Overview of UNCRPD Article 31 in Ireland

Statistics and Data Collection

October 2020



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# Background to the UNCRPD Article review papers

During 2020 the National Disability Authority (NDA) developed a series of in-depth papers on individual United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) articles. These papers detail the main data available relevant to specific Articles and provides an overview of key policies, programmes, services, supports and data that exist in the Irish context. They are not a critique of what is currently in place but rather a record of what exists. Nevertheless, there are instances where certain gaps or concerns are highlighted, including those advised by the NDA or other stakeholders.

These papers were primarily developed through desk research. However, the papers were also informed by the NDA’s own work, updates and discussions at Departmental Disability Consultative Committees, the National Disability Inclusion Strategy Steering Group, and other relevant committees. They were also informed by interactions with the Disability Stakeholders Group and with persons with disabilities, particularly through participation on a range of working and advisory groups across Government Departments on areas related to NDIS actions. Given their factual nature a more direct consultation process with persons with disabilities was not conducted. However, the NDA envisages continuing to conduct periodic consultations on specific articles of the UNCRPD and related matters which will seek the lived experience of persons with disabilities individually and through their representative bodies.

The purpose of the papers are multiple. They were developed initially to support the development of the State Party report to the UNCRPD Committee. In line with the NDA’s anticipated new statutory function under the UNCRPD, ~~t~~hey are also intended to be useful to support the development by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) of the State’s parallel report to the UNCRPD Committee. They will also be used internally as reference papers within the NDA. The NDA has published these documents on our website to make them available to a wider audience to support any work underway to develop shadow reports on implementation of UNCRPD in Ireland.

The NDA sought to ensure that the information is accurate as of October 2020 but recognises that the changing nature of policies, programmes, services, supports and data will require them to be updated periodically to reflect any changes. The papers are not intended to be exhaustive but seek to provide a broad overview of the main issues of relevance to each article.

In the first instance we reviewed nine articles listed below. Five are available at [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie) and the remaining four will be published shortly. These were selected to reflect some of the main topics of concern to the stakeholders noted above and to include some of the cross-cutting issues such as children and women with disabilities. It is intended that the NDA will develop further papers during 2021 focusing on a number of civil and political Articles.

* Article 6, Women with Disabilities
* Article 7, Children with Disabilities
* Article 8, Awareness Raising
* Article 19, Living Independently
* Article 24, Education
* Article 25, Health
* Article 26, Work and employment
* Article 28, Adequate Standard of Living and Social Protection
* Article 31, Statistics and Data Collection

# Introduction to Article 31: Statistics and data collection

For the first time in the history of international human rights law, a requirement for statistics and data is included in a human rights treaty. Article 31 of the UNCRPD requires State Parties to acquire the disability data and statistics that will facilitate UNCRPD implementation and its monitoring. There is no precedent for such a provision in human rights treaties. While access to statistics and statistical information is considered a fundamental right, it has largely been dealt with as part of freedom of information. However, Committees under various Conventions have repeatedly called for appropriate information through a requirement for statistics and data collection, notably the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).[[1]](#footnote-1)

Article 31 is a call to States to progressively ensure adequate data collection and disaggregation to ensure persons with disabilities are visible within statistics for evidence-based policymaking. The main purpose of Article 31 is to promote the collection of statistical and research data that will be used to guide and monitor CRPD implementation. It includes the use and/or creation of data tools that will assist in data collection and indicators to assess CRPD implementation.

Article 31 together with Article 33 (National implementation and monitoring) form the core of CRPD monitoring provisions. Article 31 is related to Article 32, in so far as it promotes international cooperation in building capacity to monitor the CRPD, which includes capacity around data collection and statistics. Article 31 and 33 mandate collecting “appropriate information” to enable States “to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the CRPD (Article 31); designate a focal point within government on implementation; and designate a mechanism “to promote, protect and monitor CRPD implementation” (Article 33).[[2]](#footnote-2)

The obligation for data collection and statistics lies with states parties and the inclusion of DPOs in the collection, analyses and dissemination of data is in-keeping with the overarching and cross cutting CRPD principle that persons with disabilities should participate in all aspects of CRPD implementation and monitoring.

Data collected as per Article 31 must take into consideration the social model as articulated in the CRPD. This entails focusing on the existence or non-existence of barriers in society that could hinder a person’s full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. It requires inclusion of persons with disabilities in collection, analysis and dissemination of data, for example, regarding choosing the criteria used in gathering the data or helping to work out how to include the broadest possible range of persons with disabilities in surveys, including those who may be the most marginalised.[[3]](#footnote-3)

# Convention text

Article 31 - Statistics and Data Collection:

States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

1. Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;
2. Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties’ obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

# Type of Right

Article 31 is a tool in the promotion of rights rather than a right in itself.

# Literature and CRPD Committee guidelines on Article 31

While there has been no General Comment on Article 31 from the CRPD Committee[[4]](#footnote-4) or specific guidelines, the Committee has addressed this Article in its reporting guidelines. Its guidelines on Independent Monitoring Frameworks sets forth its considerations on the task of improving systems for collecting and analysing data that will be used to implement rights.

It clarifies that implementing Article 31 will require, in addition to the involvement of national statistics bodies, collective, coordinated and continuous efforts by others, including the following:[[5]](#footnote-5)

* National Statistical Commissions
* Focal points and coordination mechanisms appointed under Article 33 (1) of the Convention;
* UN agencies;
* Regional organisations;
* Independent monitoring frameworks, which consist of mechanisms that operate on a permanent basis and have a close connection with the national, regional and local settings in which the CRPD is implemented.
* Civil society organisations (such as DPOs);
* Persons with Disabilities.

The CRPD Committee recognizes challenges associated with monitoring implementation of the Convention at the national level, which include the following:

* Limited availability of reliable data by State party institutions;
* Lack of data disaggregated by sex, age or type of disability;
* Variety of methods and systems in place for assessing disability in different regions, states and provinces and in different ministries, departments and units;
* Lack of or insufficient participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the design and implementation of national census and household surveys;
* Prevalence of inadequate systems for the collection of data;
* Data collection systems that are often based on outdated approaches to disability, such as the medical model of disability.

These factors have regularly prevented policymakers from properly assessing the situation of persons with disabilities and prevented the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of mainstream or disability-specific development policies and programmes.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

Given these challenges, the CRPD 2016 guidelines outlines that states parties should report on the steps they have taken to[[7]](#footnote-7)

* **Develop data collection tools** in accordance with the human rights based approach to disability and focus on the disabling barriers experienced by persons with disabilities.
* **Incorporate human rights based indicators in data collection and analysis** respecting among others, human rights, and fundamental freedoms, ethics, legal safeguards, data protection, confidentiality and privacy.
* **Ensure the full and meaningful participation of representative organisations of PWD in the full process** (design, planning, implementation analysis and dissemination) of data collection and research, through among others, capacity building of those organisations.
* **Establish coordinated mechanisms between all entities collecting data** on PWD which ensures reliability and diminishes discrepancies.
* **Disaggregate data by age, sex and other relevant factors in order to address the barriers faced by PWD** in exercising their rights for the purpose of formulating and implementing policies to give effect to the convention.
* Ensure the **dissemination of statistics in accessible formats.**

The CRPD Committee suggests the following principles to guide design, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes by bodies appointed under article 33 (1) of the CRPD and monitoring activities carried out under article 33 (2):[[8]](#footnote-8)

* Use the twin-track approach to disability that combines the use of disability-specific policies aimed at supporting and empowering persons with disabilities with mainstreaming disability rights across general policies and programmes. The twin-track approach to disability can be reflected in monitoring policies and programmes; monitoring activities should aim to measure the impact of mainstream policies and programmes on persons with disabilities, as well as the impact of disability-specific policies;
* Policies and programmes can be designed, implemented, evaluated and monitored taking into account the human rights model of disability enshrined in the CRPD which aims at identifying and bridging the gaps that prevent persons with disabilities, as rights holders, from enjoying their rights, and the gaps that infringe on duty bearers to discharge their legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities;
* As well as the outcomes of policies and programmes, monitoring activities need to take into account structural and policy frameworks and the processes in place to achieve results. In that regard, the Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to take into account the human rights-based approach to indicators developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
* Persons with disabilities, through their DPOs, and as individual experts, should participate meaningfully in the design, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of policies and programmes;
* Data must be disaggregated by sex, age and type of disability to ensure that at all the stages of policy planning, implementation and monitoring no one is excluded;
* Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, in relation to persons with disabilities should take into account international human rights frameworks. As a human rights and development instrument and legal framework, the CRPD should be taken account of when designing, implementing, evaluating and monitoring development policies and programmes falling within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The Human Rights Based Approach to Data proposed by OHCHR is to ensure that the quality, relevance and use of data is consistent with international human rights norms.[[9]](#footnote-9) The OHCHR recommends that this approach be incorporated into data collection and disaggregation by States to facilitate CRPD implementation.

The Human Rights Based Approach focuses on key principles to guide data collection and disaggregation, namely:[[10]](#footnote-10)

* Participation
* Data disaggregation
* Self-identification
* Transparency
* Privacy and accountability

Disability-data collection methods and tools are a matter of current technical debate and development. Disaggregation “by disability” may require different approaches, depending on the kind of information sought and the method deployed. These methodological issues are resolvable and require discussion by relevant professionals designing tools for data collection, including statistical and administrative data.

Under Article 31, the CRPD Committee has consistently recommended the use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability, which has been designed for integration into national censuses and household surveys. This data instrument has been widely tested by countries. Its use is supported by the CRPD Committee, UN agencies and others to secure a baseline for comparison to measure the impact of the SDGs on persons with disabilities. The World Health Organization and the World Bank developed a Model Disability Survey (MDS) questionnaire in collaboration with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and others to present a consistent approach to collecting disability data. More information on the Washington Group Questions and the Model Disability Survey are included in Appendix 1.

# Monitoring Article 31 by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The NDA looked at the monitoring of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) in respect of Article 31 of the CRPD. It reviewed the monitoring by the Committee of the EU Member States (excluding Ireland), the European Union itself, as a party to the CRPD, and Australia and Canada. The latter two were chosen due to the similarities in some areas of disability law and policy (e.g. assisted decision-making), and to offer a sample of State Parties outside the EU. The different stages of monitoring were examined:

* Submission of an initial report by the State Party
* List of Issues sent by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in response to the initial report. This looks to fill in gaps that may have been left out in the initial report.
* The reply to the List of Issues by the State Party, in which is attempts to answer the questions in the List of Issues.
* The Concluding Observations by the Committee.

Nine of the State Parties examined have completed a fifth stage of monitoring, that is, the Follow-Up to the Concluding Observations, by submitting information on further developments that had occurred in respect of recommendations made by the Committee. However, information from the follow-up reports of those State Parties address specific recommendations made to that State Party and would not add value to the analysis and are, therefore, not included.

The Committee comments on Art 31 in respect of every State Party, in either the List of Issues or the Concluding Observations, or both. All initial State Parties reports explain how data is collected (census, social welfare allowances information, EU surveys) and by whom (national statistics office, government departments etc.)

* Many initial reports contain information regarding the respect for confidentiality in the collection and use of data
* Some initial reports contain specific data under Art 31 (e.g. figures on how many people have disabilities, how many men and women etc.). Most did not; the focus of Art 31 is the method of collecting data and deciding which data is collected
* In its Concluding Observations, the Committee consistently asks for data to be disaggregated by gender, age and type of impairment

Appendix 2 presents data by country from the monitoring of the CRPD Committee in respect of Article 31 of the CRPD. Some of the conclusions from the data are detailed below, in particular, what the Committee asked for with regards Article 31 in its Concluding Observations:

* The Committee has asked for various types of disaggregation, including the following (not exhaustive):
* rural/urban divide;
* ethnic minority/ethnic origin/Roma;
* discrimination;
* women and girls;
* violence against women;
* children;
* employment;
* place of residence;
* levels of poverty;
* barriers faced by persons with disabilities;
* socioeconomic status;
* cultural background;
* race;
* asylum-seeking or refugee status;
* enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities
* migratory status
* The Committee often recommends that the State Party work with representative organisations of people with disabilities in the collection of data- this seems to be lacking in many State Parties.
* The Committee recommends a cohesive method of collection, while criticising a State Party’s “fragmented” approach (across many different government departments and institutions, with much duplication or work e.g. Luxembourg)
* In more recent Lists of Issues and Concluding Observations issued by the Committee,
* It has asked the state party for evidence of its use of Sustainable Development Goal target 17.18: “By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”. The Committee has asked state parties how it uses this SDG target in its collection and use of data.
* It has asked the state party for evidence of the use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability (<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/> ), and whether it has incorporated the Questions into its methods of data collection.

The following recommendation appears quite often in Concluding Observations:

“The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data by (gender/age/disability/etc.) and enhance capacity-building in this regard. It should develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring, and report on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.”

# An evaluation of Ireland’s position with regards Article 31

Ireland’s position with regards Article 31 is laid out in this section using five questions that align to the CRPD 2016 guidelines,[[11]](#footnote-11) which outline the steps that states parties should report on to illustrate where they are positioned in terms of implementing Article 31. In addition, under these various steps, Ireland’s position is also evaluated in light of the findings that emerged from a review of the monitoring of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of other EU member states, the EU itself and Australia and Canada in respect of Article 31 (Appendix 2). This section concludes with an introduction to the Bridging the Gap indicators. More details regarding Ireland’s performance in relation to these indicators is included in Appendix 3.

## Data Collection

1. **Are there coordinated mechanisms between entities collecting data on persons with a disability to ensure reliability, diminish discrepancies and avoid duplication as per the CRPD guidelines?**

In its feedback to States Parties, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has frequently criticised the “fragmented” approaches to data collection across different government departments and institutions with duplication of work.

In Ireland, under Section 10(2) of the Statistics Act 1993, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) co-ordinates official statistics. It is improving coordination between the entities that collect administrative data including data on PWD to ensure reliability, diminish discrepancies and avoid duplication. Since 2015, the CSO role in coordinating, overseeing and quality assuring official statistics produced in Ireland has been expanded. This follows a 2015 revision of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11th March 2009, which established a legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Regulation (EU) 2015/759, amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics, making the Director General of the CSO responsible for the co-ordination and oversight of the quality of European Official Statistics compiled by public authorities in Ireland.

The CSO directorate with an Assistant Director General is responsible for Statistical System Coordination. It oversees the production of European and Official Statistics from the Irish Statistical System. Under the guidance of the National Statistics Board (NSB) and its 2015-2020 strategy,[[12]](#footnote-12) the directorate is building a National Data Infrastructure across the public sector to coordinate public sector administrative data, using common data standards and incorporating permanent unique identifiers. This infrastructure should support national user needs and produce official statistics nationally and for the EU. To this end, in 2016, the CSO extended its programme of seconding statisticians to government departments to promote a coordinated analytical service.

The NSB strategy**, A World Class Statistical System for Ireland Strategic Priorities for Official Statistics 2015 –2020***,* outlines where Ireland has been and where it needs to go:

The system of official statistics in Ireland has mirrored that of many other countries where statisticians predominantly use primary data sources (surveys and population censuses) to develop information about different aspects of Irish society. While the defining characteristic of a national statistical system is independent, high quality and reliable information, the maturity of a national statistical system can be judged by the efficiency and sophistication of the way it combines the use of primary and secondary data sources. A potential weakness of Ireland’s system of statistics, up until recent times, has been the extent to which it has been reliant on primary survey-based data collected by the CSO. (p.10, Strategy)

The strategic vision is for a national system of high quality statistics based on the administrative data of public bodies and a complementary programme of survey data. The vision is that while surveys will remain central to the production of official statistics, more of the raw data for statistics will come from administrative data sources. Work continues towards the consistent use of permanent unique identifiers on public data sources so as to enable linkage of data sets and creation of a system of integrated base registers for statistical purposes.

## Disaggregation of Data

1. **What measures are taken to collect disaggregated and appropriate data that enable the state to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the CRPD?**

Since 2002, the Irish census, which the CSO runs every five years, collects information on disability including data from homeless people and those living in institutions. This is an important source of periodic timely disability data as it provides a full coverage of the country. Ireland conducts the census every five years rather than the more common ten years for those countries who conduct a census.

A census report is devoted each census to persons with disability (along with health and carers).

The CSO runs consultations on any proposed changes to Census questions. Anyone can submit suggestions and opinions to the CSO, in relation to the contents of the next Census. In addition, there is an Advisory Group, on which the NDA and IHREC sit, which the CSO consults with before making any changes to the Census, social surveys, etc. Any changes to existing Census questions are tested in a pilot census, analyzed, etc. before being finalized. So, for example, the two linked disability questions introduced into the Census in 2002, have been modified in minor ways since then. In all cases, any changes are preceded by an open consultation, widespread feedback, piloting and analysis of question format and content.

There are also other groups such as a technical Advisory Group to the Department of Social Protection with equality groups including the NDA and IHREC sitting on this forum. All such consultation mechanisms facilitate appropriate disability data collection in Ireland.

In terms of more recent recommendations to States Parties, the UN Human Rights Committee has asked for evidence of the use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability (WGSS) and whether the WGSS are incorporated into the countries data collection methods.

The WGSS questions are not used in the Irish Census but have recently been incorporated into the LFS on a rotating basis with the usual disability definition. The Irish Census disability Questions are similar to the WGSS questions but there are differences. Both sets of questions are outlined in Table 1, number 31.7, for comparison.

The Irish Census collects information on disability with two linked disability questions, which are also used in other surveys conducted by the CSO. Like the WGSS questions, the disability questions in the Irish census are based on the global activity limitation indicator approach, which focuses on the various limitations a person may encounter in daily living.

From 2021, while the disability questions in the Census will be largely retained, which is deemed essential for ongoing comparisons, the Census questions will incorporate a three level response as in the WGSS set rather than its current dichotomous yes/no response. The modification to be introduced from 2021, will mean that the extent of disability will be assessed from then on in the same way as in the Washington Group Questions. This will allow a similar grading of the severity of the impairment and different thresholds can be set for deriving disability status from these questions.

The Washington Group recommends a threshold that requires people to have at least ‘a lot of difficulty’ with at least one of the activities asked about to be counted as disabled. In comparisons with more extensive questions sets, the population identified as disabled by the WGSS is generally significantly smaller. Loeb (2016) found in one investigation that while countries report disparate disability prevalence rates, those that use the WGSS as intended reported disability prevalence rates that are comparable – between 6 and 10 percent.[[13]](#footnote-13)

The Irish Census questions may identify cohorts of persons not captured by the WGSS questions. For example, there is no WGSS question that fully captures mental health or intellectual impairments. The WGSS asks about difficulty remembering or concentrating and difficulty in communicating, for example, understanding or being understood. The Irish Census Disability Questions ask about any difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating but they also ask about psychological or emotional difficulties and any intellectual disability condition.

