are expected to benefit from social services during the implementation of the measure; 2,700 persons will be subject to personalized plans on transition from institutionalized care to family and community-based services; and 5,000 staff of social services will attend activities on skills improvement.

Implementation progress of the measure: the measure includes one project 'Development of environment for smooth transition from institutionalized care to the system of family – and community-based services in Lithuania', with respective agreement signed on 3 November 2015. The project is implemented by the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour together with the partner, the Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. In stage 1, methodologies for the establishment of individual needs of persons of target groups residing in foster care institutions, guidelines on personalized plans, methodologies on motivation and assessment of skills of staff were developed, professionals on training and consulting of guardians and foster parent were trained on dealing with relatives planning to take care of their close ones, along with a number of trainings intended for staff engaged in the field of reorganisation, as well as leaders of regions, municipalities and local communities, etc. From 2015 till 2020 in the course of the project already 34,032 staff of the social

service system attended skills improvement activities, 6,619 people received social services, 11,181 individual transition plans from institutional care to community-based services there prepared. On the other hand, second institutional project phase started after two years delay and at the moment we do not see any result.

Project web link: <http://www.pertvarka.lt/> (in Lithuanian).

6.2 Priorities for future investment (after 2020)

According Commission report priority investment areas in Lithuania for 2021-2027 will be targeting to these areas:

- investments in research and innovation activities and fostering transfer of advanced technologies;
- investments in the deployment of technology and infrastructures for affordable clean energy, in greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- investments in enhancing the circular economy, notably through promoting new circular business models and smarter design for reparability, reuse and remanufacturing;
- upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Only one priority 'upskilling and reskilling of workers' is relevant to the challenges identified in this report, but it is important that investments in advanced technologies or infrastructure must be accessible to disabled persons.

The issues of poverty and social exclusion, inclusive education, and the disability employment gap are key challenges for Lithuania's social policies. Measures that have been adopted until today were successful enough. The poverty of persons with disabilities remains a challenge that is still not effectively addressed in Lithuania, although the government declares poverty reduction, education reform as its priority reforms. In order to support measures addressed to solve these problems Lithuania relies heavily on EU Funds support. From the priority areas identified so far for 2021-2027 we can conclude that social policy, impacting on disabled people, is not yet included. There is a danger that without EU funds Lithuania will face even greater social exclusion of disabled people.

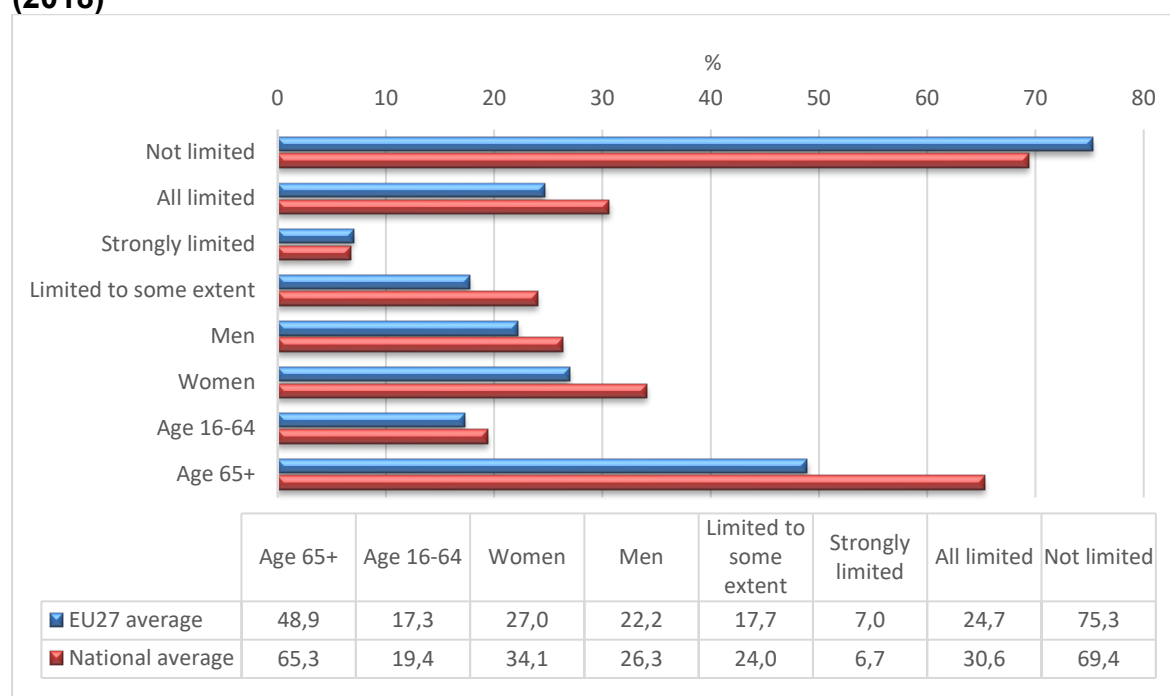
7 Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database⁶⁰ and statistical reports.⁶¹

