

# **Accessibility in Action: Local and International Resources and Perspectives**

**Cristina Căluianu, National Expert European Accessibility Resource Centre  
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

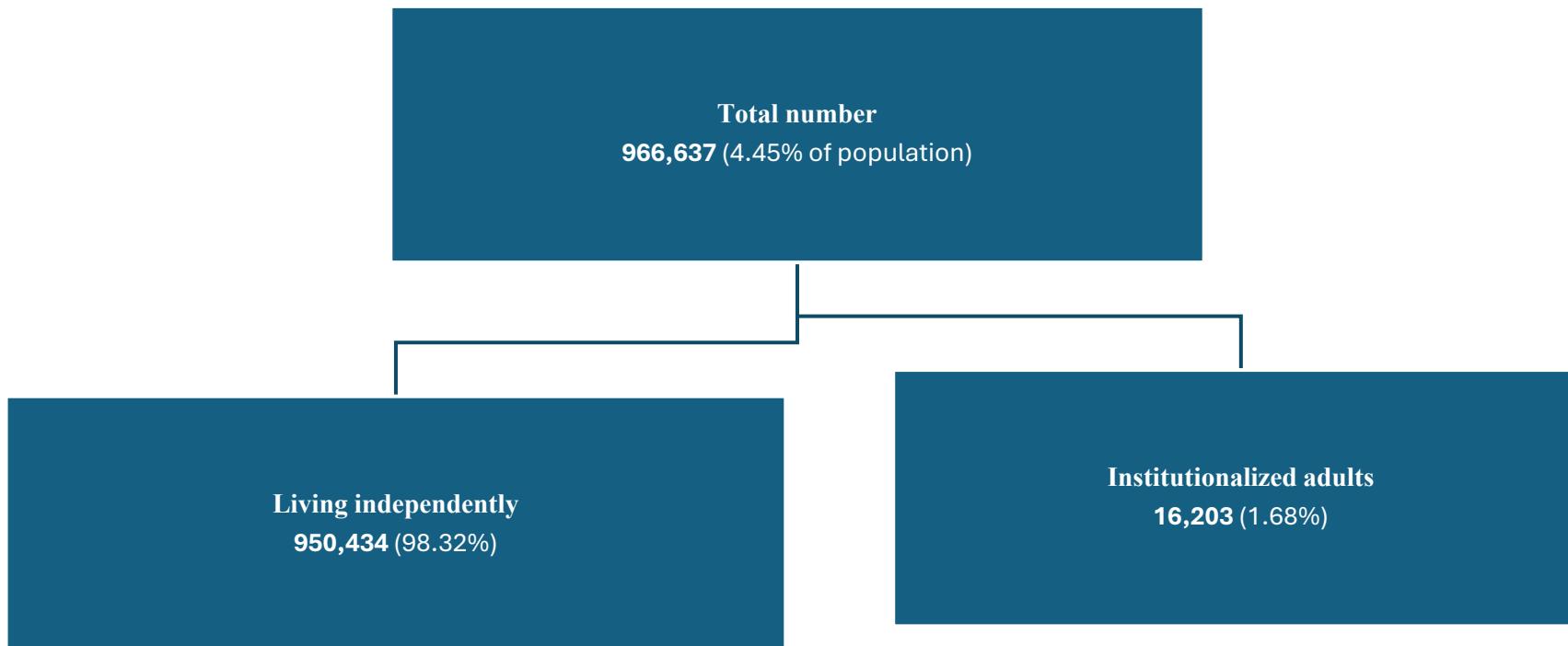
- Disability Facts and Figures - Romania and EU
- The Strategic Framework on accessibility - global, EU, Romania
- Legal framework - Romania
- Good practices - Romania
- The European Accessibility Resources Centre AccessibleEU
- FAQ
- Conclusions