The WG questions do not address duration while the Irish Census questions ask about long-lasting difficulties in functioning. The version of the disability questions that will be used by the CSO from 2021 will offer data that is similar to that yielded by the WG questions, while allowing comparability over time and with other jurisdictions. Initially, the WG questions were used mainly by developing countries. In the last years, other countries have studied and decided for or against them for different reasons. The UK studied the possibility of adapting the WGSS questions and rejected them while New Zealand after a review have decided to adopt them.

The CSO carried out a post-census National Disability Survey (the NDS) in 2006 to produce the first ever detailed profile of people with a disability in Ireland. The purpose of the NDS was to establish a baseline to assess the severity and impact of disability on the Irish population and so the questions were broader in scope than the 2006 Irish census. 14,518 persons with a disability were surveyed. The National Disability Authority (NDA) had commissioned research in 2003 to develop and pilot a research instrument to establish the prevalence and impact of disability in Ireland. This research study formed the basis for the Government decision for the CSO to conduct a National Disability Survey (NDS). NDA are currently in discussions with the CSO about running a second NDS post the Census scheduled for 2026. (The next Census is scheduled for April 2022 following being postponed for a year because of the Covid 19 pandemic).

There are other sources of disability statistics. The CSO run other surveys. The periodic Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) collects data on the income and living conditions of different household types in Ireland, to derive indicators on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion. The SILC uses the Census questions on disability to collect disability status.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS), previously the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. The LFS uses the Census questions on disability. In Quarter 4 2019 it used the Washington Group Questions. As part of a new EU regulation the LFS will be obliged to collect specific variables on health and disability across the full year every second, even year, starting in 2022.  The CSO will be obliged to collect two variables GENHEALTH and GALI for all those aged 15-89 years. GENHEALTH refers to self-perceived general health ranging from Very good to Very bad on a 5-point scale and GALI refers to Limitation in activities because of health problems with the following possible response options Severely Limited, Limited but not severely and Not limited at all. In odd year, starting in 2021 the LFS will continue to collect the Census question on disability in Quarter 2.

The National Disability Authority (NDA) under the NDA Act 1999 undertakes, commissions and collaborates in research projects and activities on issues relating to disability and to assist in the development of statistical information appropriate for the planning, delivery and monitoring of programmes and services for persons with disabilities. The Act states that the Authority may, subject to the other provisions of this Act, do anything which it considers necessary or expedient for enabling it to perform its functions. The NDA works with the CSO regarding routes to collecting and analysing data relevant to disability, including the requirement for intersectional data.

Sections 31.1 (ii) and 31.14 of Table I in this report shows a wide range of further sources of disability data.

Much administration data collected by Government Departments can be cross-referenced by the individual’s characteristics in the Census, as long as there is a linking identifier. Therefore the disability status of an individual can be established.

Deciding which data are collected and the methods of data collection are central to Article 31. In terms of whether all the appropriate data are collected, much work has been done on collecting all the relevant disability indicators.

As part of its role to monitor the progress of national strategies and programmes relevant to disability, the NDA has developed a suite of indicators to monitor progress under both the National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) and the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities (CES). The intention of this work is to provide a set of measures that can demonstrate the outcomes for persons with disabilities across key areas of life, the achievement of which can be contributed to by implementation of the relevant strategies. The indicators were selected with due regard to data sources that were reliable and robust, where data was gathered at regular intervals, and where possible that data could demonstrate outcomes rather than outputs.[[14]](#footnote-14) The development of the indicators also drew on the Human Rights Based Approach to Data from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.[[15]](#footnote-15) The EU Fundamental Rights Agency has recognised the suite of indicators for the NDIS as an example of good practice in the gathering and use of equality data.[[16]](#footnote-16)

## Participation of representative organisations of PWD in the full process of data collection and research

1. **What steps has the State taken to ensure the full and meaningful participation of DPOs in the process of data collection and research?**

In its feedback to States Parties, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has most frequently recommended that all would work with DPOs in the collection of data. This seems to be lacking in most States Parties.

With regards DPOs, Ireland does not yet have a fully developed DPO landscape, but a number of organisations are configuring themselves as such and the Department of Justice and Equality is taking steps to build capacity in this area. This includes issuing a call for proposals to establish an ‘organising member’ to coordinate a network of DPOs and other organisations to consult and advise on policy and practice, provide opportunities for organisations meeting the criteria for a DPO to apply for funding to build capacity in specific areas of need.

## Incorporate human rights based indicators into data collection and analysis methods

1. **Has there been legislation around processes of collecting data to enable the state to implement policies that give effect to the CRPD? What measures have been put in place so that that data and statistics are disseminated in accessible ways?**

Section 6 of the Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 seeks to make a range of amendments including to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) legislation. These would create a statutory basis for IHREC’s role in the CRPD monitoring framework. IHREC would then be in a position to request the collection of any data and statistics needed to monitor the CRPD. However, while this Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Dáil and Seanad in early 2020, it is likely to be advanced by the Government. However, in furtherance of IHRECs functions as laid out under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, the Act states that IHREC can undertake, sponsor, commission or provide financial or other assistance to conduct research and educational activities.

The Government has established an Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group in order to ensure equality considerations are represented in State budgeting activities. The work of the group incorporates analysis of relevant data and statistics to inform and guide decision making. Year 1 of the Group’s work focused on gender, with the focus for 2019/20 being disability. There are also plans to develop an equality data strategy.

Section 28(1)(b) of the Disability Act 2005 requires each public body to ensure, as far as practicable, that written information and communications which it provides to the public are communicated in an accessible format, where so requested by persons with visual impairments. Section 28(3) of the Disability Act 2005 requires each public body to ensure that, as far as practicable, the information it publishes which is directly relevant to persons with intellectual disabilities, is made available to them in clear language that they easily understand. Further information on requirements in this regard are outlined in the Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies. The NDA developed this Code of Practice, which sets out what is required of public bodies under the relevant sections of the Disability Act and provides practical advice and examples of how these requirements may be met.

In 2006 the CSO appointed a Head of Communication and Dissemination and developed a dissemination strategy focused on meeting the need of a broad range of users and on turning data and statistics into information and knowledge. A visualisation strategy includes (a) Mapping, (b) Infographics and (c) Innovation. Such projects mean that statistical outputs are more informative and will allow customers to customise the data.

Public bodies, agencies and other organisations are, increasingly, making their websites more accessible and displaying more infographics. The NDA has begun to produce disability infographics, which are graphic pictures of information on disability issues extracted from data and presented in ways that are more accessible to a wider audience.

The Irish Sign Language Act was enacted in 2017. Section 6. (1) of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017 states that a public body shall do all that is reasonable to ensure that interpretation into Irish Sign Language is provided for a person who is competent in that language and cannot hear or understand English or Irish when that person is seeking to avail of or access statutory entitlements or services provided by or under statute by that public body.

The EU Web Accessibility Directive, EU 2016/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016, on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, requires public bodies to ensure their websites and apps are accessible to persons with disabilities. Accessibility is defined within the Directive as meaning that web content and mobile apps must be “Perceivable, Operable and Usable” by persons with disabilities, and they must be “Robust” enough to work on different browsers, and with different assistive technologies. The Directive requires Member States to monitor and report on the accessibility of the websites and mobile apps of most public bodies. Reviews are conducted against a harmonised European standard, EN 301 549, which replicates the more commonly known Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Ireland transposed the EU Web Accessibility Directive in September 2020. Due to the delay in transposing the Commission initiated an infringement procedure against Ireland in this regard in July 2019. The Government has appointed the NDA as the monitoring body for this directive.

## Develop data collection tools in accordance with a human rights based approach to disability

1. **When collecting and analysing data and statistics, do measures respect legal safeguards, data protection, confidentiality and privacy, and reflect an ethical and human rights based approach to disability?**

The European Statistics Code of Practice sets the standard for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics.  The CSO has its own Code of Practice that reinforces existing legal assurances and it outlines the practical steps CSO takes to protect confidential data. The Code of Practice applies to all information collected by the CSO whether in compulsory (statutory) and voluntary statistical inquiries or indirectly from the administrative records of other public authorities. The information collected by the CSO is used only for statistical purposes.

The CSO coordinates, oversees and quality assures official statistics produced in Ireland. The CSO has a directorate with responsibility for coordinating the producers of European statistics and Official Statistics from across the wider Irish Statistical System. Since 2016, it has a Data Office to manage policies in relation to data protection and statistical confidentiality, promote awareness, provide training and assure compliance and provide advice to CSO statistical areas on all issues related to data protection and statistical confidentiality.

All personal information obtained by the CSO is treated as strictly confidential and used solely for statistical purposes. Results are published in aggregate form and care is taken to ensure that details relating to an identifiable person or undertaking are not inadvertently divulged. This confidentiality is guaranteed by law (Part V, Statistics Act, 1993).

Ireland’s national data protection laws are in compliance with the European Union General Data Protection Regulation legislation (GDPR)(EU) 2016/679. As an EU Regulation, GDPR does not require transposition into law because of the “direct effect” of EU Regulations on Member States. However, the EU allows for issues to be given further effect in national law and Ireland introduced the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Health Research Regulations 2018, published as Statutory Instrument 314 is Data Protection legislation to provide additional safeguards for health and social care research data. The regulations outline how personal data should be processed and managed when conducting health research; define health research for the purposes of the legislation; and describe how to obtain a “consent declaration” for health research already underway. A Health Research Consent Declaration Committee was established in 2018 to ensure that research processes consider the privacy rights of individuals but also ensure that persons who lack capacity can be included in relevant research with a public interest. The Department of Health published the Scheme of the National Research Ethics Committees Bill in 2019. Its purpose is to establish a unified National Research Ethics Committee framework for health research.

In October 2017 Ireland signed the Tallinn Declaration on e-Government. This Declaration aims at digital-by-default, inclusiveness and accessibility and that public bodies would collect data only once from citizens and businesses, reusing data rather than recollecting it.

The Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 and the Public Service Data Strategy 2019-2023 both drive Ireland further along the path laid out in the Tallinn Declaration. The Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 allows for the sharing of personal data between public bodies where the sharing is for the performance of a function of either of the public bodies. The sharing can be carried out, for example, to avoid the administrative burden of collecting data directly from an individual. The Act has been partially commenced.

The Public Service Data Strategy 2019-2023, published by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, builds on the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019.[[17]](#footnote-17)

In 2017 the Government of Ireland adopted the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, thus fulfilling obligations set out in Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council. In 2015, a European Union, Peer Review Report on Ireland’s compliance with the code of practice (CoP) and the coordination role of the national statistical institute found that “the CSO has a good reputation in Ireland and is regarded as an independent and highly professional statistical institute. Its strengths are distinct statistical education of staff, centralised dissemination and use of modern IT tools. The CSO contributes greatly to enhancing an informed policy-making culture and developing statistical literacy in Irish society.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

Finally, in its more recent lists of issues and concluding observations issues by the Human Rights Committee, it has asked States Parties for evidence of how they use the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 17.18 in its collection and use of data. “By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.

In this regard, Ireland, wishes, for a start, to monitor its own overseas development expenditure in terms of persons with disabilities. In 2018, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) launched a Disability Marker (<https://bit.ly/2KBxBjJ>) to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities, which can be used when reporting on overseas development expenditure. This was developed because the international Common Reporting Standard (CRS) classification does not provide an accurate picture of development financing to disability-inclusive projects, as the issue is not recorded explicitly and cannot be tracked across several purpose codes. The purpose of the policy marker is to track development finance that promotes the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.[[19]](#footnote-19) In light of the requirement to increase data and understanding of overseas development aid to disability projects, Ireland adopted the OECD DAC marker in March 2020. Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs wish to ensure that persons with disabilities are not being left behind and are currently working on producing guidance for the use of the marker.

## Bridging the Gap indicators

The EU ‘Bridging the Gap’ indicators were developed to assess progress in implementing Article 31 in terms of process, structure and outcomes. Appendix 3 contains further information on the EU ‘Bridging the Gap’ Indicators Project and detailed information on Ireland’s progress under each of the indicator headings as outlined below;

1. **Structure**
2. Research, collection and disaggregation of information 31.1 to 31.3
3. Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data 31.4 to 31.6
4. **Process**
5. Research, collection and disaggregation of information 31.7 to 31.10
6. Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data 31.11 to 31.16
7. **Outcome**
8. Research, collection and disaggregation of information 31.17 to 31.18
9. Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data 31.19 to 31.20

Ireland’s position in terms of process, structure and outcomes in implementing Article 31 is quite strong. This is due to the fact that the CSO, the main producer of disability statistics in Ireland, is greatly expanding its role and its expertise. It is highly regarded nationally and internationally in terms of expertise, independence and trustworthiness. In addition, Ireland has a census every 5 years and so has a periodic source of robust disability data. The implementation of EU directives has also supported putting in place the requisite processes and structures.

# Conclusion

Developing statistics using human rights as a monitoring framework is in its infancy, as is data collection for international comparison. While the CRPD is an international instrument, cross national comparisons are currently difficult to carry out because definitions and methodologies for data collection are not consistent. However, attempts are being made to harmonise data collection.

Article 31 is not discussed extensively in the available literature on the CRPD and one explanation for this may be the fact that it is more instrumental than substantive in the ground that it covers. That is, it is ‘a tool in the promotion of rights’ rather than a right in itself. However, if implemented fully it has the potential to have significant impact on the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD.[[20]](#footnote-20)

It is important that Ireland continues to develop and expand its capacities with regard to the collection of data relating to rights, particularly as they impact on the daily lives of persons with disabilities. This will require both qualitative and quantitative data collection.

# Appendix 1: Washington Group Disability Questions

## Indicator Tools to assess Article 31 and monitor CRPD implementation

### The Washington group on disability statistics[[21]](#footnote-21)

At the international level, the purpose of the Washington Group (WG) on Disability Statistics is to improve the quality and international comparability of disability measures. The WG developed disability questions based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are in line with the WHO’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). They are the result of global efforts to develop and test internationally comparable questions to identify persons with disabilities in censuses and surveys. The methodology has been internationally validated and cognitively tested in a number of low, middle and high-income countries.[[22]](#footnote-22)

The WG disability questions are targeted questions on individual functioning intended to provide a quick and low-cost way to collect data, which allows disaggregation by disability status. Designed initially for National Statistical Offices to be added to population-based censuses and surveys, the WG Questions are increasingly used by NGOs, DPOs, civil society organisations, researchers and advocates in a range of data collection tools.

The Short Set of WG questions on functioning (WG SS) has 6 questions, identifies persons (5 years of age or older) with disabilities, and is the recommended tool for disaggregating the SDGs. It can be answered in about 1.5 minutes.

According to the WG-SS, disability is determined as anyone having at least ‘a lot of difficulty’ on at least one of the six questions. It provides information on the prevalence of functional difficulties, at different levels of severity, for the total population or subgroups. For example:

* Overall prevalence of disability as defined by the WG-SS,
* Prevalence of functional difficulty in individual or different combinations of domains,
* Disaggregated development outcomes by disability status using internationally comparable definitions.

It is useable for monitoring and evaluation related to the UNCRPD and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The WG has developed documentation on how questions should be asked and data analysed. Guidelines for administering the WG data collection tools include NOT changing the question or response options without consulting WG; NOT using ‘disability’ or other negative terms; NOT adding a screener question e.g., “Do you have a disability?” DO train interviewers to read the questions and response options as written, use neutral language, etc.

Analysis is straightforward. Disaggregation can be done by anyone with a knowledge of statistics using SPSS syntax available on the WG website.

The WG-SS is shown in the box below.

**The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)**

Introduction: The next questions ask about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a HEALTH PROBLEM.

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?

3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

5. Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?

6 Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, (for example, understanding or being understood by others)?

Each question has four response categories, which are read after each question.

1. No, no difficulty

3. Yes, a lot of difficulty

2. Yes, some difficulty

4. Cannot do it at all

The WG questions have been endorsed by UN agencies, civil society and development ministries. The measures were constructed to be efficient, low-cost, and easy to incorporate into ongoing data collections of national statistical systems, making them sustainable and suitable for disaggregating the SDGs by disability status and monitoring progress in attaining the SDGs on an ongoing basis. [[23]](#footnote-23)

There is an Extended Set (WG ES) with 35 Questions, which can be administered/ answered in 10-12 minutes. It is increasingly used in surveys that have a major focus on disability. While the WG-ES can be used in its entirety, options allow inclusion of some but not all questions, depending on need. This includes, for example, the ‘enhanced Short Set’, that adds 6 questions out of the 35 WG-ES to the WG-SS providing two additional functional domains, upper body and psychosocial functioning and taking about 1.5 minutes to administer. Again, analysis is straightforward.

UNICEF has collaborated with the WG to develop the UNICEF/WG Child Functioning Module (CMF). CMF builds on the WG methodology and is now included in UNICEF’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICs) to better identify children with disabilities. The CFM is recommended for identifying children with disabilities in surveys and for disaggregating SDGs that apply to children. The CFM has two sub-modules: one for children 2-4 years of age and one for children 5-17 years of age. The questions cover six core functional domains or basic actions: seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication and there are questions about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a health problem. Further WG linked methodologies are being developed in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) – a survey module on disability in Labour Force Surveys and with UNICEF – a survey module on barriers and facilitators to Inclusive Education.[[24]](#footnote-24)

### Model Disability Survey (MDS)

The World Health Organization and the World Bank developed the MDS questionnaire in collaboration with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, Statistics Norway, and other stakeholders, including the International Disability Alliance. The work of developing the MDS has been funded by the Governments of Australia, Germany and Norway. They developed the MDS for the following reasons:[[25]](#footnote-25)

* To implement the CRPD, countries need reliable data and evidence.
* There is no standardized instrument for data collection on disability that provides comprehensive and systematic documentation of all aspects of functioning in a population.
* Existing data focus mainly on impairment or activity limitation and do not provide the evidence base needed for public policy that improves the well-being of people with disability.

MDS data can be used to monitor the situation of people with disability and to identify ways to include disability in national development agendas, which are priorities of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It can be used in inter-sectoral policy-making, e.g. national poverty reduction strategies, and in sector-specific policies, e.g. to monitor the reach of universal health coverage and to plan improvements in health service policy and delivery, to maximize the likelihood that people with disability may obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.[[26]](#footnote-26)

Guiding principles in the development of the MDS included the following:[[27]](#footnote-27)

* Cross-national relevance and standardization of the questionnaire are essential. A modular format allows it to be used as a stand-alone survey or incorporated into other national surveys.
* People with disability have a right to participation in society on an equal basis with others.
* Disability is an outcome of the interaction between a person with a health condition and contextual factors and not just an attribute of the person.
* Disability is a continuum, a matter of degree and the experience of disability is diverse.
* Disability measurement should consider societal/environmental barriers that can have a disabling effect, and a person’s impairments and health condition.
* Questions that focus on the respondent’s lived experience and real-life environment will yield a better understanding of how disability affects people’s daily lives, and what can be done to improve their lives.