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 (congregative 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 6 months’ the respondent reports that they have been ‘limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do’.⁶²

Table 1: Self-reported ‘activity limitations’ as a proxy for impairment/disability (2018)



Source: EU-SILC 2018 Release 2020 version 1

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 report and do

⁶⁰ Eurostat health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁶¹ Eurostat (2019) *Disability Statistics* https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

⁶² The SILC survey questions are contained in the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_\(MEHM\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/Glossary:Minimum_European_Health_Module_(MEHM)).

not report 'activity limitations'.⁶³ National estimates for Lithuania are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.⁶⁴

7.1 EU data relevant to disability and the labour market (2018)

Table 2: Employment rates, by disability and gender (aged 20-64)

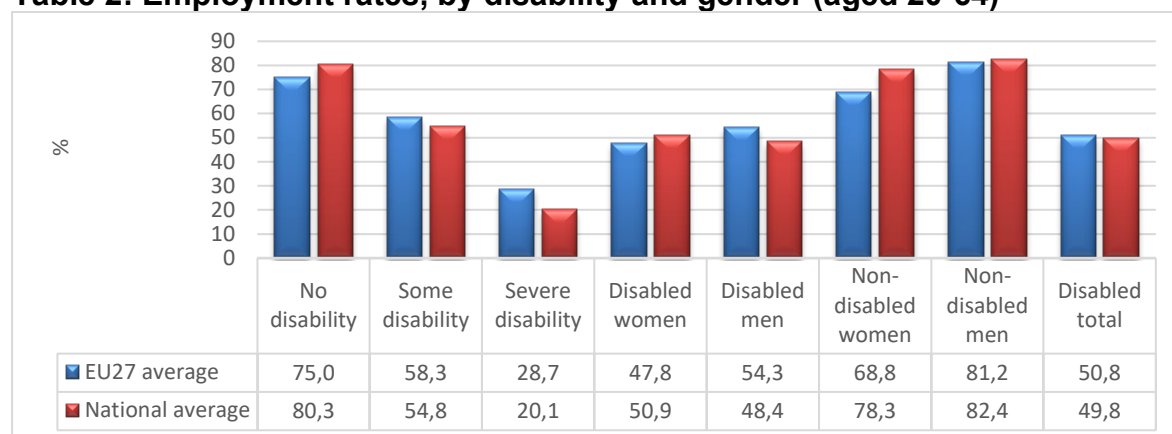
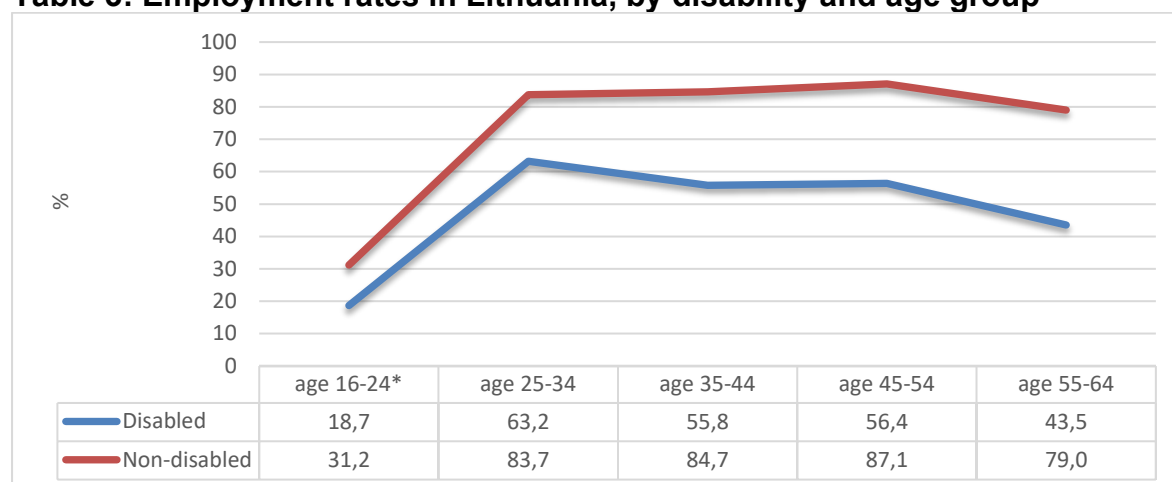


Table 3: Employment rates in Lithuania, by disability and age group



⁶³ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

⁶⁴ The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU changes the EU average. Averages were also affected in 2015 by a discontinuity in the German disability data due to a definitional change.