# Disability Facts and Figures - Romania

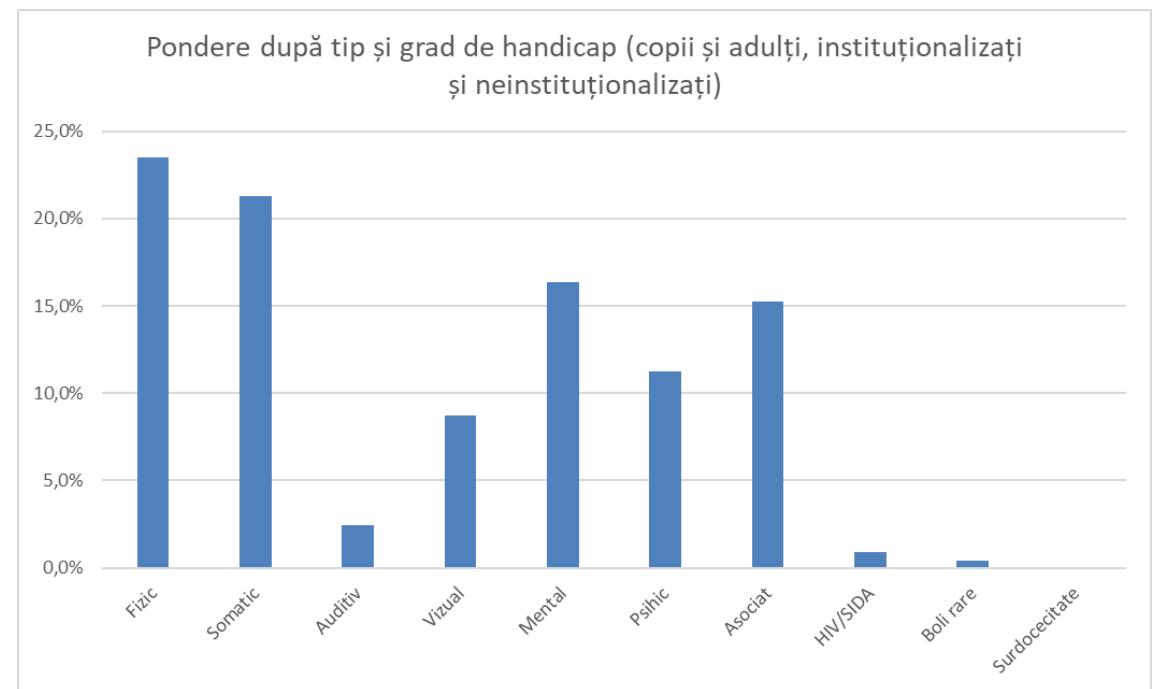
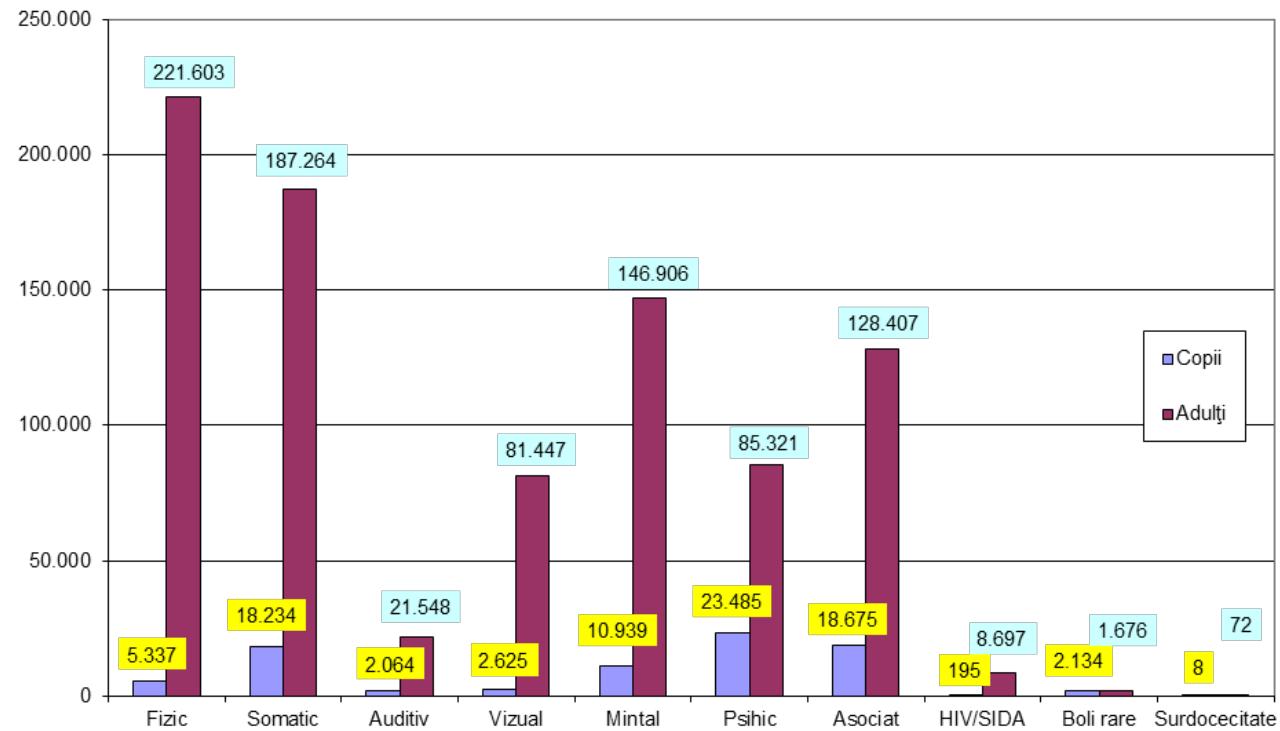
- The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (ANPDPD)
  - Subordinated to the Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity
  - The Romanian central authority in the disability area
    - coordinates the activities to protect and promote the rights 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

