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The Netherlands

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

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 the Netherlands in 2024

Disability and the labour market

The overall participation rate is high and has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. The gap in labour market participation between persons with and without disabilities has seemingly not changed much, but when looking at it from a gender perspective, the gap for men has reduced, while for women it has increased.¹ A policy to enhance labour market participation for persons with disabilities via the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' shows positive results in the participation rate for a relatively small group of workers who acquired impairments before their 18th birthday. This group requires wage subsidies and tax reliefs on a large scale and jobs offered are often on a temporary basis. The proportion of employers willing to hire workers with disabilities has not risen significantly.

Disability, social policies and healthcare

Poverty among persons with disabilities has increased during the last decade. With the exception of 2023 (when extra income support was provided to households dependent on benefits), the net disposable income position of households with a member with disabilities lags consistently behind households that don't include anyone with disabilities. The policy is to improve social inclusion and to reduce poverty by enhancing labour market participation by persons with disabilities. The jobs that persons with disabilities access via the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' do not provide income security as they have to be supplemented with benefits. The wages for these jobs are mandated by law to stay at minimum level as a condition for wage subsidies. Persons with disabilities are also burdened with additional disability-related costs.

Disability, education and skills

There is acknowledgement of the need to reskill and upskill workers. Part of the National Reform Programme (NRP) was a nationwide educational programme to upskill the workforce, but this programme was terminated in 2023. The number of early school leavers from secondary and vocational education increased from 2017 until 2023 when a slight decrease occurred.

At primary and secondary education level, many schools are not able to provide reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities. The number of referrals to special schools increases year on year. The educational system is becoming more segregated not only by disability, but also by migrant status and parents' educational attainment level.

Investment priorities in relation to disability

European Structural and Investment Funds continue to be used to support pupils leaving special secondary schools with internships, job coaching and extra vocational training to find paid work.

¹ See table 10.

1.2 Recommendations for the Netherlands

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

Recommendation: Make the jobs based on the ‘Job agreement and quota scheme’ more sustainable and ensure their quality through adequate wages.

Rationale: Almost all workers with disabilities in jobs based on the Agreement earn an income below minimum wage level, thus keeping them dependent on additional benefits. This leads to ongoing income insecurity and poverty. Work does not benefit these workers, as they remain trapped in the social security system. This contradicts the government policy slogan: ‘the best way out of poverty is through paid work’.

Recommendation: Expand the quota scheme to provide jobs for all workers who acquired impairments before their 18th birthday and offer instruments such as wage subsidies, tax reliefs and job coaching and other instruments not only at minimum wage level but higher wage level. Subsidise jobs on the condition that permanent contracts are offered.

Rationale: The jobs offered to workers with disabilities using the wage subsidy are mostly short-term and pay minimum wages. If contracts are required to be permanent, and if higher wages are stimulated by subsidising them, both employers and workers would be more incentivised to invest in training and in creating more high-skilled, adapted jobs with higher productivity and career opportunities.

Recommendation: Introduce a quota for workers with disabilities at company level.

Rationale: Quotas are currently imposed at economic sector level. The majority of employers are indifferent and feel no need to adapt their work structure. Even the tightness of the labour market does not induce them to create adaptations in their job vacancies or work structure in order to accommodate workers with disabilities. Introducing quotas at company level could remedy this reluctance.

Recommendation: Introduce concrete measures under the Action Plan to implement the UN CRPD to monitor poverty among households with a member with disabilities and compensate for the extra costs of having disabilities to avoid a negative impact on the standard of living of persons with disabilities and their families.

Rationale: Poverty is rising among persons with disabilities whether they have paid work or not. Low-wage, temporary jobs created for persons with disabilities do not provide income security or help with social inclusion. Providing data helps to analyse causes and remedies.

Recommendation: Limit segregation by requiring schools to provide reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities.

Rationale: Segregation in education reinforces segregation on the labour market and social exclusion. Segregation along the lines of migrant status, socio-economic status and disability are interconnected. Efforts to reduce an influx into special education have

failed so far and this leads to a decrease in resources for reasonable accommodation in mainstream schools.

2 Mainstreaming disability equality in the 2024 Semester documents

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

The Country Report (CR) 2024² compliments the Netherlands for having made progress in implementing cohesion policy and the European Pillar of Social Rights, but challenges remain. The Netherlands is urged to reduce social and labour market inequalities by investing in equal opportunities (including in employment) and combating discrimination.

The CR 2024 refers to several structural problems that are faced by persons on the periphery of the labour market: untapped labour potential; disincentives for education and upskilling; and inefficiencies in the support and care systems which leads to a shift from home care support to residential care.

The share of flexible employment in the labour market remains high in the Netherlands. This includes both workers on temporary contracts and self-employed people – among whom are many persons with disabilities. It is said to have distorting effects at the margins of the labour market as it can, for example, reduce participation in training and lifelong learning for those with flexible contract employment arrangements.³

Labour and skills shortages have become more widespread. Despite a high overall participation rate, the Netherlands has an untapped pool of potential workers, among whom are workers on the periphery of the labour market such as workers with disabilities. The country report states that under-utilisation of part of the workforce, coupled with skills shortages, poses a risk to Dutch competitiveness and can hold back investment.⁴

The country report recommends policy measures to increase labour supply, to incentivise people to work more hours, and to strengthen upskilling or reskilling opportunities via targeted and tailored measures, in particular for those on the margins of the labour market and people who are economically inactive.

The country report notes further that the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results show a sharp increase in the number of underachievers in mathematics, science and reading skills among students in especially the lowest levels of pre-vocational secondary education (Vmbo) and students with a migrant background.

The level of deterioration in basic skills is one of the highest in the EU and undermines education and labour market outcomes as well as long-term productivity and competitiveness.⁵

² European Commission (2024), 'Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the economic, social, employment, structural and budgetary policies of the Netherlands', SWD (2024) 600 final - SWD (2024) 619 final, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6bc2bb7-70d5-4857-8848-757c0f130f9e_en?filename=com_2024_619_1_en.pdf.

³ SWD 2024, page 9.

⁴ SWD 2024, page 10.

⁵ SWD 2024, page 10.

The Country report 2024 mentions a lack of affordable rental housing which hinders labour mobility and social cohesion. Regarding the support and care system for persons with disabilities, it is noted in the CR2024 that municipalities, which are the providers of home care in the Netherlands, have financial incentives to shift responsibility for patients to the residential care sector instead of continuing to provide home and community-based care to them for as long as possible.⁶

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

As of 2024, the National Reform Programmes (NRP) will be replaced by the medium-term fiscal structural plans.⁷ The Netherlands prepared its last National Reform Programme (NRP) in 2023, which forms the basis of this analysis.

The NRP 2023 contains a nationwide broad educational programme aimed at upskilling and reskilling.⁸ The programme called ‘The Netherlands continues to learn’⁹ offered free-of-charge advice on training, a nationwide online learning programme offering courses ranging from a few weeks to a year, and funding for educational and transition plans for business sectors in which workers become superfluous and are asked to switch to other business sectors. The programme does not differentiate between workers with or without disabilities or with or without work. The programme was discontinued in 2023. The European Commission nonetheless assessed that this NRP goal had been met because the proposed objective of 119 000 individuals taking part in the educational programme was nearly attained, with 114 156 individual participants.¹⁰

Another disability-related measure was the founding of regional mobility teams which offer more personal support to workers who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and who need individualised support in finding work or training to maintain their job.¹¹ These 35 teams are part of the existing 35 regional labour market organisations in which employers, trade unions, municipalities and the *Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen* (UWV, administrative authority issuing disability benefits) cooperate to match workers with jobs. These regional mobility teams are required to target all vulnerable workers; persons with disabilities who are eligible for the ‘Job agreement and quota scheme’ are specifically mentioned as a target group.

⁶ SWD 2024, p. 8.

⁷ The first plans will be submitted to the European Commission in autumn 2024.

⁸ NRP 2023, p. 8.

⁹ In Dutch *Nederland leert door*. Government webpage: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2022/11/24/evaluatie-nederland-leert-door>.

¹⁰ Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the first payment request submitted by the Netherlands on 24 May 2024, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission.

¹¹ NRP 2023, p. 8.

The Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)¹² (endorsed by the European Commission in September 2022)¹³ contains labour market reforms addressing structural problems facing persons on the margins of the labour market, untapped labour potential and disincentives for education and upskilling. Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the problems on the labour market and are expected to benefit from these investments and policy changes.

The first payment request for the NRP was assessed positively by the European Commission, based partly on reaching two legislative milestones.¹⁴ The first is legislation aimed at reducing the current tax deduction of self-employed gradually (between 2023 and 2027). This piece of legislation has already come into force. Another proposed measure – the introduction of obligatory disability insurance for the self-employed – was withdrawn by the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment in November 2024.¹⁵ As this proposal was a legislative measure which was required for the approval of the first payment request for the NRP, it means that the European Commission must now decide whether it will reduce the payment. The Dutch Government plans to seek approval from the European Commission for the postponement of this measure.

2.3 Semester links to CRPD and national disability action plans

A new action plan to implement the CRPD¹⁶ acknowledges that having a disability can have a negative impact on earning adequate net disposable income. The action plan pledges that obligatory contributions and extra costs of living should not lead to an inadequate standard level of living. The plan also aims to reduce ‘as much as possible’ the employment gap between persons with and without disabilities.

A Government evaluation¹⁷ of the former implementation plan, *Onbeperkt Meedoen*, which ran until 2021, acknowledges that persons with disabilities have not seen substantial changes in their lives in relation to employment or education as a result of the implementation policies so far. This has also been reported in three critical monitoring reports by the National Institute of Human Rights and the alternative report

¹² *Nederlands Herstel en Veerkrachtplan*. See:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2022/07/08/nederlands-herstel--en-veerkrachtplan>.

¹³ Questions and answers: European Commission endorses the Netherlands' EUR 4.7 billion recovery and resilience plan. See:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_22_5399.

¹⁴ Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the first payment request submitted by the Netherlands on 24 May 2024, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission,

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5432bfc5-0c4a-4342-927f-2cb5a7519743_en?filename=C_2024_5112_1_EN_annexe_acte_autonome_nlw_part1_v1.pdf.

¹⁵ Letter to Parliament, 22 November 2024. *Voortgang Wet basisverzekering arbeidsongeschiktheid zelfstandigen en wetsvoorstellen die de arbeidsmarkt hervormen* (Progress of the Act on basic incapacity to work insurance for the self-employed and bills to reform the labour market).

¹⁶ Government of the Netherlands (2024), *Nationale strategie voor de implementatie van het VN-verdrag Handicap* (National Strategy for the implementation of the UN CRPD), January 2024, <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2024/01/31/nationale-strategie-voor-de-implementatie-van-het-vn-verdrag-handicap>.

¹⁷ Letter to Parliament of 19 April 2022 by the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport on the coordination of disability issues, <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2022/04/19/kamerbrief-over-vervolg-coördinerende-aanpak-implementatie-van-het-vn-verdrag-handicap>.

by an alliance of disabled people's organisations (DPOs) on the implementation of the CRPD.¹⁸

The 2023 NRP does not refer to the CRPD or the implementation plan. Neither the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' nor the evaluation and progress reports for this scheme refer to the UN CRPD or the implementation plan.

Relevant recommendations arising from participation in the UN CRPD are highlighted in the following chapters. The UN CRPD Committee is due to review the Netherlands for the first time between 11 and 15 August 2024.

¹⁸ These critical monitoring reports are: Alliantie VN-verdrag Handicap (2022), *The Netherlands disabled persons' organisations report on the CRPD in the Netherlands*, <https://iederin.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Netherlands-DPO-report-on-the-CRPD-in-the-Netherlands.pdf>; NIHR (2022), *Additional report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the adoption of the List of Issues for the initial report of the Netherlands*, <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/file/4a3345ce-7f76-06a4-9a8d-642ed0eb18e6.pdf>; NIHR (2022), *Inzicht in Inclusie III* (Insight into inclusion III), <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/file/46701e6d-cb1d-44a1-9385-fb829ae0cd35.pdf>.

3 Disability and the labour market – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies

The most recent CRPD developments are the 2022 List of Issues¹⁹ raised by the UN CRPD Committee and the Reply to the List of Issues²⁰ in 2022.

Article 27 UN CRPD addresses ‘Work and Employment’.

The List of Issues asks the state party to:

‘25. Please provide information on: (a) Employment rates among persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex and impairment type, in both the open labour market and sheltered employment, as well as on unemployed persons with disabilities; (b) Measures taken to promote inclusive employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including the quota system that was initiated in 2018, and on measures taken to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace and in the open labour market; (c) The definition of ‘people with occupational disabilities’ as mentioned in paragraph 291 of the State party report; (d) Measures taken to reduce the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities and to narrow the gender pay gap faced by women with disabilities.’

In its reply to the list of issues the Dutch state provided a short description of policies and measures that exist to support the employment of persons with disabilities. It provides statistical data, focused on persons eligible for the ‘Job agreement and quota scheme’.

The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights Institute (NIHR) reported²¹ that discrimination and denial of reasonable accommodation occur²² and that employers are being cautious or lack knowledge about possibilities to offer support and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.²³ It points out that policies and measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities are complex and that both persons with disabilities and employers find it difficult to understand the rules to obtain the necessary support.

¹⁹ List of issues on the initial report of the Netherlands, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FQ%2F1&Lang=en.

²⁰ Responses to list of issues on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en.

²¹ Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (2022), *Additional report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the adoption of the List of Issues for the initial report of the Netherlands*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCRPD%2fICO%2fNLD%2f47910&Lang=en.

²² The NIHR cites examples of denial of reasonable accommodation in Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Opinion 2020-62, 27 July 2020; Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Opinion 2020-26, 19 March 2020; Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Opinion 2018-82, 26 July 2018.

²³ Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, *Comprehensive opinion*, pp. 18-21; Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, *It works differently*, pp. 10-20.

The shadow report by the Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) states that the employment gap between persons with and persons without disabilities remains persistent and unchanged since 2016, despite the 'Job agreement and quota scheme'. The shadow report criticises the small percentage of employers who are willing to hire persons with disabilities and the reduction in sheltered employment since 2015. The shadow report also criticises the state's implementation plan²⁴ for its lack of quantifiable targets and adequate statistical monitoring.²⁵

3.1 Summary of the labour market situation of persons with disabilities

Data from European Union statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) indicate an employment rate for persons with disabilities in the Netherlands of 60.6 % in 2022 (EU27 average 54.3 %), compared to 85 % for other persons (EU27 average 76.2 %). The 2022 employment rate for persons with disabilities was 21.9 pp below the national 2030 headline target²⁶ of an 82.5 % employment rate. Men with disabilities had an employment rate of 67.4 %, compared to women with disabilities who had an employment rate of 55.1 %.

The difference between persons with and without disabilities results in a disability employment gap of 25.2 pp for 2022 (estimated EU27 average gap: 21.4 pp, see Tables 2-4) or an employment chances ratio of 0.7. Women with disabilities had an employment gap of 27.2 pp (EU27 average: 18.9 pp) compared to 22.3 pp of men with disabilities (EU27 average: 23.3 pp). The most current Eurostat data estimate a disability employment gap of 24.4 pp for 2023 (EU27 average: 21.5 pp). The EU-SILC data refer to persons who self-report limitations in everyday activities and may present a different picture from national data sources. Compared to 2014, the employment gap for men with disabilities narrowed significantly, from 32.3 % to 22 % in 2023. The gap for women increased from 25.5 % to 26.3 % in the same period. This widening gap for women is due to the fact that labour participation by women in general has risen significantly in the Netherlands since 2012 while the labour participation among women with disabilities lags behind.²⁷

The same data indicate unemployment rates of 8.2 % and 2.5 % for persons with and without disabilities, respectively, in 2022 (see Tables 5-7) (EU27 averages: 15.1 % and 7.6 %). Women with disabilities had an unemployment rate of 6.1 % (EU27 average: 15.1 %), compared to men with disabilities who had an unemployment rate of 10.2 % (EU27 average 15.2 %).

The economic activity rate for persons with disabilities in the Netherlands was 66 % in 2022, compared to 87.2 % for other persons (see Tables 8-10) (EU27 average: 64 % and 82.5 %). Women with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 58.7 % (EU27 average: 60.1 %) and men with disabilities had an economic activity rate of 75.1 % (EU27 average: 68.5 %).

²⁴ End report on the program *Onbeperkt Meedoen*. Ministry of health, welfare and sport. November 2021. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2021/11/19/eindrapportage-onbeperkt-meedoen-2021>.

²⁵ Alliantie VN-verdrag Handicap (2022), *The Netherlands disabled persons' organisations report on the CRPD in the Netherlands*, <https://iederin.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Netherlands-DPO-report-on-the-CRPD-in-the-Netherlands.pdf>.

²⁶ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en>.

²⁷ See Table 4b.

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

According to the monitoring of participation carried out by the administrative authority UWV, the general participation rate increased in the period 2020-2022 by 2.6 % to 82.2 %. The participation rate among specific categories of disability benefit receivers increased in the same period by between 1.6 % and 6.4 % to a maximum level of 52.2 %.²⁸

The proportion of people with employment-related partial benefits (and who acquired their disability during the working phase of their life) who were in paid work was 49.2 % in 2022 (compared to 47.2 % in 2019 and 42.5 % in 2014).²⁹ The proportion of people with employment-related full benefits who were in paid work was 9.8 % in 2022 (9 % in 2018 and 8.4 % in 2014). The participation rate of persons who acquired impairments before their 18th birthday and who are considered able to work (at least partly) was 45.9 % in 2022 compared to 50.4 % in 2019 (for those receiving a specific disability benefit called Wajong) and 51.7 % in 2022 compared to 46.4 % in 2019 for workers with disabilities who were eligible only for an unemployment benefit. The total number of persons receiving a disability benefit increased to 819 500 in 2022 (compared to 801 100 in 2018).³⁰

The NIHR monitoring report on the CRPD notes that, overall, fewer persons with disabilities are employed than persons without disabilities.³¹ The percentage of persons with disabilities who do not have paid work is highest among persons with intellectual, severe physical and mental disabilities.³² Research agency Nivel provides ongoing general participation monitoring based on panel interviews. According to this monitoring, in 2020 the employment rate was only 31 % of persons with physical disabilities.³³ According to the same Nivel research report, persons with disabilities who do have paid work are more likely to be offered temporary contracts and fewer

²⁸ Administrative authority UWV (2024), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2023* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2023), <https://www.uwv.nl/nl/publicaties/kennis/2024/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2023>.

²⁹ Administrative authority UWV (2024), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2023* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2023), <https://www.uwv.nl/nl/publicaties/kennis/2024/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2023>.

³⁰ Administrative authority UWV (2024), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2023* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2023), <https://www.uwv.nl/nl/publicaties/kennis/2024/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2023>.