Table 4: National trends in employment rates, by disability status (aged 20-64)

Source: EU-SILC 2018 Release 2020 version 1 (and preceding UDBs)

7.1.1 Unemployment

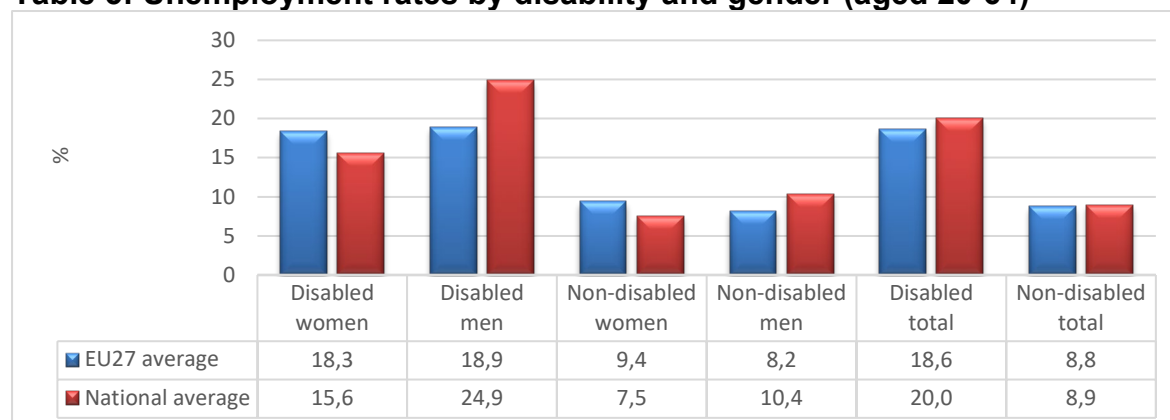
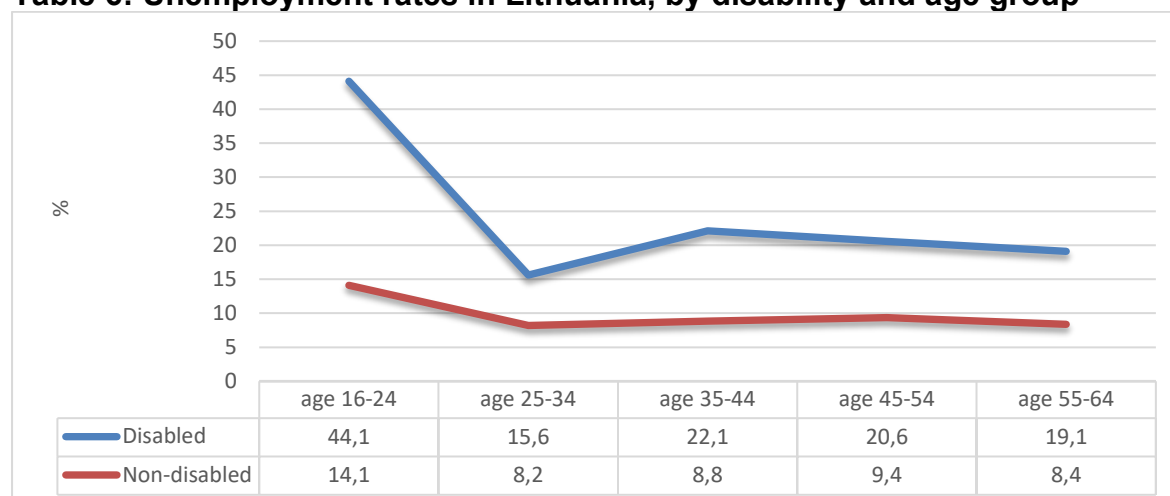
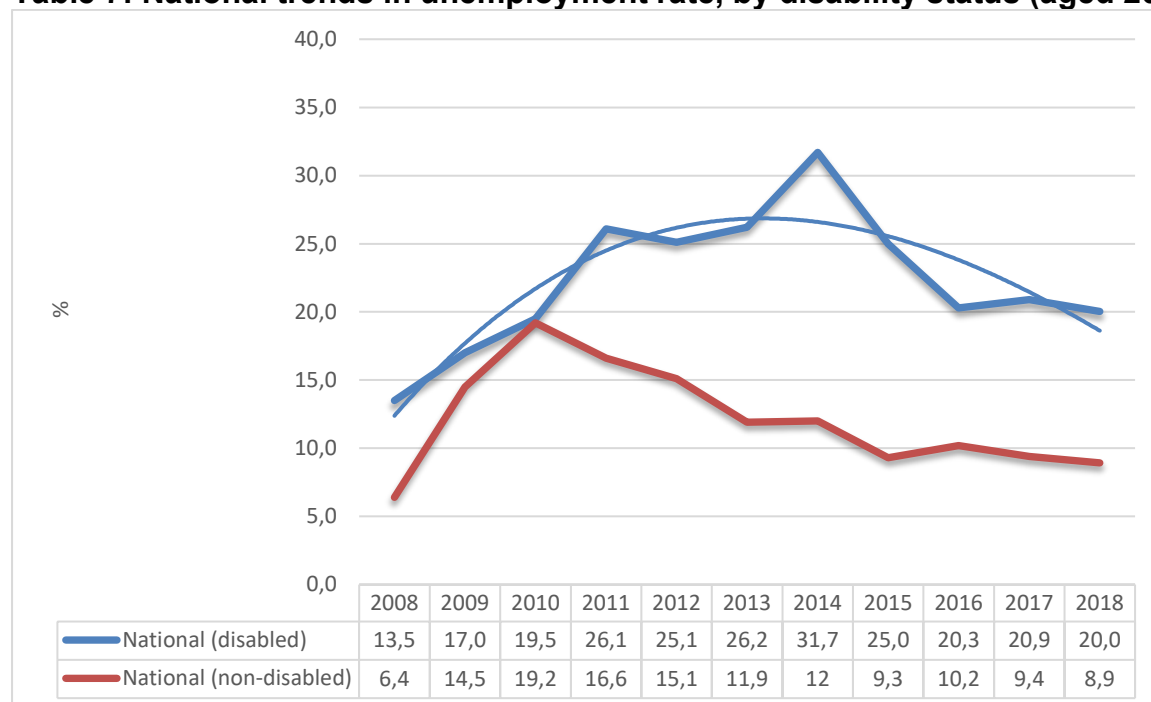
Table 5: Unemployment rates by disability and gender (aged 20-64)**Table 6: Unemployment rates in Lithuania, by disability and age group**

