

Disability indicators for the Nordic Statistics Database

Assessment and selection

Hjördís Guðmundsdóttir

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<https://pub.nordregio.org/wp-2026-7-disability-indicators-for-the-nordic-statistics-database/>

Preface

This report forms part of a broader effort by the Nordic Co-operation to strengthen access to, and knowledge of, indicators on the situation of persons with disabilities in the Nordics. It builds directly on a study conducted by the Nordic Welfare Centre and Nordregio in 2021, which reviewed available sources of disability statistics and identified the most relevant indicators. One of the study's key recommendations was that, where possible, existing indicators based on Eurostat data should be used.

Following that previous study, the present report assesses disability statistics for the Nordic countries and identifies those that meet the requirements for publication in the Nordic Statistics Database. The database is an online collection of comparative Nordic statistics on a broad range of topics, containing over 200 indicators. It is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers to support the work of the Nordic governments in creating joint solutions that benefit citizens across the Nordic countries. The database is developed and maintained by Nordregio.

The findings of this study contribute to the vision of the Nordic cooperation, which prioritises a socially sustainable Nordic region, implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Nordic level (2030 Agenda).

Nordregio conducted this project in collaboration with Nordic Welfare Centre as part of the project Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Nordic region – Article 31.

Summary



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Following the European Statistics Code of Practice, four main criteria guide the selection of disability statistics for publication in the Nordic Statistics Database: relevance, cost effectiveness, comparability and timeliness. Relevance is based on recommendations from earlier studies and policy frameworks, in particular the 2021 report by the Nordic Welfare Centre, while cost effectiveness is ensured by restricting the selection to open data in the Eurostat database.

Accordingly, this study focuses on analysis of the comparability and timeliness of the disability statistics available in the Eurostat database in a Nordic context. The analysis identifies indicators that were available for all or most Nordic countries and for which statistics are released in a timely manner. The indicators span eight themes: disability prevalence, access to education and training, access to the labour market, income and living conditions, health status and determinants, access to information, leisure and social participation, and discrimination.

The study identifies 17 tables that can be recommended for publication in the Nordic Statistics Database. These are summarised in the list below by theme:

- **Disability prevalence:** six tables
- **Access to education and training:** four tables
- **Access to the labour market:** four tables
- **Income and living conditions:** one table
- **Health status and determinants:** one table
- **Access to information:** one table

The study also presents 11 indicators that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database but are documented for future reference:

- **Leisure and social participation:** seven tables
- **Discrimination:** four tables

Introduction and background



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Publishing disability statistics in the Nordic Statistics Database responds to the clear need for relevant and comparable data to support monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which all the Nordic countries have ratified. The statistical indicators on persons with disabilities also align with other key policy frameworks, such as the Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027, the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030, and the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. These frameworks call for strengthening the statistical basis for disability policy and monitoring in the Nordic region. By identifying and assessing indicators that are relevant, comparable, and regularly available, this report aims to encourage the use of official statistics to monitor developments in the living conditions and participation of persons with disabilities in the Nordic region.

The inclusion and improved quality of life of persons with disabilities is a shared objective in international, European, and Nordic policy frameworks. This chapter outlines the institutional context that motivates the report, namely the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027, the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030, and the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its Optional Protocol were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006 and entered into force in May 2008. The Convention was the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the twenty-first century and is a landmark instrument that advances the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Convention reflects a long-term shift in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It moves beyond earlier perspectives that viewed persons with disabilities primarily as recipients of care, treatment or protection, and instead recognises them as rights-holders, entitled to autonomy, participation, and equal treatment. It is intended as a human rights instrument, establishing a rights-based framework that emphasises dignity, agency and full inclusion in society.

All the Nordic countries have ratified the Convention, making it a key reference point for disability policy and the development of statistics that support monitoring and implementation. Several of the themes examined in this report are directly linked to substantive articles of the Convention. These include Article 24 on education, Article 27 on work and employment, Article 28 on adequate standard of living and social protection, Article 9 on accessibility, Article 30 on participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and Article 5 on equality and non-discrimination.

Article 31 requires States to collect and use appropriate data and statistics to monitor the Convention's implementation and is the first full article in a United Nations human rights treaty dedicated specifically to data collection and processing.

The indicators assessed in this report are therefore relevant not only as statistical measures, but also as tools for tracking progress in implementation of the Convention in the Nordic region.

2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda provides an important global framework for advancing the rights, inclusion and equal participation of persons with disabilities. Although disability is not treated as a standalone goal, the Sustainable Development Goals make clear that sustainable development must be inclusive of all people and guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. In this context, disability is both a human rights issue and a cross-cutting development issue that affects access to education, employment, health, social participation and equality.

Persons with disabilities are explicitly mentioned in several of the SDG targets and indicators. These include Goal 4 on quality education, which refers to equal access to education and learning opportunities for persons with disabilities; Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, which includes the promotion of full and productive employment for all, including persons with disabilities; Goal 10 on reduced inequalities, which is directly relevant to the social and economic exclusion often experienced by persons with disabilities; Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, which highlights the importance of accessible public spaces and transport; and Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals, where disability disaggregation is relevant for strengthening the availability of inclusive data.

The *leave no one behind* principle is central to the 2030 Agenda and is particularly important in this context. It underlines the need to make persons with disabilities visible in both policy and data. Without disability-disaggregated statistics, inequalities may remain hidden and progress cannot be monitored adequately. The availability of disability statistics is essential for following up both the 2030 Agenda and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030

The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030 provides an important policy framework for this report, aiming to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate fully in society on an equal basis with others. The strategy has eight priority areas that cover all aspects of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including decent quality of life and independent living and non-discrimination and equal opportunities (European Commission. Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, 2026). One of the priority areas is Awareness, governance and measuring progress—objectives that this report supports by identifying indicators to strengthen the availability of comparable disability statistics in the Nordic region.

The focus on labour market participation in this report is particularly relevant in light of the Disability Employment Package, one of the flagship initiatives under the strategy, which is intended to support better employment outcomes for persons with disabilities; increasing their employment rate contributes to the EU-level social targets to be achieved by 2030 (European Commission, n.d.).

In May 2026, the European Commission adopted the communication *Enhancing the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030*, which strengthens the second phase of implementation, with a greater focus on delivery and practical impact. The enhanced strategy places greater emphasis on equal access to education and skills, stronger implementation of the Disability Employment Package, independent living and access to quality services (European Commission. Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, 2026). Moreover, the Commission will take further steps to promote data collection on persons with disabilities living in institutions and will issue a recommendation on equality data. This reinforces the relevance of this report, as robust disability statistics are essential for tracking progress in these policy areas.

Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027

The Council of Nordic Cooperation on Disability supports the integration of disability perspectives across the Nordic cooperation framework and promotes the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also contributes to the development and execution of the Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027. The plan is implemented under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers for Health and Social Affairs Policies (MR-S), with the Nordic Welfare Centre responsible for supporting the implementation of the programme (Nordic Welfare Centre, n.d.).

The Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027 provides a strategic framework for promoting inclusion, equality, and accessibility across the Nordic

region. It has three focus areas: human rights, participation and freedom of movement (Nordic Welfare Centre, 2022). These focus areas are closely connected to the themes examined in this report. The indicators assessed here contribute in particular to the focus area of participation, through data on education, labour market participation, income, health, access to information, social participation and discrimination. At the same time, the report also supports the programme's wider human rights perspective by strengthening the statistical basis for monitoring equal living conditions and participation of persons with disabilities across the Nordic region.

Previous studies (NWC 2021 mapping study)

This report builds on earlier work by the Nordic Welfare Centre: *Nordic indicators for cooperation on disability: Monitoring the implementation of UNCRPD and Agenda 2030*, published in 2021. The study, conducted in collaboration with Nordregio, aimed to identify a common set of indicators to support Nordic monitoring of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda. It suggested five priority areas: discrimination, participation in school and education, employment, standard of living and social protection, and accessibility. The study assessed the availability and comparability of data from national statistical institutes in Nordic countries, as well as Eurostat. It concluded that while some relevant indicators exist, comparability across the Nordic region remains limited (Johanna Jokinen et al., 2021).

The 2021 study is an important starting point for the present report. It demonstrated both the value and the difficulty of developing common disability indicators across the eight Nordic countries and showed that harmonised European sources, such as the EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), provide comparable data in some fields, while many other indicators still depend on national sources that differ in design, definitions and coverage. It also highlighted the need for more systematic and recurring disability statistics, clearer agreement on suitable indicators and stronger Nordic coordination.

Methods of evaluation



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We identified the main indicators in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the three focus areas of the Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027 and the findings of the NVC mapping study. The Nordic Statistics Database follows the European Statistics Code of Practice, which guides the evaluation of indicators recommended for inclusion in the database.

European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice serves as the foundation of the shared quality framework within the European Statistical System. It is a self-regulatory framework built around 16 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs. Statistical authorities, including the European Union Statistical Authority (Eurostat), national statistical institutes and other national bodies responsible for developing, producing, and disseminating European statistics are committed to following the Code of Practice (European Commission. Statistical Office of the European Union., 2018).

We used four of the 16 principles to guide the evaluation of the data sources and the existing Eurostat statistics:

- 10. Cost effectiveness: statistical authorities should ensure that resources are used efficiently.
- 11. Relevance: the selected statistics should be based on user needs.
- 14. Coherence and comparability: the statistics should be consistent and comparable to a reasonable extent, both between countries and over time.
- 13. Timeliness and punctuality: the statistics should be released in a timely and punctual manner. There should be strong justification for including statistics in the Nordic Statistics Database that are expected to be released less frequently than annually.

Relevance is based on recommendations drawn from earlier studies and policy frameworks, especially the 2021 mapping study by the Nordic Welfare Centre on disability statistics, while cost effectiveness is ensured by restricting the selection to open data in the Eurostat database. Accordingly, the focus of this study is an analysis of the comparability and timeliness of the disability statistics available in the Eurostat database for the Nordic countries.

Measuring disability

While the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) does not contain a formal definition of disability, Article 1 (Purpose) states that persons with disabilities are *those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others* (United Nations, 2006 Article 1).

Eurostat applies the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) to measure disability in its social surveys. GALI is a two-question instrument measuring the presence of long-standing limitation in activities people usually do. According to this measure, a person is considered to have a disability if they report **being "severely limited"** or **"limited but not severely"** in activities people usually do because of a health problem for at least the past 6 months (Eurostat, n.d.). Since our analysis is based on data from Eurostat, we also use activity limitation as a proxy for disability.

Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI): An official public health metric used by the European Union and the World Health Organization to measure longstanding disability.

The GALI disability indicator is now included in all EU social surveys. Alongside the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), this also includes the Labour Force Survey, the Adult Education Survey, the Household Budget Survey, the Time Use Survey and the Information and Communication Technology Survey (Eurostat, 2021). Table 1 lists the Eurostat surveys that include a disability indicator, including the periodicity of data collection and the year of adoption of the disability indicator.

Data source	Indicator	Year of adoption at Eurostat	Periodicity of data collection
EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) – Adults	2005	Annually
	Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) – Children	2021	Every 3 years
	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)	2022	Every 3 years
European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)	Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI)	2006	Every 5 years (latest 2019)
	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)	2014	Every 5 years (latest 2019)
EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)	Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) – Adults	2022	Every 2 years
Information and Communication Technology Survey	Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) – Adults	2024	Annually

Table 1: Overview of Eurostat surveys containing a disability indicator.

Eurostat maintains a database of published statistics that includes a dedicated section on Disability Statistics covering ten themes. We reviewed all the indicators within these themes, using the principles applied in our evaluation of data sources. Table 2 presents the themes included in Eurostat's disability statistics section and the number of recommended indicators within each theme. The numbers in brackets stand for indicators presented in this report but not recommended for publication in the Nordic Statistics Database.

Eurostat: Disability Database	Number of recommended indicators
Disability prevalence	6
Access to education and training	4
Access to the labour market	4
Income and living conditions	1
Health status and determinants	1
Access to information and communication technologies	1
Leisure and social participation	0 (7) ^[1]
Social protection	0
Access to health and care services	0
Disability – historical data	0
Eurostat: Other databases	
Discrimination	0 (4)
Total	17 (28)

Table 2: Overview of themes in Eurostat's section on disability.

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1. Seven indicators on leisure and social participation and four indicators on discrimination are presented in the report but are not recommended for the Nordic Statistics database, as they do not meet the criteria for timeliness.

Delimitations

This report is subject to several delimitations that should be considered when interpreting the findings. First, the data sources used in the analysis primarily cover people living in private households. This means that persons living in institutional settings or other collective households are generally not included, which limits the representativeness of the results for the full population of persons with disabilities.

Second, several of the indicators are based on relatively small sample sizes, particularly when data are disaggregated by disability status, country and other background characteristics. This may affect the statistical robustness of some comparisons and should be taken into account when interpreting differences between countries and groups.

Third, the disability measure applied in the analysed Eurostat data is based on activity limitation during at least the past six months. This means that the statistics capture current or recent limitation, but not necessarily the timing of disability onset in relation to life course events. For example, for indicators on educational attainment, it is not possible to determine whether an individual had a disability at the time the education was completed.

Fourth, the Eurostat database only includes data from five of the eight Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Statistical indicators for the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland are therefore not included in this report.

In addition, the EU average shown in the figures includes the following Nordic EU Member States: Denmark, Finland and Sweden. Norway and Iceland are not EU members. This should be borne in mind when comparing Nordic countries with the EU average, as they are not fully independent reference groups.

Fifth, while GALI is a useful and widely applied proxy for identifying persons with activity limitation in European social statistics, it has important limitations from a UNCRPD perspective. GALI does not provide information on the nature of disabilities and primarily captures self-reported long-standing limitation in usual activities due to health problems; accordingly, it does not directly measure factors such as environmental barriers, discrimination or accessibility.