³¹ NIHR (2022), *Inzicht in Inclusie III* (Insight into inclusion III) Monitoring report, <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/file/46701e6d-cb1d-44a1-9385-fb829ae0cd35.pdf>.

³² NIHR (2022), *Inzicht in Inclusie III* (Insight into inclusion III) Monitoring report, <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/file/46701e6d-cb1d-44a1-9385-fb829ae0cd35.pdf>. These data cover physical, mental and intellectual disability and persons with a chronic illness.

³³ Knapen, J., , Grosscurt, R. and Boeije, H. (2020), *Verdiepingsstudie Participatiemonitor. Werken met een beperking. Arbeidsomstandigheden van mensen met een lichamelijke beperking* (In-depth study Participation Monitor. Working with a disability. Working conditions for people with a physical disability), <https://www.nivel.nl/sites/default/files/bestanden/1003802.pdf> and Knapen, J., Haarmann, A., Grosscurt, R., Boeije, H. *Nivel kerncijfers participatie* (Core data on participation), <https://www.nivel.nl/nl/publicatie/meedoen-de-samenleving-2008-2018-update-kerncijfers-participatiemonitor>.

working hours per contract than they would like. Workers with disabilities state they have less chance of being offered promotion and opportunities for self-improvement.³⁴

In 2015 a 'Job agreement and quota scheme' was introduced to create 125 000 extra jobs by 2026 for persons who acquired impairments before their 18th birthday. The total number of people working on a job created through the agreement scheme was 85 665 in 2023. This is well below the target number for 2023 of 105 000.

Part of the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' was a commitment to create 30 000 sheltered workplaces within companies to compensate for the halting of all new placements in sheltered workshops. The target of these specific sheltered jobs of 10 100 jobs in 2023 was missed by 1 000 jobs.³⁵

To access jobs created within the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' and sheltered jobs, workers must be registered as eligible. In 2024, 265 000 persons were registered as such, but only 138 000 (52 %) are working in a job through the 'Job agreement and quota scheme'.³⁶

The share of flexible employment (both workers on temporary contracts and self-employed workers) increased to 44 % in 2024 from 36 %, as mentioned in the 2022 European Commission Country Report, according to Netherlands Statistics.³⁷ The Commission's Country Reports have repeatedly signalled that this high share can have distorting effects at the margins of the labour market.

Most people who are self-employed and on low incomes (15 % of all households with a minimum-wage-level income are self-employed)³⁸ have no insurance for if they become ill or acquire impairments.

Tighter eligibility criteria for disability benefits (since 2015) reduced the number of disability benefit claimants but enlarged the group of people receiving unemployment benefits from the municipalities (based on the Participation Act). Around 60 % of people receiving such benefits based on the Participation Act describe themselves as unable to seek work due to a disability or chronic illness. Although municipalities have the means to offer wage subsidies and other reintegration support, the chances of

³⁴ Knapen, J., , Grosscurt, R. and Boeije, H. (2020), *Verdiepingsstudie Participatiemonitor. Werken met een beperking. Arbeidsomstandigheden van mensen met een lichamelijke beperking* (In-depth study Participation Monitor. Working with a disability. Working conditions for people with a physical disability) <https://www.nivel.nl/sites/default/files/bestanden/1003802.pdf> and Knapen, J., Haarmann, A., Grosscurt, R., Boeije, H. *Nivel kerncijfers participatie* (Core data on participation), <https://www.nivel.nl/nl/publicatie/meedoen-de-samenleving-2008-2018-update-kerncijfers-participatiemonitor>.

³⁵ Cedris (2024), '*Beschut werk: kwartaalcijfers en toekomstige ontwikkelingen*' (Sheltered employment: quarterly figures and future developments), <https://cedris.nl/nieuws/beschut-werk-kwartaalcijfers-en-toekomstige-ontwikkelingen/>.

³⁶ Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Letter to Parliament, 16 July 2024. *Resultaten banenafpraak* (Results of the 'Job agreement and quota scheme'), <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/855579ac-ca12-438f-89f4-1e01c2e33cc5/file>.

³⁷ Netherlands Statistics (CBS), Trade Unions Federation (FNV), Union of Temporary Employment Agencies (ABU) and research agency TNO (2024), *Flexbarometer*, <http://www.flexbarometer.nl/verhouding-vast-flex-zelfstandig> and CBS (2024), <https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/85278NED/table?dl=A03A8>.

³⁸ Stimulansz (2010), *Bestrijding van Armoede onder zelfstandigen* (Fighting poverty among the self-employed).

finding and keeping paid work did not increase for this group, according to an evaluation by the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP).³⁹ The Labour Inspectorate noted in a recent report that 35 % of people who are eligible to work in a job based on the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' have never actually worked in this capacity and may have to be considered as unable to work in a paid job.⁴⁰

Since 2015 there has been no significant increase or decrease in the willingness of employers to hire persons with disabilities. Overall, 14.7 % of all employers hire employees with disabilities with registered (financial) support from the municipal administrative authority (UWV).⁴¹ Furthermore, 61 % of employers state that they are willing to hire someone with disabilities but only 19 % make concrete plans to do so. Less than a quarter of the 19 % of employers who make such plans succeed in hiring an employee with disabilities.⁴²

Employers who are willing to hire workers with disabilities exhibit a high take-up of the financial instruments available to lower the costs of employing workers with disabilities.

The UWV reports that, for 55 % of workers who had a disability before their 18th birthday, their employers received a wage subsidy.⁴³ The number of tax reliefs granted for workers with disabilities is estimated to be around 43 000.⁴⁴ Trial placements were granted by the UWV for 2 700 workers with disabilities in 2020. Employers who hire a person with disabilities are also granted 'no-risk' insurance for these employees. This means that they are not obliged to pay sick pay during the first two years of a worker's illness as they are obliged to do for all other employees.

One third of persons with disabilities experience discrimination and unequal treatment from employers or work colleagues compared to 25 % of persons without disabilities. One in eight jobseekers with disabilities stopped trying to find paid work due to experiencing discrimination.⁴⁵

³⁹ SCP (2019), *Eindevaluatie Participatiewet* (Final evaluation report on the Participation Act), <https://www.scp.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2019/11/19/eindevaluatie-van-de-participatiewet>.

⁴⁰ Netherlands Labour Inspectorate (2024), *Op papier arbeidsvermogen, in de praktijk geen reële kans op werk* (Theoretically able to work, in reality no chance to work), <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/ff438704-30fc-4271-b745-8e44f3799987/file>.

⁴¹ Administrative authority UWV (2024), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2023* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2023), <https://www.uwv.nl/nl/publicaties/kennis/2024/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2023>.

⁴² SCP (2019), *Eindevaluatie Participatiewet* (Final evaluation report on the Participation Act), <https://www.scp.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2019/11/19/eindevaluatie-van-de-participatiewet>.

⁴³ Administrative authority UWV (2022), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2021* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2021), <https://www.uwv.nl/overuwv/kennis-cijfers-en-onderzoek/kennis-onderzoeken/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2021.aspx>.

⁴⁴ Estimation based on data from Netherlands Statistics as quoted in UWV (2022), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2021* (Labour participation monitor – workers with disabilities 2021), p. 68, <https://www.uwv.nl/overuwv/kennis-cijfers-en-onderzoek/kennis-onderzoeken/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2021.aspx>.

⁴⁵ SCP (2020) *Ervaren discriminatie in Nederland II* (Experience of discrimination in the Netherlands), <https://www.scp.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2020/04/02/ervaren-discriminatie-in-nederland-ii>.

3.2 Analysis of labour market policies relevant to the Semester

The structural problems of the Dutch labour market are described in general terms in the NRP 2023 and in the CR 2024: in a very tight labour market there is a high proportion of flexible, temporary contracts; a high proportion of low skilled, low paid self-employment; and much untapped labour potential.

Although European Semester documents note that groups at the margin of the labour market are affected by these structural problems, the disability perspective is missing. There is no analysis in the NRP of how these structural problems have effect for specifically persons with disabilities.

Because of the tightness of the Dutch labour market there is increasing focus on policies that seek to tap into unused labour potential, including among persons with disabilities. In a letter to Parliament the Dutch Government estimates the untapped labour potential at around 1.2 million persons, of whom around 765 000 indicate that they are not seeking paid work due to illness or disability.⁴⁶ However, the Government does not analyse the situation of persons with disabilities and does not announce any further measures aimed at them.

The third monitoring report by the Netherlands Human Rights Institute on the CRPD (with input from Netherlands Statistics (CBS) and research agency Nivel using panel data) notes that there is much unused labour potential among persons with disabilities as ‘most persons with disabilities who are not employed would like to work’.⁴⁷

The Government has had several policy initiatives in recent years to address the structural problems of the labour market, including legislative measures to reduce financial incentives for self-employment, legislation to introduce an obligatory disability insurance for self-employed people (thus reducing income insecurity among self-employed people) and a broad, albeit temporary, programme for upskilling the labour force. There are also measures to abolish zero-hours contracts and to improve the job security of temporary agency workers. To increase labour supply, people could be incentivised to work more hours, including through policy measures promoting quality of work and work-life balance. But there is no analysis offered on how these general measures specifically affect workers with disabilities and there is no disability perspective in these policies.

On the other hand, in specific disability policies there is no reference to the structural problems in the Dutch labour market as noted in the NRP 2023.

⁴⁶ Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Letter to Parliament on the labour market shortage, March 2022, *Beslisnota's Kamerbrief Aanpak Arbeidsmarktkrapte*, <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-sociale-zaken-en-werkgelegenheid/documenten/beleidsnotas/2022/07/11/beslisnotas-kamerbrief-aanpak-arbeidsmarktkrapte-1-van-2>.

⁴⁷ The data on persons who are not employed but are willing to work are derived from persons with a physical and mental disability and persons with a chronic illness. Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (2022), *Inzicht in Inclusie III* (Insight in Inclusion III), <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/publicatie/48a73d44-f079-450c-9487-e100984d0b3a>.

While the latest data show⁴⁸ that labour market participation did increase for workers with disabilities, including for those who are eligible for the 'Job agreement and quota scheme', overall labour participation increased as well and the employment gap remains wide. Although the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' is cited as an instrument to enhance labour participation it can only be used by a specific group of 256 000 eligible workers, while the total group of people in receipt of disability benefits who have been assessed as being partially able to work is much larger at 714 000. There is no reflection on the restricted scope of the scheme, nor on the actual outcome results in terms of the stagnant participation rate of all persons with disabilities in the labour market.

The SCP highlighted several shortcomings of the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' combined with the Participation Act and sheltered employment scheme.⁴⁹ The shortcomings are:

- wage subsidies are effective as they offer 55 % more chance of a job for persons with disabilities, but municipalities offer these subsidies sparsely due to the lack of budget;
- municipalities offer less or no reintegration support to persons with disabilities if they are not entitled to an individual benefit;
- municipalities offer less support in finding work to persons with more severe disabilities as their reintegration support is deemed more expensive;
- most employers are unaware of the range of available reintegration support and wage subsidies. Even if they are aware, they find them so complicated that they refrain from using them;
- employers offer existing job vacancies to persons with disabilities and do not want to deploy adaptation instruments for specific jobs; and
- employers are not using instruments such as job carving to create new jobs that might be suitable for persons with severe disabilities.⁵⁰

The SCP also notes that jobs offered within the 'Job agreement and quota scheme' and sheltered employment jobs are for a large and increasing part (48 %) on a temporary contract, provide low pay and not all workers with disabilities are entitled to an additional disability benefit. The majority of this group does not succeed in finding enough paid work and runs a high risk of failing to achieve an adequate minimum income level.⁵¹ The report cites additional research that shows that persons with physical disabilities are not offered enough opportunities to work on their employability by learning or studying.⁵²

⁴⁸ Administrative authority UWV (2024), *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2023* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2023), <https://www.uwv.nl/nl/publicaties/kennis/2024/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2023>.

⁴⁹ SCP (2019), *Eindevaluatie Participatiewet* (Final evaluation report on the Participation Act), <https://www.scp.nl/actueel/nieuws/2019/11/15/doelstellingen-participatiewet-nauwelijks-behaald>.

⁵⁰ Research cited in *Evaluatie Participatiewet SCP: De Beer et al., 2019; Ieder(in), 2019, Fermin, de Looze en Hazelzet, 2019*. SCP (2019), *Eindevaluatie Participatiewet* (Final evaluation report on the Participation Act).

⁵¹ SCP (2019), *Eindevaluatie Participatiewet* (Final evaluation report on the Participation Act), <https://www.scp.nl/actueel/nieuws/2019/11/15/doelstellingen-participatiewet-nauwelijks-behaald>.

⁵² Knapen, J., , Grosscurt, R. and Boeije, H. (2020), *Verdiepingsstudie Participatiemonitor. Werken met een beperking. Arbeidsomstandigheden van mensen met een lichamelijke beperking* (In-depth study Participation Monitor. Working with a disability. Working conditions for people with a physical

The Government addresses the shortcomings with measures aimed at employers. The aim is to simplify reintegration support for employers. To address the complaints about the complexity of the support systems for employers who hire workers with disabilities, municipalities and the administrative authority UWV (who both support different groups of jobseekers with disabilities) are being encouraged to work more intensively together in regional reintegration programmes and are supposed to be easing bureaucratic rules for granting wage subsidies to employers.

The Government also provides a larger budget for wage subsidies, job coaching and other personal support measures. Wage subsidies for persons with disabilities that until 2020 were given for a maximum of three years will, as of 2024, be granted permanently to encourage employers to convert temporary job contracts into permanent contracts.⁵³

Wage subsidies are restricted to low pay levels, thus limiting the opportunities for employees with disabilities to seek training, promotion, higher productivity and a higher salary level. This means that employers who invest in the training and education of their workers with disabilities run the risk of losing wage subsidies if training ensures promotion and higher wages. The workers themselves have no financial means to invest in further education and training due to low wages and also because they are often offered temporary contracts.⁵⁴

There is no specific strategy to seek higher productivity jobs for persons with disabilities or to stimulate or facilitate persons to seek employment who acquired a disability when they were of working age and receive an employment-related benefit. The financial incentives and instruments to encourage employers to hire workers with disabilities are specifically aimed at the target group of young persons with disabilities acquired before their 18th birthday.

The National Reform Programme offered a temporary broad educational programme (until 2024) aimed at upskilling and reskilling via free-of-charge advice on training for individuals and a free-of-charge nationwide learning programme offering short-term online courses. The programme did not differentiate between workers with or without disabilities, with or without work, or by educational level. The programme stopped in 2024. A general website financed by national Government, employers and trade unions continues to give advice on possibilities for upskilling and how to finance individual courses via employers or general subsidies.

There is no policy to reduce perceived discrimination in the labour market based on disability.

disability), <https://www.nivel.nl/sites/default/files/bestanden/1003802.pdf> and Knapen, J., Haarmann, A., Grosscurt, R., Boeije, H. Nivel *kerncijfers participatie* (Core data on participation), <https://www.nivel.nl/nl/publicatie/meedoen-de-samenleving-2008-2018-update-kerncijfers-participatiemonitor>.

⁵³ Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, *Programma Breed offensief* (Broad Offensive programme) budget plan 2021, <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/begrotingen/2020/09/15/xv-sociale-zaken-en-werkgelegenheid-rijksbegroting-2021>.

⁵⁴ SCP (2019), *Eindevaluatie Participatiewet* (Final evaluation report on the Participation Act), <https://www.scp.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2019/11/19/eindevaluatie-van-de-participatiewet>.

4 Disability, social policies and healthcare – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies

The most recent CRPD developments are the 2022 List of Issues⁵⁵ raised by the UN CRPD Committee and the Reply to the List of Issues⁵⁶ in 2022.

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

The List of Issues asks the state party to:

‘26. Please provide information on measures taken to: (a) Include disability in the collection and publication of data concerning poverty and social protection, disaggregated by sex, age, level of education, ethnicity and national origin, type of impairment and type of residence; (b) Tackle the income inequality faced by persons with disabilities; (c) Address homelessness among persons with psychosocial disabilities.’

In its response to the list of issues⁵⁷ the state gives no reply to the request to include disability in the collection and publication of data concerning poverty and social protection. On the question of how to tackle income inequality faced by persons with disabilities, the state gives a short description of types of income and fiscal benefits. In order to address homelessness, the Government states that a general national policy was announced in 2022 to prevent homelessness for all individuals regardless of disabilities.

The state report mentioned in a previous section that the policies to enhance labour market participation for persons with disabilities are intended to have a positive impact in terms of ensuring a satisfactory standard of living and social protection and that social security benefits guarantee a general safety net. Persons with disabilities who might incur extra costs due to their disability can claim an extra benefit should these extra costs push their disposable household income below the minimum benefit level.

The shadow report by the Alliance of DPOs⁵⁸ presents a trend of rising poverty and social exclusion for persons with disabilities, based on data from Eurostat. The alternative report criticises the policy of the Government to relieve poverty by enhancing labour participation because the majority of persons with disabilities are not working, while those who have work often need benefits to supplement their low wages.

⁵⁵ List of issues on the initial report of The Netherlands, tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FQ%2F1&Lang=en.

⁵⁶ Responses to list of issues on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en.

⁵⁷ Replies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the list of issues in relation to its initial report: Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4018570?v=pdf>.

⁵⁸ Alliantie VN-verdrag Handicap (2022), *The Netherlands disabled persons' organisations report on the CRPD in the Netherlands*, <https://iederin.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Netherlands-DPO-report-on-the-CRPD-in-the-Netherlands.pdf>.

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

The List of Issues asks the state party to:

‘17. Please provide information on: (a) Steps taken to develop a deinstitutionalization policy, including details on the time frame within which the full deinstitutionalization of all persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, will be achieved, and measures to facilitate their full inclusion and participation in the community; (b) The availability of housing and the extent to which it ensures the right of persons with disabilities to freely choose their living arrangements in the community and their right to choose where and with whom to live, including for persons placed under substitute decision-making regimes; (c) Measures taken to ensure that personal assistance programs provide persons with disabilities, including persons who are still under substitute decision-making regimes, with sufficient financial assistance to allow them to live independently in the community, and to ensure that the differences in criteria applied by municipal authorities are reduced to a minimum; (d) The number of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, who are still living in residential institutions.’

There is no response to the question on what steps the state is taking to develop a deinstitutionalisation policy as there is no policy with that aim.⁵⁹ The state merely describes what legislation exists for providing support at home or within an institution. In its reply to the question of whether persons with disabilities are free to choose where and with whom they live, the state merely states that an institution will consult the family on which ‘placement is most suitable’. On the question on ensuring personal assistant programmes the state answers that within both long-term care and home support individuals may opt for a personal budget in order to pay for personal assistants. No data are provided on the number of persons still living in residential institutions.

