



# SOCHUM

## STUDY GUIDE

PROMOTING SOCIAL  
INCLUSION FOR PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## **Table of Content**

### **Welcome Letter from the Under Secretary General**

#### **1.Introduction to the Committee**

#### **2. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

#### **3.Historical Background**

#### **4.Major Parties Involved**

#### **5. Relationship Between Promoting Social Inclusion For Persons With Disabilities and SDGs**

#### **6.Further Graphs and Recommendations for Debate**

#### **7.Questions to be Answered**

#### **8.References**

## **Letter from the Secretary-General**

Most esteemed participants of FLZMUN'25,

I, as the Secretary General of FLZMUN'25, welcome you all to the first edition of this prestigious conference.

It is an honor and a pleasure to be able to present to you what we have been preparing for months and dreaming for years. My team has worked tirelessly to bring the best you have ever seen, starting with our organization to our academics.

Our objective is to facilitate proficient and elevated diplomatic deliberations, fostering valuable and constructive solutions throughout the duration of FLZMUN'25, enriched by the collective contributions of all participants. As a delegate, your journey begins here, with the study guide prepared by our dedicated members; your most honorable chairboard.

I advise you to read this study guide thoroughly and expand your research on different perspectives; focusing on your allocated country. It is essential to bear in mind that each nation and every perspective holds significance if you are adequately prepared to engage with the agenda at hand.

You have my best wishes for success and enriching discussions during these two days of enjoyment. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the valuable contributions you'll make to our conference.

Mehmet Onur ÇİĞDEM  
Secretary-General of FLZMUN'25

## **Welcome Letter from the Under-Secretary-General**

It is my distinct honor and profound pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the entire Secretariat, to the highly anticipated FLZMUN'25 conference. As the Under-Secretary-General, I am Enes Pehlivan, and I stand ready to guide you through what promises to be an intellectually rigorous and deeply meaningful session. We are thrilled to host such a talented and diverse group of future leaders dedicated to addressing the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time. Our chosen theme for this year is a testament to the imperative of building equitable societies: "Promoting Social Inclusion For Persons With Disabilities." This is more than just a debate topic; it is a call to action. Across the globe, over a billion people live with some form of disability, yet they frequently face systemic discrimination, barriers to access, and exclusion from public life. Their voices, their talents, and their potential are essential for the prosperity and innovation of all nations. Your responsibility, specifically within the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), is monumental. The mandate of SOCHUM requires you to move beyond abstract discussion and focus on concrete measures that uphold human rights. We expect you to deeply investigate the intersectional challenges faced by persons with disabilities, whether they are infrastructural, legal, educational, or related to employment and health equity. Your resolutions must be robust, fiscally sound, and designed for genuine, implementable change. We urge you to consult the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as your foundational text. We have structured the conference not only to challenge your diplomatic and public speaking skills but also to foster a collaborative spirit. The solutions to exclusion are complex and require nuanced understanding, bridging the gaps between developed and developing nations, and balancing resource allocation with ambitious policy goals. I encourage you to leverage your unique national perspectives, work across traditional blocs, and strive for consensus that respects the dignity and agency of every individual. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the passion, dedication, and diplomatic prowess you will bring to the committee floor. I wish you the very best in your preparation and look forward to meeting you all.

Let us work together to make FLZMUN'25 a true landmark in the pursuit of social inclusion.

Sincerely,

## **1.Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee is known as SOCHUM. SOCHUM is focused on matters of a social, humanitarian, and cultural nature. Since its founding, SOCHUM serves as a forum for reviewing matters of injustice, human rights, and culture, driven by a focus on human welfare. The importance of SOCHUM is its role as a committee of the United Nations that advocates for equality and respect for the dignity of all human beings. The United Nations' founding charter created SOCHUM to protect basic human rights and freedoms for all.

SOCHUM believes that human rights are inherent and require constant protection. The committee examines topics such as women's rights, equality, racism, xenophobia, ill-treatment, refugees, human trafficking, Indigenous peoples, and vulnerable populations that become victims of war, poverty, or discrimination. In its activities, SOCHUM offers a forum for states to share their views and develop proposals to achieve a better world through a more just international order, regardless of a country's strength, wealth, or power.