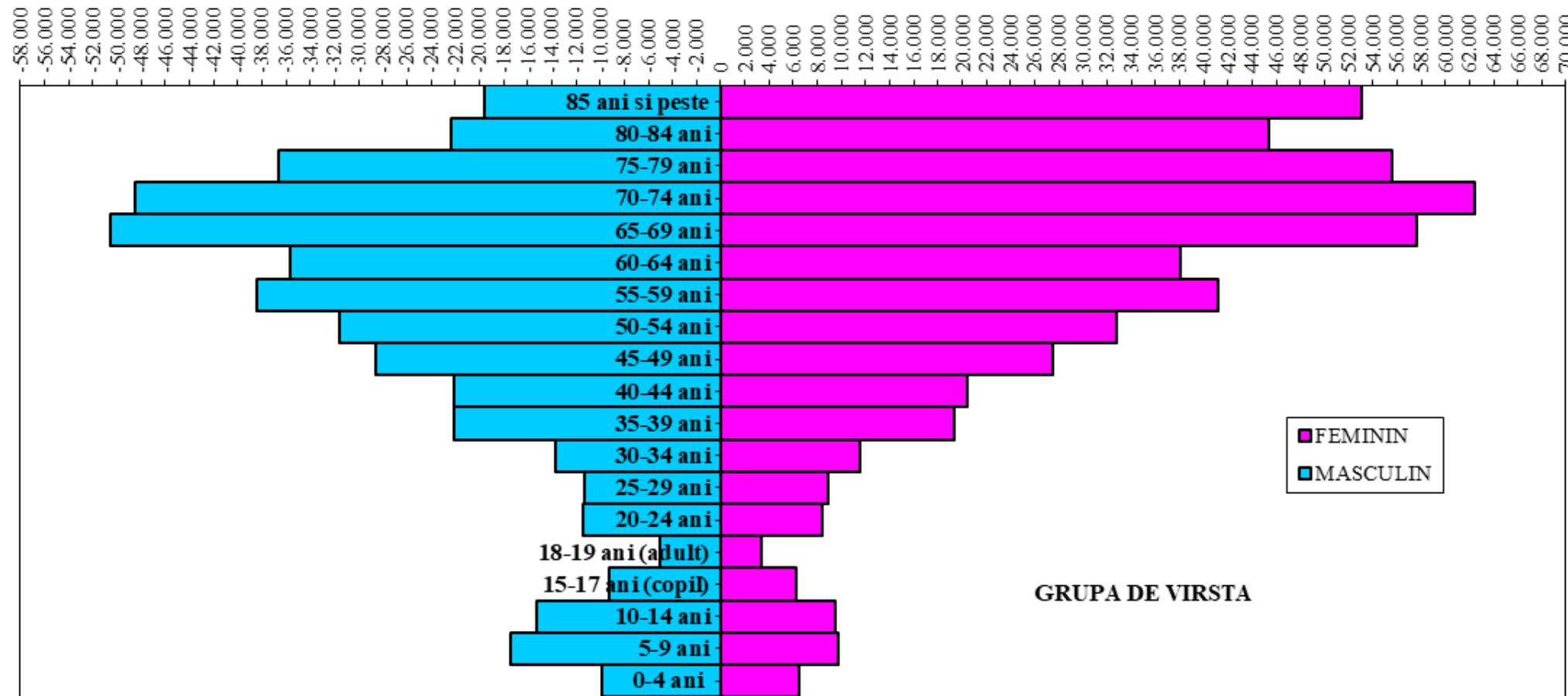
- Statistical Bulletin, 31 March 2025 (Q1 2025)