The MDS questionnaire draws on questions from 179 disability surveys. It is a general population survey and a stand-alone data collection instrument ‘providing comprehensive and systematic documentation on all aspects of functioning within a population.’ It provides detailed data about disabled populations and the lives of people with disability at regional or national level for in-depth analysis, discussion and planning. It allows direct comparison between groups with differing levels and profiles of disability, including comparison to people without disability.

As general population household surveys, the MDS (and the Brief MDS) are intended for a representative sample of the population, allowing comparison between disabled and non-disabled members of a community. The individual questionnaire (answered by a randomly selected person in the household), has 294 questions. The accompanying household survey has an additional 21 questions. The full survey takes 120-150 minutes (2 hours to 2.5 hours). Analysis builds  a ‘disability scale’ ranging from 0-100,  that can then be partitioned into different levels of disability, using ‘fit-for-purpose’ cut offs,  based on scores of people with medical conditions that are associated with disability.[[28]](#footnote-28)  This gives a more complete understanding of the lived experience of people with disability and provides a better approximation of the true size of the population with disability.[[29]](#footnote-29)

The full MDS has been internationally validated and cognitively tested in 6 countries (including low, middle and high-income countries); and piloted in 3 more. The Brief MDS is new and has not yet been independently validated nor cognitively tested, but questions selected are based on analytical results from the full MDS. The MDS explores disability as an outcome of interactions between a person with a health condition and environmental and personal factors, rather than focusing only on a person’s health or impairment. The Brief version of the MDS, implemented in 2018, has 38 questions. It is intended to be added to other surveys and censuses. It asks questions related to functioning – similar but not identical to the Washington Group questions, and a series of questions on environmental factors, assistive devises and personal assistance. Analysis uses the same methodology as the full MDS. It creates a disability scale from 0-100, allowing identification of local and national barriers faced by people with disabilities. This allows comparisons between both disabled and nondisabled members of the community as well as differences between people with different types of disability and levels of severity. Analysis is intended to be undertaken by people with some technical expertise in statistics, but is assumed to be within the technical capacity of National Statistics Offices.[[30]](#footnote-30)

### Comparing Washington Group Tools and Model Disability Survey[[31]](#footnote-31)

Compared to the Washington Group (WG), the MDS relies on complex and less intuitive calculations to create a more detailed continuum of functioning. Data collection and analysis are specific to the MDS survey. The survey questions are stand-alone and are not intended to be added to other data collection efforts. Analysis is intended to be undertaken by people with technical expertise in statistics, but this is assumed to be within the technical capacity of National Statistics Offices. Where needed, backup assistance is available via WHO MDS team. It is intended to be administered once every 5-10 years.

The WG, particularly the WG-SS are widely used

* Sixty countries currently have used WG-SS or WG-ES questions in national censuses with this number expected to increase in the 2020 censuses.
* Most UN agencies collect disability data using either the WG-SS or WG-ES or MICs.
* Many bilateral organizations such as DFID/ DFAT are strongly supporting inclusion of WG Questions in many/most funded development efforts.
* The UNICEF/WG Child Functioning Module is included in UNICEF’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and is expected to rollout in 70 countries by 2020.
* The World Bank in the Bank-sponsored Living Standards Measurement Studies (LSMS) covering 70 countries recommends the WG-SS for use.
* An optional disability module containing the WG Questions has been added to DHS and is used widely especially by US AID.
* The WG is used widely and supported by a number of NGOs and DPOs.
* Growing number of advocates and researchers use WG questions–Short, enhanced and Extended Sets.

Both the methodologies of the WG questions and the MDS are based on the UN International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Neither methodology is intended for clinical diagnosis or determination of disability status at the individual level. UN Statistics has an important role to play in this debate and it is reviewing and assessing the different methodologies

Governments and others could include WG-SS, enhanced WG-SS, or WG-ES; or the CFM (in the MICS or in other surveys), on a national census, an education, labour force or a household expenditure survey. If there is interest, time and funding, an MDS could also be undertaken to provide in-depth information every 5 to 10 years, as recommended by WHO.

Governments and others who chose to use both methodologies are encouraged to consider what the collected from both sets of information will be used for to ensure optimum benefit is derived from such an undertaking. In other situations – NGOs, DPOs, researchers, etc., the use of both methodologies might generate more data than is needed to explore demographic and international development concerns (health, education, employment, social protection). Level of detail about disabled populations generated by the MDS is extensive but may not be needed in all development programs, government outreach efforts or civil society initiatives.[[32]](#footnote-32)

# Appendix 2: : Observations from UN Human Rights Committee to States in respect of Article 31 of the UN-CRPD

Table 2: Observations from UN Human Rights Committee to States regarding Article 31

