

Accessibility in Action: Local and International Resources and Perspectives

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AccessibleEU – Romania**

B-Inclusive Festival, Bucharest, 3 October 2025

About the Speaker

Accessibility supporter and advocate specializing in accessible tourism

- Co-Founder, Board Member and Programme Coordinator with [CED Romania Association - the Centre of Excellency through Diversity](#) (2010)
- Founder of [Accessible Romania by Sano Touring](#) - accessible inbound tourism operator in Romania, ENAT member (2014)
- National Expert for Romania with the [European Accessibility Resource Centre AccessibleEU](#) (2023)
- Accessibility expert in various EU and global projects and initiatives



Agenda

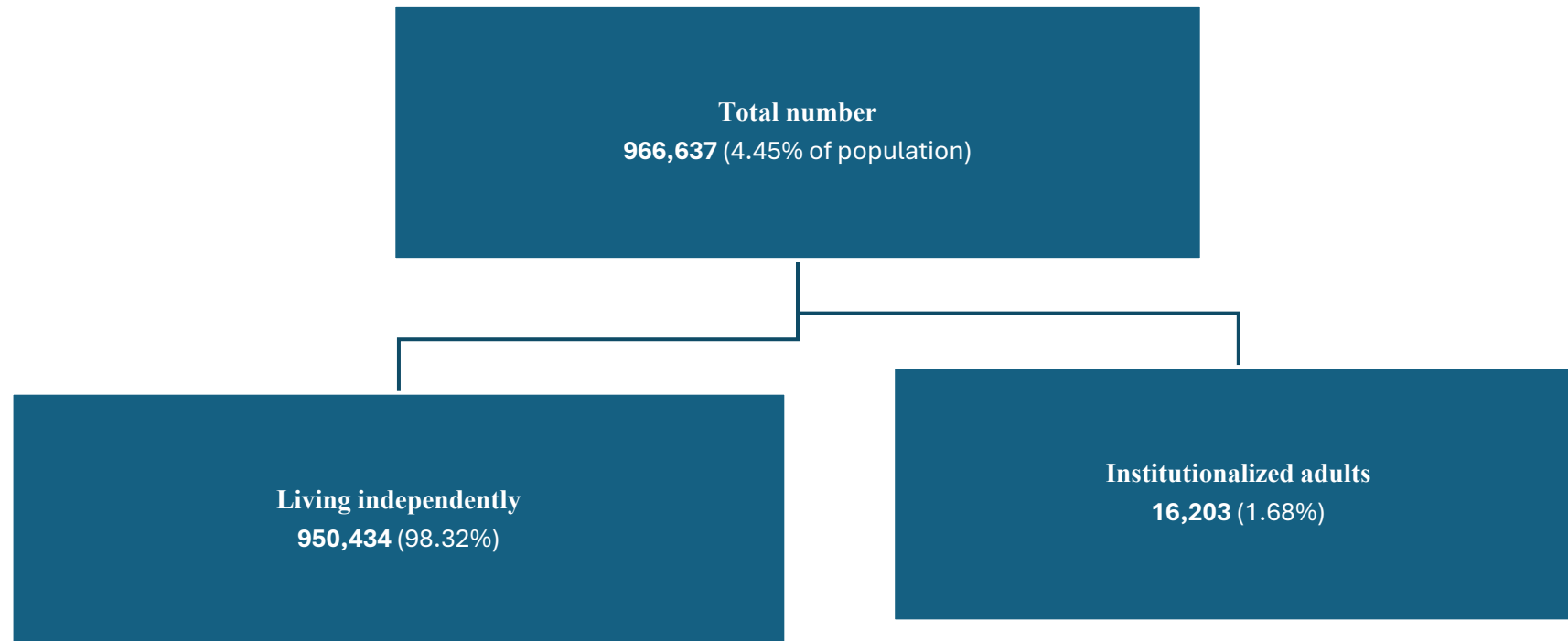
- Disability Facts and Figures - Romania and EU
- The Strategic Framework on accessibility - global, EU, Romania
- Legal framework - Romania
- Good practices - Romania
- The European Accessibility Resources Centre AccessibleEU
- FAQ
- Conclusions