# Disability Facts and Figures - Romania

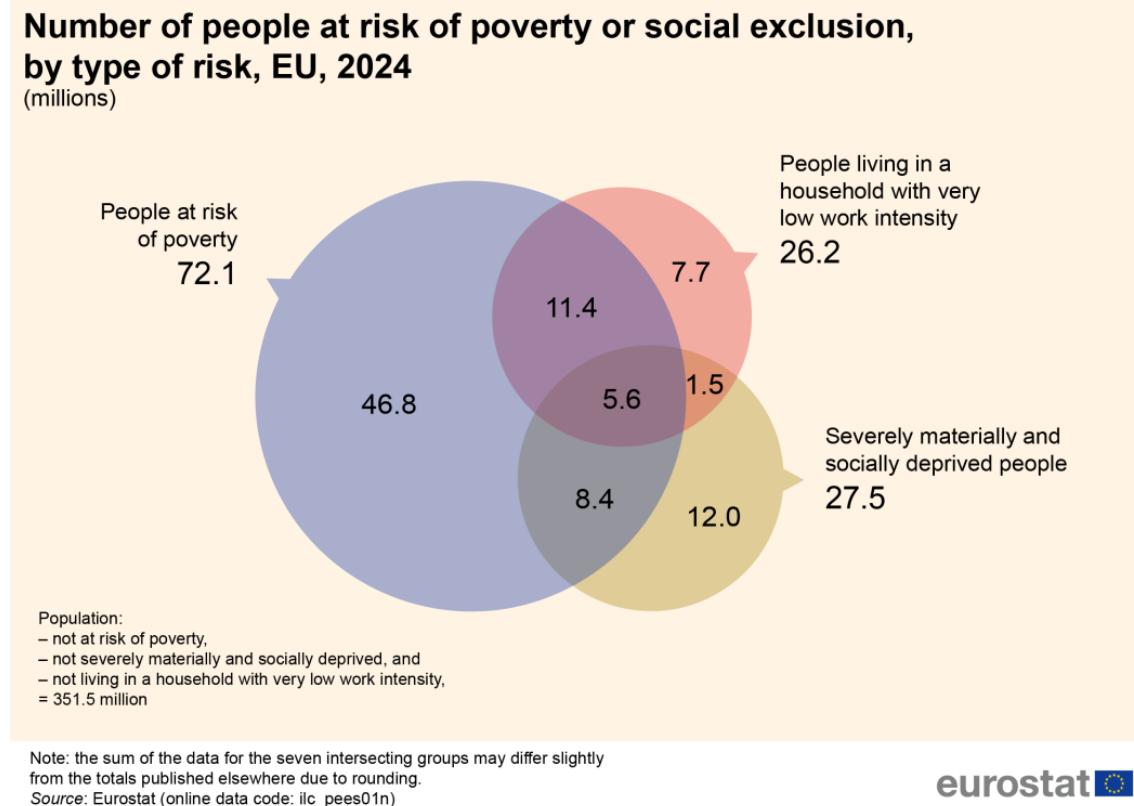


# Disability Facts