| **Country** | **Reference to Art. 31 in states parties’ initial reports** | **Reference to Art. 31 in List of Issues (LOI)** | **Reference to Art. 31 in states parties’ responses to List of Issues (LOI)** | **Reference to Art. 31 in Concluding Observations** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Australia | 7 June 2012  All Australian Governments annually provide data for a Disability Services National Minimum Data Set on government-funded disability services. The Dataset provides nationally comparable data about services  The Survey of Disability, Aging and Caring provides disability prevalence rates for Australia and is the main source of data used to assist government departments and community groups in the development of relevant policies to meet the needs of Australians with a disability.  ‘People with a Need for Assistance – A Snapshot 2006’ provided a ‘snapshot’ of disability as captured by the 2006 Census and allows for the examination of this population by demographic, geographic and economic characteristic. | 13 May 2013  No mention of Art 31 in the List of Issues | No reply to List of Issues submitted by Australia | 24 October 2013  The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data collected on persons with disabilities and reported publicly. It regrets that there is little data on the situation of women and girls with disability, in particular indigenous women and girls with disabilities.  The Committee recommends that the State party develop nationally consistent measures for data collection and public reporting of disaggregated data across the full range of obligations provided for in the Convention, and that all data be disaggregated by age, gender, type of disability, place of residence and cultural background. The Committee recommends that the State party commission and fund a comprehensive assessment of girls and women with disabilities, in order to establish a baseline of disaggregated data against which future progress towards implementation of the Convention can be measured.  It regrets that the situation of children with disabilities is not reflected in data on the protection of children. It regrets the paucity of information on children with disabilities, in particular indigenous children, alternative care for children with disabilities and children with disabilities living in remote or rural areas.  It recommends that the State party collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, on the status of children, including any form of abuse and violence against children. It recommends that the State party commission and fund a comprehensive assessment of the situation of children with disabilities in order to establish a baseline of disaggregated data against which future progress towards implementation of the Convention can be measured. |
| Austria | 10 October 2011  Since 2003, the Ministry of Social Affairs has surveyed the income and living situations of the population (EU-Survey of Income and Living Conditions) in private households on a yearly basis.  The Report on People with Disabilities 2008, carried out by the federal government, contains a range of statistics. This is the second report in this comprehensive form, and further reports will follow at intervals of several years.  To mark the release of the Report on People with Disabilities 2008, the Ministry of Social Affairs commissioned a special evaluation of the data from EU-SILC 2006.  Labour market-related data on persons with health-related employment limitations can be viewed on the website of the Ministry of Social Affairs  The data regarding the annual Long Term-Care Report is based on evaluations of the federal long-term care allowance database of the Federation of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions as well as details provided by the individual decision-makers.  The data on the group of federal civil servants belonging to the eligible disabled is coordinated and used in the half-yearly report to the Ministerial Council in order to increase the promotion of the employment of people with disabilities in the federal sector.  The [different states] draw up annual social reports which also contain statistical data on people with disabilities  Civil society organisations draw attention to problems related to the usability of statistics and the comparability of data on people with disabilities. | 8 May 2013  No mention of Art 31 in the List of Issues | No reply to List of Issues submitted by Austria | 30 September 2013  While noting the launch of a new reporting forum on women’s issues, the Committee is concerned at reports that data are rarely collected on matters affecting women with disabilities.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on women and girls with disabilities, and enhance capacity-building in this regard. It should develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring, and report on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention. |
| Belgium | 13 March 2013  Given that jurisdiction over disability matters is shared between the Federal Government and the federated entities there are no coordinated statistics on the issues covered in the Convention. The coordination mechanism will have to look into improvements in this area  In 2011, an ad hoc module was added to the survey on the employment of persons with disabilities conducted by the Federal Public Service for the Economy.  Flanders does not carry out separate surveys on disability but, to fill the gap, related questions are included in as many other studies as possible. Thus, a disability component is integrated into the national health survey and the European Union survey on income and living conditions  The Brussels Institute of Statistics and Analysis collates and publishes statistics on the Brussels-Capital Region. It collaborates with the Directorate-General for Persons with Disabilities of the Federal Public Service for Social Security on data regarding that population group. | 12May 2014  No specific mention of Art 31  Under Art 1-4 The State party is requested to provide analytical and comparative data on the effectiveness of the specific measures taken to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities and on the progress achieved towards ensuring the exercise of all the rights set forth in the Convention.  Under Art 24, the Committee wishes to be provided with data, disaggregated by area of residence (rural or urban) and by gender, on the percentage of children and adolescents with disabilities who attend special schools, those who attend reasonably accommodated mainstream schools, and those who are unable to attend school as a result of their disability. | 5 August 2014  Re Art 1-4 There are no, or very few, comprehensive statistics concerning the population of persons with disabilities. Statistical tools of that nature could, however, contribute to the implementation of policy decisions and to decision-taking.  For that reason, the Inter-ministerial Conference on Persons with Disabilities decided to set up an expert working group on the management of existing databases, centred on the establishment of statistics on persons with disabilities.  The working group drew up a response framework, which was sent to the various bodies A range of responses have been collected, but it has not yet been possible to analyse the responses. A decision has yet to be taken on the next steps on data aggregation, how the data is to be used and for what purpose, etc. | 27 October 2014  The Committee regrets the lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. It recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities in the State party who may be subject to varying degrees of vulnerability; developing laws, policies and programmes adapted to their situations; and assessing the implementation of the Convention  The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by gender, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in that regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.  The Committee is concerned that there is insufficient data on matters affecting girls, boys and women with disabilities.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data on girls, boys and women with disabilities. |
| Bulgaria | 29 October 2015  The National Statistical Institute performs the independent statistical activities of the State. The Institute conducts research, which contains questions about the health status of individuals: census of the population and housing stock, European health interview study of incomes and living conditions.  Census of the population and housing was conducted in 2011 for the third time after 1992 and there were questions aiming to establish the number, the basic demographic and social and economic characteristics of people with disabilities.  The European Health Interview is part of the European System of Health Research and is held every five years. Its purpose is to assess the health status, lifestyle (health determinants) and use of health services of the EU population. Information is collected by interview “face to face” when visiting households included in the sample. The latest survey was structured in four modules: health status; health care; health determinants (lifestyle); basic social and economic characteristics.  Agency for People with Disabilities creates and maintains a database of information about people with permanent disabilities, and the collected data is used to establish the number and to analyse the social and economic status of people with disabilities, in order to plan activities related to satisfying the needs of education, medical and social rehabilitation. | 21 September 2017  Please provide information about the methodology used by the State party in the collection of information relating to persons with disabilities. Please provide updated information on any plans by the State party to use the Washington Group set of questions and tools on disability for the purposes of data collection | 18 June 2018  The availability of reliable statistical data at national level largely depends on commonly accepted definitions, concepts, standards and methodologies for the production of statistics which identify persons with and without disabilities at EU level.  EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), the European Health and Social Integration Survey (EHSIS), the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) all use unified methodologies, harmonised definitions and standardised toolkits.  The National Institute of Statistics is in a position to provide data on the number of persons with recognised permanent incapacitation or degree of disability, based on the 2011 population census  The Social Assistance Agency maintains a database that incorporates an information array concerning the funding of activities in various sectors under the policy of social protection, social inclusion and social assistance. This is used for the management of the overall process of implementation of the State’s policy for working with persons with disabilities in Bulgaria. | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| Canada | 11 February 2014  F-P/T (federal, provincial and territorial) governments regularly produce statistical reports.  Between 1991 and 2006, disability-specific data was collected through the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey and its predecessor, the Health and Activity Limitation Survey. The Government of Canada, in collaboration with key stakeholders from the academic and the disability communities, is implementing a new Data and Information Strategy (DIS) on persons with disabilities in Canada.  The DIS will provide more frequent, accessible and timely data and information, and will maximize the usability of existing information. This includes the new Canadian Survey on Disability Data, for which a data release is expected in 2013–2014. | 21 September 2016  How many persons with disabilities receive independent living support, including personal assistance services? Please provide data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnic background at all level (Under Art 19)  Please provide disaggregated data on how many adult persons with disabilities are excluded from voting and on what grounds (under Art 29) | 20 March 2017  Note: Canada provided information requested in the List of Issues re budgets and persons with disabilities living in institutions but did not provide details on how it collected this information. | 8 May 2017  The Committee found an absence of data in relation to:  Children with disabilities (not collected since 2006)  Compliance with the procedural safeguards regarding medical assistance in dying.  The Committee was concerned that the State party does not have up-to-date quantitative and qualitative data on the situation of persons with disabilities and the enjoyment of their human rights.  The Committee recommended that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, compilation and updating of data and statistics on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, barriers encountered, ethnicity and geographic location, including data on their type of housing or institution and on cases of discrimination or violence against them. The Committee recommends that the State party consult with organizations of persons with disabilities in this process. |
| Croatia | 7 May 2013  The Croatian Bureau of Statistics for the first time collected data on persons with disabilities in the 2001 Census of Population, Households and Flats. For persons with disabilities, responses to questions on “the cause of disability” and “physical mobility of the disabled person” were collected.  Based on the data collected in the Census, aggregated statistical data and indicators were made and published, and the study titled “Population by disabilities” was made.  In the Census of Population, Households and Flats that was conducted in April 2011, the number of questions relating to persons with disabilities was increased, and in the census form filled in for each person, 6 questions related to persons with disabilities were foreseen. These were, as follows: whether the person, due to some long-term disease, disability or old age, has difficulties in performing activities of daily living; type of difficulties; physical mobility of the person; cause of difficulties; whether the person needs help of other persons in performing activities of daily living; whether the person uses help of others in performing activities of daily living.  The Croatian Registry of Persons with Disability holds data that are collected from competent bodies from the field of healthcare, social welfare, education. | 30 Oct 2014  Please provide updated information, disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and ethnic origin, on the number of persons with disabilities and the percentage of the total population of Croatia they constitute, in accordance with data collected in the course of the 2011 census. | 28 Jan 2015  Document not available | 15 May 2015  The Committee is concerned that the State party’s system of data collection does not enable it to gather the information it needs, such as data on violence against women and girls with disabilities, to plan and strategize for the fulfilment of its duties under the Convention. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically review and reform the data collection system as it pertains to persons with disabilities, with the active involvement of and in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. |
| Cyprus | 27 February 2015  The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance recognized the shortage in Cyprus of a scientific, credible and reliable database for persons with  disabilities. For the above reason it was found necessary to design a new assessment system, based on the scientific tool of the World Health Organization’s ICF (International  Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health), which will lead, through professional assessment, documentation and classification of disability and functioning of the individual, including the creation of a comprehensive database of disability.  Beyond the field of assessment, this new system will cover largely the need to maintain statistics on the types of disability that exist in Cyprus, the frequency of disability, the facilities needed and the services provided by the State.  The Cyprus Statistic Services have collected data on disability only in the context of other surveys and censuses. Questions referred to disability  have been included in the following surveys:  Labour Force Survey 2011  European Health Survey 2008  Health Survey 2003  Labour Force Survey 2002  Population Census 1992 | 6 October 2016  Please provide detailed information on strategies, protocols and indicators aimed at providing high-quality and representative statistical data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by impairment, sex, age, ethnicity and other grounds, in the public and private sectors  Please provide concrete and detailed information, disaggregated by impairment and age, on how and where children and adults with disabilities live, including information on those living in various forms of hospitals, institutions and group homes.  Please provide information on the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and collection of statistical data regarding disability. | 6 January 2017  Data on people with disabilities are collected through the survey Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) on an annual basis, the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) every 5 years, and the Labour Force Survey (LFS) every 10 years. Regarding EHIS 2014, the Statistical Service included, after a request of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, specific questions concerning persons with disabilities.  The Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities maintains databases for persons receiving disability benefits. In addition, from 2014, a new database was created with disability assessment data disaggregated by impairment, sex, age, ethnicity and other grounds.  Moreover, statistical data on persons with disabilities are held by the responsible bodies for specific purposes in the framework of their activities.  Note: Specific data included in subsequent paragraphs | 8 May 2017  The Committee is concerned about the absence of a unified data-collection system allowing for an assessment of the extent to which all persons with disabilities are exercising all of their rights under the Convention.  The Committee recommends that the State party allocate adequate funding and, in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities, and in line with article 4(3) of the Convention, establish a unified data-collection system in order to collect quality, sufficient, timely and reliable disaggregated data regarding persons with disabilities and their access to the rights under the Convention. |
| Czech Republic | 27 June 2013  The Czech Statistical Office has the responsible of designing gradually a consistent system of statistical information on persons with disabilities. An important requirement for the methodology of the survey was the consistency of the data system based on several principles.  The necessary information collected in this national survey covered the overview of the total number of persons with disabilities classified according to gender, age, education and the individual types of disability (physical, visual, hearing, mental, intellectual, internal), reasons of the disability origin, data on the degree of self-sufficiency, economic activity as well as whether such persons live in a family setting or in institutional care facilities.  Note: Subsequent paragraphs provided specific data | 28 Oct 2014  Art 31 not mentioned in List of issues | 30 January 2015  Art 31 not mentioned in the reply to the List of issues | 15 May 2015  No Observations re Art 31.  (Under Art 6) The State party should also establish  a framework for data collection relevant to combating the intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, in line with article 31 of the Convention and taking into account the conceptual and methodological framework  set out in Human Rights  Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation. |
| Denmark | 7 May 2013  No common norm exists for data processing of specific statistics in the disability area.  Denmark conducts national surveys that can be merged with registered data with a view to stressing the trend in, e.g., employment of persons with disabilities in relation to the population in general. The Danish National Institute of Social Research conducts such surveys, and the institute performs various surveys and analyses in the area of social welfare, including the disability area.  At present, there is no complete list of relevant disability data and statistics, but work is being undertaken under the auspices of the Interministerial Committee of Civil Servants on Disability Matters to prepare one.  A documentation project to improve social statistics has been launched in the area of disability. Short term, the purpose is to establish better basic documentation in the area so that developments in the disability area can be monitored. The long-term objective is to measure the effects of central and local government disability policy.  Moreover, various national research and evaluation institutions contribute new knowledge and data collection in the disability area. From 2009 through 2010, the Danish National Centre for Social released 24 publications on disability. | 11 May 2014  Please provide information on the implementation of the documentation project to improve the collection of social statistics, and on how the Convention’s concept of disability is integrated into the data collection system. Please also provide information on whether indicators and benchmarks have been developed to assess the impact and results of the public policies designed for the implementation of the Convention. Please provide information on the data collection system in the Faroe Islands and Greenland. | 15 July 2014  Statistics Denmark has established a documentation project to collect information about municipal activities and their effects. The system collects basis information that can be used for status updates once a year.  The Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Danish National Center for Social Research are identifying indicators to give a status and overview on the Danish implementation of the Convention. It is the ambition to use the indicators to focus on the significant challenges for persons with disability. The indicators will be measured on an outcome level.  Greenland: local authorities must send statistical information to the Greenlandic Ministry of Family and Justice. They are working on an IT-based data collection.  Faroe Islands: Statistics Faroe Islands collect and publish information regarding housing and help-at-home to persons with disabilities. Pensions and benefits to persons with disabilities are collected and published each year. Recently published Census data, gives information on disability and education, and accessibility in workplaces for persons using wheelchairs.  The national centre for social service is currently implementing an IT-system to improve data collection in general.  The Ministry of Social Affairs has initiated collection of data from Faroese interest groups, regarding citizen contact and public use of interest groups, including two major interest groups concerning persons with disabilities. | 29 October 2014  While noting the efforts to collect statistical data on persons with disabilities in Denmark, including IT-based data collection on assistance and benefits to persons with disabilities in Greenland, and general data collection in the Faroe Islands, the Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by gender, age, disability and region; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender- and age- sensitive indicators, paying due regard to the need to move from a medical-based to a human rights-based approach to disability. |
| Estonia | 3 October 2017  Statistics about the situation of disabled people is gathered by Statistics Estonia with the Estonian Social Survey, the Estonian Labour Force Survey, the Working Life Survey and the Household Budget Survey. Data concerning health status, retirement and aging is gathered with the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe.  In 2014, a large-scale Estonian Health Survey was conducted. Data regarding disabled people (including general statistics, household characteristics, employment, poverty, coping and time use) was collected. Statistics Estonia prepares regular statistical overviews, keeps a weblog and annually publishes the Statistical Yearbook of Estonia as well as thematic publications.  The Ministry of Social Affairs collects, analyses and publishes regular social welfare statistics. Social services data register is an everyday working tool for social workers, provides also statistics on local government social services and benefits. Monthly overviews of the labour market situation in Estonia, prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs, are published on the Ministry of Social Affairs website. Data about the education students with special needs (except about disabilities and preschool children at home and under childcare services) is collected and published by the Estonian Education Information System EHIS.  In addition to official statistics, regular surveys are conducted about the situation of disabled people and their family members. In 2005, the first 5-year interval survey (the next survey is due in 2015) about disabled persons’ and their family members’ needs was conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs. | No List of Issues available yet | No reply to List of Issues available yet | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| European Union | 5 June 2014  The EU has shared competence with its Member States to produce statistics. The EU is empowered to adopt measures for the production of statistics where necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union. The Disability Strategy commits the Commission to supporting and supplementing Member States’ efforts to collect statistics and data that reflect the barriers preventing people with disabilities from exercising their rights.  Eurostat is the statistical authority of the EU in cooperation with national statistical institutes in all Member States in a European Statistical System (ESS). It has an objective of “[providing] statistics on key areas of social policy where the citizen is the centre of interest”; these statistics should be disaggregated by gender. Disability is identified as one such area within this objective.  In the Disability Strategy, the Commission has committed itself to:  •Streamlining information on disability collected through EU social surveys (EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Labour Force Survey ad hoc module, European Health Interview Survey);  •Developing a specific survey on barriers to the social integration of disabled people; and  •Presenting a set of indicators to monitor their situation with reference to key Europe 2020 targets (education, employment and poverty reduction).  The European Labour Force Survey 2011 ad hoc module on employment of disabled people and the 2012 European Health and Social Integration Survey  incorporate new concepts of disability according to the CRPD. The LFS collected information from working age population on longstanding health conditions and basic activity difficulties and limitations in the number of hours the interviewed person can work in a week, in the type of work that he/she can do and in getting to and from work.  The EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions is the reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social inclusion at European level.  The European Health Interview Survey, which covers some disability items, will be conducted in 2014.  The European Quality of Life Survey identifies people who are “hampered in their daily activities by a physical or mental health problem, illness or disability.  The Eurobarometer surveys examine public attitudes and opinions to support the EU institutions in decision-making and evaluation. A Eurobarometer survey on discrimination was published in 2009 and another in 2012, including relevant questions on attitudes to disability.  Data collection activities carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency are mentioned under the relevant thematic sections in the present report. | 15 May 2015  Please indicate what steps the European Union and its competent institutions,  including Eurostat  (such as in the  European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions),  Are taking to implement the Convention and its human rights-based approach to disability in the collection of data in all areas of life. | 8 July 2015  In the EU, data collection is not done by Eurostat directly, but by statistical authorities in the Member States. Eurostat’s role is to consolidate the data and ensure they are comparable, using harmonised methodologies.  The content of any European surveys is discussed and agreed with national statistical authorities, including the possibility of adding further indicators. Four EU-wide surveys provide disability-related statistics:   * EHSIS * European Health Interview Survey * Stats on Income and Living Conditions * Labour Force Survey   Data available at EU level do not yet enable a regular monitoring of the situation of disabled people in Europe. The introduction of Global Activity Limitation Indicators as a common variable into all EU statistical surveys was proposed to the national statistical authorities that are part of the European Statistical System  In addition to EU-SILC and EHIS, this would concern the LFS, the Adult Education Survey, the Household Budget Survey and the Information and Communication Technology Survey. A decision should be taken in 2015. | 2 October 2015  The Committee is concerned at the lack of consistent and comparable data on persons with disabilities in the European Union, and the lack of human rights indicators.  The Committee recommends that the EU  Develop a human rights-based indicators system in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their  representative organizations, as well as a comparable comprehensive data collection system, with data  disaggregated by gender, age, rural or urban population and impairment type. |
| Finland | Only ratified UNCRPD in May 2016, no initial report submitted yet | No List of Issues available yet | No reply to List of Issues available yet | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| France | 16 Oct 2017 (No English document available)  Data and statistics collected in the following areas:   * Persons with disabilities in employment * Disability benefit * Persons in institutions * Persons with disabilities in education, primary and secondary * Persons with disabilities in third-level education * Living at home vs living in institutions * Supports available to and availed of by persons with disabilities * The survey entitled “Vie quotidienne et Santé, Ménages, Aidants et Institutions” collects data on participation in social lives, discrimination, health, access to benefits, income, housing, employment and family involvement. | No List of Issues available yet | No reply to List of Issues available yet | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| Germany | 7 May 2013  Statistical data on the population and labour market, as well as on the housing situation of households in Germany, are collected in the Micro-census. This is a multi-purpose sample which provides detailed information on the economic and social situation of the population and provides information on matters related to gainful employment, the labour market and training.  Questions are also asked in the Micro-census on disability and health, on vocational participation of persons with disabilities as well as on their training and income situation. The responses to these questions are voluntary as a matter of principle. On the basis of the data of the 2005 Micro-census, additionally, the “circumstances of women with a disability in Germany” were evaluated with a view to possible disadvantages.  The “Report on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities” to be drawn up by the Federal Government in each legislative period frequently found little public attention in the past, and was criticised by the associations of persons with disabilities as not authoritative – in particular because an indicator-supported evaluation policy on persons with disabilities was lacking so far. Because of the criticism, a redesign of the Disability Report as an indicator-supported report was carried out. The goal is to have completed the redesign of the Disability Report by the end of 2012 and to initiate the implementation and gradual introduction of a new indicator-based disability reporting on this basis. In detail the redesign of the Disability Reports is intended to considerably improve the data provided; ensure comparability through indicators with a fixed definition; evaluate disability-policy schemes; and design reporting in a more independent fashion. | 12 May 2014  Please explain what measures are envisaged to develop a human rights–based indicator system in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, as well as a comprehensive data collection system that includes children with disabilities as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. | 15 January 2015  In 2013, Germany produced a report on the participation of persons with impairments, with a structure and methodology similar to that in the UNCRPD. The indicators were presented with reference to the UNCRPD articles and paint a detailed picture of the lives of persons with impairments in Germany. The participation report uses data from public health reporting.  Official statistics are another important basis: every four years the Micro-census reports on persons whose disability has been officially confirmed. It is possible to link this with other characteristics (e.g. education, health, labour market, income).  Sorting by age makes it possible to make a special analysis of children’s circumstances.  Comprehensive data are already available in the various areas of children’s rights policies with regard to children and young persons with disabilities too.  The database is being constantly expanded wherever necessary. | 13 May 2015  The Committee is concerned that the indicators used for the collection of data regarding persons with disabilities do not follow a human rights-based approach and that they fail to reflect the removal of barriers.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, across all sectors and develop human rights indicators to provide information on the implementation of the Convention and the removal of barriers. |
| Greece | 24 November 2015  Creation of a National Register of beneficiaries of social and welfare allowances was published. It includes beneficiaries of disability allowances, transport allowance, unprotected children allowance, allowance for aliens of Greek origin, housing allowance for pensioners of the Agricultural Insurance Organization, and nutritional allowance for kidney disease sufferers and transplanted persons.  The action resulted in the creation of a unique electronic database, which constitutes the National Register.  Furthermore, since its establishment, the National Centre for Social Solidarity has been posting on its central website annual Activities Report, including a presentation of statistical data of the work performed by social intervention units of the National Centre for Social Solidarity  The Regional Directorates for Labour Relations Inspection across the country provides monthly statistics on infringements of the principle of equal treatment in employment and work, including cases of people with disabilities.  The Hellenic Statistical Authority, acknowledging the necessity of statistics focused on disability and of development of specific indicators, collaborated with the National Confederation of Disabled People and has included questions focused on people with disabilities in household surveys which it has conducted- it identifies the impairments, the occupations they have, independently perform personal care activities and household needs, type of assistance they have  The National Health Survey for 2014 is currently at the stage of results processing, while the EU SILC survey 2015 will be conducted in 2015. Thus, there is currently no available information about people with disabilities. | No List of Issues available yet | No reply to List of Issues available yet | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| Hungary | 29 June 2011  Data collection concerning people living with disabilities is extremely diverse. The Public Foundation was entrusted to explore and accurately lay down the data collections that describe various life situations of people living with disabilities as well as to complete the study providing guidelines for uniformisation of data collection. A secondary objective is to supply real data that support professional-policy decisions influencing the life quality of people living with disabilities.  The National Statistical Data Collection Programme entered into force on 1 January 2010. This serves as a basis for most of the targeted and “mainstream” data collections. It is run by the Central Statistical Office and collects statistical data every year on child welfare, child protection, social and higher educational service activities and on transportation benefits for physically handicapped persons.  Statistical data on disability pension are collected by the pension insurance administration bodies. Under the sign language act, the Public Foundation keeps registration about the sign language interpreter services provided free of charge, specifying data on the number of hours used by the person requiring the service.  Data were collected about people with disabilities at the census in 2001. The Central Statistical Office conducted a survey in 2002 and 2008 to examine whether the respondents were hindered by their lasting health damage or disability in finding work. The next overall data collection will take place in the 2011 Census | 17 May 2012  Please provide information, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnic origin, on the number of persons with disabilities and the percentage of the total population of Hungary they constitute, in accordance with data collected in the course of the 2011 census. | No reply to List of Issues available | 22 October 2012  The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. It notes that the State party has included information on disability in its two last censuses. It regrets, however, that the preliminary data from the 2011 census, released in April 2012, did not include any indication on disability-related statistics.  The Committee is concerned about the lack of information regarding Roma children with disabilities. It is further concerned by the understanding of the State party of the way in which confidentiality and privacy towards children with disabilities should be considered.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender- and age- sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the Convention, taking into consideration the changes from the medical to the human rights-based approach to disability.  The Committee recommends that the State party develop an appropriate data-collection system to understand the nature and characteristics of Roma persons with disabilities in general and children in particular. |
| Italy | 6 March 2015  One of the tasks of the National Observatory on the Status of Persons with Disabilities is to promote the collection of statistical data and conduct studies and research on the subject.  On that basis, the then Department for Social Affairs and the State Statistics Institute in 2000 started a cooperation project “Statistical Information System on Disability”. The goal was to create a statistical information tool on disability aimed at providing information support for both implementing and monitoring policies on disability and for disseminating to a wider public the official data on disability available Italy  With a view to increase the statistical information on disability, design activities for the creation of ad hoc surveys were carried out:  “Survey on social integration of persons with disabilities”, aimed at analysing in depth the living conditions of persons with disabilities and their families, the needs these people have  and the ability of the welfare system to support these families  “Survey on the inclusion of students with disabilities in 1st grade, state and non-state elementary and secondary schools”, carried out in 2009 and 2010, with the aim of documenting the inclusion in school of young people with disabilities. A survey to collect administrative data on persons with disabilities in employment. The survey is a census-taking activity and addresses the whole population of the relevant services. | 29 April 2016  Please provide information on plans to improve the collection and dissemination of  national data,  disaggregated by disability, sex and age,  on the situation of all persons with disabilities, including in surveys and a census of the general population. | 14 June 2016  Since 1999, the National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) has implemented the “Information System on disability”: the system is intended to provide support both for the programming of disability policies, and for information to citizens and the national and international scientific community.  After the Italian ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ISTAT has developed a system of indicators designed to monitor the rights of persons with disabilities provided for by the Convention taking into consideration the specific requirements identified by the Observatory on the status of persons with disabilities. The indicators provide support for the evaluation of equality of rights with respect to the following issues: health, life expectancy, education and training, employment, income and economic well-being, participation in cultural, social and political life, subjective well-being, self-determination and independent life. | 5 October 2016  The Committee is concerned at the availability and quality of data collection in surveys and censuses on the general population that is disaggregated by disability, sex and age.  The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 31 of the Convention in implementing target 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, among others, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including in all surveys and censuses. |
| Latvia | 29 October 2015  The Ministry of Welfare compiles statistics on social assistance in Latvia. The aggregated data are obtained from the local government data, which is collected for each person who wants to obtain any of the state or local government provided social service or social benefit. The data are summarized in the annual statistical reviews.  The State Social Insurance Agency collects data on social insurance and social services. The information is published in an aggregated form in such a way to ensure the protection of personal data and not violating the rights whereof.  Information concerning persons with disabilities is entered into Disability Information System of the State Commission. The Disability Information System of the State Commission was created to ensure an accurate and timely data storage about all persons with disabilities in the country broken down by gender, age, regions, diagnosis, services. In order to ensure the full functioning of the Disability Information System of the State Commission, data digitalization is currently in process. Every year the State Commission shall prepare and publish the annual public reports on the activities of the institution. | 26 April 2017  Please specify how the confidentiality and privacy of persons with disabilities is ensured in the process of collecting and maintaining the State Commission’s Disability Information System  Please provide information on the development and use of disability equality indicators, in accordance with target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and on how the State party consults organizations of persons with disabilities in this regard. | 14 June 2017  Information concerning persons with disabilities is entered into the Disability Information System of the State Commission. The Disability Information System was created to ensure an accurate and timely data storage about all persons with disabilities in the country broken down by gender, age, region of residence, diagnosis, services, etc. The information is published only in an aggregated form in such a way as to ensure the protection of personal data and not violating the rights whereof. Personalized data for each of the state social insurance contributions as well as the received services or benefits are also available. | 10 October 2017  The Committee is concerned about the lack of disaggregated data collected on persons with disabilities, its dissemination in the State party and the lack of involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in this process.  In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures, through the disability information system of the State Medical Commission and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, that are in accordance with the Convention, taking into account the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability. It recommends that it collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on its population with disabilities, including data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment status and place of residence, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society. |
| Lithuania | 2 December 2014  The Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in implementing the National Programme for Social Integration of People with Disabilities for 2003–2012, accumulates, summarises and annually publishes sources of administrative data and statistical surveys. The data and surveys relate to the number of children with the level of disability assessed for the first time and the number of working-age people in respect of which the reduced level of working capacity has been assessed, as well as changes in social integration, and the number of people with disabilities provided with social services.  In 2011, the Labour Force Survey on employment of disabled people was carried out.  The Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office draws up statistical activity reports on the disabled and submits them to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.  Currently, the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office is implementing a project “Accounting and Integration of Disability Cases of the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour into the Information System”. The objective of the project is to create a centralised database of persons with disabilities, to create electronic files of persons with disabilities and to integrate them into the information system of the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office. | 1 October 2015  What measures  have been adopted to collect data on the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, disaggregated by impairment, age and sex across all sectors, including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection and violence? How have representative organizations of persons with disabilities been involved? | 4 December 2015  Ministry of Social Security and Labour conducted a survey on adaptation of its labour exchange offices, social insurance offices in 2015. The Department for the Affairs of the Disabled conducted a survey of all general schools regarding their adaptation for the needs of the disabled in 2015.  Organisations implementing community based social rehabilitation services, housing adaptation, mobility and independent living skills training, for disabled and others running projects funded from the national budget usually submit data about beneficiaries grouped by age (kids and adults).  Information System of Social Support for Families collects information about social support provided in municipalities (social benefits and compensations, social support to school children, social services, support to persons with disabilities, activities in the field of children rights protection, etc.), and analyses such information. It has collected data about support to disabled beneficiaries by their gender, age group, territory and type of support (catering, transport, housing and environment management, information, home help, short-term social care, organising teaching and social skills development, support money, daytime social care, supply of technical aids, social rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, etc.) | 10 May 2016  The Committee is concerned that:  (a)There is a lack of disaggregated and reliable statistical data regarding persons with disabilities across all sectors;  (b)The statistical data relating to persons with disabilities collected by the State party fail to take into account the diversity of persons with disabilities, thereby rendering it impossible to evaluate the impact of each policy on persons with disabilities.  The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, residence, geographic area and types of support received, in relation to all sectors, taking note of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals. |
| Luxembourg | 7 September 2015  The following surveys provide statistics on persons with disabilities and their social integration in Luxembourg:  European Health and Social Integration Survey: This is the only survey that focuses primarily on disability and the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. It is the first time that a survey on this subject has been undertaken in Luxembourg. The fieldwork was carried out in the second half of 2012 and early 2013.  2002 and 2011 modules on employment and disability: An ad hoc module is periodically added to the Labour Force Survey, which focuses mainly on the labour market. In 2002 and 2011, the module was devoted to the employment of persons with disabilities  European Survey on Income and Living Conditions: this survey includes variables on self-perceived health, chronic morbidity or disability and long-term activity limitation;  European Health Interview Survey: this survey focuses on public health issues in general. It deals with the topic of disability indirectly, in that it includes variables on activity limitation. The survey was conducted in 2013. | 10 April 2017  Please provide data, disaggregated by age, gender and type of disability, on persons with disabilities in the State party. Please also explain whether the State party has been collecting disability-specific data systematically and in line with international human rights standards. | 13 June 2017  The Government systematically collects statistics on persons with disabilities in line with international human rights standards, that is, by adhering to the principles of participation, disaggregation, self-identification, transparency, confidentiality and responsibility (reliability and quality).  Organizations that receive financial support from the Government of Luxembourg to improve the situation of persons with disabilities must provide the Government each year with full data on their services, including the number, sex and type of disability of users.  Naturally, confidentiality is observed — the names of the persons with disabilities are not published, only their age, sex and type of disability.  In addition to the data already provided, the Government has statistics by age, gender and type of disability on persons with disabilities (for details see annex 1) in the areas of:   * Accommodation services * Day-activity services * Training services * Semi-independent housing * In-home support and supervision services/ independent housing * Contributions to cost of adaptations made to accommodation * Students with disabilities at lux university * Priority cards and disability cards | 10 October 2017  The Committee is concerned that data collection on the situation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the State party is fragmented and not disaggregated by gender or age, which makes it difficult for the State party to develop appropriate policies.  In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:  (a) Establish systematic data collection and reporting procedures under the National Institute of Statistics in line with the Convention;  (b) Rely on the methodology of the Washington Group to collect, analyse and disseminate data on its population disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment, barriers encountered and place of residence, including persons with disabilities who have been placed in institutions abroad with funding by the State party, and data on cases of discrimination or violence against persons with disabilities;  (c) Develop evidence-based policies to respond to the situation of persons with disabilities |
| Malta | 11 November 2015  The main source of statistics relating to the disability sector in Malta come from the census, and data is segregated by impairment, age, gender, locality and highest level of education attained. Further data concerning unemployment or inactivity is analysed by age, gender and locality. The final area data is provided for in the census is the type of housing that the person with disability is accommodated in.  The National Statistics Office also provides periodic reports using census data.  The NCPD commissioned research concerning the situation of people with disability in Malta with regards to residence, income, employment, education, daily activities, support and assistance and voting rights.  Statistics are kept regarding the numbers of people with disability on their registers who are part of employment schemes, or actively looking for work, as well as those who have been placed in employment.  The need for additional research in the disability sector is acknowledged. The University of Malta produces some research from student dissertations each year.  One particular need that has arisen from the data that has been analysed is the need for one definitive register of persons with disability in Malta- there is a plan in place to remedy this. | 24 April 2018  Please provide updated data, disaggregated by age, sex and type of disability, on persons with disabilities in the State party.  Please explain whether the national database of persons with disabilities has been created in line with international human rights indicators and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals (paras. 11–12 and 216), how the database tracks data on persons who have multiple disabilities, and whether the State party has been systematically collecting data on persons with disabilities. | 18 June 2018  No new data collection exercises were carried out by the National Statistics Office to supplement the 2011 census data.  However, the latest statistics collated by CRPD, JobsPlus and DSS, the other 3 entities in Malta that collect disability-specific data, as indicated in paragraphs 13, 16 and 18 respectively are included (specific data examples are included in the reply to the List of Issues) | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| Netherlands | 12 July 2018  Various knowledge institutions collect data that (also) relates to people with disabilities. Some of the institutions in question fall under the responsibility of the national government, while others are private parties. Where necessary and possible, the information obtained is used to implement the Convention.  The institution's working methods differ, so no clear answer can be given to the question of how people with disabilities are involved themselves.  The Employee Insurance Agency and Statistics Netherlands monitor, among other things, the following:  how many and which provisions are issued to people with occupational disabilities;  how many persons with occupational disabilities are in work (sheltered or with a regular employer);  whether the agreed targets in the Occupational Disability Act are being attained  Studies are also carried out once every two years to assess the experiences of all parties involved in the Participation Act (providers, clients and employers). The final evaluation of the Participation Act will be published in 2019.  No separate data is kept on pupils with disabilities in the field of education. The only information available is the number of pupils who attend special education. | No List of Issues available yet | No reply to List of Issues available yet | No Concluding Observations available yet |
| Poland | 3 November 2015  Programmes of statistical surveys within public statistics for 2012 and 2013 include collection of the data further allowing development and implementation of the State’s social policy, including the policy for disabled people.  Data on disabled people in the National Census of Population and Housing of 2011 were elicited by sampling on the basis of voluntary answers.  Labour Force Survey is conducted on a quarterly basis. It includes detailed information concerning disabled people.  In 2011, GUS conducted survey “Disabled people on Labour Market in 2011”.  In 2013, GUS released publication “Population and Socio-economic status and structure” with data on and characteristics of disabled people, disability categories, education level, marital status, sources of upkeep and economic activity.  Examples of other surveys designed to collect data on disabled people: Study on health care in households; Study on social assistance and system of foster care; Study on education; Study on participation in culture; Study on participation in sport and physical recreation; Study on household budgets.  Note: More examples provided in subsequent paragraphs | 25 April 2018  Please indicate any measures taken to develop the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on disability, in line with the Convention | 6 June 2018  Work has been undertaken to expand the scope of data on disabled persons and increase the frequency of data collection, including by incorporating the data available in the public administration and the results of statistical surveys. Data on disabled persons should be collected every year at the lowest territorial division of the country.  There are plans to monitor the situation of disabled persons by using sustainable development indicators, inter alia.  Note: Annexes with data included, but no explanation of how it was gathered. | No Concluding Observations issued yet |
| Portugal | 10 September 2014  Portugal is considering a system for the effective harmonization of terminologies used in health systems, education, vocational training, employment, transport, culture, tourism, sport and leisure, in order to develop coherent, coordinated and comprehensive statistical indicators.  Replies on disability and incapacity obtained in Census 2001 resulted mainly from self-evaluation by each respondent in relation to the types of disabilities listed in the questionnaires. Disaggregation of data was by sex, age and impairment.  Portugal included 30+ paragraphs of the data it obtained from Census 2001. | 1 October 2015  Please explain what measures are being implemented by the State party to collect  statistics disaggregated by, among other things, sex and age, on persons with disabilities, in particular children, women and girls with disabilities, with reference to human rights-based indicators. | 21 January 2016  In 2012, a working project on disability statistics was initiated.  Between 2013 and 2015 a task force was constituted to review the concepts in the area of health and impairments.  After the ratification of the Convention  on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, INE collected the following information:   * Population and Housing Census 2011 (every 10 years): Daily difficulties in carrying out some activities due to health problems or due to age / aging (seeing, hearing, walking, etc.) * Survey on Income and Living Conditions (annual) * Limitation in usual activities because of illness / health problem * Monetary social benefits for disability protection * Situation of people with disabilities in the labour market * Barriers in employment * Difficulties in basic activities associated with health problems | 19 May 2016  The Committee is concerned about the lack of consistent and comparable data on persons with disabilities and of human rights indicators in the data available.  The Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, use a human rights-based indicators system and a comparable and comprehensive data-collection system disaggregated by gender, age, rural/urban population and type of disability  The Committee recommends that the State party consider the links between article 31 and target 17.18 of SDGs in order to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location. |
| Romania | No state report available | No List of Issues available | No reply to List of Issues available | No Concluding Observations available |
| Slovakia | 24 September 2014  The system of subject-matter and institutionally coordinated research targeted at issues related to disabilities and the life of persons with disabilities and their families is non-existent in Slovakia. Rather, it pertains to individual research initiatives of various institutions, which can be divided into several groups:  •Sector research of disabilities (it pertains to research projects of various subjects the themes of which are connected to selected topical issues addressed within the competence of individual ministries)  •Research of disabilities conducted by universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences  •Research implemented by independent organizations and the civil sector.  Individual research projects in the monitored period served as the material for the preparation of national legislation in the area of social services, financial contributions for compensations and the support of the independent life and employment of the disabled.  The Statistical Office of Slovakia does not particularly monitor data on the disabled, according to gender, age, education or individual type of disability (physical, sight, hearing, mental, internal) or the reason for the occurrence of this disability- onlyon recipients of disability benefits.  The Ministry of Health has partial information on persons with disabilities. | 1 October 2015  Does the State party have plans to coordinate at the institutional level research targeted at issues related to the lives of persons with disabilities and their families, and to ensure the systematic collection of data disaggregated also by disability across all sectors, including education, employment, social protection, health, access to justice, political participation and violence | 4 January 2016  In Slovakia, there is no plan of institutional coordination of research focused on issues of disabled people. On the other hand, there are at least two mechanisms by which gradually increased awareness and thus the partial coherence of key scientific-research actors in this field:  One is the mechanism of performance of commitments that focused on statistics, data collection and research. It focuses on selected indicators of socio-economic situation of persons with disabilities and their families to ensure inclusive education of pupils and students with disabilities. It also focuses on the availability of universally designed goods and services and assistive technologies to promote employment of people with disabilities in the open labour market. | 13 May 2016  The Committee is concerned about the absence of systematic data collection disaggregated by disability, sex and age across all sectors. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the lack of coordinated research about the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.  The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and disability, and coordinate research to obtain a full understanding of the lives of persons with disabilities, the barriers they face and the solutions required to enable their full participation in society. |
| Slovenia | 18 July 2014  The institution responsible for national statistics is SURS (the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia). SURS is the main provider and co-ordinator of activities in the field of national statistics. Its mission is to provide the authorities and organisations of public administration, the economic sector and the general public with quality, timely and locally and internationally comparable data on the situation and trends in economic, demographic, social, environmental and natural resources areas.  Data on disability issues are mostly collected and published within the demographic and social areas, i.e. social protection, the labour market, education, etc. SURS is not direct provider of objectives and/or specific measures set by the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, however, it enables various providers of activities in above mentioned areas to have the necessary information and data available for their work.  The national statistical surveys in the field of pension and disability insurance are carried out by the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia  At the initiative of disability organisations, the Social Protection Institute carried out research on the rights of persons with disabilities provided by the state. | 10 October 2017  Please inform the Committee about the plans envisaged to establish a mechanism to systematically collect and analyse disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention. Please also inform the Committee about measures taken to incorporate the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability in forthcoming censuses and household surveys. | 23 November 2017  In Slovenia, data on disabilities are kept primarily by the line ministries and other institutions.  SURS provides disaggregated data within the framework of the European Statistical System. A new EU umbrella regulation on social research is being drafted, which foresees that certain data relating to disability, harmonised in line with standardised definitions or methodologies, will be collected in four research programmes, which will be conducted within the framework of national statistics:   * Living conditions * Active and inactive population * Use of time * European health interview survey | 16 April 2018  The Committee is concerned about the lack of systematic collection of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities and their social condition, including the barriers that they face in society.  Bearing in mind target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:  (a) Develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures, through the Disability Information System of the State Commission and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, that are in line with the Convention and take into account the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability;  (b) Collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on its population with disabilities, including data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society and their level of poverty. |
| Spain | 1 July 2010  The National Statistical Institute prepares disability surveys in the form of macro-surveys, which are conducted in response to the demand for such information from the public administrations and numerous users. These surveys cover a large part of needs for information on the phenomena of disability, dependency, population aging and the state of health of the population living in Spain  Three macro-surveys were conducted in 1986, 1999 and 2008 respectively: the Disabilities, Impairments and Handicaps Survey, the Disabilities, Impairments and Health Status Survey, and the Disability, Personal Autonomy and Dependency Situations Survey.  The Disability, Personal Autonomy and Dependency Situations Survey(2008) was conducted in two stages: the first, aimed at family homes; the second stage, targeted for the first time centres for older persons and persons with disabilities and psychiatric and geriatric hospitals  The survey investigated peoples’ subjective perception of their limitations, the cause of those limitations, their degree of severity and the assistance they received. They were asked about their state of health; socio-economic benefits relating to the disability; discrimination on grounds of disability; accessibility; social networks; and a number of sociodemographic characteristics relevant to all persons with disabilities. | 20 June 2011  Art 31 was not mentioned in the List of Issues | 27 July 2011  Document only available in Spanish, but it can be assumed that Art 31 was not mentioned in the reply to the List of Issues | 19 Oct 2011  The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. The Committee recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities who may be subject to varying degrees of vulnerability; developing laws, policies and programmes; and assessing the implementation of the Convention  The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability; enhance capacity building in this regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the Convention.  The Committee regrets that the situation of children with disabilities is not reflected in the data on the protection of children.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on abuse and violence against children. |
| Sweden | 18 September 2012  Statistics regarding people receiving initiatives in accordance with the Act Concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments have been included in Sweden’s official statistics since 2004. The information is gathered with the support of the Official Statistics Act and the Official Statistics Ordinance, which entails an obligation for the municipalities to submit the requested information  Statistics following the living conditions of persons with disabilities in relation to the rest of the population are a precondition for being able to measure the results of the Government’s disability policy.  In the work that is being conducted to create a better picture of the living conditions of persons with disabilities, Statistics Sweden has supplied information specific to the target group based on an established investigation into the living conditions of the Swedish people. The material is currently being processed, and the results will be presented in a report including conclusions regarding both living conditions for persons with disabilities as well as what improvements to the investigation methodology should be implemented in order to achieve a good statistical description in future.  The Government’s aim is also to identify methods in order to compare living condi­tions for children. | 30 September 2013  The concept of disability advanced by the Convention focuses on discrimination caused by social, physical, communicative and attitudinal barriers that prevent equal participation. Please provide information on the shift from the statistical approach to measuring discrimination and lack of participation of persons with disabilities since, and as a consequence of, the ratification of the Convention. How is the positive impact of the ratification described and evaluated statistically? | 20 January 2014  Sweden’s Strategy for the Implementation of Disability Policy focuses on implementing the Convention in all sectors and at all levels of society. Within the strategy framework a cohesive follow-up system has been developed. As part of this follow-up, efforts are currently under way to develop statistics in various areas so as to include persons with disabilities. Such an approach is designed to make disability as a ground for discrimination more evident in the statistics.  To this end, Statistics Sweden has for instance broadened the Living Conditions Survey to include questions that will enable the agency to observe whether persons with disabilities experience obstacles in their day-to-day lives. Statistics from the ULF survey are also used to monitor how living conditions in general develop over time.  Another component put in place to make it easier for the authorities to monitor implementation of the Convention is a web panel of 2 000 people with disabilities. This panel provides detailed data reflecting people’s views and proposals concerning how the obstacles encountered in the community may best be eliminated. Web questionnaires cannot cover all persons in Sweden with disabilities however, so qualitative studies have been added. | 12 May 2014  The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. It recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities; developing laws, policies and programmes; and assessing the implementation of the Convention.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by gender, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in that regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the Convention.  Data is scarce on matters affecting girls, boys and women with disabilities, including those belonging to indigenous groups.  The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data on girls, boys and women with disabilities, including those belonging to indigenous groups. |
| United Kingdom | 3 July 2013  Information is gathered from across government departments on a number of areas that disabled people said were important to them, in a wide consultation on how progress towards disability equality should be measured held in 2007.  A key part of this is ensuring openness in how disabled and non-disabled people experiences are considered, including ensuring that data collected by different departments can be disaggregated by disability status.  For example, in England, the School Census carried out in 2011 included, for the first time, an optional question on the disability status of pupils.  In Great Britain, the national Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) has started to collect information on disabled and non-disabled people’s life opportunities, covering areas such as work, education, social participation, experiences of crime and discrimination. The information will be used to help target policies and resources where they are most needed, and ensure that more disabled people can participate in society.  The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions Survey includes a module that asks disabled people about difficulties they have in accessing a range of goods and services, and the amount of choice and control that they have over their daily lives. These data are published as part of the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) disability equality indicators. ODI and ONS are also developing a suite of harmonised disability questions for social surveys, to make it easier to compare data from different sources. | 20 April 2017  Please report on the development and use of disability equality indicators in accordance with target 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals and on how the State party consults organizations of persons with disabilities in this regard. | 21 July 2017  The UK reports regularly on disability equality issues based on a combination of routine and ad hoc surveys, and administrative data. The sources vary somewhat between the four constituent countries, but incorporate harmonised definitions and survey questions where appropriate. Data covers wide-ranging aspects including health, education, social participation, income and employment, as well as public attitudes to disability.  In Northern Ireland, the Office for First Minister and Deputy First Minister developed a set of key indicators to aid monitoring of the Disability Strategy (September 2012-March 2017). Researchers from Queen’s University and Ulster University are undertaking an independent study to inform data development in relation to disability policy; recommendations on definitions for disability, quality of life and family are anticipated later in 2017.  Scotland’s Equality Evidence Strategy (due June 2017) will determine evidence gaps related to disability. It will set out plans for deciding on priorities and seek to address these with partners. | 3 October 2017  The Committee is concerned at the lack of a unified data-collection system and indicators across the State party concerning the situation of persons with disabilities. It notes the limited collection of disaggregated data in surveys and censuses on the general population.  The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 17, significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, among others, income, sex, age, gender, race, ethnic origin, migratory, asylum-seeking and refugee status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including in all general population surveys and censuses. It also recommends that the State party use the sets of questions and tools developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for the collection of comparable disability statistics. |