Disability Facts and Figures - Romania

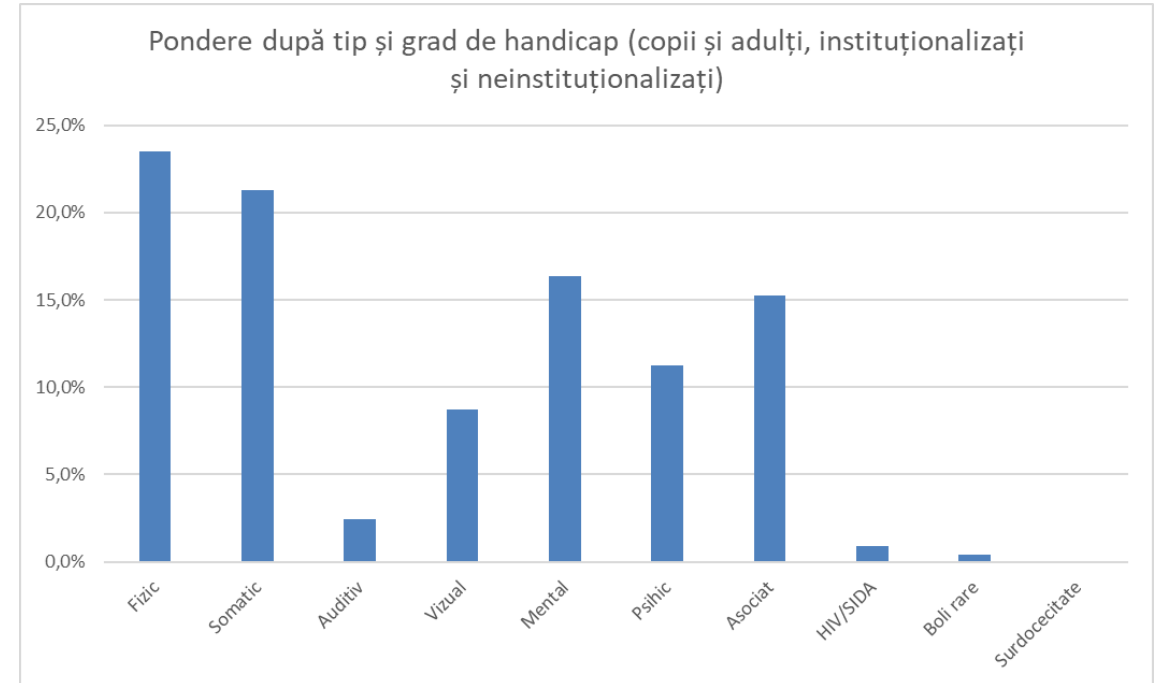
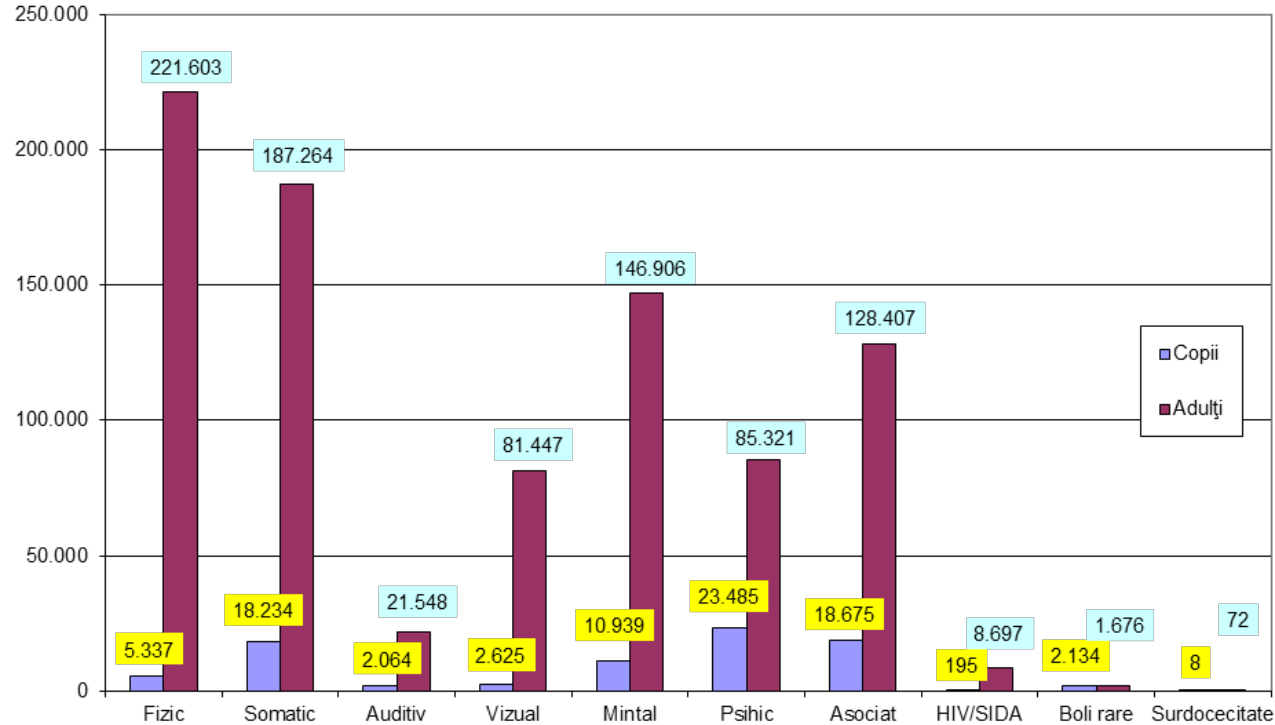
- The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (ANPDPD)
 - Subordinated to the Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity
 - The Romanian central authority in the disability area
 - coordinates the activities to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities
 - develops policies, strategies and standards in the field of protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities
 - ensures monitoring of the application of regulations in its own
 - controls activities to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities

Disability Facts and Figures - Romania

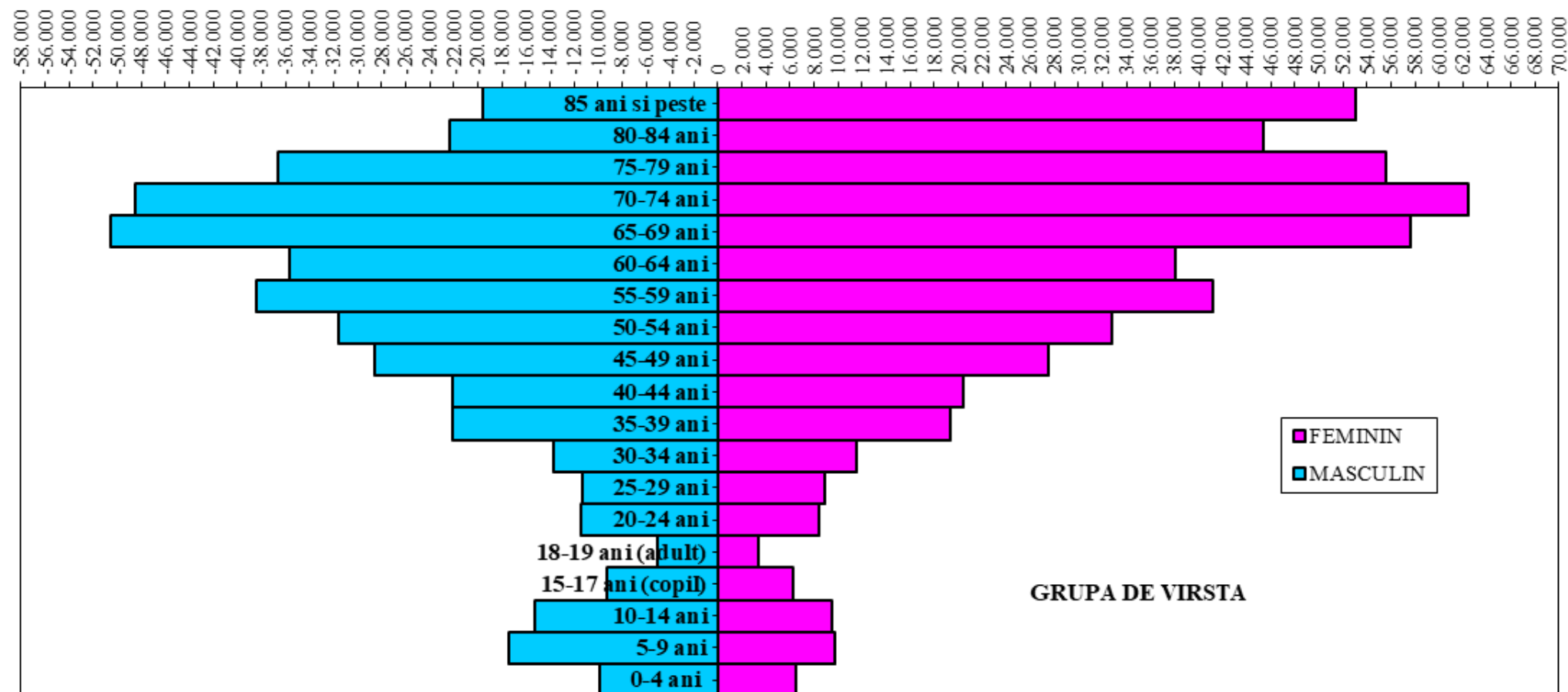
- [Statistical Bulletin](#), 31 March 2025 ([Q1 2025](#))



