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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 2022.¹

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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1 Executive summary and recommendations

1.1 Key points and main challenges for Lithuania in 2022

During 2021 Lithuanian policy was mostly affected by the pandemic but key challenges and key points related with disability can be identified as follows:

- the difference between the unemployment rates of people with disabilities and people without disabilities in Lithuania is one of the largest in the EU. Disability employment rate decreased in 2020;
- social services in Lithuania are not aimed at individual needs of people with disabilities;
- in order to reduce poverty during 2021 Lithuania mainly relied on raising social benefits. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion level is above EU average;
- number of children in special schools decreases slowly and is far from stated goal;
- social safety and social protection are not a major Recovery and Resilience Plan and National Progress Plan element;

Disability and the labour market

At the end of 2020 there were 153 651 persons with disabilities of working age and only 28.5 % were working (43 817). Disability employment rate decreased from 26 % (2019) to 22,7 % (2020). The Government during 2020-2021 mainly tried to recover the economy and continued reforms started already in 2019. A breakthrough was not achieved in the employment of persons with disabilities. Government commitments to develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes to increase number of working people with disabilities are missing.

Disability, social policies and healthcare

Income inequality and the poverty remains the biggest challenges in Lithuanian social policy. In 2020 people at risk of poverty or social exclusion level (38,7 %) is above EU average (28,9 %). Social services are not aimed at the individual needs of people with disabilities as required by CRPD Article 19. In the Government programme implementation plan and in Recovery and Resilience Plan there is no measure which could be directly targeted to healthcare and social services accessibility for people with disabilities.

Disability, education and skills

According to Lithuanian Official Statistics data, the number of pupils with disabilities in mainstream classes is increasing every year but the number in special schools decreases very slowly and is far from the stated goal. Tertiary education is still hardly accessible for students with disabilities because there is more emphasis on academic achievements than individual support.

Investment priorities for inclusion and accessibility

2021-2027 investment will be directed to improve the Lithuania economy after rapid decline in 2020. Social safety and social protection are not a major Recovery and Resilience Plan element and people with disabilities are not on the priority list. On the other hand, one the digitalisation reform goals is to develop and validate

methodological standards for the provisions of information for people with disabilities. Despite the European Accessibility Act and the CRPD, there is no clear view how digital information should be presented in an accessible way for all types of disability. Government reforms allocated in Recovery and Resilience Plan have the potential to make a breakthrough in digital content accessibility.

1.2 Recommendations for Lithuania

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

Recommendation: Use EU funds to develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes in order to increase number of working people with disabilities.

Rationale: the headline employment rate of persons with disabilities has improved in recent years, but this may hide data showing that integration into the open labour market is not increasing and UN CRPD recommendations are not met.

Recommendation: Accelerate the transition from the one-size-fit-all social services to individualized support as required by CRPD Article 19.

Rationale: Social services in Lithuania are not aimed at the individual needs of people with disabilities, as required by CRPD Article 19.

Recommendation: Provide additional funding for community-based support measures to increase availability of these social services.

Rationale: Public spending on social protection is relatively low. The organisation and delivery of social services is fragmented and does not ensure its effectiveness. One of the biggest problems is underdeveloped community based social services including a great lack of temporary respite care, protected housing, personal assistant, assisted employment and in-work support assistance services.

Recommendation: Ensure that every child with special educational needs gets pedagogical and other support depending on individual educational needs.

Rationale: Trends suggest that there will be a real shortage of special pedagogues, speech therapists and surdologists in the near future.

Recommendation: End discrimination against children with special educational needs due to disability and ensure every school has a plan to improve accessibility with delivery dates.

Rationale: According to 2021 data, from 1 162 only 110 (less than 10 %) schools are fully accessible for children with disabilities.² Planned reforms does not seek to increase school's environment adaptation. Lithuania should use the 2021-2027 cycle of EU funds and address school environment accessibility. At the moment is not part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan or National Progress Plan.

² Education management information system data - <http://svis.emokykla.lt/mokyklu-pritaikymo-neigaliessiems-anketos-duomenys/>.

2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the Semester documents

Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendation of direct relevance to disability policy were not published in this exceptional policy cycle. For a commentary on the last published documents please see our country fiche for the previous Semester 2020-21.

Commission staff in the next policy cycle should focus on how Lithuania is ensuring equality and social rights. It is important to highlight measures taken by the Government to ensure inclusive education and individualized assistance support services for people with disabilities. Despite previous Government reforms, poverty and income inequality still a challenge in Lithuania policy. Lithuania relies heavily on EU Funds support in social protection system reforms but in the 2021-2027 cycle money allocated for social protection will be significantly lower. Lithuania will have to focus more in order to change situation in poverty and social exclusion.

In the field of education, it can be seen lack of specialist support for children with special educational needs. Lithuania Government must immediately start reforms directed in increasing number of specialists who can provide support for children with special needs because in short term it could became very huge trouble.

Another concerning factor is employment of people with disabilities. Only 29 % of working age people with disabilities participate in Lithuania labour market. During 2019 National Audit Office pointed out that people with disabilities are insufficiently integrated into labour marked and the society despite fact that EUR 900 million. were allocated for them.³

2.1 Recovery and Resilience Plan for Lithuania (RRP)

The following key points highlight where the situation of persons with disabilities or disability policies was considered in these plans. We address the most relevant of these and other issues arising from the RRP/NRP in the next chapters.

- Lithuania Government in Recovery and Resilience Plan seeks to improvement of the population's digital skills and declare accessibility of digital public services as priority. Three reforms are allocated for this purpose (Component No. 3). Reforms connects with European flagship area declared in Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021 – modernise key digital public services.⁴ From disability perspective in accessibility field, most important is 'Costumer orientated public services' reform described in Chapter No. 3.6. One of the reform goals is to develop and validate methodological standards for the provisions of information for people with disabilities. It is expected that reform will increase accessibility and number of independent public services users among people with disabilities.
- In the field of education and skills, Lithuanian Government in Recovery and Resilience Plan provides four reforms (Component No. 4). From disability

³ The National Audit Office points out the ineffective management of fixed programmes, https://www.vkontrole.lt/pranesimas_spaudai_en.aspx?id=24948.

⁴ Communication from the Commission, Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/LT/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0575>.

perspective, it is very important that all reforms promote inclusive education, lifelong learning and seek to raise the qualification of education specialist. Reforms also connects Europe Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 principles. However biggest drawback is that reforms does not seek to increase school's environment adaptation and psychological, social pedagogical, special pedagogical assistance for children with special educational needs.

- Poverty and income inequality still a challenge in Lithuania policy. In order to change situation Government in Recovery and Resilience Plan provides two reforms (Paragraph No. 7). From disability perspective it is very important to highlight Government commitment to provide social services according to individual person's requirements. However, reforms do not set target for individualised assistance support services. In order to reduce poverty and income inequality Government mainly rely on raising social benefits.
- The difference between the unemployment rates of people with disabilities and people without disabilities in Lithuania is one of the largest in the EU. In order to increase employment rate of persons with disabilities in Recovery and Resilience Plan (Paragraph No. 7) Government mainly rely on active labour market policies measures. However, from disability perspective its missing commitments to develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes in order to increase number of working people with disabilities.

2.2 Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans

Relevant recommendations and issues arising from participation in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are highlighted in each chapter.

It is also important that Semester plans align with national disability strategy too. In Lithuania, this refers to the Action Plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023.⁵ A National Programme for the Social Integration of the Disabled 2013-2020⁶ was adopted in 2012.

⁵ Action Plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023 - <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/8c27c230f1b211eaa12ad7c04a383ca0>.

⁶ National Programme for the Social Integration of the Disabled - <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.437985/asr>.

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 organizations 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.'

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 53.9 % in 2019, compared to 79.8 % for other persons against a national employment target of 73 % and approximately 2.6 points below the EU27 average. This results in an estimated disability employment gap of approximately 26 percentage points (EU27 average gap 24.2, see Tables 2-4) or an employment chances ratio of 0.7.

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 16.4 % and 9.9 %, respectively in 2019 (see Tables 5-7) and the economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Lithuania was 64.5 %, compared to 88.6 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10). These indications are broken down by gender and age in the respective tables in annex. It is important to note that employment gap is very wide between people with severe disabilities and is 11.6 points lower than EU27 average.

More strict requirements for Social Enterprises and COVID-19 crisis have resulted in decreasing number of Enterprises, from 149 in 2020 to 111 in 2021.⁷ According to administrative data from the Employment Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, at the end of 2021 March 42 439 persons with reduced working capacity were employed and from that 3 765 worked in social enterprises.⁸ We can see the trend that number of people with disabilities working in social enterprises is decreasing every year, from 14.4 % in 2019 to 8.87 % in 2021 March. There were 153 651 registered persons with disabilities of working age in 2020 and only 28.5 % were working (43 817).⁹ Employment rate of people with disabilities decreased from 29.48 % in 2019 to 28.52 %. Additionally, the same decreasing trend is visible on percent of people with disabilities working in open labour market which decreased by 1.13 percent points in 2020 (see Table A).

⁷ List of social enterprises - <https://uzt.lt/soc-imonems/socialiniu-imoniu-sarasas>;

⁸ Summary report on the activities of social enterprises - <https://uzt.lt/darbo-rinka2/socialines-imones/>;

⁹ Ministry of Social Security and Labour statistical data - <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/socialine-integracija/neigaliuju-socialine-integracija/statistika-2/>;

Based on Employment Services under Ministry of Social Security and Labour overview of people with disabilities situation in labour market, we can see 27.3 % increase in number of registered unemployed people with disabilities (+4 405) in Employment Services, comparing second quarter of 2021 to the same quarter in 2020.¹⁰ The Number of registered people with disabilities started to increase drastically from third quarter of 2020 (see Table B).