and Figures - Romania



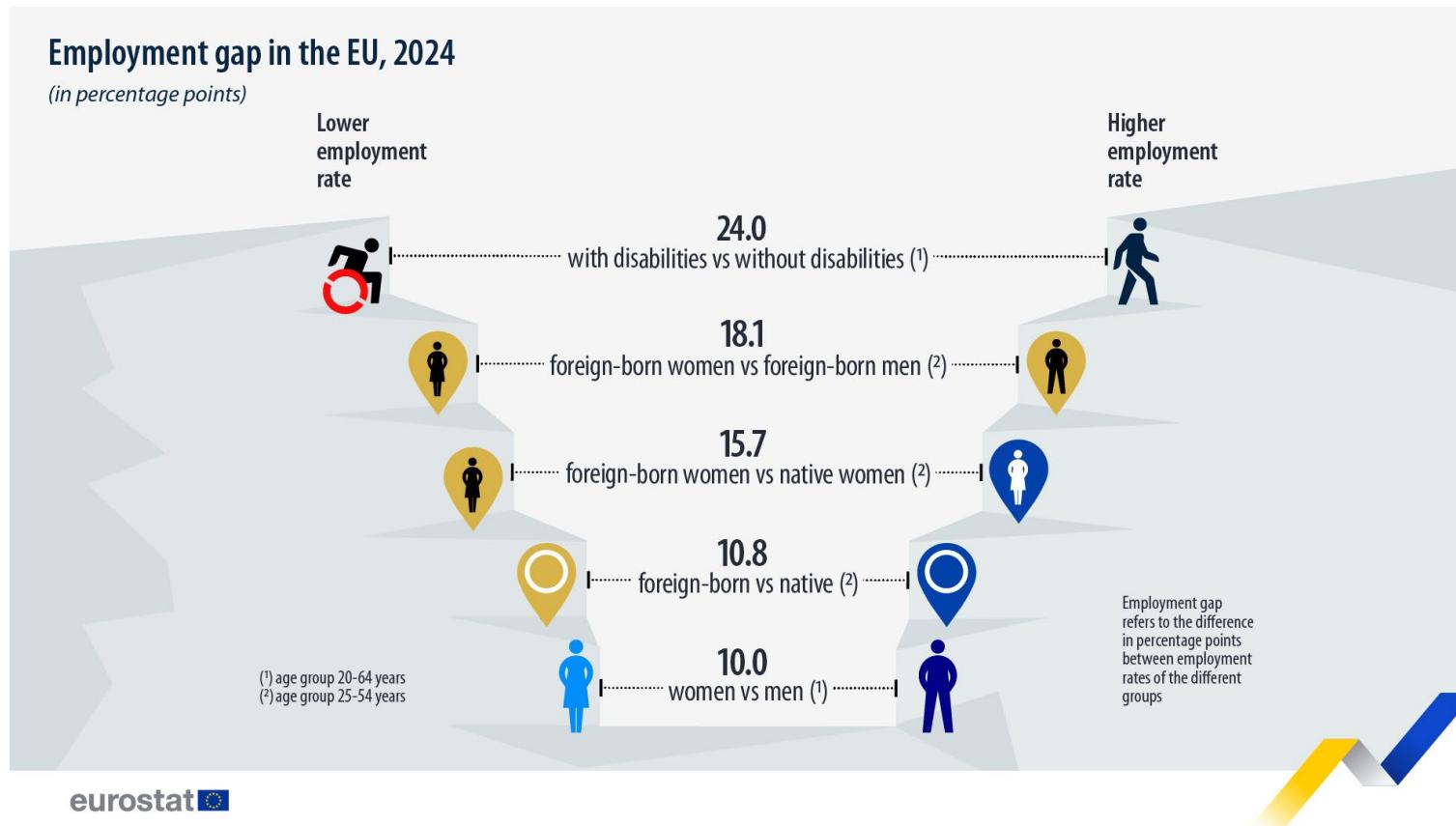
# Disability Facts and Figures - EU 2024