The alternative report by the Alliance of DPOs criticises the lack of deinstitutionalisation policies and the lack of monitoring for affordable, accessible housing, adequately funded personal budgets, support for building a social network, reducing stigmatisation of persons with psychosocial disabilities and effectively supporting family members who provide care.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Responses to list of issues on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en.

⁶⁰ Alliantie VN-verdrag Handicap (2022), *The Netherlands disabled persons’ organizations report on the CRPD in the Netherlands*, <https://iederin.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Netherlands-DPO-report-on-the-CRPD-in-the-Netherlands.pdf>.

Article 25 UN CRPD addresses 'Health'.

The List of Issues asks the state party to:

'23. Please inform the Committee about the rationale of prenatal screening for pregnant women for detecting impairment of a foetus, as indicated in the paragraphs 268 and 269 of the State party report, as well as whether the State party is aware that disability prevention is a measure of the medical model of disability and not a provision of the Convention. 24. Please provide information on measures taken to: (a) Ensure access for all persons with disabilities to healthcare, including gynaecological, dental and other healthcare services, facilities, amenities and equipment, including through the provision of specific accessible amenities and equipment for women and girls with disabilities; (b) Reduce the waiting time necessary to access healthcare services, in particular for persons with psychosocial disabilities; (c) Facilitate training and the promulgation of an ethical standard for health-care professionals, with a view to providing health-care services for persons with disabilities that are of the same quality as those provided to others, including through raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and requirements of all persons with disabilities.'

In its reply, the state does not respond to the issue that disability prevention is considered to be a measure of the medical model of disability.⁶¹ It merely states that pregnant women are free to choose whether they want to use prenatal screening for detecting foetal impairments. On the issue of the accessibility of healthcare, including gynaecological and dental healthcare, the state responds that accessibility is supervised by the Healthcare Inspectorate.

No data are provided by the state in its reply on waiting times and waiting lists for persons with psychosocial disabilities. The state could have provided such data because they are recorded by the Dutch Health Authority (NZA). In May 2022, 85 000 persons with psychosocial disabilities were on waiting lists for care.⁶²

Regarding the question about the training of healthcare professionals, the state merely replies that healthcare professionals are trained to act professionally, taking due notice of ethical issues such as how medical care best suits a patient and on how it contributes to quality of life.

4.1 Summary of the social situation of persons with disabilities

Data from EU-SILC indicate the poverty risk rate for working age persons with disabilities in the Netherlands was 23.7 % in 2022 (EU27 average: 21.2 %), compared to 10.2 % for other persons of a similar age (EU27 average 14.5 %) – an estimated disability poverty gap of approximately 13.5 pp (see Table 11). For persons aged over 65, the disability poverty gap was 2.9 pp (18.2 % for older persons with disabilities and 15.3 % for other persons of a similar age). For women (aged 16-64), the disability

⁶¹ Responses to list of issues on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en.

⁶² Dutch Health Authority (2022) '*Informatiekaart wachttijden ggz, juli 2022*' (Waiting times information, mental healthcare, July 2022), https://puc.overheid.nl/nza/doc/PUC_716176_22/1/.

poverty gap was 11 pp (21.5 % for women with disabilities and 10.5 % without disabilities) and 16.6 pp for men (aged 16-64) (26.5 % for men with disabilities and 9.9 % without disabilities).

In 2022 persons with disabilities aged 16 to 64 years had an at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate of 29.8 % compared to 19.5 % for persons with disabilities aged 65 years or older. In 2023 the relative risk for the working age population with disabilities amounted to 28.9 %, and for the older age group to 20.1 %.

For persons with disabilities of working age (16 to 64), the risk of poverty before social transfers in 2022 was 40.6 % and 23.7 % after transfers. The in-work poverty rate for persons with disabilities (aged 18 to 64) was 6 % in 2022. In 2023 the rate amounted to 6 %.

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 the Netherlands was 0.6 % compared to 0.1 % for other persons, which is below the EU27 average of 4.7 % for persons with disabilities in 2022.

Between 2010 and 2018, the risk of poverty increased in the Netherlands more for persons with disabilities under the age of 65 years than for other persons in that age group.⁶³ Poverty decreased between 2018 and 2020 according to the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) but this reduction in poverty did not lead to a higher level of quality of life. According to the SCP, objective quality of life is at a significantly lower level for households on low incomes, persons with lower educational levels, persons with a migrant status and persons who experience health problems and / or have a disability. This lower quality of life is attributed, among other reasons, to uncertainty due to the large proportion of temporary contracts, on-call contracts and self-employment contracts. Persons with disabilities have also suffered austerity measures affecting their ability to access support and care.⁶⁴

Until 2020 net disposable income increased more for households with members in paid work than for households with a member in receipt of an unemployment or disability benefit. This trend was reversed in 2023 when households with a member in receipt of unemployment or disability benefit saw their net income increase by 8.5 percentage points in comparison with 3.4 in households with members in paid work, mainly due to allowances for energy costs. As of 2024 net disposable income increased again more for households with members in paid work (3 %) than for households with a member in receipt of disability benefit (1.5 %).⁶⁵

Social inclusion of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities has not changed significantly between 2008 and 2018, according to the participation monitoring by

⁶³ See Chapter 7, Table 14.

⁶⁴ SCP (2020), *De Sociale Staat van Nederland* (Social state of affairs in the Netherlands), <https://www.scp.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2020/09/10/kwaliteit-van-leven-in-onzekere-tijden.-de-sociale-staat-van-nederland-op-hoofdpijnen>.

⁶⁵ Central Plan Bureau (CPB) (2024) *Centraal Economisch Plan 2024* (Central Economic Plan 2024), <https://www.cpb.nl/sites/default/files/omnidownload/CPB-Raming-Centraal-Economisch-Plan-CEP2024.pdf>.

research agency Nivel.⁶⁶

Access to healthcare and social support, affordable housing and forming families is hindered by obligatory contributions for care,⁶⁷ inadequate support in navigating complicated eligibility procedures, and a tendency among different agencies that finance and provide long-term care to refer claims to one another. The National Ombudsman warned that persons with more severe disabilities and families with young children with disabilities are severely affected by the lack of access to long-term care.⁶⁸ The National Ombudsman reported in 2022 that young adults with disabilities face serious and long-term financial difficulties caused by insecure income, low benefits or wages, lack of support from municipalities and the experience that financial and social support systems in place are so complicated that they cannot obtain the support they need. The report states that the Government has set too high expectations for persons with disabilities to be self-reliant and that instead of being supportive, the support system is limiting young persons with disabilities.⁶⁹

Research agency Nibud found that households with a member with disabilities have to spend an additional EUR 90 to EUR 342 per month on disability-related costs (such as adaptive devices, transport or obligatory income-related contributions for support) in comparison with households without a member with disabilities.⁷⁰

4.2 Analysis of social policies relevant to the Semester

The poverty reduction policy relies on providing a minimum level of benefits on the basis of unemployment or disability. Until 2022, the trend was to provide people working in paid jobs with tax credits as an incentive to accept paid work in preference to a benefit. This policy, combined with the efforts to provide extra jobs based on the 'Job agreement and quota scheme', was intended to improve the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The policy is not leading to a general improvement in labour participation by persons with disabilities. The group of workers who are offered a job based on the job agreement do not earn enough to be lifted out of poverty, mostly because they remain dependent on supplementary benefits, for which the tax credit for workers does not

⁶⁶ Nivel (2020), *Meedoen in de samenleving 2008-2018. Update Kerncijfers Participatie monitor* (Participation in society 2008-2018. Updated core figures. Participation monitoring), <https://nivel.nl/sites/default/files/bestanden/1003827.pdf> and <https://www.nivel.nl/nl/publicatie/meedoen-de-samenleving-2008-2018-update-kerncijfers-participatiemonitor> and CPB (2017), *Co-payments in long term home care: do they affect the use of care?*, discussion paper 363, <https://www.cpb.nl/sites/default/files/omnidownload/CPB-Discussion-Paper-363-Co-payments-in-long-term-home-care.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Ombudsman (2018), *Zorgen voor burgers* (Care for citizens), <https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/onderzoeken/2018030-zorgen-voor-burgers-onderzoek-naar-knelpunten-bij-de-toegang-tot-zorg> and press release September 2020, <https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/2020/nationale-ombudsman-geen-woorden-maar-daden-nodig-bij-toegang-tot-zorg>.

⁶⁹ Ombudsman (2022), *Meedoen zonder beperkingen* (Participate without limitations), https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/system/files/bijlage/Rapport%20Meedoen%20zonder%20beperkingen_0.pdf.

⁷⁰ Nibud (2024), *Meerkosten van het leven met een beperking. Voorbeeldsituaties van huishoudens met meerkosten* (Extra costs of living with disabilities, Examples of households with extra costs). Research commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, <https://www.nibud.nl/download/20000/?tmstv=1721499194>.

bring enough added value. Their net disposable income remains at net minimum level.⁷¹

The Government decided to increase the minimum wage in 2023, which helps all households in receipt of the minimum wage or benefits, but the tax credit for workers has also been raised, thus widening the gap between persons dependent on benefits and those with paid jobs. The Government introduced new measures as of 2022 which allow workers with disabilities to retain more of their wages if supplementary benefits are needed. It turns out that the higher wage in such cases does not result in a higher net income, as other supplementary benefits (such as a rent credit) are automatically reduced. The result is that net disposable income stays at the minimum level.⁷²

The system of wage subsidies and tax relief for employers is such that employers are incentivised to not raise wages and to refrain from promoting their workers with disabilities to better paid jobs. Wage subsidies and tax reliefs are only granted for jobs with low hourly pay. This hinders workers with disabilities from investing in training and making career steps that would provide them with a higher and more secure income.

Extraordinary health expenses, including disability-related costs, can be partially tax deductible. An evaluation of this tax deduction regulation showed that in 2019, of all persons with disabilities who have disability-related extra costs, only 16 % could make use of this tax deduction.⁷³ This proportion is low because people with a minimum income pay low to no taxes and thus cannot benefit from tax deductions. Another cause of the low uptake is that not all disability-related expenses are accepted in the tax deduction regulation.

The report by the Ombudsman on the precarious financial position of adults with disabilities⁷⁴ has not yet been addressed with any measures. Because there is no specific monitoring of the net income position among households with a member with disabilities and the obligatory contributions that persons with disabilities pay for support, the need for additional measures is not addressed. The action plan to implement the CRPD⁷⁵ acknowledges that having a disability can have a negative impact on obtaining adequate net disposable income and the plan pledges that obligatory contributions and extra costs of living should not lead to an inadequate standard of living. However, no concrete measures have been announced.

The alternative report by NGOs on the implementation of the CRPD used interviews in which young persons with disabilities state they cannot access affordable adapted

⁷¹ SCP (2020), *Kansrijk armoedebelid* (Successful poverty policy).

⁷² Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Letter to Parliament: *Reactie op invoeringstoets Wet vereenvoudiging Wajong*, 30 January 2024, <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/166b961b-ec05-45f5-af17-c098e2df3433/file>.

⁷³ Significant Public (2022), *Evaluatie aftrek specifieke zorgkosten* (Evaluation of deductions for specific healthcare costs), <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/downloads/document?id=2022D36047>.

⁷⁴ Ombudsman (2022), *Meedoen zonder beperkingen* (Participate without limitations), [https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/system/files/bijlage/Rapport%20Meedoen%20zonder%20bep erkingen_0.pdf](https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/system/files/bijlage/Rapport%20Meedoen%20zonder%20beperkingen_0.pdf).

⁷⁵ Government of the Netherlands (2024), *Nationale strategie voor de implementatie van het VN-verdrag Handicap* (National strategy for the implementation of the UN CRPD), <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2024/01/31/nationale-strategie-voor-de-implementatie-van-het-vn-verdrag-handicap>.

rental accommodation.⁷⁶ They also stated that obligatory contributions for social care and support – which are means-tested within households – prevents them from marrying or starting long-term relationships with partners with a paid job. Forming a household with a partner with a paid job would result in higher obligatory contributions for care of hundreds of euros (up to EUR 1 052) per month.

The list of issues addresses this problem by asking the state to provide information on the scope of income-dependent contributions provided to households for the purposes of contributing to care and support, and on the impact of those contributions on decisions by persons with disabilities to engage in family life. The state did not respond to this question, other than by admitting that anyone living with a partner within a household is obliged to pay income-related contributions.⁷⁷

There is a need to address the inequality among especially low-skilled workers, not only in terms of net disposable income, but also in terms of having job security and access to social insurance and education. Persons with disabilities are overrepresented among groups with lower education levels, lower skills levels, insecure job contracts and access to employment-related disability benefits. The temporary nationwide education programme aimed to upskill low-skilled workers but did not differentiate or give preference to workers with disabilities.

Existing problems for persons with disabilities in accessing long-term care and social support, as reported by the National Ombudsman, are addressed by the Government by initiating projects and pilots to enhance access to long-term care and social support. The aim is to provide everyone in need of social support or long-term care with an independent client support worker who will help navigate the bureaucracy and complicated eligibility procedures. Although this measure helps people in need of support, it does not address adequately the competing financial interests and competences of funders of social support and care, according to the National Ombudsman.⁷⁸ The CR 2024 noted that these competing financial interests prompt municipalities to shift responsibility for providing in-home support to the residential care sector. This results in more institutionalisation of persons with disabilities. An extra effect is that municipalities feel less pressure to provide enough affordable adapted social housing.

⁷⁶ Alliantie VN-Verdrag Handicap (2019), *Schaduwrapportage Verdrag inzake de rechten van personen met een handicap in Nederland* (Alternative report on implementing the CRPD in the Netherlands), https://iederin.nl/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Schaduwrapport-VN-verdrag-Handicap.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0K76ogu6_UWWSSuhGR7A5Bja0345uqhxwevUH1MGfc6V-p-HLuF8Yr_fg.

⁷⁷ Responses to list of issues on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, [tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en](https://tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en).

⁷⁸ Ombudsman, press release, September 2020, <https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/2020/nationale-ombudsman-geen-woorden-maar-daden-nodig-bij-toegang-tot-zorg>.

5 Disability, education and skills – analysis of the situation and the effectiveness of policies

The most recent CRPD developments are the 2022 List of Issues⁷⁹ raised by the UN CRPD Committee and the Reply to the List of Issues⁸⁰ in 2022.

Article 24 UN CRPD addresses ‘Education’.

The List of Issues asks the state party to:

‘22. Please provide information on: (a) Plans to discontinue the dual education system and implement the inclusive education system, and plans to build a strategy with clear targets and an allocated budget for inclusive education for all children with disabilities; (b) Plans to recognize the denial of access to education in general schools for a child with disabilities as a form of discrimination; (c) Measures taken to ensure access for all children with disabilities to general schools in their communities, and to ensure the necessary support, in particular the provision of reasonable accommodation, for children with disabilities in the general education system; (d) Measures taken to ensure access to inclusive tertiary education, including vocational and higher education, for children and adults with disabilities; (e) Training provided to general education teachers on the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education, and on inclusive education methods and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, education techniques and materials; (f) Data, disaggregated by age, sex and type of impairment, on children with disabilities in special education settings, including in special education schools and special education classes within the general education system, as well as on children with disabilities in the general education system.’

In response to the question about plans in relation to an inclusive education system, the state replied that it is developing a strategy, however there is no target mentioned nor an allocated budget. Data presented by the Minister of Education show that the number of pupils in special school has increased. Both the Dutch Parliament and the Minister of Education insist that segregated special schools must remain in place.⁸¹

According to the Government’s response, measures to ensure access to inclusive tertiary education, including vocational and higher education are: policies to encourage vocational colleges and universities to improve support for students with disabilities and to negotiate with municipalities about financing support within colleges for students with disabilities; and to encourage universities to improve support and to discuss often encountered barriers for students with disabilities with student unions and NGOs.

⁷⁹ List of issues on the initial report of The Netherlands, tbiinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FQ%2F1&Lang=en.

⁸⁰ Responses to list of issues on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, tbiinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FNL%2FRQ%2F1&Lang=en.

⁸¹ Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Letter to Parliament. *Reactie op moties van het lid Van Zanten (BBB) en het lid Soepboer (NSC)*, 23 June 2024, <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/dpc-4cb15a7f9dbdbfc8884e6669bc1354152c421609/pdf>.

In its reply the Government declares that there is no need to recognise denial of access to education in general schools as a form of discrimination because Dutch law grants children with and without disabilities equal access.

The response also states that teacher training is not a responsibility of national Government and that there is, in any case, no need for additional training of teachers on the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education and on inclusive education methods and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, education techniques and materials, because all teachers are qualified to teach a diversity of children. The state does not provide any data on special education in its response.

The alternative report by the Alliance of DPOs provides statistical data on the increase in the number of children who are being referred to special schools and the continuous increase in the number of children with disabilities being refused entry to schools and being referred to care centres.

The NIHR has jurisdiction to issue opinions on the provision of reasonable accommodation by schools. In its 2020 report on the right to education, the NIHR pointed out that these opinions in the cases concerned indicate that schools do not always fulfil their obligation to investigate whether the reasonable accommodation applied for is necessary.⁸² Furthermore, the evaluation of the education system has shown that not all schools are able to provide the support needed by pupils with disabilities.⁸³

5.1 Summary of the educational situation of persons with disabilities

The EU-SILC 2022 estimates concerning educational attainment should be treated with additional caution due to relatively wide confidence intervals, but they consistently indicate disability equality gaps. Table 16 indicates early school leaving rates disaggregated by disability status in the Netherlands for 2022. More young persons with disabilities (aged 18-24) tend to leave school than those without disabilities in the same age groups (11 % compared to 3.1 %). This tendency persists if the sample size is widened to age 18-29 (11.4 % compared to 3.6 %). The early school leaving rate for persons with disabilities aged 18 to 24 was above the EU 2030 target of less than 9 %.⁸⁴ The average early school leaving rate for the EU27 in 2022 was 19.2 %, compared to 8.6 % for persons without disabilities.

Table 17 shows the completion rate of tertiary education disaggregated by disability and two age groups in the Netherlands for 2022. Persons with disabilities (aged 30-34) were less likely to complete tertiary education than their peers (47.7 % compared

⁸² Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, *Recht op onderwijsin het VN verdrag (The right to education in the CRPD)*, November 2020. p. 27, <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/publicatie/3d3e6e4f-016c-4316-9bae-0a3e3889cf5f>. See also: Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Opinion 2019-36, 19 April 2019; Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Opinion 2020-9, 11 February 2020; Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Opinion 2021-33, 1 April 2021.

⁸³ Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, *Recht op onderwijsin het VN verdrag (The right to education in the CRPD)*, November 2020. p. 27, <https://publicaties.mensenrechten.nl/publicatie/3d3e6e4f-016c-4316-9bae-0a3e3889cf5f>.

⁸⁴ European Education Area Strategic Framework, <https://education.ec.europa.eu/about-eea/strategic-framework>.

to 73.8 %). This gap is smaller in the wider age range of 25-34 years, which amounted to 49.5 %, compared to 69.2 % for persons without disabilities, but it is above the EU 2030 target of 45 %.