Disability Facts and Figures - Romania



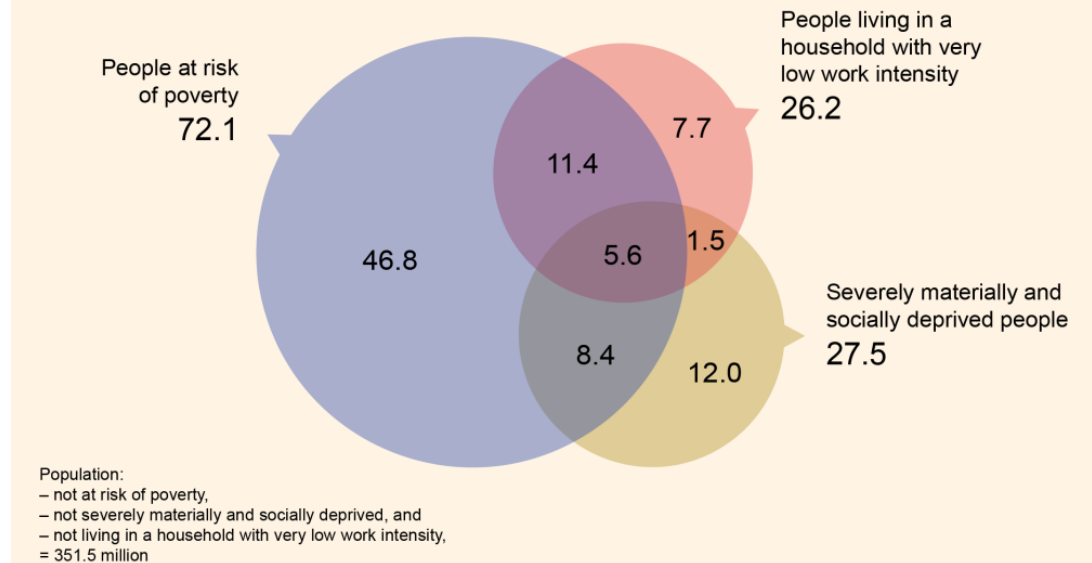
Disability Facts and Figures - Romania



Disability Facts and Figures - EU 2024

- Poverty/social exclusion: 28.8% for persons with disabilities vs 17.9% others
- The share of people with a disability (activity limitation) who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion ranged from 15.6% in Czechia to 43.8% in Bulgaria and 45.8% in Lithuania

Number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by type of risk, EU, 2024 (millions)