On other hand, percent of persons who started working in open labour market or according to business certificate from all registered persons accounted for 18.39 % in second quarter of 2021 and was 5.10 % bigger than at the same time in 2020. However, the same indicator was 6.42 % smaller in first quarter of 2021 compared to first quarter of 2020. Also, it is interesting to note, that data from Employment Services shows low usage level of Active Labour Market Policies by people with disabilities. Percent of people using these policies from all registered people differs from 1 % to 3.2 % during the period of 2020-2021.

It is interesting to note, that funding for Social Enterprises is 5 times bigger than intended for enterprises employing people with disabilities in open labour market.¹¹ According to data from Employment Services under Ministry of Social Security and Labour, funding for Active Labour Market Policies decreased by 12 % in 2020 and funding for vocational rehabilitation even by 95.3 % (see Table C).

3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) and [National Reform Programme](#) for Lithuania and the Action Plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023.

From disability perspective during 2021 Lithuania Government faced challenges in the labour market. COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences reduced opportunities to start new reforms. Lithuania Government during 2020-2021 mainly tried to recover the economy and continued reforms which has been started already in 2019. During 2019 amendments to the Law on Employment introduced new labour market services for persons with disabilities (assisted employment: assistance in employment procedures; accompanying assistance after getting employed).

Moreover, Law of Social Enterprises was changed in July of 2021. The main changes were implemented: a requirement to have at least 4 employees with disabilities was changed to 6 employees, also there should be now at least 40 % of employees with severe or moderate disabilities or having less than 40 % working capacity and working time of employees with disabilities must be at least 50 % of working time of other employees. Implemented changes encouraged recruitment of employees with severe disabilities and having more possibilities in labour market.¹²

¹⁰ Employment service periodical report (2021-07) about people with disabilities employment and unemployment - <https://uzt.lt/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Asmen%C5%B3-su-negalia-situacija-darbo-rinkoje-2021-07-29.pdf>.

¹¹ Ministry of Social Security and Labour information – <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/dirbantys-neigalieji-mieliau-renkasi-darba-atviroje-darbo-rinkoje-nei-socialinėse-imonėse>.

¹² Ministry of Social Security and Labour information - <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/svarbus-pokyciai-darbuotojams-su-negalia-dirbantiems-socialinėse-imonėse>.

In March 2021, the Government adopted a plan for implementation of the provisions of the Government Programme.¹³ To improve participation of people with disabilities in open work market, initiative 3.2.8. was mentioned to prepare and implement amendments of the Law on Employment related to labour market services and active market policies applications for people with disabilities. Disability context in the labour market is also mentioned in 2021 Recovery and Resilience Plan of Lithuania.¹⁴

In the 7th component of the plan one purpose is 'to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to integrate into and access the open labour market and get the necessary social services'. In order to archive this, the Ministry of Social Affairs is working on a project to improve disability assessment system to have more person-centred identification of individual needs and empower people to integrate into the labour market and receive education, meeting individual needs. New improvements will meet provisions of the CRPD. According to this project improvements will be made in legal acts and a methodology prepared to show authorities how to manage disability assessments. A second measure describes the Employment Service conversion to a modern IT platform. This will provide better information accessibility for people with disabilities and will help to improve integration into the labour market. Additionally, it is planned to create a unified mechanism to monitor the accessibility of buildings, information environment and transport in order to more easily remove accessibility barriers that prevent people with disabilities integrating in the labour market.

The third objective of the Action plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023 is intended to increase employment, cultural, sports and leisure activities for people with disabilities.¹⁵ Activity 3.1.2. identifies that it is planned to consult with non-governmental organisations of people with disabilities and prepare legislation describing services like assisted employment, social workshops and decision support. This planned activity meets recommendations from UN CRPD Committee. Other activities: 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 identifies providing vocational rehabilitation services and funding them for people with disabilities to ensure participation in open labour market.

Conclusions and recommendations for Lithuania Government

- Statistical data show that the integration of people with disabilities into the open labour market is not increasing and UN CRPD recommendations are not met. Government must use EU funds responsibly to develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes to increase the number of working people with disabilities.
- Data shows very low usage of Active Labour Market Policies (1- 3.2 %). Lithuania must pay more attention in encouraging their use or changing these policies to more effective ones.

¹³ Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the Government Program - <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/d698ded086fe11eb9fecb5ecd3bd711c>.

¹⁴ 2021 Recovery and Resilience Plan of Lithuania
https://finmin.lrv.lt/uploads/finmin/documents/files/Naujos_kartos_Lietuva_planas.pdf.

¹⁵ Action plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023 - <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/en/legalAct/8c27c230f1b211eaa12ad7c04a383ca0/asr>.

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.

'54. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt new policies that secure income levels among persons with disabilities and their families that are adequate and equal to the income levels of others, and that take into account additional disability-related costs.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to secure that persons with disabilities and their families are not disproportionately affected by budget cuts and to ensure an adequate standard of living through income support and social security, taking note of target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls on States to implement appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors.'

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

'40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations 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.'

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC 2019 indicate the poverty risk rate for working age persons with disabilities in Lithuania was 26.9 % in 2019, compared to 13.8 % for other persons of similar age - an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 13 percentage points (see Table 14). For people aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 10.7 points (35.9 % for older persons with disabilities and 25.2 % for other persons of similar age). The tables in annex also indicate the respective rates of risk of poverty or social exclusion and break these down by gender as well age.

For persons with disabilities of working age in Lithuania (age 16-64) the risk of poverty before social transfers was 48.5 % and 26.9 % after transfers. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities aged under 60 was 10.7 %.

Of interest to health policy are the data on self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (too expensive or too far to travel or waiting list). Disability equality gaps are evident here too and, on this basis, the rate for persons with disabilities in Lithuania was 2.8 %, compared to 0.8 % for other persons, which is above the EU27 average of 1.7 %.

Adequate standard of living and social protection

During 2021 the Lithuanian social policy was mostly targeted to cope with the COVID situation. On 6 May 2020, the Government adopted a strategy for general management and recovery of the COVID-19 virus.¹⁶ However in the strategy, there are no commitments that could be directly related to disability inclusivity.

Generally during 2020-2021 income inequality and the poverty rate still remains as biggest challenges in Lithuania social policy. According 2019 data the risk of poverty or social exclusion for persons with disabilities in Lithuania (43.6 %)¹⁷ is the third highest in the EU. Only persons with disabilities in Bulgaria (49 %) and Latvia (44 %) are at higher risk.¹⁸ This trend remains almost the same starting from 2012. In order to reduce poverty and social exclusion during 2020-2021 Lithuanian Government mainly rely on raising social benefits:¹⁹

- State supported income increased from EUR 122 (2018) till EUR 125 (2020);
- The monthly basic social benefit increased from EUR 38 (2019) till EUR 39 (2020);
- Minimum monthly wage increased from EUR 607 (2020) till EUR 642 (2021);

¹⁶ [Lithuania Covid-19 management strategy](#).

¹⁷ General population risk of poverty rate in 2020 was 20,6%

¹⁸ Eurostat data: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20191029-2?fbclid=IwAR0znSr49fdq223504K-88QT6mlscY546uC4mBF7a2Kqqj_X10NutuVpepM.

¹⁹ Ministry of Social Security and Labour information - <https://socmin.lrv.lt/en/news/approved-budget-of-2021-child-money-pensions-allowances-and-the-minimum-wage-will-increase>.

- Lost working capacity pension grow by 9.58 % (2021).²⁰

Living independently in the community

During 2020-2021 deinstitutionalisation process in Lithuania continued. At the end of 2020, there were 5 727 adults living in social care facilities for adults with disabilities. This number decreasing every year (see table E). Also, in Lithuania there were 33 group living homes in total²¹ and 26 of them established by the state.²² There were 4.63²³ times more recipients of community services than institutional care recipients. Number of recipients of social services at home increased from 20 401 (2019) until 22 100 (2020).²⁴

Health

According to data from 340 healthcare institutions only 19 % are fully accessible for persons with disabilities.²⁵ The situation with healthcare institutions accessibility for persons with disabilities has not changed from 2017. In order to change situation on 28 January 2020, Lithuania Disability Forum together with Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Science and Sport and the President of Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania singed memorandum in which all sides declared commitment every year fully adapt at least one health care and education institution.²⁶

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) and [National Reform Programme](#) for Lithuania and the Action Plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023.

Living independently in the community

It should be highlighted that social services in Lithuania are not aimed at the individual needs of people with disabilities, as required by CRPD Article 19. However, the 18th Lithuania Government in their programme²⁷ declared a goal to introduce a new standard of social services. To reach that goal Government have and initiative to shift the delivery of social services from one-size-fit-all to personalised services tailored to individual needs and groups of people, increase availability of social services and introduce a quality standard for social services.

²⁰ Almost 160 000 people receive pensions of lost working capacity.

²¹ Lithuanian Official Statistics data - <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/EN/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize?hash=fe2f1e82-7e19-4a25-8903-334da41127b2#/>.

²² Ministry of Social Security and Labor in 2020 activity report, <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/ataskaitos/ministerijos-veiklos-ataskaitos>.

²³ During 2013 this number was 2,8;

²⁴ Number of recipients of social services at home - <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/EN/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize?hash=fe2f1e82-7e19-4a25-8903-334da41127b2#/>.

²⁵ The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 2019 data <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/>.

²⁶ Lithuanian Disability Forum information - <https://www.inf.lt/8385/>.

²⁷ 11 December 2020 approved by Lithuania Parliament Seimas.

On 10 March 2021, the Government adopted plan how to implement programme provisions.²⁸ In this plan the new standard of social services has 12 measures. Most of these are targeted in key social services regulation gaps (poor quality of services, limited availability, lack of inter-institutional cooperation and etc.).

Government's commitment to shift the delivery of social services to personalised services have connections with new EU disability strategy goal No 4.1. 'Developing independent living and reinforcing community-based services' because personalized social services is strengthening the transition from institutional care to services providing support in the community which is a key EU disability strategy goal.

