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Italy

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¹ 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.

² For an introduction to the Semester process, see:
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/european-semester/how-european-semester-works/>.

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1 Executive summary and recommendations

1.1 Key points and main challenges for Italy in 2025

Disability and the labour market

The Italian labour market is picking up speed, but it does not yet seem inclusive enough. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace must become a point to be addressed in discussions on possible reforms of the labour market, shifting ableist paradigms. Legislative Decree No. 62 of 2024 refers to work as part of a life plan. This is an aspect that will need to be carefully considered when implementing the 2024 reform, particularly for persons with severe disabilities, for whom inclusion in the labour market is still quite a long way off.

Disability, social policies and healthcare

Law No. 227/2021 ('Delegation to the Government in matters of disability') was approved with the aim of reforming the disability assessment system. Starting in September 2025, the trial of the new disability assessment system, which began in January, will be extended to 10 additional provinces.¹ A series of Recovery and Resilience Plan grants have been dedicated to the implementation of deinstitutionalisation projects across all Italian regions, representing a significant opportunity to strengthen community-based services and alleviate the burden on informal caregivers.

Disability, education and skills

The increase in the number of support teachers is accompanied by a considerable increase in students with disabilities present in the Italian school system. As a result, some areas of the country still have difficulty covering needs. Further investments are needed to improve school accessibility and, overall, to improve the conditions for guaranteeing the right to education for people with disabilities. Furthermore, the presence of additional professional figures alongside support teachers must be guaranteed and the timeliness of the individualised educational plan must be ensured.

Investment priorities in relation to disability

In addition to the RRP resources (intended to finance independent living projects), the Single Fund for the inclusion of persons with disabilities has been brought into effect. This fund represents a unified instrument for financing interventions in this area. In addition, the Single and Universal Allowance (AUU), paid without age limits for families with children with disabilities, has been introduced. Furthermore, the 2025 budget law allocated additional resources to hire medical specialists, social workers, psychologists, educators and other expert evaluators needed for the implementation of the new disability assessment system.

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

1.2 Recommendations for Italy

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

Recommendation: Invest in inclusive and quality education.

Rationale: As well as improving persons with disabilities' participation in political and cultural life, inclusive and quality education is essential for full participation in the labour market, with higher wages and a greater degree of job satisfaction.

Recommendation: Empower persons with disabilities through targeted funding for independent living, counter the fragmentation of spending, and improve the coordination of financial allocation between the state, regions and local authorities.

Rationale: The impact of targeted funding for independent living projects must be supported by systematic monitoring, capable of assessing the impact of measures on the quality of life of persons with disabilities and implementing the necessary corrective measures to ensure consistency across the country.

Recommendation: Support for the implementation of life projects for people with disabilities through training for social and healthcare professionals involved in implementing the reform and by monitoring the measures at the local level.

Rationale: Moving away from the single-service approach and towards enhancing personalised interventions (coordinated within the life project) requires coordination between providers and local authorities. Adequate and structural funding is essential.

Recommendation: Mainstreaming disability into decision-making processes at all levels, to include enhancing the role of third sector organisations representing persons with disabilities and their families.

Rationale: A real and concrete improvement in the living and working conditions of persons with disabilities can only take place if the needs of people with disabilities are considered in all phases of developing policies.

2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2025 Semester documents

2.1 Country Report (CR) and Country Specific Recommendations (CSR)

The 2025 Spring Package of the European Semester reinforces the EU's ambition to integrate disability policies into its macroeconomic and social frameworks.

The CR focuses on two key points in relation to/with relevance to persons with disabilities. The first concerns reducing administrative burdens and strengthening simplification. The reforms envisaged in RRP aim to simplify, by June 2026, numerous administrative procedures related to citizens' interactions with public administration. These include procedures related to support for persons with disabilities and access to digital services.² These reforms have a potentially very significant impact on the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

The second key point concerns labour market inclusion. Although the Italian labour market has demonstrated resilience and gradual progress in recent years, it still faces structural challenges regarding the employment of persons with disabilities. The CR highlights that vulnerable groups (low-skilled adults, direct descendants of migrants, and persons with disabilities) still face significant obstacles to labour market integration. The employment gap among persons with disabilities has widened, from 15.9 percentage points in 2023 to 25.1 percentage points in 2024. The report calls for structural reforms in this area and urges Italy to establish a target for the employment of persons with disabilities.

While disability is not explicitly addressed in Italy's 2025 CSRs, several themes have direct relevance.

1. Long-Term Care (LTC). Sixteen Member States, including Italy, received recommendations to strengthen their LTC systems. There are calls for investment in LTC infrastructure and workforce capacity, and recommendations for better alignment between national plans and EU strategic priorities (e.g. the European Care Strategy³).
2. Focus on accessible and high-quality services as a condition for social inclusion and participation in the labour market.
3. Labour market access. Informal caregivers and persons with disabilities face structural barriers to employment.⁴ The recommended reforms include incentive systems and support services (e.g. job coaching, accessible mobility).
4. Social protection systems. Reforms aimed at strengthening the coverage, adequacy and sustainability of LTC services are encouraged, focusing on regions with low coverage to reduce regional disparities.⁵

Italy is one of seven EU countries subject to an Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP), which results in closer monitoring of social spending.

² Commission Staff Working Document 2025 Country Report – Italy, Brussels, 4.6.2025 SWD(2025) 212 final, p. 71, available here: https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/b1061802-4b9c-4ecb-9a38-d6fa9d7ef64d_en?filename=IT_CR_SWD_2025_212_1_EN_autre_document_travail_service_part1_v3.pdf.

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social committee and the Committee of the regions on the European care strategy, 07 September 2022, available here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0440>.

⁴ Council Recommendation on the economic, social, employment, structural and budgetary policies of Italy, Brussels, 4.6.2025 COM(2025) 212 final, p. 14 (available here: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/9b4eda03-8bee-43fc-9011-0ef2586653ba_en?filename=COM_2025_212_1_EN_ACT_part1_v4.pdf).

⁵ COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the economic, social, employment ..., p. 12

Although disability is not directly mentioned in Italy's 2025 CSRs, the Commission emphasises the need to increase the efficiency of social spending.

2.2 National medium-term fiscal-structural plans (MTPs) and Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)

The medium-term structural and fiscal plan for 2025–2029 includes two measures directly related to disability. The first is in the section dedicated to 'Family, birth rate and reduction of social and territorial gaps'; the second is in the section relating to 'Better education and training to ensure greater opportunities and skills in accessing the labour market'.

The first measure concerns the Single and Universal Allowance (AUU), paid monthly for each dependent child with variable amounts and without age limits for children with disabilities.⁶ With this measure, the Government intends to intensify efforts to counter the negative demographic trend, expand the system of assistance and support for families and create an economic, social and employment context favourable to births.

As for the second aspect, the RRP has increased the number and skills of teaching staff in schools of all levels. The RRP has introduced a new model for recruiting teaching staff, which combats the phenomenon of school precariousness and provides for continuous training courses and an incentive system based on an evaluation of merit. Thanks to these interventions, the Medium Plan foresees that, by 2026, 70 000 new teachers, hired on a permanent basis according to the new model, will be included in primary and secondary schools and in support of students with disabilities (p. 128).

In August 2025, the Council of Ministers approved the decree authorising permanent hiring for the 2025/2026 school year. The measure will allow for the hiring of 347 school principals and 48 504 teachers, including 13 860 support teachers.⁷

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 has encountered 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 not yet obsolete.⁸ 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 2009,⁹ 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 the follow-up to the concluding observations was in 2017.

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

⁶ Ministry of Economy and Finance, *Medium-term fiscal-structural Plan. Italy 2025–2029*, p. 122 (available here: <https://www.mef.gov.it/export/sites/MEF/documenti-allegati/2025/Medium-Term-Fiscal-Structural-Plan-Italy-2025-2029.pdf>).

⁷ See: <https://www.mim.gov.it/-/scuola-via-libera-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-alle-immissioni-in-ruolo-per-l-a-s-2025-2026-valditara-assunzioni-in-tutte-le-categorie-del-personale-sco>.

⁸ See: 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>.

⁹ 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 submission¹⁰ 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 of 56.2 % in 2023 for persons with disabilities in Italy (EU27 average: 54.6 %), compared to 70.8 % for persons without disabilities (EU27 average: 76.6 %) (see Tables 2-4). The 2023 employment rate of persons with disabilities was 16.8 percentage points (pps) below the national 2030 headline target of a 73 % employment rate. Men with disabilities had an employment rate of 66.5 %, compared to 44.9 % for women with disabilities.

The difference between persons with and without disabilities results in a disability employment gap of 15.9 pps for 2023 and 25.1 pps for 2024 (EU27 average: 21.5 pps and 24 pps). In 2023, women with disabilities had an employment gap of 15.9 pps (EU27 average: 19.1 pps) compared to 16.6 pps for men with disabilities (EU27 average: 23.2 pps). The EU-SILC data refer to persons who self-report limitations in everyday activities and may present a different picture to national data sources.

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 9.8 % for persons with disabilities and 8.7 % for persons without disabilities in 2023 (EU27 average: 15.2 % and 7.2 %) (see Tables 5-7). Women with disabilities had an unemployment rate of 9.9 % (EU27 average: 15.3 %), compared to 9.8 % for men with disabilities (EU27 average: 15 %).

The economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in Italy was 62.3 % in 2023, compared to 77.6 % for persons without disabilities (EU27 average: 64.4 % and 82.6 %) (see Tables 8-10). Women with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 49.9 % (EU27 average: 61.1 %), while men with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 73.7 % (EU27 average: 68.2 %).

All indicators are further broken down by age groups and gender, and compared to previous years in the respective tables in the annex.

In Italy, the job market is picking up speed. In a general way, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT) data show that 'Comparing the March-May 2025 quarter with the previous quarter (December 2024 – February 2025), there was an increase of 93 000

¹⁰ State Party report on follow-up to the concluding observations, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FITA%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en.

employed people (+0.4 %) and that 'In the quarterly comparison, the number of job seekers increased (+0.8 %, equal to +13 000) and the number of inactive people aged 15-64 decreased (-0.8 %, equal to -94 000)'.¹¹

The 2025 CR highlights that "Vulnerable groups, including low-qualified adults, immediate descendants of migrants and persons with disabilities, also face barriers to labour market integration", and that "the disability employment gap experienced a deterioration from 15.9 pps in 2023 to 25.1 pps in 2024, while Italy has not yet set a target for employing persons with disabilities" (p. 102).

Moreover, the mentioned CR underlines that "At the same time, only 41.7 % of persons with disabilities were active in the labour market and close to half of young persons (15-29) was neither in employment, nor education or training (29.8 % in the EU)" (*ibidem*).

In September 2024, the Fondazione Studi Consulenti del Lavoro updated a report that had already been published in December 2023.¹² That report is entitled 'The right job in the right place. The employment inclusion of persons with disabilities: critical issues and prospects', and it is based on Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) data.

The report cites the following findings:

- The share of persons with disabilities seeking/in employment increased from 43.7 % in 2011 to 52.2 % in 2022; the 'job seekers' segment contributed to this increase, rising from 13.8 % to 18.7 %.
- The risk of chronic exclusion from the workplace is evident, especially for persons with severe disabilities. Such exclusion from the labour market is also fostered by a low level of education; moreover, matching specific job supply and demand is difficult.
- According to information contained in the mentioned report and based on data contained in the ISTAT website on disability,¹³ in 2021, only 33.5 % of persons with severe limitations in the 15-64 age group were employed, compared to 60.2 % of persons without limitations and 56 % of those with mild limitations. Conversely, the share of persons seeking employment is very high: 18.7 % of those with severe limitations, compared to 12.9 % of those without, and 14.3 % of those with mild limitations.
- Despite having higher unemployment levels than the average of other EU countries for persons with disabilities, Italy demonstrates greater capacity for inclusion, particularly for persons with mild disabilities. In particular, at EU level, Italy is among the countries with the lowest gap between employment rates of the population with and without severe disability, which also reflects the efforts made over the years to promote policies for the inclusion of people with disabilities.
- The education and skills of persons with disabilities are steadily improving. Among persons with severe disabilities aged 25–44, the share of persons with a high school or university degree rose from 40 % in 2011 to 61.6 % in 2021 (+21.6 %), while among persons with disabilities aged 45–64 the increase was more limited, albeit still significant (from 23.8 % to 39.7 %; an increase of 15.9 %).

¹¹ ISTAT, *Occupati e disoccupati, maggio 2025*, available at; <https://www.istat.it/comunicato-stampa/occupati-e-disoccupati-dati-provvisori-maggio-2025/#:~:text=Confrontando%20il%20trimestre%20marzo%2Dmaggio,pari%20a%20%2D94mila%20unit%20C3%A0>.

¹² See Dini, E., *Il lavoro giusto al posto giusto. L'inclusione lavorativa delle persone con disabilità: criticità e prospettive*, September 2024 Update, available at: http://www.ancl.it/img_articoli/2654/9712/Lavoratore_justo_al_posto_justo.pdf

¹³ See: <https://disabilitaincifre.istat.it/MD/dawinciMD.jsp>. For technical reasons, this website is available only for Mozilla Firefox users.

- Although there has been a significant increase in the educational levels of persons with disabilities, this does not appear to have been matched by an equal improvement in their employment opportunities.
- Between 2012 and 2022, there was a decline in the number of self-employed workers with disabilities (from 19.7 % to 13.6 %) and persons with disabilities working in highly qualified positions, such as managers, professionals and executives, whose incidence dropped from 17.4 % to 15.6 %.
- Other issues concern job satisfaction. Among employed persons with severe limitations, only 14.3 % say they are 'very satisfied' with their jobs (among those without limitations, the percentage is 17.7 %), while 30.6 % say they are 'somewhat satisfied' (22.2 %) or 'not at all' (8.4 %). The low levels of satisfaction highlight the presence of significant room for improvement in terms of targeted placement.
- At least two out of ten persons with severe disabilities (aged 15–64) are looking for a job. This group is concentrated primarily in the south and the major islands, where 46 % of job seekers live; 21.2 % are in central Italy and 32.8 % in northern Italy.

Recently, the National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL) published a report called 'Labour market and collective bargaining'.¹⁴ The report, which uses ISTAT data, states that 'The phenomenon of early retirement from work affects persons with severe disabilities to a greater extent, with a rate almost three times higher than that of other workers: 5.7 % compared to 2.3 % of those without disabilities', and that 'The situation of young persons with disabilities is particularly critical, with two thirds of them neither working nor studying, compared to a much lower percentage among their peers without a disability' (p. 41). Moreover, CNEL underlined that 'the labour market is still heavily influenced by stereotypes and cultural resistance towards people with disabilities' (p. 42).

Recently, a website published by a relevant NGO (Fish Ets – Federazione Italiana per i Diritti delle Persone con Disabilità e Famiglie) pointed out that 'The average employed worker with a disability is 59 years old (only 17.5 % are under 40) and earns an average annual salary of approximately EUR 18 000', highlighting that 'Almost all employees with disabilities fall into the so-called 'disabled-able' category (well educated, professionally trained, and without intellectual, mental, or sensory impairments) [...]. Conversely, the so-called 'really disabled persons' are unemployed and can just rely on social cooperatives (mostly found in the north)¹⁵ and day-care facilities', while most of them spend their time at home with their families.¹⁶

In conclusion, it should be reiterated that disaggregated data on the labour inclusion of persons with disabilities are scarce and often out of date.

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').¹⁷

Since its approval, Law No. 68/1999 has been unanimously considered the pivotal act regarding disabilities and work inclusion in Italy. Over the years, certain new tools have

¹⁴ See XXIV Report 'Labour market and collective bargaining' ('XXIV Rapporto del CNEL sul Mercato del lavoro e la contrattazione collettiva'), April 2025, available at https://static.cnel.it/documenti/2025/dae7436d-691f-4bdf-a2ce-9239a45e878/XXVI%20Rapporto%20sul%20Mercato%20del%20lavoro%20e%20la%20Contrattazione%20collettiva%202025_ok2.pdf.

¹⁵ For example, sheltered workshops.

¹⁶ See Bottà, M. 'Persons with disabilities and labour: so little employment!' ('Persone con disabilità e lavoro: collocate assai poco!'), 6 May 2025, available at <https://superando.it/2025/05/06/persone-con-disabilita-e-lavoro-collocate-assai-poco/>.