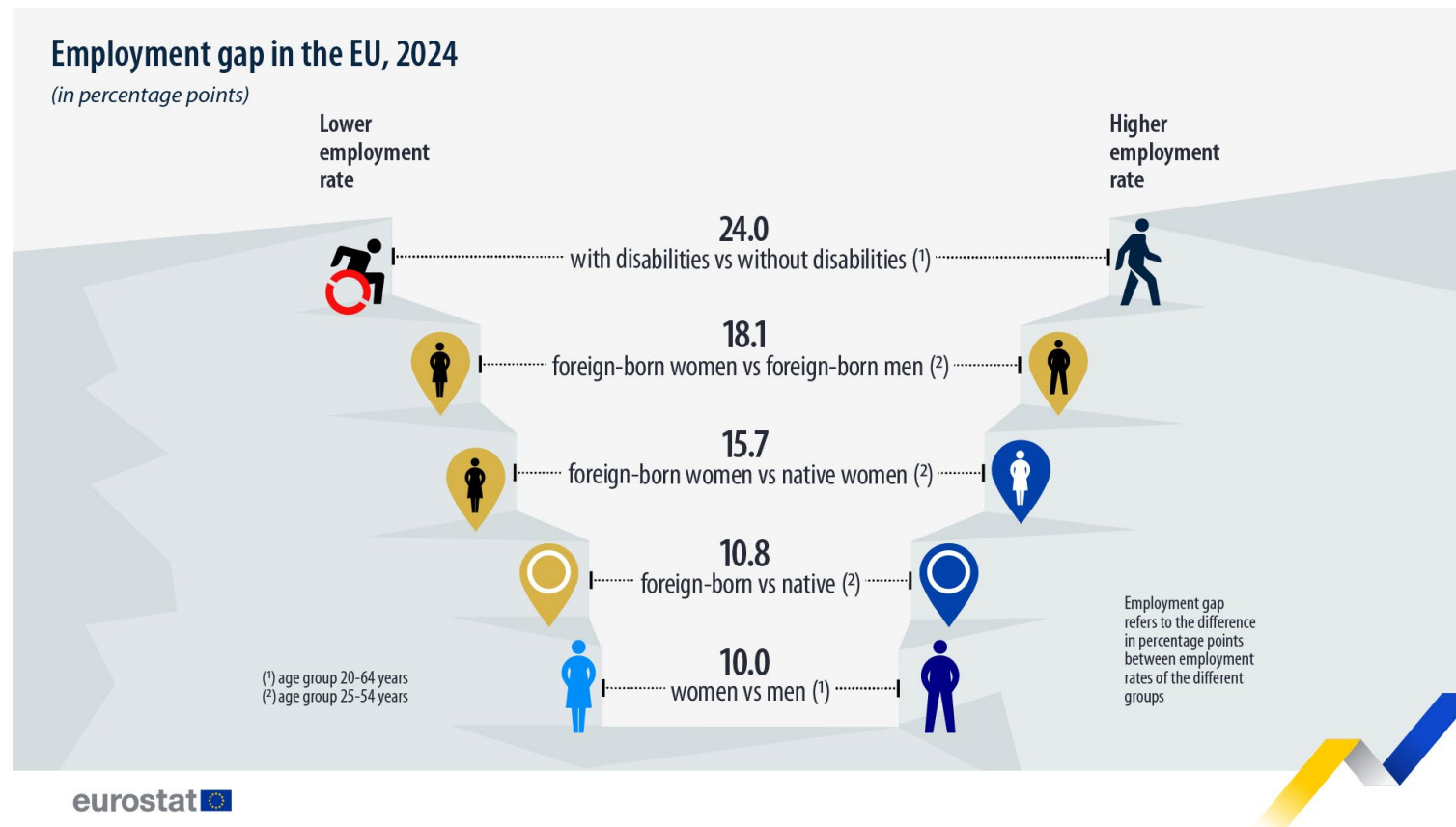


Note: the sum of the data for the seven intersecting groups may differ slightly from the totals published elsewhere due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_pees01n)

Disability Facts and Figures - EU 2024

- A striking employment gap (20–64): 24% lower for PWDs



The Strategic Framework - CRPD

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
 - Adopted on 13 December 2006 and entered into force on 3 May 2008
 - Article 9 addresses accessibility as a fundamental component of enabling persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life
 - Key provisions include:
 - Physical Environment and Transport
 - Information and Communication
 - Specific measures
 - General obligations

The Strategic Framework - CRPD Romania

- The CRPD has been ratified in Romania by [Law 221/2010](#)
 - A crucial step in transforming the country's approach to disability
 - Shifted Romania's perspective on disability from a medical model to a social model
 - Designated a central authority responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Convention - [ANPDPD](#) (the National Authority for the Handicapped Persons, at the time)
 - Gave the CRPD the force of a national law
 - Subsequent national strategies and laws have been developed to further implement the Convention

The Strategic Framework - CRPD Romania

- [Law 8/2016](#) established the institutional mechanisms required by Article 33 of the CRPD
 - [The Monitoring Council](#), an autonomous administrative authority with legal personality, under Parliamentary control
 - [ANPDPD](#), as the Coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Convention
 - focal points in different ministries, to monitor and report on progress
- Despite this progress, challenges remain in fully translating these legal commitments into real-world change
 - Full accessibility of the built environment and public services
 - Inclusive education
 - The deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities

The Strategic Framework - EU

- The [EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021–2030](#) is a comprehensive plan by the European Commission to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in the EU and globally
 - Key Themes and Flagship Initiatives:
 - EU Rights and Free Movement
 - The European Disability Card
 - Independent Living and Autonomy
 - Guidance for Member States to support independent living and community-based services, moving away from institutional care
 - A quality framework for social services for persons with disabilities
 - Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities
 - **AccessibleEU Resource Center**
 - Disability Employment Package
 - Actions to ensure equal access to justice, education, culture, healthcare, and housing

The Strategic Framework - EU

- Promotes an intersectional perspective in line with the [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) core principle of "Leaving No One Behind"
 - Disaggregation of Data: The strategy commits to collecting and using data disaggregated by disability, gender, and other characteristics
 - Targeted actions for specific groups, such as the elderly, women and girls with disabilities, and individuals with complex support needs
 - Mainstreams disability rights into all EU policies and programs, including those related to development, human rights, and external relations
 - Global Cooperation: By aligning with the UN 2030 Agenda, the strategy extends its influence beyond EU borders