Finally, a number of data availability issues affect country comparability. In Iceland, Statistics Iceland is responsible for providing EU-SILC data to Eurostat. Its Social Statistics unit is currently working on the next delivery, expected in 2026, with recent prioritisation of EU-SILC within the unit expected to shorten the interval between future deliveries. For the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Iceland is also investigating why the 2024 Icelandic data have not yet been published in the Eurostat database. The Faroe Islands conducted EU-SILC for the first time in 2026, and the results will be available later this year.

Please note that there are breaks in the time series that can hinder full comparability over time and even between countries. The reader is advised to consult the full data

documentation at Eurostat's website. For the purposes of this report, we highlight that comparisons between different groups for the same country and time are the safest to use, as this guarantees that the same survey definitions have been used. For instance, the study of disability rates by sex and income level for the different Nordic countries indicate that disability is more prevalent among women and those with lower income.

Evaluation of existing Eurostat statistics



Image: Dziurek / Shutterstock

This section presents the results of our evaluation of the indicators used in existing statistics from Eurostat. Our review is divided into eight categories:

1. Disability prevalence
2. Access to education and training
3. Access to the labour market
4. Income and living conditions
5. Health and status determinants
6. Access to information
7. Leisure and social participation
8. Discrimination

1. DISABILITY PREVALENCE

The data in this section come from the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which covers persons aged 16 years and older living in private households. The survey is conducted annually, and the data presented refer to the latest year available per country. All the indicators are based on the Global Activity Limitation Index (GALI)^[2], except for the last indicator, which measures difficulty in basic activities.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Disability prevalence by level of disability	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) [hlth_silc_12]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older
2. Disability prevalence by sex	EU-SILC [hlth_silc_12]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older
3. Disability prevalence by age group	EU-SILC [hlth_dh010]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older
4. Disability prevalence by income quintile	EU-SILC [hlth_silc_12]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older
5. Disability prevalence by educational attainment level	EU-SILC [hlth_silc_07]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older
6. Disability prevalence by activity difficulty	EU-SILC [ilc_hch17]	WG-SS	Every 3 years	16 years and older

Table 3: Indicators identified as strong candidates for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics database on disability prevalence.

2. A study requested by the European Parliament on *Comparability of statistical data on persons with disabilities across the EU* highlights that disability prevalence based on GALI may be affected by different reporting thresholds across countries and surveys. Respondents may differ in the point at which they classify an activity limitation as a disability; these thresholds may be influenced by survey context, question order and national institutional factors, such as disability, welfare and social protection systems (Grammenos, 2024).

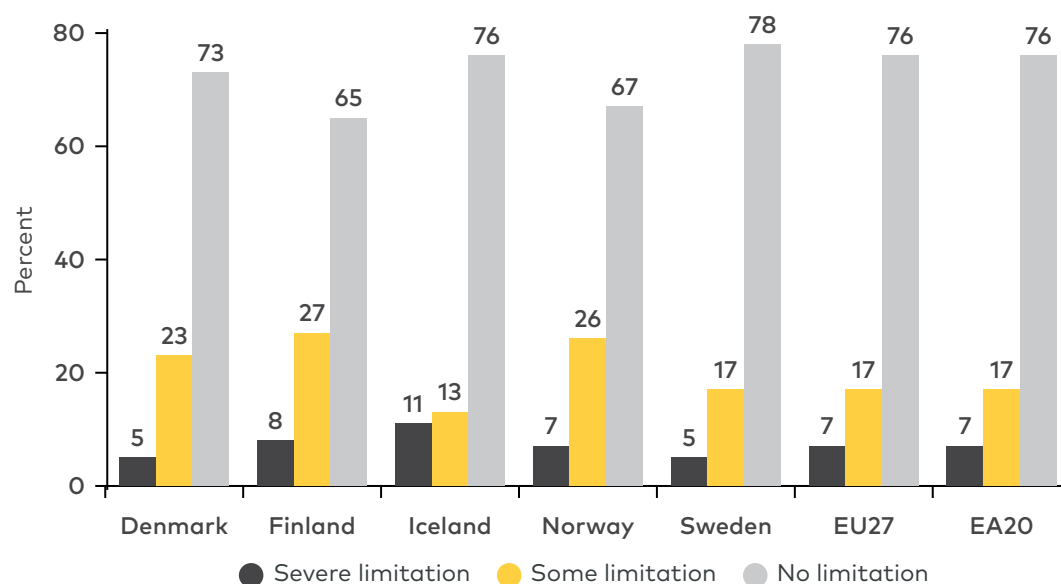


Figure 1: Share of persons with disabilities by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and over living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27 and EA20; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12]

The indicator on disability prevalence by level of disability, shown in Figure 1, is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The graph shows that the share of persons with disabilities is highest in Finland and Norway, where around one third of the population aged 16 years and older living in private households report having a disability. The graph also shows that the share of persons with *severe* activity limitation is highest in Iceland (11%), while the share of persons with *some* activity limitation is also lowest in Iceland (13%).

Figure 1 includes values for the European Union (EU27) and the Euro Area (EA20). In both areas, 17 percent of the population report some degree of limitation, while 7 percent report severe limitation. As there is no difference in the values for these two groups, the values for the Euro Area are omitted in the remainder of the report. Instead, the European Union average (EU27) is used as the sole reference point alongside the Nordic region in the graphs presented.

The same indicator is shown over time in Figure 2. The graph shows that, since 2014, the proportion of people reporting some or severe activity limitation has increased across the Nordic region. The most pronounced rise is observed in Norway, where the share grew by 18 percentage points over the period. Sweden follows with an increase of 9 percentage

points, indicating a substantial upward trend despite starting from a lower level. The average share of persons reporting some or severe activity limitation across the EU Member States decreased by 4 percentage points during the period but remained relatively stable over most of the decade.

Please note that there are breaks in the time series that can hinder full comparability over time and even between countries. The reader is advised to consult the full data documentation at Eurostat's website. For the purposes of this report, we highlight that comparisons between different groups for the same country and time are the safest to use, as this guarantees that the same survey definitions have been used. For instance, the study of disability rates by sex and income level for the different Nordic countries indicate that disability is more prevalent among women and those with lower income.

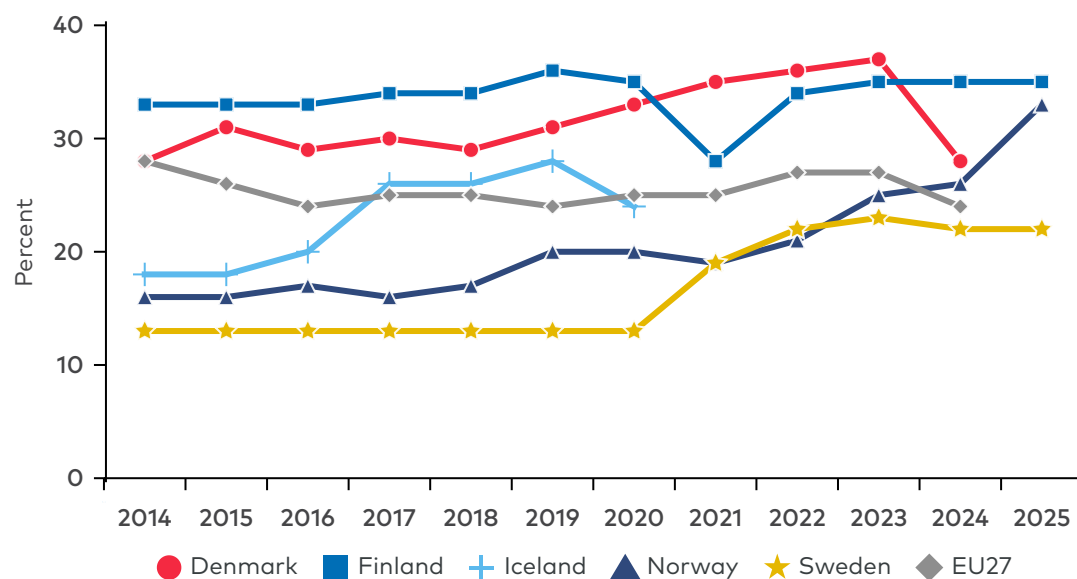


Figure 2: Share of persons with some or severe activity limitation 2014–2025 among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.
Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark and EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12]

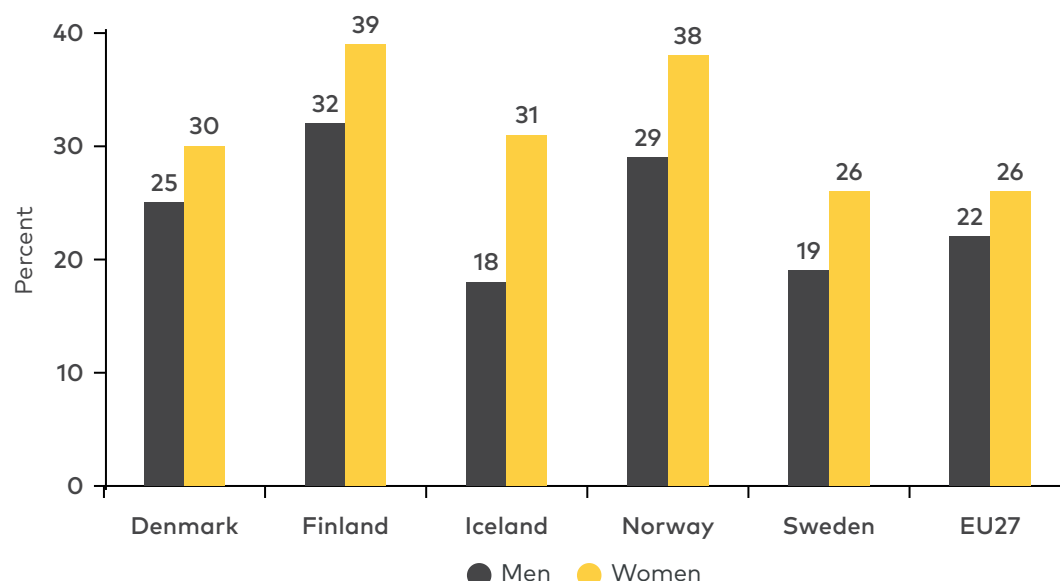


Figure 3: Share of persons with some or severe activity limitation by sex among persons aged 16 years and over living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12]

Another strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section is the indicator on disability prevalence by sex, shown in Figure 3. The share of women reporting some or severe activity limitation is higher than the respective share of men in all the Nordic countries. The greatest difference between men and women is observed in Iceland (13 percentage points), while the smallest difference is observed in Denmark (5 percentage points). In comparison, on average in the EU, the share of women reporting disability is also higher than the share of men, but by 4 percentage points.

The indicator on disability prevalence by age group, shown in Figure 4.1 and 4.2, is also a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The graphs show how the share of persons reporting some or severe activity limitation increases progressively with age. They also show that, for persons aged 16–44 years, the share of persons reporting some or severe activity limitation is higher in Nordic countries than on average in the European Union. According to the graphs, the lowest share of persons reporting activity limitation is observed in Sweden across most age groups, except for the age group 16–24 years, where the lowest share is observed in Denmark, and the age groups 25–34 and 85 and older, where it is observed in Iceland. Conversely, the highest share is observed in Finland across most age groups, except for the age groups 35–54 years, where it is highest in Norway.