Table 7: National trends in unemployment rate, by disability status (aged 20-64)

Source: EU-SILC 2018 Release 2020 version 1 (and preceding UDBs)

7.1.2 Economic activity

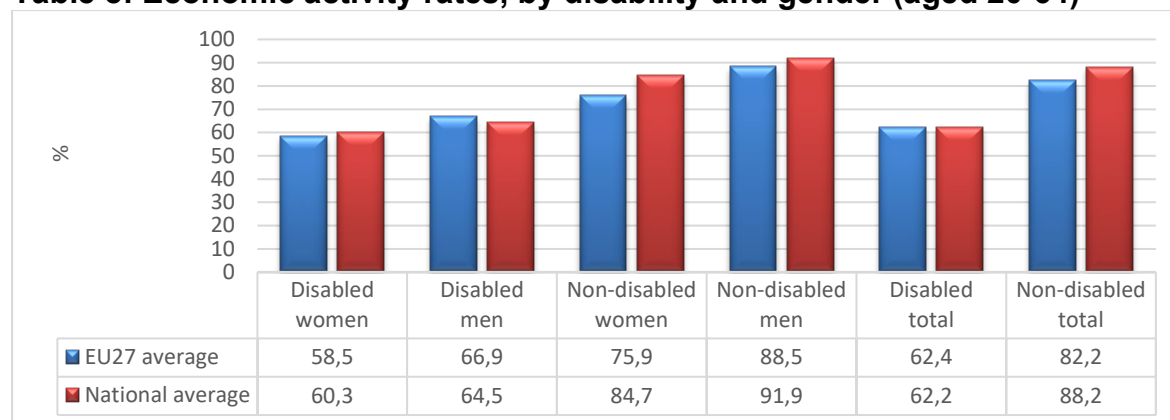
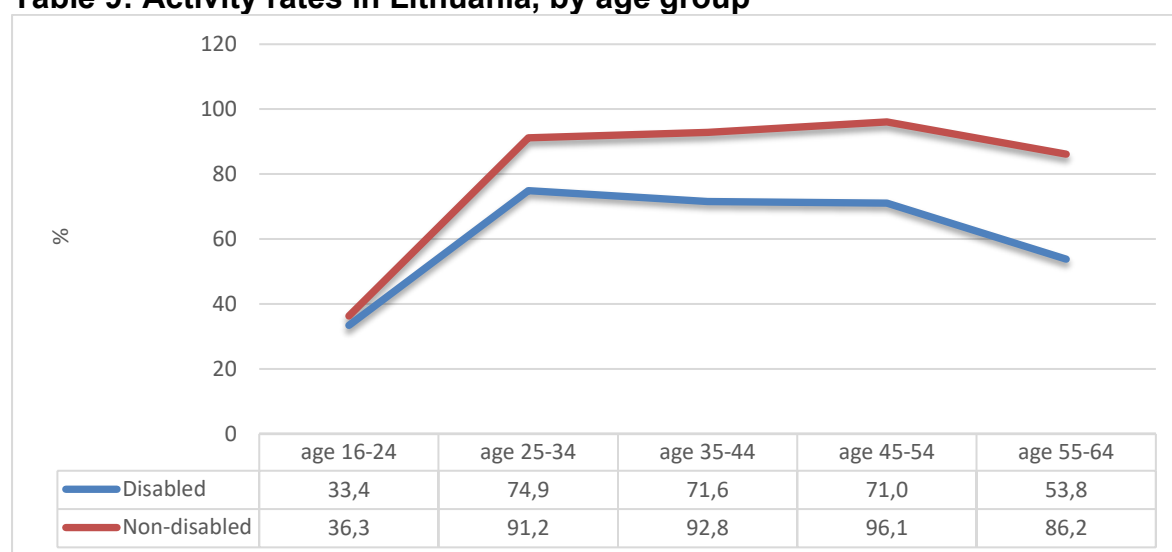
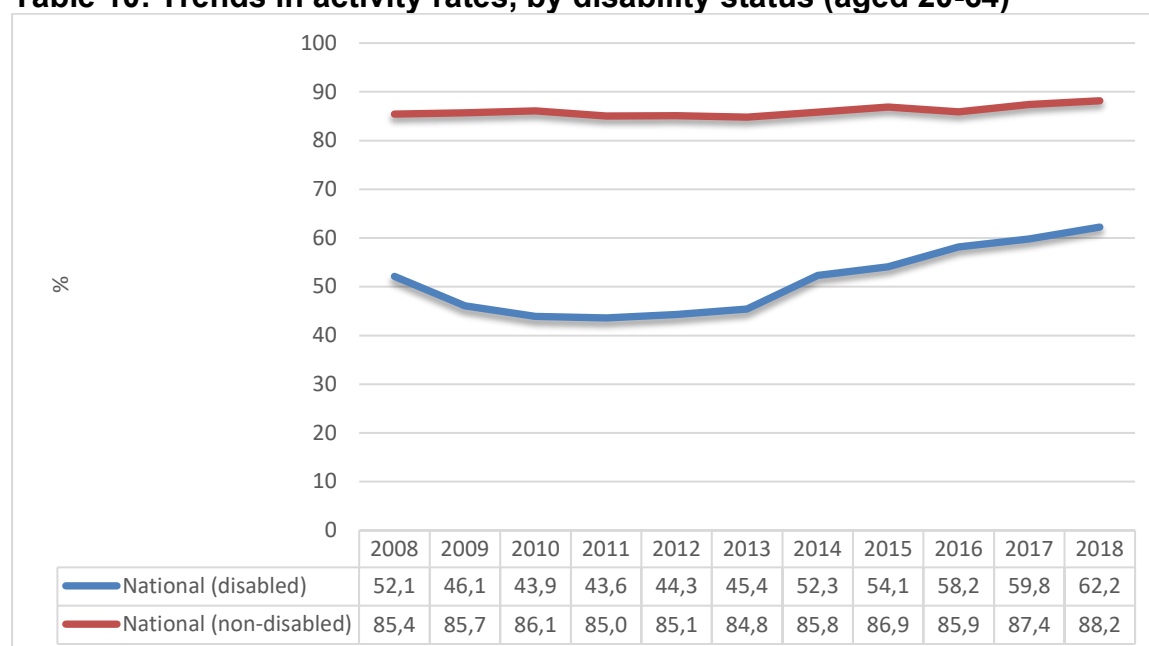
Table 8: Economic activity rates, by disability and gender (aged 20-64)