Government commitment to provide social services according to individual requirements is also highlighted in the Recovery and Resilience Plan (Paragraph No. 7, Chapter No. 9.2). This highlights that at the moment Ministry of Social Security and Labour is implementing a project 'Creation for Lithuania of a unified model for the provision of personalised services to individuals belonging to specific vulnerable groups'²⁹ which goal is to set guidelines for personalised social services.

None of mentioned Government commitments have yet been implemented et. Due to the COVID crisis and other reasons it is hard to predict when breakthrough will occur in state individualised support as required by CRPD. The Lithuanian National Anti-Poverty Network review in 2020 pointed out that 'in terms of state aid, social services and adequate financial support are lacking the most: 57 % of organisations mentioned that one of the biggest problems is underdeveloped social services, 53 % of organizations singled out inadequate financial support. There is a great lack of personal assistant services, which would help people with disabilities to become more independent in their daily lives and thus open the door to the labour market for some people with disabilities or their families, provide better social life opportunities.'³⁰

From 1 July 2021 a new type of help – a personal assistant was legalized. However, help provided by a personal assistant will not be fully free of charge. A person with disabilities will have to cover up to 20 % of the costs of such service but the amount cannot exceed one-fifth of his or her income. On the other hand, if person's monthly income is lower than EUR 256 this personal assistant service is free. It is expected that 600 people will receive personal assistant support till 2022.³¹

Health

The Commission in 2020 Country Report noted that the overall health of the population in Lithuania remains among the worst in the EU.³² Despite this at the moment there

²⁸ Lithuanian Government information - <https://lrv.lt/en/relevant-information/eighteenth-government/plan-for-the-implementation-of-the-provisions-of-the-programme-of-the-eighteenth-government>.

²⁹ Ministry of Social Security and Labour information - <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/es-investicijos/sadm-igyvendinami-projektai>.

³⁰ Lithuania poverty watch 2020 report - <https://www.eapn.eu/poverty-watch-lithuania-poverty-watches-overview-2020/>.

³¹ Ministry of Social Security and Labour information - <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/asmeninis-asistentas-gera-zinia-ne-tik-neigaliessims-bet-ir-ju-seimoms>.

³² 2020 Country Report Lithuania - https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-european-semester-country-reports_en.

are no major legislative reforms concerning healthcare for persons with disabilities. The 2020 National Reform Programme for Lithuania referred to structural healthcare system changes, but nothing is orientated to persons with disabilities. Eighteenth Lithuania Government in their programme declared a goal to enhance public health. However, in the implementation plan and in Recovery and Resilience Plan there is no measure which could be directly targeted to healthcare institutions and services accessibility for persons with disabilities.

According to data from 340 healthcare institutions only 19 % are fully accessible for persons with disabilities.³³ The situation with healthcare institutions accessibility for persons with disabilities has not changed from 2017. In order to change the situation on 28 January 2020 the Lithuania Disability Forum together with the Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Science and Sport and the President of Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania signed a memorandum. However, according to the Lithuania Parliament Commission for the Rights of People with Disabilities chair Monika Ošmianskiene 'the situation after one year when memorandum was signed did not change at all'.³⁴

Two country studies were prepared by the ANED network concerning access to and the accessibility of healthcare to persons with disabilities in Lithuania in 2014.³⁵

Conclusion and recommendations for Lithuania Government

- Lithuania Government should initiate legislative measures, which provisions would oblige the adaptation of buildings environment for people with disabilities where healthcare services are provided. Government must ensure the accessibility of healthcare facilities to people with disabilities according CRPD Art. No. 25.
- Lithuania Government must provide additional funding for improving access to healthcare facilities.
- 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.
- The Lithuanian Government should accelerate transition from the one-size-fit-all social services to individualised support as required by CRPD Art. No. 19.
- Public spending on social protection is relatively low. The organisation and delivery of social services is fragmented and does not ensure its effectiveness. Lithuania Government must provide additional funding for temporary respite care, protected housing, personal assistant, assisted employment and in-work support assistance. Availability of these social services must be increased.

³³ The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour 2019 data, <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/>.

³⁴ Newspaper article about memorandum and public places accessibility for people with disabilities - <https://lsveikata.lt/aktualijos/pecius-sureme-keturios-istaigos-bet-problemos-nei-is-vietos-13678>.

³⁵ ANED (2014) Health, Lithuania, <https://www.disability-europe.net/theme/health?country=lithuania>.

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.'

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC 2019 estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with additional caution due to relatively wide confidence intervals, but they consistently indicate disability equality gaps (an average of 2-3 years provides a more stable indication). Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in Lithuania. Youth with disabilities (aged 18-24) tend to leave school significantly more than peers of the same age groups without disabilities (and this is reinforced by widening the sample size to age 18-29).

Table 17 shows completion rate of tertiary education disaggregated by disability and age group based on EU-SILC. Persons with disabilities (age 30-34) are less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (and this is reinforced in the wider age range 30-39). However, it should be noticed that during 2020-2021 only 295 students with disabilities were identified as studied at the universities. For comparison, this is just 0.41 % of 71,895 students at university during that year. Moreover, number of pupils with disabilities is decreasing in vocational schools every year, but in colleges and universities we can notice an increase by 11.1 % and 20.9 % respectively during the period 2020-2021 (see Table F).

According to Lithuanian Official Statistics data, number of pupils with disabilities in mainstream classes is increasing every year and in 2020 make up 1.26 % of all pupils

in mainstream education schools. Pupils with disabilities in special classes in mainstream schools make 0.33 % of all pupils in mainstream education schools in 2020 and in special schools 1.01 % accordingly (see Table G). Moreover, part of pupils with disabilities of all pupils is increasing every year and in 2020 accounted for 2.60 %.

Order No. V-527 Approval of the Action Plan on the Inclusion of Children in Education and Multidimensional Education 2017-2022, adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science 27 June 2017, it was a goal set to reduce the number of children in special schools from 0.8 % of all children in education to 0.6 -0.5 % in 2020-2022. We can see from statistical data that this indicator is decreasing slowly by 0.02-0.03 percentage points every year, but it is still far from stated goal. Number of pupils with disabilities attending special or integrated in mainstream classes in schools is increasing every year by 0.02 percentage points on average during the period 2018-2020 (see Table G).

It is interesting to note that, despite the fact that number of pupils with disabilities and special needs in mainstream education schools is increasing every year, we can see an opposite trend in decreasing number of number of pupils with special needs transported by yellow busses to or from the school (see Table H).

Additionally, part of children with special needs in pre-school from all children in pre-school is quite stable and accounts for 18 - 20 % (see Table I). Children in special groups in pre-school education make a 0.96 % of all children in pre-school and is decreasing by 0.7 percentage point every year on average during the period 2019-2020. Moreover, it was a noticeable decrease in the same indicator during 2018 by 0.22 percentage points. Please note that SEN classification of children is not necessarily synonymous with children with disabilities.

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

For reference, see also the 2021 [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) and [National Reform Programme](#) for Lithuania and the Action Plan for the Social Integration of the Disabled for 2021-2023.

One of the main Recovery and Resilience Plan components is education. For improving education system 512 million Eur (23 % from whole EU 2021-2027 investment budget) is allocated. From the entire amount EUR 311.5 million is directed at consolidating the school network, improving pre- and general education, vocational education and training, as well as adult learning. EUR 200.2 million target to gear the funding model of the higher education system towards contract-based system; increase students' admission standards; promote research and internationalisation of universities; set higher qualitative standards for colleges and universities.³⁶

Quality and education accessibility for the entire life cycle is the main objective of the majority of the Recovery and Resilience Plan measures related education and is covered by four reforms (Component No. 4). From disability perspective, it is very important that all reforms promote inclusive education, lifelong learning and seek to

³⁶ Commission Staff Working Document Analysis of the recovery and resilience plan of Lithuania - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0187&from=EN>.

raise the qualification of education specialist. Reforms also connects Europe Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 principles. However, it also should be pointed out that from disability perspective reforms does not seek to increase psychological, social pedagogical, special pedagogical assistance for children with special educational needs. Trends suggest that there will be a real shortage of these professionals in the future (Table I).

Another concerning thing is school environment adaptation. School environment accessibility is not single out in Recovery and Resilience Plan. According to 2021 data from 1 162 only 110 (less than 10 %) schools are fully accessible for children with disabilities.³⁷ In order to change situation on 28 January 2020, the Lithuania Disability Forum together with Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Science and Sport and the President of Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania singed a memorandum in which all sides declared commitment every year fully adapt at least one health care and education institution.³⁸ However situation after one year did not change at all. To sum up it could be concluded that Lithuania Government should use 2021-2027 cycle EU funds responsibly and raise enough attention to school environment accessibility problems for children with disabilities.

From disability perspective it also should be mentioned that in inclusion education reform context individual support is missing. In authors opinion Lithuania education system biggest attention is usually given for improvement of academic achievements but not for individual support. This leads into situation that at the moment tertiary education is hardly accessible for students with disabilities.³⁹

On 9 September 2020, Lithuanian Government adopted a National Progress Plan for 2021-2030.⁴⁰ The National Progress Plan is a 10-year planning document and covers all areas of state activity where a breakthrough is expected. The 3rd strategic goal of the 2021-2030 National Progress Plan dedicated to education – ‘to increase the inclusion and effectiveness of education in order to meet the needs of the individual and society’. In order to achieve strategic goal plan provides following measures: individualise education, assess and respond better to the individual needs and opportunities of learners. With disability also is related declared seek to increase inclusion and accessibility of various levels of formal and non-formal education for persons with disabilities.

Conclusions and recommendations for Lithuania Government

- Government should ensure that every child with special educational needs could get pedagogical and other support depending on his education needs. Trends suggest that there will be a real shortage of special teachers, speech therapists and surdologist in the near future. The Government needs to take action on it and start reforms to increase such specialist assistance.

³⁷ Education management information system data - <http://svis.emokykla.lt/mokyklu-pritaikymo-neigaliessiems-anketos-duomenys/>.

³⁸ Lithuanian Disability Forum information - <https://www.inf.lt/8385/>.