Issues that the committee is grappling with regularly include those that result from political conflicts, lack of finances, injustices, and cultural differences. Effectiveness for SOCHUM can only be realized if the committee's members have a grasp of world events and a readiness to listen to different perspectives. All these, to a certain extent, emphasize the opportunity for improving lives by standing up for human rights, respect, and appreciation of cultural differences.

## 2.Introduction to the Agenda Item

The determination of the international community towards the promotion of the full and effective participation of people with disabilities in all spheres of society can be traced back to the basic principles of the United Nations' Charter. The cause of disability rights, being a movement, owes its heritage to a vital forerunner, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, that advocates for life, liberty, and security.

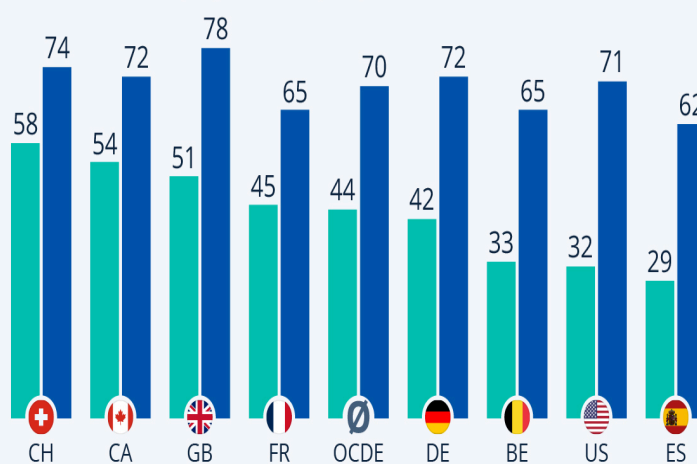
In this context, some of the relevant milestones include the 1969 General Assembly's proclamation of the need to safeguard the rights and interests of people with disabilities, where the 1975 Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons was a call for social integration of people with disabilities, who had inherent dignity and human rights, thus the benchmark for equality of treatment and service delivery.

Therefore, this was realized through the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, adopted in 1982, seeking to ensure the equalization of opportunities and participation of disabled people . The shift in the definition of disability can be said to be finally established through the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2006, since it recognizes that disability results from the interaction between the person's impairment and the environment and attitudes that impede or remove

### The Employment Gap for People With Disabilities

Comparison of the employment rate of people with disabilities with that of people without disabilities (in %)\*

■ Employment rate for people with disabilities  
■ Employment for people without disabilities



\* Among people aged 15 to 69. 2019 or latest year available

Source: OECD



statista

that interaction through establishing an institutional platform for the realization of the rights of disabled people.

Social exclusion is expensive not only to the person, but to society at large; hence, accessibility and participation form the goal of the process and a precondition for the fulfillment of other rights as well. Barriers, both environmental and attitudinal, need to be removed so that disabled people become living agents of change, as well as recipients of development dividends, at the grassroots level. It is important to note that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or the achievement of the imperatives of the CRPD, depends on the inclusion of disability along all development dimensions. This is achievable through a two-track system, that is, mainstreaming assistance to Member States, through the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy - Source. This agenda item is relevant to the review of the progress made to improve the social inclusion of people living with disabilities, determine the challenges, and design innovative solutions for the attainment of the goals of the SDGs and the CRPD.