# Appendix 3: Ireland’s Progress under the ‘Bridging the Gap’ Indicators

## Bridging the Gap project

The European Union (EU) funded the Bridging the Gap Project I (2017 – 2019) under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Thematic Programme “Global Public Goods and Challenges”. The project was led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and includes consultation with experts, UN agencies, civil society and academia. The human rights indicators were developed in consultation with stakeholders including human rights experts, such as the CRPD Committee, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, UN agencies, organisations of persons with disabilities and civil society, academics, NHRIs, statistics offices, and others. Consultations included actors from five countries, i.e. Moldova, Nepal, Paraguay, Jordan and Ethiopia.

The purpose of the Bridging the Gap project is to

* Elaborate quantitative and qualitative human rights indicators, in line with OHCHR’s methodology on human rights indicators,[[33]](#footnote-33) to support the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD.
* Produce practical policy guidelines on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) informed by the CRPD to support policy makers.
* Develop guidelines on data sources to populate human rights indicators. (This is a practical document encouraging users to link indicators with existing data sources, regardless of discussions on data collection methods and disaggregation. Incorporate SDGs indicators under specific CRPD Articles, requesting disaggregation by disability. Show that information is being produced or trigger a search for it or actions to start systematizing or collecting information, etc.)[[34]](#footnote-34)
* Prepare training material on the use of human rights indicator tools, including a free e-learning course.

These human rights indicators formulated for Article 31indicators were developed between 2017 and 2019 and are currently being finalised and include structural, process and outcome indicators as follows:

* Structural indicators measure commitments e.g. legislation enacted on…
* Process indicators measure actions by the State e.g. proportion of staff trained on…
* Outcome indicators assess results in terms of enjoyment of the human right e.g. rates of persons with disabilities compared to others e.g. voter turnout of persons with disabilities.

Table 3 below lists the Article 31 illustrative indicators under broad headings of collection and dissemination of data.

