



EASY TO BE - ERASMUS PLUS PROJEKT

EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTISE

SUMMERY

PARTICIPATION REPORT ABOUT LIVING CIRCUMSTANCES/LIVING CONDITIONS OF DISABLED PEOPLE
2021

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY

EASY Language

In 2009 12 million disabled people were living in Germany. In 2017 the number raised to 13 million.

The reasons for that are:

- There are more and more people with mental disabilities
- Demographic change
- There are more people with disabilities and migratory background/Migration and disability

The participation report divides into 8 areas of life:

1. Family and social life/social network
2. Education and apprenticeship
3. Work and income
4. Residence and all day life
5. Health
6. Free time, culture, and sport
7. Safety and violence protection
8. Politics , Information and participation

The chances to participate in these areas are different.

1. Family and social life

Disabled people have less contact to their family than people without disability. They also have less contact to friends. The most important differences between people with and without disability are:

- They often live alone
- They rarely have friends to support them
- They only have few visitors
- They often feel alone

Especially older people with disabilities, people with multiple disabilities and people with migratory background and disabilities have many difficulties in the area of family and social network.

2. Education and apprenticeship

Kindergarten and school

More and more children without disabilities visit f.e. schools or kindergarten together with children without disabilities. Disabled children get special support in these institutions. We can say this is a good development.

But: Many disabled children still visit special education schools/special needs schools. The number of children in special education schools has reduced only a little in the last 4 years.

Apprenticeship

- Only one of one hundred disabled persons does an apprenticeship
- 23 % of all students at German universities have health problems. An analysis of these groups shows that 15 % of them are disabled. 11 from 100 students are disadvantaged during their studies because of their disability.
- In vocational further education participate the same number of disabled and non-disabled people. We can say this is a good development.

In summary we can say that there are still lots of barriers in the education and training systems for disabled people.

3. Work and income

The economic situation of disabled people hardly changed in the last years. Most of them don't have a job, earn little money and usually don't have assets.

This is the reason why disabled people often have problems with poverty and worries.

Working World

There are a lot of differences between people with or without disabilities on the labour market:

Income

44 of 100 disabled people in Germany make their living with/live on their income from a job.

They often get income by government aids like:

- retirement pension
- Unemployment benefit
- Guaranteed pension

Especially disadvantaged/put at a disadvantage are:

- Women
- Disabled migrants
- Young adults with disabilities
- Handicapped people with more than 90 % invalidity

4. Residence and allday life

All-day life

Many disabled people say:

- "I am other directed"/"I feel directed by others" = I can't live my life the way I want to

The following kinds of barriers disabled people define:

Barrier free

There are only few barrier-free apartments in Germany.

Many disabled people live in nursing homes. From 2014 to 2018 more and more of them changed to assisted living. This is a good development.

Barrier-free public transport

78 of 100 stations don't have stairs.

61 of 100 buses have a low entrance.

We can still find lots of barriers on the trains of German railway.

5. Health

Many disabled people say: My health is not fine. They have more health problems than people without handicaps. For example they are much more sick and cannot go to work. They more often visit the doctor but the doctors' practices are often not barrier-free/accessible.

Violence Experience

Disabled people experience much more violence than people without a disability.

The different types of violence are:

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence

(see information in chapter 7)

6. Freetime, Culture and Sport

Disabled people are less satisfied with their free time than people without disabilities. This situation has not improved for last four years.

The reasons for that are:

- There are no adequate/proper leisure activities
- There is no access to leisure activities

For example:

- There is no sign language in the theatre
- There is no lowerable entrance in overland busses

7. Safety and violence protection

In 2015 we had less guardianships in Germany than 2014. More and more disabled people organise their lives by themselves, for example financial affairs.

- In 2018 3325 disabled people were victims of violence. Disabled women experience twice as much violence than non-disabled women. 71 % of all disabled men have experience with violence, whereas 43% men without disability do.

Violence at nursing homes is discussed in public but we don't have any analyses about that.

Sexual violence

The dimension of sexual violence against disabled people is underrated. Some of the victims don't have the ability to talk about or to realize the criminal act, others keep silent.

There is a lack of research and analyses in this field.

8. Politics, Information and participation

There is only a slight difference in context of politic interests between disabled and not disabled people. Even though disabled people are interested in politics, they are rarely actively involved. There are/exist lots of barriers:

- no barrier-free information
- no budgets for translation
- lack of mobility
- lack of assistance