### **3. Historical Background**

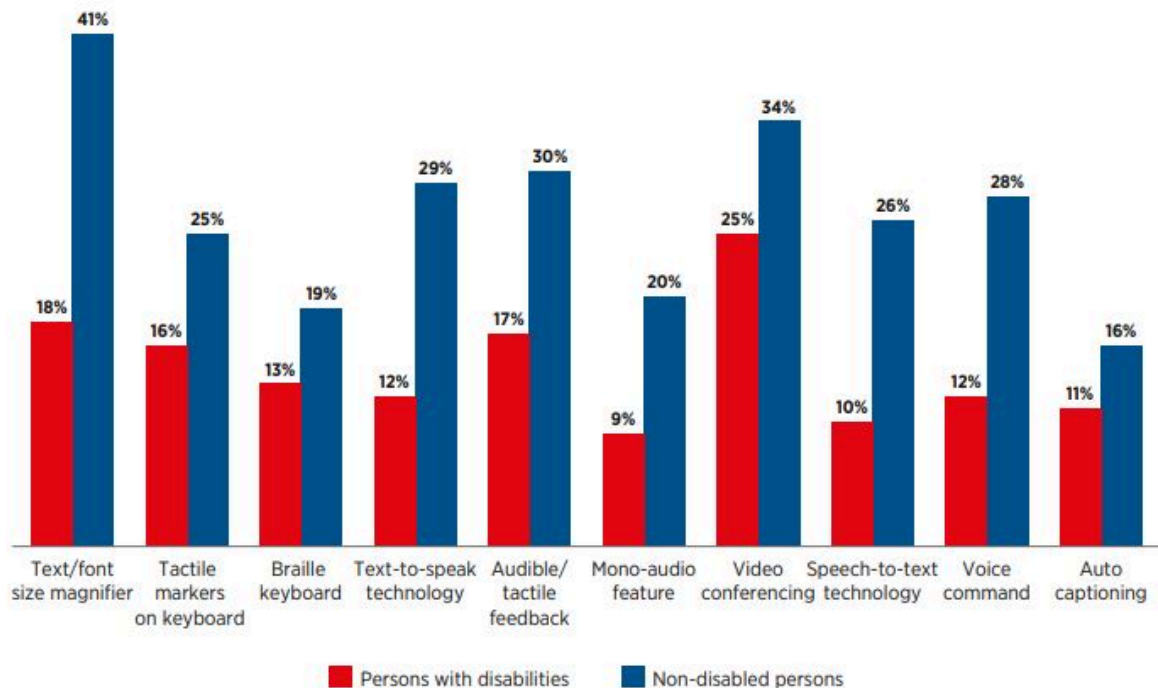
The promotion and development of social inclusion of persons with disabilities had formed in several ways from a medical-welfare based perspective to a human rights based form. It is mostly started and took the basics from the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. In the baby steps of the development of social inclusion it is mostly advanced and had a way faster by announcing 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons and that which catalyzed the adoption and making things easier for the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons in the year 1982. The programme was a milestone for the process of equalization because in this programme the term “equalization of opportunities” was defined firstly in this programme.

This fast process had continued through the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons between 1983-1992. And then at the end of this decade the release and application of Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities had completed and started. It was not legally binding but it was a milestone and changed a lot of

things entirely. But then after a long time ,like 10 years, the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities -2006- had been initiated. This was the primary code for overcoming years' policies for the inclusion of people with disabilities. This convention was an attitudinal standard for the entire cultures of the world.

#### Awareness of mobile accessibility features among mobile users

Percentage of mobile users



**Base:** Mobile phone owners and non-mobile owners who have access to a mobile phone (mobile users). Respondents were asked if they knew of each accessibility feature. n=791 for persons with disabilities and n=203 for non-disabled persons.

## 4.Major Parties Involved

**Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP):** Globally the largest and most diversified international meeting about disability held annually at United Nations Headquarters to make the adoption of the Convention easy.



**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:** The committee of independent experts that reviews reports submitted by the States' parties.

**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs ( UNDESA) :** Its duty is serving as the Secretariat for the CRPD; its Division for Inclusive Social Development creates the Disability and Development Report.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) :** The main department focuses on development in the UN. It manages the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), a multinational fund that collaborates with UN entities, governments and disability organizations.

**UNWOMEN:** Leads on the intersectionality of gender and disability, focusing on the specific discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities.

**World Health Organization (WHO) :** Focuses mostly on medical rehabilitation and assistive technology.

**International Disability Alliance (IDA):** The most significant global umbrella organization, representing over 1,100 organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). Key members include:

- World Blind Union (WBU)
- World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Down Syndrome International (DSI)
- Inclusion International (representing people with intellectual disabilities)

**International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) :** A consortium for disability and development of NGOs attached to the topic and promoting international development of inclusion of the people with disabilities.