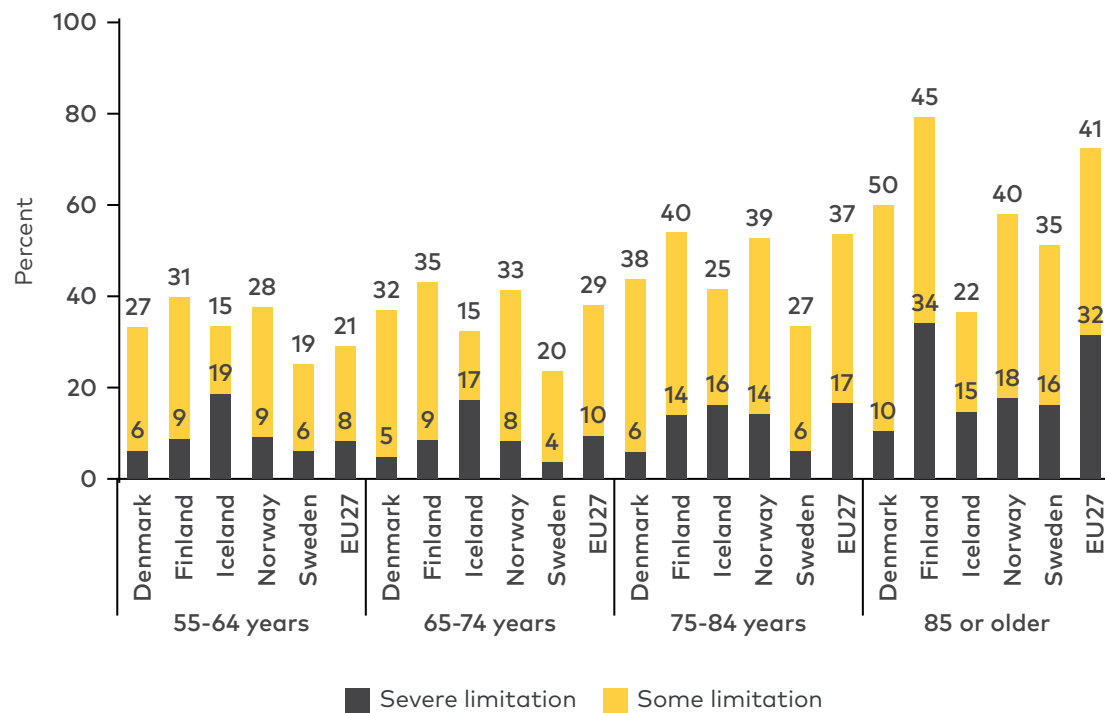
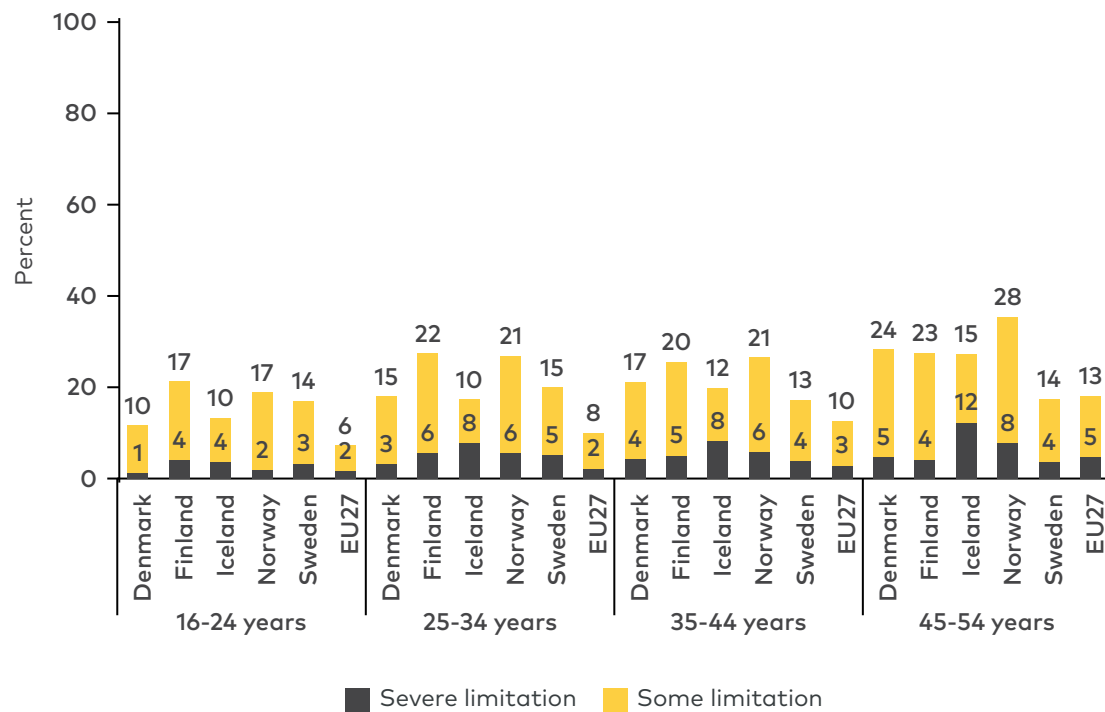


Figure 4: Share of persons with some or severe activity limitation by age group among persons living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27 and EA20; 2020 for Iceland). Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12]

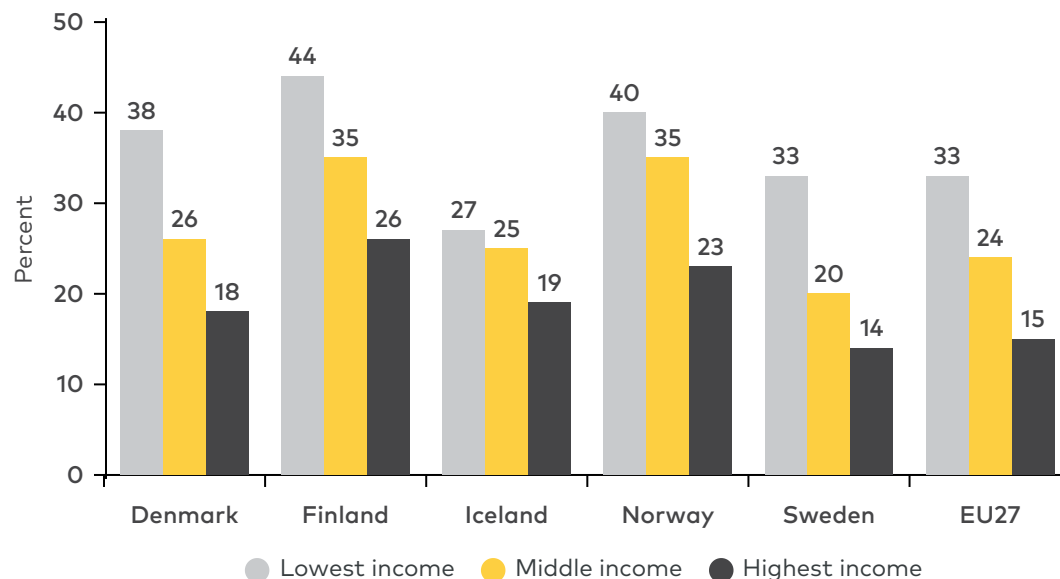


Figure 5: Share of persons with some or severe activity limitation by first, third and fifth income quintile among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27 and EA20; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12]

The fourth strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section is the indicator on disability prevalence by income quintile, shown in Figure 5.

The graph reveals clear differences between income quintiles and disability across all Nordic countries. It shows that persons in the lowest income group are more likely to report disability than those in the middle and higher income groups. The largest share of persons reporting disability is observed in Finland, where 44% of all persons in the lowest income group report disability. The smallest share within the lowest income category is observed in Sweden at 33%, which is equal to the European average.

Figure 5 also shows the gap in reported disability between income groups. The widest gap is found in Denmark, where the difference between the share of persons with disabilities in the lowest income group and the highest income group is 20 percentage points. The narrowest gap is observed in Iceland, where the difference is 8 percentage points.

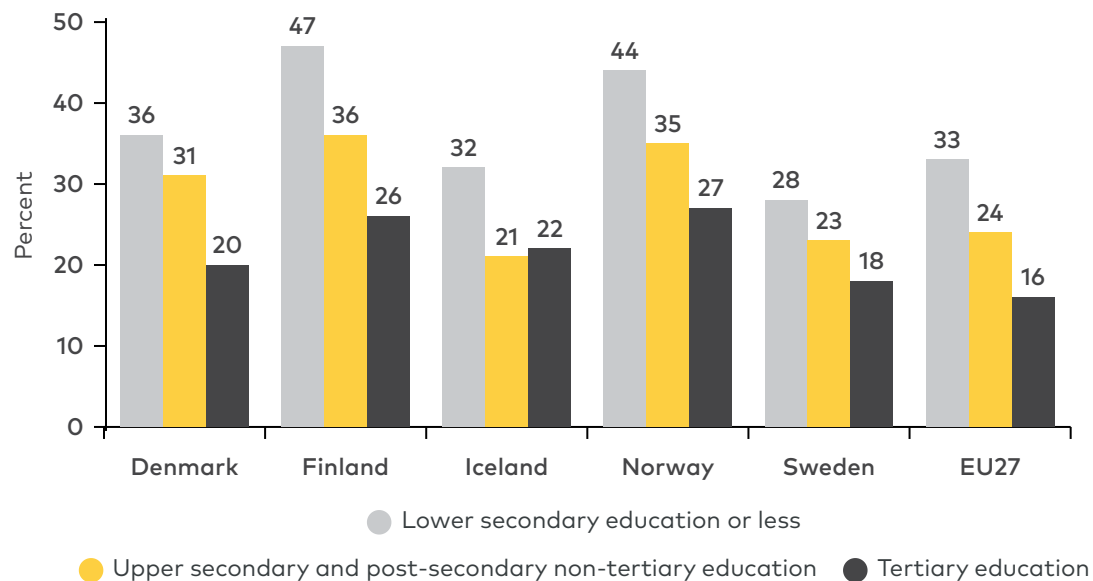


Figure 6: Share of persons with some or severe activity limitation by educational attainment among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_07]

The indicator on disability prevalence by educational attainment level, shown in Figure 6, is the fifth strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section. This indicator was also recommended in the NWC mapping study (2021). It shows that persons with lower levels of formal education are more likely to report disability than those with higher formal education. The highest share is observed in Finland, where 47% of persons with lower secondary education or less reported disability.

Figure 6 also shows the gap between educational attainment levels in reported disability. The widest gap is observed in Finland, where the difference between the share of persons reporting disability in the lowest educational level and the highest educational level is 21 percentage points. The narrowest gap is observed in Sweden and Iceland, where there is a difference of 10 percentage points between the groups with the highest and the lowest educational attainment levels.

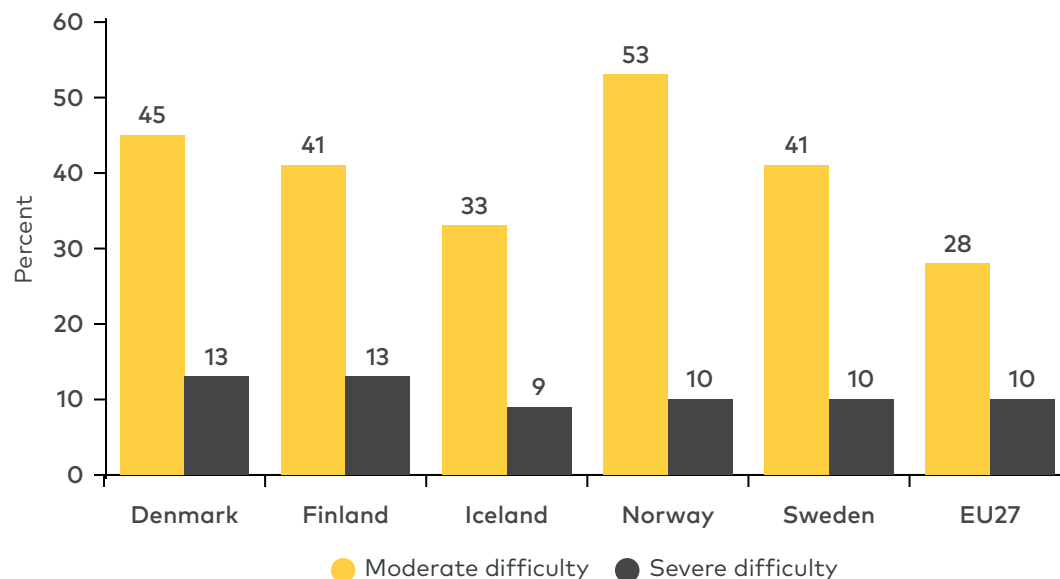


Figure 7: Share of persons reporting moderate or severe difficulty in basic activities among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden, 2022 for Denmark, Iceland and EU27).

Source: Eurostat [ilc_hch17]

Difficulty in basic activities, shown in Figure 7, is another way of measuring disability. This measurement of disability differs from the previous six indicators in this chapter, which measure activity limitation. This indicator instead assesses the level of difficulty in basic activities, namely hearing, seeing, walking, remembering or concentrating, communicating and self-care. This is also a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database, as it captures a different dimension of disability measurement.

The graph in Figure 7 shows that over 50% of the population in Nordic countries report difficulty in one or more basic activities, except for Iceland at 42%. It also shows that while Nordic countries have a larger share of persons reporting moderate difficulty in basic activities than the EU27 average, the share of persons reporting severe difficulty is similar to the EU27 average.

2. ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) establishes a clear framework for access to education in Article 24. It recognises education as a fundamental human right for persons with disabilities and requires countries to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels.

Indicators measuring participation in school and education among persons with disabilities were also recommended in the earlier study by the Nordic Welfare Centre (Johanna Jokinen et al., 2021) on monitoring implementation of the UNCRPD and the 2030 Agenda. The report also recommended indicators on the participation of children with disabilities. Eurostat does not publish an indicator on children's access to education and training that meets the Nordic Statistics Database criteria for inclusion.

The data in this section come from the EU Labour Force Survey, which covers persons aged 15 years and older living in private households^[3]. The survey is conducted every two years, and the data presented here refer to the 2024 survey, except for Iceland, where the latest available data are from 2022. The survey adopted the disability measure in 2022. To date, only two time points are available.

All indicators are based on the Global Activity Limitation Index (GALI).

3. Other sources of statistics on inclusive education are also available. The scope of this report is limited to statistics available in the Eurostat database.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Tertiary educational attainment	EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) [edat_lfs_9920]	GALI	Every 2 years	25–34 years
2. Participation in education and training during the previous 4 weeks	EU-LFS [trng_lfs_16]	GALI	Every 2 years	18–64 years
3. Share of early leavers from education and training	EU-LFS [edat_lfse_40]	GALI	Every 2 years	18–24 years
4. Young persons neither in education nor training (NEET)	EU-LFS [edat_lfse_39]	GALI	Every 2 years	15–29 years

Table 4: Indicators identified as strong candidates for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics database on access to education and training.