³⁹ Students with disabilities compose about 0.39 % of the student population in Lithuania, where the total number of students in 2021 was 104 347 (counting university and college students).

⁴⁰ National Progress Plan for 2021-2030 - [https://e-semas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/c1259440f7dd11eab72ddb4a109da1b5?jfwid=i3h7wm1wn](https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/c1259440f7dd11eab72ddb4a109da1b5?jfwid=i3h7wm1wn).

- Government and school's administrations must not discriminate against children with special educational needs due to their disability. Every school must have a school accessibility plan, which shows how they plan to improve accessibility for special educational needs pupils and when these improvements will be made. Lithuania Government should use 2021-2027 cycle EU funds responsibly and raise enough attention to school environment accessibility problems for children with disabilities. At the moment school environment accessibility is not singled out in the Recovery and Resilience Plan or the National Progress Plan.
- Despite reforms related inclusion education individual support for pupils with special education needs is missing. Lithuania education system biggest attention is usually given for improvement of academic achievements but not for individual support. This leads into situation that at the moment tertiary education is hardly accessible for students with disabilities. The Government should seek that education system could be customized to address each student's needs.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

6.1 Updates on use of existing EU funds (up to 2021)

During 2021 new seven-year funding period started. However new calls for proposals for future oriented objectives have not been started yet. Implementation of earlier started projects continued through 2020-2021 years. Lithuania Operational Programme for the European Union funds Investment in 2014-2020 priority axis No. 7 ‘Promoting quality employment and participation in the labour market’ and priority axis No. 8 ‘Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty’ is directly related with disability.

During the period of 2020-2021, 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’. In total 34 measures fall under priority axis No. 7 and No. 8.⁴¹ Measures and projects from 2014-2020 funding cycle related to disability and currently being implemented under Employment Service:

- Project name - ‘Be enterprising’. Project aim is to increase employment of the unemployed by supporting job creation. Project target group is young people up to 29 years and persons with disabilities of working age, who have 30-55 % working capacity. Project activities include support for job creation, subsidizing workplace adaptation and support for self-employment.
Project value – EUR 25.5 million.
Expected results – planned number of project participants is 1 880.
Implementation progress – at the moment there is no official data how much people attended project activities.
Project web link: <https://uzt.lt/en/euinvestments/>.
- Project name - ‘Professional rehabilitation of the Disabled’. Project aim is to improve employment of the persons with disabilities based on professional rehabilitation.
Budget of the measure: EU funding – EUR 6 456 million, State budget funding EUR 4 971 million.
Expected results: approximately 2 900 persons with disabilities are expected to benefit from services of professional rehabilitation.
Implementation progress of the measure: new ESF project ‘Professional rehabilitation’ was launched on 27 April 2018, mainly targeted at improved employment of persons with disabilities through services of professional rehabilitation. In the period from 2018 to 2021, over 689 persons with disabilities have been referred to the professional rehabilitation programme. From the beginning of 2014-2020 funding cycle in total 39 151 people with disabilities

⁴¹ Ministry of Finance information about EU Funds investments in Lithuania - https://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt/finansavimas/patvirtintos_priemones.

participated in professional rehabilitation programmes which is financed from EU funds.⁴²

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

- Project name - 'Creating your future prospects'. Project aim is to help the unemployed registered with the Employment Services, including the long-term, unskilled and persons with disabilities, to acquire qualifications, to improve their competence and to integrate into the labour market.

Project value – EUR 234.1 million.⁴³

Expected results: approximately not less than 75 000 people will participate in project activities (including people with disabilities).

Implementation progress of the measure: ESF project was launched on 14 December 2017 and was extended due to COVID situation until 30 June 2022. Till the end of 2020 more than 245 000 people participated in project activities.

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

Measures and projects from 2014-2020 funding cycle related to disability and currently being implemented under Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

- Project name - 'Promoting corporate social responsibility'. Project aim is to introduce the principles of social responsibility and to inform and educate the public about corporate social responsibility.

Project value – EUR 3.5 million.

Expected results – planned number of project participants is 7330.

Implementation progress – at the moment almost 63 768 people participated in project activities.

Project web link: <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/darbo-rinka-uzimtumas/imoniu-socialine-atsakomybe-isa/projektas-imoniu-socialines-atsakomybes-skatinimas/>.

- Project name - 'Reorganisation of Institutionalised Care". Project purpose is development of environment for efficient and sustainable transition from institutionalized care to the system of family- and community-based services.

Project value – EUR 32.7 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 institutionalised care to family and community-based services;
- 4 512 staff of social services will attend activities on skills improvement;
- 80 % care centres will receive EU funds for services quality improvement;
- Established 60 group living homes, day care centres and other institutions.

Implementation progress – 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. From 2015 till 2021 42 134 staff of the

⁴² Ministry of Finance information about EU Funds in vocational rehabilitation - https://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt/finansavimas/patvirtintos_priemones/neigaliuju-profesine-reabilitacija.

⁴³ Until 2020, almost EUR 178.4 million from the EUR 234.1 million is used.

social service system attended skills improvement activities, 11 929 people received social services, 13 571 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 in group living homes establishment. There is a big risk that till the project end set goals won't be reached.

Project web link: <http://www.pertvarka.lt>.

- During 2021 new stage of project “Complex Family Support” started. Project aim is to enable the families to receive complex services and to enable the families to overcome difficulties and crises. One of project activities is personal assistance support.

Project value – EUR 29.7 million.

Expected results – planned number of project participants is 30 000.

Project web link: <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/seima-ir-vai-kai/seimos-politika/kompleksines-paslaugos-seimai>.

6.2 Priorities for future investment (after 2021)

For future (2021-2027 cycle) investment and government reforms EUR 2.225 billion are planned for Lithuania.⁴⁴ According to Tomas Janeliūnas: ‘This is urgent money, aimed at revitalising the economy after rapid decline in 2020’.⁴⁵ During 2021-2027 priority investment in Lithuania will be targeting to seven areas: green transition, digital transformation, health, social issues, science and innovation, education and public finance. Nevertheless, from total amount of funding only EUR 109 million (4.89 % from whole budget) will be allocated for strengthening country social protection system.⁴⁶ This is because the Recovery and Resilience Plan focus on areas which can boost economy most.

From disability perspective, the press release about Recovery and Resilience Plan notes: ‘There are measures in the plan that directly and indirectly aim to address the needs of persons with disabilities, such as facilitating accessibility to buildings, independent use of public services online and an increase in universal benefit for single persons with disability.’⁴⁷ On the other hand, majority of the measures addresses people with disabilities indirectly. In authors opinion Recovery and Resilience Plan mostly targeted to digitalization and digital content accessibility. Social safety and social protection are not a major Recovery and Resilience Plan element. This conclusion can be drawn from funding allocated for social protection. From positive perspective it should be highlighted that plan have some measures which goal is to reduce poverty and income inequality. Plan also aims to strengthen quality and accessibility of social and health services.

⁴⁴ Ministry of Finance information - <https://finmin.lrv.lt/en/news/at-the-euro-group-and-ecofin-summits-the-issues-of-the-eu-economic-recovery-and-non-performing-loans>.

⁴⁵ Tomas Janeliūnas is full-time professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science (IIRPS), Vilnius University <https://www.tspmi.vu.lt/en/comments/tomas-janeliunas-eu-budget-lets-not-pretend-victory/>

⁴⁶ Factsheet: Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan, https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/factsheet-lithuanias-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

⁴⁷ Press release: “European Commission endorses Lithuania’s plan, https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/press-release-european-commission-endorses-lithuanias-plan_en.

The digitalisation of the public sector is the main objective of the majority of Recovery and Resilience Plan measures and is covered by three reforms (Component No. 3). From disability perspective it can be affirmed that there is a strong focus on disability-related digitalisation. The Government declares aiming to seek that all public services are accessible for citizens with disabilities. It also must be pointed out that one the reform goals is to develop and validate methodological standards for the provisions of information for people with disabilities. However, it is difficult to say if methodological standards will be directed to all types of disabilities and meet Universal designs principles.

Also measures for development of digital skills especially for vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and refugees) are included in the plan.

To sum up, it can be concluded that future investment will be directed to improve the economy after rapid decline in 2020. As a key instrument to achieve this goal investments in digitalisation are selected. Social safety and social protection are not a major element and people with disabilities are not in the priority list. On the other hand, one the digitalisation reform goals is to develop and validate methodological standards for the provisions of information for people with disabilities. Despite the European Accessibility Act and the CRPD, at the moment in Lithuania there is no clear view how digital information should be presented in an accessible way for all types of disability. Government reforms allocated in the RRP could make a breakthrough in digital content accessibility.