The Strategic Framework - EU

- Directive (EU) 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies - The European Directive on Digital Accessibility
 - EU Member States must ensure that the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies are “more accessible”, particularly for people with disabilities, by making them “perceivable, usable, understandable and robust”
 - Compliance with the standard EN 301 549
 - Sectors impacted:
 - Directly: public organizations
 - Indirectly: private organizations that sell to public organizations

The Strategic Framework - EU

- Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services - The European Accessibility Act
 - Applies to a specific list of products and services deemed most important for social and economic inclusion
 - Sets minimum accessibility requirements that these products and services must meet to be placed on the EU market
 - For the covered products and services, the EAA requires:
 - Accessible Interfaces: Interfaces must be perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust
 - Accessible Information: Information about the product or service, including user manuals and customer support, must be provided in an accessible format
 - Reasonable Adjustments: Service providers must implement reasonable adjustments where necessary
 - Entered in force on 28 June 2025

The Strategic Framework - Romania

- Romanian National Strategy “An Equitable Romania” 2022–2027 approved by Government Decision 490/2022
 - Priority domain 1. Accessibility and mobility
 - General Objective: Ensuring that persons with disabilities have physical access as well as access to information and communications about products, services and programs that society makes available to its members
 - Key Measures & Reforms:
 - Modernize disability assessment
 - Deinstitutionalization
 - Legal & administrative reforms
 - Increase employment and education inclusion through removing barriers and enhancing support services

Legal Framework - Romania

- [Law 448/2006](#) on the protection and promotion of the rights of the persons with disabilities
 - Main objective: to establish the legal framework for respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of people with disabilities, ensuring their equal opportunities and full participation in society.
 - Moves away from a purely social assistance model to one based on rights and inclusion
 - Key provisions:
 - Accessibility and reasonable accommodation
 - Employment requirements and benefits
 - Social services and support
 - Legal protection and anti-discrimination

Legal Framework - Romania

- Order 189/2013 for the approval of the technical regulation “Normative on the adaptation of civil buildings and urban space to the individual needs of people with disabilities, indicative NP 051-2012 - Revision NP 051”
 - Prescribes minimum accessibility and adaptation requirements for civil buildings and urban spaces
 - Applies to new construction and renovation (except certain historical buildings) to ensure unrestricted access and safe use for persons with disabilities and people temporarily impaired
 - Limitations in implementation:
 - Existing buildings rarely retrofitted
 - Weak enforcements
 - Urban space barriers
 - Quality gaps

Legal Framework - Romania

- [Emergency Ordinance 112/2018](#) ratified by [Law 90/2019](#) transposes the [EU Web Accessibility Directive \(2016/2102\)](#) into the national law
 - Specifically mandates that websites and mobile applications of public-sector bodies must be accessible to persons with disabilities - compliance with standard EN 301 549
 - Sectors impacted:
 - Directly: public organizations
 - Indirectly: private organizations that sell to public organizations
 - Entered in force in steps between 23 September 2019 until 23 June 2021
 - Enforcement by fines following a penalty points system, ranging 1 to 10 points
 - One point is equivalent to 10% of the minimum yearly wage (4,050 lei as of 1 January 2025)
 - [The Authority for Digitalization of Romania \(ADR\)](#) is the primary supervisory authority for compliance
 - [2024 monitoring](#)

Legal Framework - Romania

- [Law 27/2020](#) officially recognizes Romanian Sign Language (LSR) as an official language in Romania
 - Establishes the right of people who are deaf or hard of hearing to use LSR in their interactions with public authorities and in all aspects of social life
 - Contributes to the full social inclusion of deaf people and ensures that deaf people are not excluded from society due to communication barriers
 - Key provisions:
 - Access to information
 - Education
 - Public services
 - Interpreter training

Legal Framework - Romania

- Law 232/2022 transposes the Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services - The European Accessibility Act
 - Sets digital accessibility requirements for many consumer products and services, including banking, e-commerce, and transportation - compliance with standard EN 301 549
 - Sectors impacted: private businesses
 - Entered in force on 28 June 2025
 - Enforcement
 - Various regulatory agencies, depending on the type of product or service involved
 - Fines ranging between 2,500 lei and 15,000 lei

Institutions and Supervision - Romania

- People's Advocate institution - Office of the Ombudsman
- National Council for Combating Discrimination
- The National Authority for Consumer Protection

- The Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR)
- The National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM)
- The National Audiovisual Council of Romania (CNA)