**Human Rights Watch :** An international watchdog that researches and reports problems against abuse of the topic.

**Regional Forums:** Critical for localizing the agenda, including the European Disability Forum (EDF), African Disability Forum (ADF), and Pacific Disability Forum (PDF).

**European Union (EU) :** It is a unique party for the regional implementation of the CRPD. And EU works for the disabled people's life easier.

## **5. Relationship Between Promoting Social Inclusion For Persons With Disabilities and SDGs**

The relationship between the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is mostly foundational. Unlike before, Millennium Development Goals, because it had failed to refer to disability but - a big bold but- Sustainable Development Goals marked a historic shift in the global policies. The 2030 Agenda is rooted in the pledge to “Leave No One Behind”, a commitment that cannot be fulfilled without the full inclusion of the world's 1.3 billion persons with disabilities.

Our topic is a cross-goal issue that includes all the 17 goals together to make solutions and achieve together. Social exclusion also creates a vicious cycle of poverty and marginalization that hinders national development. Therefore, promoting social inclusion is not just a matter of common human rights; and it is a pragmatic and social imperative for the success of the SDGs.

### **"Disability-Inclusive" Goals**

#### **Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education**

This SDG shows the inclusion most visibly. Also the Target 4.5 specifically mandates the elimination of the gender disparities and ensures equal access to all levels of education for the vulnerable, including people with disabilities. For extension, Target 4.a calls upon the

building and upgrading of education facilities that are “ child, disability and gender sensitive”.

### **Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Social inclusion is mostly and generally linked to economic participation. The Target 8.5 calls for full and productive employment and decent work for all people in the society, including “people with disabilities”, and payment equal with value.

### **Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**

This goal serves as the political anchor for social inclusion. Target 10.2 explicitly aims to "empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status." This target moves beyond mere access to services and addresses the structural power dynamics that cause exclusion.

### **Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

For the achievement of social inclusion, physical accessibility is a must. The Target 11.2 states the provision of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable city systems for all with special attention to the needs of persons with disabilities. Target 11.7 further requires universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces. This enshrines the concept of Universal Design into the development agenda.

### **Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

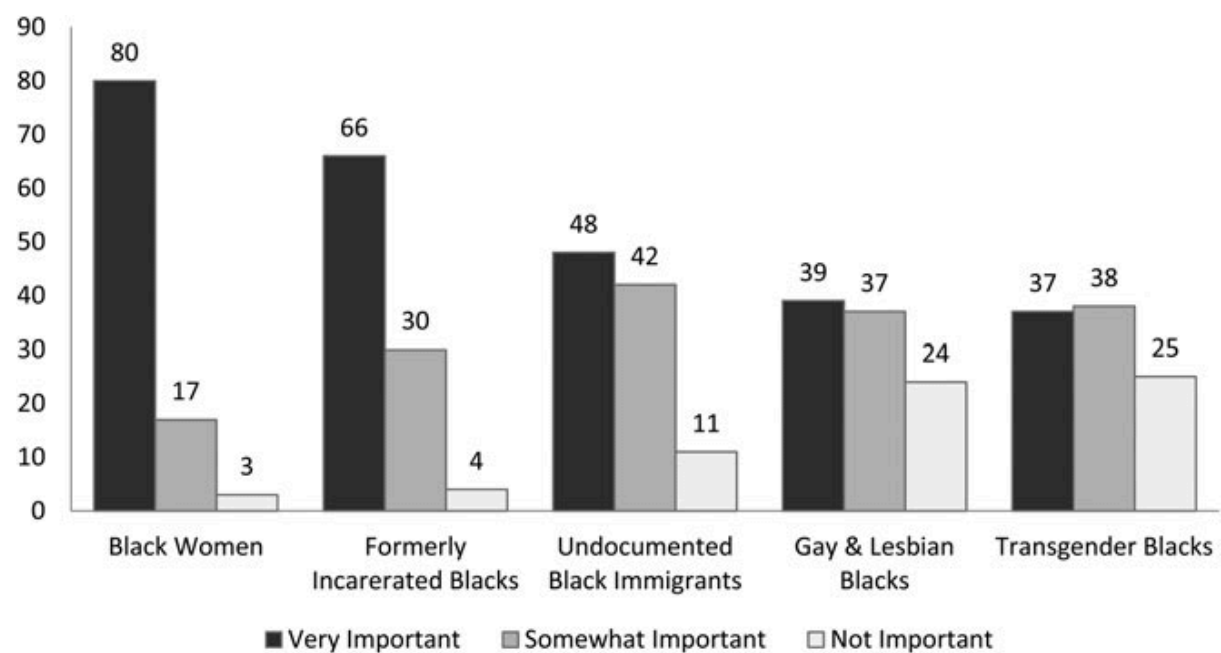
Perhaps the most critical for accountability, Target 17.18 calls for high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by "disability." This addresses the "invisibility" of disabled people in statistics. If states do not count persons with disabilities, they cannot count toward development progress.