Table 9: Activity rates in Lithuania, by age group**Table 10: Trends in activity rates, by disability status (aged 20-64)**

Source: EU-SILC 2018 Release 2020 version 1 (and preceding UDBs)

7.1.3 Alternative sources of labour market data in Lithuania

Statistical data about disabled people in the labour market in Lithuania is limited. The main information is collected by the Department of Statistics and Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The main attention in such surveys is paid to the collection of statistical information which is relevant UN CRPD articles implementation in Lithuania. Data is displayed by UN CRPD articles. General administrative data is available on the number of disabled people unemployed and employed disabled people, the number of institutions providing professional rehabilitation services, and the number of people, who finished

professional rehabilitation programs. There is a national Labour Force Survey but attention to disabled people is limited.⁶⁵

The Department for Disability Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour provides numbers (frequencies instead of percentages) on unemployment of persons with disabilities (but not disaggregated by disability, age, or sex):

Table H: Number of persons who are in employment or registered with employment services

Years	Total number of persons with disabilities who are working age	Number of persons with disabilities who are working	Employment rate	Number of ALMP participants
2019	158,729	45,675	28,77 %	1,531
2018	158,812	47,770	30,07 %	2,362
2017	162,575	47,133	28,99 %	2,365

Years	Total number of persons with disabilities who are registered in Employment Services	Number of persons with disabilities who are employed during this year	Number of persons with disabilities who are employed during this year by percent	Funds have been allocated to support the employment of the disabled, EUR
2018	11,018	4,583	41,6 %	4560000
2017	10,521	5,502	52,3 %	3016950
2016	11,380	5,700	50,1 %	4262800

Source: The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Note: numbers of persons here refers to those assessed with reduced work capacity

⁶⁵ *Statistics Lithuania* <http://www.stat.gov.lt>; Department of Statistics and Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour statistical data <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/> (in Lithuanian); Labour Force Survey: https://osp.stat.gov.lt/en/viesos-duomenu-rinkmenos/-/asset_publisher/i2LnhXkrXAbl/content/ketvirtinio-gyventoju-uzimtumo-statistinio-tyrimo-

7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2018)

