



## EUROPEAN COMPARATIVE DATA ON THE SITUATION OF DISABLED PERSONS

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### TASK objective

*...to identify the opportunities for national comparisons between European countries regarding quantitative data on the situation of disabled people, through an annotated review of existing relevant data sources...*

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### SEARCH for quantitative, EU comparative disability data

Fields	Key words	Sources
Situation of disabled people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Work and employment</li> <li>Income and social protection</li> <li>Mobility</li> <li>Information and communication</li> <li>Political participation</li> <li>Cultural participation</li> <li>Discrimination</li> </ul>	Accessibility Blind Deaf Disab* Hamper* Handica* Health Illness Impair* Incapacit* Restricted/limited mobility Sick* Sign language Restriction (of activity) Functional limitation (Reduced) mobility Braille	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data websites (N=175)</li> <li>EU comp. surveys (N=30)</li> <li>Eurobarometers (1962-2008)</li> <li>Journals (N=12, 1995-2008)</li> <li>Organisations (N=50)</li> <li>ANED network members</li> </ul>

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**TWO MAIN TYPES** of available data

**Social surveys**  
(often basis for production of national and EU statistics)

- opinion surveys (EVS, ESS, Eurobarometer etc.)
- socio-economic surveys (ECHP, EU-SILC, LFS, etc)

**Statistical data bases**

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**FINDINGS - Social surveys**  
(fields of participation, disability identification questions, disability issue questions)

**Fields**

- Work, income, education: reasonably covered
- Political participation, discrimination: fragmented
- Mobility, communication, cultural participation: hardly any data

**Disability identification**

- No EU comparative surveys with disability definition questions that closely match the UN definition
- Fragmented use of types of identification questions
- MEHM module in ESS, LFS ad hoc, EU-SILC

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**FINDINGS - Social surveys** continued

**Disability issues**

- Non-issue in non-Eurobarometer EU comp. surveys
- Fragmented issue in various Eurobarometers

**European Social Survey stands out**

- EU comparative, all countries, bi-annual since 2002, all fields (except mobility), MEHM module  
(but no analyses yet)

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**FINDINGS – Statistical databases**

**Socio-economic situation**

- Reasonably covered in reports and online databases
- Problem: various mother sources (social surveys) with varying definitions of disability, varying country participation

**Discrimination**

- Reasonably covered by Eurostat data

**Other fields**

- Hardly any data

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**GAPS in EU comparative data**

- Fields of participation**  
Only socio-economic participation reasonably covered
- Units of measurement**  
Only individual level data, with lack of meso-level data regarding e.g. libraries, public buildings/transport, media, rehabilitation services, etc. (social model based 'quality of environment' indicators)
- Lack of (non-medical) samples of disabled persons**
- Lack of adequate time series**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Systematically analyze and use data that is available**  
(e.g. ESS, EU-SILC)
- Create EU-comparative data matrix on the basis of available data**
- Create European Data Center for Disability Data**  
(c.f. EU Gender Mainstreaming Data base, or EDACwowe)
- Stimulate use of MEHM in all EU comparative surveys**
- Extend data production in other than socio-economic fields**

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**MEHM: Minimum European Health Module**

1. **How is your health in general?**

*Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad*

2. **Do you have any long-standing illness or health problem?**

*Yes / No*

3. **For at least the past 6 months, have you been limited in activities people usually do because of a health problem?**

*Yes, strongly limited / Yes, limited / No, not limited*

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