## **6. Further Graphs and Recommendations For Debate**

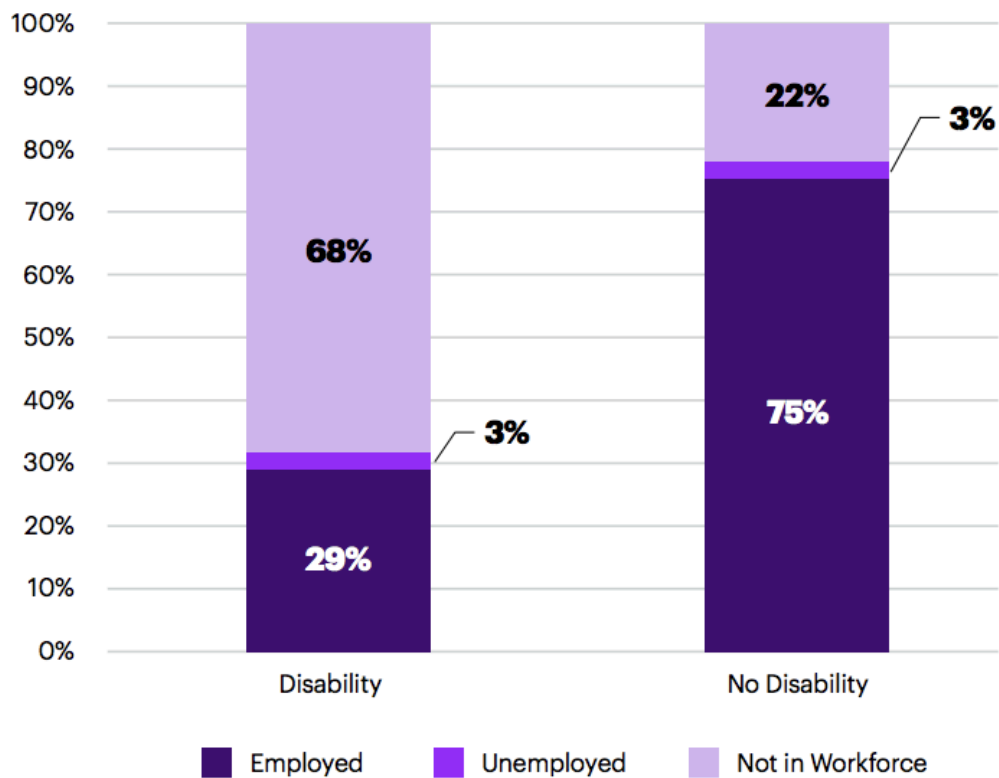
Being the Chair of this committee, it is my pleasure to urge delegates in SOCHUM to formulate their arguments in such a manner that informed diplomacy and analysis are at the forefront of the debate, and this happens when views are rooted in the international and human rights frameworks and backed by hard facts and findings in the latest United Nations

reports. It is very important to be aware of the different national situations that are present in this committee and that are reflected in the conditions of resources, cultures, and institutional capacity of different nations. Think about multilateral collaborations that can be exercised in different international or regional frameworks, including nongovernmental and PPPs, and in addition to thinking about short-term solutions in response to current scenarios, it is vital to ponder over those that are of the nature of addressing the roots of problems that are on the agenda of this committee. In this manner, resolutions can be effectively and clearly formulated focusing on action and timeframe that can be identified in the operative clauses of resolutions for this committee to be very effective and have more substantial and practical implications for the international community at large and for each of us as members of this platform.