Good Practices - National initiatives

- CED Romania - Accessibility resources platform in Romanian Romania-accesibila.ro
- CED Romania - Study “[How Do Romanians Perceive the Integration of Persons with Disabilities in Society](#)”, part of the “[A Family of Millions](#)” disability awareness raising [national campaign](#) launched by CED Romania Association and Accenture Romania, with the support of the European Accessibility Resource Centre AccessibleEU
- [Romanian Sign Language video dictionary](#)

Good Practices - Built Environment

- CED Romania - [Audara](#) app to map the accessibility elements of a building
 - Available in Romanian and English
- AMAIS - [“Barrier-Free Public Spaces” Guide](#)
- AMAIS - [“Inclusive Design: Empathy Exercises in the Design Process”](#)
- APASS - [ramp calculator](#)

Good Practices - Higher Education

- [Order 4481/2024](#) for the approval of the [Norms on the accessibility of higher education for persons with disabilities](#)
- Babes-Bolyai University Cluj Napoca, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences - Special Psychopedagogy Department: [ICT & Assistive Technologies discipline](#)
- University of Bucharest, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences
 - “Communication in LSR ” postgraduate course addressing all the students of the University of Bucharest
 - “[LSR Communication & Interpretation](#)” postgraduate course open to anyone who proves a minimum B2 level in LSR
- Ion Mincu University of Architectures and Urbanism, The Faculty of Architecture - Optional Course [Inclusive Architecture / Universal Design](#)

Good Practices - Research and Development

- [.lumen smart glasses](#)
- [The Scripor Alphabet -The Tactile Alphabet of Colors](#)

Good Practices - Employment

- Protected Units
 - employ at least 3 persons with disabilities representing min. 30% of the staff that work at least 50% of the worktime
 - CED Romania - [Accesibilitate 360](#)
 - [APASS](#)
 - [Emmaus Integrare](#)
 - [UtilDeco](#)
- Kaufland - [ACCES](#) Programme

Good Practices - Culture

- CED Romania - “[Feel the City](#)” pilot concept for a tactile exhibition showcasing the cultural heritage of Timisoara - European Capital of Culture 2023
- CED Romania - [ArtEcho](#) multimedia guide platform
- Inclusive theatre show “[Close your eyes and you will see better](#)”
- Institut Francais de Roumanie - “[Cinema Without Barriers](#)” accessible movies at the Elvire Popesco Cinema Bucharest
- [Natural History National Museum “Grigore Antipa”](#) Bucharest
- [Concerts interpreted in LSR](#) by Lavinia Chitu

Good practices - Tourism, Transport, Sports


- [Accessible Romania by Sano Touring](#)
- [Henri Coanda International Airport](#) Bucharest
- [Wizz Air](#) special assistance services
- [Caiac SMile](#) adaptive sports (kayak, ski) and accessible beaches
- National Arena Bucharest has 270 seats for people with disabilities, including companions, an elevator, ramps and specially equipped toilets. A [special area designed for autistic children](#) has been recently opened

Good practices - Accessible Events

- [Atipic Beauty](#)
- Supereroi printre Noi Association - various [events especially for neurodivergent](#)
- Supereroi printre Noi Association - [practical guides to make concerts and festivals accessible](#)
- [Business Disability Summit](#)
- [Romanian Accessibility Awareness Day](#) RAAD
- [AccessABILITY Expo](#)
- [AccessibleEU Romania](#) events

EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Working together to build a **more accessible**
European Union for persons with disabilities



1

What is

AccessibleEU?

What is AccessibleEU?

AccessibleEU is one of the flagship initiatives proposed in the **European Commission's Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030**.

AccessibleEU is a resource centre on **accessibility**, working on the areas of **built environment, transport, information and communication technologies and policies** to ensure the **participation of persons with disabilities** in all areas of life on an equal basis with others.





2

Who is behind
AccessibleEU?

Who is behind AccessibleEU?

CONSORTIUM LEAD



CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



Who is behind AccessibleEU?

SUBCONTRACTED ORGANISATIONS



SUPPORT SERVICES

Deloitte.