¹⁷ Available at: <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/1999/03/23/099G0123/CONSOLIDATED/20240711>.

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).

Following a general reform of labour market regulations, which began in 2015, in 2022 – after seven years of discussions and negotiations – the Italian government approved the guidelines for targeted employment¹⁸ (*Linee guida per il collocamento mirato*) and modified the quantities of the ‘exemption contribution’ and the penalties provided for by Law No. 68/1999.

Over the years, there have been further interventions by the legislator modifying the regulatory framework into which job inclusion policies are inserted. Recently, there have been more changes to the regulations governing the employment of people with disabilities.

In June 2024, Legislative Decree No. 62 of 3 May 2024 (‘Definition of the disability condition, basic assessment, reasonable accommodation, multidimensional assessment for the development and implementation of a personalised and participatory individual life plan’)¹⁹ entered into force, enacting delegated Law No. 227/2021.

That legislative decree provided that the life plan ‘identifies: a) the objectives of the person with disabilities resulting from the multidimensional assessment; b) the interventions identified in the following areas: 1) learning, socialisation, and affectivity; 2) *training, employment*; 3) housing and social habitat; 4) health [...]’ (italics added).

As pointed out,²⁰ ‘The ability to recognise the importance of work as an effective tool for social integration among the various dimensions of life plans fosters significant steps towards a more personalised and multidimensional approach to integrated services’ for persons with disabilities.

It should be emphasised that the life project framework – as outlined in the aforementioned decree – has yet to actually come into force. Currently, the regions, key players in the reform, have not yet fully implemented it. The next steps regarding the adoption of the necessary administrative tools are therefore yet to be taken.

In conclusion, we must underline that the Council Recommendation on the economic, social, employment, structural and budgetary policies of Italy, approved in June 2025, says that ‘Labour market segmentation and weaknesses in job quality remain major challenges in Italy, [...] with a high incidence of atypical and fixed-term contracts, particularly among women, young people, and migrants’ and that ‘strengthening collective bargaining could help foster flexible and sustainable wage growth that reflects company productivity and local conditions’.

As remarked on by the above-mentioned CNEL report, collective bargaining could be a useful tool for the labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities, even providing ad hoc incentives.

According to the CNEL, this approach should be added to:

- investments in active labour market policies for persons with disabilities;

¹⁸ Available at: <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita-disabilita-e-non-autosufficienza/focus/linee-guida-collocamento-mirato>.

¹⁹ See: <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2024-05-03:62>.

²⁰ See Castellucci, F., Corti, M., Pace C., Simonini, D. F., ‘lgs. n. 62/2024 e inclusione lavorativa: la cornice delle politiche attive rivolte alle persone con disabilità’, 3 July 2024, available at: <https://www.bollettinoadapt.it/d-lgs-n-62-2024-e-inclusione-lavorativa-la-cornice-delle-politiche-attive-rivolte-alle-persone-con-disabilita/>.

- monitoring and evaluation systems;
- forms of ongoing mentoring to ensure that persons with disabilities remain in the workplace;
- structural incentives for companies that offer truly inclusive careers;
- strengthening the link between active labour market policies and social protection, ensuring ongoing training and offering support measures to prevent job abandonment, and
- encouraging a cultural paradigm shift that recognises the professional and work-related contributions of people with disabilities.

These are proposals that could be shared and should be discussed with persons with disabilities and their associations. The political-legislative agenda should take seriously the right to work of people with disabilities, implementing the Italian Constitution, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the UN CRPD, especially when the reform path initiated with the aforementioned Law 227/2021 is treading water.²¹

²¹ On the difficult implementation of the reform initiated with Law 227/2021, see Arconzo, G., 'L'incerto avvio delle riforme in tema di disabilità previste dalla legge n. 227 del 2021', in *Federalismi*, 4 June 2025, available at: <https://www.federalismi.it/nv14/articolo-documento.cfm?artid=52269>.

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'.

The most recent CRPD development is the state's submission²² in 2017.

'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 provide 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.'

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

In 2023, the at-risk-of-poverty rate (AROP) for working-age persons with disabilities (aged 16–64 years) in Italy was 25.9 % (EU27 average: 20.8 %), compared to 17.9 % for working-age persons without disabilities (EU27 average: 14.1 %). This results in an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 8 pps (see Table 11). In 2024, working-

²² State Party report on follow-up to the concluding observations, [tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FITA%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en](https://internet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FITA%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en).

age persons with disabilities had a disability poverty gap of 7 pps (25 % for persons with disabilities and 18 % for persons without disabilities).

For older persons (aged 65 years or over), the disability poverty gap was 3.3 pps in 2023 (18.8 % for older persons with disabilities and 15.5 % without disabilities) and 2.6 pps in 2024 (19.2 % compared to 16.6 %) (see Table 14). The disability poverty gap for working-age women was 7.3 pps (26.4 % for women with disabilities and 19.1 % without disabilities) and 3.9 pps for older women (20.6 % compared to 16.7 %). Working-age men had a disability poverty gap of 8.6 pps (25.4 % for men with disabilities and 16.8 % without disabilities) and 1.9 pps for older men (16.1 % compared to 14.2 %).

According to Eurostat data,²³ in 2023, 26.7 % of persons with mild or severe disabilities (aged 16 years or older) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE), compared to 21.3 % for persons without disabilities (EU27 average: 28.8 % and 18 % respectively) (see Table 12). The AROPE disability gap was 5.4 pps. The gap between persons with disabilities and those without limitations is not unique to Italy, but is also present in other EU Member States.

Women with disabilities had an AROPE rate of 27.5 % (EU27 average: 29.7 %) compared to 25.6 % for men with disabilities (EU27 average: 27.5 %). The AROPE disability gap was 4.6 pps for women and 5.9 pps for men. In 2024, the AROPE rate for persons with disabilities was 27.8 %, compared to 21.4 % for persons without disabilities.

Working-age persons with disabilities had an AROPE rate of 35.4 % in 2023, compared to 22.2 % for persons without disabilities in this age group (EU27 average: 33.6 % and 18.4 %). Older persons with disabilities had an AROPE rate of 21.7 %, compared to 17.5 % for older persons without disabilities (EU27 average: 23.7 % and 16 %) (see Table 13). The AROPE disability gap was 13.2 pps for working-age persons and 4.2 pps for older persons. In 2024, the AROPE rate for the working-age population with disabilities amounted to 41.8 %, compared to 22.3 % without disabilities, and to 22 % for the older age group, compared to 18.3 % without disabilities.

In 2024, the percentage of persons with mild or severe disabilities aged 16 or over experiencing severe material or social deprivation was 6.9 %.²⁴ The percentage among those without any limitations was 3.9 % (compared to 10.4 % and 4.7 % respectively in the EU Member States).

For persons with disabilities of working age, the risk of poverty before social transfers (pensions included) in 2023 was 47.2 % and 25.9 % after transfers. In 2024, the risk of poverty of working-age persons with disabilities before social transfers was 53.1 % and 25 % after transfers.²⁵ Comparing the AROP rates of employed persons (age 18–64 years), persons with disabilities had an in-work AROP rate of 14.2 % and 9.7 % for persons without disabilities (EU27 average: 10.1 % and 8 %). In 2024, these rates amounted to 12.1 % and 10.2 % (EU27 average: 9.7 % and 8 %).²⁶

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 4.9 %, compared to 1 % for persons without disabilities, which is comparable to the EU27 average of 5 % for persons with disabilities in 2023 (see Table 15).

²³ See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics_-_poverty_and_income_inequalities#Source_data_for_tables_and_graphs.

²⁴ Eurostat (2025), *Severe material and social deprivation rate by level of disability (activity limitation), sex and age*, https://doi.org/10.2908/HLTH_DM010.

²⁵ Eurostat (2025), *Persons at risk of poverty before social transfers (pensions included in social transfers) by level of disability (activity limitation), sex and age*, https://doi.org/10.2908/HLTH_DPE030.

²⁶ Eurostat (2025), *In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate by level of disability (activity limitation), sex and age*, https://doi.org/10.2908/HLTH_DPE050.

Research²⁷ conducted at national level has reached comparable results. In Italy, it has been observed that persons with disabilities also live in worse socio-economic conditions, due to higher expenses, fewer employment opportunities, and a greater risk of social exclusion. This research is grounded in direct listening to 272 persons with disabilities and their families.²⁸

There are approximately 2.3 million families in which at least one person lives with a severe disability. The family remains the primary support system for a person with a disability. Within the family, the burden of care falls mainly on women, especially mothers.

It is important to highlight the role of family caregivers. Only 9 % of persons involved in the survey are assisted by a family caregiver for at least 48 hours per week on average. In families that are not experiencing material deprivation, a family caregiver is used in 11 % of cases. In families facing material deprivation, a caregiver is present in only 6 % of cases. This indicates a 5 pps gap between the two categories.

Beyond the family, informal networks and public institutions can play a significant role in supporting persons with disabilities. Public institutions still have room to improve their instruments. Day centres serve an important function. 44 % of the individuals surveyed had attended a day centre within the last 12 months. Within families, however, there is a widespread perception that public institutions do not adequately acknowledge the challenges of disability. The burden of care falls primarily on the family, which is not always adequately supported by public institutions. At least 16 % of persons with disabilities involved in the research receive no help from public entities in any form.

The main public services, both social and healthcare-related, are provided by municipalities or local health authorities. Some privately operated organisations also play a significant role.

Over the past 12 months, 21 % of respondents have received in-home social services from municipalities or other private entities. Social services include meal preparation, house cleaning and laundry assistance. In rare cases, in-home services were provided on a daily basis (6 %). In most cases, services were delivered 3 to 6 times per week (56 %). In other cases, they were provided once or twice a week (33 %). In the remaining cases, the frequency was less regular.

Over the same twelve-month period, 11 % of respondents received in-home healthcare services provided by the local health authority. The majority of recipients received healthcare services 3 to 6 times per week (54 % of cases).

It is also essential to consider the economic conditions of families with members who have disabilities. These families live in material deprivation in 43 % of cases. This figure is higher among families that:

- live in southern Italy;
- are made up of young parents;
- have low levels of education among their members;
- experience job insecurity or unemployment (among the adults);
- have per capita monthly incomes below EUR 500;
- are not affiliated with any support association for families with disabilities.

²⁷ See *Disabilità e povertà nelle famiglie italiane. Il primo rapporto 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 at: <https://www.cbmitalia.org/cosa-facciamo/sensibilizzazione/pubblicazioni/ricerca-cbm-e-fondazione-zancan/>.

²⁸ CBM and Fondazione Zancan sent a survey questionnaire to a number of non-profit organisations operating in the disability field throughout Italy, asking them to distribute it among their members. The study was conducted on persons with disabilities who actually responded.

In 2017, 43.6 % of families with members who have disabilities reported having difficulty or serious difficulty making ends meet each month. Several indicators help identify whether a family is living in material deprivation. These include indicators related to non-routine expenses (such as the inability to cope with unexpected costs or recreational expenses, such as a one-week holiday) and ordinary expenses (such as the ability to consume a proper protein-rich meal at least every two days, the ability to heat one's home adequately or pay bills, rent, mortgage, or other debts on time).

The most striking figures relate to the ability to manage non-routine expenses. A very large majority of families with members who have disabilities are unable to easily handle such costs. In 61 % of cases, individuals with disabilities live in families that state they could not afford an unexpected EUR 500 expense. In 65 % of cases, individuals with disabilities belong to households that cannot afford to take a one-week holiday per year that they pay for themselves.

The level of hardship is somewhat lower in the case of ordinary expenses. In 27.3 % of cases, affording a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day is impossible. In 22 % of cases, heating the home adequately is impossible. In 43.6 % of cases, there have been delays in paying bills, rent or mortgage over the past 12 months.

The study concludes that material deprivation results from the overlap of multiple forms of hardship (employment, education or social), and especially affects families with members who have disabilities.

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

For the reporting Semester, the policies impacting the social and health sector were developed around the overall reform path provided by Legislative Decree No. 62,²⁹ which came into force at the beginning of this year.

The reform can be summarised into the following main elements:

1. A new definition of disability, in line with that proposed by the UN Convention (in terms of the interaction between long-term impairments and environmental barriers).
2. The introduction of a 'multidimensional assessment', based on international standards such as the ICF and ICD, to develop an individualised and personalised 'life project'.
3. The assessment process actively involves the persons with disabilities, their family and professionals, in order to identify needs and potential.
4. Simplification of procedures: fewer medical visits (e.g. elimination of the double ASL-INPS visit) and greater interoperability between databases.

The national framework dictated by the decree was completed with targeted interventions in the following areas:

- Extension of the experimental phase in additional territorial areas.
- Strengthening of social and health personnel.
- Further unification of basic assessments.
- Encouragement for associations operating in the sector.

First of all, the number of provinces in which, starting on 30 September 2025, experimentation will begin on the new system for assessing disability and the new multidimensional assessment in preparation for drawing up the 'life project'.

²⁹ Available at: <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2024-05-03;62>.

Specifically, as many as 11 provinces have been added, as follows: Alessandria, Lecce, Genoa, Isernia, Macerata, Matera, Palermo, Teramo, Vicenza, the Autonomous Province of Trento and Aosta.³⁰The Government's objective is, therefore, to begin the pilot phase in an increasingly broad territorial area.

In addition to this, the overall structure of the reform was enriched with some adjustments contained in Law No. 207 of 2024 (known as the budget law).³¹

The urgency of having additional doctors and operators available for the experimental phase to be launched in the provinces was seized upon and, to this end, the National Institute for Social Security (INPS) was granted the power to award appointments for professional services to doctors and figures belonging to the psychological and social areas.

The budget law also intervened on the issue of the unification of basic assessment.

Decree No. 62 already provided for the unification into a single process of the assessments of disability, deafness, blindness, deafblindness, disability, and also for work purposes. The new intervention unifies assessments of what is referred to as social security disability. All assessments can now be requested in a single process and in a single session. The system is being launched in the pilot provinces and will be extended to the entire country at the end of the trial period.

Lastly, Law No. 207/2024 established a fund to be allocated to associations with the specific purpose of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and their full and effective participation and social inclusion.

However, the provision does not specify the criteria and procedures for allocating the contributions, so it is not yet clear how the resources will be distributed.

The overall assessment is that the mammoth reform initiative covered by Decree No. 62 therefore still needs time to produce its effects and requires further implementation measures to become fully effective.³²

If the actions taken at national level during the Semester were, therefore, aimed at defining and completing the framework of the reform begun last year, at regional level there have been many attempts to enhance policies in the social and health sector.

First of all, on 30 December 2024, the Lombardy Region approved resolution No. 3720,³³ called the 'Resolution of the Rules', with which an attempt was made to introduce a model of initiative welfare, embracing a multidimensional approach and overcoming the fragmentation of services. Specifically, this paradigm shift is pursued through the conception of unitary socio-sanitary planning.

The resolution envisages extending the trial envisaged at national level, through Decree No. 62, to all provinces, and therefore not only to the Province of Brescia, which was included at national level among the provinces targeted by the trial phase.

³⁰ See the official report available on the institutional website of the Ministry for Disability: <https://disabilita.governo.it/it/notizie/individuare-le-altre-11-province-per-la-sperimentazione-della-riforma-della-disabilita/#:~:text=Alessandria%2C%20Lecce%2C%20Genova%2C%20Isernia,previsto%20dal%20decreto%20legislativo%20n.>

³¹ The law was passed on 28 December 2024. A review of its provisions on disability can be found at the following link: <https://www.agenziatura.it/2024/12/31/legge-di-bilancio-2025-e-persone-con-disabilita/>.

³² Candido, A., 'La definizione e l'accertamento della condizione di disabilità nella l. n. 227 del 2021: un radicale cambio di paradigma' (The definition and assessment of disability in Law No. 227 of 2021: a radical paradigm shift), in Vivaldi, E., (edited by), *The life project of the person with disabilities. From the NRRP to Legislative Decree No. 62/2024 (Il progetto di vita della persona con disabilità. Dal PNRR al decreto legislativo n. 62/2024)*, Pisa University Press, 2025, p. 31 ss.

³³ Available at: <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/istituzione/Giunta/sedute-delibere-giunta-regionale/DettaglioDelibere/delibera-3720-legislatura-12.>

To the authors of this report, the regional resolution, however, seems perhaps to lack 'concrete' action, limiting itself to setting objectives and goals that would require pragmatic implementation.