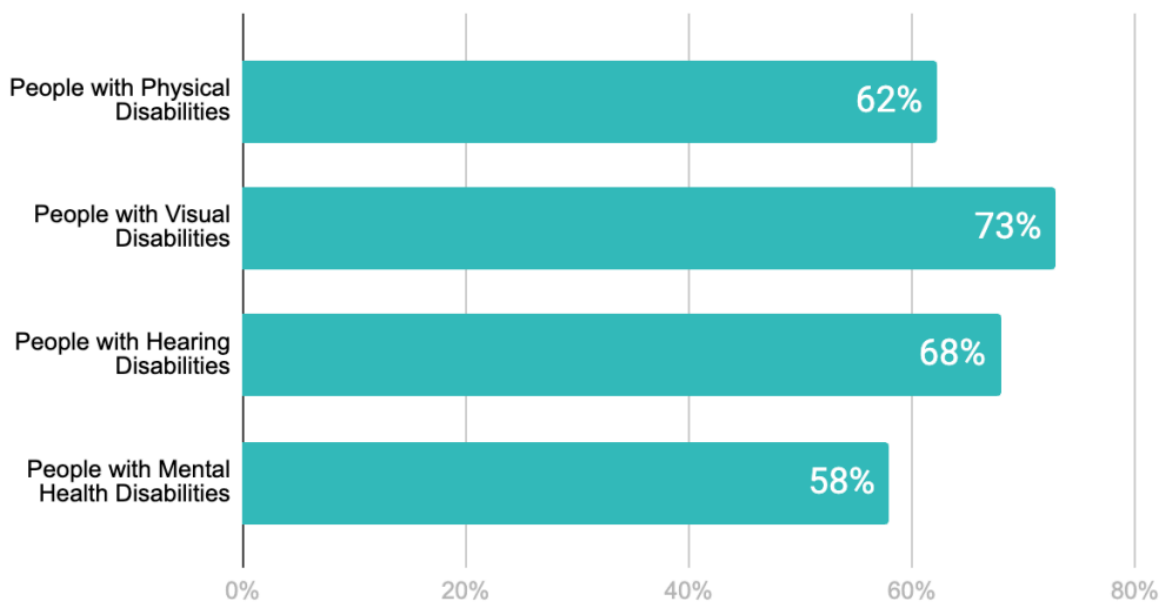
### Graphs:



**Population (between ages 16 and 64) by labor-force status and disability status, July 2018**

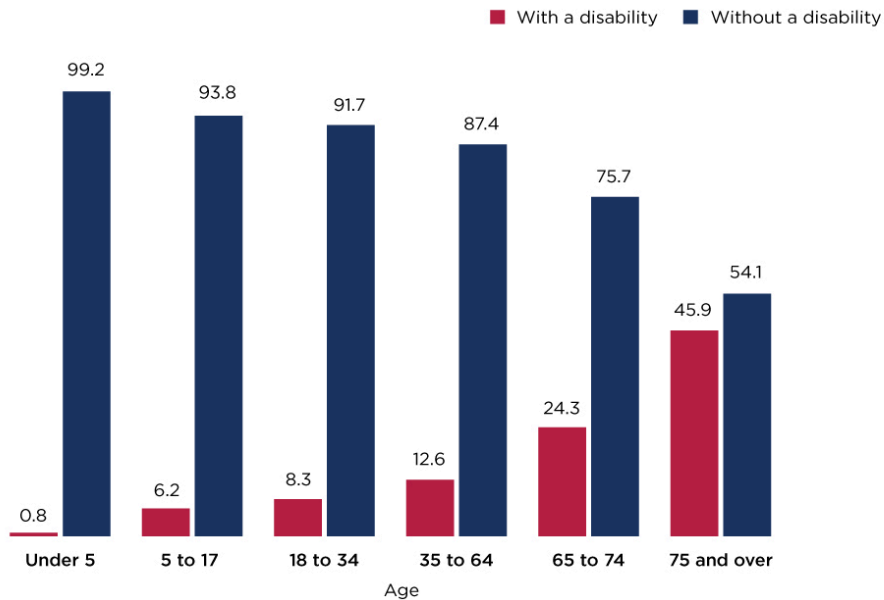


% who agree with the statement "When I perceive a brand as devaluing my community group or identity, I will no longer purchase them."



