



# European Semester 2024-2025 country fiche on disability equality

Italy

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# European Semester 2024-2025 country fiche on disability equality

With comparative data Annex provided by EDE<sup>1</sup>

## Italy

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<sup>1</sup> 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. EDE senior experts Magdi BIRTHA and Felix Gross-Wohlgemuth from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research reviewed the 2024 Semester country fiches.

<sup>2</sup> 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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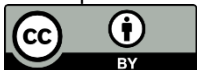
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## 1 Executive summary and recommendations

### 1.1 Key points and main challenges for Italy in 2024

#### **Disability and the labour market**

The Italian labour market is gaining steam, but data show gaps for women and young people, and it is plausible that such gaps also affect women and young employees with disabilities. There is a lack of coordination between the state and regions, as well as a scarcity of data regarding incentives for the employment of persons with disabilities in the different regions.

#### **Disability, social policies and healthcare**

The at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate of persons with disabilities still presents critical issues. In December 2021, Law No. 227/2021 ('Delegation to the Government in matters of disability') was approved with the aim of reforming the disability assessment system. From January 2025, testing of the new disability assessment system will begin, involving nine Italian provinces.<sup>1</sup> A series of Recovery and Resilience Plan grants have been dedicated to implementing deinstitutionalisation projects in all Italian regions, which presents a great opportunity to strengthen community-based services and ease the burden on informal caregivers.

#### **Disability, education and skills**

The Italian education system is often considered at the forefront when it comes to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, but there are some areas where further improvement is needed. Many school buildings lack accessibility and in many schools there is not enough support teachers and they are not adequately trained. A more inclusive school, without barriers, and with a sufficient number of support teachers and other qualified professionals (such as communication assistants), could positively influence the high rate of school leavers. The green and technological revolution is radically transforming the world of work. The consequences are multiple: the creation of new professions; the obsolescence of some occupations; new types of work and new hiring processes. The world of education must adapt to these needs: Green and digital skills (skills related to the environment, sustainability and energy efficiency)<sup>2</sup> for persons with disabilities must be improved.

#### **Investment priorities in relation to disability**

In addition to financing life projects thanks to the resources of the NRP (National Reform Programme), the 'Single Fund for the inclusion of persons with disabilities' was established, with the aim of simplifying and rationalising the use of resources and improving the effectiveness of the public policy sector. There are numerous measures that allocate resources to support the families of persons with disabilities: The 'single family allowance' (in Italian, '*assegno unico e universale*') has been permanently increased; furthermore, resources are allocated to cover the costs related to transport and the caregiver's activity.

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<sup>1</sup> The nine provinces are: Brescia, Lombardy; Catanzaro, Calabria; Florence, Tuscany; Forlì-Cesena, Emilia-Romagna; Frosinone, Lazio; Perugia, Umbria; Salerno, Campania; Sassari, Sardinia Island.

<sup>2</sup> See: [https://climate-pact.europa.eu/priority-topics/green-skills\\_en](https://climate-pact.europa.eu/priority-topics/green-skills_en).

## 1.2. Recommendations for Italy

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

**Recommendation:** Improve the accuracy of targeted employment systems, providing adequate skills to deal with the twin transitions.

Rationale: The spring package<sup>3</sup> highlights that there remains considerable scope to improve the labour market participation of under-represented groups, including persons with disabilities; in the Italian context, data highlight a level of guarantee of the right to work that is still inadequate and far removed from that of other national contexts, as also highlighted by OECD data.<sup>4</sup>

**Recommendation:** Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of schools, and the presence of teachers qualified to support pupils with disabilities.

Rationale: The Italian model of '*integrazione scolastica*' (educational inclusion) has long been regarded as a leader in the field of inclusive education, but there are still many school buildings with architectural barriers. Furthermore, support teachers are few in number and poorly trained.

**Recommendation:** Empower persons with disabilities through targeted funding and mainstream disability in every national and regional funding programme, counteracting sectorisation of spending and improving coordination of financial allocation between state, regions and local authorities.

Rationale: Persons with disabilities still face discrimination and poor accessibility in education and in the workplace. The impact of targeted funding on the effective inclusion of persons with disabilities should be a key factor in funding evaluation criteria and in medium/long-term funding evaluation, strengthening social inclusion and independent living. It is equally important to establish monitoring systems for the funding allocated and the policies implemented with them, and to adopt evaluation systems able to detect the quality of life of persons with disabilities throughout the national territory.

**Recommendation:** Reform and update mechanisms provided by Law No. 68/1999 to make it more effective, since the labour market is evolving and so should targeted placement systems.

Rationale: Coordination between the state and the regions needs to be strengthened, and data needs to be made available on incentives for the employment of persons with disabilities. At the same time, employers and workers need increased awareness about what reasonable accommodations are and how these can be implemented.

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<sup>3</sup> Available here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52024DC0600>, p. 14.

<sup>4</sup> See OECD, Disability, Work and Inclusion Mainstreaming in All Policies and Practices, 11 October 2022, available at [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/disability-work-and-inclusion\\_1eaa5e9c-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/disability-work-and-inclusion_1eaa5e9c-en).

## 2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2024 Semester documents

### 2.1 Country Report (CR) and Country Specific Recommendation (CSR)

The following key points highlighted where a disability perspective was considered, or should be considered, in the CR/CRS. We will address the most relevant of these in the next chapters.

The Italy CR 2024<sup>5</sup> includes the following direct mentions of persons with disabilities:

- Boosting the green transition through measures to facilitate the shift to a circular economy, including water and waste management planning, streamlining permissions procedures for renewable energy installations and strengthening the electricity grid to enable greater renewables integration (p. 8).
- Boosting economic and social resilience by carrying out reforms and investments to strengthen basic skills, expand tertiary education and reduce skills mismatches with specific training programmes, as well as measures to reduce poverty and give greater autonomy to older people and persons with disabilities (p. 11).
- Italy is highly exposed to climate change, exacerbated by human activities. Disability mainstreaming in climate change-related actions must be considered, as well as advancing the digital transition, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity and public administration and rolling out a nation-wide telecommunication network (p. 10).
- Complementary action supported by EU funds aims to reduce skills mismatches, foster youth employment and expand tertiary vocational education. Under the RRP, in 2022 Italy reformed the governance of tertiary vocational training, establishing shared governance between local firms, secondary schools and tertiary education bodies (such as universities). By providing professional training (in Italian, '*formazione professionalizzante*') to students, the measure aims to boost economic development and the competitiveness of the local economy. Challenges remain regarding access to vocational education for persons with disabilities (pp. 11 and 37).
- Italy is taking measures to reduce poverty and give greater autonomy to older people and persons with disabilities. Under the RRP, Italy has started delivering on measures to boost economic and social resilience, including a reform of services for non-self-sufficient older people, a reform of the framework law on disability, and full implementation of the measures under the reform to tackle undeclared work (p. 75).
- Using cohesion policy funds, the Inclusion and Poverty Reduction and Youth, Women and Jobs national programmes support vulnerable groups such as migrants, people in undeclared work and persons with disabilities by providing pathways to job market inclusion (p. 11).

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<sup>5</sup> Available at [https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/b276f45e-e9f4-4c8a-920c-c275e8133402\\_en?filename=SWD\\_2024\\_612\\_1\\_EN\\_Italy.pdf](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/b276f45e-e9f4-4c8a-920c-c275e8133402_en?filename=SWD_2024_612_1_EN_Italy.pdf).

The CSR<sup>6</sup> does not mention disability, but some of the general recommendations of high relevance to persons with disabilities include the following:

- Strengthen administrative capacity to manage EU funds, accelerate investments and maintain momentum in the implementation of reforms and accelerate the implementation of cohesion policy programmes (p. 9).
- Tackle negative demographic trends, including by attracting and retaining high-skilled workers and by addressing labour market challenges, particularly with regards to women, young people and in-work poverty, notably of workers with non-standard contracts (p. 10).
- Define an industrial and development strategy to reduce the territorial divide by streamlining current policy measures and by considering key infrastructure projects as well as strategic value chains (p. 11).

## 2.2 National Reform Programme (NRP) and Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)

As of 2024, the NRP will be replaced by the medium-term fiscal structural plans.<sup>7</sup> Italy prepared its last NRP in 2023, which is the basis of this analysis.

The NRP 2023<sup>8</sup> contains a paragraph specifically dedicated to ‘Policies in favour of disability’, which reiterates the objectives also included in the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), and which can be summarised as follows:

- implementing, by March 2024, the Disability Enabling Law (delegated law for disability of 22 December 2021, no. 227);<sup>9</sup> and
- financing projects for independent living throughout the national territory.

With reference to the first point, the decrees adopted provide:

- the establishment of the guarantor of the rights of persons with disabilities (Legislative Decree of 5 February 2024, No. 20 ‘Establishment of the National Guarantor Authority for the rights of persons with disabilities, in implementation of the disability enabling law’<sup>10</sup>);
- the strengthening of public services for inclusion and accessibility (Legislative Decree of 13 December 2023, No. 222 ‘Provisions regarding the redevelopment of public services for inclusion and accessibility, implementing Article 2, paragraph 2, letter e), of the Law of 22 December 2021, No. 227’<sup>11</sup>); and

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<sup>6</sup> See: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/664df782-2e58-11ef-a61b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

<sup>7</sup> The first plans will be submitted to the European Commission in Autumn 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Ministero dell’economia e delle finanze, *National and reform programme 2023*, p. 56, available here: [https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/a1a1d9a5-2256-46dd-9b43-2e93b0a7bbae\\_en?filename=2023-National\\_Reform\\_Programme-Abridged.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/a1a1d9a5-2256-46dd-9b43-2e93b0a7bbae_en?filename=2023-National_Reform_Programme-Abridged.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2021-12-22;227>.

<sup>10</sup> Available here: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2024/03/05/24G00034/sg>.

<sup>11</sup> Available here: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2024/01/12/24G00004/sg>.

- the assessment of the disability condition and the review of the basic evaluation process and the multidimensional assessment of disability with the implementation of an individual, personalised and participatory life project, as a tool for planning and coordination services and benefits aimed at persons with disabilities (Legislative Decree of 3 May 2024, No. 62, 'Definition of the disability condition, of the basic assessment, of reasonable accommodation, of the multidimensional assessment for the development and implementation of the personalised and participatory individual life project'<sup>12</sup>).

The RRP also mentions the creation of some interinstitutional working groups aimed at:

- a. confirming tax incentives and providing services for the employment of persons with disabilities;
- b. reviewing the Law of 22 June 2016, No. 112 ('Provisions regarding assistance for people with severe disabilities without family support'<sup>13</sup>) aimed at identifying housing solutions for persons with disabilities who lose family members; and
- c. developing legislation to support family caregivers.

With reference to point a., the working group was initiated on 13 April 2023<sup>14</sup> with the aim of broadening the access requirements for the interventions provided for by Law No. 112/2016, given the poor application that the law has had so far throughout the national territory and the very small number of persons with disabilities involved.<sup>15</sup> There are currently no draft amendments available.

With reference to point c., the UN Committee recently adopted decision CRPD/C/27/D/51/2018<sup>16</sup> with which it ascertained that Italy does not provide individualised support services to a family of a person with a disability. This is discriminatory and violates the right to live independently. In particular, the Committee states that 'the failure to provide adequate support services to family carers so they can, in turn, support their relatives to live independently in the community [...] amounts to a violation of rights under Article 19 of the Convention'.

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<sup>12</sup> Available here: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2024/05/14/24G00079/sg>.

<sup>13</sup> Available here: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2016/06/24/16G00125/sg>.

<sup>14</sup> See: <https://disabilita.governo.it/it/attivita-svolte-e-in-programma/tavoli-tecnici/>.

<sup>15</sup> The Italian Court of Auditors, Resolution of 23 December 2022, No. 55/2022/G, available here: <https://www.corteconti.it/Download?id=a35e07e2-f775-47b7-8834-60981babf756> (Corte dei Conti, '*Attuazione delle misure previste dalla legge 22 giugno 2016, n. 112 volte a favorire il benessere, la piena inclusione sociale e l'autonomia delle persone con disabilità grave prive del sostegno familiare*') highlights the gap between the number of actual beneficiaries of the benefits provided overall on the basis of law No. 112/2016 (8 424 people with disabilities) and the potential recipients estimated in the technical report to the law (between 100 000 and 150 000). The data, which highlights how the needs that the law had taken care of were satisfied only to a minimal extent, is accompanied by a further significant element to underline: not all the regions have taken steps to send reporting documents to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, and they were often sent to the ministry with considerable delay, consequently postponing the disbursement of resources. The consequence is that not all the allocated resources have been transferred and used: compared to the resources assigned with the distribution decrees from 2016 to 2021, for a total amount of approximately EUR 390 million, the actual transfers to the regions amounted, in the same period, to only around EUR 240 million.

<sup>16</sup> Decision available here: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CRPD%2FC%2F27%2FD%2F51%2F2018&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CRPD%2FC%2F27%2FD%2F51%2F2018&Lang=en).

To this end, the Minister of Disability and the Minister of Labour and Social Policies adopted the decree establishing the Technical Table on Family Caregivers<sup>17</sup> in October 2023. The objective is to define a regulatory framework that recognises the role of assistance and care played by family caregivers, identifying adequate forms of protection.

Despite various bills presented in Parliament, the working group has not yet released any documents.

### **2.3 Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans**

It is important that Semester plans align with the national disability strategy.

It must be noted that, in Italy, the publication of national strategies on disability has not been linear and occurred with many delays: Currently, the more recent disability action plan refers to the second biennial action programme for the promotion of the rights and integration of persons with disabilities approved in 2017 and is not yet obsolete.<sup>18</sup> Following public consultation and a national conference on disability policies in December 2021, a third action programme is anticipated; as required by Law No. 18 of 3 March 2009,<sup>19</sup> as amended in 2023, the third action programme will have a duration of three years. The Second National Action Plan is not mentioned in the 2024 Semester documents (NRP).

The last UN CRPD Committee recommendations to Italy were in 2016; the most recent submission by Italy was in 2013 and the most recent response from the Committee was the 2016 concluding observations. The State Party report on Follow-up to Concluding Observations was in 2017.

The CSR/CR do not mention the UN CRPD Committee recommendations to Italy.

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<sup>17</sup> See the decree available here: <https://disabilita.governo.it/media/ndpmljeji/decreto-tavolo-tecnico-caregiver-def-signed-signed.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See the Second biennial action programme for the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities, available at: <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Documents/II-Programma-di-azione-biennale-disabilita.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> See: <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2009-03-03;18>.

### 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 Italy:

Article 27 UN CRPD addresses ‘Work and Employment’.

‘70. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 27 of the Convention in implementing target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals; and that it ensures the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. In addition, the State party must implement special measures to address the low level of employment for women with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party remove any legislation limiting the rights of persons with disabilities to perform any profession on the grounds of their disability.’

The most recent CRPD development is the state’s submission<sup>20</sup> in 2017.

#### 3.1 Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities

Data from European Union statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) indicate an employment rate for persons with disabilities in Italy of 54.4 % in 2022 (EU27 average 54.3 %), compared to 69.6 % for other persons (EU27 average 76.2 %). The 2022 employment rate of persons with disabilities was 18.6 pp below the national 2030 headline target<sup>21</sup> of a 73 % employment rate. Men with disabilities had an employment rate of 61.8 %, compared to women with disabilities, who had an employment rate of 47.2 %.

The difference between persons with and without disabilities results in a disability employment gap of 14 pp for 2022 (estimated EU27 average gap: 21.4 pp, see Tables 2–4) or an employment chances ratio of 0.8. Women with disabilities had an employment gap of 10.7 pp (EU27 average: 18.9 pp) compared to 17.1 pp of men with disabilities (EU27 average: 23.3 pp). The most current Eurostat data estimate a disability employment gap of 15.9 pp for 2023 (EU27 average: 21.5 pp). The EU-SILC data refer to people who self-report limitations in everyday activities and may present a different picture to national data sources.

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 13.2 % and 9.8 % for persons with and without disabilities, respectively, in 2022 (see Tables 5–7) (EU27 averages: 15.1 % and 7.6 %). Women with disabilities had an unemployment rate of 12.1 % (EU27 average: 15.1 %) compared to men with disabilities, who had an unemployment rate of 14.1 % (EU27 average 15.2 %).

The economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Italy was 62.7 % in 2022, compared to 77.2 % for other persons (see Tables 8–10) (EU27 average: 64 % and

<sup>20</sup> State Party report on Follow-up to Concluding Observations, [tinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FIT%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en](https://tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FIT%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en).

<sup>21</sup> The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en>.

82.5 %). Women with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 53.7 % (EU27 average: 60.1 %) and men with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 71.9 % (EU27 average: 68.5 %).

These indications are further broken down by age groups and compared to previous years in the respective tables in the annex.