- 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



# 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](http://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 Integrale](#)
  - [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

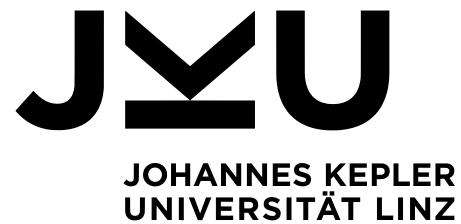
Who is behind  
**AccessibleEU?**

# Who is behind AccessibleEU?

## CONSORTIUM LEAD



## CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



# Who is behind AccessibleEU?

## SUBCONTRACTED ORGANISATIONS



## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Deloitte.**

**UNISYS**

3

National  
Experts



**AUSTRIA**

Klaus Höckner



**CZECHIA**

Petr Peňáz



**GERMANY**

Gottfried Zimmermann,  
Yehya Mohamad  
& Gregor Strutz



**BELGIUM**

Kathleen Polders  
& Stéphanie Herman



**DENMARK**

Stein Erik  
Skotkjerra



**GREECE**

Dimitris Logaras



**BULGARIA**

Steli Peteva



**ESTONIA**

Jakob Rosin



**HUNGARY**

Tamás Laki



**CROATIA**

Ljubomir Miščević



**FINLAND**

Terhi Tamminen



**IRELAND**

Gerald M. Craddock



**CYPRUS**

Katerina Mavrou



**FRANCE**

Florent Orsoni &  
Marylène Thomas



**ITALY**

Marco Pizzio &  
Roberto Scano



**NETHERLANDS**

Eric Martin Velleman



**SLOVENIA**

Matjaž Debevc



**LATVIA**

Daina Podzina



**POLAND**

Margaret Tokarska  
& Krzysztof Dobosz



**SPAIN**

Delfín Jiménez &  
María Fernanda Cabrera



**LITHUANIA**

Ginta Žemaitaitytė



**PORTUGAL**

Diogo Martins



**SWEDEN**

Pär Lannerö



**LUXEMBOURG**

Silvio Sagramola



**ROMANIA**

Cristina Căluianu



**MALTA**

Joseph Spiteri

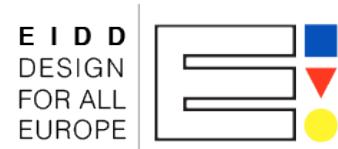


**SLOVAKIA**

Zuzana Ceresnova

# 4.

## Advisory board



**DAVID CAPOZZI**



5

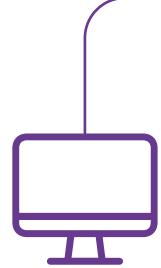
What does  
**AccessibleEU**  
do?