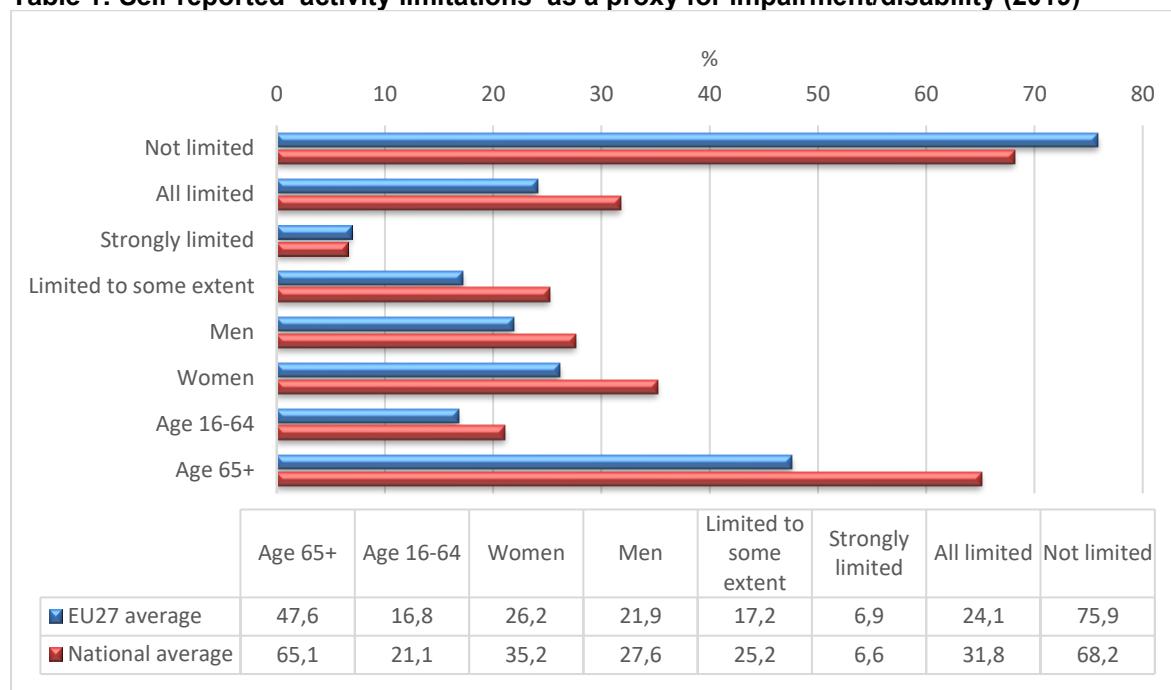
7 Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database⁴⁸ and statistical reports.⁴⁹

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’.⁵⁰

Table 1: Self-reported ‘activity limitations’ as a proxy for impairment/disability (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 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 not report ‘activity limitations’.⁵¹ National estimates for Lithuania are compared with

⁴⁸ Eurostat health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

⁴⁹ Eurostat (2019) *Disability Statistics* https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

⁵⁰ 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)).

⁵¹ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.⁵² More people reported limitations in Lithuania than the EU average, which might affect the outcomes.

7.1 Data relevant to disability and the labour market

Table 2: EU and Lithuania employment rates, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)

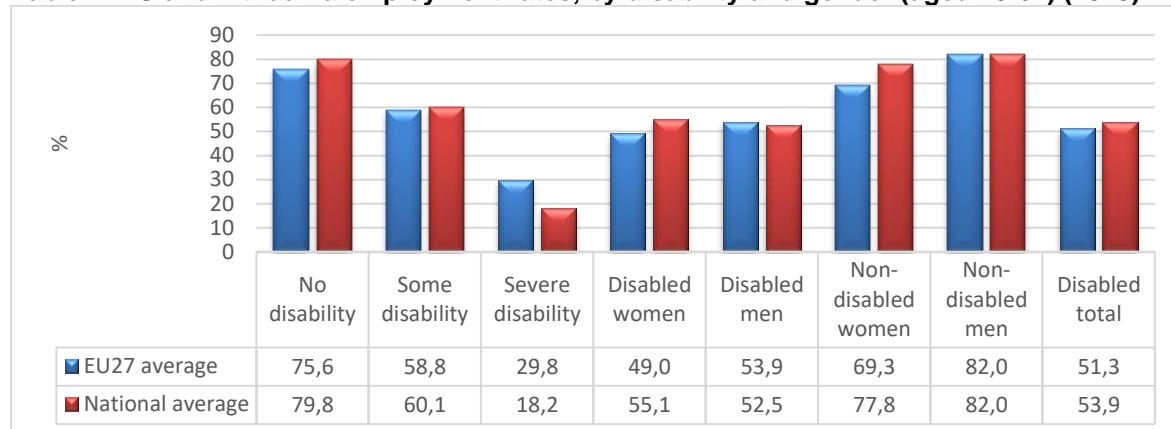
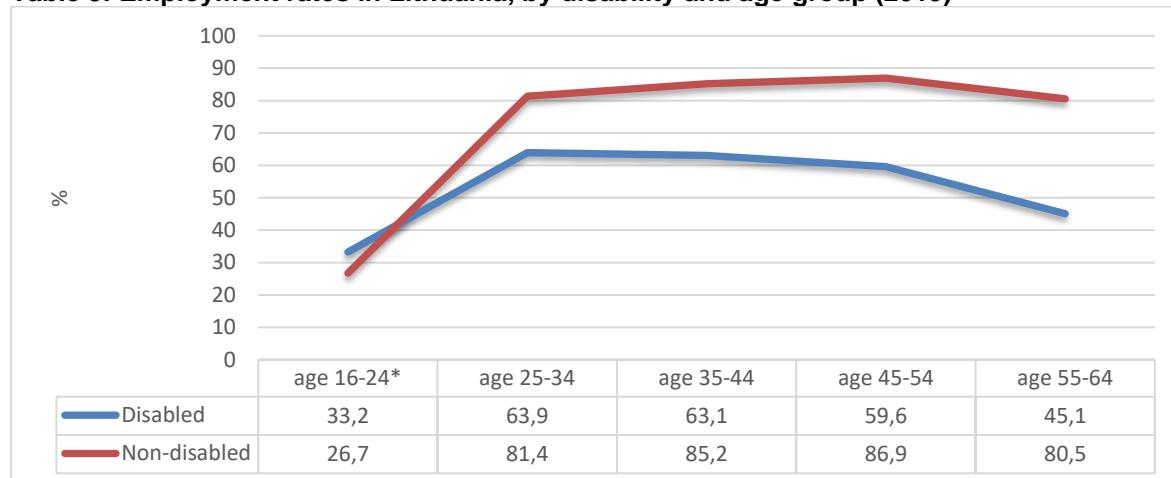
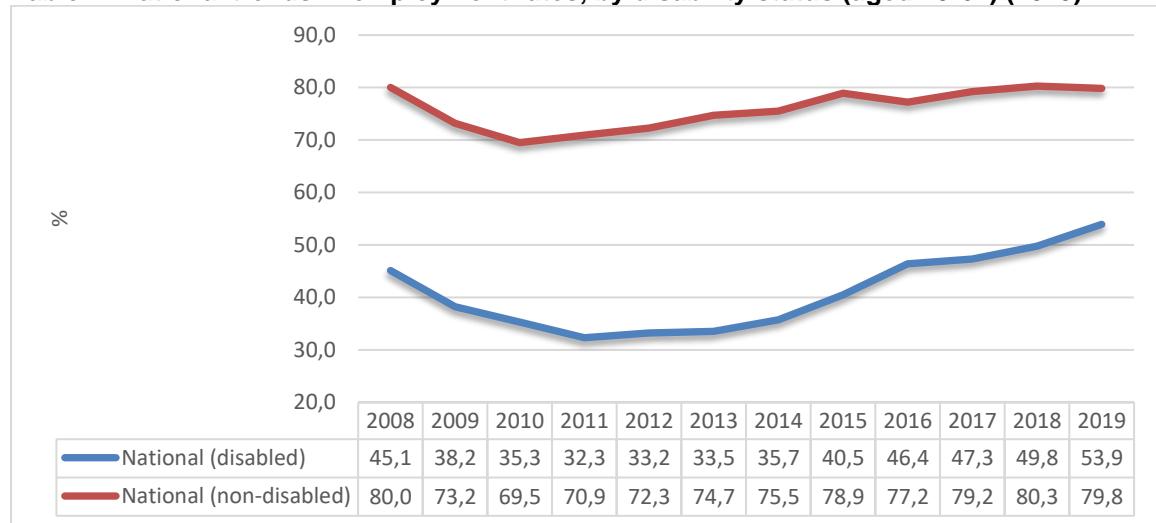


Table 3: Employment rates in Lithuania, by disability and age group (2019)



⁵² 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) (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

7.1.1 Unemployment

Table 5: Unemployment rates by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)

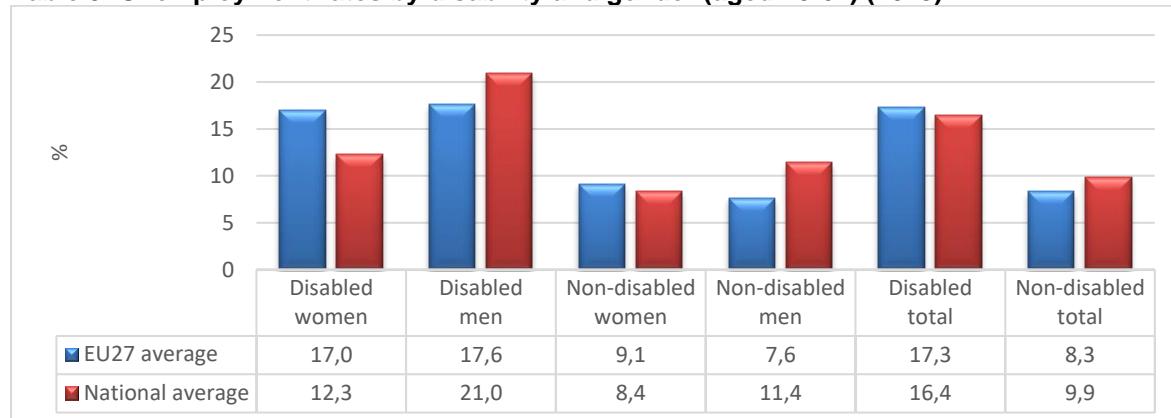


Table 6: Unemployment rates in Lithuania, by disability and age group (2019)