# Disability Status by Age Group

(In percent)



Note: The American Community Survey (ACS) collects information about vision, hearing, ambulatory, self-care and cognitive difficulties of those ages 5-14 and 15 and over. The ACS also asks if people age 15 and over have independent living difficulties, and limits questions about those under the age of 5 to vision and hearing difficulties.

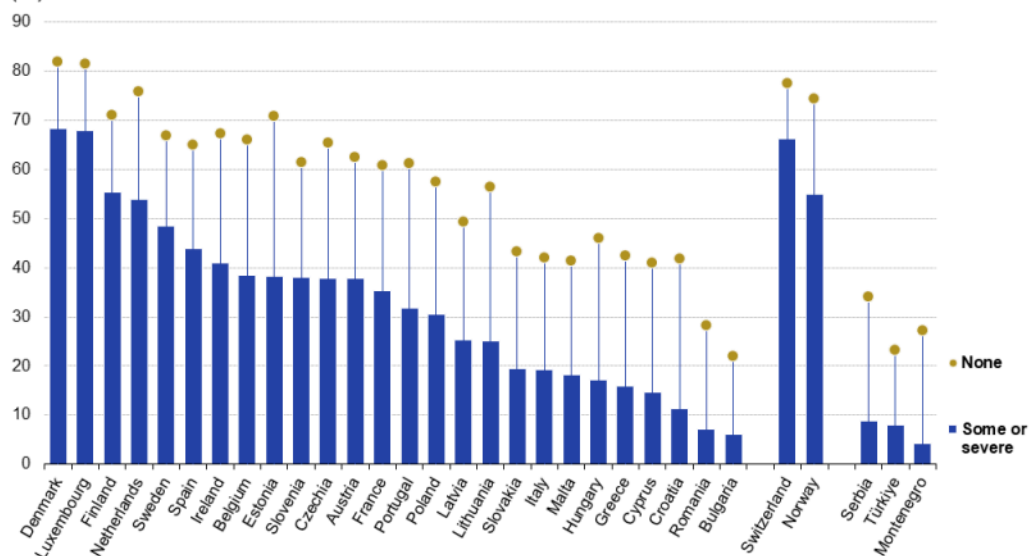
United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: 2022 American Community Survey,  
1-year estimates,  
<<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSSTIY2022.S1810>>

## Share of people aged 16 years or over having participated in cultural activities during the previous 12 months, by level of disability (activity limitation), 2022

(%)



Note: Germany, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc\_scp37)

eurostat

## **7. Questions to Be Answered**

1. What are the primary barriers—both environmental and attitudinal—that prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating in society, and how can Member States effectively address them?
2. To what extent have Member States implemented the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and what mechanisms are needed to strengthen compliance and accountability?
3. How can governments ensure universal access to education, healthcare, employment, and transportation for persons with disabilities, especially in low-resource or conflict-affected regions?
4. What role should national data systems play in improving disability-inclusive policymaking, and how can Member States enhance data collection, monitoring, and disaggregated reporting?
5. How can international organizations, NGOs, and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) collaborate more effectively to support national disability-inclusion strategies?
6. What policy models or best practices can be adopted to promote equalization of opportunities, particularly in relation to digital accessibility, assistive technologies, and universal design?
7. How can Member States address intersectional discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, including gender-based, socioeconomic, and cultural dimensions of exclusion?
8. What steps can be taken to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, considering the significant labor-force participation gap shown in global statistics?

9. How can the international community ensure that disability inclusion remains central to the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
10. What long-term strategies can be developed to promote social inclusion at both the community and national levels, ensuring that persons with disabilities become active agents of change rather than passive recipients of support?

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