In Italy, general employment is gaining steam: Recently, the Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT) data show that 'In May 2024, after three months of growth, employment recorded a decrease (-17 000 units) involving fixed-term employees, down to 2 879 000, and self-employed workers [...] However, the growth in permanent employees continues, reaching 15 986 000. The number of employed people – at 23 954 000 – is 462 000 higher than that of May 2023'.<sup>22</sup>

As highlighted by the 2024 CR, however, 'Employment continues to increase, but gaps remain for women and young people, adding to the broader challenges to upward social convergence'; moreover, it must be noted that 'Regional disparities within Italy remain profound', and that 'inflation and non-standard contracts limit workers' purchasing power'.

It is reasonable to assume that such critical issues also affect women and young employees with disabilities.

In December 2023, the Fondazione Studi Consulenti del Lavoro published a report entitled 'The right job in the right place. The employment inclusion of persons with disabilities: critical issues and prospects',<sup>23</sup> based on ISTAT data.

The report cites the following findings:

- In 2021, only 32.5 % of persons with serious limitations in the 15–64 age group were employed, compared to a percentage of 58.9 % of persons without limitations and 55 % of those with minor limitations.
- The share of persons with disabilities looking for employment is very high, accounting for 20 % of those with serious limitations, compared to 13.5 % of those without limitations and 14.1 % of those with minor limitations.
- Over the years, there has been a progressive increase in demand for participation in work by persons with severe disabilities, even if this has not corresponded to an equal increase in employment opportunities (the labour participation rate increased by almost 10 % between 2009 and 2021).
- The percentage of persons with disabilities looking for work increased from 13.8 % in 2009 to 20 % in 2021, while the share of employed people has undergone few variations, going from 29.9 % in 2009 to 32.5 % in 2021.

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<sup>22</sup> Occupati e disoccupati (dati provvisori) – May 2024, available at <https://www.istat.it/comunicato-stampa/occupati-e-disoccupati-dati-provvisori-maggio-2024/>.

<sup>23</sup> See E. Dini – S. Cagliano, *Il lavoro giusto al posto giusto. L'inclusione lavorativa delle persone con disabilità: criticità e prospettive*, December 2023, available at <https://www.bollettinoadapt.it/il-lavoro-giusto-al-posto-giusto-linclusione-lavorativa-delle-persone-con-disabilita-criticita-e-prospettive/>.

- The qualifications of persons with disabilities are improving. Among persons with severe disabilities aged 25–44, the share of persons with a high school or university degree went from 40 % in 2011 to 61.6 % in 2021 (+21.6 %), while among persons with disabilities 45–64 years old the increase was more limited, but still significant (from 23.8 % to 39.7 %; an increase of 15.9 %).
- A considerable share of workers with serious disabilities have, at most, a high school degree (39.5 % compared to 26.1 % of persons without disabilities); 41.8 % have a high school degree and only 18.7 % a university degree (compared to a percentage of 26.4 % among employees without disabilities).
- There is a higher presence of employees with serious disabilities in jobs requiring a lower qualification (15.2 % compared with 11.7 % of persons without disabilities). The share of persons with disabilities employed at the top of the professional pyramid is still low.
- Among workers with serious disabilities, only 14.3 % say they are very satisfied with their work (among those without disabilities, the percentage is 17.7 %), while 30.6 % say they are a little (22.2 %) or not at all (8.4 %) satisfied.
- Of every 10 persons with severe disabilities aged 15–64, at least 2 are looking for a job. This percentage is concentrated mainly in the south and on the islands.

In March 2024, the Italian Government delivered the 11<sup>th</sup> Report to Parliament on the state of implementation of Law No 68 of 12 March 1999,<sup>24</sup> regarding 2020 and 2021. The report focuses on an unusual two-year period, characterised by the Covid-19 pandemic, and underscores that in the emergency period the Italian Government intervened with the suspension of the obligations relating to targeted placement (as referred to in Article 7 of Law No. 68/1999), for a total duration of four months. At the same time, a series of ministerial decrees were issued, providing financial resources, adjustments and sanctions. Moreover, the report underlines that ‘The data returned from the survey in the 2020–2021 two-year period shows an overall situation which, despite suffering the serious economic and employment repercussions of the pandemic, managed to maintain good operating standards and significant quantitative stability, albeit far removed from the values achieved in recent previous years’, and that ‘in 2020, 114 846 public and private employers submitted declarations following changes in their employment situation, with the private enterprise component occupying 95.4 % of the total’. Of a total number that exceeds 11 100 000 employed workers, in 2020 the reserve quota in Italy reached 524 400 positions, of which 29.5 % were made up of temporary unfilled positions.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Report highlights that ‘The main regulatory provisions of the regions for the years 2020 and 2021 have concerned interventions for the employment inclusion of persons with disabilities, and specifically actions aimed at orientation, training and support for internships and work for persons with disabilities. Particular attention was also given to training and consultancy dedicated to local stakeholders and businesses with consultancy, support and information actions for entities carrying out activities aimed at the employment integration of persons with disabilities’. Moreover, ‘many regional interventions in fact involved targeted training courses both for persons with

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<sup>24</sup> Available at <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/xi-relazione-al-parlamento-sullo-stato-di-attuazione-della-legge-12-marzo-1999-n-68>.

disabilities and for targeted placement operators’, paying attention ‘also to public-private synergy for the purposes of job placement of persons with disabilities, also giving space to specific projects, such as for the Marche Region, which has launched, as an active employment policy measure, a project idea aimed at guaranteeing the “assisted” employment placement of specifically trained individuals through an internship’.

The analysis of the subnational level is particularly relevant, because the Italian labour market has deep territorial differences.

### 3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

As already underlined by previous ANED/EDE reports, the Italian legal framework regarding the labour inclusion of persons with disabilities is based on Law No. 68 of 12 March 1999 (‘Provisions for the right to work of persons with disabilities’).<sup>25</sup>

Since its approval, Law No. 68/1999 has been unanimously considered the pivotal act regarding disabilities and work inclusion in Italy. Over the years, some new tools have been defined by Legislative Decree No. 151/2015 (the *Linee guida per il collocamento mirato*, or guidelines for targeted employment, and the *Banca dati sul collocamento mirato delle persone con disabilità*, or database on targeted employment for persons with disabilities).

In 2022, the Italian Government approved the guidelines for targeted employment<sup>26</sup> (*Linee guida per il collocamento mirato*) and modified the quantities of the ‘exemption contribution’ and the penalties provided for by Law No. 68/1999.

Such guidelines were long overdue and aimed to:

- favour the presence and usability of adequate services, tools and resources throughout the national territory, according to the principles of equal opportunities;
- support the standardisation of the normative implementation processes throughout the national territory, by the competent services, to reduce the territorial gaps that penalise large areas of the country; and
- direct the actions of the system from the perspective of continuously improving the effectiveness of performance, in particular by monitoring activities and by sharing valid practices between the different local realities.

In April 2022, the Decree of 29 December 2021<sup>27</sup> came into force and the database on targeted employment for persons with disabilities became operational, seven years after the entry into force of Legislative Decree No. 151/2015.

In December 2023, the National Social Security Institute (INPS) activated a new digital portal for disability (*Portale della disabilità*), designed with the aim of promoting transparency and simplification, and creating an integrated and complete channel of information of interest to persons with disabilities and their families, funded by

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<sup>25</sup> Available at <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/1999/03/23/099G0123/CONSOLIDATED/20240711>.

<sup>26</sup> Available at <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita-disabilita-e-non-autosufficienza/focus/linee-guida-collocamento-mirato>.

<sup>27</sup> See <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2022/02/23/22A01276/sg>.

NextGenerationEU. Through this dedicated portal, citizens may follow the developments of the administrative procedures related to the disability that affects them, including with regards to Law No. 68/1999 of 1999.<sup>28</sup>

Recently, Law Decree No. 48 of 4 May 2023,<sup>29</sup> containing ‘Urgent measures for social inclusion and access to the world of work’ provided for the following:

- contributions in favour of third sector entities and other non-profit entities that employ or have employed persons with disabilities up to and including 34 years of age with permanent contracts between 1 August 2022 and 31 December 2023;
- incentives for organisations that provide intermediation and support for the job placement of persons with disabilities. Contributions for intermediation agencies and third sector bodies that carry out intermediation activities for the employment placement of persons with disabilities and that monitor them in the period following their inclusion as disability managers;
- cumulability of contributory benefits for employers who hire people from a family unit that accesses the inclusion allowance with the benefits provided for the hiring of persons with disabilities pursuant to Law No. 68/1999.

In April 2022, the Italian Court of Auditors published a report regarding the labour market for persons with disabilities and the financial incentives provided by Law No. 68/1999<sup>30</sup> during the period 2014–2021, which concluded that it is not possible to conclude that the goals of Law No. 68/1999 have been successfully pursued. In its final remarks, the Court underlined a lack of coordination between the state and regions, as well as the scarcity of data regarding incentives for the employment of persons with disabilities.

Twenty-five years after its entry into force, it can be stated that Law No. 68/1999 did not meet the expectations, and that the reasons behind that are complex. Possible future intervention, already partially outlined in policies, might aim to:

- improve the placement mechanisms outlined by Law No. 68/1999, addressing the fact that the job market is changing;
- adopt a system of rules and policies that are responsive and adaptive, capable of supporting the participation of persons with disabilities in an open job market;
- ensure work is maintained over time, and the reintegration of persons with disabilities throughout their working lives, even in contexts of crisis and rapid transformative dynamics;
- guarantee the right to education and develop high-level skills, functional to addressing the digital and ecological transition;

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<sup>28</sup> See <https://www.inps.it/it/inps-comunica/notizie/dettaglio-news-page.news.2023.11.online-il-nuovo-portale-della-disabilit-.html>.

<sup>29</sup> Available at <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legge:2023-05-04;48>.

<sup>30</sup> See <https://www.corteconti.it/Download?id=f76d2e19-8bd8-4670-ad84-fa25dc795eca>.

- improve accessibility in the workplace: Employers often lack the expertise to manage the employment inclusion of persons with disabilities, make reasonable accommodations and obtain the relevant funding, when available; and
- on 30 June 2024, Legislative Decree No. 62 of 3 May 2024<sup>31</sup> entered into force, enacting the above-mentioned delegated Law No. 227/2021. The provisions of the Legislative Decree are complex and concern aspects relating to the employment inclusion of persons with disabilities. Before any modification of the existing rules, the complex interaction between work inclusion and other disability policies must be taken into account, starting from that of education.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> See <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2024-05-03;62>.

<sup>32</sup> See also E. Dagnino, G. Impellizzieri, E. Massagli (eds.), *L'inclusione sociale e lavorativa delle persone con disabilità nel d.lgs. n. 62/2024*, Bollettino speciale Adapt.it, 3/2024, July 2024, available at <https://mailchi.mp/adapt/lavoro-e-disabilita-bollettino-speciale-adapt-n-3-2024>.

#### **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 Italy:

Article 28 UN CRPD addresses ‘Adequate standard of living and social protection.’

‘72. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite constitutional reform to homogenize social protection interventions and policies throughout the national territory; expedite the adoption and implementation of the Minimum Standards of Social Assistance; conduct assessments of the impact of austerity measures on children and adults with disabilities; and prevent any further reduction in resources that could increase levels of poverty. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 28 of the Convention in implementing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by mainstreaming disability in its poverty reduction policies.’

Article 19 UN CRPD addresses ‘Living independently in the community’.

‘48. The Committee recommends that the State party implement safeguards to retain the right to autonomous independent living across all regions, and redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services and increase budget support to enable persons with disabilities to live independently across the country and have equal access to services, including personal assistance.’

Article 25 UN CRPD addresses ‘Health’.

‘62. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities and particularly those representing women with disabilities, ensure accessibility to facilities and equipment, information and communications regarding sexual and reproductive health services, and that it provide training to health personnel about the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party strengthen mechanisms to combat discrimination and stereotyping in line with its general comment No. 3. 64. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish all laws that permit medical treatment, including sterilization, consented by a third party (parent or guardian) without the free and informed consent of the person, and that it provides related high-quality training to health professionals. 66. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the adoption, funding and implementation of Minimum Standards of Health Care so all children have access to early identification and intervention according to their requirements. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account article 25 of the Convention while implementing targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.’

The most recent CRPD development is the State's submission<sup>33</sup> in 2017.

#### 4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate the poverty risk rate for working-age persons with disabilities in Italy was 20.8 % in 2022 (EU27 average: 21.2 %), compared to 19.8 % for other persons of similar age (EU27 average 14.5 %) – an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 1 pp (see Table 11). For people aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 3.6 pp (19.6 % for older persons with disabilities and 16 % for other persons of similar age). For women (aged 16–64), the disability poverty gap was -2.1 pp (19.3 % for women with disabilities and 21.4 % without disabilities) and 4.2 pp for men (aged 16–64) (22.4 % for men with disabilities and 18.2 % without disabilities).

In 2022, persons with disabilities aged 16 to 64 years had an at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate of 33.3 % compared to 22.8 % for persons with disabilities aged 65 years or older. In 2023, the relative risk for the working-age population with disabilities amounted to 35.4 %, and for the older age group to 21.7 %.

For persons with disabilities of working age (ages 16 to 64), the risk of poverty before social transfers in 2022 was 46.4 % and 20.8 % after transfers. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities (ages 18 to 64) was 11.4 % in 2022. In 2023, the rate amounted to 14.2 %.

Of interest to health policy are the data on self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (too expensive, too far to travel or waiting list). The rate for persons with disabilities (aged 16+) in Italy was 4 % compared to 1.1 % for other persons, which is slightly below the EU27 average of 4.7 % for persons with disabilities in 2022.

These data are confirmed by national research, which aims to quantify the dimension of the poverty phenomenon among persons with disabilities and their families and delve deeper into the existing connections between poverty and disabilities.<sup>34</sup> This qualitative research is based on a survey involving 272 persons with disabilities and their families throughout the country.

The 'poverty' of these families has been interpreted in its many dimensions: Income, socio-relational, housing, cultural, work and health. If there were an unexpected expense of EUR 500, 62 % of persons with disabilities live in families who would not be able to cover it with their own resources, . Moreover, the share of families with this type of difficulty is higher in the following instances:

- in southern Italy; and
- if the person has three or more co-present forms of disability.

<sup>33</sup> State Party report on Follow-up to Concluding Observations, [tbinetnet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCO%2FIT%2FAdd.1&Lang=en](https://tbinetnet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCO%2FIT%2FAdd.1&Lang=en).

<sup>34</sup> See *Disabilità e povertà nelle famiglie italiane. Il 1° rapporto di CBM sulla disabilità in Italia* (Disabilities and poverty in Italian families. The 1st CBM report on disability in Italy), Edited by Fondazione Emanuela Zancan, CBM Italia, 2023, available here: <https://www.cbmitalia.org/cosa-facciamo/sensibilizzazione/pubblicazioni/ricerca-cbm-e-fondazione-zancan/>.

In almost two out of three cases, persons with disabilities live in families which cannot afford one week's holiday a year.

This impossibility is more frequent among:

- persons with three or more types of disabilities;
- those living in the south; and
- those who live in families with a low educational level, with younger parents (under 50 years of age), or with other members with disabilities present in the family unit.

Just over one in four people live in a household that cannot afford to eat meat or fish at least once every two days; 22 % are unable to adequately heat their home, and this is especially true for persons with disabilities:

- who reside in the south;
- who are not part of associations supporting disabilities; and
- who live in families with a low educational level, and/or with younger parents.

Furthermore, the research highlights that most people live in a home that is owned, but over four in ten live in a rented or sublet home. This quota is double compared to the average for Italian families.

Living in rented accommodation is more frequent among persons with disabilities who:

- are living in families suffering from material deprivation;
- are not part of associations;
- have a low educational level among the other family members; and
- have parents under the age of 50.

More than one in three persons with disabilities lives in 'disadvantaged' residential contexts, or in a home that features at least one of these conditions:

- insufficient space;
- poor lighting; and
- damaged structures or widespread humidity.

#### **4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester**

In recent years the welfare system has been affected by various regulatory interventions aimed at:

- the introduction and rationalisation of funds that address topics such as independent living and caregivers (see Chapter 6);
- expanding the range of social services; and
- the reduction of territorial gaps (cross-cutting priority of the RRP).

These interventions also concerned persons with disabilities.

Law 30 No. 234 of December 2021<sup>35</sup> (2022 Budget Law) has identified some intervention priorities to gradually introduce new essential levels of benefits to be ensured in all geographical areas, including:

- home care for non-self-sufficient older persons with long-term care needs; and
- projects for the independent living of persons with disabilities, in implementation of Article 19 of the CRPD.

According to the latest available ISTAT data,<sup>36</sup> the main focus area of the region and province interventions are persons with disabilities-related policies, on whom more than half of the committed expenditure is concentrated (50.5 %).<sup>37</sup>

In 2021, social spending by municipalities in the field of disability was EUR 2.2 billion, with an increase of 12.1 % compared to the previous year and 35 % compared to 10 years ago. ISTAT notes that this is the largest increase among all user areas.