The number of early leavers from secondary and vocational education has been increasing since 2017. In the school year 2022-2023, the number of early school leavers was 30 245, well above the target of 20 000.⁸⁵

Segregation of pupils with disabilities has further increased. The percentage of children in special schools between the ages of five and 18 years was 7.91 % in 2023 compared with 7.06 % in 2016.⁸⁶ The number of children with disabilities and complex support needs who are not accepted by any school, but are instead referred to daycare centres, increased from 4 444 children in 2015 to almost 8 422 in 2022.⁸⁷ On top of this, the organisation of civil servants Ingrado, which is tasked with preventing children from dropping out, estimates the number of pupils with a disability who drop out of school as eight times higher than the number of pupils formally exempted from education.⁸⁸

The Dutch educational system is becoming more segregated not only by disability, but also by migrant status and parents' educational attainment. Migrant children, especially boys, are overrepresented in special schools.⁸⁹ Differences between schools in the Netherlands have the greatest impact on pupils' performance of all OECD countries and are closely linked to the different pathways offered. The gap between the average performance of pupils at schools with a low versus high concentration of pupils with a migrant background is the second largest in the EU. This implies that the achievement of individual pupils is closely linked to their school choice. The parental choice system contributes to creating more segregated schools.⁹⁰

The OECD 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results show a sharp increase in the number of underachievers in mathematics, science and reading skills.⁹¹ Students in pre-vocational secondary education show the greatest decline in test scores. Furthermore, students with a migration background (native-born students with parents born abroad and foreign-born students) underachieve almost twice as frequently as students without a migration background in mathematics and science. The deterioration in basic skills is one of the largest in the EU.⁹²

⁸⁵ Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, *Voortijdig Schoolverlaten* (Data on early school leavers), March 2024, <https://www.ocwincijfers.nl/themas/voortijdig-schoolverlaten>.

⁸⁶ Netherlands Statistics (2024), *Speciaal basisonderwijs en speciale scholen; leerlingen, schoolregio* (Data on pupils referred to special education), <https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/nl/dataset/71478ned/table?searchKeywords=speciaal%20onderwijs>

⁸⁷ Ingrado, *Benchmark VSV Kompas*, retrieved December 2024, <https://vsvkompas.nl/resultatenoverzicht/#/>

⁸⁸ Ingrado (2024), *Meer zicht op verzuim* (More insight into student absence), https://ingrado.nl/media/files/kennisbank/aanwezigheid_in_het_onderwijs/Bijlage%209_%20Meer%20zicht%20op%20verzuim_%20Duiding%20leerplichttelling%2022-23.pdf.

⁸⁹ Netherlands Statistics (2022), *Leerlingen op speciale scholen; migratieachtergrond, woonregio* (Data on students at special schools), <https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/83295NED/table?ts=1623851947556>.

⁹⁰ OECD (2020), *Education at a glance 2020: OECD indicators*, OECD Publishing.

⁹¹ OECD (2017), *Skills strategy diagnostic report: The Netherlands 2017*, <https://www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-skills-strategy-diagnostic-report-the-netherlands-2017-9789264287655-en.htm>.

⁹² OECD (2023), PISA 2022 results, <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/pisa.html#publications>.

5.2 Analysis of education policies relevant to the Semester

The policies to reduce early school leaving consist of agreements between national Government, municipalities and secondary and vocational schools to cooperate on a regional basis. Schools and municipalities are required to make regional plans to finance and offer coaching for potential early school leavers, to set up special classes, provide mentoring, reduce sickness among pupils, provide on-the-job learning opportunities and to provide support to families of pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school. The policy did not result in better outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic⁹³ but the situation improved as of 2023.⁹⁴

Since 2021 the Government made an additional budget of EUR 214 million available to help pupils from secondary special education pursue additional vocational training.⁹⁵ These policies aim to reduce drop-out numbers and help young pupils with disabilities to enter vocational education and transition to the labour market. Success in this field has been good. According to the OECD, vocational upper secondary education (MBO colleges) is of good quality with strong links to the labour market.⁹⁶ Pupils with disabilities in special schools are supported and succeed in entering basic vocational education. Vocational colleges cooperate with special schools and provide their courses within these special schools. Projects to provide more coaching while doing internships for pupils with disabilities are funded with European Social Fund (ESF) funds.

Nonetheless, the national education inspectorate has expressed concern over the high percentages (74 %) of school leavers from special secondary schools and special vocational schools who are assessed as having the capacity to work in the labour market, but do not succeed in finding work.⁹⁷

Since 2015, the policy to remedy segregation in special education has been a set of legislative measures aimed at financial incentives to put a cap on financing special schools. The system works so that regular schools receive less funding if the number of pupils in special schools increases. The system has counterproductive effects because regular schools which receive less funding are more prone to refer students with disabilities to special schools when they have fewer financial resources to support

⁹³ Minister of Education, Letter to Parliament, 14 March 2022, *Cijfers voortijdig schoolverlaten schooljaar 2020-2021* (Early school leaving figures, school year 2020-2021), <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/vsv/documenten/kamerstukken/2022/03/14/cijfers-voortijdig-schoolverlaten-vsv-2020-2021>.

⁹⁴ Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, *Voortijdig Schoolverlaten* (Data on early school leavers), March 2024: <https://www.ocwincijfers.nl/themas/voortijdig-schoolverlaten>.

⁹⁵ Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Letter to Parliament, 23 September 2022, *Beleidslijnen Leven Lang Ontwikkelen* (Lifelong development policy), https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/brieven_regering/detail?id=2022Z17569&did=2022D37174.

⁹⁶ OECD (2017), *Skills strategy diagnostic report: The Netherlands 2017*: <https://www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-skills-strategy-diagnostic-report-the-netherlands-2017-9789264287655-en.htm>.

⁹⁷ National Education Inspectorate, *De Staat van het Onderwijs 2024* (The State of Education, Education Report 2024), p. 62, <https://www.onderwijsinspectie.nl/documenten/rapporten/2024/04/17/rapport-de-staat-van-het-onderwijs-2024>.

them.⁹⁸ A concrete policy measure aiming at stimulating inclusive education is to lift the formal legislative ban on full cooperation between regular and special schools and to allow pupils with and without disabilities to be educated together within one building.

There are no concrete policy measures to address increasing segregation based on migrant status or parents' educational attainment. The national Government commissioned research on how to stimulate equality of opportunity within education, which led to the publication of a dashboard with data on parents' educational attainment.⁹⁹

⁹⁸ Smits, J. (2024), 'Welkom op school' (Welcome to school) (article on the counterproductive effects of the legislation package, Appropriate Education), *Down en Up*, no. 147, September 2024, pp. 60-64, https://www.linkedin.com/posts/jose-smits-6270059 lees-verder-in-dit-artikel-gepubliceerd-in-activity-7245379637877293057-iHkC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios.

⁹⁹ Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, 'Dashboard gelijke kansen' (Dashboard equal opportunities): <https://www.ocwincijfers.nl/themas/kansengelijkheid/dashboard/gelijke-kansen-landelijk#primary-1-1>.

6 Investment priorities in relation to disability

Regarding European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the period 2021-2027, the Netherlands has a budget of EUR 413 million under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). Of this ESF+ budget, EUR 30 million is planned to be spent on support for young persons with disabilities graduating from special schools and special vocational schools.^{100 101} There are no specific projects; every special school may claim EUR 1 788 per school leaver with disabilities to finance internships, job coaching and additional training on the job in order to help them gain paid jobs. Of the young people participating in ESF projects after leaving special schools in the period 2014-2020, 27 % found paid work immediately afterwards.¹⁰²

The Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) for the Netherlands was endorsed by the Commission in September 2022 and the first payment request received positive approval in May 2024. It includes 28 investments and 21 reforms, some of which are of possible relevance to persons with disabilities, although not directly targeted towards them. Investments in digitalisation, including digital government, will need to ensure accessibility in design and implementation.¹⁰³ Support for reforms in social protection, healthcare and reskilling, as addressed in the previous chapters, need to be inclusive for persons with disabilities. The issue of disability insurance for self-employed persons, highlighted in previous CSRs, is addressed directly.

¹⁰⁰ Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (webpage on ESF project period 2021-2027), <https://www.uitvoeringvanbeleidszw.nl/subsidies-en-regelingen/esf/hoofdstukken-esf-2021-2027/vso-pro-esf-2021-2027/over>.

¹⁰¹ De Kenniskamers (webpage on ESF projects), <https://www.dekenniskamers.nl/subsidies/europees-sociaal-fonds-esf-plus/>.

¹⁰² Netherlands Statistics (2016) *Factsheet ESF in Nederland* (ESF in the Netherlands factsheet), <https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/achtergrond/2016/24/factsheet-esf-in-nederland>.

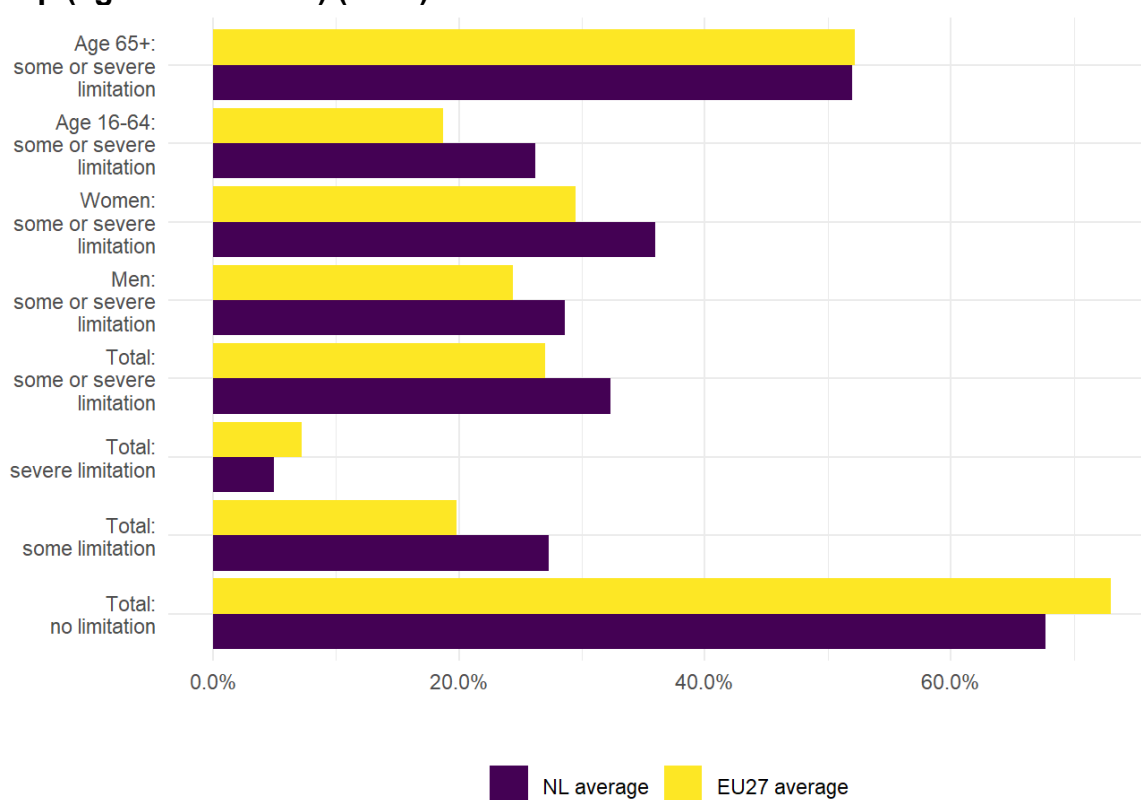
¹⁰³ Government of the Netherlands (2021) *Nederlandse digitaleringsstrategie 2021* (Netherlands digitalisation strategy 2021), <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2021/04/26/nederlandse-digitaliseringsstrategie-2021>.

7 Annex: Disability data relevant to the Semester

See also disability data published in the Eurostat database¹⁰⁴ and statistical reports.¹⁰⁵

Unless specified, the summary statistics are drawn from the most recent EU-SILC data available to researchers from Eurostat. The EU-SILC sample includes people living in private households and does not include people living in institutions (congregative households). The sampling methods vary somewhat in each country. The proxy used to identify persons with disabilities (impairments) is whether 'for at least the past six months' the respondent reports that they have been 'limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do' corresponding to Eurostat's classification of 'some or severe' long-standing limitations.¹⁰⁶

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



Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12], extracted on 2024-07-18

¹⁰⁴ Eurostat Disability Database: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/disability/database>.

¹⁰⁵ Eurostat (2023), 'Disability statistics': https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics.

¹⁰⁶ 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, age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)								
	Total: no limitation	Total: some limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	Age 65+: some or severe limitation
NL average	67.7 %	27.3 %	5.0 %	32.3 %	28.6 %	36.0 %	26.2 %	52.0 %
EU27 average	73.0 %	19.8 %	7.2 %	27.0 %	24.4 %	29.5 %	18.7 %	52.2 %
Note:								
Source: Eurostat [hlth_silc_12], extracted on 2024-07-18								

In subsequent tables, these data are used to indicate ‘disability’ equality gaps and trends 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’.¹⁰⁷ National estimates for the Netherlands are compared with EU27 mean averages for the most recent year.¹⁰⁸

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

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

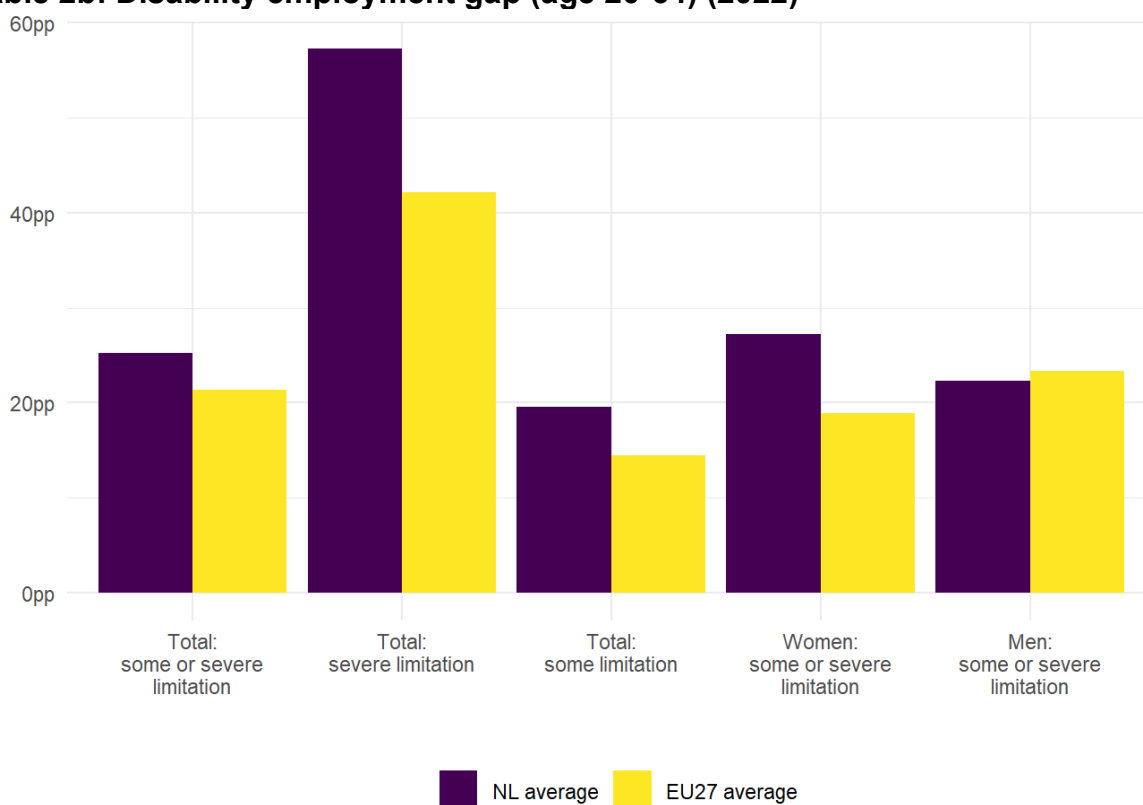


Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

¹⁰⁷ This methodology was developed in the annual statistical reports of ANED, available at: <http://www.disability-europe.net/theme/statistical-indicators>.

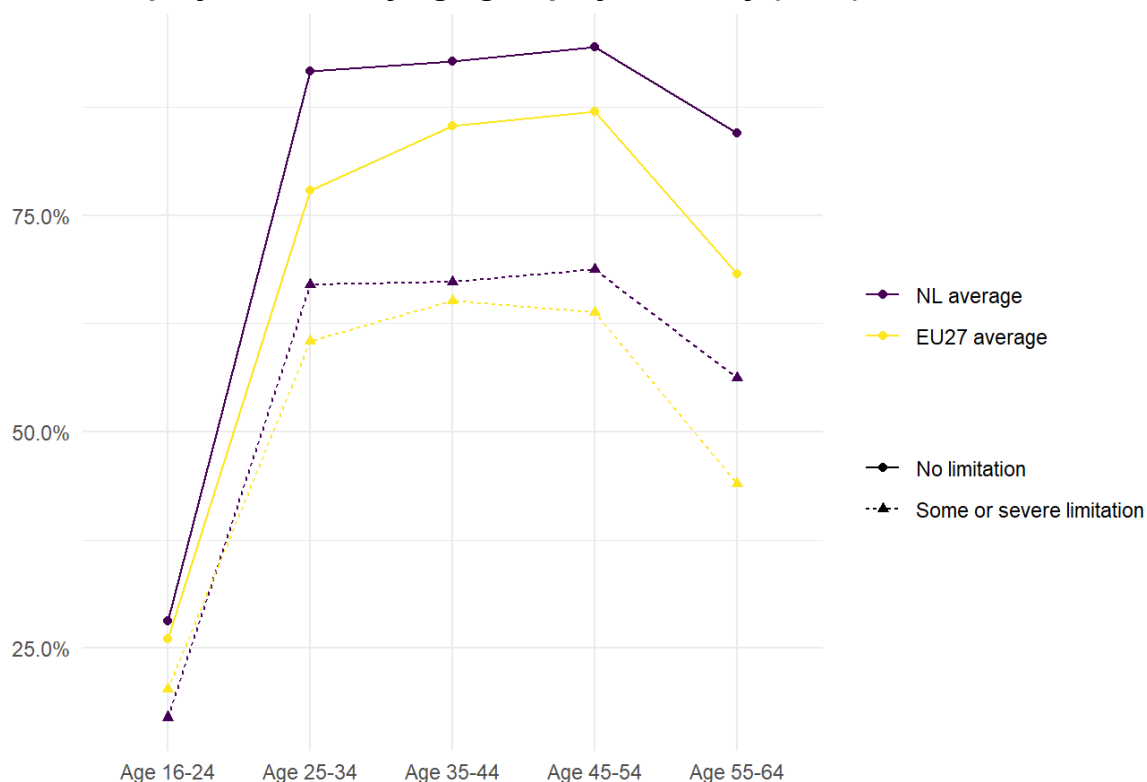
¹⁰⁸ The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU changed the EU average. EU27 averages have also been affected by time series breaks in other large countries, such as Germany.