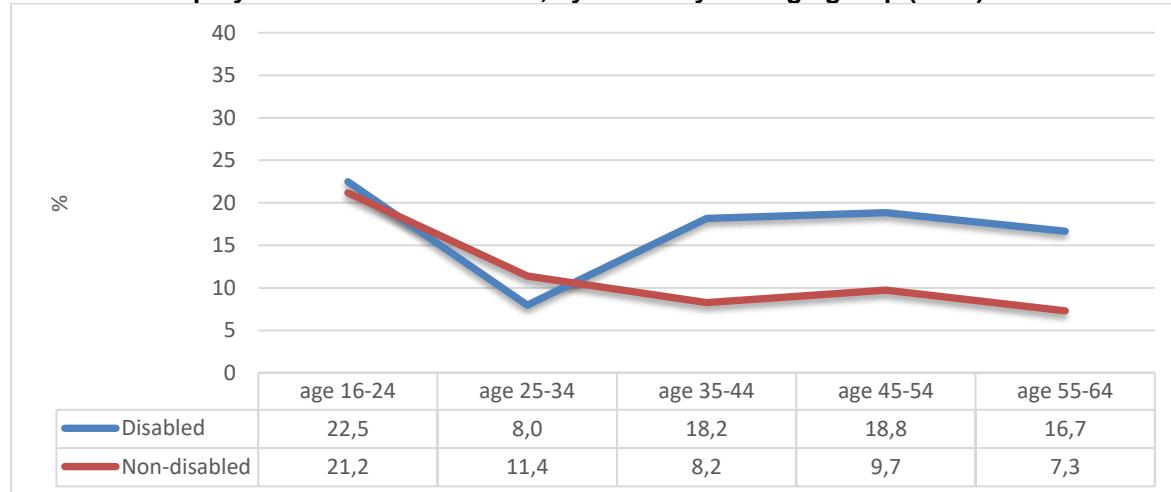
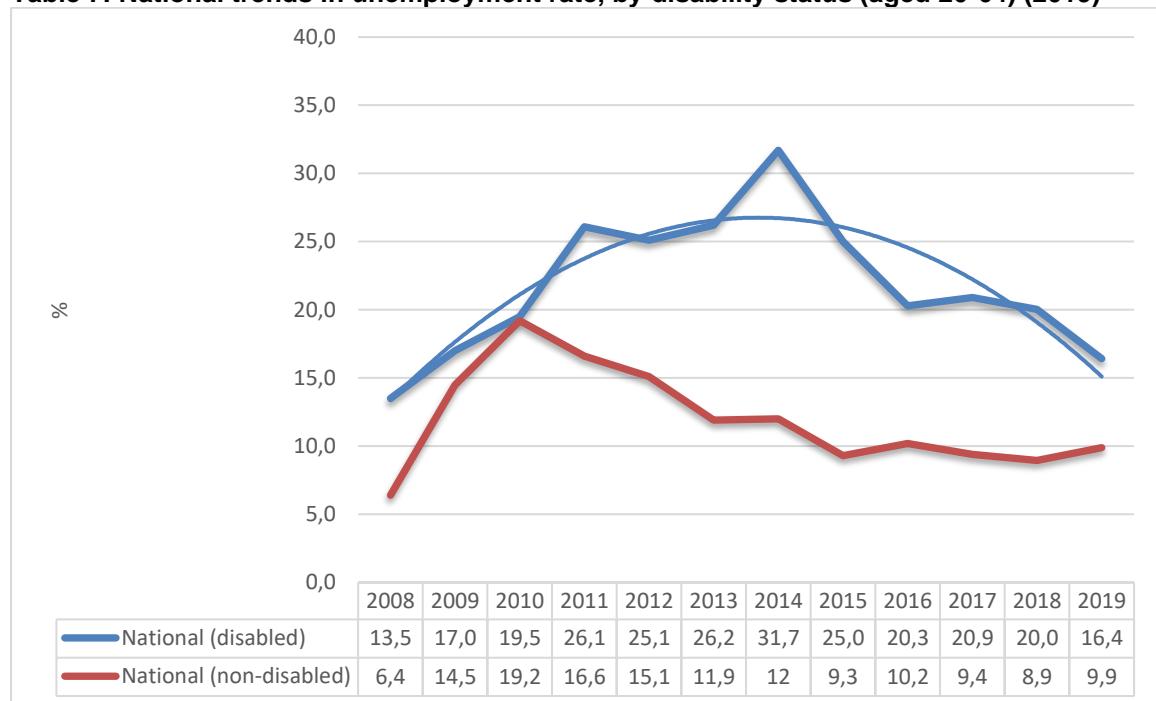


Table 7: National trends in unemployment rate, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

7.1.2 Economic activity

Table 8: Activity rates in Lithuania, by disability and gender (aged 20-64) (2019)

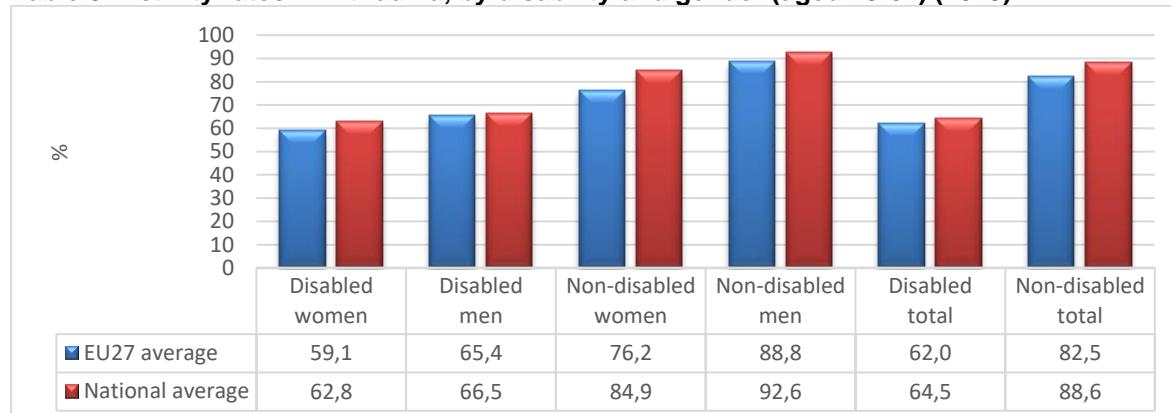


Table 9: Activity rates in Lithuania, by age group (2019)

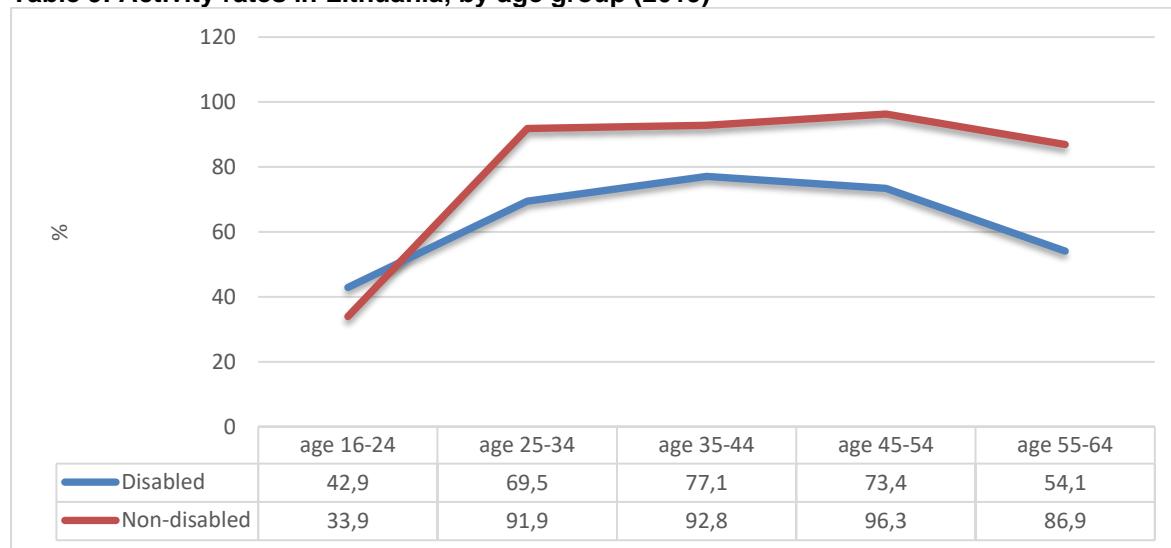
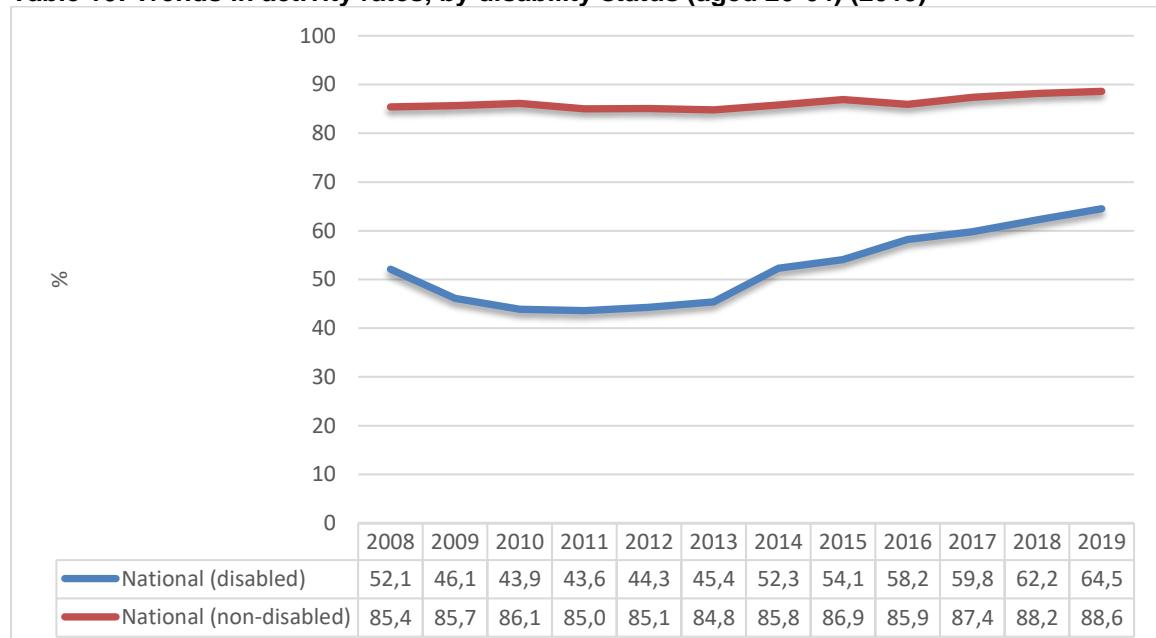


Table 10: Trends in activity rates, by disability status (aged 20-64) (2019)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and preceding UDBs).