These interventions have (a) not always reduced existing territorial gaps or (b) led to an improvement in the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Some territories, in fact, have a lower spending capacity and, unable to report what they have received, do not access further funding.

With reference to reducing territorial gaps: In the south, spending is around a third compared to the north-west and north-east and around half compared to the Centre and the national average. Residential facilities represent important items of municipal social spending, equal to 18 % (40 % for older people with long-term care needs). There are far greater numbers of people cared for at home than users of residential facilities, who on average have much higher costs. The most widespread form of home care offered by municipalities is social assistance, which benefits over 51 000 persons with disabilities under the age of 65. The municipalities that offer this type of service are 69 %, with significant territorial variations (a maximum of 78.8 % in the Centre and a minimum of 56.5 % in the north-east).<sup>38</sup> Integrated home care, which involves coordination with the services offered by the national health system (through local health authorities), is provided to persons with disabilities by 33.4 % of municipalities. The beneficiaries of the service represent 1.5 % of persons with disabilities under 65 years of age, with higher values in the north-east. Another form of home care management is the payment of vouchers, care allowances and social and health vouchers, mainly widespread in northern Italy. On average, vouchers for home care are provided for persons with disabilities by 59.2 % of municipalities.

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<sup>35</sup> Available here: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/12/31/21G00256/sg>.

<sup>36</sup> ISTAT, Municipal spending on social services – 2021 (La spesa dei comuni per I servizi sociali – 2021), 2023, Available here: [https://www.istat.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/REPORT\\_SPESA-SOCIALE-COMUNI.pdf](https://www.istat.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/REPORT_SPESA-SOCIALE-COMUNI.pdf).

<sup>37</sup> The remaining resources are aimed above all at families with children (26.2 %) and at fighting poverty (14.8 %). The main recipients of the municipalities' social spending are families with children and minors (37.7 %), followed by persons with disabilities (26.3 %) and the elderly (15 %).

<sup>38</sup> As regards persons with disabilities under 65 years of age, the largest share of users of the service is in the Islands (10.7 %) and in particular in Sardinia (29.5 %), followed by the Centre (5.6 %), the south (3.5 %), the north-west (3 %) and the north-east (2.2 %), with a national average of 4.6 %.

National research on the quality of life of persons with disabilities shows<sup>39</sup> that:

- the aid most frequently requested, either because not received or insufficient compared to needs, is for integrated home care and social assistance, cited in 39 % and 37 % of cases respectively; and
- a widespread sense of abandonment by the institutions emerges: The burden of care falls mainly on the family, who often do not experience adequate support from public institutions and suffer from a deficit of knowledge and awareness regarding the opportunities and services present or available.

These elements highlight that the priorities for the near future are not only to increase available resources, but also to:

- offer support services and information desks to persons with disabilities and their families;
- regulate the status of caregivers;
- introduce systems for monitoring interventions at local level and supporting local authorities to use the resources made available by the state; and
- experiment and regulate shared systems based on scientific methods for assessing the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

These elements are evident if we analyse what happened in relation to the funding for independent living projects financed by the RRP. The enhancement of independent living projects seems to represent the most decisive step forward foreshadowed by the RRP. This decision implies taking a path that would finally lead the Italian legal system towards the proper implementation of Article 19 of the UN Convention, protecting the individual from the dangers inherent in processes of segregation and institutionalisation.

The implementation of the deinstitutionalisation process is entrusted by the Plan relating to Notice No. 1 of 2022, with which the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies initiated the procedure aimed at acquiring proposals for intervention for the social inclusion of vulnerable persons, to be financed through the funds provided by the European Union. More specifically, Investment 1.2 of Mission 5 (Labour, Social Inclusion and Territorial Cohesion) envisages a Component 2 (social infrastructure, families, communities and the third sector) divided into three subcomponents concerning social services, disability and social marginality; urban regeneration and social housing; sport and social inclusion.

The first subcomponent, in turn, includes three investments (support to vulnerable persons and preventing the institutionalisation of non-self-sufficient older persons; pathways to autonomy for persons with disabilities; temporary housing and post stations, which are temporary service and inclusion centres for homeless people) and two reforms (framework law for disabilities; system of interventions in favour of non-self-sufficient older persons).

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<sup>39</sup> See *Disabilità e povertà nelle famiglie italiane. Il 1° rapporto di CBM sulla disabilità in Italia (Disabilities and poverty in Italian families. The 1st CBM report on disability in Italy)*, Edited by Fondazione Emanuela Zancan, CBM Italia, 2023, available here: <https://www.cbmitalia.org/cosa-facciamo/sensibilizzazione/pubblicazioni/ricerca-cbm-e-fondazione-zancan/>.

In detail, the investment line dedicated to autonomy pathways for persons with disabilities (Investment 1.2) is specifically aimed at accelerating the de-institutionalisation process with a view to an increase in autonomy and integration into the world of work.

The investment is aimed at strengthening the system of services to persons with disabilities, in line with the measures already in place (Fund for the 'after us' and the National Fund for non-self-sufficiency), through the implementation of three distinct lines (which can be summarised as: i) individualised project, ii) housing, iii) work):

- i) The activation of individualised projects, calibrated to the individual's needs and aimed at a pathway towards living and working autonomously.
- ii) The adaptation of living spaces with the creation of solutions that can accommodate groups of persons with disabilities, equipped with ambient assisted living tools and technologies and remote interactions.
- iii) The development of digital skills, also to favour remote work, through the distribution of home assistance devices and technologies that favour access to the labour market by persons with disabilities. The measure thus promotes access to housing and work also through information technology.

The investment line under consideration was endowed with a budget of EUR 500.5 million and set as its first objective the 'implementation by social districts of at least five hundred projects relating to the renovation of home spaces and/or the provision of ICT devices to persons with disabilities, together with training in digital skills'.<sup>40</sup>

The Notice's estimates foresee the activation of (a maximum of) seven hundred independent living projects, each with financial coverage up to a ceiling of EUR 715 000. On this basis, the ambition is to reach a large number of beneficiaries, estimated at between 4 900 and 7 000 individuals. The duration of the projects has been limited to three years, so that the completion of the eligible interventions has a time horizon of 30 June 2026.

The procedure undoubtedly represents the greatest opportunity for aligning social policies with the requirements of the current regulatory framework. However, there are some concerns about the implementation of the projects.

Firstly, the selection is based on a purely competitive system and not on a prior and thorough analysis of the needs of potential beneficiaries. In addition to this, the procedure only identified local authorities as implementers of the interventions. This choice is questionable, given that the organisation of independent living projects presupposes participation by different professionals and social structures. Consequently, the decision to not open up the call to third sector entities (and individuals) inevitably compromised the implementation of the initiatives. The planning of persons-centred support must originate from the needs assessment of the individuals directly involved. On the contrary, the decision to institutionalise projects pushes towards the generalisation of needs and the standardisation of remedies, in contrast to supporting independent living and providing person-centred support.

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<sup>40</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Public Notice No. 1/2022, p. 2, available at <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/amministrazione-trasparente-new/bandi-gara-e-contratti/pagine/avviso-pubblico-1-2022-pnrr>.

The technicalities of the tender discouraged local authorities less accustomed to designing innovative interventions, and probably ultimately increased – rather than breaking down – territorial gaps.

All this resulted in fewer project proposals than the number envisaged in the notice, so much so as to lead to an extension of the deadline for submitting applications.<sup>41</sup> The problems found in the planning phase have led to a restriction on the number of projects accepted for financing. Combined with a changing reality (unfortunately in a worsening sense, due to the continuous renouncement of the funding), this has caused project financing to stop at about 620 units, for a total of around EUR 422 million.

This means that, as things stand, more than EUR 80 million (equal in percentage terms to 16 % of the entire allocated amount) will not be utilised, with the real risk that the picture may get even worse.

An initial examination shows that the region with the highest number of projects accepted for funding is Lombardy (a total of over EUR 57 million), while the worst performing regions are Molise (around EUR 2.8 million) and Valle d'Aosta (EUR 1.4 million).

Aggregating the data by geographical area shows that more than 42 % of the projects financed come from northern regions, just under 23 % come from central Italian regions, and about 34 % from southern regions.

Ultimately, the result of encouraging the spread of independent living projects, especially in the less affluent areas of the country, does not seem to have been achieved, since the applications did not 'cover' the available funds and the resources were allocated more in favour of the more structured regions.

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<sup>41</sup> Ordered by the Directorate Decrees of 5 and 20 October 2022, which can be found online at the following links: <https://www.fondiwelfare.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/DD-249-del-05102022-Scorrimento-Elenco-Avviso-1-PNRR.pdf> and [https://www.fondiwelfare.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/DD-276-del-20\\_10\\_2022-Riapertura-Elenco-Avviso-1-PNRR.pdf](https://www.fondiwelfare.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/DD-276-del-20_10_2022-Riapertura-Elenco-Avviso-1-PNRR.pdf).

## 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 Italy:

Article 24 UN CRPD addresses ‘Education’.

‘56. The Committee recommends that the State party implement an action plan – with sufficient resources, timelines and specific goals – aimed at monitoring the implementation of laws, decrees and regulations to improve the quality of inclusive education in classrooms, support provisions and teacher training across all levels. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 24 of the Convention, including its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, in implementing targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training, and build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe. 58. The Committee recommends that the State party monitor and provide highly qualified sign language interpreters for any deaf child who requests such assistance, and to desist from recommending general communication assistants as an exclusive alternative. 60. The committee recommends that the State party undertake, through legislative and other measures, including the newly drafted Decree on education, to guarantee the availability of accessible learning materials and the provision of assistive technology in a timely manner in order to ensure inclusive and quality education in the mainstream setting.’

The most recent CRPD development is the state’s submission<sup>42</sup> in 2017.

### 5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC 2022 estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with additional caution due to relatively wide confidence intervals, but they consistently indicate disability equality gaps. Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in Italy for 2022. Youth with disabilities (aged 18–24) tend to leave education more than persons without disabilities in the same age groups (36.3 % compared to 15.2 %). This figure is reduced by widening the sample size to ages 18–29 (30.3 % compared to 14.8 %). The early school leaving rate for persons with disabilities aged 18 to 24 was above the EU 2030 target of less than 9 %.<sup>43</sup> The average early school leaving rate for the EU27 in 2022 was 19.2 %, compared to 8.6 % for persons without disabilities.

Table 17 shows the tertiary education completion rate disaggregated by disability and two age groups in Italy for 2022. Persons with disabilities (aged 30–34) were less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (16.2 % compared to 31.9 %). This is lower in the wider age range of 25–34 years, which amounted to 23.7 %, compared to 33.5 % for people without disabilities. This is below the EU 2030 target of 45 %.

<sup>42</sup> State Party report on Follow-up to Concluding Observations, [tinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCO%2FIT%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en](https://tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCO%2FIT%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en).

<sup>43</sup> European Education Area Strategic Framework: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/about-eea/strategic-framework>.

The ISTAT 2022–2023 report<sup>44</sup> highlights that in the 2022/2023 school year in Italy, almost 338 000 students with disabilities attended schools at all levels. The number has increased by 21 000 units compared to the previous school year (an increase of 7 %). This population represents 4.1 % of the total number of students enrolled in Italian schools. Around 28 % of these students are not autonomous in performing most daily activities within the school.

In the same school year, approximately 228 000 support teachers were employed in Italian schools. Nationally, the student-teacher ratio is 1.6 students per teacher. The total number of support teachers has increased by about 10 % compared to the previous school year. However, more than 67 000 support teachers do not have specific training for the role they perform. These teachers are selected from curricular lists and employed in support roles to address the lack of specialised staff.

Decree-law No. 71 of 2024<sup>45</sup> was enacted to enhance the training pathways for support teachers. In addition to specialised courses offered by universities, a new training modality has been introduced. Until 31 December 2025, it is possible to obtain specialisation by completing training courses organised by the National Institute of Documentation, Innovation, and Educational Research (INDIRE).<sup>46</sup>

The phenomenon of educational discontinuity in the student-teacher relationship (i.e. teachers and pupils are not assigned to each other for entire school years) is quite widespread and seems to have intensified over time. This phenomenon is first observed between two consecutive school years. For the 2022–2023 school year, 59.6 % of students with disabilities changed teachers compared to the previous year. The highest rate of discontinuity is in preschool, where it is 75 %. The phenomenon is also observed within the same school year, with 9 % of students changing teachers during the school year.

Decree-law No. 71 of 2024 also addressed this issue. It provided the possibility for the student's family to request educational continuity, ensuring the relationship between the student and the support teacher. If requested by the family, priority can be given to confirming the same teacher for the support role from the previous school year.

Most primary and secondary schools – 73 % of the total – have computer workstations suitable for students with disabilities. However, significant regional disparities exist. Emilia-Romagna and the autonomous province of Trento have a higher percentage of schools with suitable stations compared to the national average (81 %), while the autonomous province of Bolzano has the lowest coverage (44 %). A significant portion of schools in southern Italy (about 30 %) report a shortage of computer workstations.

According to the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) report published in 2022,<sup>47</sup> in the 2019–2020 academic year, there were 36 816 students with disabilities or specific learning disabilities (hereinafter, SLDs) enrolled in Italian universities, representing 2.13 % of the total university population. For about 1 % of this population, there is no information on the

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<sup>44</sup> ISTAT (2024) Scholastic Inclusion of Students with Disabilities – School Year 2022–2023, <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2024/02/Statistica-report-alunni-con-disabilit%C3%A0-as.-22-23.pdf>.

<sup>45</sup> See: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2024/05/31/24G00089/sg>.

<sup>46</sup> As provided by Decree-law No. 71 of 2024.

<sup>47</sup> See [https://www.anvur.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ANVUR-Rapporto-disabilita\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.anvur.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ANVUR-Rapporto-disabilita_WEB.pdf).

types of courses attended. Of the students whose courses are known, 26 144 are enrolled in three-year degree courses, 5 515 in master's courses, and 1 416 in single-cycle master's courses. Additionally, 466 students are enrolled in postgraduate specialisation courses, including 269 in first and second-level master's programmes, 83 in specialisation schools, and 94 in doctoral programmes.

The ANVUR report data show that most students are concentrated at the first level, the three-year degree. The number of students enrolled in two-year master's courses and single-cycle master's courses is significantly lower. Therefore, it is possible to hypothesise that most students obtain only the three-year degree or do not complete their studies.

## 5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

Within the Italian RRP, relevant policies are proposed for the education sector. Investments in digitalisation are greatly enhanced, together with the removal of architectural barriers, especially in the south. Italy's 2022 RRP identified investment priorities, especially concerning the relationship between disabilities and school. Mission 1 is dedicated to digitalisation, innovation, competitiveness, culture and tourism, and aims to reduce the structural gaps in competitiveness, productivity and digitalisation. The first part of Mission 1 addresses the digitalisation of the Italian public administration, which is the only solution able to drastically shorten the distances between public entities (and schools among them) and individuals with disabilities. Digital infrastructure, services and platforms will be developed.<sup>48</sup>

As far as schools are concerned, the 'Connected School' plan will be completed to ensure a fibre connection to the remaining 9 000 school buildings (about 20 % of the total amount). The 2024 Economics and Finance Document provides for the reform of the teacher recruitment system, and financial and organisational interventions, aimed at strengthening basic skills and extending full-time education, with particular regard to educational institutions operating in the most disadvantaged areas of the country. Moreover, Ministerial Decree No. 184 of 13 September 2023<sup>49</sup> provided Guidelines for STEM teaching;<sup>50</sup> the guidelines state that 'for students with disabilities or specific learning disorders (DSA) the methods of approach to STEM disciplines are identified in the Individualised Educational Plan and in the Personalised Educational Plan respectively'.

In December 2023, the Ministry of Education and Merit published the act on political-institutional direction for the year 2024 (*'Atto di indirizzo politico-istituzionale per l'anno 2024'*),<sup>51</sup> establishing that 'a priority role for the implementation processes of the measures under the responsibility of the Ministry for the [NRR], which, implemented in 2023 in compliance with the established deadlines, will see full and defined development during 2024 and the three-year period, both for the reform part and for

<sup>48</sup> See: <https://scuolafutura.pubblica.istruzione.it/>.

<sup>49</sup> Available at <https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/0/DM+184+del+15+settembre+2023.pdf/278712a8-19de-e28b-8938-6fa4610fb13a?version=1.0&t=1698173015248>.

<sup>50</sup> Available at <https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/0/Linee+guida+STEM.pdf/2aa0b11f-7609-66ac-3fd8-2c6a03c80f77?version=1.0&t=1698173043586>.

<sup>51</sup> Available at <https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/7754825/Atto+di+indirizzo+2024.pdf/07f711a3-f9b7-267b-0cb0-22104ff3bf79?t=1708344524410>.

the investments'. With regards to the condition of pupils with disabilities, the act provides that '[the Ministry will] promote structural and organisational interventions aimed at promoting the inclusion of the most vulnerable as much as possible, of students with disabilities or with specific learning disorders, and, in general, to combat school dropout rates' and that '[the Ministry will] strengthen all the measures necessary to respond to the needs of students with disabilities, guaranteeing greater teaching continuity and the presence of permanent support teachers, reducing the historical precariousness of support teachers, continuing on the path already undertaken to increase the number of teachers with specialisation for support'.