UNISYS



3

National
Experts



AUSTRIA

Klaus Höckner



BELGIUM

Kathleen Polders
& Stéphanie Herman



BULGARIA

Steli Peteva



CROATIA

Ljubomir Mišćević



CYPRUS

Katerina Mavrou



CZECHIA

Petr Peňáz



DENMARK

Stein Erik
Skotkjerra



ESTONIA

Jakob Rosin



FINLAND

Terhi Tamminen



FRANCE

Florent Orsoni &
Marylène Thomas



GERMANY

Gottfried Zimmermann,
Yehya Mohamad
& Gregor Strutz



GREECE

Dimitris Logaras



HUNGARY

Tamás Laki



IRELAND

Gerald M. Craddock



ITALY

Marco Pizzio &
Roberto Scano



LATVIA

Daina Podzina



LITHUANIA

Ginta Žemaitaitytė



LUXEMBOURG

Silvio Sagramola



MALTA

Joseph Spiteri



NETHERLANDS

Eric Martin Velleman



POLAND

Margaret Tokarska
& Krzysztof Dobosz



PORTUGAL

Diogo Martins



ROMANIA

Cristina Căluianu



SLOVAKIA

Zuzana Ceresnova



SLOVENIA

Matjaž Debevc



SPAIN

Delfín Jiménez &
María Fernanda Cabrera



SWEDEN

Pär Lannerö



4

Advisory
board



DAVID CAPOZZI





5

What does
AccessibleEU
do?



Support the
implementation
of the European
Union **legislation on
accessibility**



Build the capacity
on accessibility in
EU countries



Connect stakeholders
responsible for
implementing
accessibility rules
in the EU



Create a common
European
one-stop-shop on
accessibility



Train **excellent
professionals** on
accessibility



One study per year
on a selected topic on
accessibility
in Europe



6

What does
AccessibleEU
not do?



Be responsible for the
low implementation
of the accessibility laws



Solve problems
of accessibility



Consulting



Fund projects



Advocate for
accessibility policy




**Control and
assessment**

A large, bold, white number '7' is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a solid purple color, and a large, light green circular shape is partially visible on the right side, overlapping the purple background.

AccessibleEU
2023 & 2024
in figures



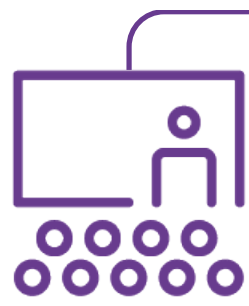
34
National Experts in the
27 EU Member States



1 991 Attendees
in our **3** online courses



35 932
Attendees in events



178
Events held in 2023 and 2024

30

Accessibility indicators,
updated yearly from the

27

EU Member States



301

Good practices
on our website



260

Library references in
our Digital Library



7

Guidelines

2

Studies



3 402

Members in our
Community of Practice on LinkedIn.
And 321 in our Moodle forums

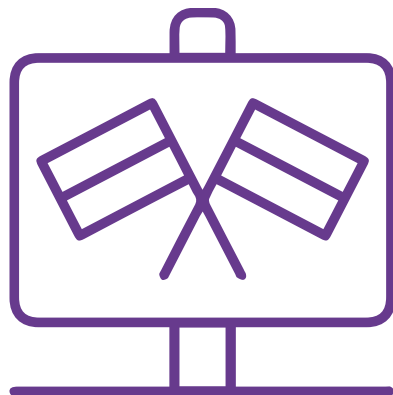


8

AccessibleEU's
events



**NETWORKING
EVENTS**



**WORKSHOPS
& ONLINE
TRAININGS**



**AWARENESS -
RAISING EVENTS**



9

What does
AccessibleEU
offer?



ONLINE LIBRARY ON ACCESSIBILITY

Get access to direct links,
databases, information on
standards, guides, studies, good
practices and support materials
on accessibility



TRAINING AND AWARENESS IN ACCESSIBILITY

Participate in workshops,
online training, awareness-
raising and networking events
on different accessibility topics



NETWORKING

Be part of a Community of
Practice comprised of
accessibility and disability
professionals and experts



ACCESSIBILITY MONITORING IN THE EU

Learn more about
compliance with EU
accessibility legislation in all
sectors and EU countries



10

Who can
participate?



**Private and public
companies**



**Associations of
businesses** across
industries



Persons with disabilities,
older persons and their
organisations



Public administrators
responsible for **accessibility
legislation and policies,**
public procurers



Public authorities responsible
for market surveillance of products
and compliance services with
accessibility obligations



**Providers of services for
persons with disabilities,**
assistive technologies providers



**Built environment
professionals** (architects,
engineers, etc.), technology
developers



Universities and academia
of accessibility and disability

Get involved and help us build a more inclusive Europe

If you wish to **join our Community** and **participate in our activities**, please follow us in our website and social media.



@EU_social



EU Social



AccessibleEU Centre

Website: www.AccessibleEUCentre.eu

Email: accessibleeu@fundaciononce.es

Join our
Community of Practice!



Instead of conclusions

- Accessibility is a legal obligation
- Accessibility is good practice for all
- Accessibility is achievable step by step, with many examples already in place

Thank you for your attention!

Cristina Căluianu



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