7.1.3 Alternative sources of labour market data in Lithuania

Disability data is not yet available from the core European Labour Force Survey but labour market indicators for Lithuania were disaggregated from ad modules conducted in 2001 and 2011. These can be found in the Eurostat disability database.⁵³

Statistical data about persons with disabilities 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

⁵³ Eurostat Health Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

displayed by UN CRPD articles. General administrative data is available on the number of persons with disabilities unemployed and employed persons with disabilities, 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 persons with disabilities is limited.⁵⁴ Inclusion in the EU core Labour Force Survey will assist in this.

Table A: Number of people with disabilities who are working age and working

	Persons who are working age	Persons who are working	Persons working in Social Enterprises	Employment rate	% of persons working in Social Enterprises	% of persons working in open labour market
2019	158,729	46,798	6,779	29.48	14.49	25.21
2020	153,651	43,817	6,821	28.52	15.57	24.08
2021 March		42,439	3,765		8.87	

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

Table B: Number of people with disabilities registered in Employment Services or being employed

	Persons registered in Employment Services	Persons started working in open labour market	Persons who started to work according to business certificate	Persons participated in Active Labour Market Policies
2020 1Q	11,043	1,616	202	352
2020 2Q	11,740	1,207	353	187
2020 3Q	15,018	1,654	489	420
2020 4Q	19,419	1,301	410	480
2021 1Q	18,310	1,369	470	193
2021 2Q	16,145	2,175	794	487

Source: Employment Services under Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

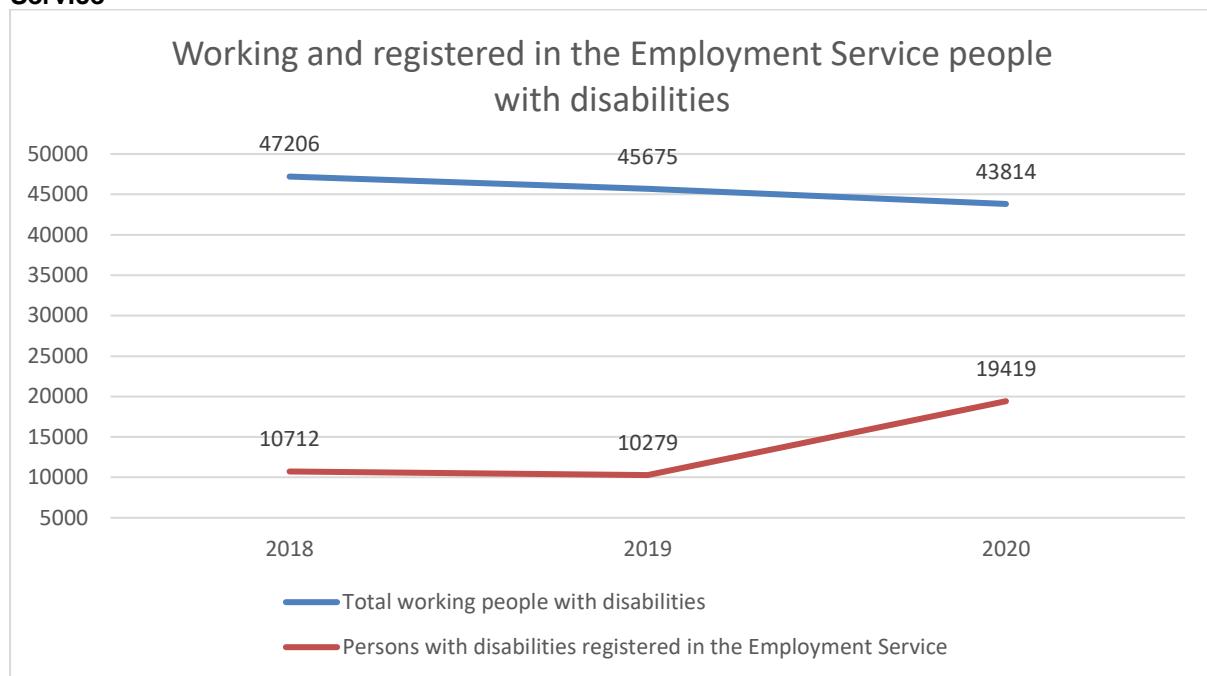
Table C: Funding for employment promotion within people with disabilities, thousand EUR

	2019	2020
Support for Social Enterprises	32800	23662.
Active Labour Market Policies	5731.2	5041.
Vocational rehabilitation	1787.	84

Source: Employment Services under Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

⁵⁴ 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-duomenų-rinkmenos-/asset_publisher/i2LnhXkrXAbl/content/ketvirtinio-gyventojų-uzimtumo-statistinio-tyrimo-.

Table D: Total number of people with disabilities working and registered in the Employment Service



Source: *Employment Service Under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.*⁵⁵

⁵⁵ <https://uzt.lt/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Asmen%C5%B3-su-negalia-situacija-darbo-rinkoje-2021-07-29.pdf>.

7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2019)

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

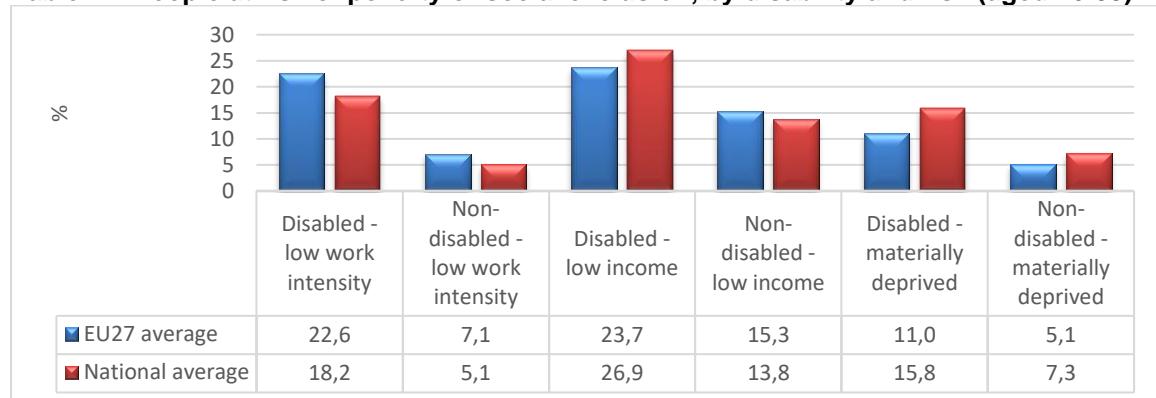


Table 12: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by disability and gender (aged 16+)

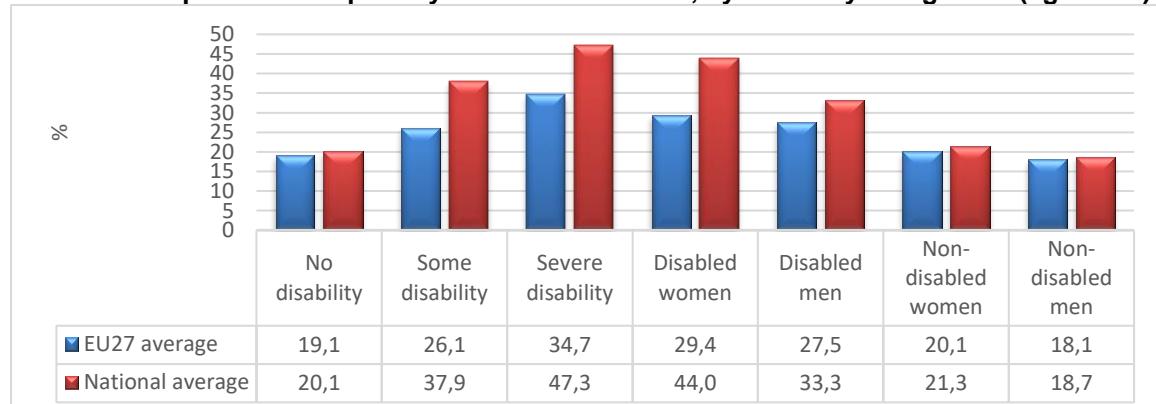
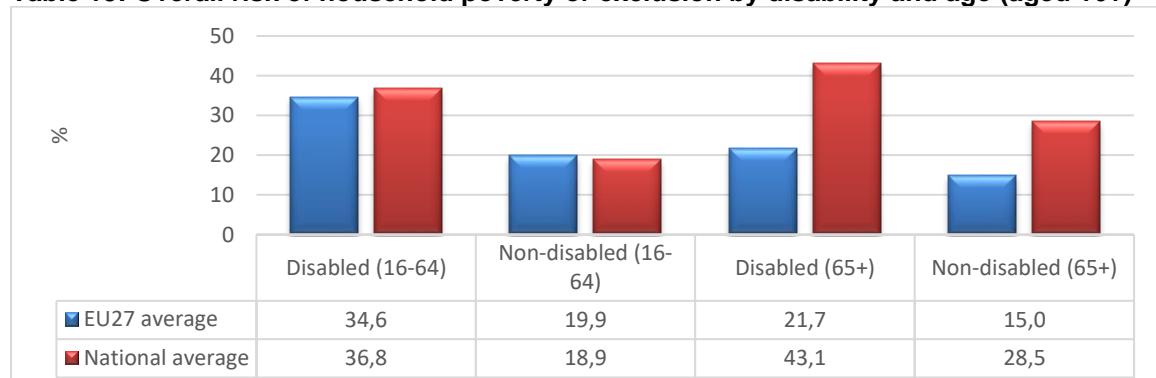
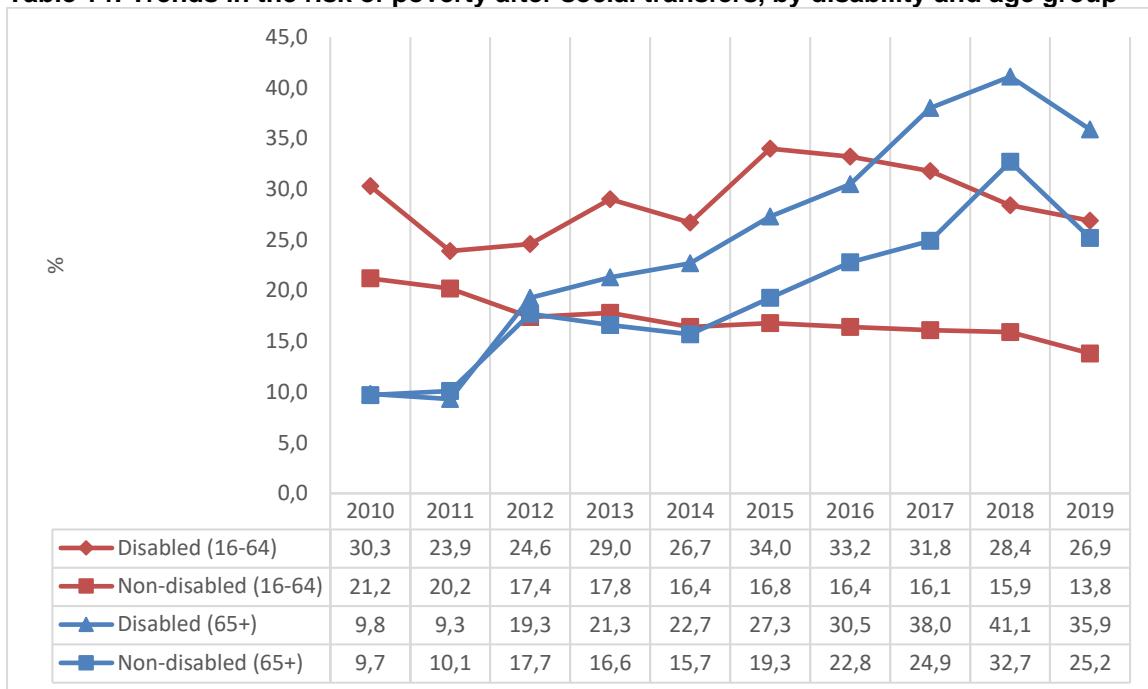