A further example of experience undertaken at regional level comes from Tuscany. The Tuscany region uses the resources made available by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) to finance individual interventions in support of persons with disabilities, primarily aimed at reducing social exclusion and early school leaving rates. Regional Council Resolution No. 753 of 2024 allocated approximately EUR 46 million for this purpose for the years 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027, out of a total of around EUR 78 million from the ESF+ 2021–2027 Programme.

These funds can be used by persons with disabilities to cover part of their daily living expenses, such as costs related to mobility, education and training paths, and job placement. Expenses for a personal assistant can also be covered. The aforementioned resolution No. 753/2024 establishes that, to access the resources, a person must: submit an application to the competent local authority; be over 18 years of age; have a serious disability; and have the capacity for self-determination, even with any support.

The general feeling is that all the measures are in line with the aims of the disability reform but have not yet provided a concrete response to the remaining implementation issues.

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 submission³⁴ in 2017.

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

Although the EU-SILC estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with additional caution, due to relatively wide confidence intervals, they consistently indicate disability equality gaps. Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in Italy for 2023. Young adults with disabilities (aged 18–24 years) are more likely to leave school early (16.9 %, compared to 12.3 % for young adults without disabilities). On average, young adults with disabilities in the EU are more likely to leave school early than their peers without disabilities (EU27 average: 19.1 % with disabilities and 9.3 % without disabilities). Thus, the early school leaving rate of young adults with disabilities in Italy is above the EU 2030 target of below 9 %.³⁵

In the wider age group of 18–29 years, young adults with disabilities in Italy were more likely to leave school early (22.4 %, compared to 13.6 % for young adults without disabilities). The average EU27 early school leaving rate of persons with disabilities in 2023 was 20 %, compared to 10.2 % for persons without disabilities.

Table 17 shows the completion rate of tertiary education disaggregated by disability status and two age groups in Italy for 2023. Persons with disabilities (aged 30–34 years) were less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (16.1 %, compared to 30.7 % for persons without disabilities). In the wider age group of 25–34 years, the rate for persons with disabilities who completed tertiary education amounted to 18.2 %, compared

³⁴ State Party report on follow-up to the concluding observations, [tbinet.ohchr.org/ layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCO%2FITA%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en](https://tbinet.ohchr.org/layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCO%2FITA%2FCO%2F1%2FAdd.1&Lang=en).

³⁵ European Education Area Strategic Framework: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/about-eea/strategic-framework>.

to 32.8 % for persons without disabilities. This is below the EU 2030 target of 45 %³⁶ for persons in the 25 to 34 age group.

The ISTAT 2023–2024 report³⁷ highlights that, in the 2023/2024 school year in Italy, almost 359 000 students with disabilities attended schools at all levels. The number has increased by 21 000 students compared to the previous school year (an increase of 6 %). This population represents 4.5 % of the total number of students enrolled in Italian schools. The increase in students with disabilities in Italian schools is particularly evident if we look back a little further.

Compared to the 2018/2019 school year, the increase was 26 %; approximately 75 000 more. Gender differences are notable: students with disabilities are predominantly male (228 males for every 100 females).

Around 28 % of these students are not autonomous in performing most daily activities within the school; the most common difficulty concerns communication (21 %) or going to the bathroom (19 %); less frequent are difficulties moving or eating (13 % and 8 %, respectively). One in five students with a disability is unable to independently perform any of the four activities.

There are 246 000 support teachers employed in Italian schools, over 235 000 in state schools and approximately 11 000 in private schools, an overall increase of 8.2 % compared to the previous year (2022/2023). Notably, more than 66 000 support teachers (27 %) were selected from what are known as curricular lists. In other words, they are teachers lacking specific training to support students with disabilities but who are used to address the shortage of specialised teachers. This phenomenon is still very common in the northern regions. Despite such criticalities, some positive signs are confirmed: compared to the previous year, the share of non-specialist teachers decreased from 30 % to 27 %, confirming a downwards trend that has been observed since the 2019–2020 school year.

More than one in two students (57 % of students with disabilities) have changed support teachers since the previous year, a figure that rises to 61 % in middle schools and 69 % in preschools. This trend is stable across the country and has not changed significantly from past years.

Over 15 000 students (4.2 % of students with disabilities) need the support of an assistant for independence and communication, but do not receive it. Just under 80 000 autonomy and communication assistants work alongside teachers for support purposes (+18 % compared to the previous school year): of these, 4.2 % speak Italian Sign Language (*lingua italiana dei segni*, LIS). These specialised workers, funded by local authorities (i.e. municipalities), are designed to improve the quality of learning by facilitating communication and interaction with students with disabilities and encouraging the development of their skills in the various dimensions of autonomy. Because these assistants are provided by local authorities, their distribution across the country is affected by the amount of municipal social spending resources allocated to this type of service. It must be emphasised that nearly 5 000 students (1.5 % of students with disabilities) are also estimated to need a personal hygiene assistant.

Having regards to digital technology in the classroom, 75 % of primary and secondary schools have computer stations adapted to the needs of students with disabilities. The highest rates are found in Emilia-Romagna and the Autonomous Province of Trento (85 % and 83 % respectively); followed by Umbria and Tuscany (79 %), Piedmont, Lombardy, and Sicily (77 %); the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen has the lowest percentage (45 %).

³⁶ Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021–2030): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32021G0226%2801%29>.

³⁷ ISTAT (2025), *Scholastic Inclusion of Students with Disabilities – School Year 2023–2024*, <https://www.istat.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Alunni-con-disabilita-as-23-24.pdf>.

Negative aspects include a lack of specific digital training for support teachers: in only one in four schools (23 %) have all support teachers attended, during their career, at least one training course on educational technologies. In 69 % of schools, attendance was limited to a few teachers, while in the remaining 7.5 % of schools no support teachers had attended such a course. Unsurprisingly, the use of such digital tools by support teachers is still rare.

Many accessibility physical barriers still exist in Italian schools: only 41 % of school buildings are accessible to students with mobility disabilities. The situation appears better in the north, where the figures are above the national average (44 % of schools meet accessibility standards), while it reaches the lowest levels in the southern part of the country (37 %). The best-performing region is Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, with 76 % of accessible schools; by contrast, Liguria and Campania stand out as having the lowest number of schools without physical barriers (only 30 % of schools). The absence of a lift or the presence of a lift unsuitable for transporting persons with disabilities are the most common barriers (50 %). Schools also frequently lack an internal stairlift (37 %), standardised bathrooms (26 %), or internal ramps for overcoming differences in level (25 %). Accessibility conditions for persons with sensory disabilities are even more critical: for example, only 17 % of schools provide visual cues for students with hearing impairment. Furthermore, in Italian schools, there are few parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities.

In conclusion, it should be highlighted that, in many cases, delays have been reported in drafting the Personalised Educational Plan (*Piano educativo individualizzato*, PEI). In Italy, the school year begins on different dates during the month of September, depending on the region; but for one in five students the PEI was not yet ready by 31 October.

Recent data regarding students with disabilities enrolled in Italian universities are lacking; the latest available data were made public in 2022. 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 around 1 % of this population, there is no information on the 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.

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

The 2021 Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)³⁸ included several interventions related to education: in particular, the 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.

As remarked upon in the 2025–2029 Italian Medium-Term Fiscal-Structural Plan,³⁹ 'under the RRP, the number and skills of teaching staff in schools of all types and levels have been increased', introducing 'a new model for the recruitment of teaching staff, which combats the phenomenon of precarious school employment and establishes continuous training courses, and an incentive system based on an assessment of merit'. The mentioned Plan asserts 'that, by 2026, 70 000 new teachers, recruited with permanent contract according to the new model, will be included in primary and secondary schools and in support of students with disabilities' (p. 128).

³⁸ Available at: <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-National-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-NRRP/>.

³⁹ Available at: <https://www.mef.gov.it/export/sites/MEF/documenti-allegati/2025/Medium-Term-Fiscal-Structural-Plan-Italy-2025-2029.pdf>.

As already mentioned, from a quantitative point of view, the picture appears to be improving: the number of support teachers has increased. In 2024, the Government approved a law decree (No. 71 of 31 May 2024, *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*)⁴⁰ containing the following provisions:

- Aim to strengthen the number of support teachers and their role.
- Establish new specialisation paths for non-tenured support teachers.
- Prescribe measures for the recognition of specialisation qualifications obtained abroad, and
- Provide for the possibility, upon request by the family of the student with disabilities, of obtaining 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.

During 2025, Ministerial Decree No. 75 of 24 April⁴¹ and Ministerial Decree No. 436 of 26 June⁴² provided detailed measures regarding the training of support teachers.

The act on the political-institutional direction for the year 2024 (*Atto di indirizzo politico-istituzionale per l'anno 2025*), approved in December 2024,⁴³ asserts that 'It will also be necessary to increase support measures for students with disabilities or specific learning disabilities' (p. 4).

In recent months, other specific measures have been introduced regarding the school inclusion of students with disabilities; for example, Law No. 41 of 25 March 2025⁴⁴ (*Disposizioni per la promozione della pratica sportiva nelle scuole e istituzione dei Nuovi giochi della gioventù*) regarding sports practice in schools, 'providing for students with disabilities to participate in both integrated competitions and specifically dedicated competitions within the same event, as well as a section dedicated to team sports where students with disabilities and able-bodied students can play together, including seated volleyball, Baskin and Rafroball' (Art. 2, 4th paragraph).

The measures adopted following the RRP therefore appear to have produced some tangible effects. However, this is not sufficient to ensure full and effective protection of the right to education for persons with disabilities, defined as a 'fundamental right' by some relevant decisions of the Italian Constitutional Court.⁴⁵

In particular, investment is needed to ensure that support teachers' training is of adequate quality and that other necessary roles (such as personal hygiene assistants) are also recruited.

⁴⁰ Available at: <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legge:2024-05-31;71>.

⁴¹ Available at: <https://www.mim.gov.it/documents/20182/8782792/Decreto+Ministeriale+n.+75+del+24+aprile+2025.pdf/02c4a396-285a-59b1-8c1e-f4bd745b2f41?version=1.0&t=1745939324632>.

⁴² Available at: <https://www.mur.gov.it/it/atti-e-normativa/decreto-ministeriale-n-436-del-26-06-2025>.

⁴³ Available at: <https://www.mur.gov.it/sites/default/files/2024-09/Atto%20di%20indirizzo%20politico%20istituzionale%202025.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Available at: <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2025-03-25;41>.

⁴⁵ See, for example, Corte cost., sent. N°. 80/2010, available at: <https://www.cortecostituzionale.it/actionSchedaPronuncia.do?anno=2010&numero=80>.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

- a) Mission 5 – Component 2 of the PNRP has allocated EUR 500 million for projects that promote the independence of persons with disabilities, through inclusive housing, employment, assistive technologies and digital inclusion.

In particular, these projects have financed:

- community social services and home care;
- adaptation or assignment of housing (including assets confiscated from the mafia);
- provision of ICT tools and training on digital skills;
- promotion of social housing, employment and social inclusion pathways.

To date, 619 interventions have been financed, of which EUR 422.4 million has been allocated.⁴⁶

- b) Furthermore, the 2025 budget law (Law No. 207/2024)⁴⁷ allocates resources to support the reform of the disability assessment system, introduced by Law No. 227/2021⁴⁸ and by Legislative Decree No. 62/2024.⁴⁹

The latter introduced a reform of disability assessment, with a new multidimensional assessment of the person's functioning (based on the ICF classification) for which the National Social Security Institute (INPS) is responsible and which is subject to the drafting of the 'life project'.

The funding allocated by the 2025 budget law amounts to EUR 16 million, which is intended for hiring medical specialists, social workers, psychologists, educators and other expert evaluators who will support INPS staff in the new assessment methods.

Four million euros are, meanwhile, intended for the digitalisation of assessments and the training of social workers.

- c) The 2024 budget law (Law No. 213/2023,⁵⁰ Article 1, paragraphs 210–216) established the Single Fund for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, with EUR 552 million for 2024.

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 to the family caregiver care and assistance role, and the fund for the inclusion of deaf and hearing-impaired persons) is a simplification and streamlining measure capable of supporting the creation of interconnected and integrated lines of intervention.

The aim is to overcome the current fragmentation of resources, which creates a disadvantage for persons with disabilities and their families, but also for local authorities and third sector entities.

⁴⁶ Chiappetta, A. 'Investing' in the constitutional dictate: PNRR and independent living of persons with disabilities, in (edited by) Vivaldi, E., The life project of the person with disabilities. From the PNRR to legislative decree No. 62/2024 ["Investire" sul dettato costituzionale: PNRR e vita indipendente delle persone con disabilità in (a cura di) E. Vivaldi, *Il progetto di vita della persona con disabilità. Dal PNRR al decreto legislativo n. 62/2024*], Pisa University Press, 2025, p. 103 ss.; F. Pesaresi.

⁴⁷ Available here: <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2024/12/31/24G00229/CONSOLIDATED>.

⁴⁸ Available here: <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2021/12/30/21G00254/CONSOLIDATED>.

⁴⁹ Available here: <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2024/05/14/24G00079/CONSOLIDATED/20250707>.

⁵⁰ Available here: <https://www.normattiva.it/eli/id/2023/12/30/23G00223/CONSOLIDATED>.

The main objectives of the Fund are as follows:

- School autonomy and communication support: services for students with disabilities at all levels of education, including transport bonuses and support for autonomy and communication.
- Inclusive employment, sports and accessible tourism: projects promoting labour market inclusion, inclusive sports and accessible tourism (e.g. accessible beaches, transportation, accommodation, maps, internships).
- Inclusive infrastructure and technologies: development of accessible physical and digital environments, including upgrades to public spaces and recreational areas.
- Support for neurodiversity and hearing impairments: targeted measures for persons with neurodevelopmental disorders and autism, and support for deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals (sign language services, video interpreting, communication aids).
- Recognition of informal family caregivers: financial and social recognition of non-professional family caregivers.
- Pilot national or local projects: EUR 20 million allocated for experimental projects by third sector entities, co-financed up to 90 % and lasting 18–36 months.
- Accessible tourism for regions: EUR 50 million in 2024 allocated to regional accessible tourism initiatives (equipped beaches, transport, accommodation, itineraries, inclusive internships).

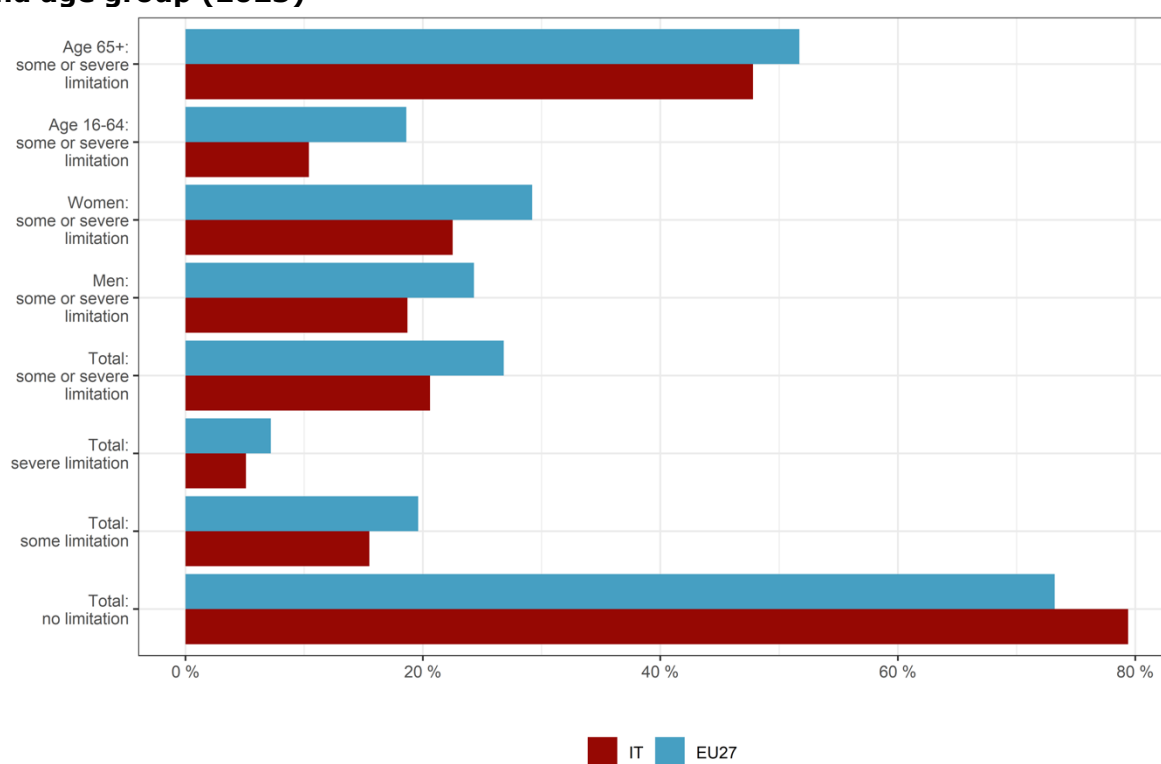
The Single Fund was confirmed in the 2025 budget law for the same purposes, with an allocation of EUR 231.8 million.