Table 11: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and risk (aged 16-59)

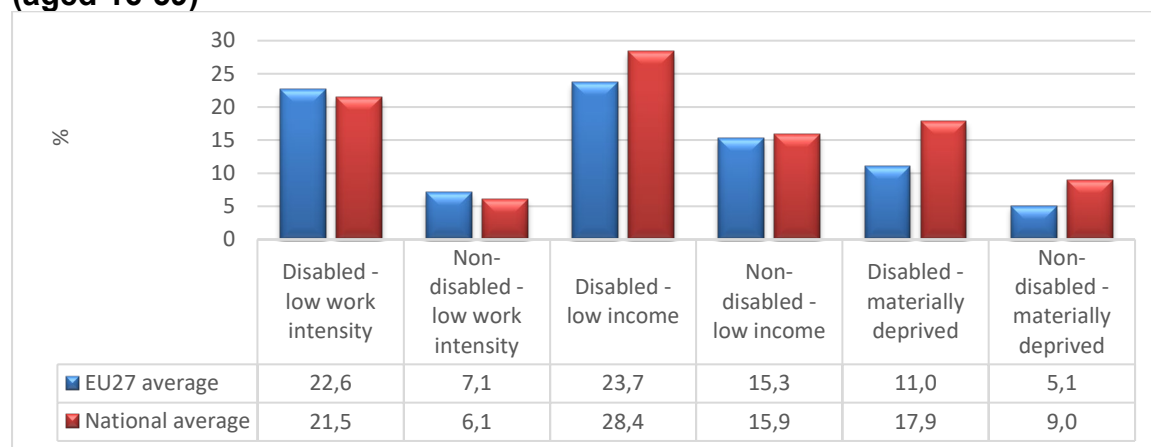


Table 12: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and gender (aged 16+)

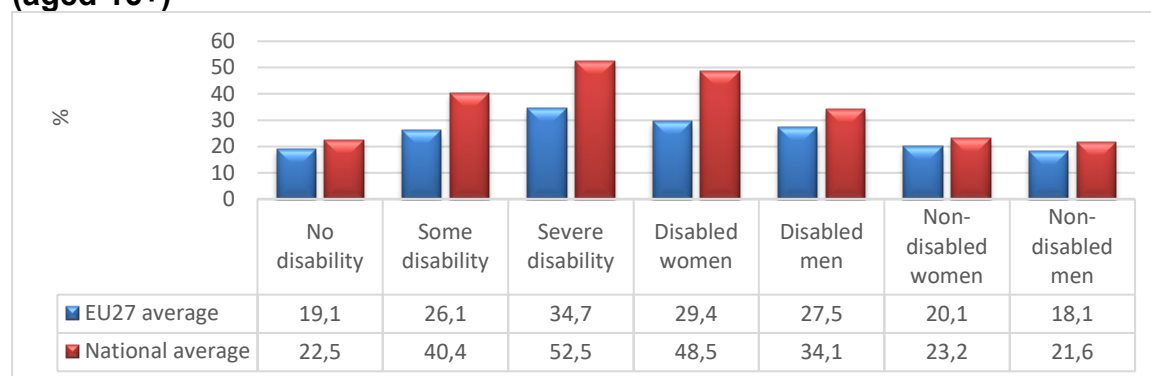
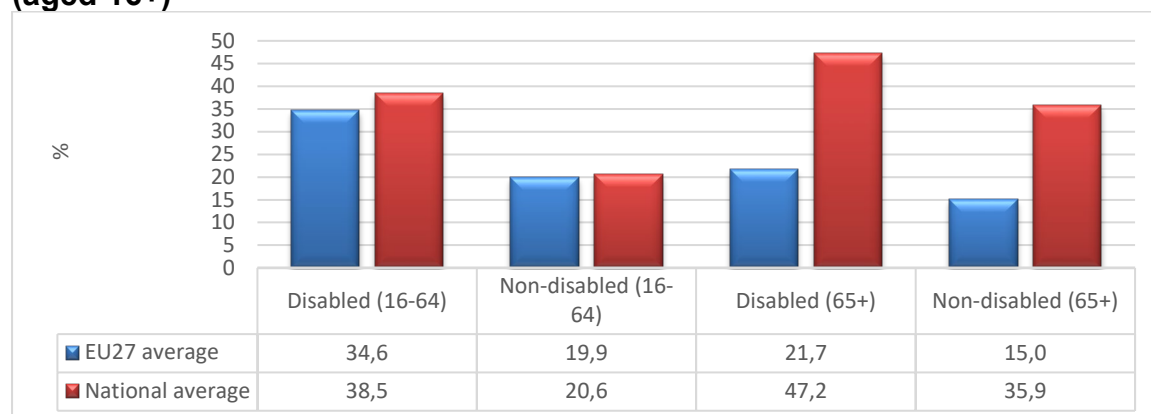
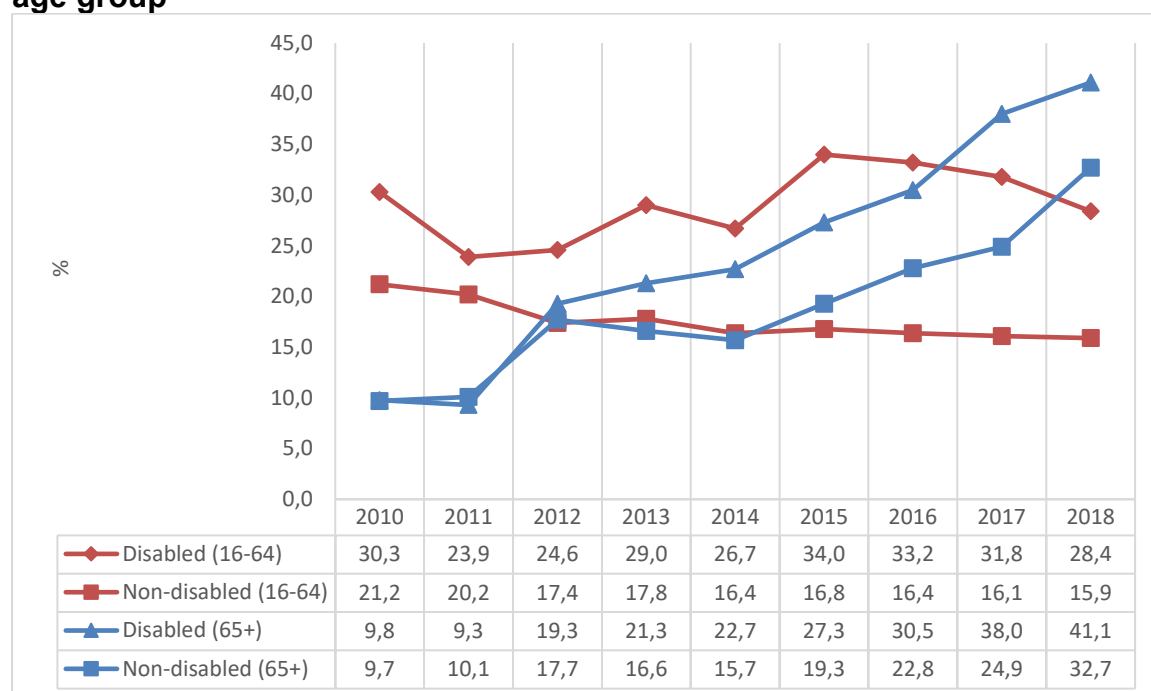