Employment rate (age 20-64) by level of activity limitation, disability, disability by gender (2022)								
	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
NL average	85.0 %	67.2 %	22.0 %	60.6 %	83.4 %	55.1 %	86.5 %	67.4 %
EU27 average	76.2 %	61.6 %	30.7 %	54.3 %	69.8 %	51.0 %	82.5 %	58.1 %
Note:								
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation								

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

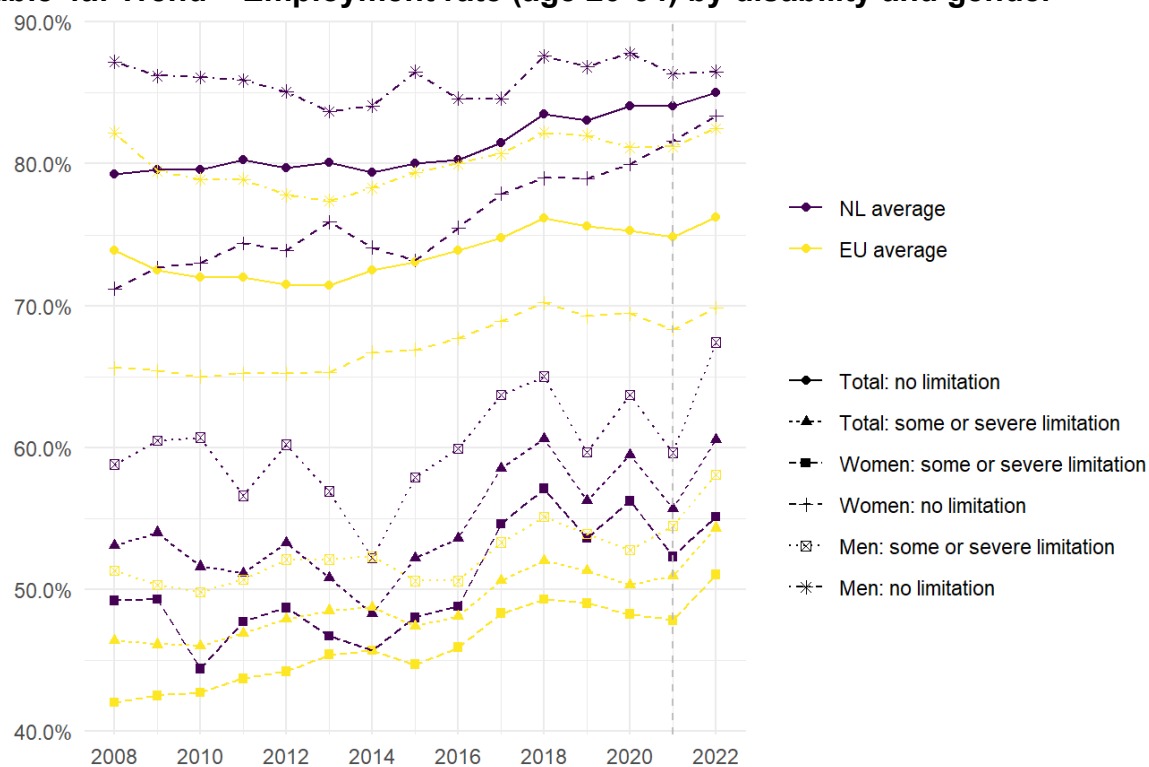
Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2024-07-18

Disability employment gap (age 20-64) (2022)					
	Total: some or severe limitation	Total: severe limitation	Total: some limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Men: some or severe limitation
NL average	25.2 pp	57.2 pp	19.6 pp	27.2 pp	22.3 pp
EU27 average	21.4 pp	42.1 pp	14.5 pp	18.9 pp	23.3 pp
Note:					
Source: Eurostat [tepsr_sp200], extracted on 2024-07-18					

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

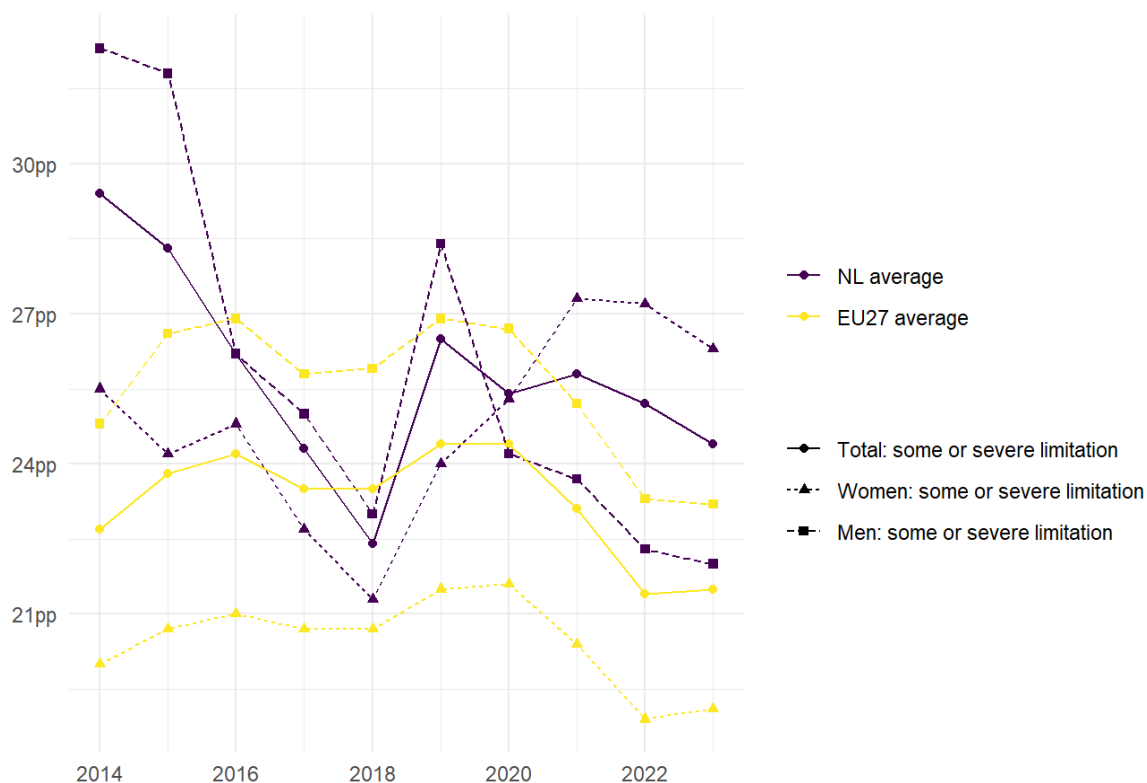
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Employment rate by age group by disability (2022)						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
NL average	Some or severe limitation	17.0 %	67.0 %	67.3 %	68.8 %	56.2 %
NL average	No limitation	28.1 %	91.6 %	92.9 %	94.4 %	84.6 %
EU27 average	Some or severe limitation	20.2 %	60.5 %	65.2 %	63.7 %	44.0 %
EU27 average	No limitation	26.1 %	77.9 %	85.4 %	87.0 %	68.2 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

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

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

Trend – Employment rate (age 20-64) by disability and gender																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NL average	Total: no limitation	79.3 %	79.6 %	79.6 %	80.3 %	79.7 %	80.1 %	79.4 %	80.0 %	80.3 %	81.5 %	83.5 %	83.1 %	84.1 %	84.1 %	85.0 %
NL average	Total: some or severe limitation	53.1 %	54.0 %	51.6 %	51.1 %	53.3 %	50.8 %	48.3 %	52.2 %	53.6 %	58.5 %	60.6 %	56.3 %	59.5 %	55.7 %	60.6 %
NL average	Women: some or severe limitation	49.2 %	49.3 %	44.4 %	47.7 %	48.7 %	46.7 %	45.7 %	48.0 %	48.8 %	54.6 %	57.1 %	53.6 %	56.2 %	52.3 %	55.1 %
NL average	Women: no limitation	71.2 %	72.7 %	73.0 %	74.4 %	73.9 %	75.9 %	74.1 %	73.2 %	75.5 %	77.9 %	79.0 %	79.0 %	80.0 %	81.6 %	83.4 %
NL average	Men: some or severe limitation	58.8 %	60.5 %	60.7 %	56.6 %	60.2 %	56.9 %	52.2 %	57.9 %	59.9 %	63.7 %	65.0 %	59.7 %	63.7 %	59.6 %	67.4 %
NL average	Men: no limitation	87.2 %	86.2 %	86.1 %	85.9 %	85.1 %	83.7 %	84.1 %	86.5 %	84.6 %	84.6 %	87.6 %	86.8 %	87.8 %	86.4 %	86.5 %
EU average	Total: no limitation	73.9 %	72.5 %	72.0 %	72.0 %	71.5 %	71.4 %	72.5 %	73.1 %	73.9 %	74.8 %	76.2 %	75.6 %	75.3 %	74.8 %	76.2 %
EU average	Total: some or severe limitation	46.4 %	46.1 %	46.0 %	46.9 %	47.9 %	48.5 %	48.7 %	47.4 %	48.1 %	50.6 %	52.0 %	51.3 %	50.3 %	50.9 %	54.3 %
EU average	Women: some or severe limitation	42.0 %	42.5 %	42.7 %	43.7 %	44.2 %	45.4 %	45.7 %	44.7 %	45.9 %	48.3 %	49.3 %	49.0 %	48.2 %	47.8 %	51.0 %
EU average	Women: no limitation	65.6 %	65.4 %	65.0 %	65.2 %	65.2 %	65.3 %	66.7 %	66.9 %	67.7 %	68.9 %	70.2 %	69.3 %	69.4 %	68.3 %	69.8 %
EU average	Men: some or severe limitation	51.3 %	50.3 %	49.8 %	50.7 %	52.1 %	52.1 %	52.3 %	50.6 %	50.6 %	53.3 %	55.1 %	53.9 %	52.8 %	54.5 %	58.1 %
EU average	Men: no limitation	82.2 %	79.5 %	78.9 %	78.9 %	77.8 %	77.4 %	78.3 %	79.4 %	80.0 %	80.7 %	82.2 %	82.0 %	81.1 %	81.2 %	82.5 %
Note:																
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation																
Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021																

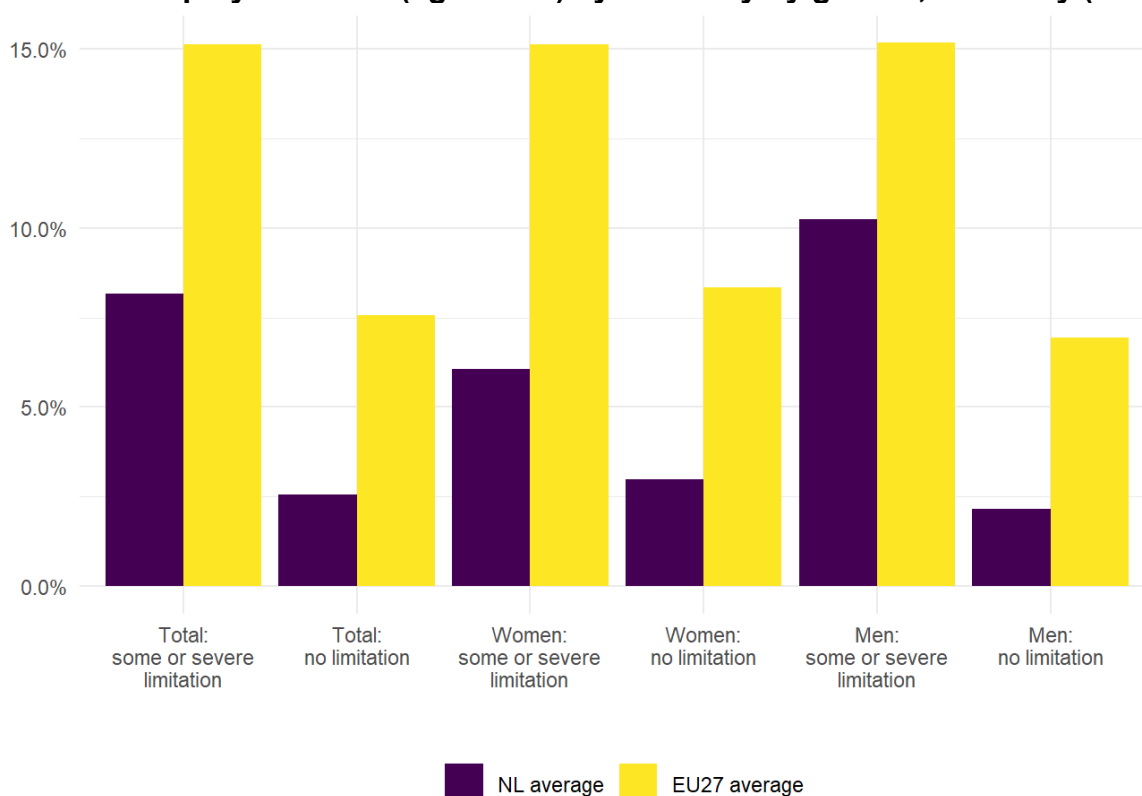
Table 4b: Trend – Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by activity limitation by gender

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2024-07-18

Trend – Disability employment gap (age 20-64) by activity limitation by gender											
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NL average	Total: some or severe limitation	29.4 pp	28.3 pp	26.2 pp	24.3 pp	22.4 pp	26.5 pp	25.4 pp	25.8 pp	25.2 pp	24.4 pp
NL average	Women: some or severe limitation	25.5 pp	24.2 pp	24.8 pp	22.7 pp	21.3 pp	24.0 pp	25.3 pp	27.3 pp	27.2 pp	26.3 pp
NL average	Men: some or severe limitation	32.3 pp	31.8 pp	26.2 pp	25.0 pp	23.0 pp	28.4 pp	24.2 pp	23.7 pp	22.3 pp	22.0 pp
EU27 average	Total: some or severe limitation	22.7 pp	23.8 pp	24.2 pp	23.5 pp	23.5 pp	24.4 pp	24.4 pp	23.1 pp	21.4 pp	21.5 pp
EU27 average	Women: some or severe limitation	20.0 pp	20.7 pp	21.0 pp	20.7 pp	20.7 pp	21.5 pp	21.6 pp	20.4 pp	18.9 pp	19.1 pp
EU27 average	Men: some or severe limitation	24.8 pp	26.6 pp	26.9 pp	25.8 pp	25.9 pp	26.9 pp	26.7 pp	25.2 pp	23.3 pp	23.2 pp
Note:											
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dlm200], extracted on 2024-07-18											

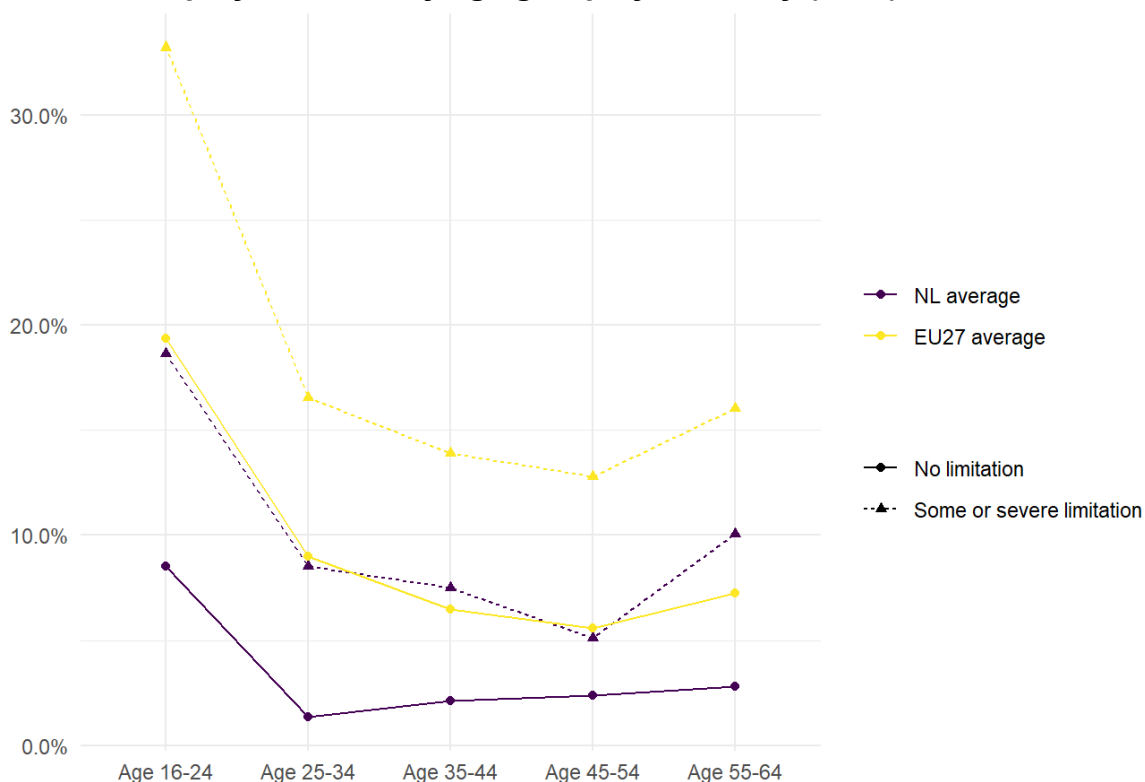
7.1.1 Unemployment

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



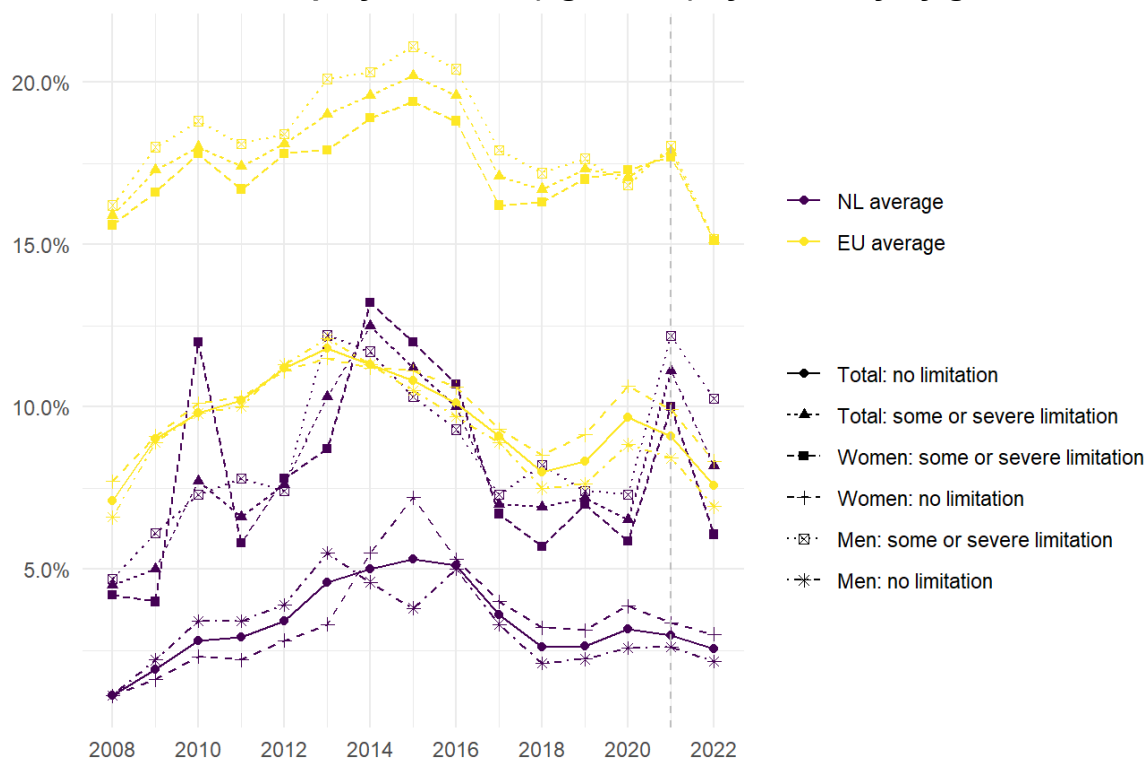
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender, disability (2022)						
	Total: some or severe	Total: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation
NL average	8.2 %	2.5 %	6.1 %	3.0 %	10.2 %	2.2 %
EU27 average	15.1 %	7.6 %	15.1 %	8.3 %	15.2 %	6.9 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