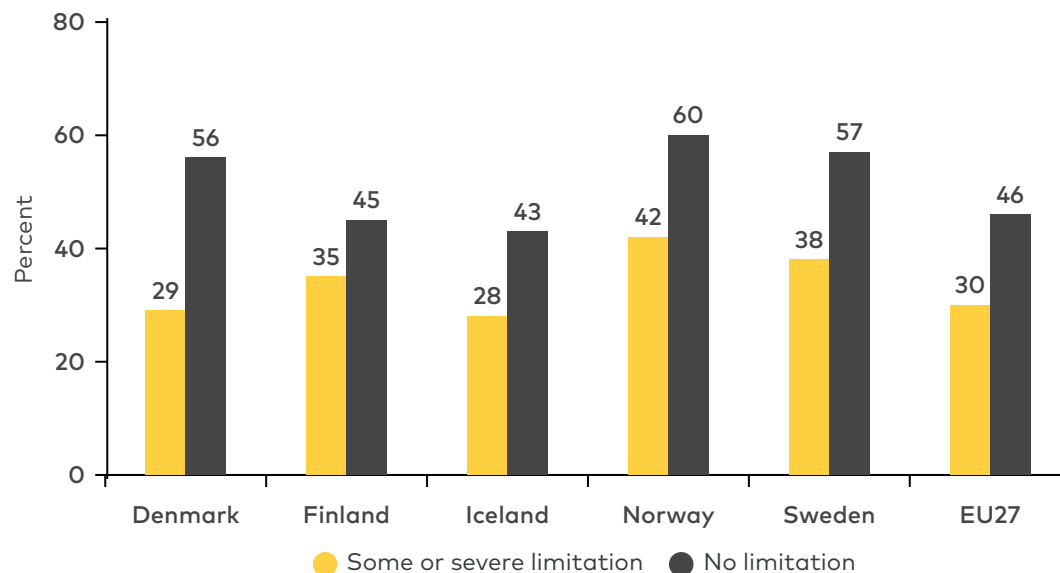


Figure 8: Share of persons with tertiary educational attainment by level of disability among persons aged 25–34 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [edat_ifs_9920]

The indicator on tertiary educational attainment by level of disability, shown in Figure 8, is the first strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section. The graph shows that persons aged 25–34 years with disabilities are less likely to have higher educational attainment than those without disabilities. In the Nordic countries, the highest share of persons with disabilities who have completed university education is observed in Norway, while the lowest share is observed in Iceland. The graph also shows that the share of young persons with disabilities who have attained tertiary education in Denmark and Iceland is lower than the EU27 average.

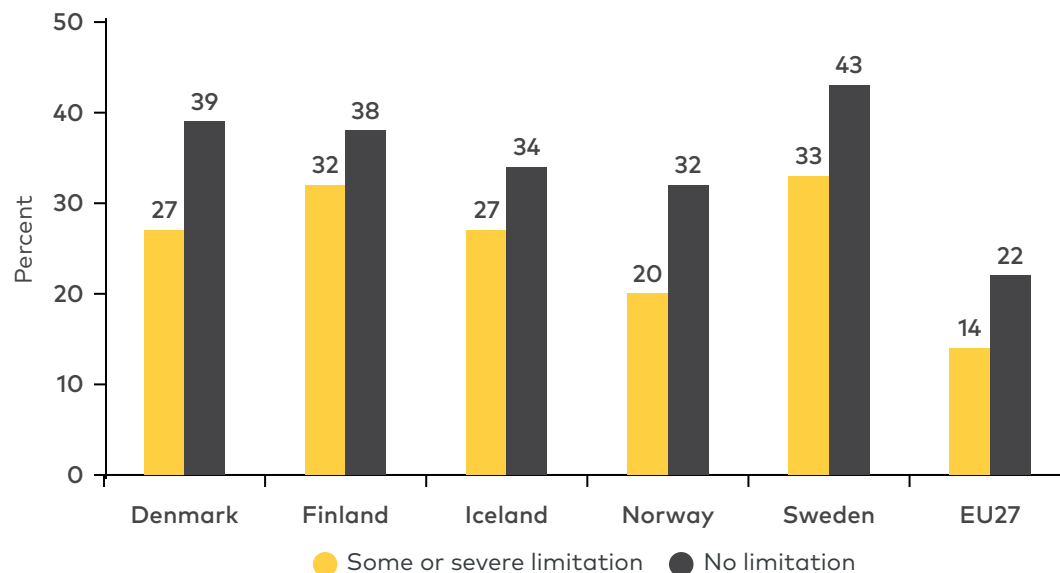


Figure 9: Share of persons participating in education and training during the previous four weeks by level of disability among persons aged 18–64 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [trng_lfs_16]

The second strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section is the indicator on participation in education and training during the previous four weeks, shown in Figure 9. The graph shows that persons with disabilities are less likely to participate in education and training than persons without disabilities. The widest gap is observed in Denmark and Norway, where the difference is 12 percentage points, while the narrowest gap is observed in Finland, where the difference is 6 percentage points. In all Nordic countries, the share of persons participating in education and training is significantly higher than the EU average.

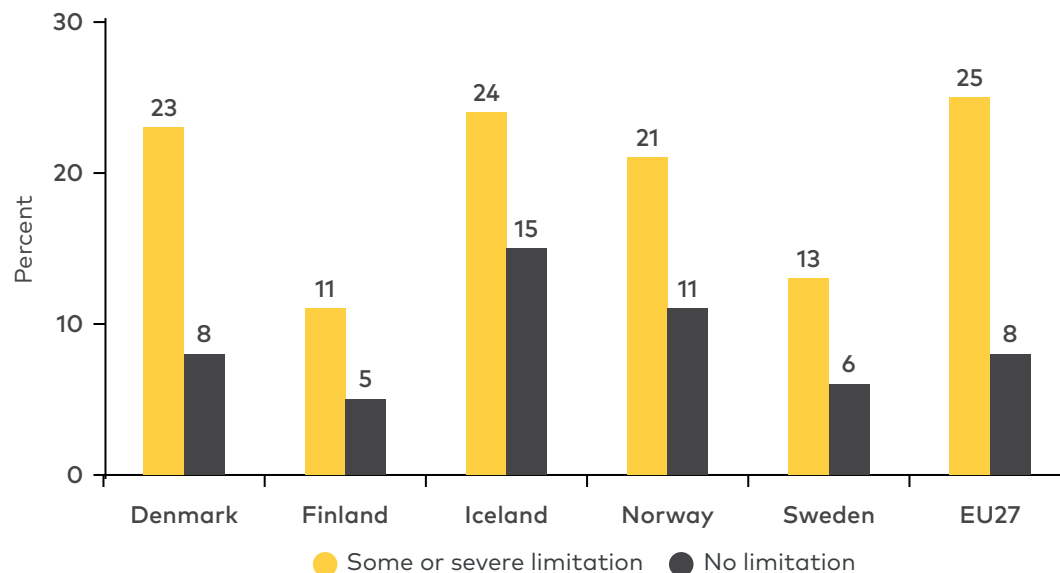


Figure 10: Share of early leavers from education and training by level of disability among persons aged 18–24 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [edat_ifse_40]

The indicator on early leavers from education and training by level of disability, shown in Figure 10, is also a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, young persons with disabilities are more likely to leave education and training than their peers without disabilities. The widest gap is observed in Denmark, where the difference is 15 percentage points. The narrowest gap is observed in Finland, where the difference is 6 percentage points; Finland also has the smallest share of early leavers. The EU27 average shows a larger gap between young persons with disabilities and those without disabilities than observed in any of the Nordic countries.

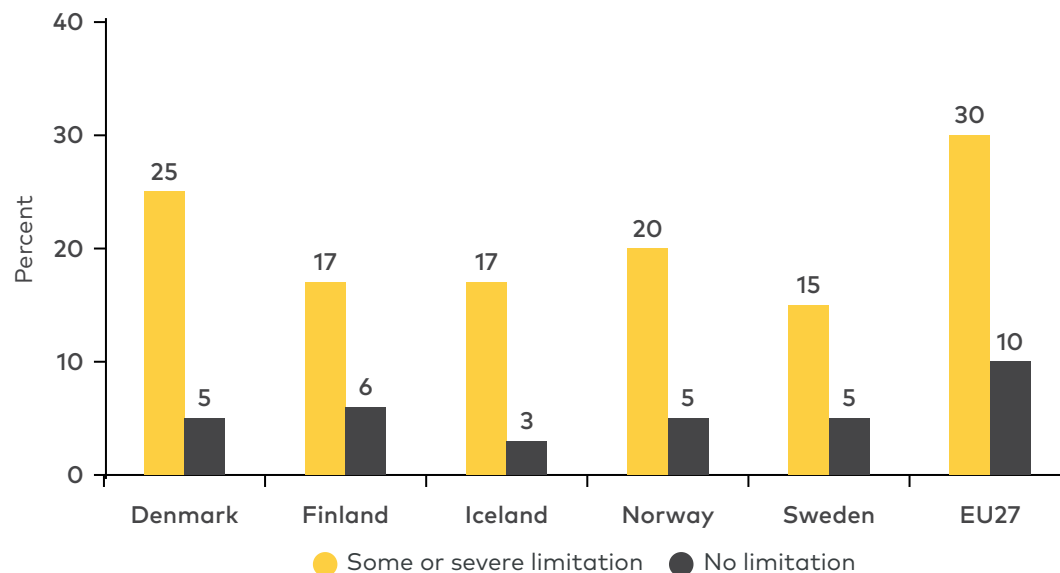


Figure 11: Share of persons neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET rates) by level of disability among persons aged 15–29 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [edat_lfse_39]

The last strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section is the indicator on young persons neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET rates) by level of disability, shown in Figure 11. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, the NEET rate for persons with disabilities is significantly higher than for persons without disabilities. The widest gap is observed in Denmark, where the difference is 20 percentage points, which also corresponds to the EU27 average. The narrowest gap is observed in Finland, where the difference is 11 percentage points.

3. ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKET

The right of persons with disabilities to work and participate in the labour market on an equal basis with others is set out in Article 27 of the UNCRPD. At the Nordic level, access to the labour market is highlighted under the focus area of participation in the Nordic Programme for Co-operation on Disability Issues 2023–2027. The European Commission has established a Disability Employment Package to support Member States in ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy economic autonomy through employment. Furthermore, reducing the disability employment gap will contribute to the 2030 EU headline targets on employment participation of adults. The 2021 mapping study recommended including an indicator on labour status by activity limitation.

Three indicators in this section come from the EU Labour Force Survey and one from the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)^[4]. The EU Labour Force Survey is conducted every two years, and the data presented here refer to the 2024 survey, except for Iceland, where the latest available data are from 2022. The indicator on the disability employment gap comes from the annual EU-SILC survey and is shown over time from 2014 onwards.

The working age population consists of the labour force and persons outside the labour force. The labour force comprises all people who are either employed or unemployed but actively seeking and available for work. The labour force participation rate is the share of the working age population that is in the labour force. The employment rate is the share of the working age population that is employed. It is not restricted to those in the labour force.

Eurostat does not typically publish a standard employment rate specifically for persons with disabilities. Instead, it reports the disability employment gap, defined as the difference between the employment rates of persons without disabilities and those with some or severe disabilities.

Persons outside the labour force are those of working age who are neither employed nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, students, retirees and individuals who are unable to work due to illness or other reasons.

4. The study *Comparability of statistical data on persons with disabilities across the EU* recommends exercising caution when comparing EU-LFS and EU-SILC indicators on employment status due to notable differences, including measurements, seasonal variation and the structure and sequence of the health-related questions (Grammenos, 2024).

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Labour force participation	EU Labour Force Survey (EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) [Ifsa_argaedd])	GALI	Every 2 years	20–64 years
2. Disability employment gap ^[5]	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) [hlth_dlm200]	GALI	Annually	20–64 years
3. Unemployment	EU-LFS [Ifsa_urgaedd])	GALI	Every 2 years	20–64 years
4. Outside the labour force	EU-LFS [Ifsa_ipgaedd])	GALI	Every 2 years	20–64 years

Table 5: Indicators identified as strong candidates for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics database on access to the labour market.

5. The disability employment gap is defined as the difference between the employment rates of persons without activity limitation and those with some or severe limitation in their daily activities, aged 20–64. The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20–64 in employment by the total population of the same age group.

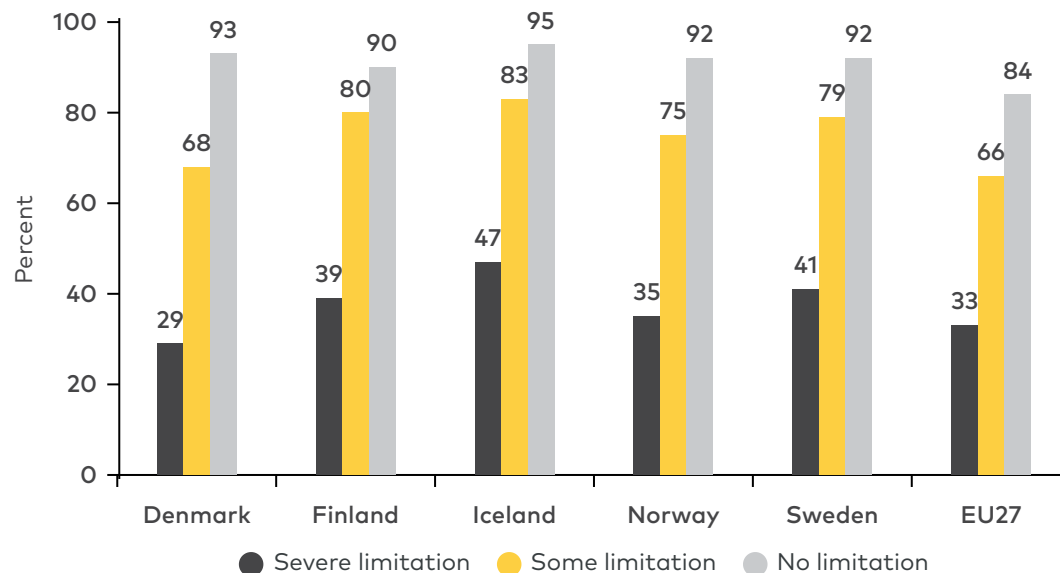


Figure 12: Labour force participation rates by level of disability among persons aged 20–64 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [lfsa_argaedd]

The indicator on labour force participation rates by level of disability, shown in Figure 12, is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The participation rate measures the share of the population aged 20–64 years that is either employed or actively seeking a job. Figure 12 shows that in all Nordic countries, there is a progressive gap in labour force participation rates by level of disability. The widest gap between labour force participation rates of individuals with severe activity limitation and those without activity limitation is observed in Denmark (64 percentage points), while the narrowest gap is observed in Iceland (48 percentage points).