Table 13: Overall risk of household poverty or exclusion by disability and age (aged 16+)

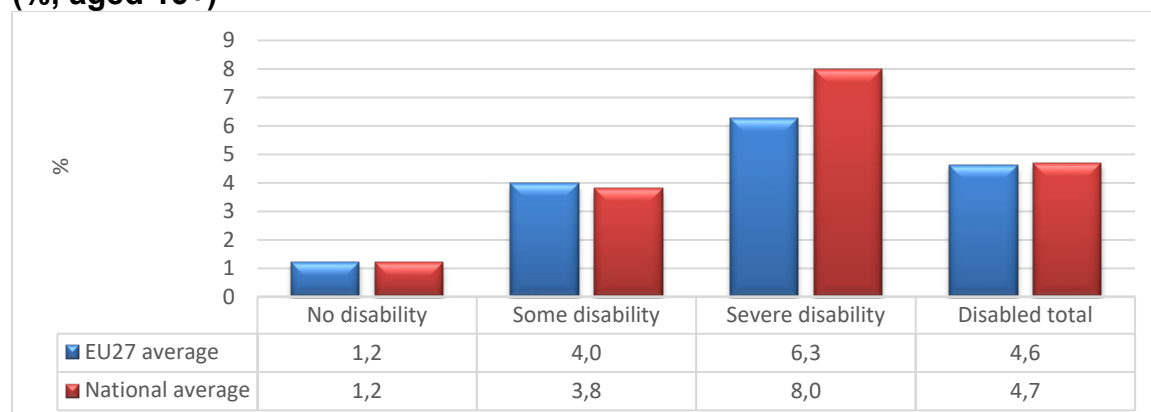


Source: EU-SILC 2018 Release 2020 version 1 (and previous UDB)

Table 14: Trends in the risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability and age group

Source: Eurostat Health Database [[hlth_dpe020](#)] - People at risk of poverty

Note: this table shows national trends in financial poverty risk, rather than the general AROPE indicator (which is not as comparable between age groups due to the effect of paid employment); the survey does not distinguish 'activity limitation' for children under 16.

Table 15: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination, 3-year average (% , aged 16+)

Source: Eurostat Health Database [[hlth_dh030](#)] – 'Too expensive or too far to travel or waiting list'

Note: due to large variations an average of three years is indicated. EU mean averages are also skewed by high values in a minority of countries within disability groups but median averages for the total disability and no disability groups in 2018 are consistent with the 3-year mean values.