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

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

Unemployment rate by age group by disability (2022)						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
NL average	Some or severe limitation	18.6 %	8.5 %	7.5 %	5.1 %	10.1 %
NL average	No limitation	8.5 %	1.3 %	2.1 %	2.4 %	2.8 %
EU27 average	Some or severe limitation	33.2 %	16.6 %	13.9 %	12.8 %	16.0 %
EU27 average	No limitation	19.4 %	9.0 %	6.5 %	5.6 %	7.2 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

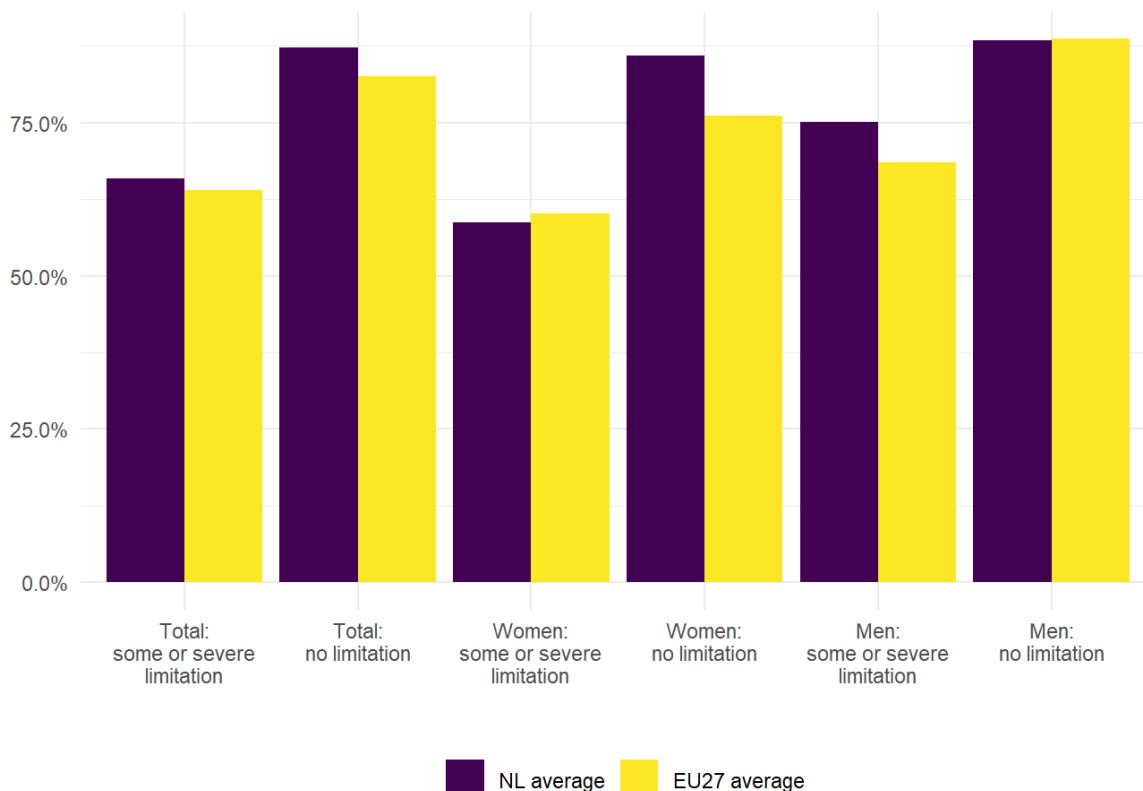
Table 7: Trend – Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender

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

Trend – Unemployment rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NL average	Total: no limitation	1.1 %	1.9 %	2.8 %	2.9 %	3.4 %	4.6 %	5.0 %	5.3 %	5.1 %	3.6 %	2.6 %	2.6 %	3.1 %	3.0 %	2.5 %
NL average	Total: some or severe limitation	4.5 %	5.0 %	7.7 %	6.6 %	7.6 %	10.3 %	12.5 %	11.2 %	10.0 %	7.0 %	6.9 %	7.2 %	6.5 %	11.1 %	8.2 %
NL average	Women: some or severe limitation	4.2 %	4.0 %	12.0 %	5.8 %	7.8 %	8.7 %	13.2 %	12.0 %	10.7 %	6.7 %	5.7 %	7.0 %	5.9 %	10.0 %	6.1 %
NL average	Women: no limitation	1.1 %	1.6 %	2.3 %	2.2 %	2.8 %	3.3 %	5.5 %	7.2 %	5.3 %	4.0 %	3.2 %	3.1 %	3.9 %	3.3 %	3.0 %
NL average	Men: some or severe limitation	4.7 %	6.1 %	7.3 %	7.8 %	7.4 %	12.2 %	11.7 %	10.3 %	9.3 %	7.3 %	8.2 %	7.4 %	7.3 %	12.2 %	10.2 %
NL average	Men: no limitation	1.1 %	2.2 %	3.4 %	3.4 %	3.9 %	5.5 %	4.6 %	3.8 %	5.0 %	3.3 %	2.1 %	2.2 %	2.6 %	2.6 %	2.2 %
EU average	Total: no limitation	7.1 %	9.0 %	9.8 %	10.2 %	11.2 %	11.8 %	11.3 %	10.8 %	10.1 %	9.1 %	8.0 %	8.3 %	9.7 %	9.1 %	7.6 %
EU average	Total: some or severe limitation	15.9 %	17.3 %	18.0 %	17.4 %	18.1 %	19.0 %	19.6 %	20.2 %	19.6 %	17.1 %	16.7 %	17.3 %	17.1 %	17.9 %	15.1 %
EU average	Women: some or severe limitation	15.6 %	16.6 %	17.8 %	16.7 %	17.8 %	17.9 %	18.9 %	19.4 %	18.8 %	16.2 %	16.3 %	17.0 %	17.3 %	17.7 %	15.1 %
EU average	Women: no limitation	7.7 %	9.1 %	10.1 %	10.3 %	11.1 %	11.5 %	11.2 %	11.1 %	10.6 %	9.3 %	8.5 %	9.1 %	10.6 %	9.9 %	8.3 %
EU average	Men: some or severe limitation	16.2 %	18.0 %	18.8 %	18.1 %	18.4 %	20.1 %	20.3 %	21.1 %	20.4 %	17.9 %	17.2 %	17.6 %	16.8 %	18.0 %	15.2 %
EU average	Men: no limitation	6.6 %	8.9 %	9.8 %	10.0 %	11.3 %	12.1 %	11.3 %	10.5 %	9.7 %	8.9 %	7.5 %	7.6 %	8.8 %	8.4 %	6.9 %
Note:																
Source: EU-SILC, own calculation																
Note: changed wording of limitation in activities question in 2021																

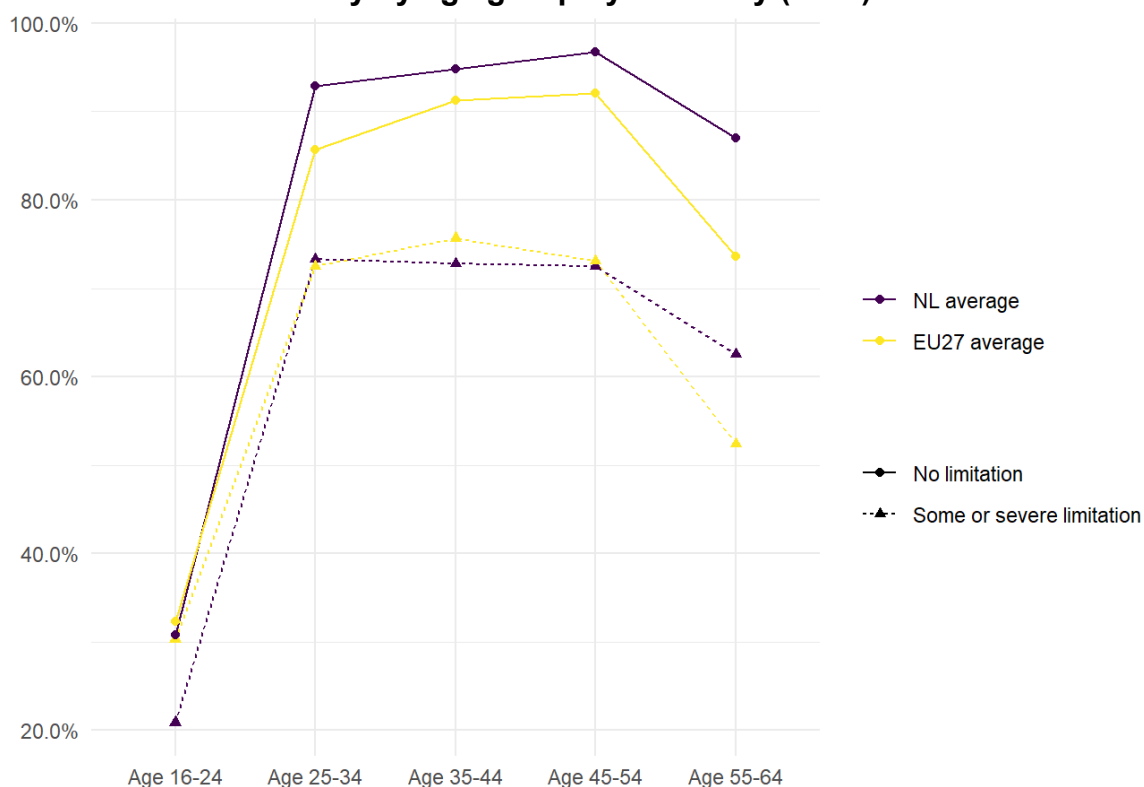
7.1.2 Economic activity

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



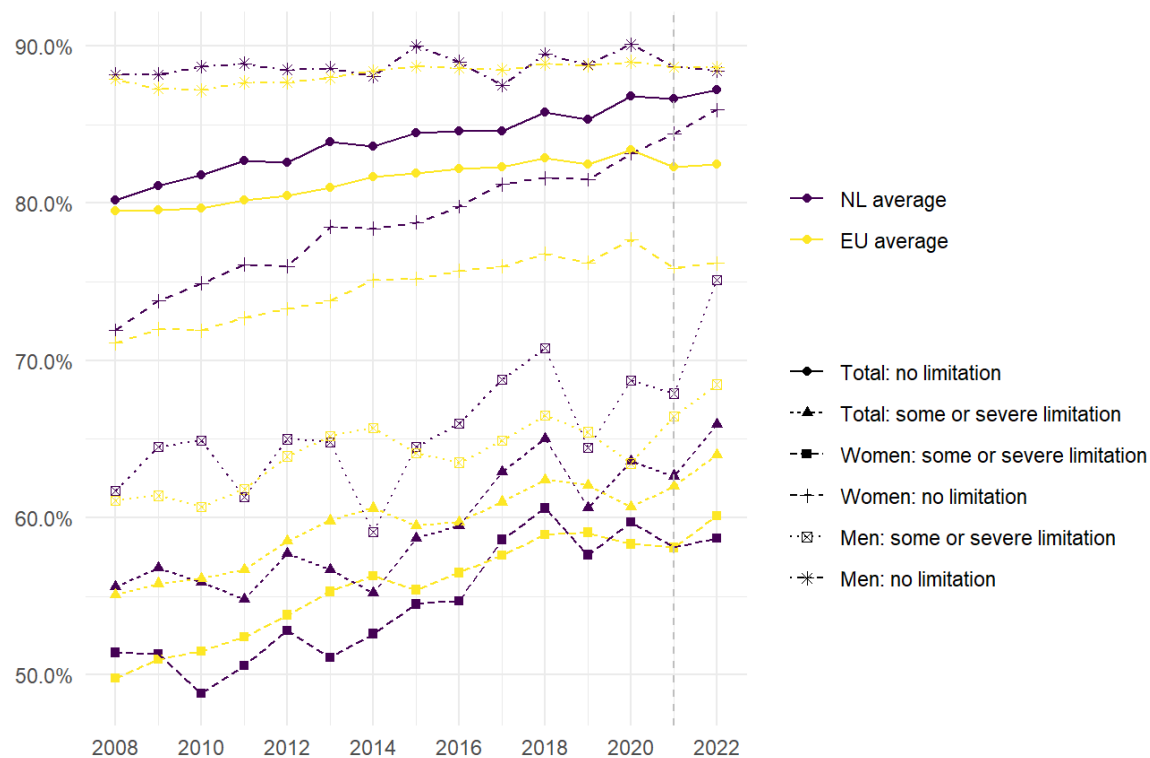
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation

Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by gender by disability, disability (2022)						
	Total: some or severe limitation	Total: no limitation	Women: some or severe limitation	Women: no limitation	Men: some or severe limitation	Men: no limitation
NL average	66.0 %	87.2 %	58.7 %	86.0 %	75.1 %	88.4 %
EU27 average	64.0 %	82.5 %	60.1 %	76.2 %	68.5 %	88.6 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

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

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

Economic activity by age group by disability (2022)						
	Activity limitation	Age 16-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64
NL average	Some or severe limitation	20.9 %	73.3 %	72.8 %	72.5 %	62.5 %
NL average	No limitation	30.7 %	92.9 %	94.9 %	96.7 %	87.0 %
EU27 average	Some or severe limitation	30.3 %	72.5 %	75.7 %	73.1 %	52.4 %
EU27 average	No limitation	32.3 %	85.6 %	91.3 %	92.1 %	73.6 %
Note:						
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation						

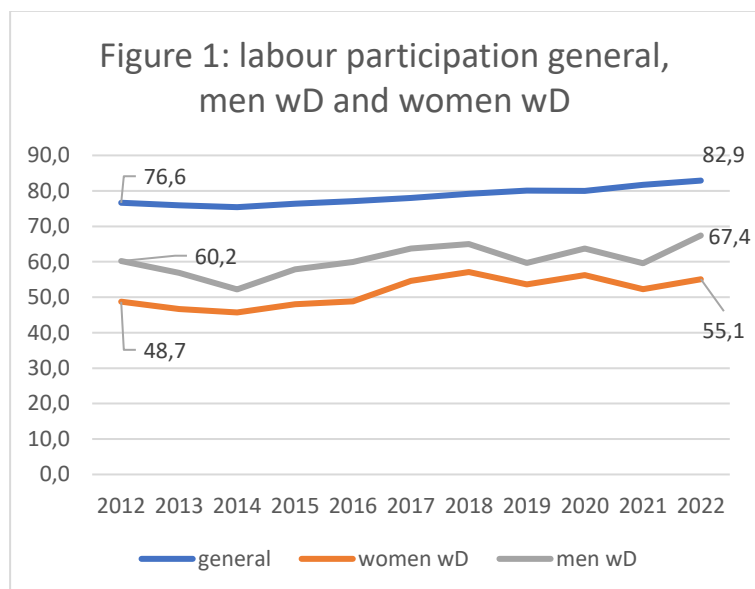
Table 10: Trend – Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender

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

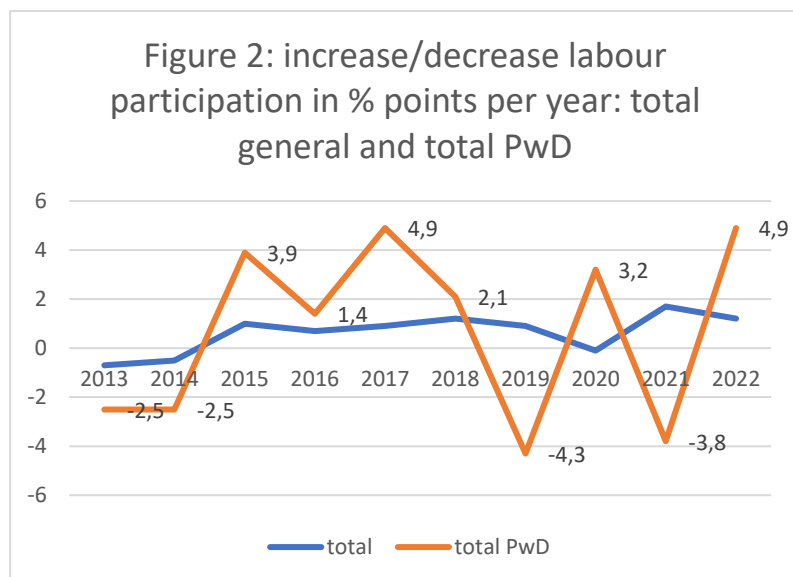
Trend – Economic activity rate (age 20-64) by disability by gender																
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NL average	Total: no limitation	80.2 %	81.1 %	81.8 %	82.7 %	82.6 %	83.9 %	83.6 %	84.5 %	84.6 %	84.6 %	85.8 %	85.3 %	86.8 %	86.6 %	87.2 %
NL average	Total: some or severe limitation	55.6 %	56.8 %	55.9 %	54.8 %	57.7 %	56.7 %	55.2 %	58.7 %	59.5 %	62.9 %	65.0 %	60.6 %	63.6 %	62.6 %	66.0 %
NL average	Women: some or severe limitation	51.4 %	51.3 %	48.8 %	50.6 %	52.8 %	51.1 %	52.6 %	54.5 %	54.7 %	58.6 %	60.6 %	57.6 %	59.7 %	58.1 %	58.7 %
NL average	Women: no limitation	71.9 %	73.8 %	74.9 %	76.1 %	76.0 %	78.5 %	78.4 %	78.8 %	79.8 %	81.2 %	81.6 %	81.5 %	83.2 %	84.4 %	86.0 %
NL average	Men: some or severe limitation	61.7 %	64.5 %	64.9 %	61.3 %	65.0 %	64.8 %	59.1 %	64.5 %	66.0 %	68.8 %	70.8 %	64.4 %	68.7 %	67.9 %	75.1 %
NL average	Men: no limitation	88.2 %	88.2 %	88.7 %	88.9 %	88.5 %	88.6 %	88.1 %	90.0 %	89.0 %	87.5 %	89.5 %	88.8 %	90.1 %	88.7 %	88.4 %
EU average	Total: no limitation	79.5 %	79.6 %	79.7 %	80.2 %	80.5 %	81.0 %	81.7 %	81.9 %	82.2 %	82.3 %	82.9 %	82.5 %	83.4 %	82.3 %	82.5 %
EU average	Total: some or severe limitation	55.1 %	55.8 %	56.1 %	56.7 %	58.5 %	59.8 %	60.6 %	59.5 %	59.7 %	61.0 %	62.4 %	62.0 %	60.7 %	62.0 %	64.0 %
EU average	Women: some or severe limitation	49.8 %	51.0 %	51.5 %	52.4 %	53.8 %	55.3 %	56.3 %	55.4 %	56.5 %	57.6 %	58.9 %	59.0 %	58.3 %	58.1 %	60.1 %
EU average	Women: no limitation	71.1 %	72.0 %	71.9 %	72.7 %	73.3 %	73.8 %	75.1 %	75.2 %	75.7 %	76.0 %	76.8 %	76.2 %	77.7 %	75.8 %	76.2 %
EU average	Men: some or severe limitation	61.1 %	61.4 %	60.7 %	61.8 %	63.9 %	65.2 %	65.7 %	64.1 %	63.5 %	64.9 %	66.5 %	65.4 %	63.5 %	66.4 %	68.5 %
EU average	Men: no limitation	87.9 %	87.3 %	87.2 %	87.7 %	87.7 %	88.0 %	88.4 %	88.7 %	88.6 %	88.5 %	88.9 %	88.8 %	89.0 %	88.7 %	88.6 %
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 the Netherlands

Labour participation by persons with disabilities roughly follows the trend of an increase in labour participation among the general population. Contrary to the trend in the general population, it is men with disabilities whose labour participation increased more than that for women with disabilities between 2012 and 2022.