7 Annex I: disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat disability database⁵¹ and disability statistics⁵².

Unless specified, the summary statistics are drawn from the most recent EU-SILC data available to researchers from the Eurostat disability database (partly including 2024) and the latest EU-SILC scientific use files (2023)⁵³. 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 is the Global Activity Limitation Instrument (GALI) assessing the presence of long-standing activity limitations. The respondents are classified as persons with disabilities if they report to have 'for at least the past six months' 'limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do' corresponding to Eurostat's classification of self-perceived 'some or severe' long-standing activity limitation⁵⁴.

Table 1: Disability prevalence (age 16+) by level of activity limitation, gender and age group (2023)



Source: Eurostat [h1th_silc_12], extracted on 2025-05-08

⁵¹ Eurostat Disability Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/disability/database>.

⁵² Eurostat (2025) Disability statistics: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

⁵³ With the corresponding income reference period of 2022.

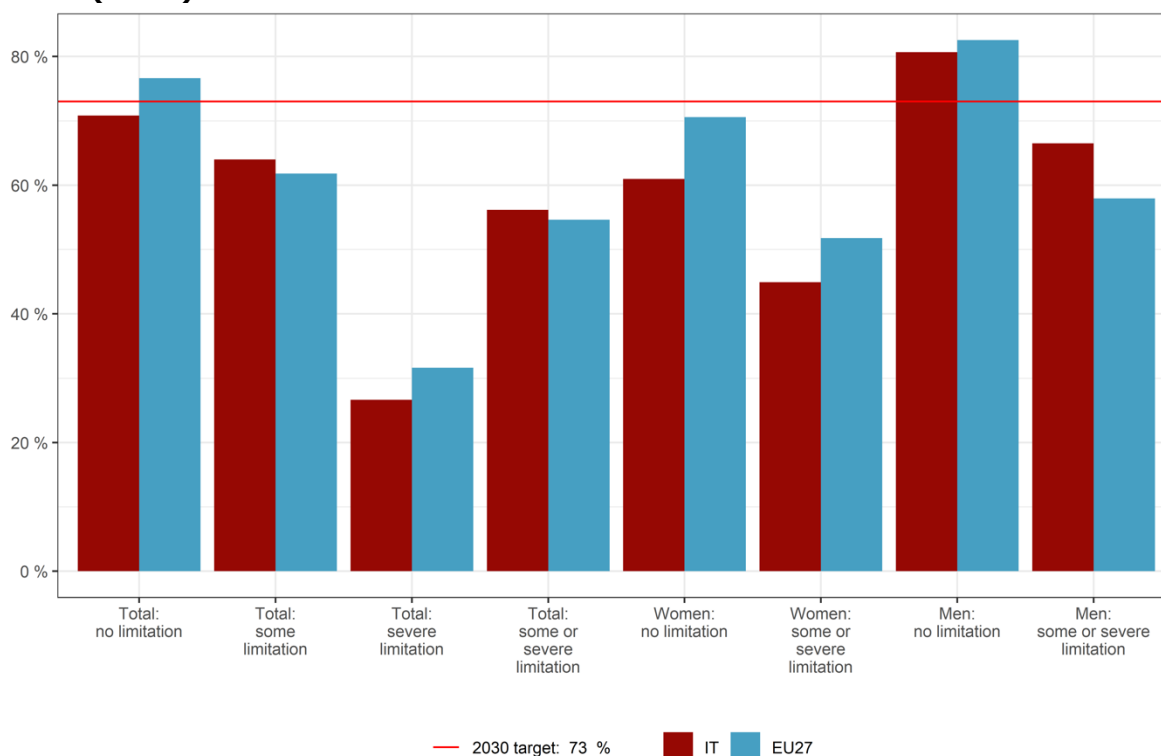
⁵⁴ Eurostat (2021) Health variables in SILC - methodology: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Health_variables_in_SILC_-_methodology.

| Disability prevalence (age 16+) by level of activity limitation, gender and age group (2023) | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 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 |
| IT | 79.4 % | 15.5 % | 5.1 % | 20.6 % | 18.7 % | 22.5 % | 10.4 % | 47.8 % |
| EU27 | 73.2 % | 19.6 % | 7.2 % | 26.8 % | 24.3 % | 29.2 % | 18.6 % | 51.7 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | | | |

In subsequent tables, these data are used to indicate 'disability' equality gaps and trends that are 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'⁵⁵. National estimates for Italy are compared with EU27 averages for 2023 and if available for 2024.

7.1 EU data relevant to disability and the labour market (2023)

Table 2a: Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation and gender (2023)

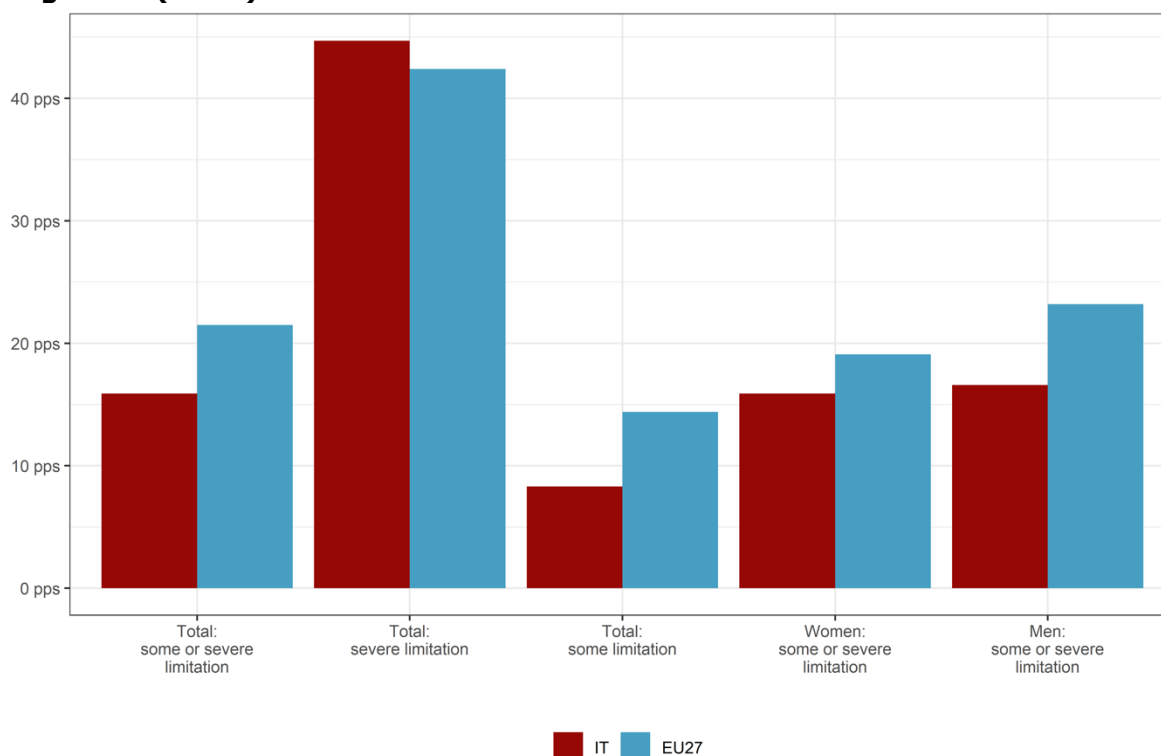


Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation and gender (2023) | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 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 |
| IT | 70.8 % | 64.0 % | 26.7 % | 56.2 % | 61.0 % | 44.9 % | 80.7 % | 66.5 % |
| EU27 | 76.6 % | 61.8 % | 31.6 % | 54.6 % | 70.6 % | 51.8 % | 82.6 % | 57.9 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | | | | | |

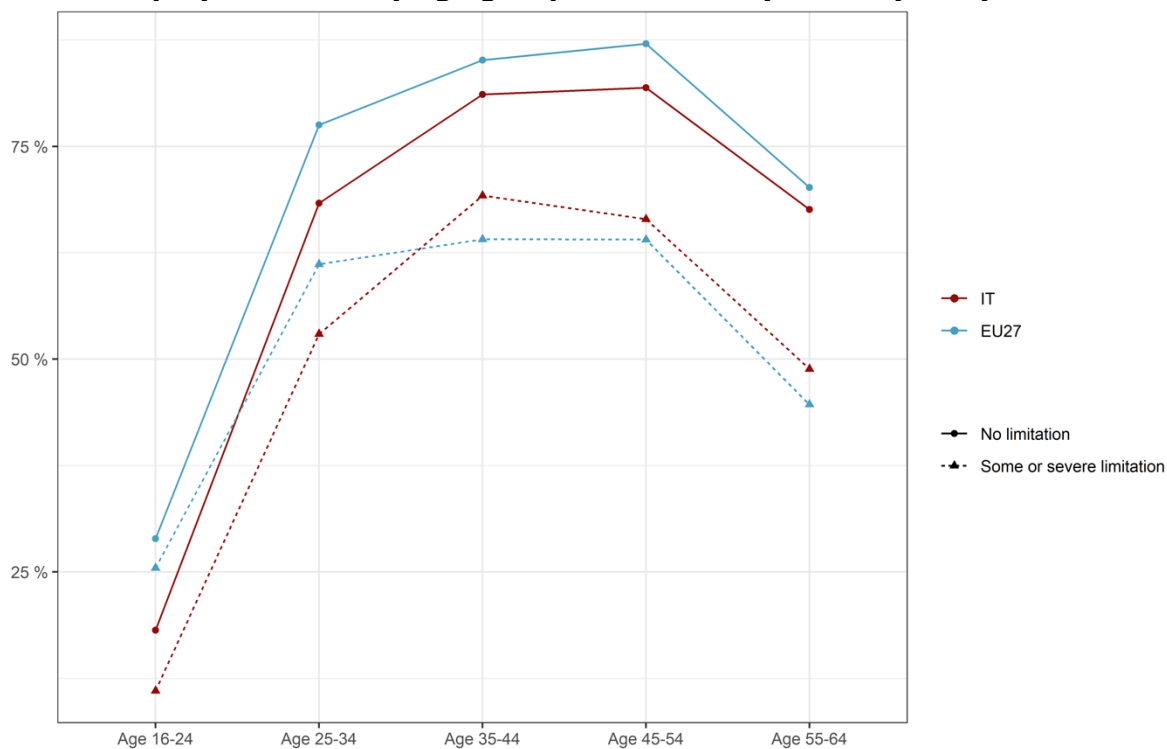
⁵⁵ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at: <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

Table 2b: Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation and gender (2023)



Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2025-05-08

| Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation and gender (2023) | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Total: some or severe limitation | Total: severe limitation | Total: some limitation | Women: some or severe limitation | Men: some or severe limitation |
| IT | 15.9 pps | 44.7 pps | 8.3 pps | 15.9 pps | 16.6 pps |
| EU27 | 21.5 pps | 42.4 pps | 14.4 pps | 19.1 pps | 23.2 pps |
| Note: | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | |

Table 3: Employment rate by age group and disability status (2023)


Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Employment rate by age group and disability status (2023) | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Activity limitation | Age 16-24 | Age 25-34 | Age 35-44 | Age 45-54 | Age 55-64 |
| IT | Some or severe limitation | 11.0 % | 52.9 % | 69.2 % | 66.4 % | 48.9 % |
| IT | No limitation | 18.2 % | 68.3 % | 81.1 % | 81.9 % | 67.6 % |
| EU27 | Some or severe limitation | 25.5 % | 61.2 % | 64.1 % | 64.0 % | 44.7 % |
| EU27 | No limitation | 28.9 % | 77.5 % | 85.1 % | 87.0 % | 70.2 % |
| Note: | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | | | |

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

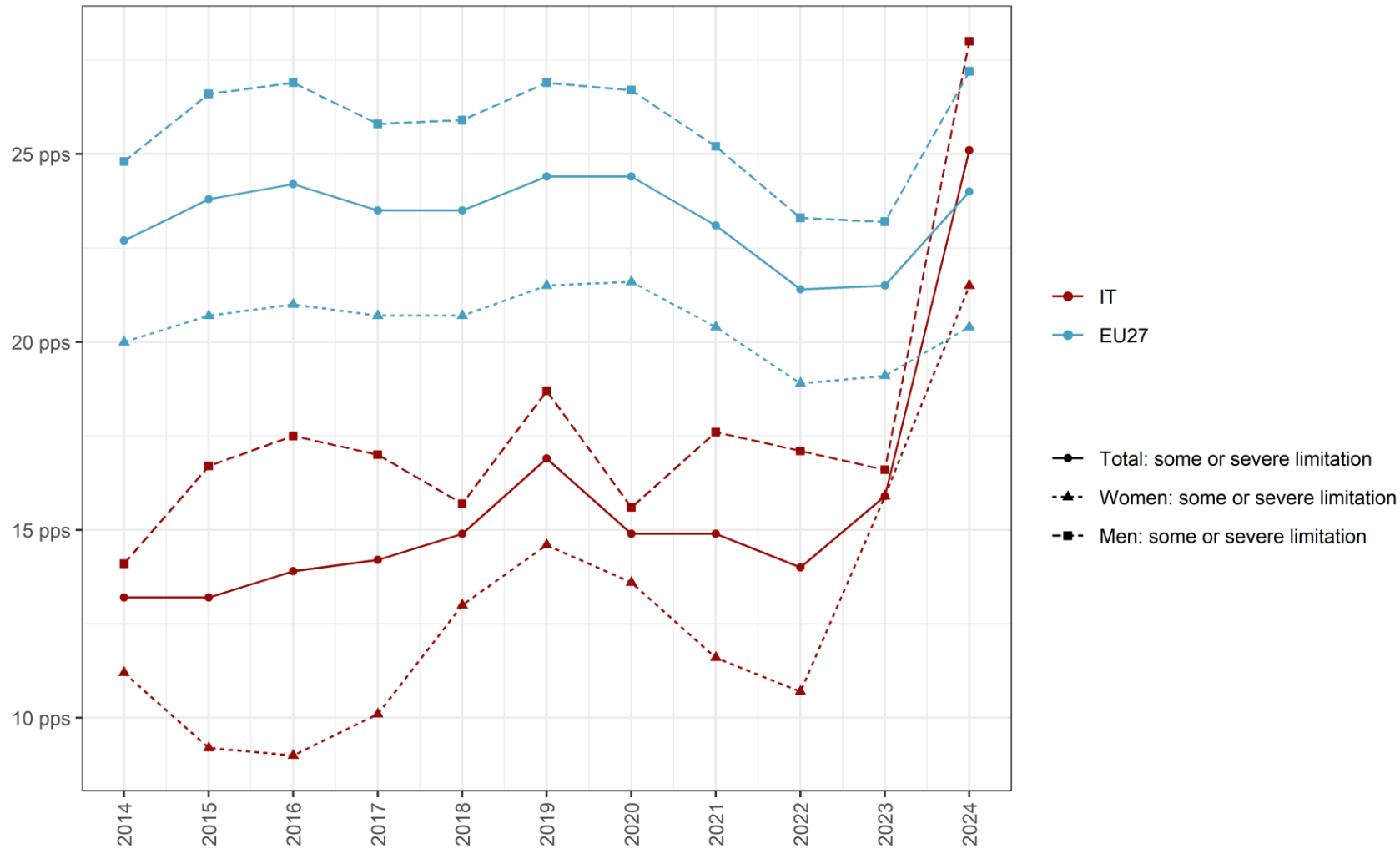


Source: EU-SILC, own calculation
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