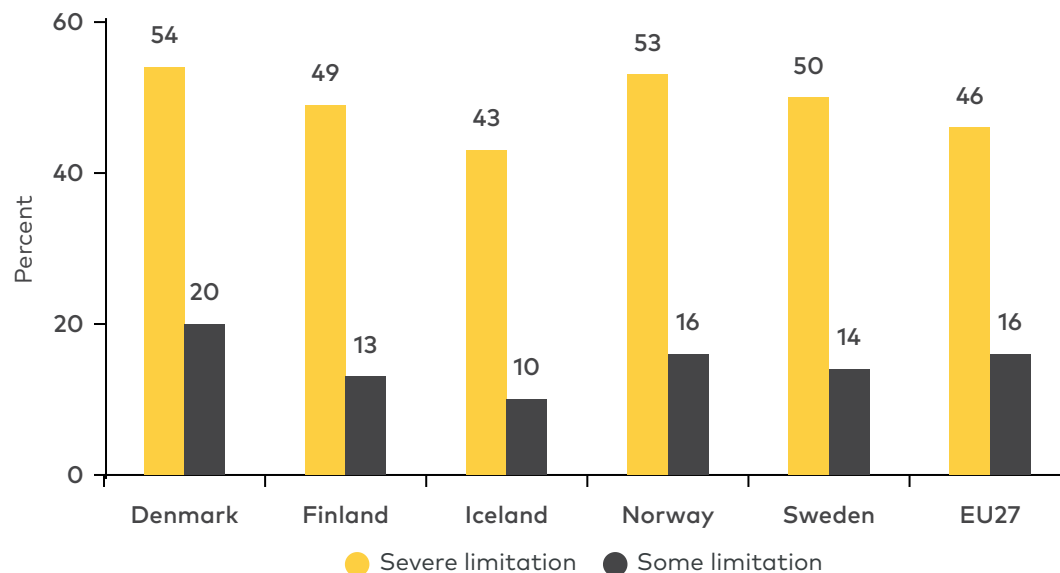


Figure 13: The disability employment gap by level of activity limitation for persons aged 20–64 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark and EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200]

The second strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section is the indicator on the disability employment gap by level of activity limitation, shown in Figure 13 and Figure 14. While the labour force participation rate shown in Figure 12 measures the share of persons in the labour force, the employment rate measures the share of the working age population that is employed. The graph in Figure 13 shows the gap in employment between persons without disabilities and persons with some or severe limitation. The gap in employment rates of persons with severe limitation is the widest in Denmark (54 percentage points) and narrowest in Iceland (43 percentage points). Iceland is the only Nordic country with a disability employment gap for persons with severe limitation below the European average. The disability employment gap for persons with some limitation is also widest in Denmark and narrowest in Iceland.

Figure 14 shows the same indicator over time for persons with some or severe limitation. The graph shows that the disability gap has generally decreased over the period in Norway, Sweden and Iceland, despite year to year fluctuations. Finland displayed the most stable pattern, while Denmark followed a U shaped trend, declining until 2019 before rising again. Although substantial differences between countries were evident in the mid 2010s, the gaps converged somewhat by 2025, with most countries recording values between approximately 20% and 24%.

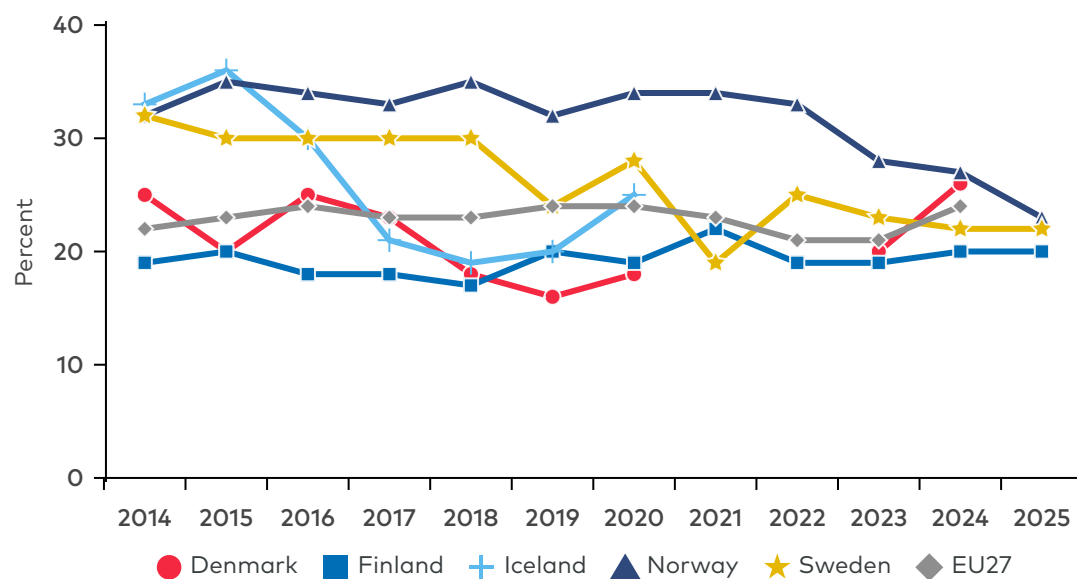


Figure 14: The disability employment gap for persons aged 20–64 years with some or severe limitation living in private households.
Years 2014 to the most recent available year (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark and EU27; 2020 for Iceland). Data missing for Denmark 2021–2022.

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200]

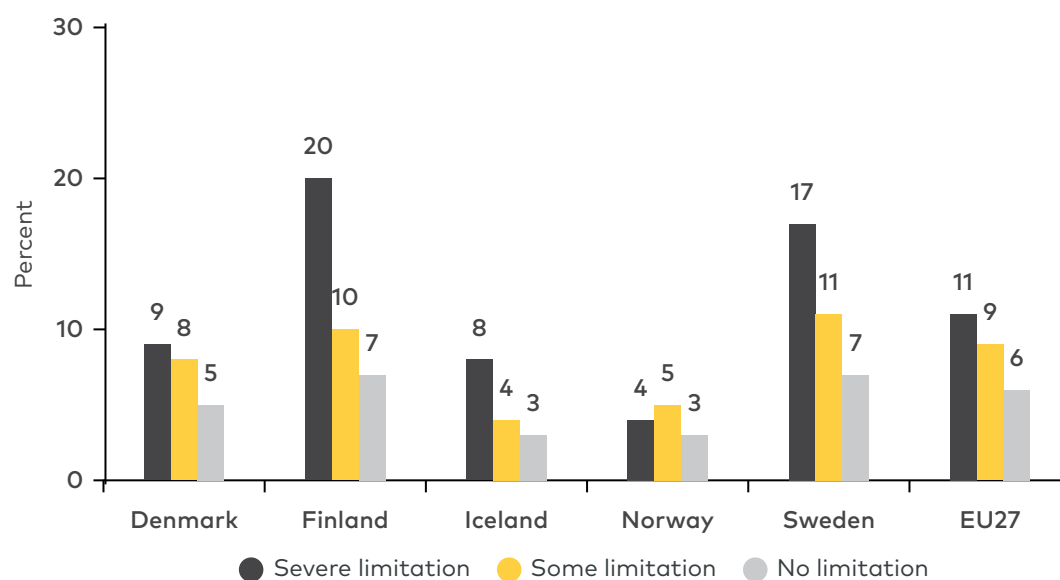


Figure 15: Unemployment rates by level of disability among persons aged 20–64 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [lfsa_urgaddl]

The indicator on unemployment rates by level of disability, shown in Figure 15, is also a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The unemployment rate measures the share of the labour force that is unemployed and actively seeking and available for work.

Figure 15 shows that in all Nordic countries, unemployment rates are higher among persons with disabilities than those without disabilities. The graph also shows that the gap varies in magnitude across Nordic countries, ranging from 1 percentage point in Norway, to 13 percentage points in Finland.

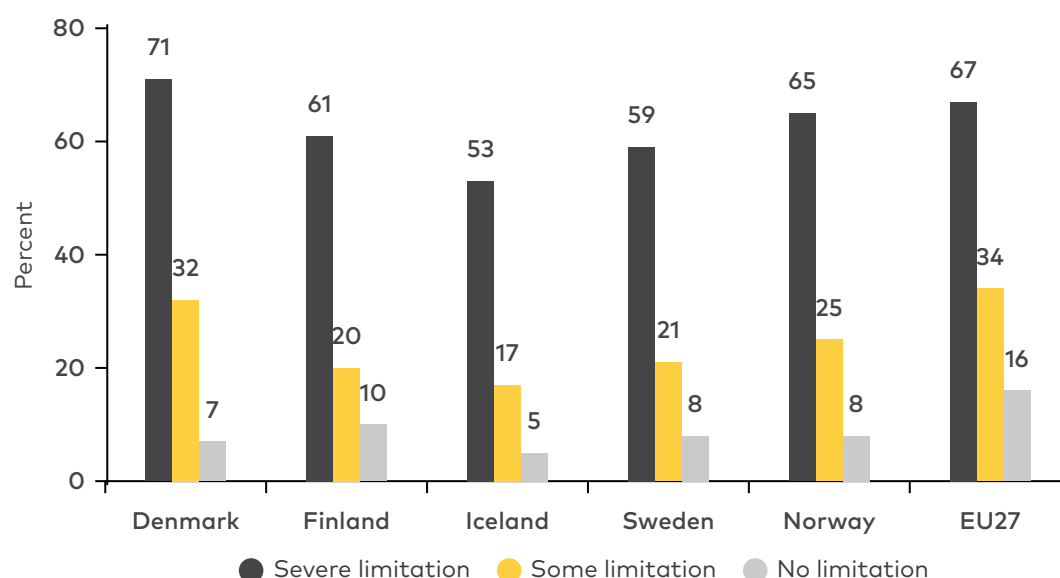


Figure 16: Share of persons outside the labour force by level of disability among persons aged 20–64 years living in private households.

Most recent year available (2024 for Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and EU27; 2022 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [Ifsa_ipgaeddl]

The fifth strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database in this section is the indicator on persons outside the labour force by level of disability, shown in Figure 16. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, persons with some or severe disabilities are more likely to be outside the labour force than persons without disabilities, and in all the countries observed, over half of persons with severe disabilities are outside the labour force. The widest gap between persons with severe disabilities and those without disabilities is observed in Denmark (64 percentage points), while the narrowest gap is observed in Iceland (48 percentage points).

4. INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS

The right to live in dignity with access to the basic conditions needed for a decent life is set out in Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes protection against poverty and deprivation. The objective of reducing inequality, regardless of factors including disability, is also set out in the United Nations' SDG 10.

Decent quality of life is also a priority area of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. At-risk-of-poverty ^[6]	The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) [hlth_dpe020]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older

Table 6: Indicator identified as strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics database on income and living conditions.

6. The at-risk-of-poverty rate is the share of persons with an equivalised disposable income (after social transfer) below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers.

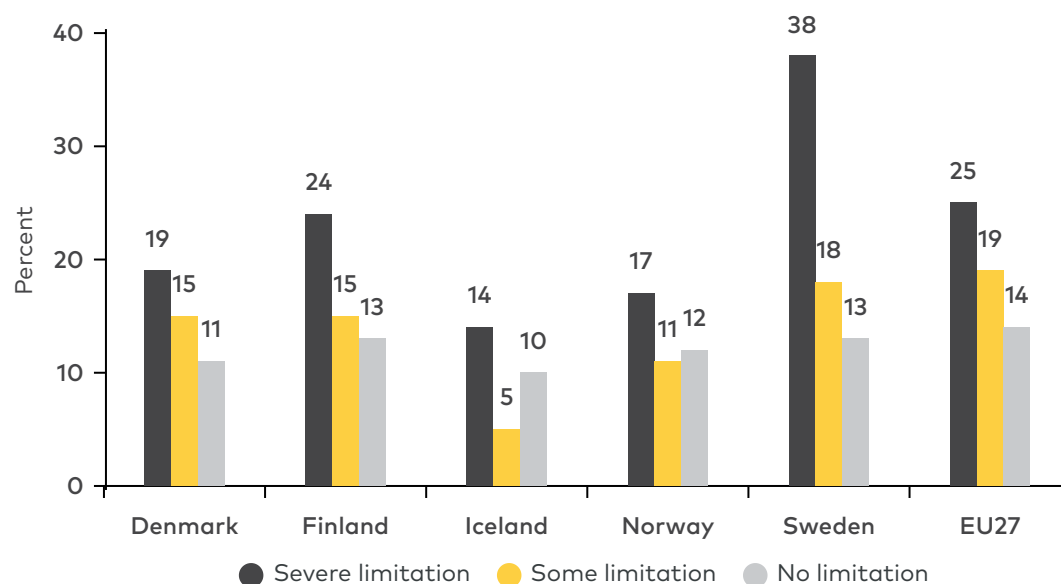


Figure 17: Share of persons at risk of poverty by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020]

The indicator on persons at risk of poverty by level of disability, shown in Figure 17 and Figure 18, is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The graph in Figure 17 shows that in all Nordic countries, the share of persons with some or severe disabilities at risk of poverty is below the European average, except in Sweden, where over one third of persons with severe disabilities are at risk of poverty. Iceland has the lowest share of persons at risk of poverty across all categories.