Table 3: Bridging the Gap list of illustrative human rights indicators on Statistics and Data Collection for UNCRPD Article 31

| Attributes/  Indicators | Research, collection and disaggregation of information | Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Structure** | 31.1 Legislation enacted that regulates the national statistical system, coordinated by the national statistics office, and which:  i. complies with internationally accepted norms and ethical principles in collection and use of data,  ii. mandates availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic, location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts (Based on SDG Target 17.18)  iii. establishes safeguards and remedies, including on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for privacy of persons with disabilities;  iv. ensures coordination for the production of administrative data on persons with disabilities.  31.2 National strategy or plan to ensure production and storage of statistical data disaggregated by disability within the national statistical system across all sectors and undertake and promote research on the rights of persons with disabilities to identify barriers to their implementation, in connection to all rights, designed and developed in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.  31.3 Legal requirement to establish a marker on all public spending specifically on data collection and disaggregation and research related to persons with disabilities and the barriers they face in the exercise of their rights, and all related activities (trainings, awareness raising campaigns, etc.). | 31.4 Legislation enacted providing for access statistical and research data in accessible formats and technologies, without additional cost.  31.5 National strategy or plan to ensure wide dissemination by the State, notably among persons with disabilities, of available statistical and research information on persons with disabilities and on their rights in accessible formats.  31.6 Legal requirement to establish a marker on all public spending to ensure that information intended for the general public is available in accessible formats. |
| **Process** | 31.7 Incorporation of reliable and valid tools, such as the Washington Group tools, in the national census [(e.g. Washington Group Short set of Questions](http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/)) and in disability related and general surveys (e.g. WG short or [extended set](http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/extended-set-of-disability-questions/)), and within all instruments used to generate SDGs indicators.  31.8 Number and proportion of relevant public staff trained, including but not only those of the national statistics agency and census and surveys workers, on the official methodology for disability data collection and disaggregation.  31.9 Budget allocated to collect disaggregated statistical data and to undertake and promote research on persons with disabilities and the barriers their face to the exercise of their rights, and to related trainings, awareness raising campaigns and measures to ensure the accessibility of these activities.  31.10 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (SDG 17.18.1).  31.16 Consultation processes undertaken to ensure active involvement of persons with disabilities, including through their organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, policies and programs, related to the development and implementation of data systems, collection and disaggregation processes and research programs relevant for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.  31.17 Number of complaints related to data collection and disaggregation by disability, lack of access to information, accessibility of information and websites intended to the public, investigated, adjudicated and proportion of these complied with by the government or duty bearer. | 31.11 Awareness raising campaigns directed to the general public, in particular persons with disabilities, to inform about availability and dissemination of statistical and research data on persons with disabilities in accessible formats, developed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.  31.12 Number and proportion of all public staff undergoing training, on access to information (statistical and research data) for persons with disabilities and on accessibility and alternative formats of communication.  31.13 Budget allocated to disseminate available statistical and research information on persons with disabilities and on their rights in accessible formats.  31.14 Number of reports and publications relating to statistical and research data relevant for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, including censuses and surveys undertaken, and proportion of these produced and disseminated by the State to the general public in accessible formats, disaggregated by type of format.  31.15 Number of requests of information made to public authorities and proportion of these granted making the information available in accessible formats, disaggregated by public body agency. |
| **Outcome** | 31.18 Level of satisfaction with the national statistical system by users of the national statistical system with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other relevant categories, in terms of kind of data collected and its disability disaggregation. | 31.19 Number and proportion of State websites that comply with accessibility standards.  31.20 Number of reports intended for the general public produced by the State in accessible formats, disaggregated by type of format and their proportion out of the total number of published States reports. |

## Structure: Research, collection and disaggregation of information

In this section a summary of the situation in Ireland with regard to each of the sections outlined in the table above is given.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.1

**Section 31.1:** Legislation enacted that regulates the national statistical system, coordinated by the national statistics office (and which – see i, ii, iii and iv)

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) was established in 1949 as Ireland's national statistical office. Its status was formalised in legislation with the Statistics Act, 1993. The mandate of the CSO is "The collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State" (Section 3, Statistics Act 1993). The Office has the authority to co-ordinate official statistics compiled by public authorities to ensure adherence to statistical standards and the use of appropriate classifications; assess the statistical potential of the records maintained by public authorities and, in conjunction with them, to ensure that this potential is realised in so far as resources permit.

The National Statistics Board was established on a statutory basis when the Statistics Act, 1993 came into operation in November 1994. Its function, set out in the Act, is to guide the strategic direction of the CSO and, in particular to: establish priorities for the compilation and development of official statistics; assess the resources of staff, equipment and finance which should be made available for the compilation of official statistics; and arbitrate, subject to the final decision of the Taoiseach, on any conflicts that may arise with other public authorities relating to the extraction of statistics from records or to the co-ordination of statistical activities.

A function of the NDA under the NDA Act 1999 is to undertake, commission or collaborate in research projects and activities on issues relating to disability and to assist in the development of statistical information appropriate for the planning, delivery and monitoring of programmes and services for persons with disabilities. The Act states that the Authority may, subject to the other provisions of this Act, do anything which it considers necessary or expedient for enabling it to perform its functions. The NDA works with the CSO regarding routes to collecting and analysing data relevant to disability, including the requirement for intersectional data.

The Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016, lapsed with the dissolution of the Dáil and the Seanad at the beginning of 2020. Section 6 of this Bill sought to make a range of amendments including some to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) legislation. These would create a statutory basis for IHREC’s role in the CRPD monitoring framework. Due to this monitoring position, IHREC would then be in a position to request the collection of data and statistics that it needs to monitor the CRPD. A new government was formed at the end of June 2020 and this bill will be progressed.

However, there is already leeway for IHREC to conduct research that would provide it with data needed for its work. In furtherance of IHRECs functions as laid out under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, the Act states that IHREC can undertake, sponsor, commission or provide financial or other assistance for research and educational activities.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.1(i)

**Section 31.1 (i):** Complies with internationally accepted norms and ethical principles in collection and use of data

The European Statistical System (ESS) impacts on the work of the CSO as the majority of statistics it produces are required under EU statistical legislation. The ESS is a partnership between the Community statistical authority, the Commission (Eurostat), and the national statistical institutes and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. The ESS functions as a network in which Eurostat works to harmonise statistics in cooperation with the national statistical authorities. While ESS work concentrates on EU policy areas, with the extension of EU policies, harmonization has been extended to nearly all statistical fields. As EU legislation is implemented by all member states, this is a potentially crucial lever for accelerating action on CRPD Article 31.

The CSO compiles statistics to meet national (i.e. Government, business, researchers, general public, etc.), EU and other international requirements. A change to the role of the CSO and the Director General followed on a 2015 revision of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 which established a legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Regulation (EU) 2015/759, amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics, making the Director General of the CSO responsible for the co-ordination and oversight of the quality of all European Official Statistics compiled by public authorities in Ireland. Thus, the CSO acquired an expanded role in the coordination, overseeing and quality assurance of all official statistics produced in Ireland. It established a new directorate, appointed an Assistant Director General with responsibility for coordinating the producers of European statistics and Official Statistics from across the wider Irish Statistical System.

In 2016, the CSO established a Data Office to manage policies in relation to data protection and statistical confidentiality, promote awareness, provide training and assure compliance and provide advice to CSO statistical areas on all issues related to data protection and statistical confidentiality. All personal information obtained by the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The information is used solely for statistical purposes. Results are published in aggregate form and great care is taken to ensure that details relating to an identifiable person or undertaking are not inadvertently divulged. This confidentiality is guaranteed by law (Part V, Statistics Act, 1993).

The European Statistics Code of Practice sets the standard for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. The CSO has its own Code of Practice that reinforces existing legal assurances and outlines the practical steps CSO takes to protect confidential data. The Code of Practice applies to all information collected by the CSO whether directly in compulsory (statutory) and voluntary statistical inquiries or indirectly from the administrative records of other public authorities. The information collected by the CSO is used only for statistical purposes. The confidentiality of information relating to identifiable persons and undertakings is protected at all stages of statistical operations: collection, storage, processing, and dissemination.

Section 20 of the Statistics Act, 1993, designates every staff member of the CSO as Officers of Statistics who are legally bound to uphold the confidentiality of the data accessed in the performance of their duties. Information may only be accessed by Officers of Statistics, who are required to sign a Declaration of Secrecy under Section 21. All Officers of Statistics sign a declaration of secrecy. CSO staff are also subject to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1963. In addition, section 20 of the Statistics Act allows the Director General to authorise any other person as an Officer of Statistics to ‘perform for a specified period particular statistical analysis which may necessitate access to data collected under this Act’. The CSO tightly monitors compliance with the Act and training in data protection is a compulsory prerequisite for becoming an Officer of Statistics.

The CSO complies with the General Data Protection Regulation legislation (GDPR). The government approved the General Scheme of the National Research Ethics Committees Bill for formal drafting on the 29th July 2019. Its purpose is to bring about a unified National Research Ethics Committee framework for all health research. The definition of health research is wide-ranging and includes all research with the goal of improving the health of the population or any part of the population through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status; and includes action taken to establish whether an individual may be suitable for inclusion in the research.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.1(ii)

**Section 31.1 (ii):** Mandates availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic, location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts (Based on SDG Target 17.18)

Since 2002, the Irish census, which the CSO runs every five years, collects information on disability including data from homeless people and those living in institutions. This is an important source of periodic timely disability data as it provides a full coverage of the country. Ireland conducts the census every five years rather than the more common ten years for those countries who conduct a census.

The Irish Census collects information on Disability with two questions. For ease these are collectively called the ‘census question’ and are discussed further in 31.7 of this table.

The CSO carried out a post-census National Disability Survey (the NDS) in 2006 to produce the first ever detailed profile of people with a disability in Ireland. The questionnaire was based on the social model of disability. The purpose of the NDS was to establish a baseline to assess the severity and impact of disability on the Irish population and so the questions were broader in scope than 2006 Irish census. 14,518 persons with a disability were surveyed. The National Disability Authority (NDA) had commissioned research in 2003 to develop and pilot a research instrument to establish the prevalence and impact of disability in Ireland. This research study formed the basis for the Government decision for the CSO to conduct a National Disability Survey (NDS). NDA are currently in discussions with the CSO about running a second NDS post the Census scheduled for 2026. (The next Census is scheduled for April 2022)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS), previously the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. The Labour Force Survey (LFS), previously the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. The LFS uses the Census questions on disability. In Quarter 4 2019 it used the Washington Group Questions. As part of a new EU regulation the LFS will be obliged to collect specific variables on health and disability across the full year every second, even year, starting in 2022. The CSO will be obliged to collect two variables GENHEALTH and GALI for all those aged 15-89 years. GENHEALTH refers to self-perceived general health ranging from Very good to Very bad on a 5-point scale and GALI refers to Limitation in activities because of health problems with the following possible response options Severely Limited, Limited but not severely and Not limited at all. In odd year, starting in 2021 the LFS will continue to collect the Census question on disability in Quarter 2. 26000 households are targeted each quarter for inclusion with approximately 15,000 taking part. Households are asked to take part in the survey for five consecutive quarters and are then replaced by other households in the same block. The sample frame of households is clustered into blocks (small areas) with each block containing a minimum of 60 occupied households on the night of the Census of Population. The sample frame is stratified using administrative county and a deprivation index (Pobal HP (Haase and Pratschke) Index. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include the official measure of employment and unemployment in the state (ILO basis).

Each quarter, the LFS produces data on:

* Numbers unemployed
* Persons in employment
* Labour force participation rates
* Inactive population (not in the labour force)
* Sectoral breakdown (Nace Rev. 1) of those in employment
* Breakdown of headline data by age, sex and region
* Persons in employment classified by occupation
* Seasonally adjusted headline series
* Data on family composition.

The LFS also conducts special modules on different social topics each quarter. A selection of recent models include:

* Irish Health Survey 2015
* QNHS Households and Family Units Q2 2017
* QNHS Module on Childcare
* QNHS Crime and Victimisation Q3 2015
* QNHS Households and Family Units Q2 2016
* QNHS Module on Pensions Q4 2015
* QNHS Equality Module Quarter 3 2014
* QNHS Volunteering and Wellbeing Q3 2013
* QNHS Sports Module Q2 2013
* QNHS Parental Involvement in Children's Education Quarter 2 2012
* Quarterly National Household Survey Voter Participation Quarter 2 2011
* QNHS, Quarter 4 2010 - Module on Equality
* QNHS, Quarter 3 2010 - Health Status & Health Service Utilisation
* QNHS, Quarter 1 2003 to Quarter 1 2007 - Module on Work-related Accidents and Illnesses (XLS 85KB)
* QNHS Quarter 3 2006 - Module on Sports and Physical Exercise (PDF142KB)

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) collects information on the income and living conditions of different household types in Ireland, in order to derive indicators on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion. The SILC uses the census questions on disability to collect disability status. The SILC sample is a multi-stage cluster sample resulting in all households in Ireland having an equal probability of selection. The sample is stratified by NUTS4 and quintiles derived from the Pobal HP (Haase and Pratschke) Deprivation Index. There is both a cross-sectional and a longitudinal element to the SILC sample. Households interviewed for the first time are Wave 1 households. Households who are interviewed in subsequent years are Wave 2 households (2nd year in the sample), Wave 3 households (3rd year in the sample) or Wave 4 (4th and final year in the sample). The initial sample design attempts to seed the sample with 25% for each new wave. (However, due to non-response and sample attrition the waves are not evenly balanced in the sample with Wave 1 households usually tending to dominate.)

The CSO has undertaken SILC every year since 2004 under EU legislation (European Council Regulation No 1177/2003 on community statistics on income and living conditions), which makes possible comparisons across member states. SILC collects information on income and living conditions of different types of households in Ireland, in order to derive indicators on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion. It is the official source of data on household and ‘equivalised’ disposable income in Ireland, giving national poverty indicators such as the ‘at risk of poverty’ rate, the ‘consistent poverty rate’ and the ‘rates of enforced deprivation’. It is a voluntary (for selected respondents) survey of private households. Information is collected continuously throughout the year with household interviews being conducted on a weekly basis. The income reference period for SILC is the 12 months immediately prior to the date of interview. For example, in 2017, the achieved sample size was 5,029 households and 12,612 individuals and the income referenced spans the period from January 2016 to December 2017.

The Household Budget Survey is collected every five years to set the weights for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the overall change in the prices of goods and services that people typically buy over time. It collects detailed information on spending by all members of a household. It includes demographic data including the census disability question. Achieved sample of 6,839 households in 2015-2016.

The Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) focuses on gathering micro-level structural information on Euro area households’ assets and liabilities. The survey also collects additional information in order to analyse the economic decisions taken by households. It is collected on an ad hoc basis and was last collected in 2018. The HFCS asks demographic questions but not the ‘census disability’ question. However, enough demographic information is collected to allow it to be linked to the Census.

See 31.14 for an extensive (though not exhaustive) list of disability data sources relevant to implementing and monitoring the Convention but which are not all directly mandated by legislation. These include, for example, national longitudinal studies of older people, children and adults with an intellectual disability; published information from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection on the number of people getting payments related to illness, disability and caring; annual disability statistics from the Health Research Board (HRB) on persons with an intellectual disability and /or physical and sensory disability, etc.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.1(iii)

**Section 31.1(iii):** Establishes safeguards and remedies, including on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for privacy of persons with disabilities;

As an EU Regulation, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies as a law in all Member States and does not require transposition into law because of the “direct effect” of EU Regulations on Member States. However, the EU allows for issues to be given further effect in national law and Ireland introduced the Data Protection Act 2018. While the GDPR applies by default to the majority of personal data processing, in Ireland, there are further rules on certain issues for example the reasons for, and extent to which, data subject rights may be restricted are set out in the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Health Research Regulations as set out in Section 36 (2) of the Data Protection Act 2018 provide additional safeguards for health and social care research data. Section 36 (2), for example, outlines the mandatory suitable and specific measures for the processing of personal data for the purposes of health research (Regulation 3(1) and provides for the possibility of applying for a consent declaration for new research. For example, a researcher may apply for a declaration that explicit consent is not required if: the public interest of the research significantly outweighs the public interest in requiring the explicit consent of the individual whose data is being processed (Regulation 5).

A Health Research Consent Declaration Committee has been established to ensure privacy rights of individuals are duly considered in research processes, while also ensuring persons who may lack capacity are still included in relevant research with a public interest.

In October 2017 Ireland signed up to the Tallinn Declaration on e-Government, which is aimed at digital-by-default, inclusiveness and accessibility and where public bodies collecting data only once from citizens and businesses, reusing data rather than recollecting it. The Tallinn Declaration reaffirms commitment to the EU e-Government Action Plan 2016- 2020 and the European Interoperability Framework. The overall vision behind the Tallinn Declaration is to establish open, efficient and inclusive digital public services to all EU citizens and businesses – at all levels of public administration –that are borderless, interoperable, personalised, user-friendly and end-to end. Some of the principles in the Tallinn Declaration are as follows:

* Digital-by-default, inclusiveness and accessibility
* User-centricity in the design and delivery of digital public services
* Trustworthiness and security
* Openness and transparency
* Once-only - public bodies collecting data only once from citizens and businesses and reusing that data as opposed to collecting it multiple times.
* Interoperability by default – establishing national interoperability frameworks based on the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) while respecting relevant national standards, and adhere to EIF for cross-border digital public services.

The Data Sharing and Governance Act was signed into law in March 2019 and is being commenced on a phased basis. It is proposed to commence the Act on a phased basis. In April 2019, Part 5 of the Act was commenced which underpins the Single Public Service Pension Scheme and Part 6 which allows work to begin on the creation of a unique number to identify businesses which can be used for transactions with public bodies (the Unique Business Identifier).[[35]](#footnote-35) The Act, following on from the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, clarifies and strengthens the data sharing rights and obligations of public bodies and paves the way for more efficient and cost effective service delivery by public bodies by providing a clear legal basis for the sharing of personal data in certain circumstances. The aim is to reduce the administrative burden associated with the need for individuals to provide their personal data to various public bodies. The Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 allows for the sharing of personal data between public bodies where the sharing is for the performance of a function of either of the public bodies. The sharing must be carried out for one of a number of purposes which are set out in the Act. Examples are to verify the identity of a person or to avoid the administrative burden of collecting data directly from an individual. The Act only applies where there is no other law of the European Union permitting or requiring the sharing of the personal data.

The Public Service Data Strategy 2019-2023, published by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, builds upon the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019. This Act and the Public Service Data Strategy drive Ireland further along the path laid out in the Tallinn Declaration which is promoting open, efficient and inclusive digital public services to all EU citizens and businesses. [[36]](#footnote-36)

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.1(iv)

**Section 31.1(iv):** Ensures coordination for the production of administrative data on persons with disabilities.

Under Section 10(2) of the Statistics Act, 1993 the CSO has the authority to co-ordinate official statistics compiled by public authorities to ensure, in particular, adherence to statistical standards and the use of classifications.  Under Section 10(3) it has the authority to assess the statistical potential of records maintained by public authorities and, in conjunction with them, to ensure that the statistical potential is realised. Under Section 31 of the Act, the Director General of the CSO may request any public authority to consult and co-operate with him for the purpose of assessing the potential of the records of the authority as a source of statistical information and, where appropriate and practicable, developing its recording methods and systems for statistical purposes.  Public authorities must comply with such a request and must consult the CSO if they propose to introduce, revise or extend their information systems or plan to conduct a statistical survey.