European Semester 2025–2026 country fiche on disability equality: Italy

| Trend - Employment rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| IT | Total: no limitation | 62.6 % | 62.8 % | 63.3 % | 63.6 % | 65.5 % | 67.1 % | 68.6 % | NA | 68.5 % | 69.6 % | 70.8 % |
| IT | Total: some or severe limitation | 51.0 % | 49.8 % | 49.5 % | 48.9 % | 51.8 % | 51.9 % | 51.6 % | NA | 54.4 % | 54.4 % | 56.2 % |
| IT | Women: some or severe limitation | 43.6 % | 41.5 % | 42.1 % | 42.1 % | 43.9 % | 42.5 % | 43.7 % | NA | 46.0 % | 47.2 % | 44.9 % |
| IT | Women: no limitation | 52.3 % | 52.6 % | 52.7 % | 52.7 % | 54.5 % | 55.9 % | 57.9 % | NA | 57.4 % | 58.9 % | 61.0 % |
| IT | Men: some or severe limitation | 59.5 % | 59.0 % | 57.5 % | 57.1 % | 61.0 % | 62.3 % | 59.8 % | NA | 63.0 % | 61.8 % | 66.5 % |
| IT | Men: no limitation | 72.8 % | 73.0 % | 73.8 % | 74.4 % | 76.4 % | 78.4 % | 79.4 % | NA | 79.4 % | 80.3 % | 80.7 % |
| EU | Total: no limitation | 71.4 % | 72.5 % | 73.1 % | 73.9 % | 74.8 % | 76.2 % | 75.6 % | 75.3 % | 74.8 % | 76.3 % | 76.6 % |
| EU | Total: some or severe limitation | 48.5 % | 48.7 % | 47.4 % | 48.1 % | 50.6 % | 52.0 % | 51.3 % | 50.3 % | 50.9 % | 54.3 % | 54.6 % |
| EU | Women: some or severe limitation | 45.4 % | 45.7 % | 44.7 % | 45.9 % | 48.3 % | 49.3 % | 49.0 % | 48.2 % | 47.8 % | 51.0 % | 51.8 % |
| EU | Women: no limitation | 65.3 % | 66.7 % | 66.9 % | 67.7 % | 68.9 % | 70.2 % | 69.3 % | 69.4 % | 68.3 % | 69.9 % | 70.6 % |
| EU | Men: some or severe limitation | 52.1 % | 52.3 % | 50.6 % | 50.6 % | 53.3 % | 55.1 % | 53.9 % | 52.8 % | 54.5 % | 58.1 % | 57.9 % |
| EU | Men: no limitation | 77.4 % | 78.3 % | 79.4 % | 80.0 % | 80.7 % | 82.2 % | 82.0 % | 81.1 % | 81.2 % | 82.5 % | 82.6 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC, own calculation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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



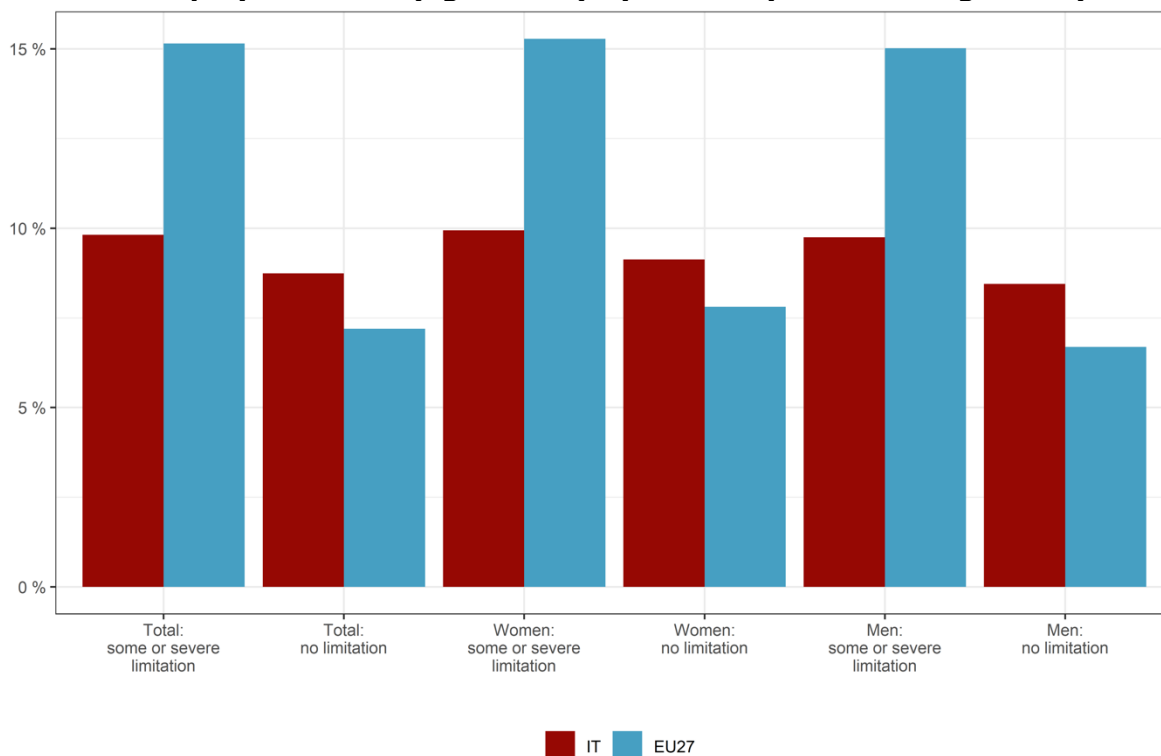
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2025-05-08
 Note for Italy: break in time series in 2024;
 EU27 break in time series in 2019

European Semester 2025–2026 country fiche on disability equality: Italy

| Trend - Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by gender | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| IT | Total: some or severe limitation | 13.2 pps | 13.2 pps | 13.9 pps | 14.2 pps | 14.9 pps | 16.9 pps | 14.9 pps | 14.9 pps | 14.0 pps | 15.9 pps | 25.1 pps |
| IT | Women: some or severe limitation | 11.2 pps | 9.2 pps | 9.0 pps | 10.1 pps | 13.0 pps | 14.6 pps | 13.6 pps | 11.6 pps | 10.7 pps | 15.9 pps | 21.5 pps |
| IT | Men: some or severe limitation | 14.1 pps | 16.7 pps | 17.5 pps | 17.0 pps | 15.7 pps | 18.7 pps | 15.6 pps | 17.6 pps | 17.1 pps | 16.6 pps | 28.0 pps |
| EU27 | Total: some or severe limitation | 22.7 pps | 23.8 pps | 24.2 pps | 23.5 pps | 23.5 pps | 24.4 pps | 24.4 pps | 23.1 pps | 21.4 pps | 21.5 pps | 24.0 pps |
| EU27 | Women: some or severe limitation | 20.0 pps | 20.7 pps | 21.0 pps | 20.7 pps | 20.7 pps | 21.5 pps | 21.6 pps | 20.4 pps | 18.9 pps | 19.1 pps | 20.4 pps |
| EU27 | Men: some or severe limitation | 24.8 pps | 26.6 pps | 26.9 pps | 25.8 pps | 25.9 pps | 26.9 pps | 26.7 pps | 25.2 pps | 23.3 pps | 23.2 pps | 27.2 pps |
| Note: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note for Italy: break in time series in 2024; | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EU27 break in time series in 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

7.1.1 Unemployment

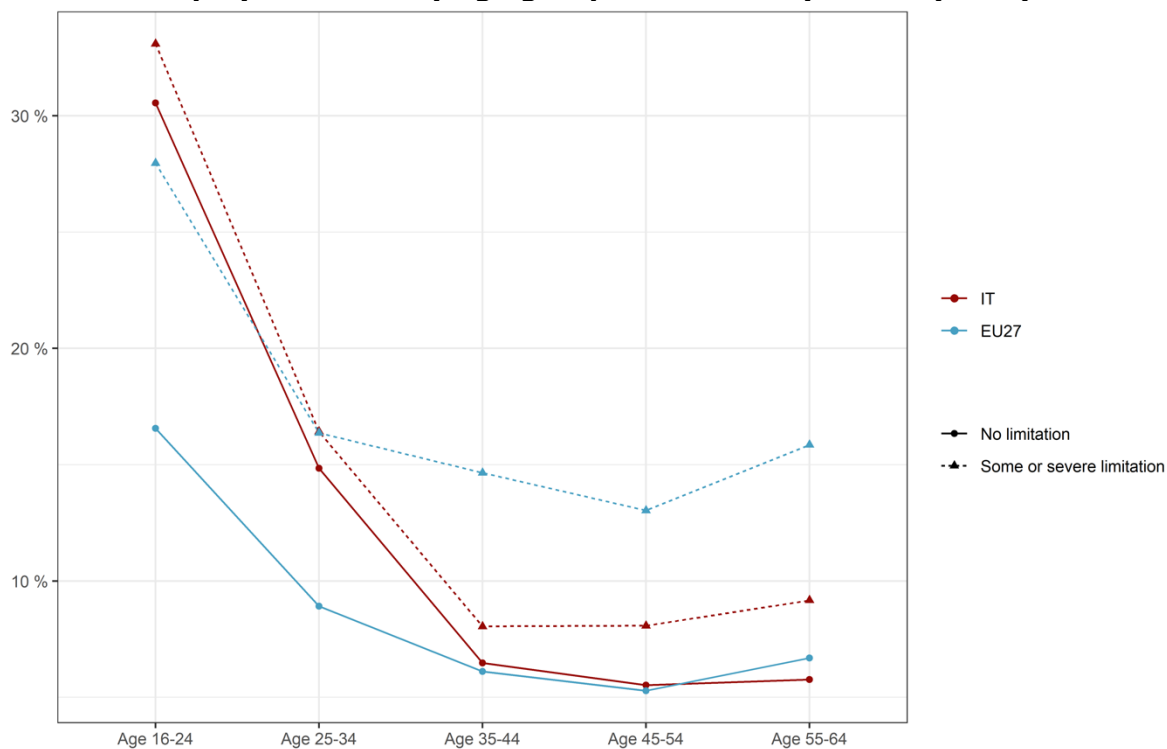
Table 5: Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender (2023)



Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender (2023) | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Total: some or severe | Total: no limitation | Women: some or severe limitation | Women: no limitation | Men: some or severe limitation | Men: no limitation |
| IT | 9.8 % | 8.7 % | 9.9 % | 9.1 % | 9.8 % | 8.5 % |
| EU27 | 15.2 % | 7.2 % | 15.3 % | 7.8 % | 15.0 % | 6.7 % |
| Note: | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | | | |

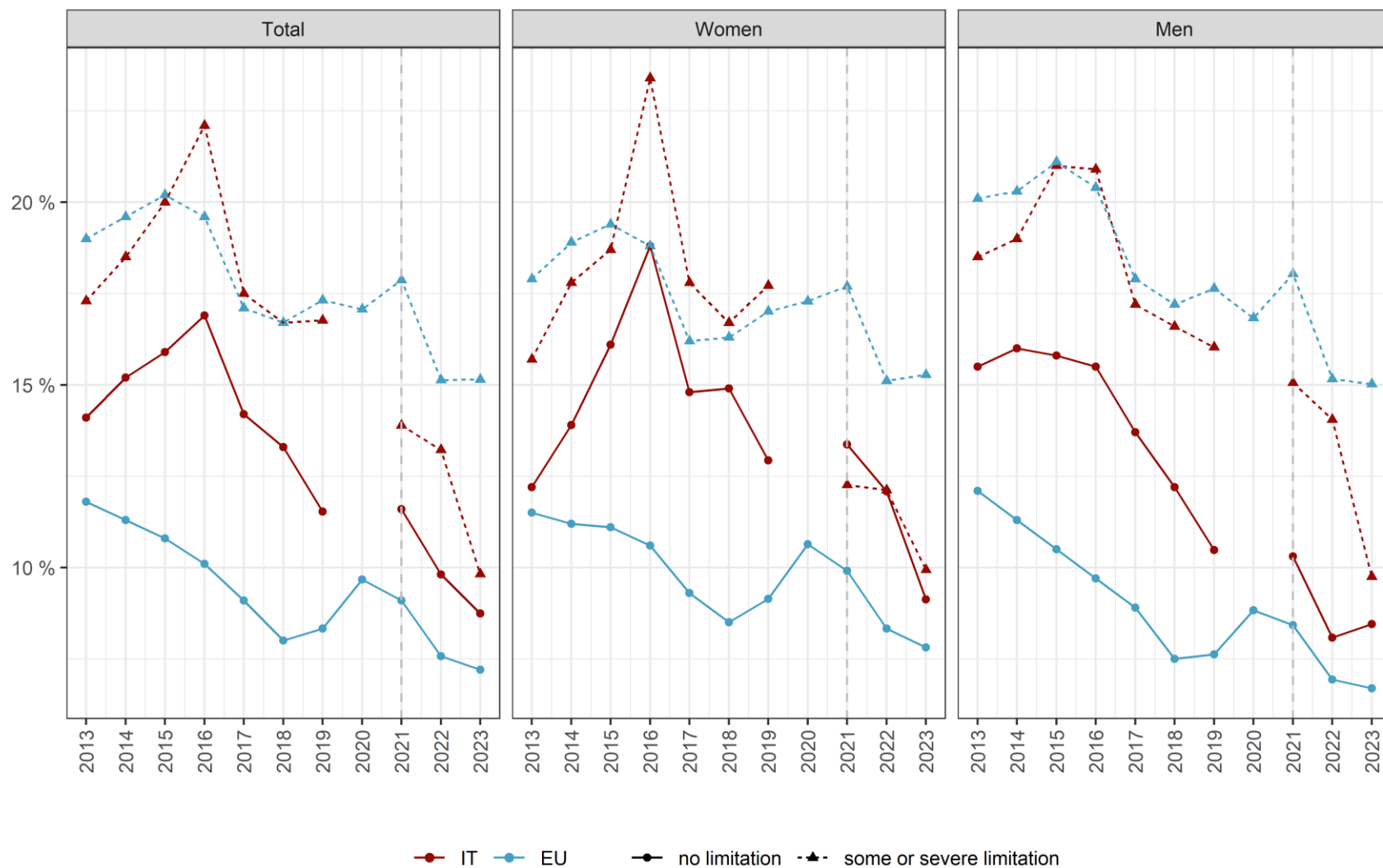
Table 6: Unemployment rate by age group and disability status (2023)



Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Unemployment rate by age group and disability status (2023) | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Activity limitation | Age 16-24 | Age 25-34 | Age 35-44 | Age 45-54 | Age 55-64 |
| IT | Some or severe limitation | 33.1 % | 16.4 % | 8.0 % | 8.1 % | 9.2 % |
| IT | No limitation | 30.5 % | 14.8 % | 6.5 % | 5.5 % | 5.8 % |
| EU27 | Some or severe limitation | 28.0 % | 16.4 % | 14.7 % | 13.0 % | 15.9 % |
| EU27 | No limitation | 16.6 % | 8.9 % | 6.1 % | 5.3 % | 6.7 % |
| Note: | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | | | |