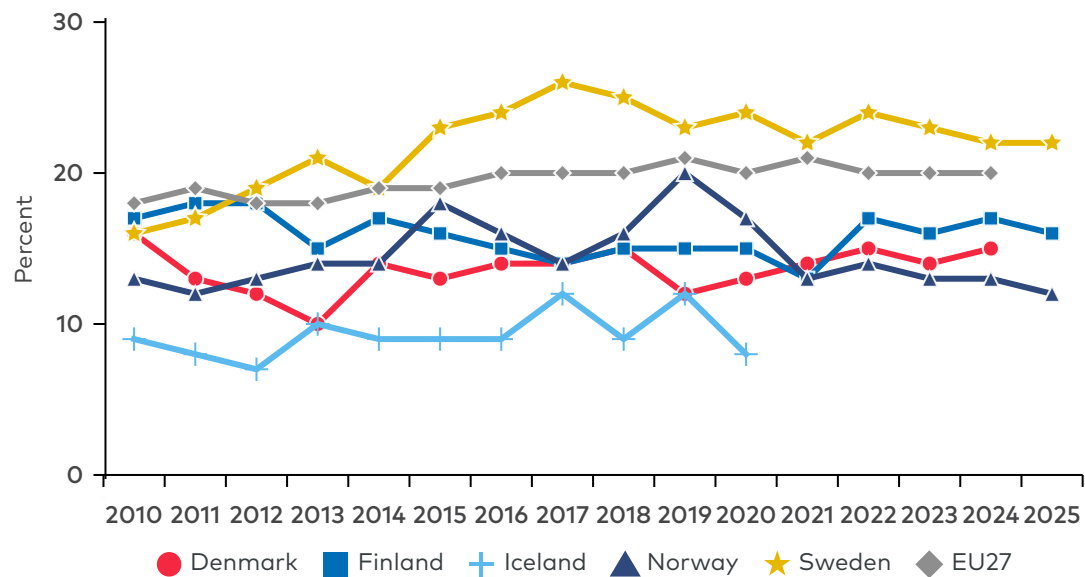


Figure 18: Share of persons at risk of poverty over time among persons with some or severe disabilities, aged 16 years and older living in private households.
From 2010 to the most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020]

Figure 18 shows the same indicator over time for persons with some or severe disabilities. According to the graph, the share of persons at risk of poverty has increased over time in both Sweden and the EU. Since 2012, this share has remained higher in Sweden than in the EU average.

5. HEALTH STATUS AND DETERMINANTS

Health indicators are directly relevant to the UNCRPD, particularly Article 25 on health, as well as to the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030. They also support SDG 3 Good health and well-being and SDG 10 Reduced inequalities. Indicators on health status were also recommended in the 2021 mapping study.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Self-perceived health by level of disability	The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) [hlth_dh010]	GALI	Annually	16 years and older

Table 7: Indicator identified as strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics database on health status and determinants.

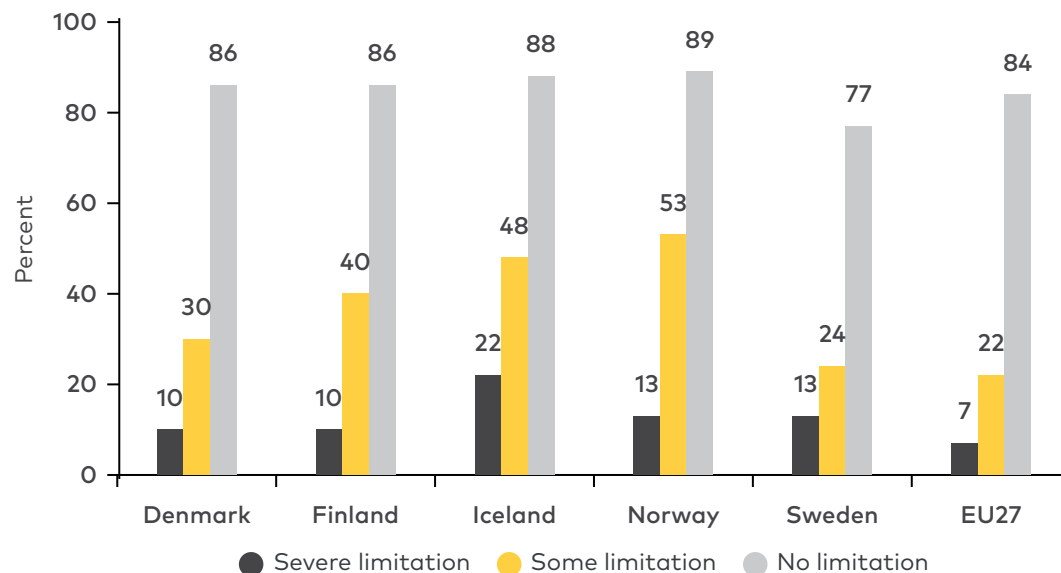


Figure 19: Self-perceived health as good or very good by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh010]

The indicator on self-perceived health by level of disability, shown in Figure 19 and Figure 20, is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The indicator shows the share of individuals who perceive their health as good or very good by level of disability. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, there is a clear gap in self-perceived health, with the highest share reporting good or very good health among persons without disabilities. The widest gap between persons without disabilities and persons with severe disabilities is 76 percentage points, observed in Denmark, Finland and Norway.

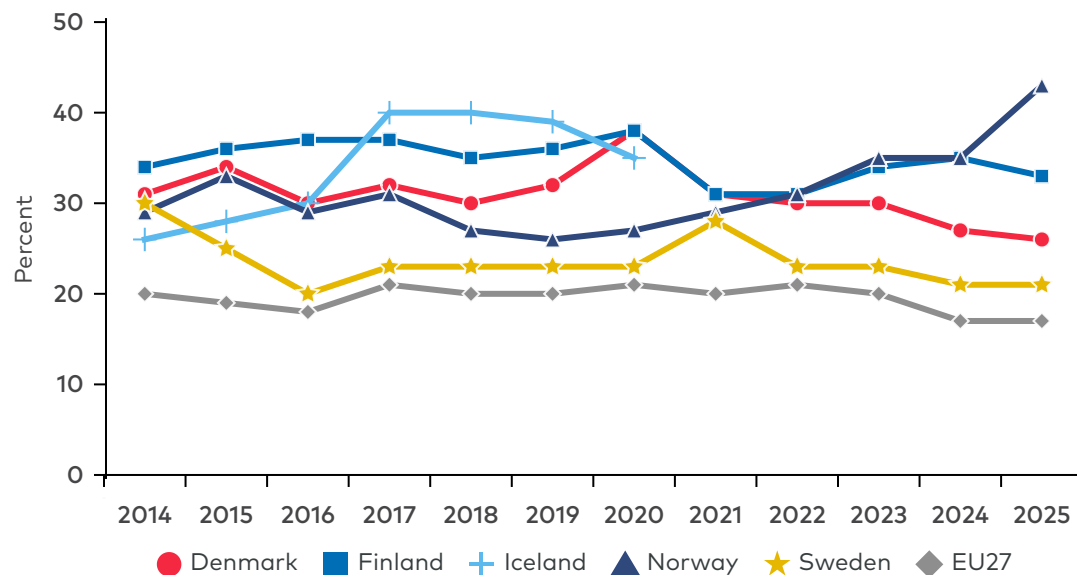


Figure 20: Self-perceived health as good or very good among persons with some or severe disabilities, aged 16 years and older living in private households.

From 2014 to the most recent year available (2025 for Finland, Norway, Sweden; 2024 for Denmark, EU27; 2020 for Iceland).

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh010]

Figure 20 shows the indicator on self-perceived health as good or very good among persons with some or severe disabilities over time. The graph shows that the share of persons with disabilities reporting good or very good health is higher in all Nordic countries than in the EU. It also shows that in Denmark and Sweden, the share of persons with disabilities who perceive their health as good or very good has decreased in the past decade.

6. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The right to access information and communication technologies and systems on an equal basis with others is set out in Article 9 of the UNCRPD. In the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030, accessibility and equal access to digital environments are recognised as key conditions for participation on an equal basis with others.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Persons regularly using the internet ^[7]	Information and Communication Technology Survey (ICT) [dsb_ictiu02]	GALI	Annually	16–74 years

Table 8: Indicator identified as strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics database on access to information.

7. Regular use is defined as once a week on average (including every day) in the previous three months before the survey. Use includes all methods of access and any purpose (private or work-related).

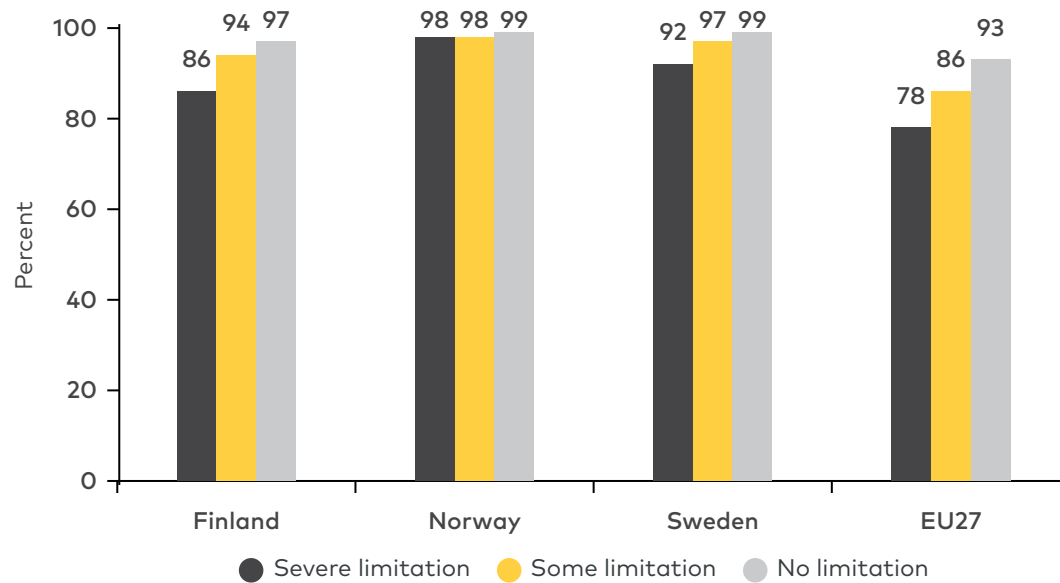


Figure 21: Share of persons regularly using the internet by level of disability in 2024.

Data not available for Denmark and Iceland.

Source: Eurostat [dsb_ictiu02__custom_21520873]

The indicator on persons regularly using the internet by level of disability, shown in Figure 21, is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The graph shows that the internet is widely used in the three Nordic countries where data are available; in Norway, the gap between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities is only 1 percentage point. In Sweden and Finland, there is a difference in internet usage between persons with and without disabilities, but the gap is less pronounced than on average in the European Union.

7. LEISURE AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

The UNCRPD addresses leisure, culture, recreation, and social participation in Article 30 on participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport. It recognises the rights of persons with disabilities to enjoy access to sporting venues, museums, theatres, and other cultural performances, as well as access to monuments and important cultural or national sites.

The indicators in this section do not meet the criteria for Nordic Statistics Database due to the limited periodicity of data collection. The indicators in this section have only one time point, namely 2022, with the next data collection scheduled for 2028. Despite their limitations, the indicators are documented in the report for future reference.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Persons participating in cultural activities ^[8]	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) [ilc_scp37]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
2. Persons participating in sport activities	EU SILC [ilc_scp37]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
3. Persons getting together with family	EU SILC [ilc_scp35]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
4. Persons getting together with friends	EU SILC [ilc_scp35]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
5. Persons feeling left out from society	EU SILC [ilc_pw12]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
6. Overall perceived social support	The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) [hlth_ehis_ss1d]	WG-SS	Irregular (three waves conducted; latest in 2019)	15 years and older
7. Persons participating in formal voluntary activities	EU SILC [ilc_scp39]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older

Table 9: Indicators on leisure and social participation documented for future reference.

8. Cultural activities are: cinema, live performances (theatre, concerts, ballet) or cultural sites (historical monuments, museums, art galleries or archaeological sites).

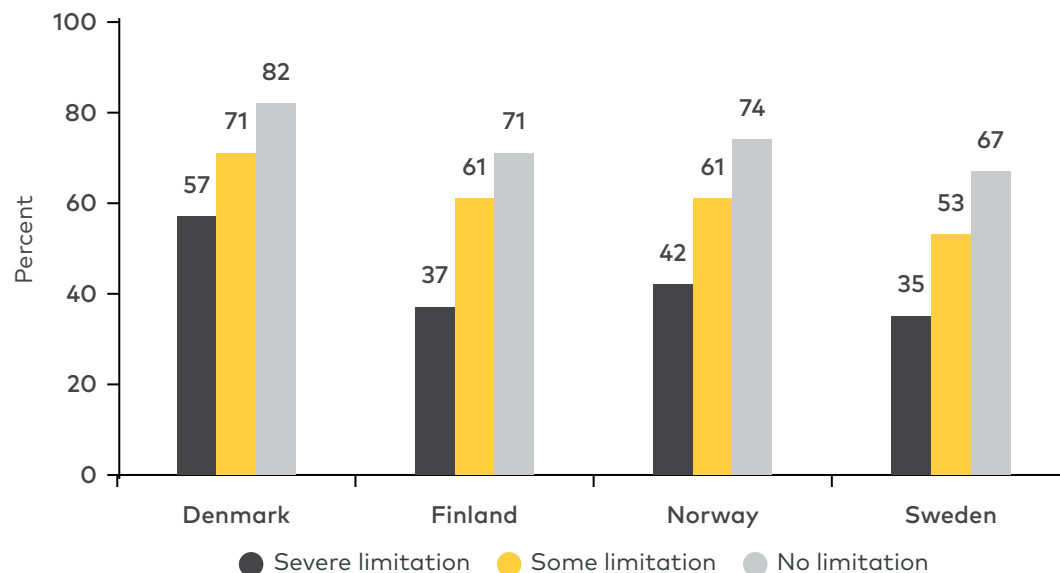


Figure 22: Share of persons participating in cultural activities at least once in the past 12 months by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Year: 2022. Data not available for Iceland and the EU27 average.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_scp37]

The first indicator in the leisure and social participation section is the share of persons who have at least once in the past 12 months (in 2022) participated in cultural activities, by level of disability, shown in Figure 22. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, persons without disabilities are more likely to participate in cultural activities than persons with severe or some disabilities. The widest gap between persons with severe and no disabilities is observed in Finland (34 percentage points), while the narrowest gap is observed in Denmark (25 percentage points).