The CSO appointed an Assistant Director General (Assistant Secretary) for Statistical System Coordination. This new directorate is developing the Irish Statistical System to exploit administrative data in conjunction with statistical sources, to facilitate greater linkage and analysis of administrative data across the public service. It will drive the development of the National Data Infrastructure, which will facilitate the development and implementation of an integrated approach to the collection of administrative data across the public sector. In 2016 the CSO extended the programme of seconding statisticians to other government departments to promote a more coordinated analytical service for Government. The CSO is working with departments to identify and execute pathfinder projects that deliver both value to policy or services.

Most administration data collected by Government Departments can be cross-referenced by the individual’s characteristics in the Census. Therefore the disability status of an individual can be established.

See Section 31.1(iii) re the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 and the Public Service Data Strategy 2019-2023, published by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, which builds on the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019, which moves Ireland further along the path laid out in the Tallinn Declaration also described in Section 31.1(iii).

### Ireland’s progress under Section 31.2

**Section 31.2:** National strategy or plan to ensure production and storage of statistical data disaggregated by disability within the national statistical system across all sectors and undertake and promote research on the rights of persons with disabilities to identify barriers to their implementation, in connection to all rights, designed and developed in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities

Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005 [S. 47 (1)] requires public bodies, in so far as practicable, to take all reasonable measures to promote and support employment by them of people with disabilities. Under S. 48 (1) off the Act a monitoring committee is established. S.48 (2) mandates that a public body shall, not later than 31 March in each year, draw up a report in writing in relation to its compliance with Part 5 during the preceding year and submit it to the monitoring committee. S 48 (3) indicates that the monitoring committee in consultation with the National Disability Authority has the duty to monitor annually the rate of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector.

The 2016 Disability Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, if enacted, will increase the public sector target for employment of persons with disabilities from 3% to 6%.

Sections 25-29 of the Disability Act (2005) deal with access to services and buildings as follows:

* S25. Access to public buildings other than heritage sites.
* S26. Access to mainstream public services, etc.
* S27. Accessibility of services supplied to a public body.
* S28. Access to information.
* S29. Access to heritage sites.

The National Disability Authority's statutory Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies gives guidance to public bodies on meeting their obligations in relation to these requirements. Compliance with the Code of Practice is deemed to be compliance with the Disability Act. The NDA has a remit to monitor Codes of Practice and develops Codes of Practice when requested to do so by the Minister in accordance with the act. The NDA has a Code of Practice on Accessible Heritage Sites, but this has not been monitored. Currently the NDA are preparing a monitoring framework for the existing Code of Practice.

Under the Act, the local authorities also have a remit under the Building Control Acts to inspect building sites in relation to compliance with the building regulations. Under the Building Control Acts 1990 to 2014, local authorities are designated as Building Control Authorities.  Part M of the Building Regulations, published by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, applies to new buildings and to material alterations or extensions of existing buildings. The revised 2010 Part M regulations require that: "Adequate provision shall be made for people to access and use a building, its facilities and its environs". The revised version of the Part M regulations and associated Technical Guidance Document place significant additional obligations over and above earlier versions, including, for example, obligations regarding bathroom size, signage, car parking, and communication aids.

The CSO are currently doing an audit of available equality data and there are plans to develop an equality data hub.

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty is a legal obligation originates in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014 that founded IHREC. All public bodies in Ireland have the responsibility and duty to promote equality of opportunity and treatment, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans. The public sector duty is to ensure that persons with disabilities and others at risk of discrimination and inequalities are protected. According to guidance published by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, collection of data, clearly defined targets, indicators and responsibilities, where appropriate are needed to ensure effective monitoring and reporting on human rights and equality.

Section 20 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 requires the National Council for Special Education to conduct research and collect data, including:

1. to disseminate to schools, parents and such other persons as the Council considers appropriate information relating to best practice, nationally and internationally, concerning the education of children with special educational needs;
2. in consultation with schools, the Health Service Executive and such other persons as the Council considers appropriate to plan and co-ordinate the provision of education and support services to children with special educational needs;
3. in consultation with schools and with such persons as the Council considers appropriate to plan for the integration of education for students with special educational needs with education for students generally;
4. to make available to the parents of children with special educational needs information in relation to their entitlements and the entitlements of their children;
5. to ensure that the progress of students with special educational needs is monitored and that it is reviewed at regular intervals;
6. to assess and review the resources required in relation to educational provision for children with special educational needs;
7. to ensure that a continuum of special educational provision is available as required in relation to each type of disability;
8. to review generally the provision made for adults with disabilities to avail of higher education and adult and continuing education, rehabilitation and training and to publish reports on the results of such reviews (which reviews may include recommendations as to the manner in which such provision could be improved);
9. to advise all educational institutions concerning best practice in respect of the education of adults who have disabilities;
10. to advise the Minister in relation to any matter relating to the education of children and others with disabilities;
11. to consult with such voluntary bodies as the Council considers appropriate, (being bodies whose objects relate to the promotion of the interests of, or the provision of support services to, persons with disabilities) for the purposes of ensuring that their knowledge and expertise can inform the development of policy by the Council and the planning and provision of support services and
12. to conduct and commission research on matters relevant to the functions of the Council and, as it considers appropriate, to publish in such form and manner, as the Council thinks fit, the findings arising out of such research.

### Ireland’s progress on Section 31.3

**Section 31.3:** Legal requirement to establish a marker on all public spending specifically on data collection and disaggregation and research related to persons with disabilities and the barriers they face in the exercise of their rights, and all related activities.

This is not currently in place in Ireland.

## Structure: Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.4

**Section 31.4**: Legislation enacted providing for access to statistical and research data in accessible formats and technologies, without additional cost.

Section 28(1)(b) of the Disability Act 2005 requires each public body to ensure, as far as practicable, that written information and communications which it provides to the public are communicated in an accessible format, where so requested by persons with visual impairments. Section 28(3) of the Disability Act 2005 requires each public body to ensure that, as far as practicable, the information it publishes which is directly relevant to persons with intellectual disabilities, is made available to them in clear language that they easily understand. Further information on requirements in this regard are outlined in the **Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies**. The NDA developed this Code of Practice, which sets out what is required of public bodies under the relevant sections of the Disability Act and provides practical advice and examples of how these requirements may be met.

The Irish Sign Language Act was enacted in 2017. Section 6. (1) of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017 states that a public body shall do all that is reasonable to ensure that interpretation into Irish Sign Language is provided for a person who is competent in that language and cannot hear or understand English or Irish when that person is seeking to avail of or access statutory entitlements or services provided by or under statute by that public body.

EU Web Accessibility Directive EU 2016/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies” requires public bodies to ensure their websites and apps are accessible to persons with disabilities. All websites created after 23 September 2018 had to be accessible by 23 September 2019. Existing websites have to comply by 23 September 2020. All mobile applications have to be accessible by 23 June 2021. Accessibility is defined within the Directive as meaning web content and mobile apps must be “Perceivable, Operable and Usable” by persons with disabilities, and they must be “Robust” enough to work on different browsers, and with different assistive technologies. The Directive requires Member States to monitor and report on the accessibility of the websites and mobile apps of most public bodies. Reviews are conducted against a harmonised European standard, EN 301 549, which replicates the more commonly known Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Ireland transposed the EU Web Accessibility Directive in September. Because of the delay the Commission initiated an infringement procedure against Ireland in this regard in July 2019. The NDA has been appointed as the monitoring body for the Directive.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.5

**Section 31.5:** National strategy or plan to ensure wide dissemination by the State, notably among persons with disabilities, of available statistical and research information on persons with disabilities and on their rights in accessible formats.

An Open Data Strategy 2017-2022, published by the Government Reform Unit Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, aims to create an environment where the benefits of open data are recognized and realized. This includes disability data to inform policy and practice. Objectives of the strategy are to increase the publication of government data in open format, making it publicly available and freely reusable and to engage with stakeholders to promote its social and economic benefits and its reuse.[[37]](#footnote-37) Data.gov.ie is Ireland’s open data portal which aims to promoting innovation and transparency through the publication of Irish Public Sector data in open, free and reusable formats. The Open Data portal provides access to official non-personal government data in open format. The portal has been significantly enhanced since its launch in 2014. By end Q2 2017, the portal linked to 5,200 datasets from 96 publishers. Enhancements include visualizations, a ‘suggest a dataset’ function and a ‘showcase’ function where developers can showcase apps, websites etc. created using data from the portal.

StatBank is the CSO's online database of Official Statistics and contains current and historical data series compiled from CSO statistical releases and is accessed at <http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/statire/SelectTable/Omrade0.asp?Planguage=0>

All data on the CSO's StatBank is available free of charge and is subject to the CSO's copyright policy which is available at <http://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/copyrightpolicy/>.

Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service produces reports on all aspects of government spending. These are available online. The have examined, among other things, access to disability payments, social welfare recipients

The Oireachtas Library & Research Service (The Oireachtas is the Irish National Parliaments comprising Dáil, Seanad Éireann and the Oireachtas Committees) produces a range of impartial research briefings for Members of the Oireachtas which are accessible, easy to read and available to the public. Where relevant they include a distributional analysis of Government legislation. They include:

* Bill Digest briefing papers on proposed Government legislation in advance of second stage (since July 2018)
* Short, topical Library and Research (L&RS) Notes covering a range of topics, facts, statistics and frequently asked questions
* Spotlight research briefings which examine a single topic or policy issue in more depth
* A monthly Economic Indicators infographic showing key indicators on the Irish economy

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.6

**Section 31.6:** Legal requirement to establish a marker on all public spending to ensure that information intended for the general public is available in accessible formats.

A Public Sector (Plain Language) Bill to ensure that all information for the public from government and State bodies is written and presented in plain language is currently going through the legislative process. There are no specific markers on public spending.

## Process: Research, collection and disaggregation of information

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.7

**Section 31.7:** Incorporation of reliable and valid tools, such as the Washington Group tools, in the national census and in disability related and general surveys and within all instruments used to generate SDGs indicators.

The disability questions in the Irish Census are similar to the Washington Group Tools and are used in many surveys carried out by the CSO. Following the National Disability Survey, Ireland developed disability questions. These linked questions were developed in consultation with people with a disability and was found to be reliable and valid. They are similar to the Washington Group Questions.

For instance the Washington set has 6 questions with 4 responses. The six questions are:

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
6. Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

The responses for each question are:

1. No - no difficulty
2. Yes - some difficulty
3. Yes - a lot of difficulty
4. Cannot do at all

In the Irish Census there are two questions. The first question asks:

1. Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions or difficulties?
2. Blindness or a serious vision impairment
3. Deafness or a serious or hearing impairment
4. A difficulty with basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying
5. An intellectual disability
6. A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating
7. A psychological or emotional condition
8. A difficulty with pain, breathing, or any other chronic illness or condition

The response to the above question is currently yes/no but from the next census, on April 18th 2021, there will be a three level response to each of the above – 1) YES, to a great extent, 2) Yes, to some extent and 3) NO

A second question asks;

1. If ‘Yes’ to any of the categories specified in Question 1, do you have any difficulty in doing any of the following?
2. Dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home
3. Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s surgery
4. Working at a job or business or attending school or college
5. Participating in other activities, for example leisure or using transport

Again, the response to this question is currently yes/no but from the next census, on April 18th 2021, it will also change to a three level response 1) YES, a lot of difficulty, 2) Yes, some difficulty 3) NO – no difficulty

The CSO census questions have been altered slightly on two occasions.  In each case an open consultation was conducted and widespread feedback received on the format and content of the questions.  The modification, to be introduced from 2021, will mean that the extent of disability will be assessed in the same way as in the Washington Group Questions. Both sets of questions are based on the global activity limitation indicator approach, which focuses on the various limitations a person encounters. This has been achieved by incorporating part of the Washington set into the question, in particular the introduction of three response categories. As can be seen the questions are similar.

In Quarter 4 2019 it used the Washington Group Questions. However, as part of a new EU regulation the LFS will be obliged to collect specific variables on health and disability across the full year every second, even year, starting in 2022.  The CSO will be obliged to collect two variables GENHEALTH and GALI for all those aged 15-89 years. GENHEALTH refers to self-perceived general health ranging from Very good to Very bad on a 5-point scale and GALI refers to Limitation in activities because of health problems with the following possible response options Severely Limited, Limited but not severely and Not limited at all. In odd year, starting in 2021 the LFS will continue to collect the Census question on disability in Quarter 2. Therefore, it is not envisaged that the LFS will use the Washington Group question in the future.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.8

**Section 31.8:** Number and proportion of relevant public staff trained, including but not only those of the national statistics agency and census and surveys workers, on the official methodology for disability data collection and disaggregation.

There are no official data on the numbers and proportion of relevant public staff trained on the official methodology for disability data collection and disaggregation. However, below are some staff numbers from some key agency involved in disability statistics.

* CSO employs approximately 800 staff
* Department of Social Protection employs 7500 staff
* NDA 30+staff – ~4 WTE researchers
* IHREC 50 staff - ~ 2 WTE staff do research
* HRB 61 staff
* ESRI ~ 525 staff including affiliates, post-doctoral posts etc.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.9

**Section 31.9:** Budget allocated to collect disaggregated statistical data and to undertake and promote research on persons with disabilities and the barriers their face to the exercise of their rights, and to related trainings, awareness raising campaigns and measures to ensure the accessibility of these activities.

HRB is funded to run the National Ability Supports System (NASS) captures information about disability service use and need to aid the planning, development and organisation of disability services in Ireland. HRB provides training to any service that provides disability funded services and asks for training on NASS LINK.

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) produces a range of research and reports to inform policy-making in Ireland, many of which provide insight and analysis on issues related to equality and human rights. The ESRI has a joint programme of research with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. The ESRI also has a research link with the NDA

The Workplace Relations Commission publishes findings of cases taken under the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015 and Equal Status Acts 2000-2015.

In addition to the disability research conducted by the NDA or contracted out, the NDA operates a Research Promotion Scheme to deliver quality research on specific themes of relevance to persons with disabilities. The scheme is open to research proposals from research institutions, service providers, organisations of persons with disabilities and disability advocacy groups. The NDAs Annual Conference is designed to showcase evidence-informed policy developments to Irish stakeholders, and in 2018 the conference focused on using data as a tool to guide policy and practice in order to achieve better outcomes for persons with a disability.

The Department of Justice and Equality operates a Disability Awareness Support Scheme. The Support Scheme provides a maximum of €20,000 funding for private sector employers to arrange and pay for disability awareness training for staff who work with a colleague who has a disability. The training should provide clear and accurate information to employers and employees about disability. The training should provide those taking part with an understanding and awareness and an overview of relevant anti-discrimination and equal opportunities legislation.

It should provide specific information on: disabilities and abilities focusing on mobility and sensory issues and to clarify appropriate language and behaviour and information on dealing with mental health issues in the workplace.

Under Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005, public bodies are expected to achieve a statutory target of 3% for the employment of people with disabilities in the public service. Under Part 5, each government department has to establish a Departmental Monitoring Committee to monitor and report on compliance with Part 5. As stipulated by Section 48(4) (b), at least one of the members of the Committee must be a person with a disability.

The Comprehensive Employment Strategy 2015 – 2024 is a cross-government approach that brings together actions by different Departments and State agencies to address the barriers and challenges that impact on employment of people with disabilities. The purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that people with disabilities who are able to, and want to, work are supported and enabled to do so. It seeks to ensure there will be joined-up services and supports at local level to support individuals on their journey into and in employment. The Strategy's priorities are:

1. Build skills, capacity and independence;
2. Provide bridges and supports into work;
3. Make work pay (the Make Work Pay Report was launched in April 2017 and recommendations such as the removal of the definition of rehabilitative work and the increase in a Disability Allowance earnings disregard have removed some of the disincentives in the system for people with disabilities.
4. Promote job retention and re-entry to work;
5. Provide coordinated and seamless support;
6. Engage employers. A second 3 year action plan 2019 to 2021 is now underway. With the launch of this strategy in 2015 the Taoiseach announced that the minimum employment target of 3% should rise to 6% of employment of people with disabilities in the public service. This is contained in the Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016.[[38]](#footnote-38)

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.10

**Section 31.10:** Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring (SDG 17.18.1)

In 2018, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) launched a Disability Marker (<https://bit.ly/2KBxBjJ>) to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities, which can be used when reporting on overseas development expenditure. This was developed because the international Common Reporting Standard (CRS) classification does not provide an accurate picture of development financing to disability-inclusive projects, as the issue is not recorded explicitly and cannot be tracked across several purpose codes. The purpose of the policy marker is to track development finance that promotes the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.[[39]](#footnote-39) In light of the requirement to increase data and understanding of overseas development aid to disability projects, Ireland adopted the OECD DAC marker in March 2020, signalling a commitment on the part of Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs to ensure that persons with disabilities are not being left behind. Work is currently underway on producing guidance for the use of the marker.

Irish Aid dispenses Ireland’s overseas development assistance (ODA) programme. Irish Aid is a Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is internationally recognised for its quality efforts to target the poorest and most marginalised with a rights-based approach. A Better World(2019), the Government’s Policy for International Development, highlights Ireland's commitment to addressing the rights and needs of vulnerable people, including those with disabilities. A commitment in the policy to the SDGs and the tenet of leaving no one behind indicates Ireland’s commitment to deliver for the poorest and most vulnerable and focus on those furthest behind.[[40]](#footnote-40) The Better World policy report commits to expanding Official Development Assistance (ODA) to deliver the United Nations target of allocating 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) for ODA by 2030. A Better World, does not include any strategy for reaching the 0.7 per cent target.[[41]](#footnote-41)

Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, the national voice of the international development sector in Ireland. Dóchas is part funded by Irish Aid, (more than 50% of its funding). In Dóchas, Irish organisations share and use their experience to find more effective ways to end all forms of poverty and injustice. Dóchas funds a Dóchas Disability in International Development Working Group (DDIDWG). The objectives of DDIDWG is 1) To raise awareness among Irish development organisations on the position of persons with disabilities in low and middle income countries with the aim of said organisation mainstreaming disability into their development and humanitarian programmes. 2) To share best practice and knowledge between disability organisations with a national remit and international development NGOs, with other Dóchas Working Groups and relevant national actors, in order to build capacity for disability inclusive development and humanitarian programming. 3) To influence Irish Aid and other state organisations, decision makers and policy makers to take action to integrate disability as a key issue for future development interventions and funding. Achieving this influence through the provision to Irish Aid of leadership, technical expertise and advocating for mainstreaming of disability across Ireland’s Overseas Development and Humanitarian Aid Policies and Programmes.[[42]](#footnote-42)

There is no legal basis for equality budgeting in Ireland. However, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has established an Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group to ensure equality considerations are represented in State budgeting activities. Equality Budgeting in Ireland follows the Programme for Partnership Government commitment to ‘develop the process of budget and policy proofing as a means of advancing equality, reducing poverty and strengthening economic and social rights’. The Programme includes a commitment to ‘ensure the institutional arrangements are in place to support equality and gender proofing within key government departments’.