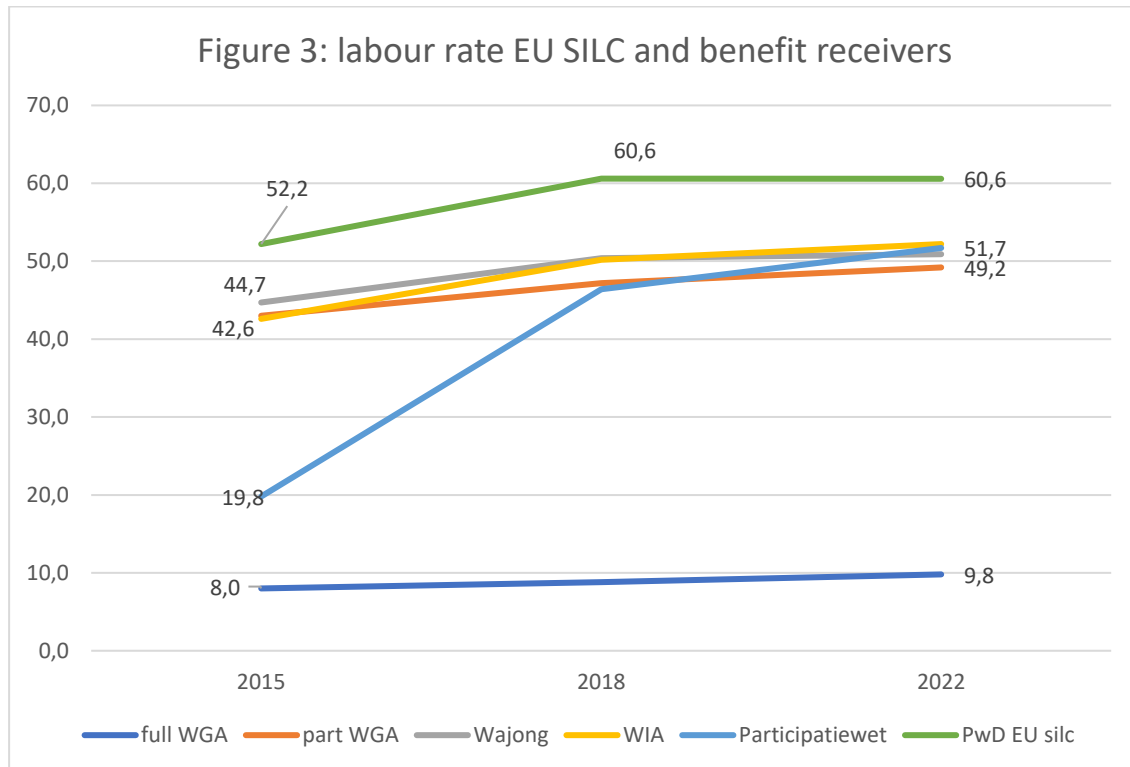
Annual changes in labour participation fluctuate more strongly for persons with disabilities than for the general population. The following graph shows the fluctuation in percentage points per year for the general population and for persons with disabilities.



Source: EUROSTAT, EU-SILC

The administrative authority UWV provides labour participation rates for people in receipt of various types of benefits who are assessed as having capacity to do paid

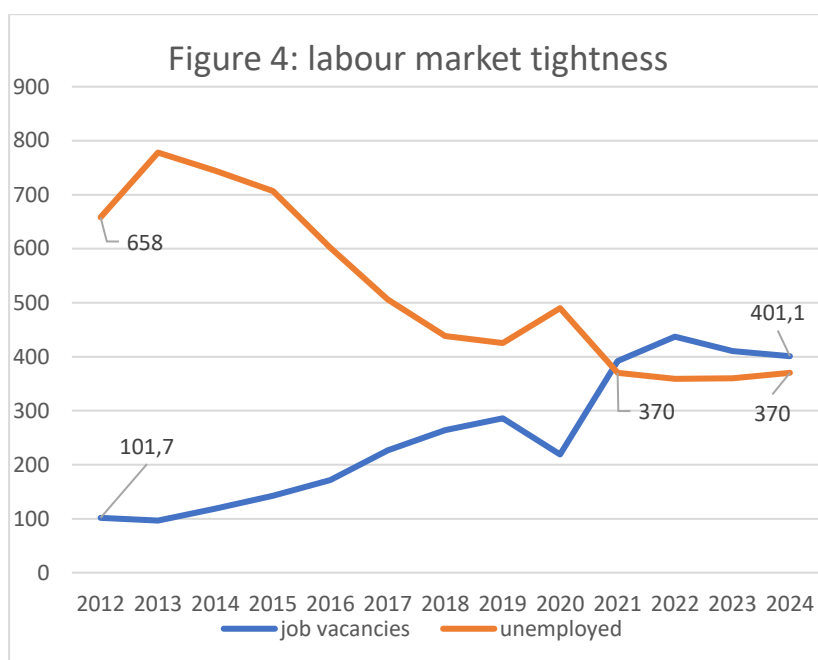
work in its 'Labour participation monitor'.¹⁰⁹ The graph shows these groups of benefit recipients, comparing them with EU-SILC data on the labour market participation rate for persons with disabilities.



The Dutch labour market has been tightening since 2013. Job vacancies have increased annually, with a dip during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the job vacancies outgrew the number of unemployed people as of 2021. In 2024 the number of job vacancies is still higher than the number of people unemployed.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ Administrative Authority UWV (2024) *Monitor arbeidsparticipatie arbeidsbeperkten 2023* (Labour market participation monitor – persons with disabilities 2023), p. 3, <https://www.uwv.nl/nl/publicaties/kennis/2024/uwv-monitor-arbeidsparticipatie-arbeidsbeperkten-2023>.

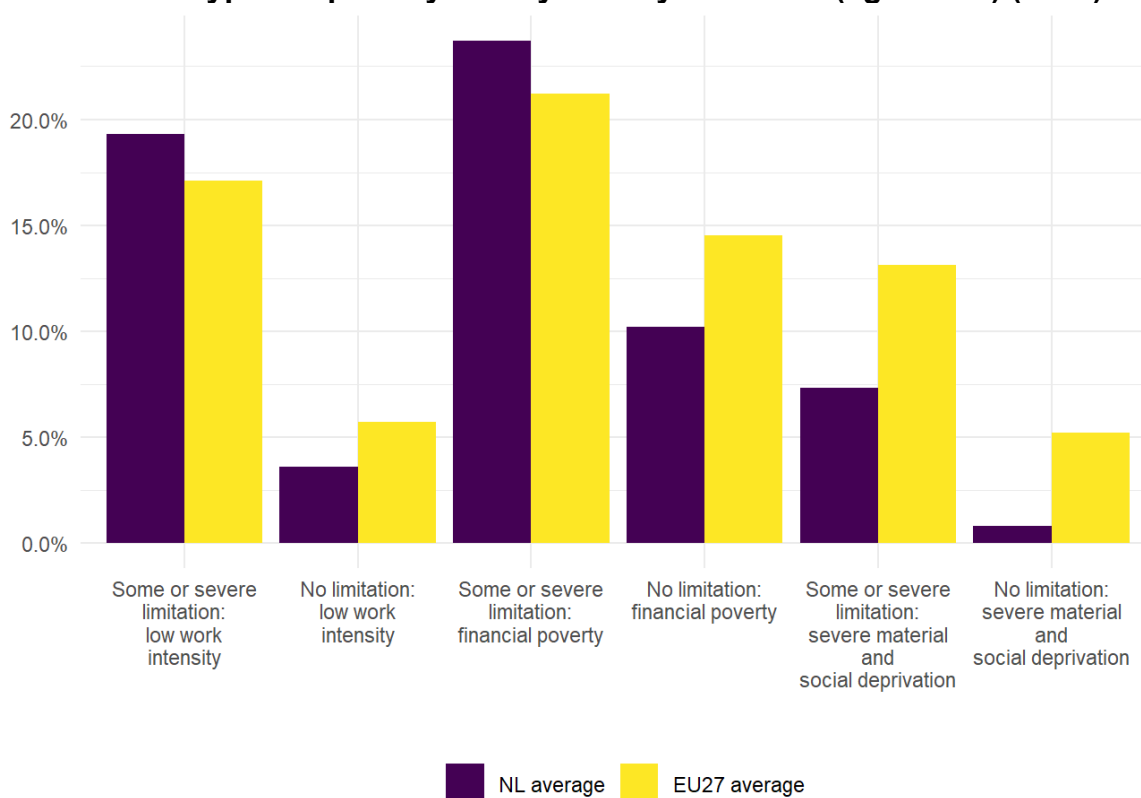
¹¹⁰ Netherlands Statistics (2024), *Vacatures* (Job vacancies), <https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/80474ned/tale?ts=1724839053406> and *Werkloze beroepsbevolking* (Unemployed labour force), <https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/nl/dataset/80590ned/table?dl=1A71D>.



Source: Netherlands Statistics.

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

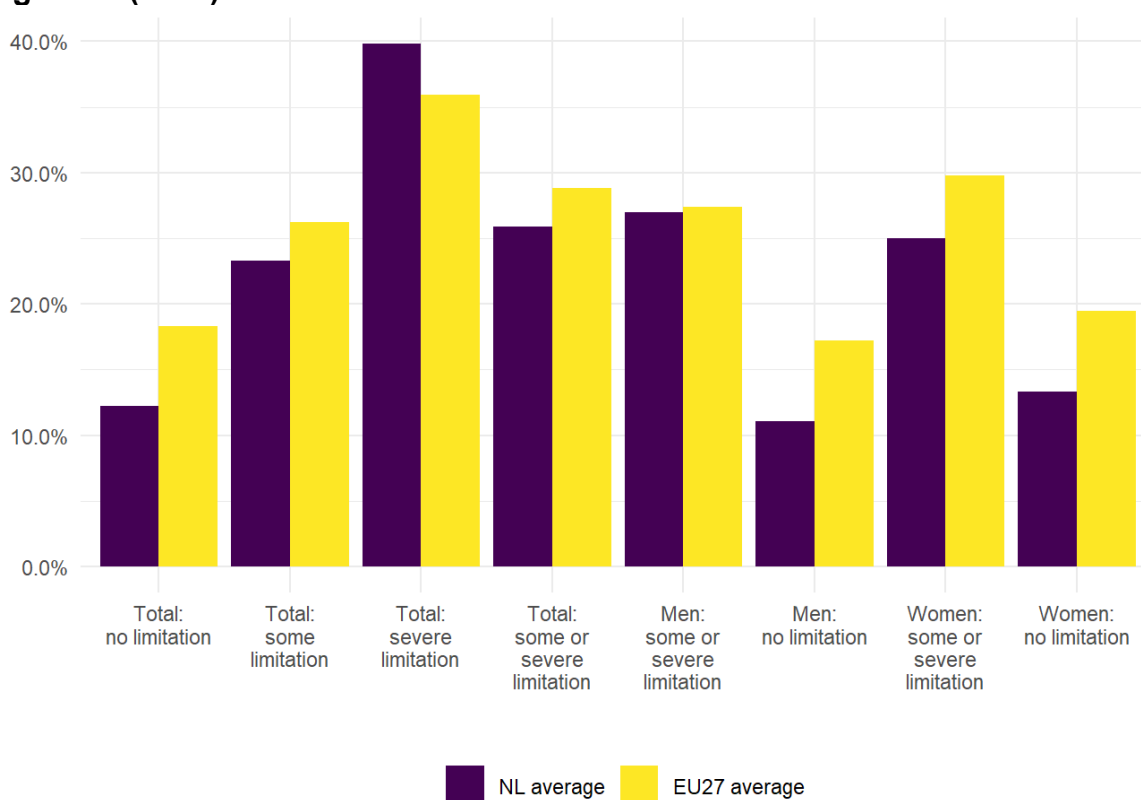
Table 11: Main types of poverty risk by activity limitation (age 16-64) (2022)



Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2024-07-18

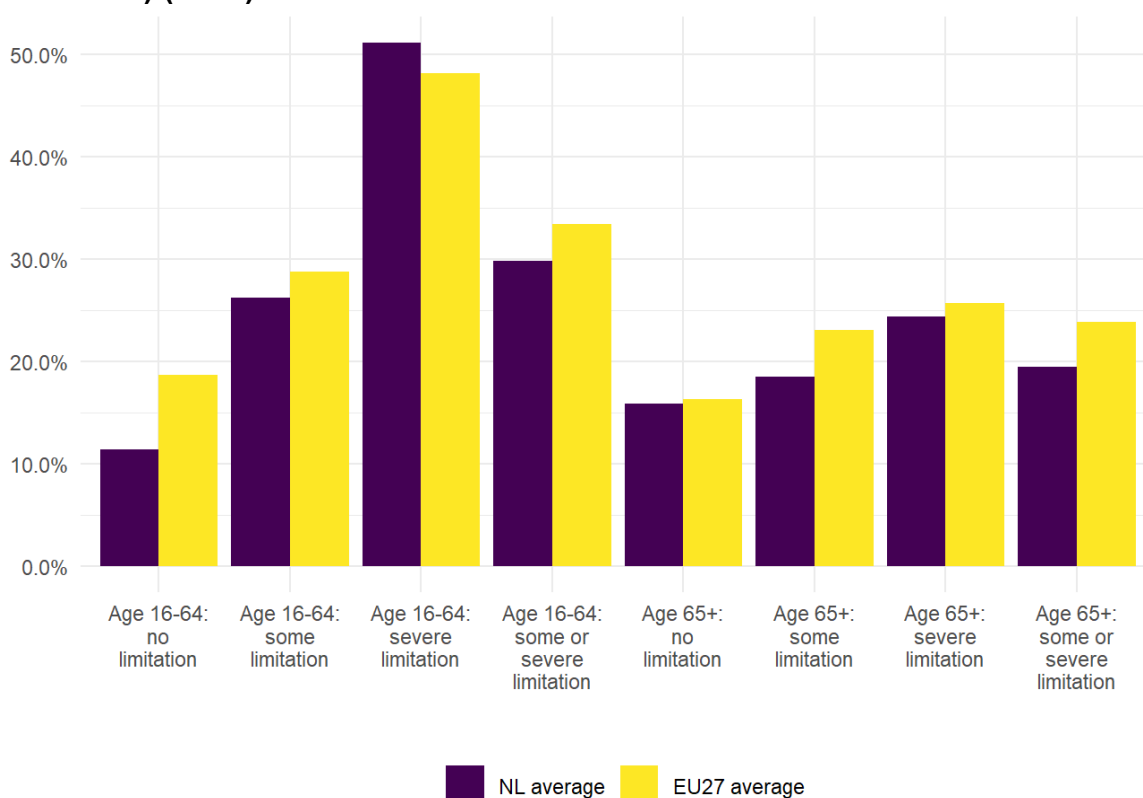
Main types of poverty risk by activity limitation (age 16-64) (2022)						
	Some or severe limitation: low work intensity	No limitation: low work intensity	Some or severe limitation: financial poverty	No limitation: financial poverty	Some or severe limitation: severe material and social deprivation	No limitation: severe material and social deprivation
NL average	19.3 %	3.6 %	23.7 %	10.2 %	7.3 %	0.8 %
EU27 average	17.1 %	5.7 %	21.2 %	14.5 %	13.1 %	5.2 %
Note:						
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe040], [hlth_dpe020] and [hlth_dm010], extracted on 2024-07-18						