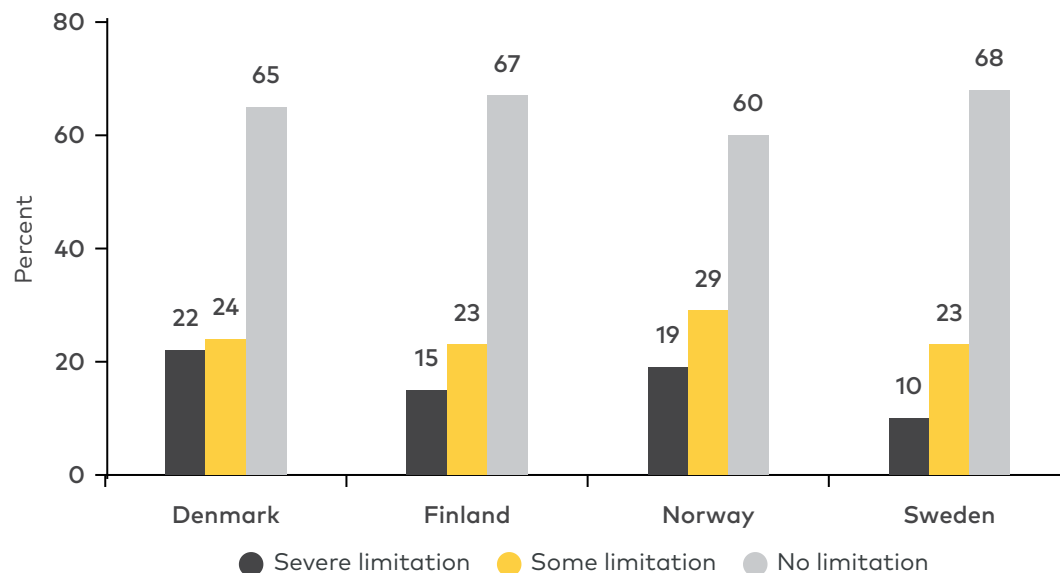


Figure 23: Share of persons participating in sport activities at least once in the past 12 months by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Year: 2022. Data not available for Iceland and the EU27 average.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_scp37]

The next indicator is the share of persons participating in sport activities at least once in the past 12 months by level of disability, shown in Figure 23. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, persons without disabilities are at least twice as likely to participate in sport activities than those with some or severe disabilities. The lowest share of persons with severe disabilities who participate in sport activities is observed in Sweden (10%), which also has the widest gap in this respect between persons with severe and no disabilities (58 percentage points).

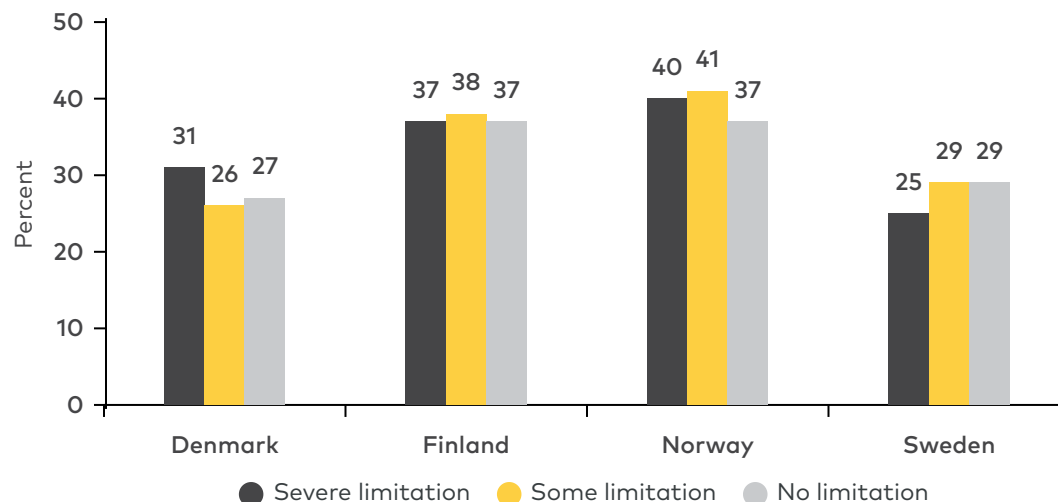


Figure 24: Share of persons getting together with family or relatives every week by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Year: 2022. Data not available for Iceland and the EU27.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_scp35]

The third indicator in this category is persons getting together with family every week by level of disability, shown in Figure 24. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, the share of persons getting together with their family on a weekly basis is similar across the three groups.

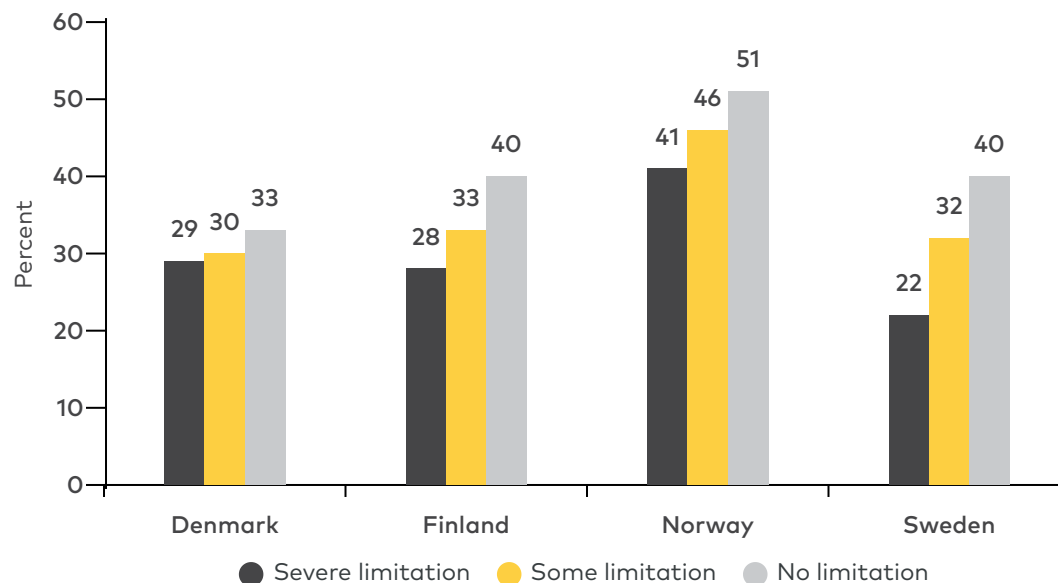


Figure 25: Share of persons getting together with friends every week by level of disability among persons 16 years or older living in private households.

Year: 2022. Data for Iceland and the EU27 not available.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_scp35]

The fourth indicator in this section is persons getting together with friends every week by level of disability, shown in Figure 25. The graph shows that weekly contact with friends is consistently lower among persons with severe disabilities than those without disabilities in all Nordic countries shown. While the differences are smaller than for participation in cultural or sport activities, the pattern still points to more limited social interaction among persons with severe disabilities.

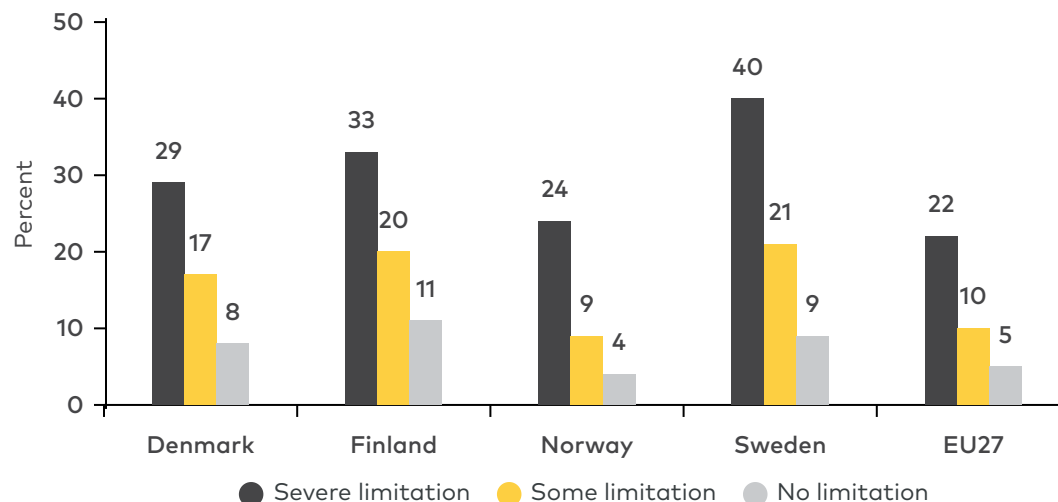


Figure 26: Share of persons feeling left out from society by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Year: 2022. Data not available for Iceland.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_pw12]

The fifth indicator is persons feeling left out from society by level of disability, shown in Figure 26. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, persons with severe disabilities are most likely to feel left out from society, while those without disabilities are least likely to feel left out. The widest gap between persons with severe disabilities and those without disabilities is observed in Sweden (31 percentage points). Compared to the EU average, people in Nordic countries are more likely to feel left out from society across all categories, except for persons with some or no disabilities in Norway.

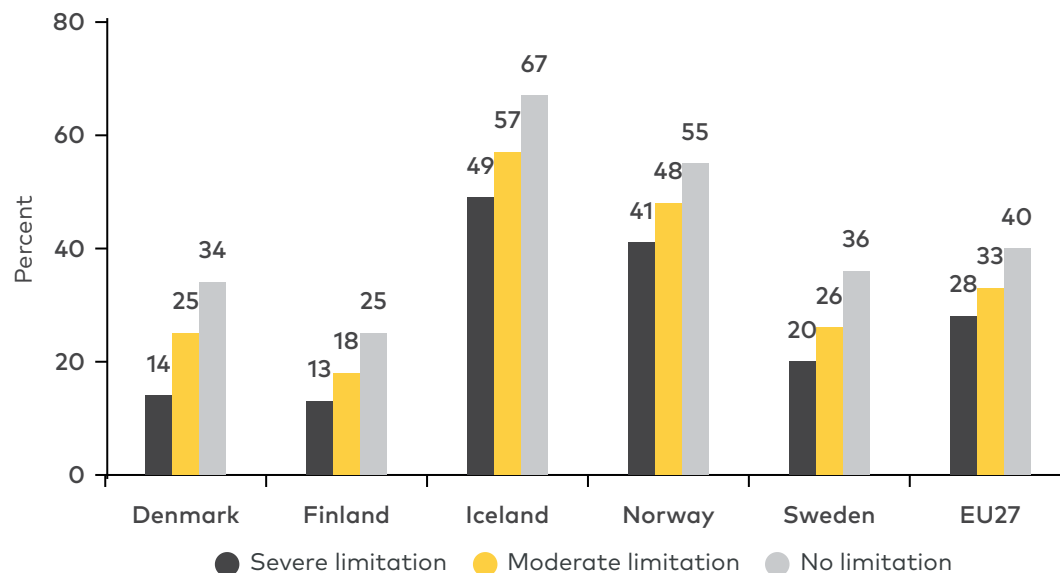


Figure 27: Perceived strong social support by level of disability among persons aged 15 years and older living in private households. Year: 2019.

Source: Eurostat [hlth_ehis_ss1d]

The sixth indicator is perceived social support by level of disability. The indicator has three measurements: strong social support, moderate social support and poor social support. The graph in Figure 27 shows that in all Nordic countries, persons with disabilities are less likely to report strong social support than those without disabilities. The graph also shows that the share of persons with strong social support varies considerably across Nordic countries.

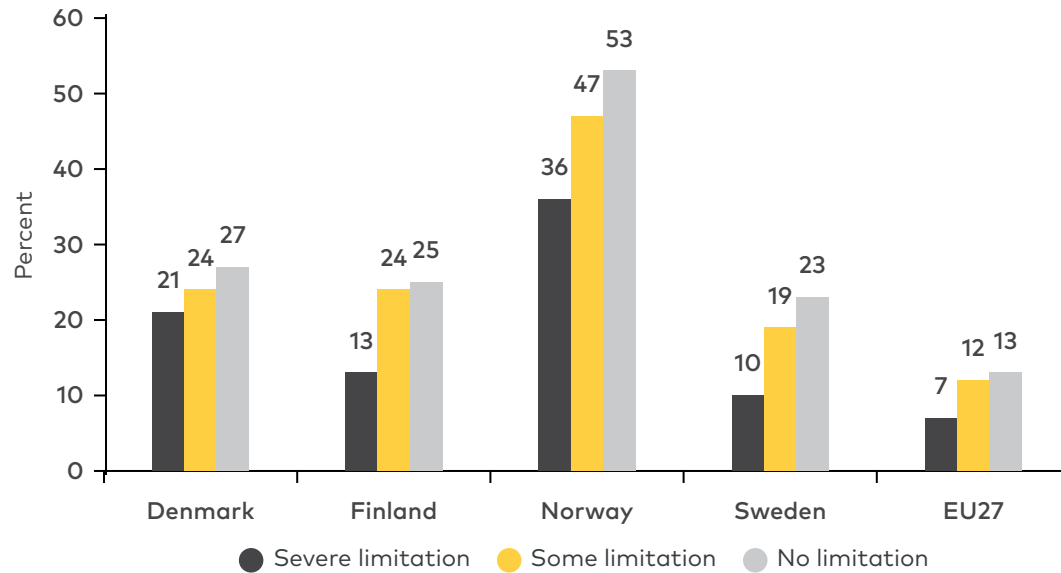


Figure 28: Share of persons participating in formal voluntary activities by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households.