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



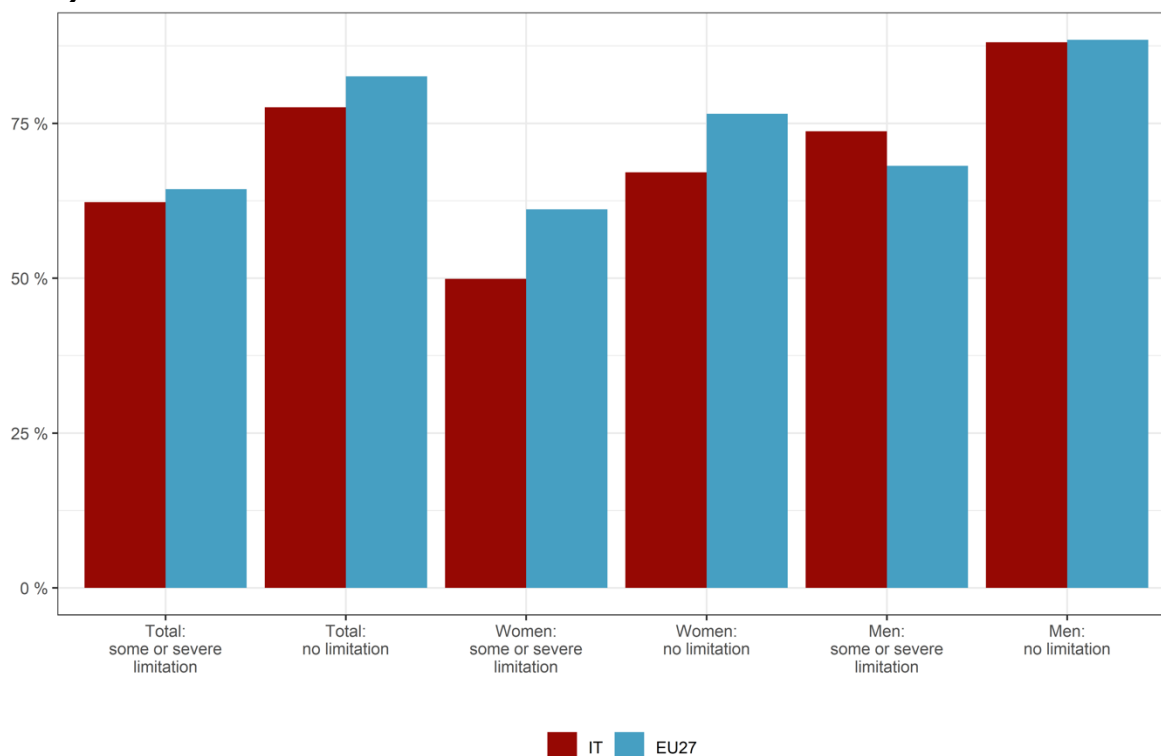
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation
 Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021

European Semester 2025–2026 country fiche on disability equality: Italy

| Trend - Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| IT | Total: no limitation | 14.1 % | 15.2 % | 15.9 % | 16.9 % | 14.2 % | 13.3 % | 11.5 % | NA | 11.6 % | 9.8 % | 8.7 % |
| IT | Total: some or severe limitation | 17.3 % | 18.5 % | 20.0 % | 22.1 % | 17.5 % | 16.7 % | 16.8 % | NA | 13.9 % | 13.2 % | 9.8 % |
| IT | Women: some or severe limitation | 15.7 % | 17.8 % | 18.7 % | 23.4 % | 17.8 % | 16.7 % | 17.7 % | NA | 12.3 % | 12.1 % | 9.9 % |
| IT | Women: no limitation | 12.2 % | 13.9 % | 16.1 % | 18.8 % | 14.8 % | 14.9 % | 12.9 % | NA | 13.4 % | 12.1 % | 9.1 % |
| IT | Men: some or severe limitation | 18.5 % | 19.0 % | 21.0 % | 20.9 % | 17.2 % | 16.6 % | 16.0 % | NA | 15.1 % | 14.1 % | 9.8 % |
| IT | Men: no limitation | 15.5 % | 16.0 % | 15.8 % | 15.5 % | 13.7 % | 12.2 % | 10.5 % | NA | 10.3 % | 8.1 % | 8.5 % |
| EU | Total: no limitation | 11.8 % | 11.3 % | 10.8 % | 10.1 % | 9.1 % | 8.0 % | 8.3 % | 9.7 % | 9.1 % | 7.6 % | 7.2 % |
| EU | Total: some or severe limitation | 19.0 % | 19.6 % | 20.2 % | 19.6 % | 17.1 % | 16.7 % | 17.3 % | 17.1 % | 17.9 % | 15.1 % | 15.2 % |
| EU | Women: some or severe limitation | 17.9 % | 18.9 % | 19.4 % | 18.8 % | 16.2 % | 16.3 % | 17.0 % | 17.3 % | 17.7 % | 15.1 % | 15.3 % |
| EU | Women: no limitation | 11.5 % | 11.2 % | 11.1 % | 10.6 % | 9.3 % | 8.5 % | 9.1 % | 10.6 % | 9.9 % | 8.3 % | 7.8 % |
| EU | Men: some or severe limitation | 20.1 % | 20.3 % | 21.1 % | 20.4 % | 17.9 % | 17.2 % | 17.6 % | 16.8 % | 18.0 % | 15.2 % | 15.0 % |
| EU | Men: no limitation | 12.1 % | 11.3 % | 10.5 % | 9.7 % | 8.9 % | 7.5 % | 7.6 % | 8.8 % | 8.4 % | 6.9 % | 6.7 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC, own calculation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

7.1.2 Economic activity

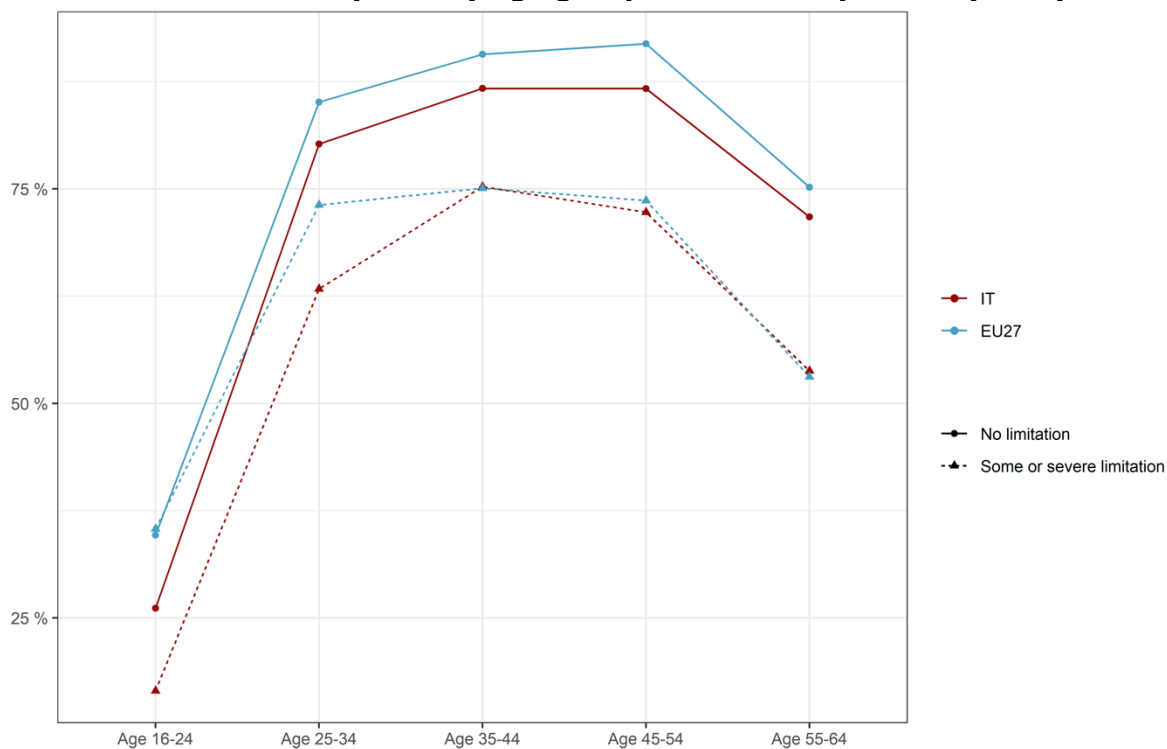
Table 8: Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender (2023)



Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender (2023) | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Total: some or severe limitation | Total: no limitation | Women: some or severe limitation | Women: no limitation | Men: some or severe limitation | Men: no limitation |
| IT | 62.3 % | 77.6 % | 49.9 % | 67.1 % | 73.7 % | 88.1 % |
| EU27 | 64.4 % | 82.6 % | 61.1 % | 76.6 % | 68.2 % | 88.5 % |
| Note: | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | | | |

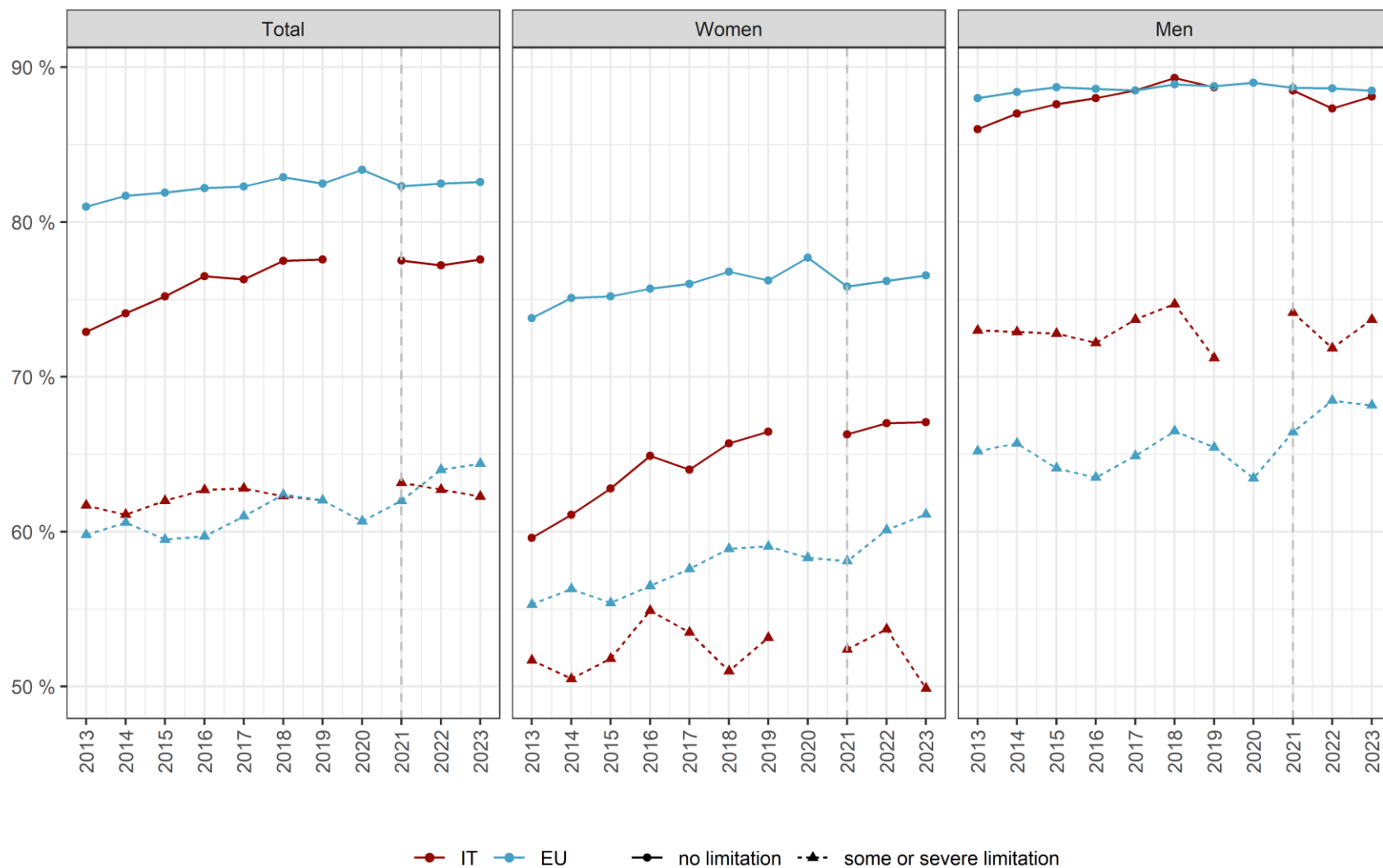
Table 9: Economic activity rate by age group and disability status (2023)



Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Economic activity rate by age group and disability status (2023) | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Activity limitation | Age 16-24 | Age 25-34 | Age 35-44 | Age 45-54 | Age 55-64 |
| IT | Some or severe limitation | 16.5 % | 63.3 % | 75.3 % | 72.3 % | 53.8 % |
| IT | No limitation | 26.1 % | 80.2 % | 86.7 % | 86.7 % | 71.7 % |
| EU27 | Some or severe limitation | 35.4 % | 73.1 % | 75.1 % | 73.6 % | 53.1 % |
| EU27 | No limitation | 34.6 % | 85.1 % | 90.7 % | 91.9 % | 75.2 % |
| Note: | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | | | |

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



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

European Semester 2025–2026 country fiche on disability equality: Italy

| Trend - Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability status and gender | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| IT | Total: no limitation | 72.9 % | 74.1 % | 75.2 % | 76.5 % | 76.3 % | 77.5 % | 77.6 % | NA | 77.5 % | 77.2 % | 77.6 % |
| IT | Total: some or severe limitation | 61.7 % | 61.1 % | 62.0 % | 62.7 % | 62.8 % | 62.3 % | 62.0 % | NA | 63.2 % | 62.7 % | 62.3 % |
| IT | Women: some or severe limitation | 51.7 % | 50.5 % | 51.8 % | 54.9 % | 53.5 % | 51.0 % | 53.2 % | NA | 52.4 % | 53.7 % | 49.9 % |
| IT | Women: no limitation | 59.6 % | 61.1 % | 62.8 % | 64.9 % | 64.0 % | 65.7 % | 66.5 % | NA | 66.3 % | 67.0 % | 67.1 % |
| IT | Men: some or severe limitation | 73.0 % | 72.9 % | 72.8 % | 72.2 % | 73.7 % | 74.7 % | 71.2 % | NA | 74.2 % | 71.9 % | 73.7 % |
| IT | Men: no limitation | 86.0 % | 87.0 % | 87.6 % | 88.0 % | 88.5 % | 89.3 % | 88.7 % | NA | 88.5 % | 87.3 % | 88.1 % |
| EU | Total: no limitation | 81.0 % | 81.7 % | 81.9 % | 82.2 % | 82.3 % | 82.9 % | 82.5 % | 83.4 % | 82.3 % | 82.5 % | 82.6 % |
| EU | Total: some or severe limitation | 59.8 % | 60.6 % | 59.5 % | 59.7 % | 61.0 % | 62.4 % | 62.0 % | 60.7 % | 62.0 % | 64.0 % | 64.4 % |
| EU | Women: some or severe limitation | 55.3 % | 56.3 % | 55.4 % | 56.5 % | 57.6 % | 58.9 % | 59.1 % | 58.3 % | 58.1 % | 60.1 % | 61.1 % |
| EU | Women: no limitation | 73.8 % | 75.1 % | 75.2 % | 75.7 % | 76.0 % | 76.8 % | 76.2 % | 77.7 % | 75.8 % | 76.2 % | 76.6 % |
| EU | Men: some or severe limitation | 65.2 % | 65.7 % | 64.1 % | 63.5 % | 64.9 % | 66.5 % | 65.4 % | 63.5 % | 66.4 % | 68.5 % | 68.2 % |
| EU | Men: no limitation | 88.0 % | 88.4 % | 88.7 % | 88.6 % | 88.5 % | 88.9 % | 88.8 % | 89.0 % | 88.7 % | 88.6 % | 88.5 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC, own calculation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

7.1.3 Alternative sources of labour market data in Italy

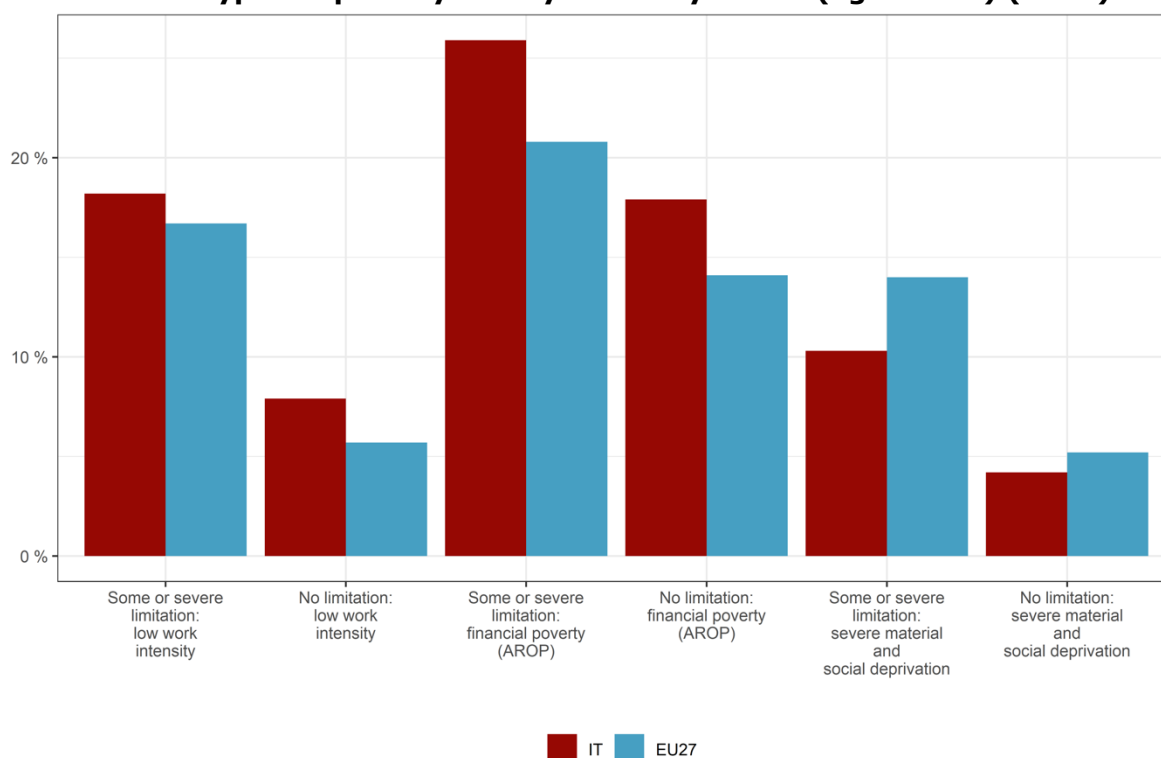
Table 10B: Job satisfaction based on limitations, average 2020-2021 (%)

| | Very satisfied | Satisfied enough | Not satisfied very | Not at all | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|-------|
| Severe limitations | 14.3 | 55.1 | 22.2 | 8.4 | 100 |
| Mild limitations | 14.1 | 61.7 | 19.2 | 4.9 | 100 |
| No limitations | 17.7 | 63.9 | 15.3 | 3.1 | 100 |
| Total | 17.2 | 63.5 | 15.9 | 3.4 | 100 |

Source: Fondazione Consulenti del Lavoro on microdata from the ISTAT survey on aspects of everyday life, 2024.