7.2.1 Alternative sources of poverty or health care data in Lithuania

In general, the EU-SILC data provides the most comprehensive and reliable source concerning poverty or social exclusion rates in the Member States. There is no alternative official statistical data in Lithuania about the income of persons with disabilities and their family members, or about their standards and conditions of living.

Generally, the statistical department is only collecting information of the following topics:

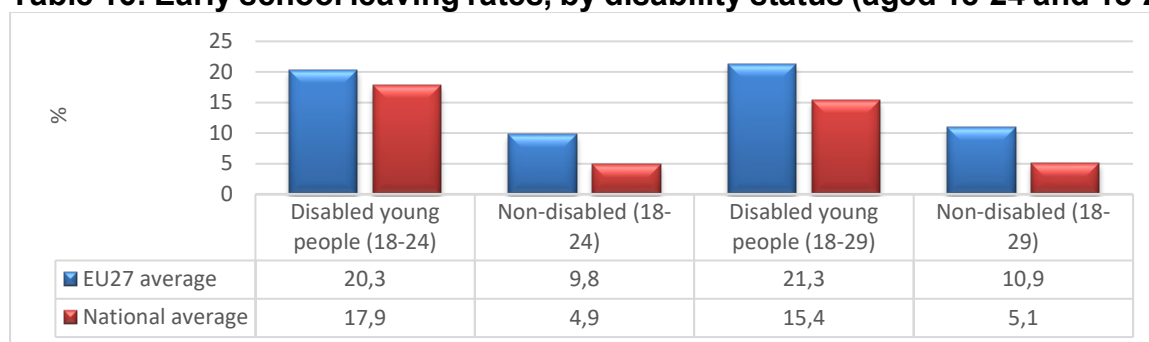
- number of persons entitled to benefits;
- number of persons who received social services;
- places in care institutions.⁶⁶

Department of Statistics and Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour collecting statistical information, which is reported annually in relation to UN CRPD Articles implementation in Lithuania.⁶⁷

7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education

The indications for Lithuania in 2018 should be treated with caution as they differ markedly from those of previous years, and cannot be compared.

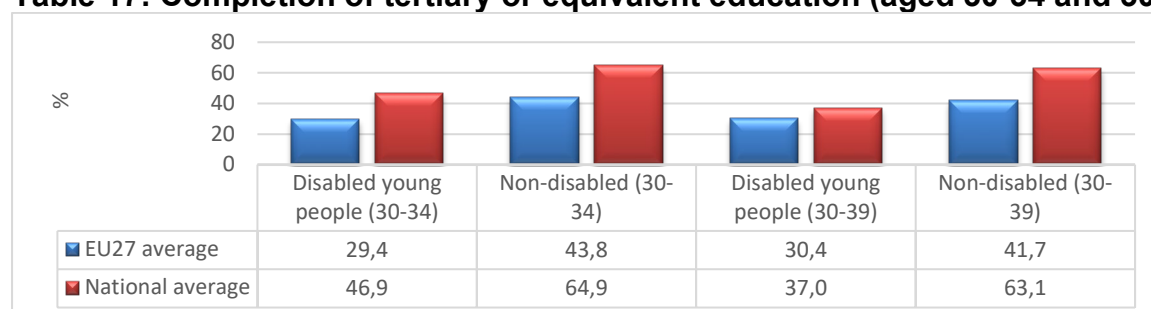
Table 16: Early school leaving rates, by disability status (aged 18-24 and 18-29)⁶⁸



⁶⁶ <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize#/>.

⁶⁷ <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/>.

⁶⁸ There was a change from ISCED 1997 to ISCED 2011 qualification definitions in 2014 although some Member States continued to use the older definition after this time.

Table 17: Completion of tertiary or equivalent education (aged 30-34 and 30-39)

Source: EU-SILC 2018 Release 2020 version 1 (and preceding UDBs)

Note: Confidence intervals for the disability group are large and reliability low (due to the small sample size in the target age group). An average of several years may be needed to establish trends or to compare breakdowns by gender.

7.3.1 Alternative sources of education data in Lithuania

Disability data is not included in the core European Labour Force Survey but education and training indicators were disaggregated from ad hoc modules conducted in 2001 and 2011. These can be found in the Eurostat disability database.⁶⁹ Similar caution is needed with this data.

Some administrative data is also provided in the European Agency's Statistics on Inclusive Education (EASIE), concerning the population of enrolled students identified with special educational needs in Lithuania.⁷⁰

Data from ITC Education Management Information System under the Ministry of Education and Science indicates general number of children who early left education system.⁷¹ Information is not disaggregated by general criteria such as age, gender or disability.

⁶⁹ Eurostat Health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁷⁰ European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, *Statistics on Inclusive Education*, <https://www.european-agency.org/data/data-tables-background-information>.

⁷¹ <https://www.svis.smm.lt/bendrasis-ugdymas-2/> (in Lithuanian).

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