Year: 2022. Data not available for Iceland.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_scp39]

The seventh indicator in this section is persons participating in formal voluntary activities by level of disability, shown in Figure 28. This indicator captures involvement in organised voluntary activities rather than informal contact alone. The graph shows that persons with disabilities participate less often in formal voluntary activities than those without disabilities, indicating unequal access to organised forms of civic engagement.

8. DISCRIMINATION

Indicators on discrimination are directly relevant to the UNCRPD, particularly Article 5 on equality and non-discrimination and Article 9 on accessibility. The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030 identifies equal participation, non-discrimination, accessibility, and measuring progress as core priorities. It is also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, which calls for the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of disability, and for the reduction of discriminatory practices.

These indicators do not meet the criteria for publication in the Nordic Statistics Database due to the limited periodicity of data collection. The indicators in this section have only one time point, namely 2024. Despite their limitations, the indicators are documented in the report for future reference.

Unlike the previous indicators, these indicators are not available by detailed level of disability. In the Eurostat database, severe disability and some disability are combined into one category. All these indicators measure self-perceived discrimination in the past 12 months, except the indicator on self-perceived discrimination when looking for housing, which covers the previous five years.

Indicator	Data source	Disability measurement	Periodicity of data collection	Population
1. Self-perceived discrimination when in contact with administrative offices or public services	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) [ilc_atstd01]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
2. Self-perceived discrimination when looking for housing	EU-SILC [ilc_atstd01]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
3. Self-perceived discrimination when in contact with anyone from an educational institution	EU-SILC [ilc_atstd01]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older
4. Self-perceived discrimination when in public spaces	EU-SILC [ilc_atstd01]	GALI	Every 6 years	16 years and older

Table 10: Indicators on discrimination documented for future reference.

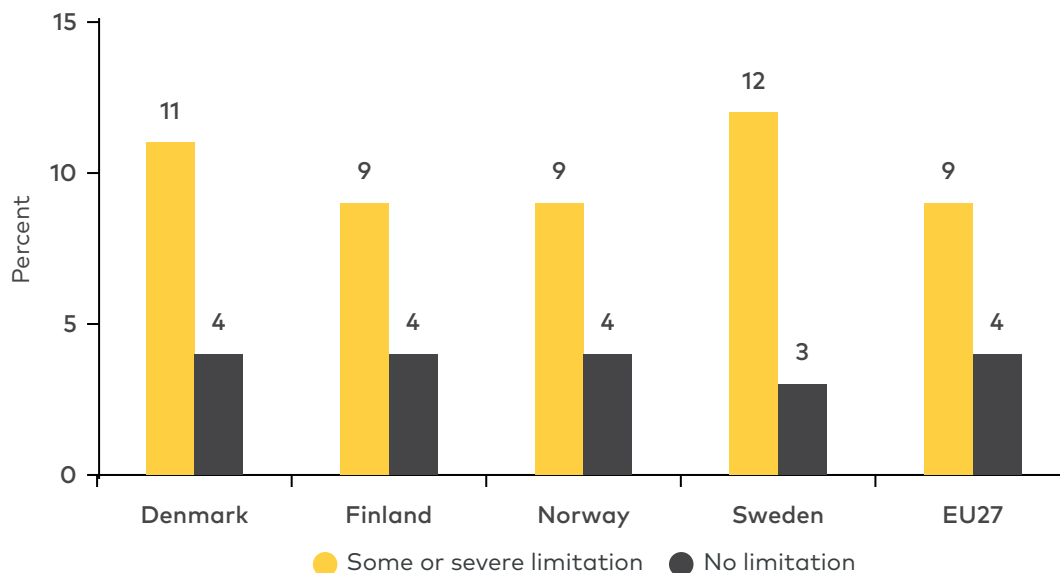


Figure 29: Self-perceived discrimination in the past 12 months when in contact with administrative offices or public services by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households. Year: 2024.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_atd01]

The first indicator in the discrimination section is self-perceived discrimination when in contact with administrative offices or public services, including job centres, health services and social services, shown in Figure 29. The graph shows that in all Nordic countries, persons with disabilities report discrimination in contact with administrative offices or public services more often than persons without disabilities. The widest gap is observed in Sweden.

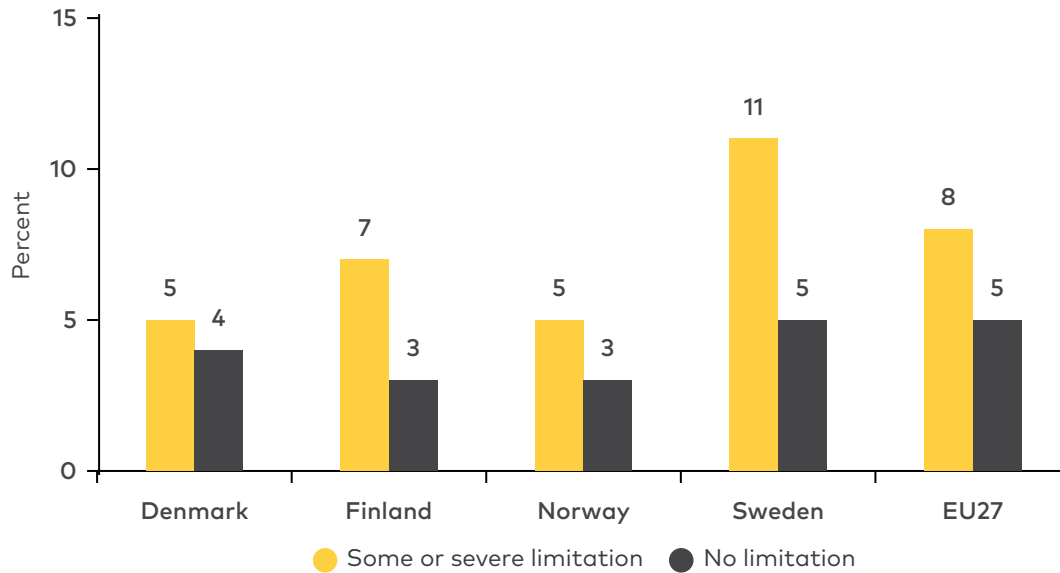


Figure 30: Self-perceived discrimination in the past five years when looking for housing by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households. Year: 2024.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_atstd01]

The second indicator in this section is self-perceived discrimination when looking for housing, shown in Figure 30. Unlike the other indicators in this section, this measure refers to experiences in the past five years rather than the past 12 months. The graph shows that persons with disabilities are more likely than those without disabilities to report discrimination when looking for housing, with the widest gap observed in Sweden.

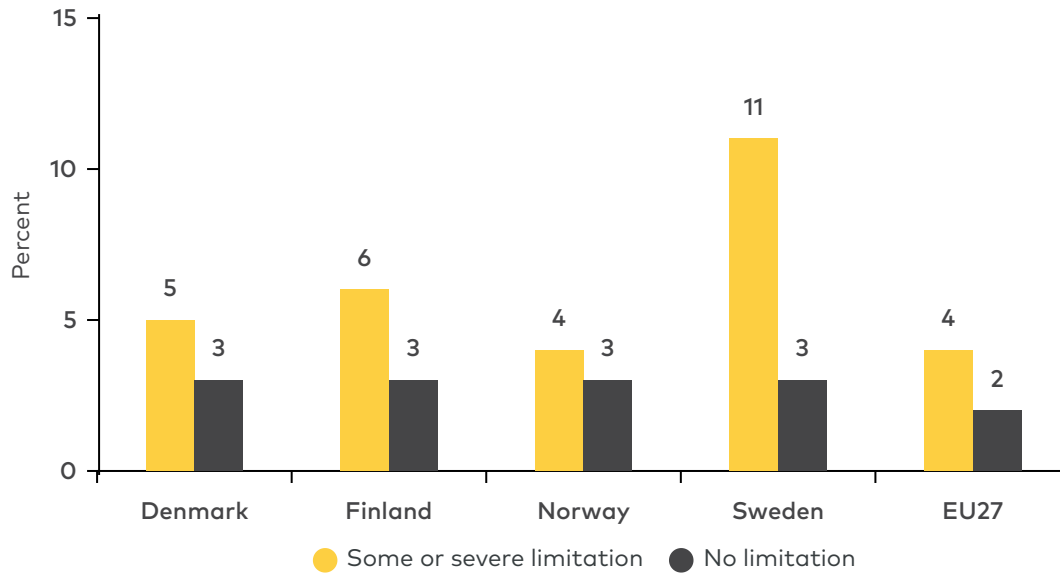


Figure 31: Self-perceived discrimination in the past 12 months when in contact with anyone from an educational institution by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households. Year: 2024.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_atstd01]

The third indicator in this section is self-perceived discrimination when in contact with anyone from an educational institution, shown in Figure 31. The graph shows that persons with disabilities report discrimination in educational settings more often than persons without disabilities, but the gap between the two groups varies in size across the Nordic region, with the widest gap observed in Sweden.

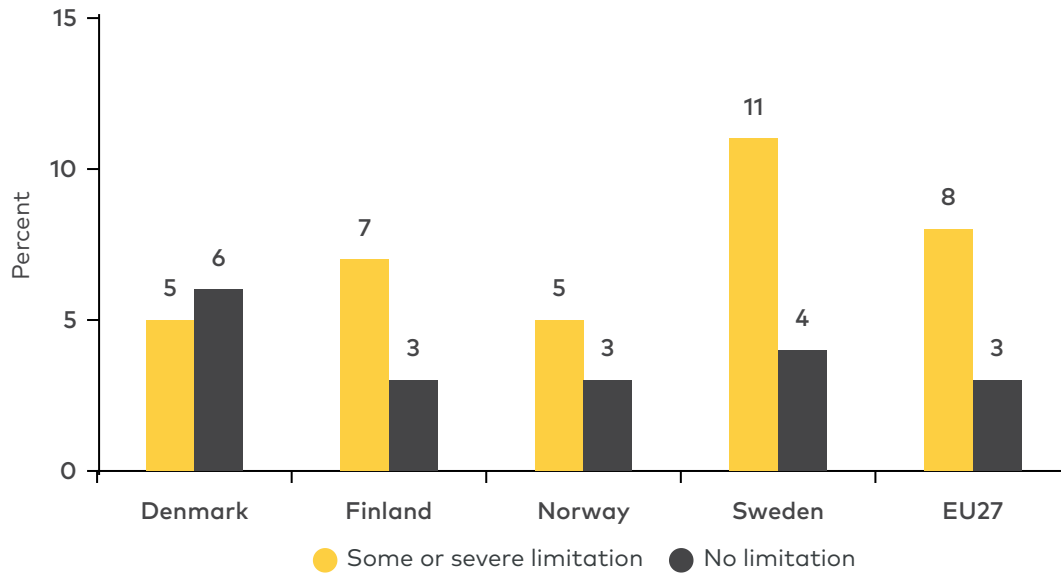


Figure 32: Self-perceived discrimination in the past 12 months when in public spaces by level of disability among persons aged 16 years and older living in private households. Year: 2024.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_atsd01]

The last indicator in this section is self-perceived discrimination in public spaces, shown in Figure 32. The graph shows that in the past 12 months, the share of persons experiencing discrimination in public spaces was higher for persons with disabilities than for those with some or severe disabilities. The highest share of persons reporting discrimination in public spaces is observed in Sweden. In Denmark, the share of persons experiencing discrimination in public spaces was larger for persons without disabilities than among those with disabilities.

Conclusion and recommendations



Image: Ashkan Forouzani / Unsplash

This report evaluates disability statistics available in the Eurostat database with the aim of identifying indicators that are relevant, comparable, and sufficiently regular for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database. The findings show that Eurostat already provides a substantial basis for disability monitoring in the Nordic region, particularly in the areas of disability prevalence, education and training, labour market participation, income and living conditions, health status, and access to information.

At the same time, the evaluation shows that the availability of suitable indicators remains uneven across sectors. While some indicators meet the quality requirements for inclusion, others are constrained by limited periodicity, gaps in country coverage or reduced comparability across the Nordic countries.

The summary table shows the themes covered by the 17 indicators that were identified as strong candidates for inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database, together with the 11 indicators that do not fulfil the criteria but remain relevant for policy evaluation and are documented in the report for future reference.

Eurostat: Disability Database		Number of recommended indicators
Disability prevalence		6
Access to education and training		4
Access to the labour market		4
Income and living conditions		1
Health status and determinants		1
Access to information and communication technologies		1
Leisure and social participation		0 (7) ^[9]
Social protection		0
Access to health and care services		0
Disability – historical data		0
Eurostat: Other databases		Number of recommended indicators
Discrimination		0 (4)
Total		17 (28)

The indicators provide a stronger statistical basis for monitoring outcomes in policy areas that are central to implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nordic countries. Their inclusion in the Nordic Statistics Database would support the assessment of progress towards greater equality, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities across the Nordic region. A key limitation, however, is the lack of European statistics that meet the requirements for publication with regard to several important provisions of the Convention, including Article 5 on equality and non-discrimination, Article 9 on accessibility, Article 19 on living independently and being included in the community, and Article 24 on education.

9. Seven indicators on Leisure and social participation and four indicators on Discrimination are presented in the report but not recommended for the Nordic Statistics Database, because they do not meet the criteria for timeliness.

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Hjördís Guðmundsdóttir

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Nordregio

Holmamiralens Väg 10

Skeppsholmen

Stockholm, Sweden

www.nordregio.org