

Recent developments on disability statistics in the European Union

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Policy context

- European Disability Action Plan (2003-2010) ⇒ need to develop consistent statistics of disabled people in the enlarged European Union
 - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ⇒ obligations for the Member States and the EU (Articles 31, 33 and 35):
 - to monitor and regularly report on its implementation
 - to collect statistical information on disability
- ⇒ need to produce information on disability defined in accordance with the UN Convention and the ICF

Existing European health surveys/modules - incl. disability

- EU-SILC: annual survey
 - Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) + unmet needs of medical and dental care ⇒ Healthy life years (HLY) + dissemination on website
- EHIS (2007-09): every 5 years
 - good harmonisation (same questions, translation protocol, 18 MS involved, etc.), about 130 questions
- Disability:
 - LFS ad-hoc module 2002 and 2011 on the “employment of disabled people”

EU-Statistics on Income & Living Conditions, SILC

■ Global Activity Limitations Indicator (GALI) question

(The GALI is part of the Minimum European Health Module, MEHM):

For at least the past 6 months, to what extent have you been limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do?

Would you say you have been *severely limited*, *limited but not severely* or *not limited at all*?

■ Two other single-question items on self-perceived health and chronic conditions

European Health Interview Survey, EHIS

- First round (2007-2009): implementation in about 21 European countries (18 Member States)
- 4 modules: EHSM, EHCM, EHDM and EBV
- EHSM includes, inter alia, questions on difficulties in:
 - basic activities (seeing, hearing, walking, stretching, etc.)
 - more complex activities:
 - ADL (personal care)
 - IADL (household care)
- Next round: 2014 with an EU legal basis

Use of the Budapest Initiative questions in EHIS 2014

- Conclusions of the Berlin workshop (30/09-01/10/2010):
 - it was agreed that BI questions would be considered for:
 - Replacing existing EHIS question PL.5 (hear in conversation) with BI Hear_3 and Hear_4 (context of hearing a conversation)
 - Specifying the length 500 m in the EHIS question PL.6 (like in BI MOB_5)
 - Including a question about walking difficulties (100m)
 - Pain and mental well-being

Labour Force Survey (LFS) ad hoc module on employment of disabled people

- **Aim:** to provide information on the situation on the labour market of disabled people and to compare it with the one of non disabled people
- **Content (2011):**
 - Health problems and difficulties in basic activities
 - Limitations in work caused by health problems/difficulties in basic activities
 - Special assistance needed or used by people with health problems/difficulties in basic activities
 - Limitations in work because of other reasons

New developments: From European disability and social integration module (EDSIM) to European survey on health and social integration (ESHSI)

- Aim: to develop a module on participation of people with disabilities in society life
- Development followed the EHIS adoption
- Originally, planned as an EHIS module
- First version produced end of June 2008
- Pilots in 10 MS on translating and cognitive testing in 2009
- Updated version October 2010
- Implementation in 2012 in all Member States

EDSIM/ESHSI

Design of the module: challenge and solutions (1)

- Use of ICF classification to design a questionnaire
 - Focus on the key aspects of social integration based on policy needs and use the ICF as a reference text rather than a driver of content
 - Translate the language of the ICF to common terms used in national surveys
 - Try to have a coherent rather than a comprehensive set of questions

EDSIM

Design of the module: challenge and solutions (2)

- Designing variables/questions which reflect the interactive nature of the current definition of disability
 - Start off not asking about personal factors (health or impairments) but asking about participation/limitation in daily activities
 - Learning opportunities, work, social activities
 - Mobility, transport and accessibility to buildings
 - For those not participating or with limited participation identify the barriers
 - Personal (health conditions, impairments)
 - Environmental factors (finances, convenience, lack of assistive devices or personal help)

EDSIM: content of questionnaire (based on ICF)

■ 12 SECTIONS :

- Socio-economic background
- General health and longstanding health problems
- Mobility
- Transport
- Accessibility to buildings
- Education and training
- Employment
- Internet use
- Social contact and support
- Leisure pursuits
- Economic life
- Attitudes and Behaviour

Strategy for EU surveys with disability information

- Task Force on Disability Statistics (TFDS)
 - Set up in 2010; it met 2 times (in January and June)
 - Experts from BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, SI, IT, NL, RO, UK, incl. representatives of disability organisations
- European Commission and TFDS support the idea of conducting every 5 years an independent disability survey (ESHSI): 2012, 2017, 2022...
- EHIS would be conducted in 2014, 2019, 2024...