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



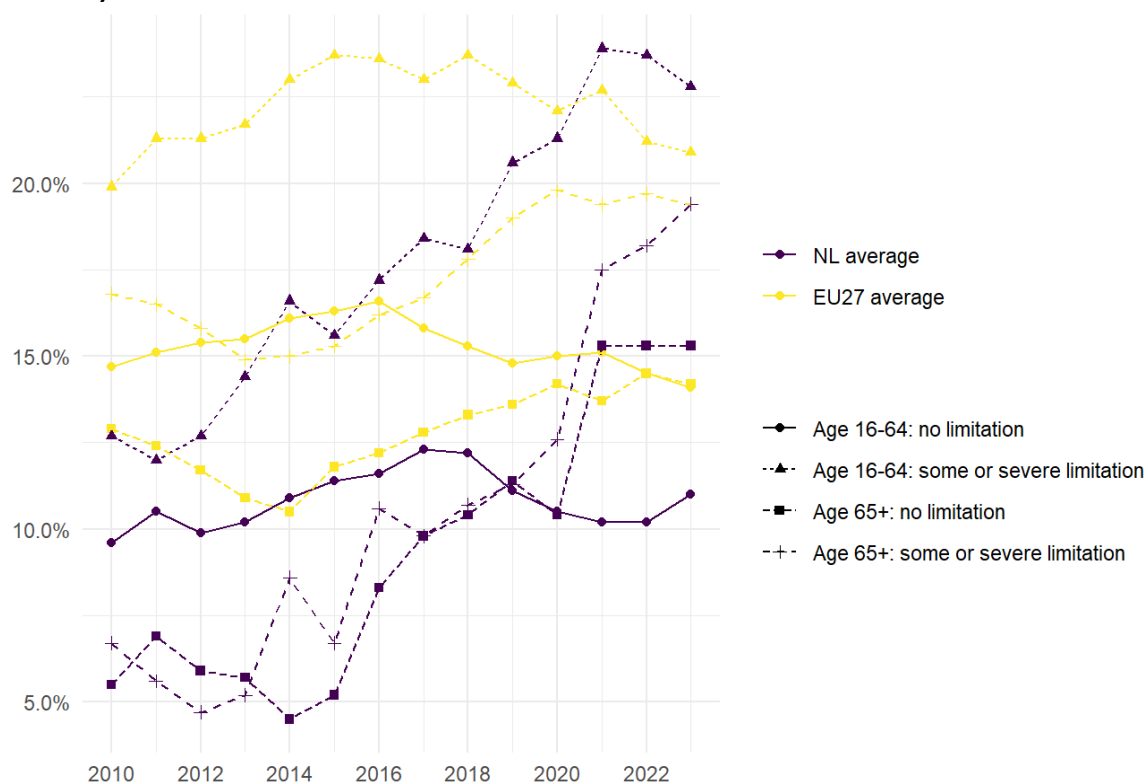
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-18

At risk of poverty or social exclusion (age 16+) by activity limitation by gender (2022)								
	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
NL average	12.2 %	23.3 %	39.8 %	25.9 %	27.0 %	11.1 %	25.0 %	13.3 %
EU27 average	18.3 %	26.2 %	35.9 %	28.8 %	27.4 %	17.2 %	29.8 %	19.5 %
Note:								
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-18								

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

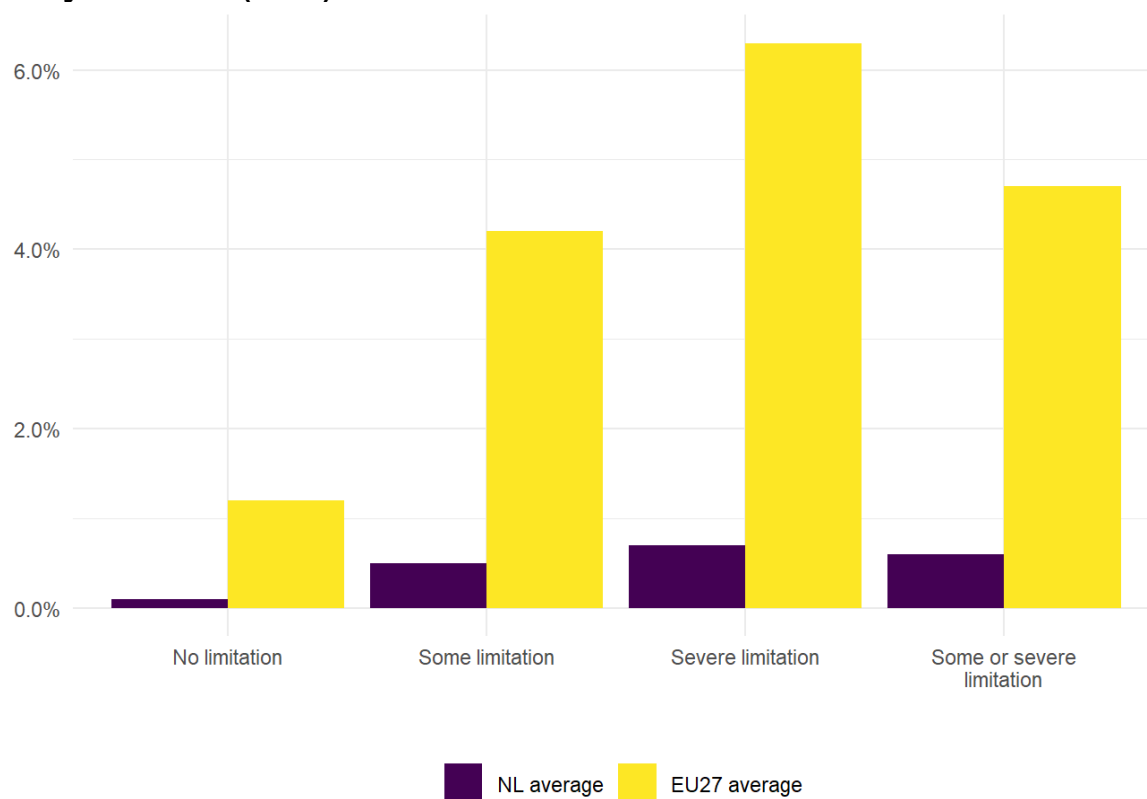
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-18

At risk of poverty or social exclusion by disability by age group (age 16-64 & 65+) (2022)								
	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
NL average	11.4 %	26.2 %	51.1 %	29.8 %	15.9 %	18.5 %	24.4 %	19.5 %
EU27 average	18.7 %	28.8 %	48.1 %	33.4 %	16.3 %	23.1 %	25.7 %	23.9 %
Note:								
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe010], extracted on 2024-07-18								

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

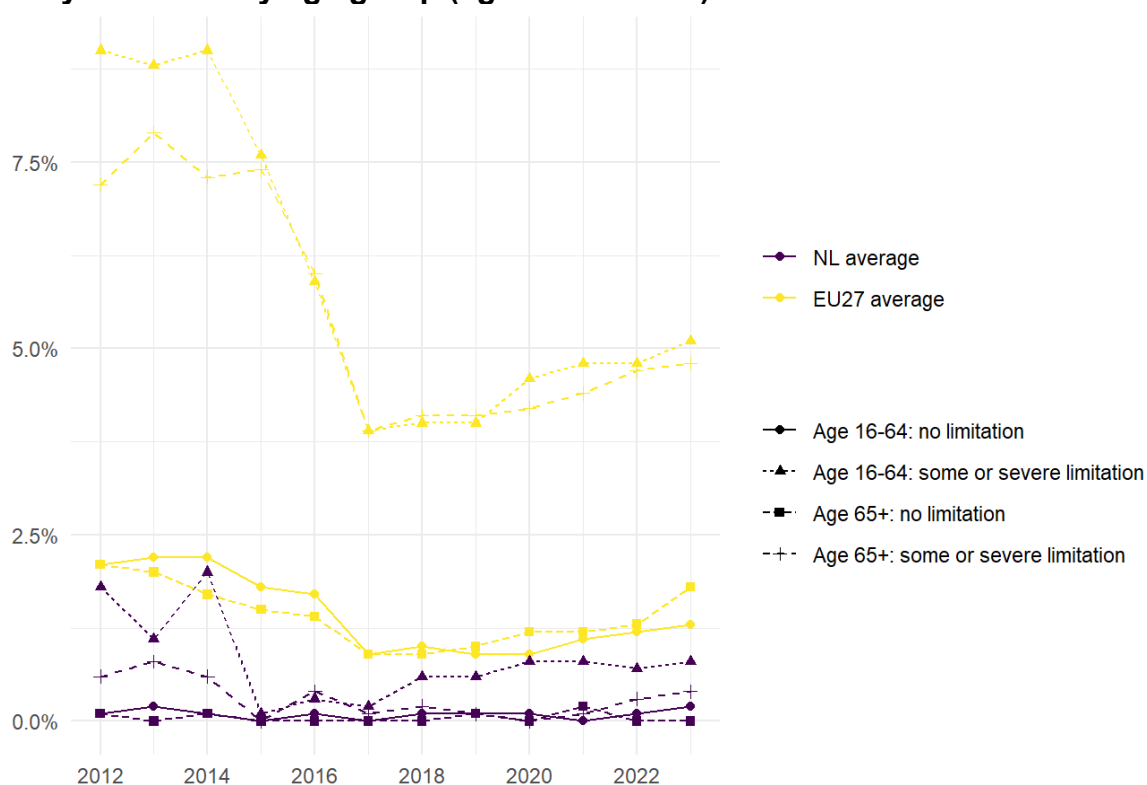
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2024-07-18

Trend – At risk of poverty by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)															
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NL average	Age 16-64: no limitation	9.6 %	10.5 %	9.9 %	10.2 %	10.9 %	11.4 %	11.6 %	12.3 %	12.2 %	11.1 %	10.5 %	10.2 %	10.2 %	11.0 %
NL average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	12.7 %	12.0 %	12.7 %	14.4 %	16.6 %	15.6 %	17.2 %	18.4 %	18.1 %	20.6 %	21.3 %	23.9 %	23.7 %	22.8 %
NL average	Age 65+: no limitation	5.5 %	6.9 %	5.9 %	5.7 %	4.5 %	5.2 %	8.3 %	9.8 %	10.4 %	11.4 %	10.4 %	15.3 %	15.3 %	15.3 %
NL average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	6.7 %	5.6 %	4.7 %	5.2 %	8.6 %	6.7 %	10.6 %	9.8 %	10.7 %	11.3 %	12.6 %	17.5 %	18.2 %	19.4 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: no limitation	14.7 %	15.1 %	15.4 %	15.5 %	16.1 %	16.3 %	16.6 %	15.8 %	15.3 %	14.8 %	15.0 %	15.1 %	14.5 %	14.1 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	19.9 %	21.3 %	21.3 %	21.7 %	23.0 %	23.7 %	23.6 %	23.0 %	23.7 %	22.9 %	22.1 %	22.7 %	21.2 %	20.9 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: no limitation	12.9 %	12.4 %	11.7 %	10.9 %	10.5 %	11.8 %	12.2 %	12.8 %	13.3 %	13.6 %	14.2 %	13.7 %	14.5 %	14.2 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	16.8 %	16.5 %	15.8 %	14.9 %	15.0 %	15.3 %	16.2 %	16.7 %	17.8 %	19.0 %	19.8 %	19.4 %	19.7 %	19.4 %
Note:															
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dpe020], extracted on 2024-07-18															

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

Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-18

Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination (age 16+) by activity limitation (2022)				
	No limitation	Some limitation	Severe limitation	Some or severe limitation
NL average	0.1 %	0.5 %	0.7 %	0.6 %
EU27 average	1.2 %	4.2 %	6.3 %	4.7 %
Note:				
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-18				

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

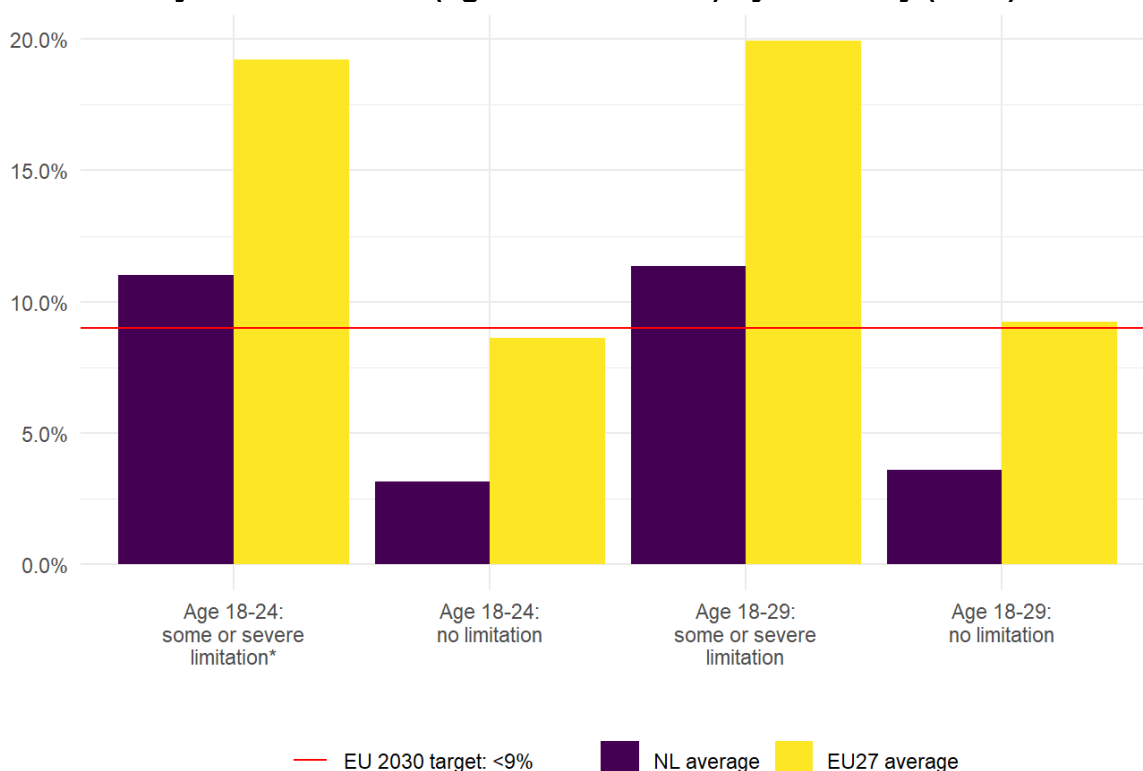
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-18

Trend - self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by activity limitation by age group (age 16-64 & 65+)		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NL average	Age 16-64: no limitation	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.2 %
NL average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	1.8 %	1.1 %	2.0 %	0.1 %	0.3 %	0.2 %	0.6 %	0.6 %	0.8 %	0.8 %	0.7 %	0.8 %
NL average	Age 65+: no limitation	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.2 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
NL average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	0.6 %	0.8 %	0.6 %	0.0 %	0.4 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.3 %	0.4 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: no limitation	2.1 %	2.2 %	2.2 %	1.8 %	1.7 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	0.9 %	0.9 %	1.1 %	1.2 %	1.3 %
EU27 average	Age 16-64: some or severe limitation	9.0 %	8.8 %	9.0 %	7.6 %	5.9 %	3.9 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.6 %	4.8 %	4.8 %	5.1 %

EU27 average	Age 65+: no limitation	2.1 %	2.0 %	1.7 %	1.5 %	1.4 %	0.9 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	1.2 %	1.2 %	1.3 %	1.8 %
EU27 average	Age 65+: some or severe limitation	7.2 %	7.9 %	7.3 %	7.4 %	6.0 %	3.9 %	4.1 %	4.1 %	4.2 %	4.4 %	4.7 %	4.8 %
Note:													
Source: Eurostat [hlth_dh030], extracted on 2024-07-18													

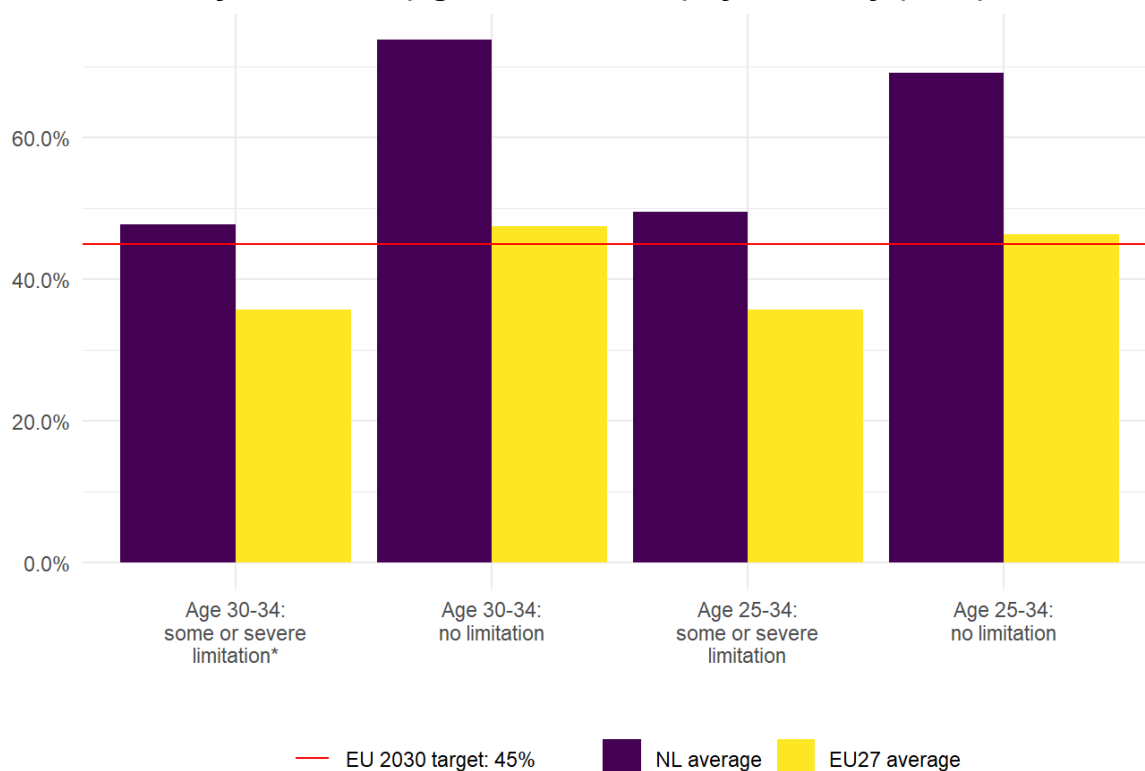
7.3 EU data relevant to disability and education (2022)

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



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

Early school leavers (age 18-24 & 18-29) by disability (2022)				
	Age 18-24: some or severe limitation*	Age 18-24: no limitation	Age 18-29: some or severe limitation	Age 18-29: no limitation
NL average	11.0 %	3.1 %	11.4 %	3.6 %
EU27 average	19.2 %	8.6 %	19.9 %	9.2 %
Note:				
Note: * indicative data				
Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation				

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

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

Tertiary education (age 30-34 & 30-39) by disability (2022)				
	Age 30-34: some or severe limitation*	Age 30-34: no limitation	Age 25-34: some or severe limitation	Age 25-34: no limitation
NL average	47.7 %	73.8 %	49.5 %	69.2 %
EU27 average	35.7 %	47.4 %	35.7 %	46.3 %
Note:				
Note: * indicative data Source: EU-SILC 2022 (release 2023 v2), own calculation				

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