


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"> • Education • Work and employment • Income and social protection • Mobility • Information and communication • Political participation • Cultural participation • Discrimination 	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"> •Data websites (N=175) •EU comp. surveys (N=30) •Eurobarometers (1962-2008) •Journals (N=12, 1995-2008) •Organisations (N=50) •ANED network members

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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