Recent measures provide for the non-computability of the amounts of scholarships dedicated to university students with disabilities for the purposes of reaching the income limits established for receiving a pension, the disability allowance, and the related increase of one million, guaranteeing the benefit from the scholarship without having to give up benefits received due to their disability status.<sup>52</sup>

Recently, the Italian Government also approved a Law Decree<sup>53</sup> regarding support teachers; such measures aim to strengthen the number of support teachers and their role, establishing new specialisation paths for non-tenured support teachers, prescribing measures for the recognition of specialisation qualifications obtained abroad, and providing for the possibility, upon request by the family of the pupil with disabilities, to obtain confirmation of the teacher in service in the previous school year, subject to evaluation by the school director and in the interests of the student with disabilities.

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<sup>52</sup> See Article 1, paragraph 579, of Law No. 197 of 29 December 2022 (Budget law 2023), available at <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2022/12/29/22G00211/CONSOLIDATED/20240712>.

<sup>53</sup> See Law Decree No. 71 of 31 May 2024: Urgent provisions regarding sports, educational support for students with disabilities, for the regular start of the 2024/2025 school year and regarding universities and research (*Disposizioni urgenti in materia di sport, di sostegno didattico agli alunni con disabilità, per il regolare avvio dell'anno scolastico 2024/2025 e in materia di università e ricerca*), available at <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2024/05/31/24G00089/ORIGINAL>.

## 6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

In addition to the RRP investments aimed at the implementation of independent living projects examined in detail in Chapter 4.2., it is important to highlight the innovation represented by the establishment of the 'Single Fund for the inclusion of persons with disabilities' by Article 1 Article, paragraph 210 of Law No. 213 of 30 December 2023 (financial law for 2024).<sup>54</sup>

The creation of the Single Fund (where the resources previously allocated in the following financing channels converge: Fund for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the fund for assistance with autonomy and communication for pupils with disabilities, the fund for support in the care and assistance role of the family caregiver and the fund for the inclusion of deaf and hearing-impaired persons) is a simplification and rationalisation measure capable of supporting the creation of interconnected and integrated lines of intervention.

The aim is to overcome the current fragmentation of resources, which presents a disadvantage for persons with disabilities and their families, but also for local authorities and third sector entities. The Single Fund was financed with approximately EUR 552 million for 2024 and approximately EUR 332 million for 2025.

The resources of the Single Fund are intended to finance initiatives linked to the implementation of several rights provided for by the CRPD, such as:

- strengthening autonomy and communication assistance services for pupils with disabilities in nursery school, primary school and lower and upper secondary school;
- promotion and creation of infrastructure, including digital infrastructure, for inclusion policies for persons with disabilities, also intended for recreational and sporting activities;
- work and sports inclusion;
- accessible tourism;
- initiatives dedicated to persons with neurodevelopmental and autism spectrum disorders;
- interventions aimed at recognising the social and economic value of the non-professional care activity of the family caregiver;
- promotion of the full and effective social inclusion of deaf persons and persons with impaired hearing, also through the creation of experimental projects for the dissemination of interpreting services in Italian sign language (LIS); and
- promotion of initiatives and projects for inclusion, accessibility and support for persons with disabilities, of particular national or territorial relevance, carried out by third sector entities or with their involvement, in implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.

In addition to the creation of the Single Fund, there are many measures that allocate resources intended to support the families of persons with disabilities (both through an increase in the contribution relating to the single family allowance) and in relation to the costs associated with carrying out caregiving activity.

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<sup>54</sup> Available at <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2023-12-30:213>.

On the first aspect: To address the greater risk of poverty faced by families with disabilities (see the data reported in paragraph 4), Article 1, paragraph 357, of Law No. 197 of 22 December 2022 (financial law for 2023) stabilised the increases in the single and universal allowance for families with children with disabilities, initially scheduled for the year 2022 only.

On the second aspect: EUR 25 million has been allocated to support family caregivers, distributed among the regions through the ministerial decree of 30 November 2023.<sup>55</sup> The interventions that can be financed with these resources are:

- care allowances;
- social and health bonuses that can be used for services;
- social and healthcare assistance;
- relief interventions, which favour a substitution in care or hospitalisation residential structure of a temporary nature;
- routes of psychological support for caregivers; and
- training activities for families who assist people with severe disabilities.

Furthermore, on the work inclusion field, Legislative Decree No. 48 of 4 May 2023 containing 'Urgent measures for social inclusion and access to the world of work', in Article 28 provides for contributions in favour of third sector entities that have employed persons with disabilities up to and including 34 years of age, with fixed-term contracts indefinitely, from 1 August 2022 to 31 December 2023. The same provisions provide:

- incentives for organisations that provide intermediation and support for the job placement of persons with disabilities; and
- contributions for intermediation agencies and third sector entities that carry out intermediation activities for the employment placement of persons with disabilities and that monitor them in the period following their inclusion.

The resources available are EUR 7 million for 2023 (paragraph 1 of Article 28 cited above).

There are currently no data available on the use of these resources and the implications on work inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Article 1, paragraphs 362–364, of Law No. 97 of 29 December 2022 (financial law for 2023)<sup>56</sup> established the so-called 'Inclusive Suburbs Fund', with an allocation of EUR 10 million for the year 2023 to be distributed among municipalities with a population exceeding 300 000 inhabitants. It is aimed at promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities and combating the phenomena of marginalisation in the peripheral areas of large cities.

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<sup>55</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for policies in favour of persons with disabilities, Decree Criteria and methods for allocating the use of the Fund's resources to support the care and assistance role of the family caregiver for the year 2023 (Criteri e modalita' di riparto di utilizzo delle risorse del Fondo per il sostegno del ruolo di cura e di assistenza del caregiver familiare per l'anno 2023), available here: <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2024/01/16/24A00171/SG>.

<sup>56</sup> Available at <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2022-12-29;197>.

It must be noted that the Italian Parliament passed a bill regarding new forms of devolution to the regions, in accordance with Article 116 of the Italian Constitution;<sup>57</sup> such provisions could potentially have a remarkable impact on disability-related investments and expenditures.

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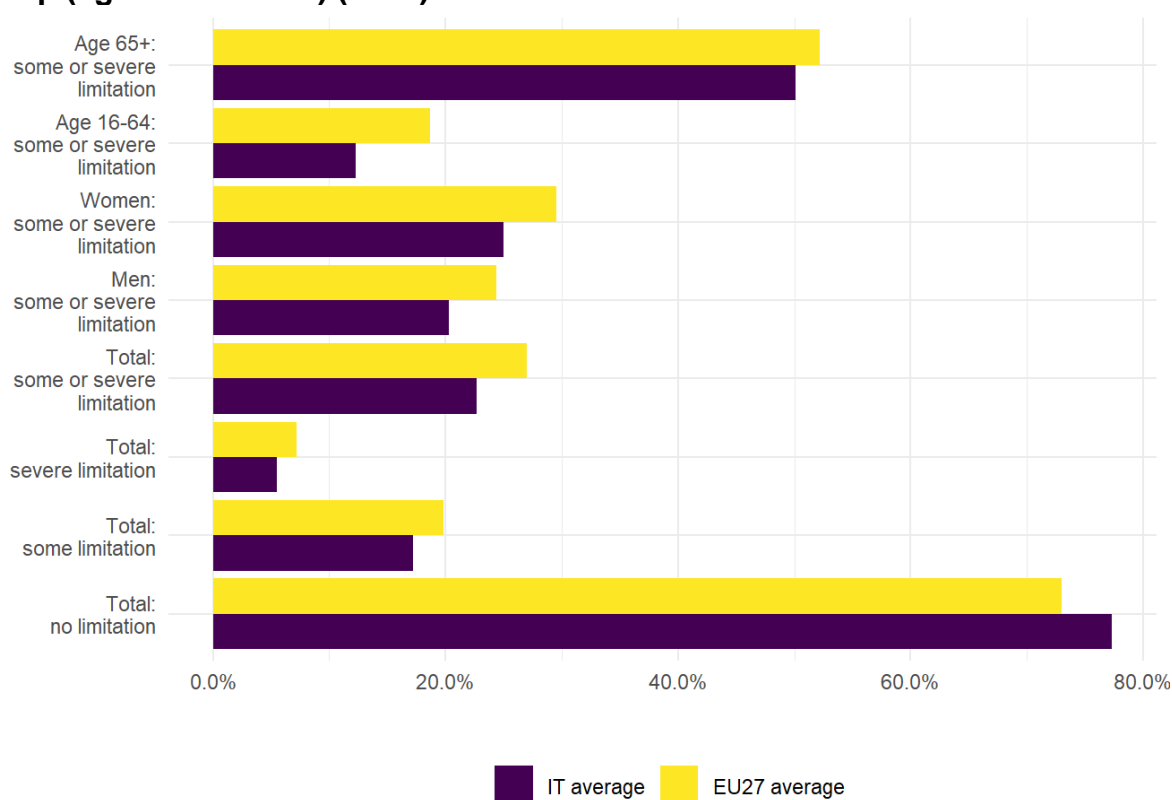
<sup>57</sup> See Law No. 86 of 26 June 2024, Provisions for the implementation of the differentiated autonomy of the regions with ordinary statute pursuant to Article 116, 3<sup>rd</sup> ¶, of the Constitution (*Disposizioni per l'attuazione dell'autonomia differenziata delle Regioni a statuto ordinario ai sensi dell'articolo 116, terzo comma, della Costituzione*), available at <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2024/06/28/24G00104/ORIGINAL>.

## 7 Annex: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database<sup>58</sup> and statistical reports<sup>59</sup>.

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 persons with disabilities (impairments) is whether “for at least the past six months” the respondent reports that they have been “limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do” corresponding to Eurostat’s classification of “some or severe” long-standing limitations<sup>60</sup>.

**Table 1: Disability prevalence (age 16+) by level of activity limitation, gender, age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)**



Source: Eurostat [h1th\_silc\_12], extracted on 2024-07-29

<sup>58</sup> Eurostat Disability Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/disability/database>.

<sup>59</sup> Eurostat (2023) Disability statistics: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics).

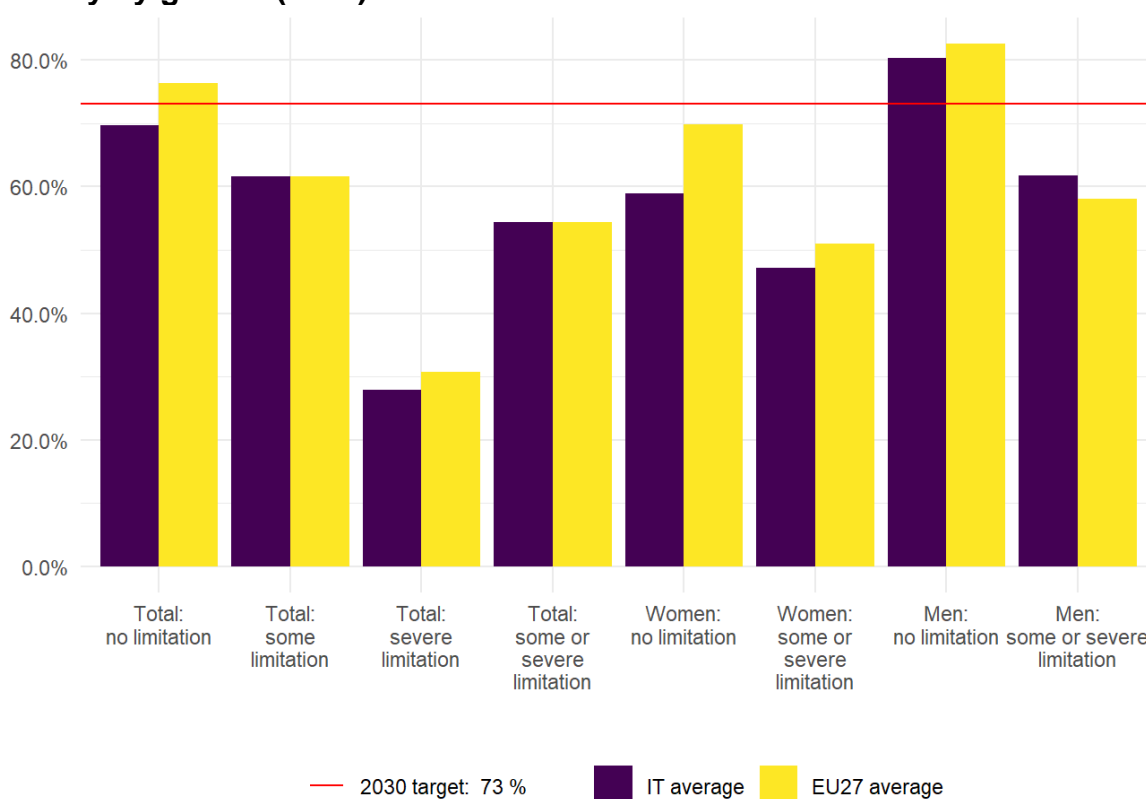
<sup>60</sup> Eurostat (2021) Health variables in SILC – methodology: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Health\\_variables\\_in\\_SILC\\_-\\_methodology](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Health_variables_in_SILC_-_methodology).

Disability prevalence (age 16+) by level of activity limitation, gender, age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	Age 65+: some or severe limitation
<b>IT average</b>	77.3 %	17.2 %	5.5 %	22.7 %	20.3 %	25.0 %	12.3 %	50.1 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	73.0 %	19.8 %	7.2 %	27.0 %	24.4 %	29.5 %	18.7 %	52.2 %
<b>Note:</b>								
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>								

In subsequent tables, these data are used to indicate ‘disability’ equality gaps and Trend 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 ‘some or severe activity limitations’<sup>61</sup>. National estimates for Italy are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year<sup>62</sup>.

## 7.1 Data relevant to disability and the labour market (2022)

**Table 2a: Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation, disability, disability by gender (2022)**

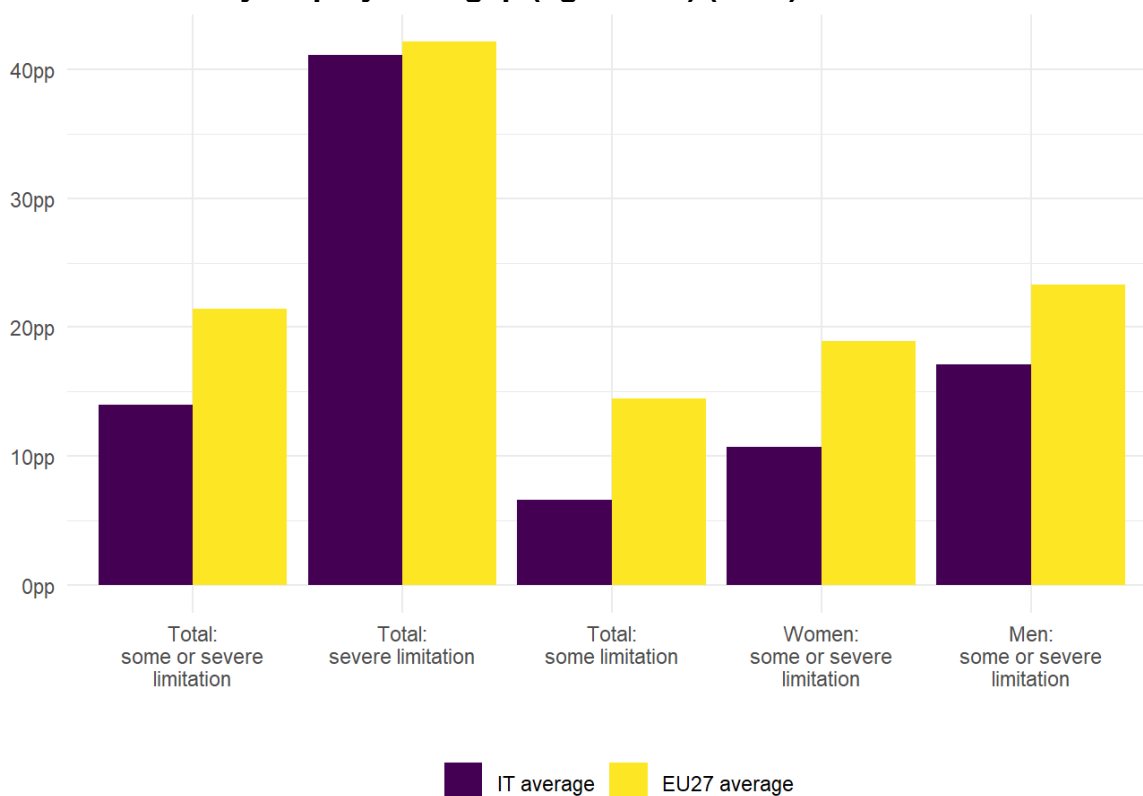


Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

<sup>61</sup> This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at: <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