7.2 EU data relevant to disability, social policies and healthcare (2023)

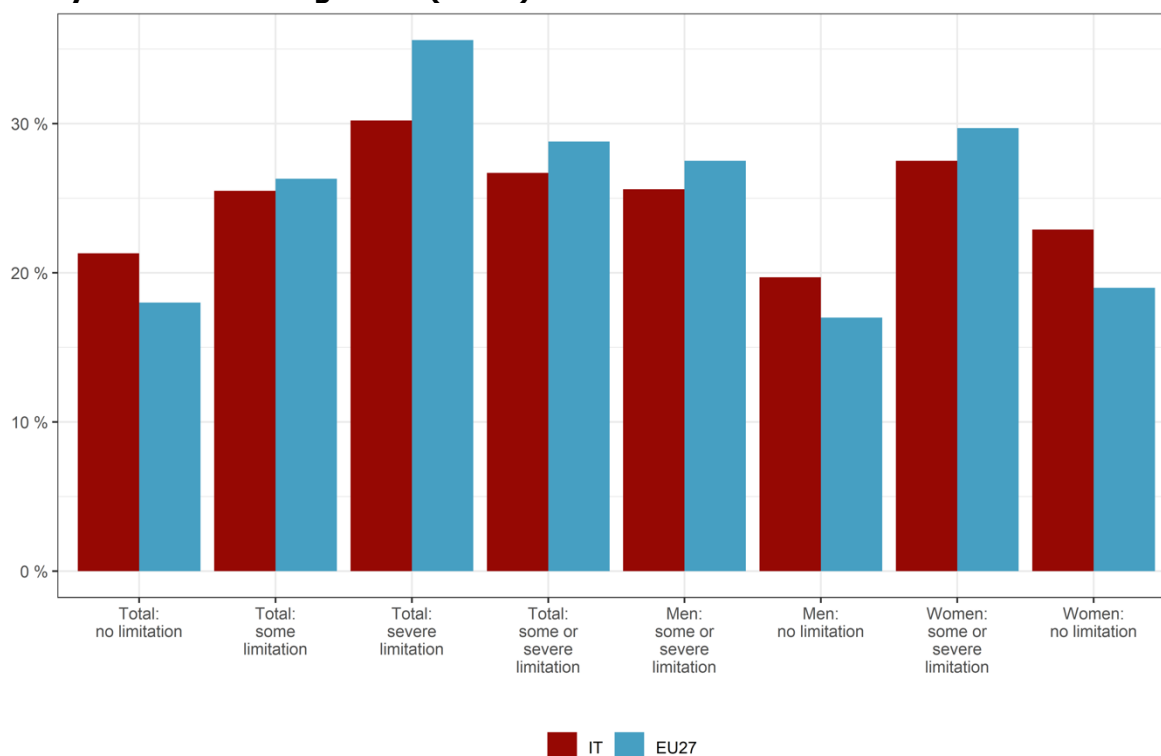
Table 11: Main types of poverty risk by disability status (age 16-64) (2023)



Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2025-05-08

| Main types of poverty risk by disability status (age 16-64) (2023) | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | Some or severe limitation: low work intensity | No limitation: low work intensity | Some or severe limitation: financial poverty (AROP) | No limitation: financial poverty (AROP) | Some or severe limitation: severe material and social deprivation | No limitation: severe material and social deprivation |
| IT | 18.2 % | 7.9 % | 25.9 % | 17.9 % | 10.3 % | 4.2 % |
| EU27 | 16.7 % | 5.7 % | 20.8 % | 14.1 % | 14.0 % | 5.2 % |
| Note: | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | |

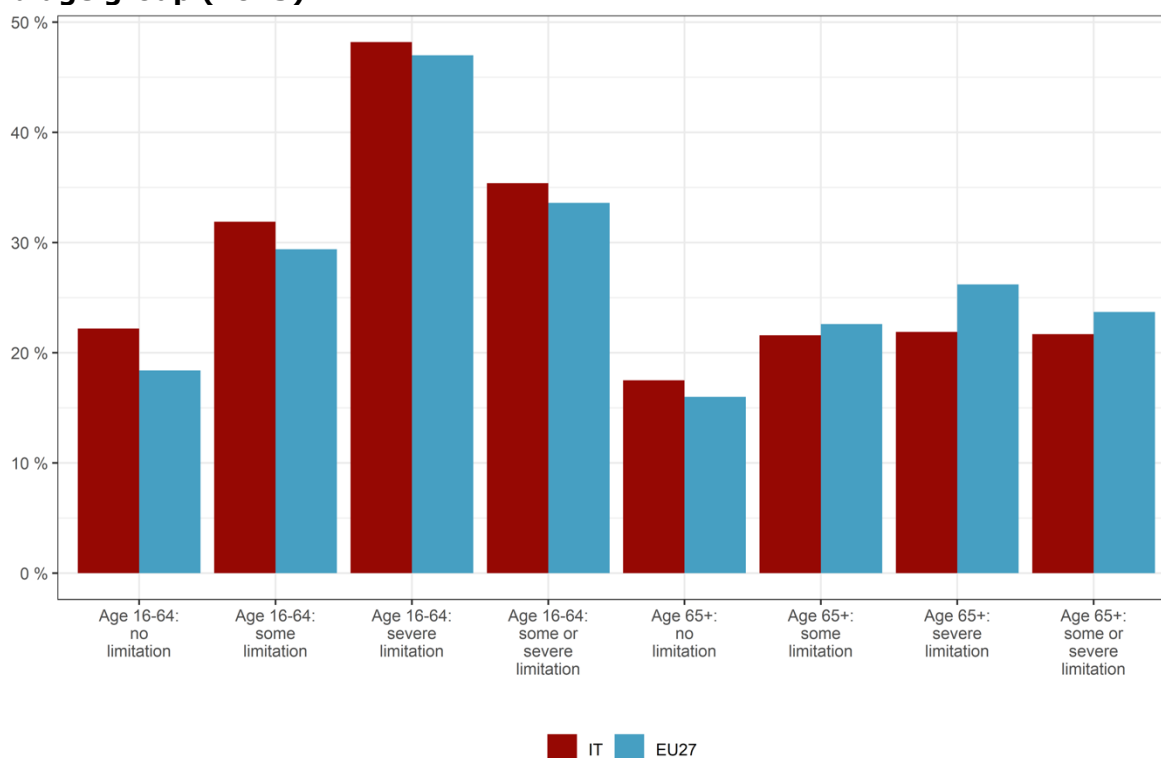
Table 12: At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate (age 16+) by level of activity limitation and gender (2023)



Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2025-05-08

| At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate (age 16+) by level of activity limitation and gender (2023) | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | 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 |
| IT | 21.3 % | 25.5 % | 30.2 % | 26.7 % | 25.6 % | 19.7 % | 27.5 % | 22.9 % |
| EU27 | 18.0 % | 26.3 % | 35.6 % | 28.8 % | 27.5 % | 17.0 % | 29.7 % | 19.0 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | | | |

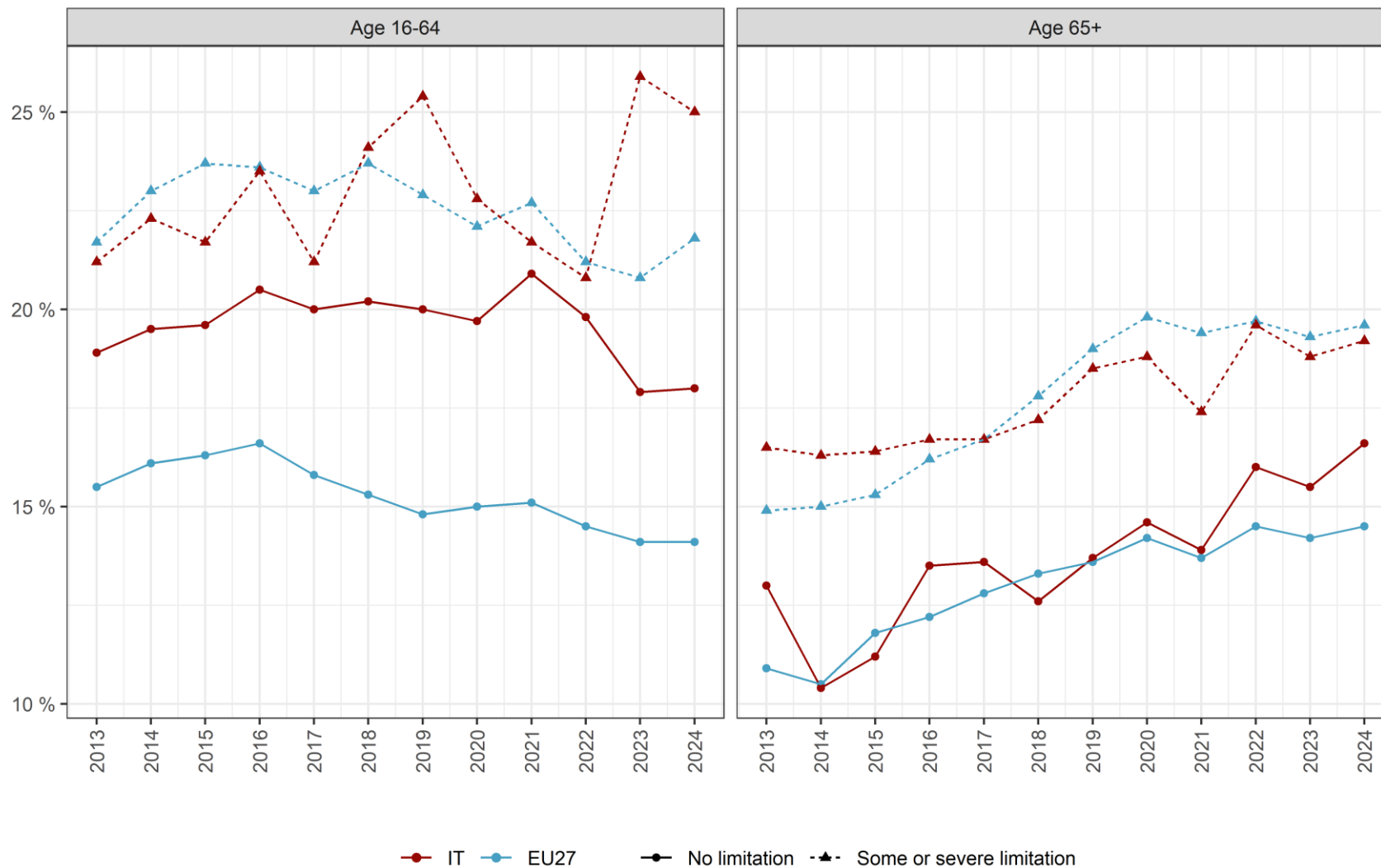
Table 13: At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate by level of activity limitation and age group (2023)



Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2025-05-08

| At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate by level of activity limitation and age group (2023) | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 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 |
| IT | 22.2 % | 31.9 % | 48.2 % | 35.4 % | 17.5 % | 21.6 % | 21.9 % | 21.7 % |
| EU27 | 18.4 % | 29.4 % | 47.0 % | 33.6 % | 16.0 % | 22.6 % | 26.2 % | 23.7 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | | | |

Table 14: Trend - At risk of poverty rate by disability status and age group

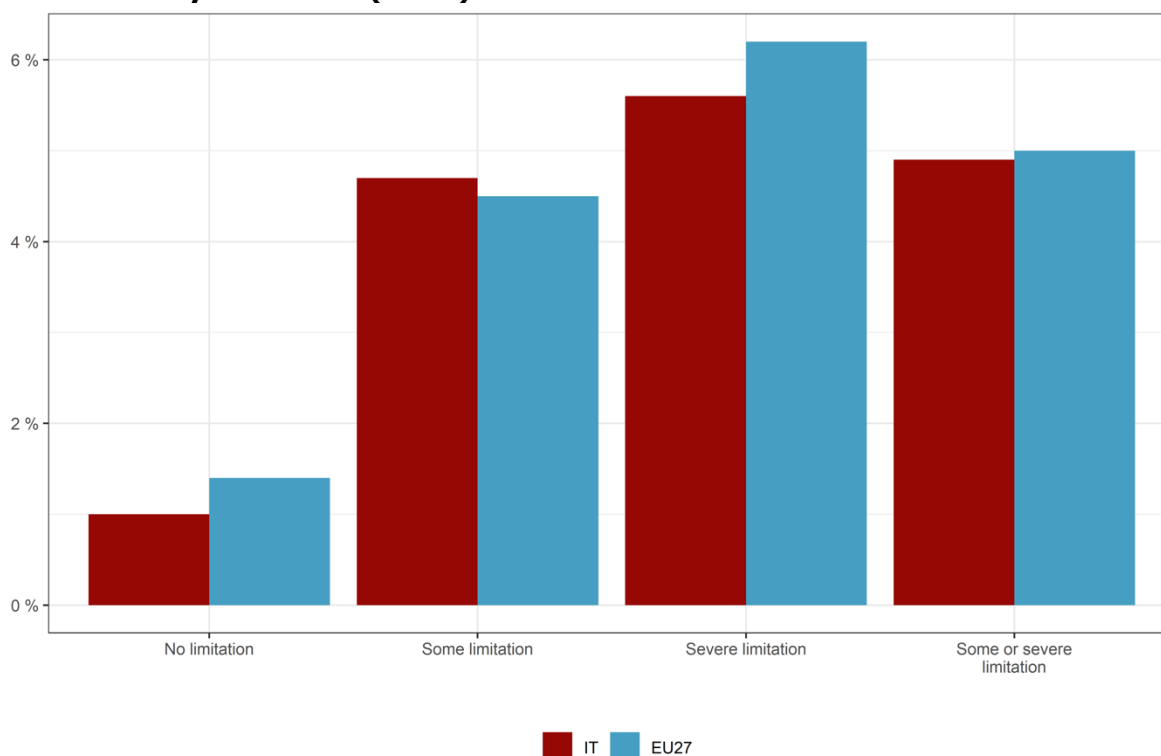


Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2025-05-08
 Note for Italy: break in time series in 2024