Table 13: Overall risk of household poverty or exclusion by disability and age (aged 16+)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 version 1 (and previous UDB).

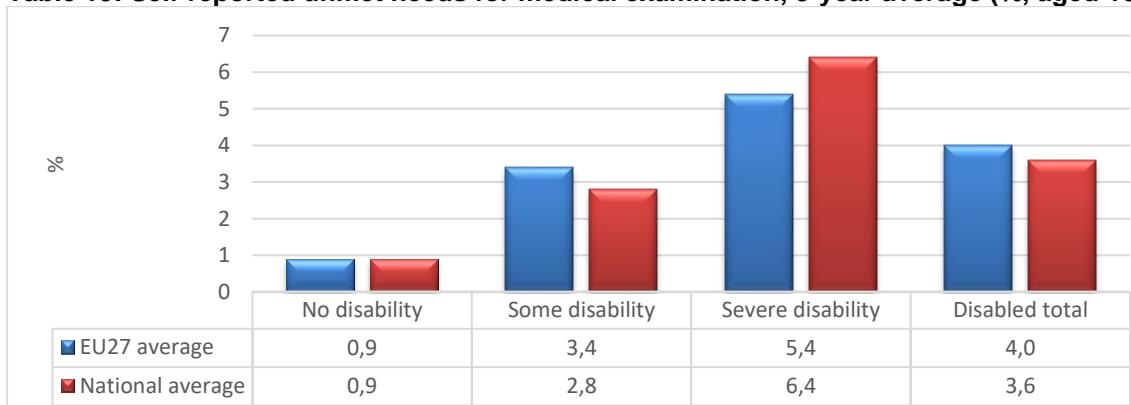
Table 14: Trends in the risk of poverty after social transfers, by disability and age group



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 2019 are consistent with the 3-year mean values.

7.2.1 Alternative sources of poverty or health care data in Lithuania

The EU-SILC data provides a comprehensive and reliable source concerning poverty or social exclusion rates. In addition to the summary tables presented so far, the Eurostat disability database also contains breakdowns concerning disability and poverty before and after social transfers, as well as in-work-poverty.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Eurostat Health Database, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>.

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.⁵⁷

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.⁵⁸

Table E: Number of residents in care institutions and group living homes for the adult with disabilities at the end of the year

Years	2018	2019	2020
Residents in care institutions	6,220	5,959	5,727
Number of places in group living homes	158	353	387
Number of places in nursing homes for adults with disabilities	6,562	6,757	6 225

Source: Lithuanian Official Statistics.

⁵⁷ Department of Statistics information - <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize#/>.

⁵⁸ Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour information - <http://www.ndt.lt/statistiniai-rodikliai/>.

7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education

Table 16: Early school leaving rates, by disability status (aged 18-24 and 18-29)⁵⁹

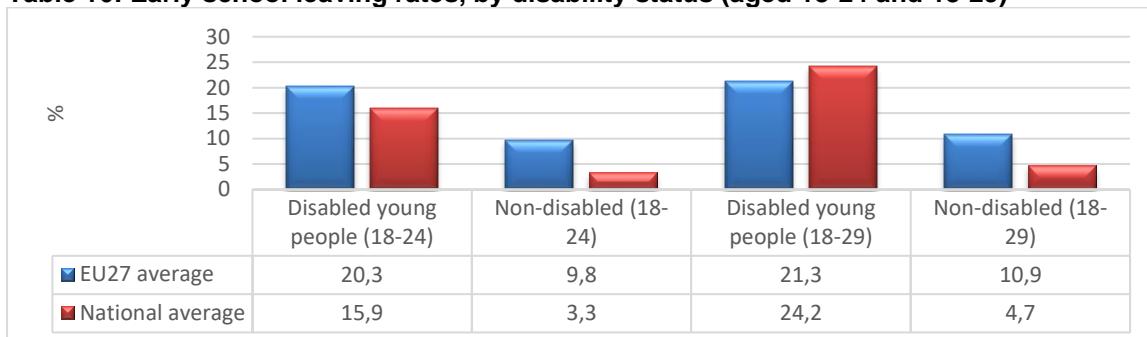
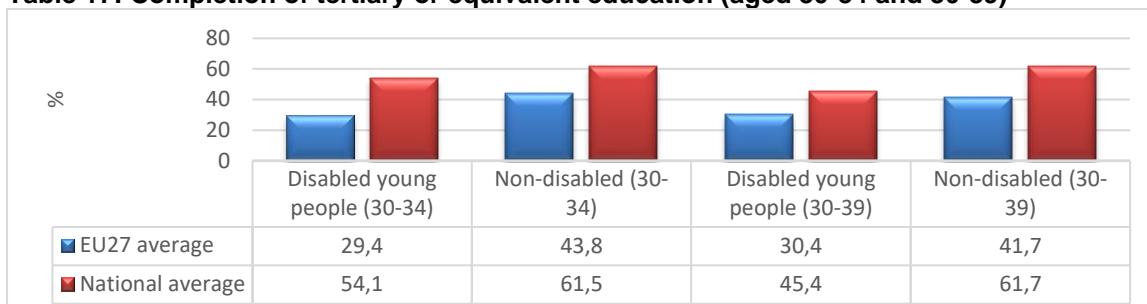


Table 17: Completion of tertiary or equivalent education (aged 30-34 and 30-39)



Source: EU-SILC 2019 Release 2021 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.⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹

Data from ITC Education Management Information System under the Ministry of Education and Science indicates general number of children who early left education system.⁶² Information is not disaggregated by general criteria such as age, gender or disability.

⁵⁹ 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.

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

⁶¹ European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, *Statistics on Inclusive Education*, <https://www.european-agency.org/data/data-tables-background-information>.

⁶² <https://www.svis.smm.lt/bendrasis-ugdymas-2/> (in Lithuanian).

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

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Vocational school	1,332	1,283	1,085	1,034
College	181	141	108	120
University	314	279	244	295

Source: Lithuanian Official Statistics.

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

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Special pedagogues	445	456	447	433
Speech therapists	442	451	433	435
Surdologist	20	17	14	15
Number of children with special educational needs per specialist	40,90	43,51	44,34	44,51

Source: Lithuanian Official Statistics.⁶³

Table G: Number of pupils in mainstream education schools with disabilities

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Attending special schools	3,396	3,409	3,347	3,298
Special classes in mainstream schools	964	979	1,010	1,093
Mainstream classes	3,983	3,870	4,036	4,105
Number of pupils with disabilities in mainstream schools	8,343	8,258	8,393	8,496
Total number of pupils in mainstream education schools	326,061	322,344	325,677	327,022
% of pupils in special schools compared to all pupils in mainstream schools	1.04	1.06	1.03	1.01

Source: Lithuanian Official Statistics.

Table H: Number of pupils with special needs in mainstream education schools being transported by yellow busses to/from school

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Transported from home to school	5,586	5,624	5,620	5,319
Transported from school to home	6,082	6,109	6,078	5,767

Source: Lithuanian Official Statistics.

⁶³ Lithuanian Official Statistics data - <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize?hash=b331cbcd-c8ae-4560-b695-f7380924efcc#/>.

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

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Attending special groups in pre-schools	1,584	1,338	1,245	1,180
Integrated in mainstream groups	19,492	22,784	21,734	23,123
Number of children with special needs in pre-school education	21,076	24,122	22,979	24,303
Total number of children in pre-schools education	119,336	120,852	121,717	122,583
% of children in special groups compared to all children in pre-school education	1.33	1.11	1.02	0.96

Source: Lithuanian Official Statistics.

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