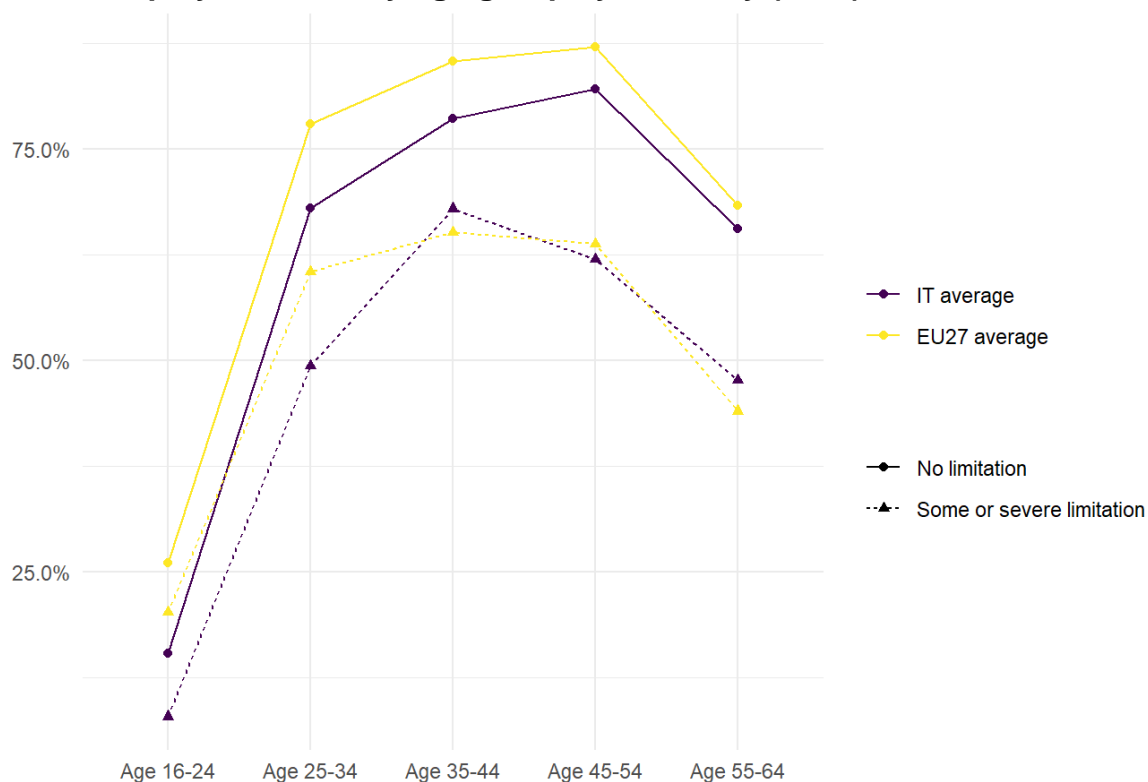
<sup>62</sup> The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU changed the EU average. EU27 averages have been affected also by time series breaks in other large countries, such as Germany.

<b>Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation, disability, disability by gender (2022)</b>								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation
<b>IT average</b>	69.6 %	61.6 %	27.9 %	54.4 %	58.9 %	47.2 %	80.3 %	61.8 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	76.2 %	61.6 %	30.7 %	54.3 %	69.8 %	51.0 %	82.5 %	58.1 %
<b>Note:</b>								
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>								

**Table 2b: Disability employment gap (age 20-64) (2022)**

Source: Eurostat [tepsr\_sp200], extracted on 2024-07-29

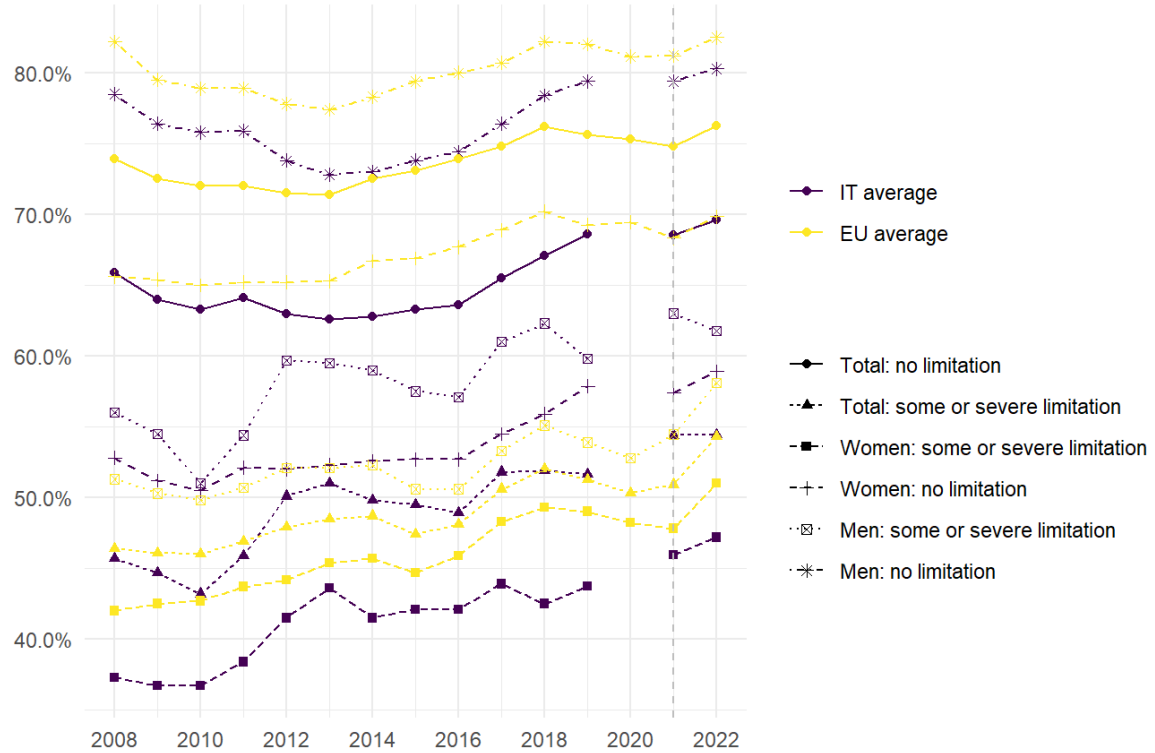
<b>Disability employment gap (age 20-64) (2022)</b>					
	Total: some or severe limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation
<b>IT average</b>	14.0 pp	41.1 pp	6.6 pp	10.7 pp	17.1 pp
<b>EU27 average</b>	21.4 pp	42.1 pp	14.5 pp	18.9 pp	23.3 pp
<b>Note:</b>					
<b>Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>					

**Table 3: Employment rate by age group by disability (2022)**

Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

<b>Employment rate by age group by disability (2022)</b>						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
<b>IT average</b>	Some or severe limitation	7.9 %	49.3 %	67.9 %	62.0 %	47.7 %
<b>IT average</b>	No limitation	15.4 %	68.0 %	78.6 %	82.1 %	65.5 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Some or severe limitation	20.2 %	60.5 %	65.2 %	63.7 %	44.0 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	No limitation	26.1 %	77.9 %	85.4 %	87.0 %	68.2 %
<b>Note:</b>						
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>						

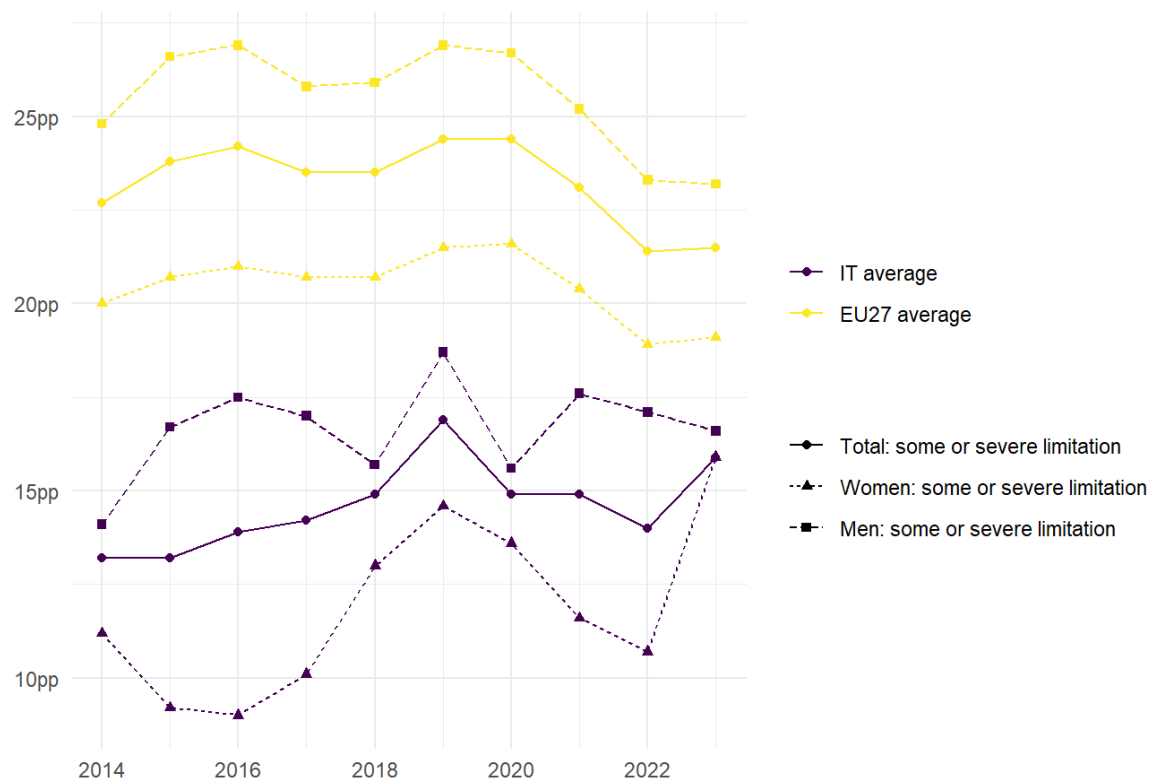
**Table 4a: Trend - Employment rate (age 20-64) by disability and gender**



Source: EU-SILC, own calculation  
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

European Semester 2024 – 2025: country fiche on disability equality: Italy

<b>Trend - Employment rate (age 20-64) by disability and gender</b>																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>IT average</b>	Total: no limitation	65.9 %	64.0 %	63.3 %	64.1 %	63.0 %	62.6 %	62.8 %	63.3 %	63.6 %	65.5 %	67.1 %	68.6 %	NA	68.5 %	69.6 %
<b>IT average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	45.7 %	44.7 %	43.2 %	45.9 %	50.1 %	51.0 %	49.8 %	49.5 %	48.9 %	51.8 %	51.9 %	51.6 %	NA	54.4 %	54.4 %
<b>IT average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	37.3 %	36.7 %	36.7 %	38.4 %	41.5 %	43.6 %	41.5 %	42.1 %	42.1 %	43.9 %	42.5 %	43.7 %	NA	46.0 %	47.2 %
<b>IT average</b>	Women: no limitation	52.8 %	51.2 %	50.5 %	52.1 %	52.0 %	52.3 %	52.6 %	52.7 %	52.7 %	54.5 %	55.9 %	57.9 %	NA	57.4 %	58.9 %
<b>IT average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	56.0 %	54.5 %	51.0 %	54.4 %	59.7 %	59.5 %	59.0 %	57.5 %	57.1 %	61.0 %	62.3 %	59.8 %	NA	63.0 %	61.8 %
<b>IT average</b>	Men: no limitation	78.5 %	76.4 %	75.8 %	75.9 %	73.8 %	72.8 %	73.0 %	73.8 %	74.4 %	76.4 %	78.4 %	79.4 %	NA	79.4 %	80.3 %
<b>EU average</b>	Total: no limitation	73.9 %	72.5 %	72.0 %	72.0 %	71.5 %	71.4 %	72.5 %	73.1 %	73.9 %	74.8 %	76.2 %	75.6 %	75.3 %	74.8 %	76.2 %
<b>EU average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	46.4 %	46.1 %	46.0 %	46.9 %	47.9 %	48.5 %	48.7 %	47.4 %	48.1 %	50.6 %	52.0 %	51.3 %	50.3 %	50.9 %	54.3 %
<b>EU average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	42.0 %	42.5 %	42.7 %	43.7 %	44.2 %	45.4 %	45.7 %	44.7 %	45.9 %	48.3 %	49.3 %	49.0 %	48.2 %	47.8 %	51.0 %
<b>EU average</b>	Women: no limitation	65.6 %	65.4 %	65.0 %	65.2 %	65.2 %	65.3 %	66.7 %	66.9 %	67.7 %	68.9 %	70.2 %	69.3 %	69.4 %	68.3 %	69.8 %
<b>EU average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	51.3 %	50.3 %	49.8 %	50.7 %	52.1 %	52.1 %	52.3 %	50.6 %	50.6 %	53.3 %	55.1 %	53.9 %	52.8 %	54.5 %	58.1 %
<b>EU average</b>	Men: no limitation	82.2 %	79.5 %	78.9 %	78.9 %	77.8 %	77.4 %	78.3 %	79.4 %	80.0 %	80.7 %	82.2 %	82.0 %	81.1 %	81.2 %	82.5 %
<b>Note:</b>																
<b>Source: EU-SILC, own calculation</b>																
<b>Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021</b>																

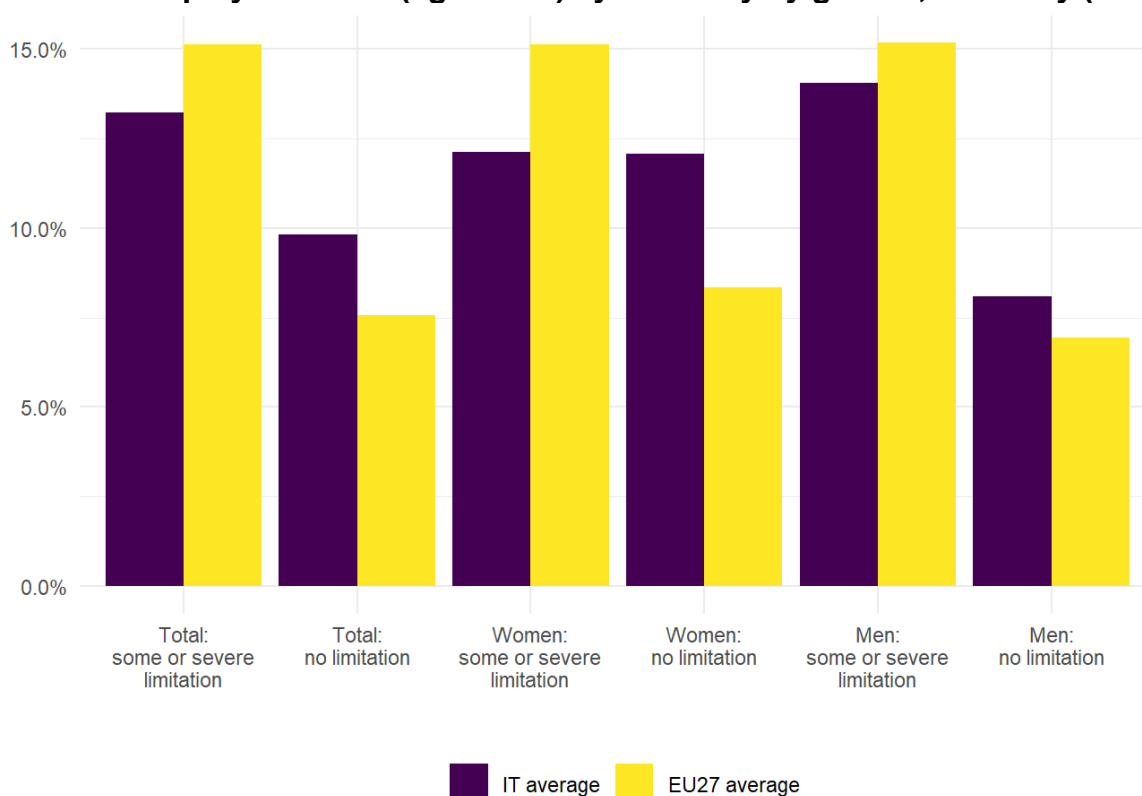
**Table 4b: Trend - Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by activity limitation by gender**

Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dlm200], extracted on 2024-07-29