European Semester 2025–2026 country fiche on disability equality: Italy

| Trend - At risk of poverty rate by disability status and age group | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| IT | Age 16-64: no limitation | 18.9 % | 19.5 % | 19.6 % | 20.5 % | 20.0 % | 20.2 % | 20.0 % | 19.7 % | 20.9 % | 19.8 % | 17.9 % | 18.0 % |
| IT | Age 16-64: some or severe limitation | 21.2 % | 22.3 % | 21.7 % | 23.5 % | 21.2 % | 24.1 % | 25.4 % | 22.8 % | 21.7 % | 20.8 % | 25.9 % | 25.0 % |
| IT | Age 65+: no limitation | 13.0 % | 10.4 % | 11.2 % | 13.5 % | 13.6 % | 12.6 % | 13.7 % | 14.6 % | 13.9 % | 16.0 % | 15.5 % | 16.6 % |
| IT | Age 65+: some or severe limitation | 16.5 % | 16.3 % | 16.4 % | 16.7 % | 16.7 % | 17.2 % | 18.5 % | 18.8 % | 17.4 % | 19.6 % | 18.8 % | 19.2 % |
| EU27 | Age 16-64: no limitation | 15.5 % | 16.1 % | 16.3 % | 16.6 % | 15.8 % | 15.3 % | 14.8 % | 15.0 % | 15.1 % | 14.5 % | 14.1 % | 14.1 % |
| EU27 | Age 16-64: some or severe limitation | 21.7 % | 23.0 % | 23.7 % | 23.6 % | 23.0 % | 23.7 % | 22.9 % | 22.1 % | 22.7 % | 21.2 % | 20.8 % | 21.8 % |
| EU27 | Age 65+: no limitation | 10.9 % | 10.5 % | 11.8 % | 12.2 % | 12.8 % | 13.3 % | 13.6 % | 14.2 % | 13.7 % | 14.5 % | 14.2 % | 14.5 % |
| EU27 | Age 65+: some or severe limitation | 14.9 % | 15.0 % | 15.3 % | 16.2 % | 16.7 % | 17.8 % | 19.0 % | 19.8 % | 19.4 % | 19.7 % | 19.3 % | 19.6 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note for Italy: break in time series in 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

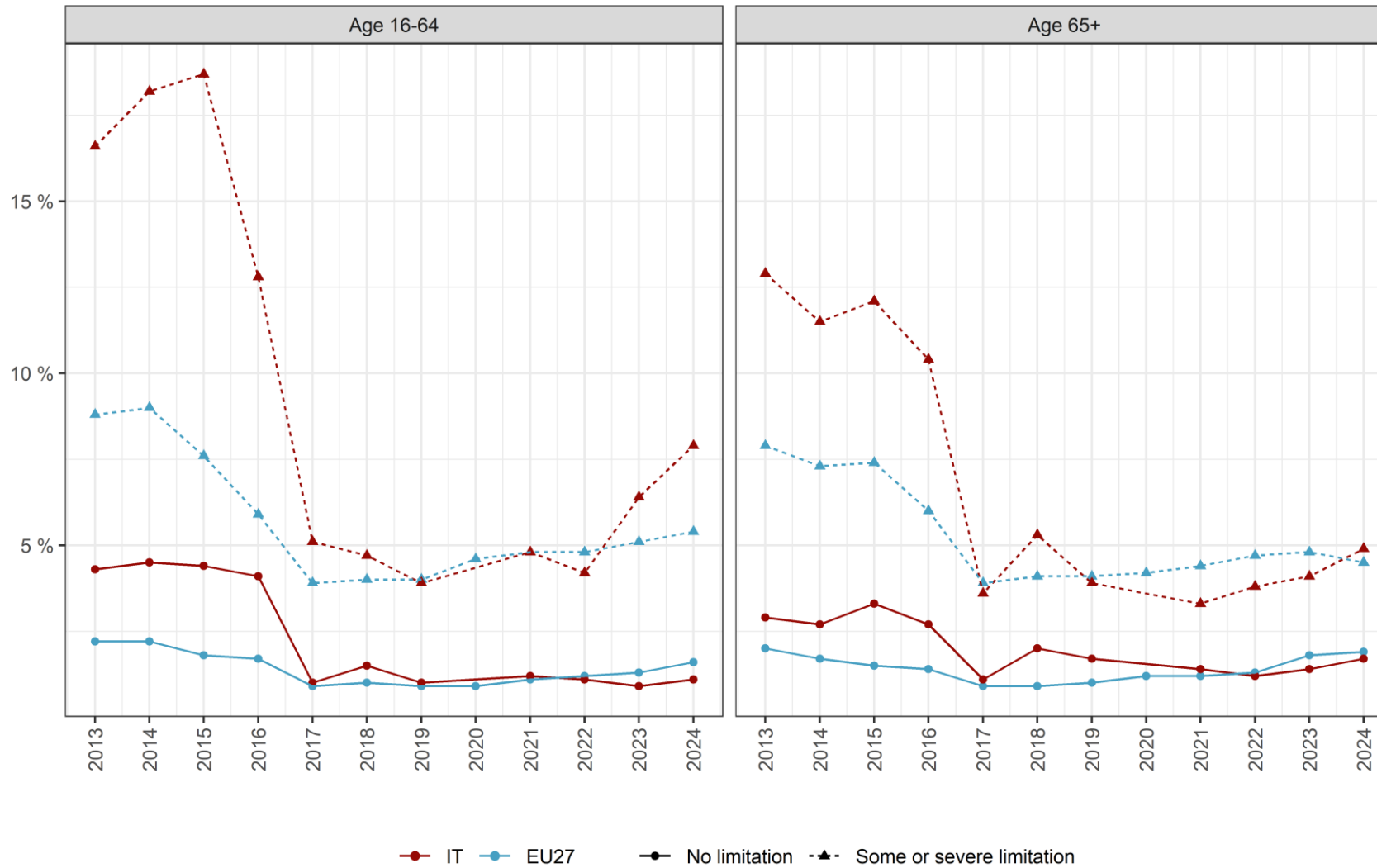
Table 15a: Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by level of activity limitation (2023)



Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2025-05-08

| Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by level of activity limitation (2023) | | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | No limitation | Some limitation | Severe limitation | Some or severe limitation |
| IT | 1.0 % | 4.7 % | 5.6 % | 4.9 % |
| EU27 | 1.4 % | 4.5 % | 6.2 % | 5.0 % |
| Note: | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | |

Table 15b: Trend - self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability status and age group



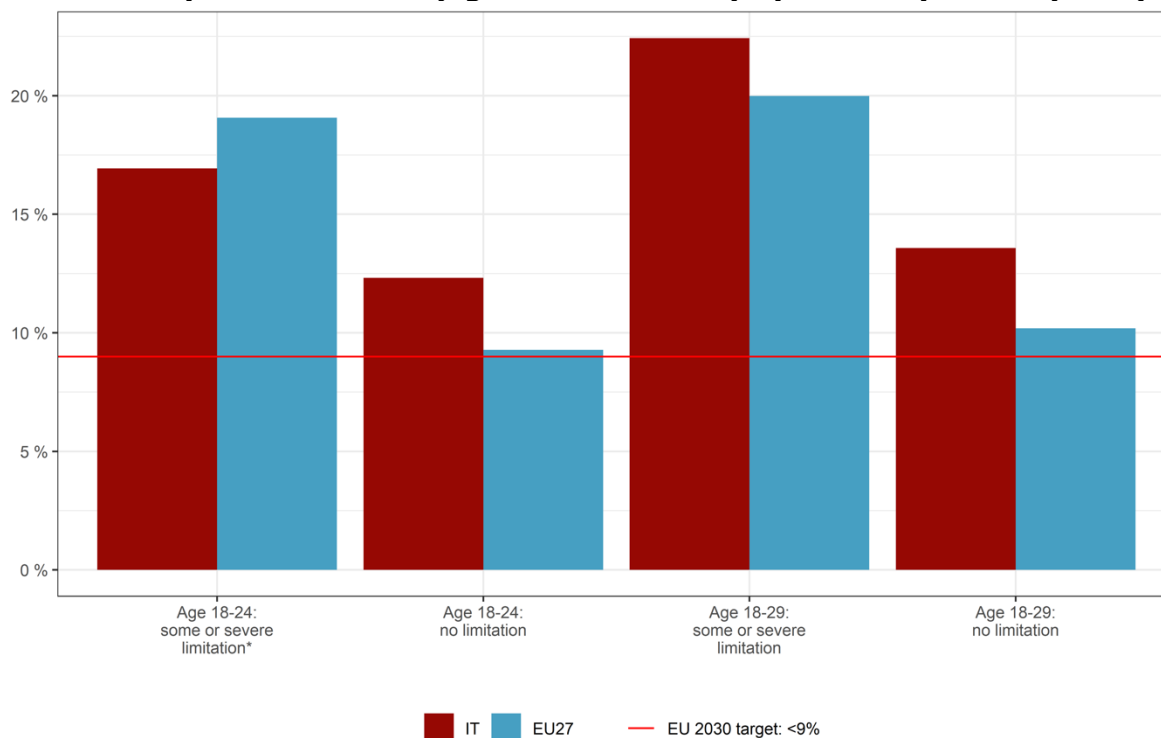
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2025-05-08
 Note for Italy: break in time series in 2024

European Semester 2025–2026 country fiche on disability equality: Italy

| Trend - self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by disability status and age group | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| IT | Age 16-64: no limitation | 4.3 % | 4.5 % | 4.4 % | 4.1 % | 1.0 % | 1.5 % | 1.0 % | NA | 1.2 % | 1.1 % | 0.9 % | 1.1 % |
| IT | Age 16-64: some or severe limitation | 16.6 % | 18.2 % | 18.7 % | 12.8 % | 5.1 % | 4.7 % | 3.9 % | NA | 4.8 % | 4.2 % | 6.4 % | 7.9 % |
| IT | Age 65+: no limitation | 2.9 % | 2.7 % | 3.3 % | 2.7 % | 1.1 % | 2.0 % | 1.7 % | NA | 1.4 % | 1.2 % | 1.4 % | 1.7 % |
| IT | Age 65+: some or severe limitation | 12.9 % | 11.5 % | 12.1 % | 10.4 % | 3.6 % | 5.3 % | 3.9 % | NA | 3.3 % | 3.8 % | 4.1 % | 4.9 % |
| EU27 | Age 16-64: no limitation | 2.2 % | 2.2 % | 1.8 % | 1.7 % | 0.9 % | 1.0 % | 0.9 % | 0.9 % | 1.1 % | 1.2 % | 1.3 % | 1.6 % |
| EU27 | Age 16-64: some or severe limitation | 8.8 % | 9.0 % | 7.6 % | 5.9 % | 3.9 % | 4.0 % | 4.0 % | 4.6 % | 4.8 % | 4.8 % | 5.1 % | 5.4 % |
| EU27 | Age 65+: no limitation | 2.0 % | 1.7 % | 1.5 % | 1.4 % | 0.9 % | 0.9 % | 1.0 % | 1.2 % | 1.2 % | 1.3 % | 1.8 % | 1.9 % |
| EU27 | Age 65+: some or severe limitation | 7.9 % | 7.3 % | 7.4 % | 6.0 % | 3.9 % | 4.1 % | 4.1 % | 4.2 % | 4.4 % | 4.7 % | 4.8 % | 4.5 % |
| Note: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2025-05-08 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note for Italy: break in time series in 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education (2023)

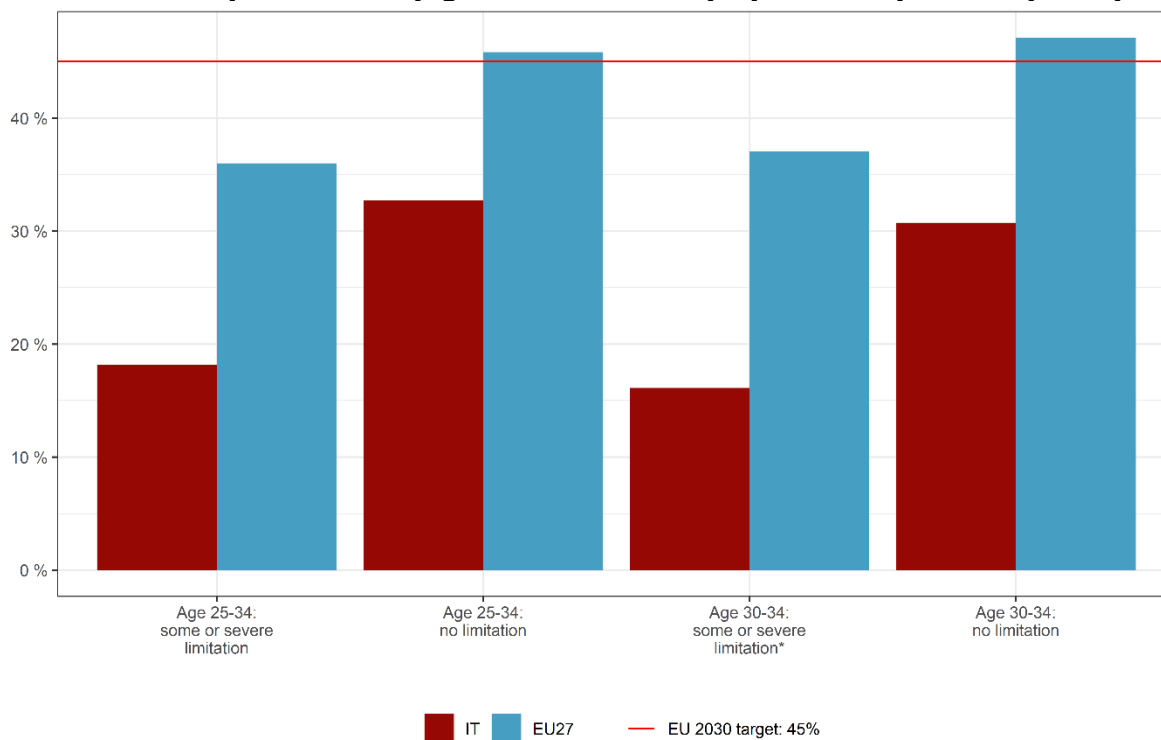
Table 16: Early school leavers (age 18-24 & 18-29) by disability status (2023)



Note: * indicative data
Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Early school leavers (age 18-24 & 18-29) by disability status (2023) | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | Age 18-24: some or severe limitation* | Age 18-24: no limitation | Age 18-29: some or severe limitation | Age 18-29: no limitation |
| IT | 16.9 % | 12.3 % | 22.4 % | 13.6 % |
| EU27 | 19.1 % | 9.3 % | 20.0 % | 10.2 % |
| Note: | | | | |
| Note: * indicative data | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | |

Table 17: Tertiary education (age 25-34 & 30-34) by disability status (2023)



Note: * indicative data
Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation

| Tertiary education (age 25-34 & 30-34) by disability status (2023) | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | Age 25-34: some or severe limitation | Age 25-34: no limitation | Age 30-34: some or severe limitation* | Age 30-34: no limitation |
| IT | 18.2 % | 32.8 % | 16.1 % | 30.7 % |
| EU27 | 36.0 % | 45.8 % | 37.0 % | 47.1 % |
| Note: | | | | |
| Note: * indicative data | | | | |
| Source: EU-SILC 2023 (release 2024 v1), own calculation | | | | |

8 Annex II: Historical overview of disability mentions in European Semester documents

Table 18: Mentions of disability in Country Report per year (number + topic)

| Year | Number of mentions and topic |
|------|--|
| 2014 | 0 |
| 2015 | 2 – social services; cash benefits |
| 2016 | 2 (6 occurrences) – disability allowances; social protection and pensions |
| 2017 | 2- social spending; social protection benefits |
| 2018 | 5 (6 occurrences) -social protection benefits; 'companion allowance'; health; family care; childcare benefits |
| 2019 | 7 (9 occurrences) - social protection benefits; social services; 'youth guarantee scheme'; education; childcare |
| 2020 | 4 – social inclusion; social services; education; EU cohesion funding |
| 2021 | N/A |
| 2022 | 6 (10 occurrences) – employment; school drop-out; poverty; social inclusion; jobs market; poverty; framework law on disability |
| 2023 | 6 (9 occurrences) – framework law on disability; employment; social inclusion; housing; jobs market and skills |
| 2024 | 5 (7 occurrences) – employment gap; minimum income; local social services; poverty |

Table 19: Mentions of disability in Country Specific Recommendations per year (number + topic)

| Year | Number of mentions and topic |
|------|---|
| 2014 | 0 |
| 2015 | 0 |
| 2016 | 0 |
| 2017 | 0 |
| 2018 | 0 |
| 2019 | 1 - home and community-based care and long-term care |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2022 | 3 – disability assessment; services for dependent people; housing |
| 2023 | 0 |
| 2024 | 0 |

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