

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN PORTUGAL

HUMAN RIGHTS INDICATORS

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ISCSP

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Observatório da Deficiência
e Direitos Humanos
Disability and Human Rights Observatory



DISCRIMINATION

- 284 complaints on the grounds of disability were filed in 2016.
- 199 complaints were received by the *Provedoria de Justiça* (Ombudsman), 14 by the National Institute for Rehabilitation and 71 by other entities.
- Most complaints were archived, due to resolution (n=92), lack of evidence (n=58), withdrawal (n=2) or legal inadmissibility (n=2).
- Disability is the second most evoked grounds for discrimination in Portugal (65%) and the one which presents the widest gap in relation to the EU average (+15%).



EDUCATION

- 99% of students with disabilities attend a mainstream school, 86% of them within the public school system.
- The number of students with disabilities enrolled in grades 7-12th has been increasing.
- There is an important gender gap among students with special educational needs^(*), with an under-representation of girls: 38% of female students and 62% of male students.
- 57% of students with Specific Individual Curricula or who attend a Specialised Unit spend less than 40% of their school time in the mainstream class.
- There was a sharp decrease in the number of monthly hours of therapeutic support delivered by the CRIs (Resources Centres for Inclusion) — they were cut to almost half from the 2015-2016 school year onwards.

^(*) The term used in official statistics concerning education in Portugal.



EMPLOYMENT

- Between 2011-2016, registered unemployment decreased 18,8% among the general population in Portugal, but increased 26,7% among people with disabilities.
- Between 2011-2016, short-term unemployment among Portuguese with disabilities fell 6,7%, but long-term unemployment rose 63,8%.
- People with disabilities employed in private companies with 10 or more workers represent less than 1% of the total number of workers.
- People with disabilities represent only 2,3% of the total number of public administration workers.



LIVING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- The greatest risk of poverty is found among people with disabilities who live in households with low work intensity (23,1%) or low income (24,8%).
- The risk of poverty or social exclusion is greater in households with people with severe disabilities (36,5%).
- The number of beneficiaries of family allowances has suffered a sharp decrease (-32%) between 2005 and 2016. At the same time, the number of beneficiaries of the disability supplement to family allowances has increased (+58%), which can be an indicator of the impoverishment of these families.
- Across all districts, the number of vacancies for people with disabilities in residential homes (larger residential facilities) far exceeds the number of vacancies in autonomous units (smaller residential facilities).