Trend - Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by activity limitation by gender		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>IT average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	13.2 pp	13.2 pp	13.9 pp	14.2 pp	14.9 pp	16.9 pp	14.9 pp	14.9 pp	14.0 pp	15.9 pp
<b>IT average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	11.2 pp	9.2 pp	9.0 pp	10.1 pp	13.0 pp	14.6 pp	13.6 pp	11.6 pp	10.7 pp	15.9 pp
<b>IT average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	14.1 pp	16.7 pp	17.5 pp	17.0 pp	15.7 pp	18.7 pp	15.6 pp	17.6 pp	17.1 pp	16.6 pp
<b>EU27 average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	22.7 pp	23.8 pp	24.2 pp	23.5 pp	23.5 pp	24.4 pp	24.4 pp	23.1 pp	21.4 pp	21.5 pp
<b>EU27 average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	20.0 pp	20.7 pp	21.0 pp	20.7 pp	20.7 pp	21.5 pp	21.6 pp	20.4 pp	18.9 pp	19.1 pp
<b>EU27 average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	24.8 pp	26.6 pp	26.9 pp	25.8 pp	25.9 pp	26.9 pp	26.7 pp	25.2 pp	23.3 pp	23.2 pp
<b>Note:</b>											
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>											

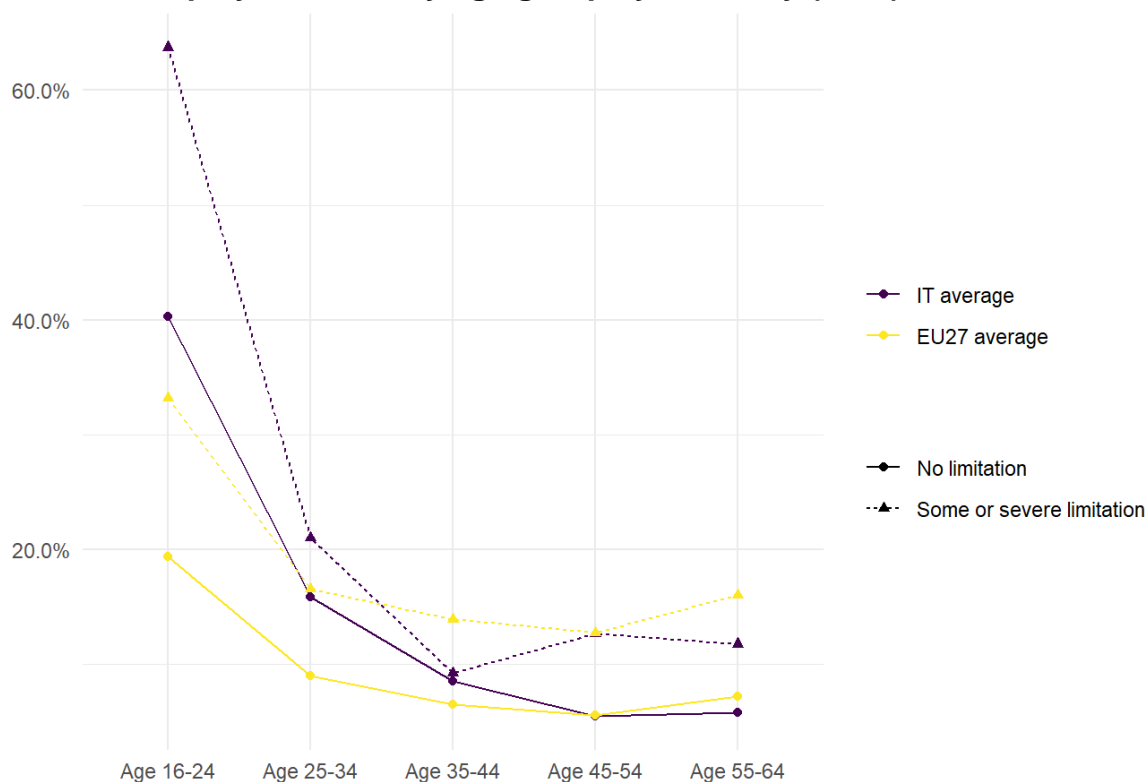
## 7.1.1 Unemployment

**Table 5: Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender, disability (2022)**



Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

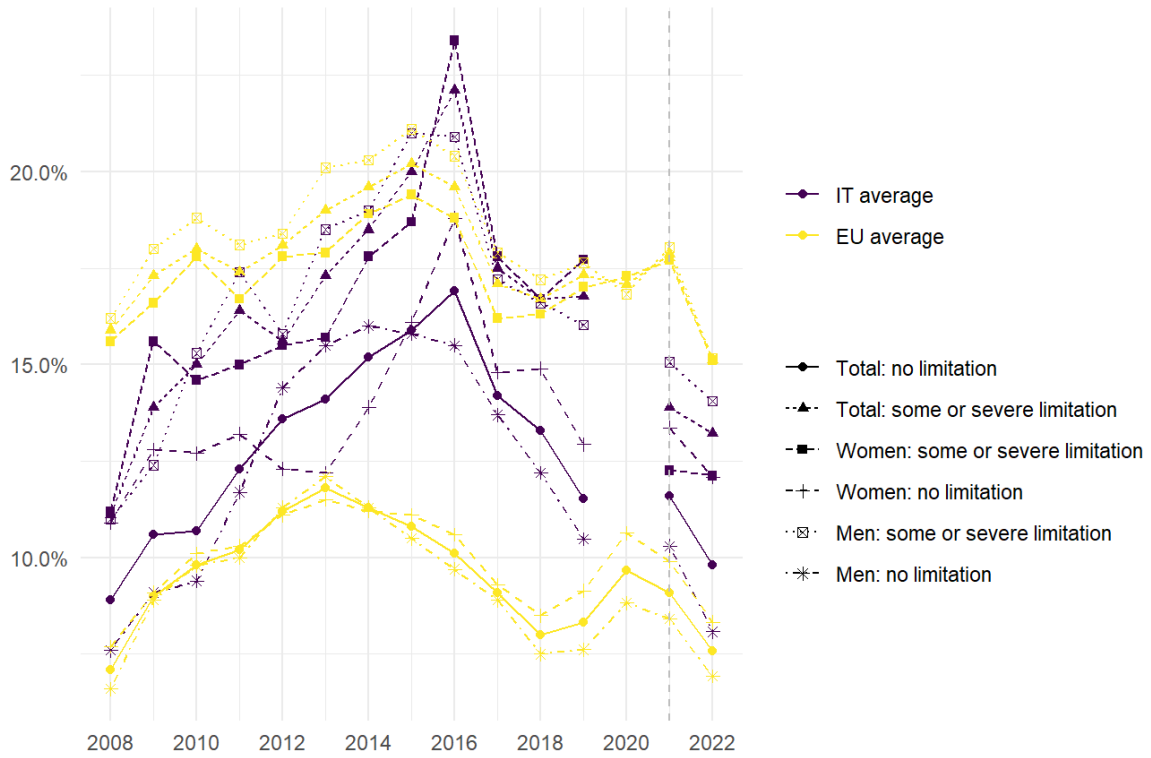
<b>Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender, disability (2022)</b>						
	Total: some or severe	Total: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation
<b>IT average</b>	13.2 %	9.8 %	12.1 %	12.1 %	14.1 %	8.1 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	15.1 %	7.6 %	15.1 %	8.3 %	15.2 %	6.9 %
<b>Note:</b>						
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>						

**Table 6: Unemployment rate by age group by disability (2022)**

Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

<b>Unemployment rate by age group by disability (2022)</b>						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
<b>IT average</b>	Some or severe limitation	63.7 %	21.0 %	9.2 %	12.7 %	11.8 %
<b>IT average</b>	No limitation	40.3 %	15.9 %	8.6 %	5.5 %	5.8 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Some or severe limitation	33.2 %	16.6 %	13.9 %	12.8 %	16.0 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	No limitation	19.4 %	9.0 %	6.5 %	5.6 %	7.2 %
<b>Note:</b>						
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>						

**Table 7: Trend - Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender**



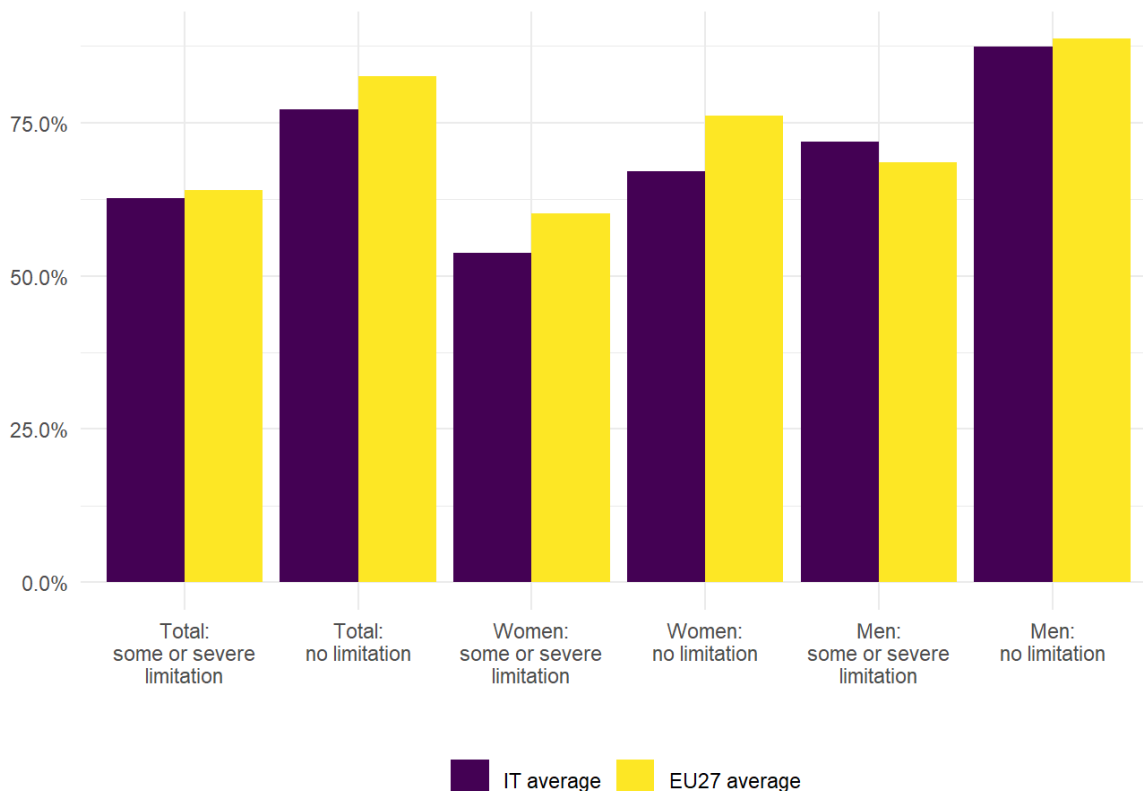
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation  
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

European Semester 2024 – 2025: country fiche on disability equality: Italy

<b>Trend - Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender</b>																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>IT average</b>	Total: no limitation	8.9 %	10.6 %	10.7 %	12.3 %	13.6 %	14.1 %	15.2 %	15.9 %	16.9 %	14.2 %	13.3 %	11.5 %	NA	11.6 %	9.8 %
<b>IT average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	11.1 %	13.9 %	15.0 %	16.4 %	15.6 %	17.3 %	18.5 %	20.0 %	22.1 %	17.5 %	16.7 %	16.8 %	NA	13.9 %	13.2 %
<b>IT average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	11.2 %	15.6 %	14.6 %	15.0 %	15.5 %	15.7 %	17.8 %	18.7 %	23.4 %	17.8 %	16.7 %	17.7 %	NA	12.3 %	12.1 %
<b>IT average</b>	Women: no limitation	10.9 %	12.8 %	12.7 %	13.2 %	12.3 %	12.2 %	13.9 %	16.1 %	18.8 %	14.8 %	14.9 %	12.9 %	NA	13.4 %	12.1 %
<b>IT average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	11.0 %	12.4 %	15.3 %	17.4 %	15.8 %	18.5 %	19.0 %	21.0 %	20.9 %	17.2 %	16.6 %	16.0 %	NA	15.1 %	14.1 %
<b>IT average</b>	Men: no limitation	7.6 %	9.1 %	9.4 %	11.7 %	14.4 %	15.5 %	16.0 %	15.8 %	15.5 %	13.7 %	12.2 %	10.5 %	NA	10.3 %	8.1 %
<b>EU average</b>	Total: no limitation	7.1 %	9.0 %	9.8 %	10.2 %	11.2 %	11.8 %	11.3 %	10.8 %	10.1 %	9.1 %	8.0 %	8.3 %	9.7 %	9.1 %	7.6 %
<b>EU average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	15.9 %	17.3 %	18.0 %	17.4 %	18.1 %	19.0 %	19.6 %	20.2 %	19.6 %	17.1 %	16.7 %	17.3 %	17.1 %	17.9 %	15.1 %
<b>EU average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	15.6 %	16.6 %	17.8 %	16.7 %	17.8 %	17.9 %	18.9 %	19.4 %	18.8 %	16.2 %	16.3 %	17.0 %	17.3 %	17.7 %	15.1 %
<b>EU average</b>	Women: no limitation	7.7 %	9.1 %	10.1 %	10.3 %	11.1 %	11.5 %	11.2 %	11.1 %	10.6 %	9.3 %	8.5 %	9.1 %	10.6 %	9.9 %	8.3 %
<b>EU average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	16.2 %	18.0 %	18.8 %	18.1 %	18.4 %	20.1 %	20.3 %	21.1 %	20.4 %	17.9 %	17.2 %	17.6 %	16.8 %	18.0 %	15.2 %
<b>EU average</b>	Men: no limitation	6.6 %	8.9 %	9.8 %	10.0 %	11.3 %	12.1 %	11.3 %	10.5 %	9.7 %	8.9 %	7.5 %	7.6 %	8.8 %	8.4 %	6.9 %
<b>Note:</b>																
<b>Source: EU-SILC, own calculation</b>																
<b>Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021</b>																