The National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020 contains a commitment to ‘Take measures to build capacity within the Civil and Public Service with regard to gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting’. Year 1 of the Group’s work focused on gender, with the focus for 2019/20 being disability. The group has so far examined the basis for breaking down data on an equality basis and has yet to produce estimates of the budget broken down on equality lines.

## Process: Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.11

**Section 31.11:** Awareness raising campaigns directed to the general public, in particular persons with disabilities, to inform about availability and dissemination of statistical and research data on persons with disabilities in accessible formats, developed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

In 2006 the CSO appointed a Head of Communication and Dissemination and developed a dissemination strategy focused on meeting the need of a broad range of users and on turning data and statistics into information and knowledge. A visualisation strategy includes (a) Mapping, (b) Infographics and (c) Innovation. Such projects mean that statistical outputs are more informative and will allow customers to customise the data.

The NDA produces disability infographics, which are graphic pictures of information on disability issues extracted from data that are more accessible to a wider audience.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.12

**Section 31.12:** Number and proportion of all public staff undergoing training, on access to information (statistical and research data) for persons with disabilities and on accessibility and alternative formats of communication.

The CSO delivers seminars and workshops on administrative data, data analytics, housing statistics, health data, etc. The CSO is involved in delivering the IPA’s Professional Diploma in Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation. This course was developed with the aim of improving the understanding and use of statistical data for policy evaluation and improved basis of decision making. Thirty nine students completed the course in 2016 and forty four students registered for the 2016 - 2017 academic year.

CSO’s Educational Outreach programme includes an aim to educate young people and promote how statistics can be used in society. Elements of this programme include the John Hooper Medal, the APPS4GAPS competition, the CSO award at the BT Young Scientist exhibition for the best use of open data and the Census At School initiatives.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.13

**Section 31.13:** Budget allocated to disseminate statistical and research information on persons with disabilities and on their rights in accessible formats.

A census report is devoted each census to persons with disability (along with health and carers). The cost of the census is approximately 150 million. In the last Census in 2016 there were 11 census reports with one of them dedicated to disability.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.14

**Section 31.14:** Number of reports and publications relating to statistical and research data relevant for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, including censuses and surveys undertaken, and proportion of these produced and disseminated by the State to the general public in accessible formats, disaggregated by type of format.

Disability data is contained in the following (list not exhaustive)

* CENSUS every 5 years
* CSO QNHS (Quarterly National Household Survey) module on Equality (now the Labour Force Survey (LFS))
* WRC Annual Reports
* Workplace Relations Decisions and Determinations database
* DSS Registers and annual reports (The Decision Support Service (DSS) is legislated for under the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 but is not yet operational.)
* HSE's Time to Move On Annual Report
* The 2020 Disability Indicators Analysis Report (contains details of many sources of disability data
* NDA’s UNCRPD mapping paper and NDA briefing papers on UNCRPD Articles on legislation/policies/data/stats
* NDA Part 5 Reports
* HSE KPI Performance Reports
* NDIS reviews and NDIS indicators reports
* Mental Health Commission (MHC) annual reports
* Report of the Inspector of Mental Health Services contained in the MHC annual report
* Data from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection on the number of people getting payments related to illness, disability and caring.
* CIB Annual Report and NAS
* Annual reports from national safeguarding office
* Annual report of the Confidential Recipient
* Citizens Information Board annual reports
* Irish Health Survey
* The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)
* The IDS TILDA Longitudinal Study
* The Growing Up in Ireland Longitudinal Study of Children
* NDA Public Attitudes to Disability Surveys
* Quality of public services European Quality of life survey (EQOL) 'Social and employment situation of people with disabilities' <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef18023en.pdf>
* NDA CES Progress Report <http://nda.ie/Publications/Employment/Employment-Publications/Comprehensive-Employment-Strategy-2018-NDA-Review1.pdf>
* Percentage of persons with disabilities versus without who participate in physical activity https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/2019-11/ism-2019-mid-year-report-final\_0.pdf
* Outcomes and Quality of life in new residential models of service NDA Evaluation project findings (report due in late 2020)

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.15

**Section 31.15:** Number of requests of information made to public authorities and proportion of these granted making the information available in accessible formats, disaggregated by public body agency.

The Information Commissioner’s annual report provides stats on Freedom of Information (FoI) requests, but does not indicate the number of such requests which were provided in accessible formats. The 2018 annual report is available at the following link: <https://www.oic.ie/publications/annual-reports/OIC-AR-2018-FINAL-for-web.pdf>

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.16

**Section 31.16:** Consultation processes undertaken to ensure involvement of persons with disabilities, including through their DPOs, in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, policies and programs, related to the development and implementation of data systems, collection and disaggregation processes and research programs relevant for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

The CSO consults with the NDA before making any changes to social surveys. The NDA and IHREC sit on the Census Advisory Group and the CSO runs consultations on any proposed changes to the census. There is a technical Advisory Group to the Department of Social Protection and all equality groups including the NDA and IHREC sit on this forum.

## Outcome: Research, collection and disaggregation of information

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.17

**Section 31.17:** Number of complaints related to data collection and disaggregation by disability, lack of access to info, accessibility of info and websites intended to the public, investigated, adjudicated and proportion of these complied with by the government or duty bearer.

There is no information available regarding Ireland’s progress on this.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.18

**Section 31.18:** Level of satisfaction with the national statistical system by users of the national statistical system with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other relevant categories, in terms of kind of data collected and its disability disaggregation.

The CSO is the main producer of disability statistics in Ireland. In 2017, an independent customer satisfaction survey conducted by Coyne research found that customers considered CSO statistics trustworthy (91%), free from political interference (91%), accurate (88%) and meeting their needs (82%).[[43]](#footnote-43)

In 2017 the Government of Ireland adopted the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, thus fulfilling obligations set out in Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. In 2015, a European Union, Peer Review Report on Ireland’s compliance with the code of practice (CoP) and the coordination role of the national statistical institute found that “the CSO has a good reputation in Ireland and is regarded as an independent and highly professional statistical institute. Its strengths are distinct statistical education of staff, centralised dissemination and use of modern IT tools. The CSO contributes greatly to enhancing an informed policy-making culture and developing statistical literacy in Irish society”. It also found that the CSO “has several strengths in implementing the European statistics Code of Practice” “The Peer Review team identified issues in implementing the CoP: “strengthening the CSO’s coordination role and the infrastructure for official statistics, advancing process-oriented statistical system with a strong quality management element, enhancing user orientation and improving use of resources. Some but not all of the issues identified in the report are being addressed by the CSO strategic initiative “CSO 2020”.”[[44]](#footnote-44)

## Outcome: Dissemination of and access to statistical and research data

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.19

**Section 31.19:** Number and proportion of State websites that comply with accessibility standards.

The EU Web Accessibility Act was transposed in September 2020 but monitoring has not yet commenced. The NDA has included an indicator regarding compliance of state websites with accessibility standards in the NDIS indicator suite.

### Ireland’s Progress on Section 31.20

**Section 31.20:** Number of reports intended for general public produced by the State in accessible formats, disaggregated by type of format and their proportion out of the total number of published States reports.

**This data is currently not collected in Ireland.** The recent transposition of the Web Accessibility Directive will increase the accessibility of online reports Ireland has a lot of legislation around accessibility generally but the Web Accessibility Directive explicitly aims at ensuring that everyone can take a full and active part in the digital economy and society by authorizing all public sectors of EU member states to make sure their websites and mobile applications are accessible to persons with disabilities and meet common accessibility standards. Web Accessibility on the Internet means that websites, tools, and technologies should be designed and developed so that persons with disabilities can use them.

1. Schulze, M (2010) A Handbook on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Understanding the UNCRPD Edited by: Handicap International, Technical Resources Division

   <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/documents/hi_crpd_manual2010.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bickenbach, JE. Monitoring the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: data and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. *BMC Public Health*. 2011;11 (Suppl 4):S8. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Pedersen, M in [Article 31 [Statistics and Data Collection]](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-43790-3_35) p.560-562 in the UNCRPD: A commentary (2018) Eds. Valentina Della Fina, Rachele Cera, Giuseppe Palmisano Editors Springer  P. 560 - 562 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A General Comment is a quasi-legal document which provides a detailed interpretation of an article and provides guidance on the actions required by governments to ensure its implementation. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Annex, Guidelines on Independent Monitoring Frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CRPD/C/1/Rev.1> as cited in The UNCRPD: A Commentary (2018) Edited by Ilias Bantekas, Michael Ashley Stein, and Dimitris Anastasiou. Oxford Press [CRPD rules of procedure UN DOC CRPD/C1/Rev 1 (10th October 2016) were revised by the Committee at its sixteenth session (15 August-2 September 2016).] [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. No. 35, p.41 Annex, Guidelines on Independent Monitoring Frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CRPD/C/1/Rev.1> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The UNCRPD: A Commentary (2018) Edited by Ilias Bantekas, Michael Ashley Stein, and Dimitris Anastasiou. Oxford Press [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. No. 35, p.41 Annex, Guidelines on Independent Monitoring Frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CRPD/C/1/Rev.1> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/documents.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/frequently-asked-questions-on-human-rights-indicators-of-the-crpd/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Annex, Guidelines on Independent Monitoring Frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CRPD/C/1/Rev.1> as cited in The UNCRPD: A Commentary (2018) Edited by Ilias Bantekas, Michael Ashley Stein, and Dimitris Anastasiou. Oxford Press [CRPD rules of procedure UN DOC CRPD/C1/Rev 1 (10th October 2016) were revised by the Committee at its sixteenth session (15 August-2 September 2016).] [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. National Statistics Board (2015) A World Class Statistical System for Ireland Strategic Priorities for Official Statistics 2015 – 2020 <https://www.nsb.ie/media/nsbie/pdfdocs/NSB_Strategy_2015-2020-1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The countries Loeb reported on - Israel, Aruba, Zambia and Maldives had a prevalence of 6.4%, 6.9%, 8.5%, and 9.6% respectively using the WGSS. <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/wg14_session2_1_loeb.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <http://nda.ie/Publications/Justice-and-Safeguarding/National-Disability-Inclusion-Strategy/An-Indicator-Set-to-Monitor-the-NDIS1.pdf>

    <http://nda.ie/Publications/Justice-and-Safeguarding/National-Disability-Inclusion-Strategy/Mid-term-Review-of-Progress-under-the-National-Disability-Inclusion-Strategy-Indicators.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/documents.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/promising-practices-list> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. See <https://data.gov.ie/uploads/page_images/2019-01-03-110200.740673Public-Service-Data-Strategy-2019-2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Potsiepp, P., Garcia Villar, J., Juozas Vaicenavicius (2015) Peer Review Report on Compliance with the code of practice and the coordination role of the National Statistical Institute. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. The importance of the inclusion of persons with disabilities is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through specific targets and indicators and through a commitment to include everyone. Disability-inclusive programmes are critical to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. However, the CRS classification (the creditor reporting system) does not provide an accurate picture of development financing to disability-inclusive projects, as the issue is not recorded explicitly and cannot be tracked across purpose codes. Thus, the proposal to introduce a policy marker in the CRS to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities. Inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the mainstreaming of disability concerns into development co-operation activities, are cross-cutting issues that can be tracked only through an overarching policy marker. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Pedersen, M in [Article 31 [Statistics and Data Collection]](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-43790-3_35) p.560-562 in the UNCRPD: A commentary (2018) Eds. Valentina Della Fina, Rachele Cera, Giuseppe Palmisano Editors Springer  P. 560 - 562 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. The WG, established under the UN Statistical Commission in 2001, was constituted to address the need for cross-nationally comparable population-based measures of disability. Its mandate is to promote and coordinate international cooperation in health statistics focusing on disability data collection tools. WG members are from National Statistical Offices and over 130 countries have representatives. Meetings are also attended by UN, other international agencies and DPOs. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (12 July 2018) Disability Measurement and Monitoring using the Washington Group Disability Questions <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732254/Disability-Measurement-Monitoring-Washington-Group-_Disability-Questions.pdf> and

    Groce, NE Which one to use?: The Washington Group Questions or The Model Disability Survey

    <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/which-one-use-washington-group-questions-or-model-disability-survey-0> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (12 July 2018) Disability Measurement and Monitoring using the Washington Group Disability Questions <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732254/Disability-Measurement-Monitoring-Washington-Group-_Disability-Questions.pdf> and Groce, NE Which one to use?: The Washington Group Questions or The Model Disability Survey

    <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/which-one-use-washington-group-questions-or-model-disability-survey-0> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (2018) Disability Measurement and Monitoring using the Washington Group Disability Questions <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732254/Disability-Measurement-Monitoring-Washington-Group-_Disability-Questions.pdf> and

    Groce, NE Which one to use?: The Washington Group Questions or The Model Disability Survey

    <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/which-one-use-washington-group-questions-or-model-disability-survey-0> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Model Disability Survey: Providing evidence for accountability and decision-making <https://www.who.int/disabilities/data/mds_v2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Model Disability Survey: Providing evidence for accountability and decision-making <https://www.who.int/disabilities/data/mds_v2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Model Disability Survey: Providing evidence for accountability and decision-making <https://www.who.int/disabilities/data/mds_v2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Groce, NE Which one to use?: The Washington Group Questions or The Model Disability Survey

    <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/which-one-use-washington-group-questions-or-model-disability-survey-0> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Model Disability Survey: Providing evidence for accountability and decision-making <https://www.who.int/disabilities/data/mds_v2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Groce, NE Which one to use?: The Washington Group Questions or The Model Disability Survey

    <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/which-one-use-washington-group-questions-or-model-disability-survey-0> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Groce, NE Which one to use?: The Washington Group Questions or The Model Disability Survey https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/which-one-use-washington-group-questions-or-model-disability-survey [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. OHCHR (2012) Human Rights Indicators A Guide to Measurement and Implementation <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Human_rights_indicators_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Juan Ignacio Perez Bello (2019) Bridging the Gap I Webinar #2: Innovation to inclusion – Monitoring tool <http://www.edf-feph.org/sites/default/files/pdf_presentation_juan_ignacio.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Our Public Service 2020 <https://www.ops2020.gov.ie/actions/innovating-for-our-future/data/initiatives/> [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. See Data Strategy at <https://data.gov.ie/uploads/page_images/2019-01-03-110200.740673Public-Service-Data-Strategy-2019-2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Government Reform Unit Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (2017) Open Data Strategy 2017 -2022 https://data.gov.ie/uploads/page\_images/2018-03-07-114306.063816Final-Strategy-online-version1.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Note: This Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Dail and Seanad in 2020. The Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) This Bill, if enacted, was to give further effect to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities done at New York on 13 December 2006; to amend the Juries Act 1976, the Electoral Act 1992, the National Disability Authority Act 1999, the Equal Status Act 2000, the Disability Act 2005, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015; and to provide for related matters. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. The importance of the inclusion of persons with disabilities is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through specific targets and indicators and through a commitment to include everyone. Disability-inclusive programmes are critical to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. However, the CRS classification (the creditor reporting system) does not provide an accurate picture of development financing to disability-inclusive projects, as the issue is not recorded explicitly and cannot be tracked across purpose codes. Thus, the proposal to introduce a policy marker in the CRS to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities. Inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the mainstreaming of disability concerns into development co-operation activities, are cross-cutting issues that can be tracked only through an overarching policy marker. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. The importance of the inclusion of persons with disabilities is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through specific targets and indicators and through a commitment to include everyone. Disability-inclusive programmes are critical to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. The CSO contains information and tables on ODA contributions globally. In 2015, six countries met or exceeded the 0.7% ODA GNI target (Sweden 1.4%, Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark, Netherlands, UK 0.7%). In 2017, the same DAC members met the 0.7% United Nations target of donors' gross national income. Total Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2017 from members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) was equivalent to 0.31% of their combined GNI. In 2017, the Irish Government spent €743.42 million to ODA which represented 0.32% of Gross National Product (GNP) or 32 cents in every €100 that the country produces. €490 million of this funding was managed by Irish Aid, a Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; €252 million was allocated through other government departments and through Ireland’s contribution to the EU Development Co-operation Budget. Expenditure is further broken down between Bilateral ODA (funding spent directly on developing countries) and Multilateral ODA (Ireland’s contributions to international agencies)] In 2017, €437million was spent on Bilateral ODA. [<https://www.irishaid.ie/what-we-do/how-our-aid-works/where-the-money-goes/>] In 2018 the Overseas Development Institute judged that Ireland was the most efficient donor among the countries which target extreme poverty. Budget 2019 allocated €817m to Ireland’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme; an increase of approximately €110m on Budget 2018. This is a significant increase. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. The DIDWG is established by and responsible to the Board of Dóchas and, in between meetings, to the Director of Dóchas, but is encouraged to take initiatives and make proposals as it sees fit. Any proposal/project emanating from the Group is undertaken in the name of Dóchas rather than of the Group. While working group projects and programmes require the approval of the Board or Director, nevertheless once Board approval has been given, the Group is encouraged to use its initiative to carry out projects, while keeping the secretariat and the Board informed, consulting with them where necessary. Membership of the Group is open to Dóchas member agencies and academic and research institutions. Requests for membership of the group from non-Dóchas member agencies is at the discretion of Dóchas. The scope of DDIDWG (the Group) will be as determined by the Board of Dóchas (the Board), and in accordance with the annual plan drawn up by the working group and agreed with the Board. The DIDWG is required to submit an annual plan and timetables to the Board for discussion and approval, and to cost any proposals, which are likely to involve expenditure. As it is the intention of Dóchas to support the work of the Group, Dóchas will make some funds available annually for specific projects of the group. In addition, funding may also be made available for research projects. The current DDIDWG has representatives from the Centre for Global Development; Trinity College Dublin (observer); Christian Blind Mission Ireland; Disability Federation of Ireland; Misean Cara; Oxfam Ireland; Plan Ireland; Sightsavers Ireland; Trócaire; Tearfund; Voluntary Services International; Self Help Africa; GOAL; and UNESCO IT Tralee (observer). <https://dochas.ie/sites/default/files/D%C3%B3chas_DID_Working_Group_ToR_2017.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4372828/2015-IE-report/f21339d7-ad8d-44fe-9781-1a454861f242>  [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Potsiepp, P., Garcia Villar, J., Juozas Vaicenavicius (2015) Peer Review Report on Compliance with the code of practice and the coordination role of the National Statistical Institute. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)