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”
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 (ESHSSI)

- 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
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
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…