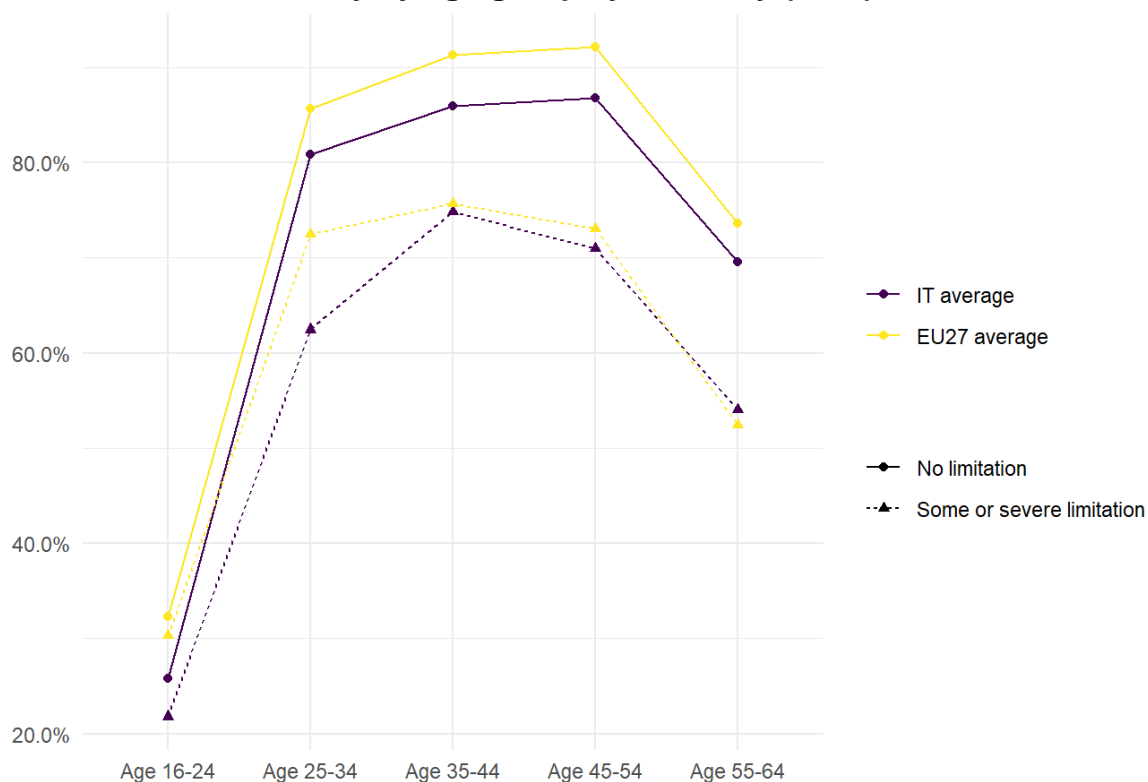
## 7.1.2 Economic activity

**Table 8: Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by gender by disability, disability (2022)**



Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

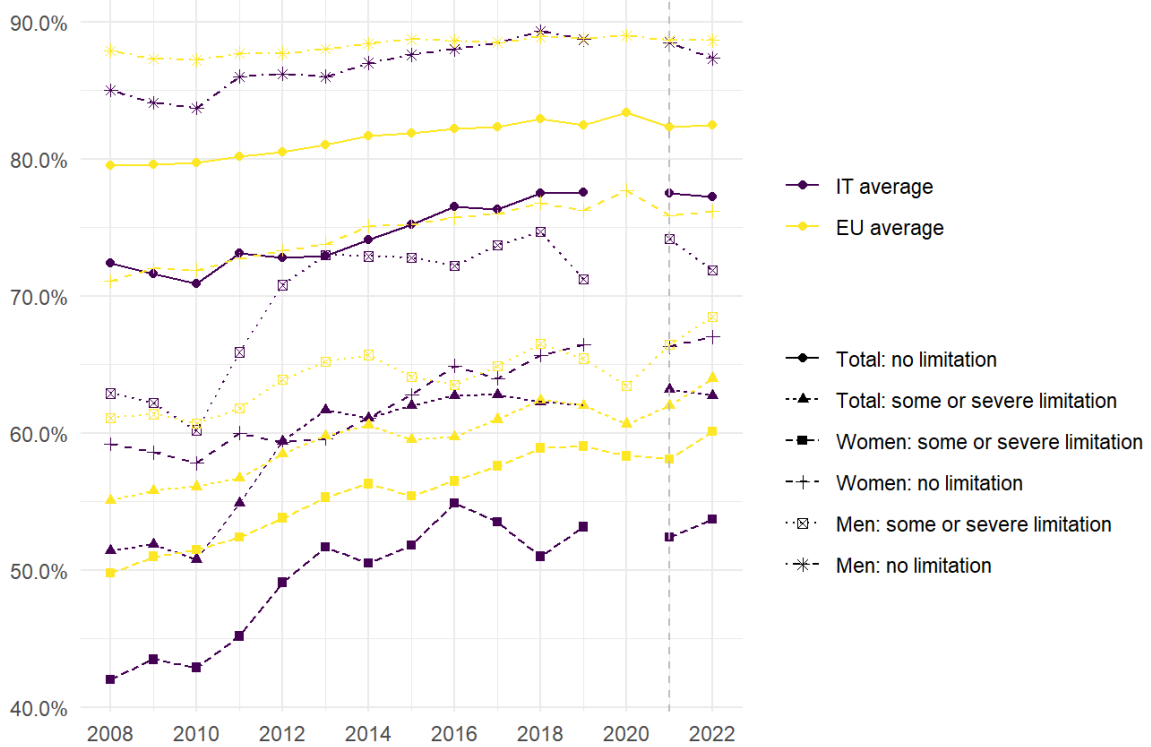
<b>Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by gender by disability, disability (2022)</b>						
	Total: some or severe limitation	Total: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation
<b>IT average</b>	62.7 %	77.2 %	53.7 %	67.0 %	71.9 %	87.3 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	64.0 %	82.5 %	60.1 %	76.2 %	68.5 %	88.6 %
<b>Note:</b>						
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>						

**Table 9: Economic activity by age group by disability (2022)**

Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

<b>Economic activity by age group by disability (2022)</b>						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
<b>IT average</b>	Some or severe limitation	21.8 %	62.5 %	74.8 %	71.0 %	54.1 %
<b>IT average</b>	No limitation	25.8 %	80.8 %	85.9 %	86.8 %	69.6 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Some or severe limitation	30.3 %	72.5 %	75.7 %	73.1 %	52.4 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	No limitation	32.3 %	85.6 %	91.3 %	92.1 %	73.6 %
<b>Note:</b>						
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>						

**Table 10: Trend - Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender**



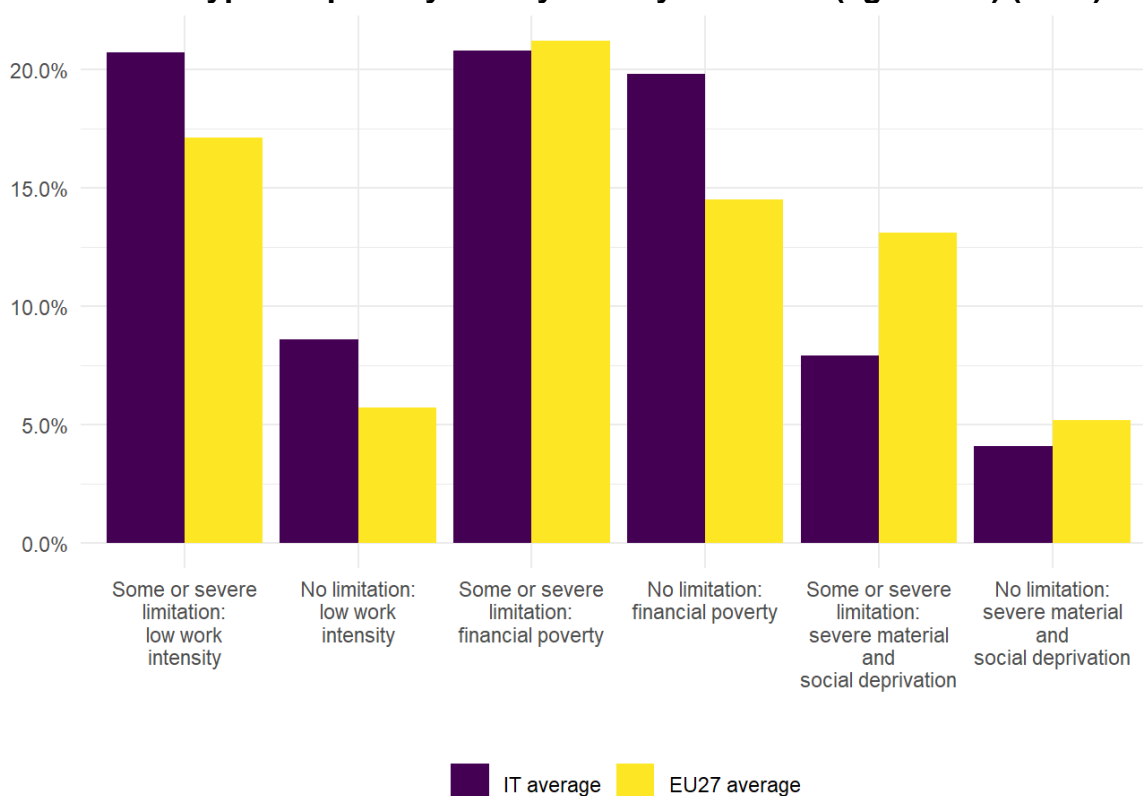
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation  
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

European Semester 2024 – 2025: country fiche on disability equality: Italy

<b>Trend – Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender</b>																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>IT average</b>	Total: no limitation	72.4 %	71.6 %	70.9 %	73.1 %	72.8 %	72.9 %	74.1 %	75.2 %	76.5 %	76.3 %	77.5 %	77.6 %	NA	77.5 %	77.2 %
<b>IT average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	51.4 %	51.9 %	50.8 %	54.9 %	59.4 %	61.7 %	61.1 %	62.0 %	62.7 %	62.8 %	62.3 %	62.0 %	NA	63.2 %	62.7 %
<b>IT average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	42.0 %	43.5 %	42.9 %	45.2 %	49.1 %	51.7 %	50.5 %	51.8 %	54.9 %	53.5 %	51.0 %	53.2 %	NA	52.4 %	53.7 %
<b>IT average</b>	Women: no limitation	59.2 %	58.6 %	57.8 %	60.0 %	59.3 %	59.6 %	61.1 %	62.8 %	64.9 %	64.0 %	65.7 %	66.5 %	NA	66.3 %	67.0 %
<b>IT average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	62.9 %	62.2 %	60.2 %	65.9 %	70.8 %	73.0 %	72.9 %	72.8 %	72.2 %	73.7 %	74.7 %	71.2 %	NA	74.2 %	71.9 %
<b>IT average</b>	Men: no limitation	85.0 %	84.1 %	83.7 %	86.0 %	86.2 %	86.0 %	87.0 %	87.6 %	88.0 %	88.5 %	89.3 %	88.7 %	NA	88.5 %	87.3 %
<b>EU average</b>	Total: no limitation	79.5 %	79.6 %	79.7 %	80.2 %	80.5 %	81.0 %	81.7 %	81.9 %	82.2 %	82.3 %	82.9 %	82.5 %	83.4 %	82.3 %	82.5 %
<b>EU average</b>	Total: some or severe limitation	55.1 %	55.8 %	56.1 %	56.7 %	58.5 %	59.8 %	60.6 %	59.5 %	59.7 %	61.0 %	62.4 %	62.0 %	60.7 %	62.0 %	64.0 %
<b>EU average</b>	Women: some or severe limitation	49.8 %	51.0 %	51.5 %	52.4 %	53.8 %	55.3 %	56.3 %	55.4 %	56.5 %	57.6 %	58.9 %	59.0 %	58.3 %	58.1 %	60.1 %
<b>EU average</b>	Women: no limitation	71.1 %	72.0 %	71.9 %	72.7 %	73.3 %	73.8 %	75.1 %	75.2 %	75.7 %	76.0 %	76.8 %	76.2 %	77.7 %	75.8 %	76.2 %
<b>EU average</b>	Men: some or severe limitation	61.1 %	61.4 %	60.7 %	61.8 %	63.9 %	65.2 %	65.7 %	64.1 %	63.5 %	64.9 %	66.5 %	65.4 %	63.5 %	66.4 %	68.5 %
<b>EU average</b>	Men: no limitation	87.9 %	87.3 %	87.2 %	87.7 %	87.7 %	88.0 %	88.4 %	88.7 %	88.6 %	88.5 %	88.9 %	88.8 %	89.0 %	88.7 %	88.6 %
<b>Note:</b>																
<b>Source: EU-SILC, own calculation</b>																
<b>Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021</b>																

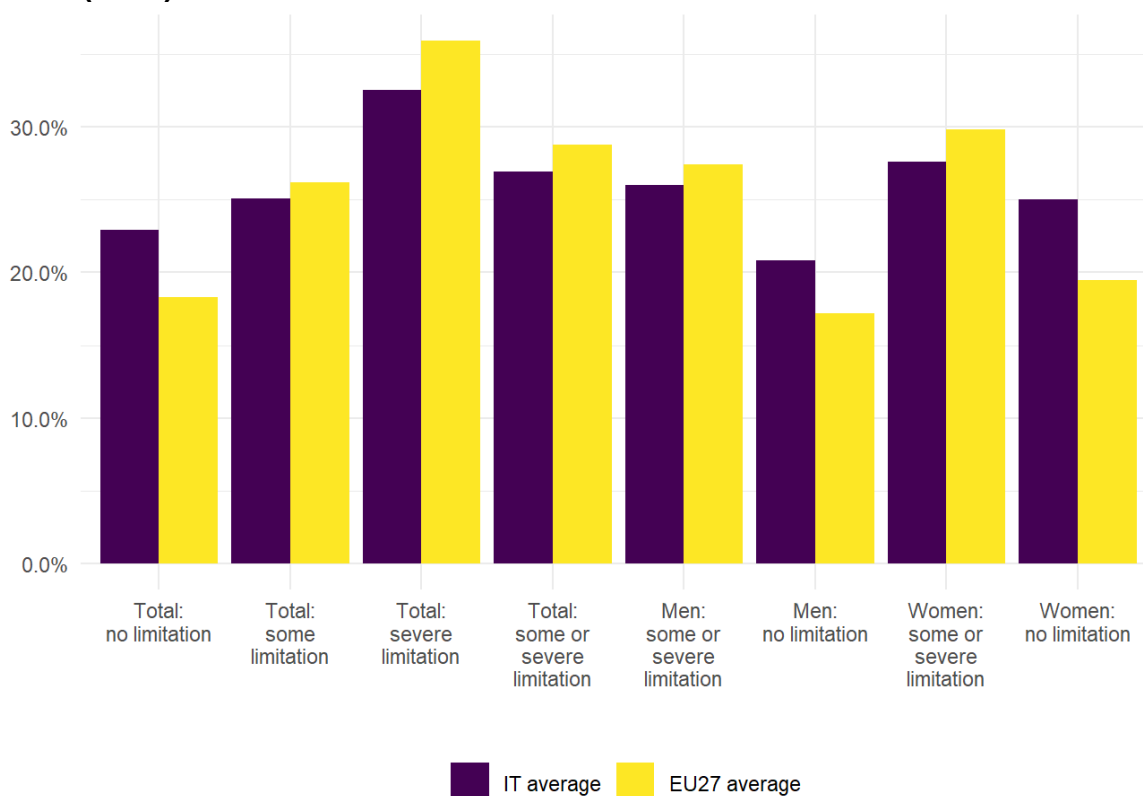
## 7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2022)

Table 11: Main types of poverty risk by activity limitation (age 16-64) (2022)



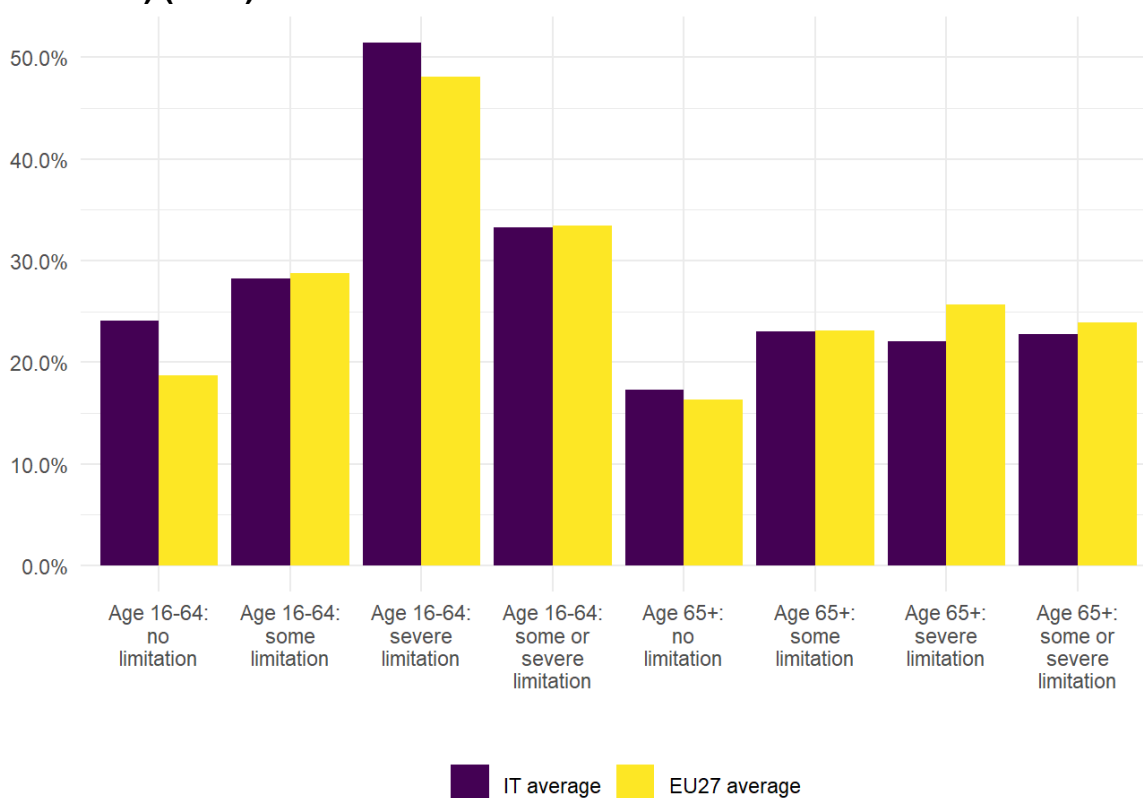
Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dpe040], [hlth\_dpe020] and [hlth\_dm010], extracted on 2024-07-29

Main types of poverty risk by activity limitation (age 16-64) (2022)						
	Some or severe limitation: low work intensity	No limitation: low work intensity	Some or severe limitation: financial poverty	No limitation: financial poverty	Some or severe limitation: severe material and social deprivation	No limitation: severe material and social deprivation
<b>IT average</b>	20.7 %	8.6 %	20.8 %	19.8 %	7.9 %	4.1 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	17.1 %	5.7 %	21.2 %	14.5 %	13.1 %	5.2 %
<b>Note:</b>						
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>						