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



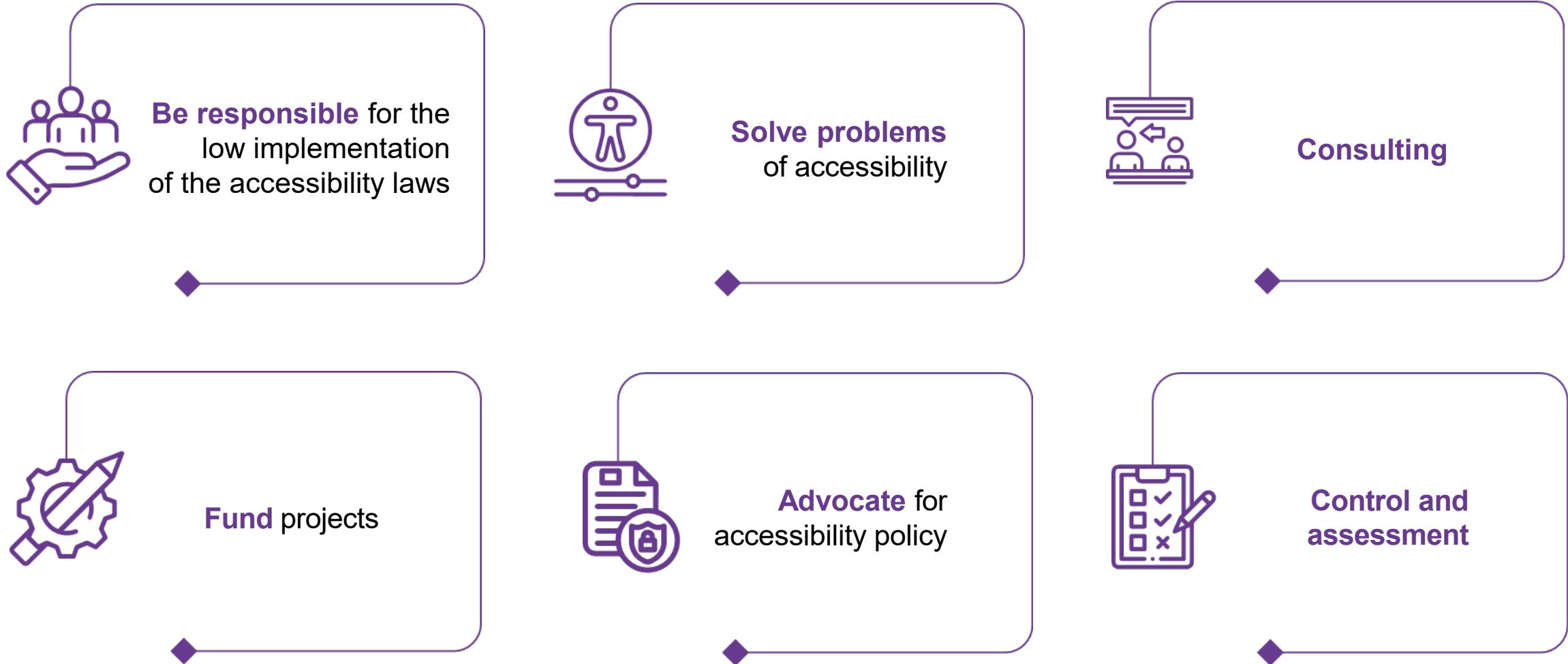
Train **excellent professionals** on accessibility



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

6

What does  
**AccessibleEU**  
not do?





# AccessibleEU 2023 & 2024 in figures



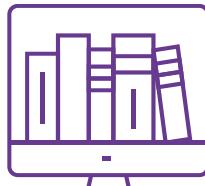


**30**

Accessibility indicators,  
updated yearly from the

**27**

EU Member States



**7**  
**2**

Guidelines  
Studies

**301**

Good practices  
on our website



**260**

Library references in  
our Digital Library



**3 402**

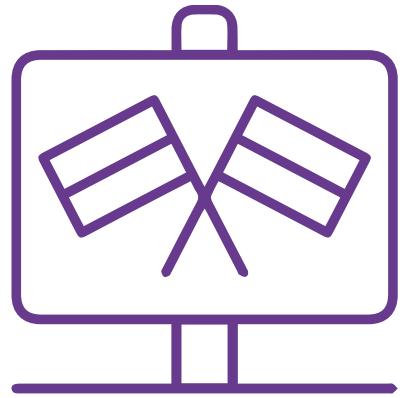
Members in our  
Community of Practice on LinkedIn.  
And 321 in our Moodle forums

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](http://www.AccessibleEUCentre.eu)

**Email:** [accessibleeu@fundaciononce.es](mailto: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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