**Table 12: At risk of poverty or social exclusion (age 16+) by activity limitation by gender (2022)**

Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29

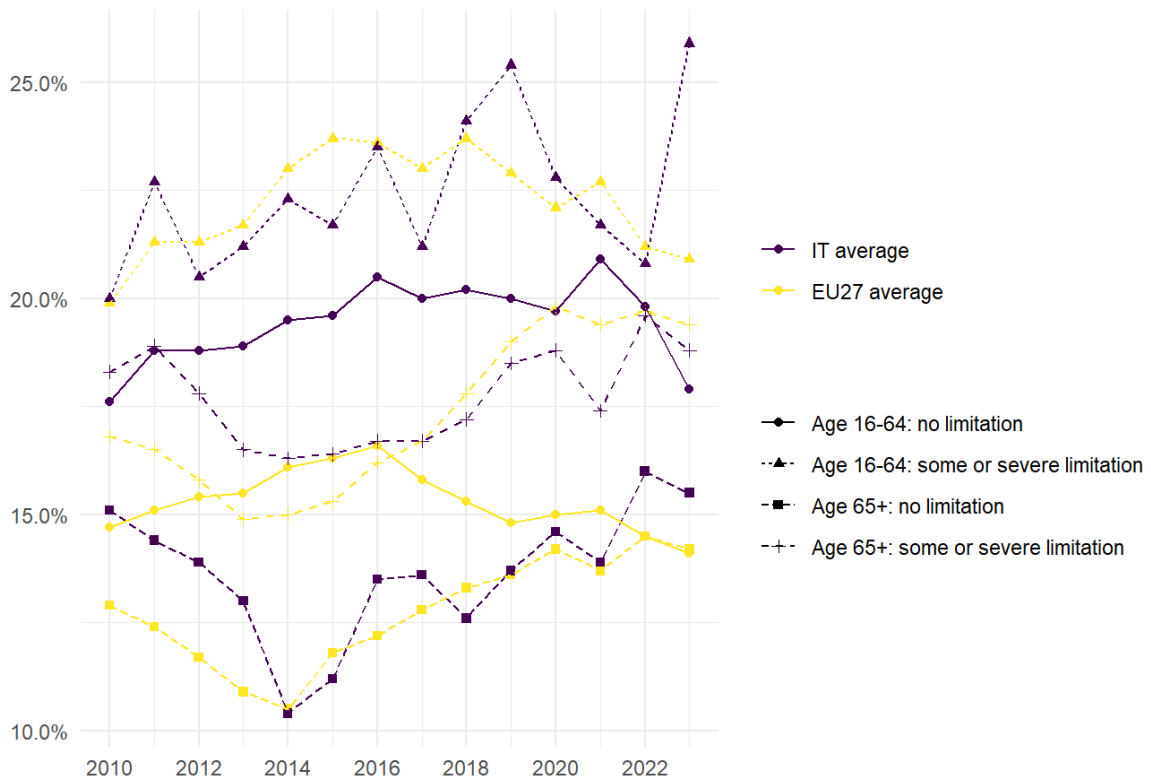
<b>At risk of poverty or social exclusion (age 16+) by activity limitation by gender (2022)</b>								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation
<b>IT average</b>	22.9 %	25.1 %	32.5 %	26.9 %	26.0 %	20.8 %	27.6 %	25.0 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	18.3 %	26.2 %	35.9 %	28.8 %	27.4 %	17.2 %	29.8 %	19.5 %
<b>Note:</b>								
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>								

**Table 13: At risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability by age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)**

Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29

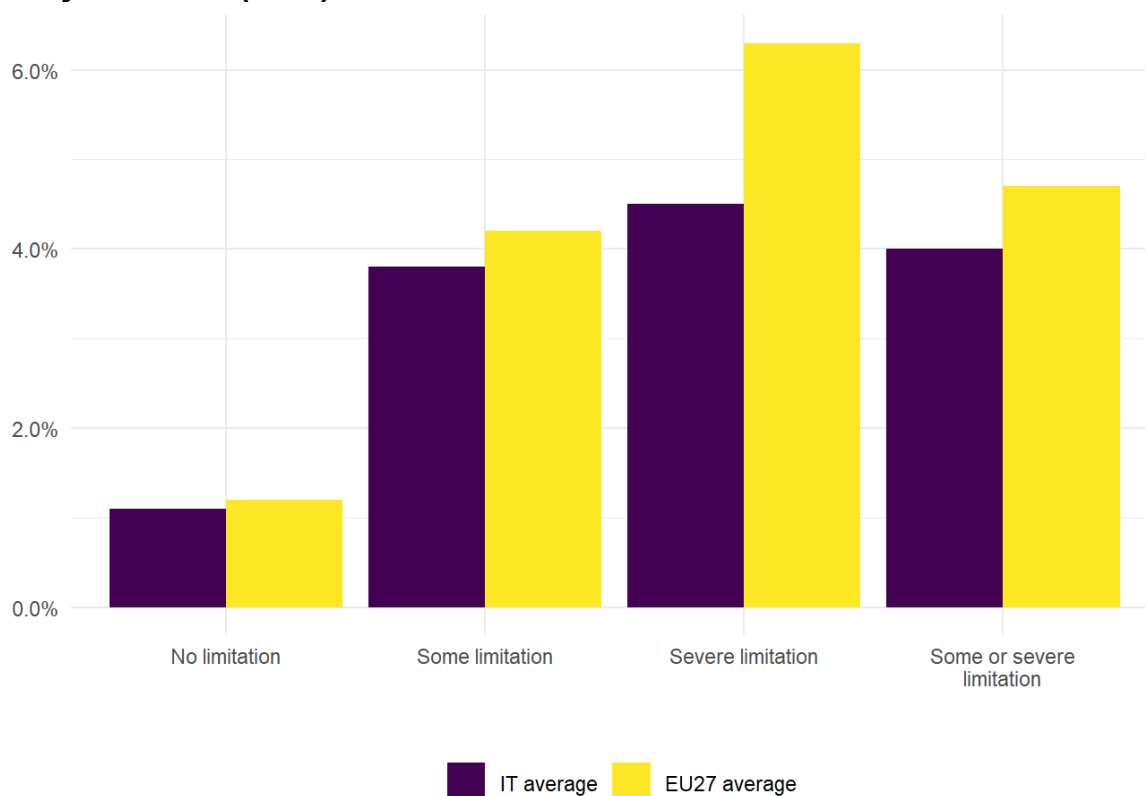
<b>At risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability by age group (age 16-64 &amp; 65+) (2022)</b>								
	Age 16-64: no limitation	Age 16-64: some limitation	Age 16-64: severe limitation	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	Age 65+: no limitation	Age 65+: some limitation	Age 65+: severe limitation	Age 65+: some or severe limitation
<b>IT average</b>	24.1 %	28.2 %	51.4 %	33.3 %	17.3 %	23.0 %	22.1 %	22.8 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	18.7 %	28.8 %	48.1 %	33.4 %	16.3 %	23.1 %	25.7 %	23.9 %
<b>Note:</b>								
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>								

**Table 14: Trend - At risk of poverty by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)**



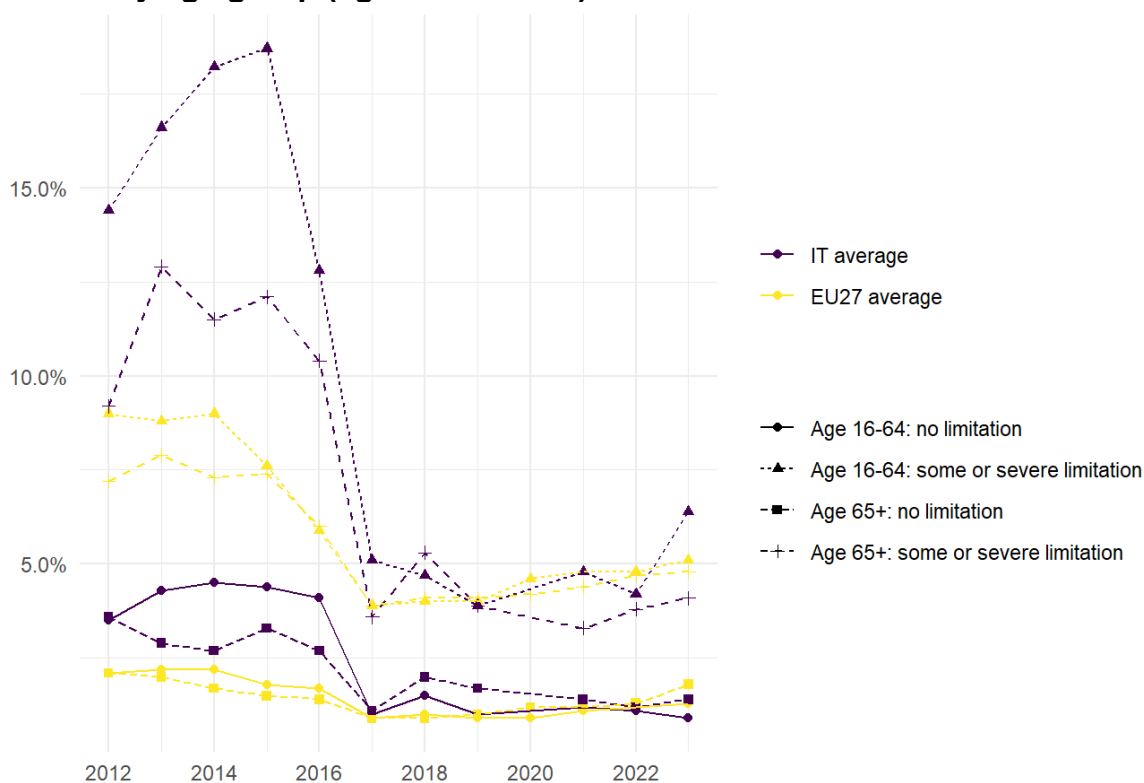
Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dpe020], extracted on 2024-07-29

<b>Trend - At risk of poverty by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 &amp; 65+)</b>															
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>IT average</b>	Age 16-64: no limitation	17.6 %	18.8 %	18.8 %	18.9 %	19.5 %	19.6 %	20.5 %	20.0 %	20.2 %	20.0 %	19.7 %	20.9 %	19.8 %	17.9 %
<b>IT average</b>	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	20.0 %	22.7 %	20.5 %	21.2 %	22.3 %	21.7 %	23.5 %	21.2 %	24.1 %	25.4 %	22.8 %	21.7 %	20.8 %	25.9 %
<b>IT average</b>	Age 65+: no limitation	15.1 %	14.4 %	13.9 %	13.0 %	10.4 %	11.2 %	13.5 %	13.6 %	12.6 %	13.7 %	14.6 %	13.9 %	16.0 %	15.5 %
<b>IT average</b>	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	18.3 %	18.9 %	17.8 %	16.5 %	16.3 %	16.4 %	16.7 %	16.7 %	17.2 %	18.5 %	18.8 %	17.4 %	19.6 %	18.8 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 16-64: no limitation	14.7 %	15.1 %	15.4 %	15.5 %	16.1 %	16.3 %	16.6 %	15.8 %	15.3 %	14.8 %	15.0 %	15.1 %	14.5 %	14.1 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	19.9 %	21.3 %	21.3 %	21.7 %	23.0 %	23.7 %	23.6 %	23.0 %	23.7 %	22.9 %	22.1 %	22.7 %	21.2 %	20.9 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 65+: no limitation	12.9 %	12.4 %	11.7 %	10.9 %	10.5 %	11.8 %	12.2 %	12.8 %	13.3 %	13.6 %	14.2 %	13.7 %	14.5 %	14.2 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	16.8 %	16.5 %	15.8 %	14.9 %	15.0 %	15.3 %	16.2 %	16.7 %	17.8 %	19.0 %	19.8 %	19.4 %	19.7 %	19.4 %
<b>Note:</b>															
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>															

**Table 15a: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by activity limitation (2022)**

Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29

<b>Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by activity limitation (2022)</b>				
	No limitation	Some limitation	Severe limitation	Some or severe limitation
<b>IT average</b>	1.1 %	3.8 %	4.5 %	4.0 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	1.2 %	4.2 %	6.3 %	4.7 %
<b>Note:</b>				
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>				

**Table 15b: Trend - self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)**

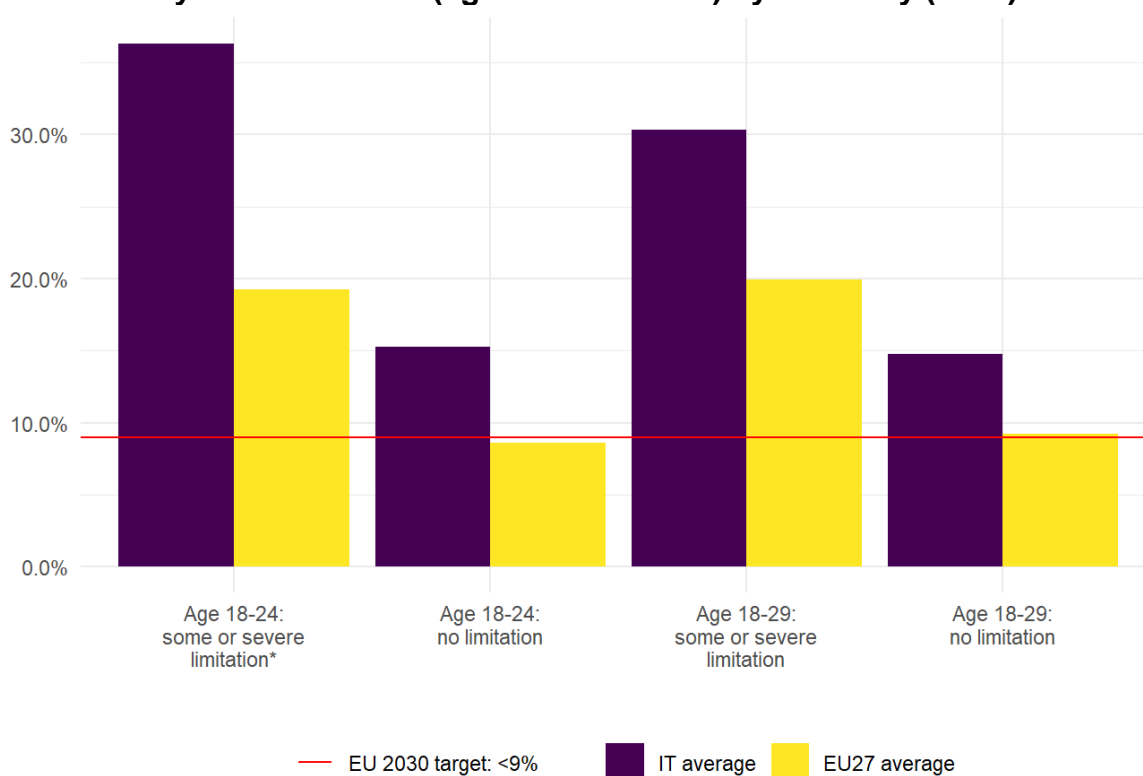
Source: Eurostat [hlth\_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29

Trend - self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)													
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>IT average</b>	Age 16-64: no limitation	3.5 %	4.3 %	4.5 %	4.4 %	4.1 %	1.0 %	1.5 %	1.0 %	NA	1.2 %	1.1 %	0.9 %
<b>IT average</b>	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	14.4 %	16.6 %	18.2 %	18.7 %	12.8 %	5.1 %	4.7 %	3.9 %	NA	4.8 %	4.2 %	6.4 %
<b>IT average</b>	Age 65+: no limitation	3.6 %	2.9 %	2.7 %	3.3 %	2.7 %	1.1 %	2.0 %	1.7 %	NA	1.4 %	1.2 %	1.4 %
<b>IT average</b>	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	9.2 %	12.9 %	11.5 %	12.1 %	10.4 %	3.6 %	5.3 %	3.9 %	NA	3.3 %	3.8 %	4.1 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 16-64: no limitation	2.1 %	2.2 %	2.2 %	1.8 %	1.7 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	0.9 %	0.9 %	1.1 %	1.2 %	1.3 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	9.0 %	8.8 %	9.0 %	7.6 %	5.9 %	3.9 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.6 %	4.8 %	4.8 %	5.1 %

<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 65+: no limitation	2.1 %	2.0 %	1.7 %	1.5 %	1.4 %	0.9 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	1.2 %	1.2 %	1.3 %	1.8 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	7.2 %	7.9 %	7.3 %	7.4 %	6.0 %	3.9 %	4.1 %	4.1 %	4.2 %	4.4 %	4.7 %	4.8 %
<b>Note:</b>													
<b>Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-29</b>													

### 7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education (2022)

**Table 16: Early school leavers (age 18-24 & 18-29) by disability (2022)**



Note: \* indicative data  
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

<b>Early school leavers (age 18-24 &amp; 18-29) by disability (2022)</b>				
	Age 18-24: some or severe limitation*	Age 18-24: no limitation	Age 18-29: some or severe limitation	Age 18-29: no limitation
<b>IT average</b>	36.3 %	15.2 %	30.3 %	14.8 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	19.2 %	8.6 %	19.9 %	9.2 %
<b>Note:</b>				
<b>Note: * indicative data</b>				
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>				

**Table 17: Tertiary education (age 30-34 & 25-34) by disability (2022)**

Note: \* indicative data  
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

<b>Tertiary education (age 30-34 &amp; 30-39) by disability (2022)</b>				
	Age 30-34: some or severe limitation*	Age 30-34: no limitation	Age 25-34: some or severe limitation	Age 25-34: no limitation
<b>IT average</b>	16.2 %	31.9 %	23.7 %	33.5 %
<b>EU27 average</b>	35.7 %	47.4 %	35.7 %	46.3 %
<b>Note:</b>				
<b>Note: * indicative data</b>				
<b>Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation</b>				

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