

Italy – ANED country profile

The information contained in this summary was compiled by the Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) in April 2009.

Academic networks and resources

The Disability Italian Network (DIN) is a non-profit scientific organisation involving a network of centres for the development of the [ICF in Italy](#) (supported by the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia as a WHO Collaborating Centre). Its projects include training those involved in the work integration of persons with disabilities and making systematic use of ICF in related evaluation processes.

[Interuniversity Research Centre on Sustainable Development](#) (CIRPS) involves 300 teachers, researchers and technicians in 11 Italian universities. This includes research on disability, for example in assistive technologies.

[Don Carlo Gnocchi Foundation](#) also focuses on assistive technologies, providing an information service and conducts evaluation studies.

The [Santa Lucia foundation](#) is a scientific institute that promotes research in Neuro motor Rehabilitation. The [National neurological institute 'Carlo Besta'](#) also promotes research in the field of public health and disability.

Policy and enforcement bodies

The key national bodies with responsibility for disability law and policy implementation include:

[Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies](#) ensures implementation of legislation regulating employment, promotes equal opportunities and positive action at work. Its role in social service is guidance, coordination and control as personal services are mainly devolved to the regions and local authorities. It also regulates the management of social security funds.

From 2008 the [Ministry of Health](#) was incorporated in the above Ministry.

[Ministry for Rights and Equal Opportunities](#) is responsible for co-ordinating and planning initiatives on matters relating to the promotion of human rights and equal opportunities, and the prevention of all forms of discrimination. Rights are enforced through the judicial court system.

Organisations of disabled people

The national organisation representing disabled people at the European level (European Disability Forum) is:

[Consiglio Nazionale sulla Disabilità](#) (CND) is the independent national council representing disabled people and their families, founded in 1995, currently with [36 member organisations](#) covering a wide range of interests. It promotes knowledge and application of national and international instruments concerning disability, and seeks to influence various institutions and bodies.

Other significant national organisations of disabled people include:

[DPI Italia](#) (Disabled Peoples' International) seeks to ensure the protection of human and civil rights and to promote the participation of disabled people in all areas of life, including independent living.

[FISH](#) (Italian Federation for overcoming Handicap), which also publishes the information website www.superando.it

[Italian union of the blind and visually impaired](#) has regional councils and branches throughout the country. It engages in practical initiatives as well as political representation.

[Italian National Association of the Deaf](#) (ENS) was established in 1932 and seeks 'the integration of deaf people in society, promoting their growth, independence and full human realization'.

[ANFFAS](#) (National association of families with persons with intellectual or relational disabilities) includes 181 local associations, 16 organizations and 45 regional Autonomous bodies. It seeks solidarity and social promotion in a wide range of fields.

National law and strategy

Italy has ratified the [United Nations Convention](#) and the [Optional Protocol](#).

Important national laws, policies and strategies concerning disabled people include: Law 104/92 '[Law for the assistance, the social inclusion and the rights of disabled people](#)' sets out 'principles of human rights, social integration and care'. It deals with diagnosis and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, services and support, and social exclusion.

[Law 162/98](#) 'Modifications of the law 5 February 1992, n.104, concerning support measures towards people with grave handicap' (published in G:U: 29 of May 1998, n.123) which seeks to 'guarantee the right to independent living for people with learning disability and severe restriction of personal autonomy in the conduct of one or more essential functions of life, not overcome with technical aids'. This includes provision to assist people with high severity of through home care and personal assistance.

[Law March 1, 2006, n. 67](#), 'Measures for the judicial protection of persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination' aims to 'promote the full implementation of the principle of equal treatment and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities' (Art 1). It addresses both direct and indirect discrimination (including harassment and humiliation).

[D.P.R. June 6, 2001, n. 380, art. 82](#) 'Elimination or overcoming of architectural barriers in public and private buildings open to the public', developed from [Law 9 January 1989, n. 13](#), 'Measures to facilitate the overcoming and removal of architectural barriers in private buildings'. This covers both public and private buildings open to the public (subject to the constraints).

[D.L. January 10, 2006, n. 4, Art. 6](#), 'Simplification of administrative procedures for persons with disabilities', converted into law by Law 6 March 2006, no 80, provides standardised assessment procedures and clarifies responsibilities.

Law 328/00 ' Law for the realisation of the integrated system of interventions and social services' (published on the Ordinary Addition to the G.U. 13 November 2000, n. 265) has introduced individual projects (art.14) with the aim to define the needs and services required to guarantee the rights of disabled people. Finally Law 289/02, art. 94, comma 3 on Down Syndrome.

Facts and figures

Data on population indicate that:

The number of disabled people in Italy (people that during the interview declared themselves unable to perform independently an essential task of everyday life), is 2,609,000 corresponding to about 4.8 % of the population over the age of 6 and living with their family (ISTAT data 2004/2005).

Considering those who incur in 'significant difficulties' when undertaking more than one essential task of everyday life, the number rises to 6,606,000, about 12% of the same population (ISTAT data 2004/2005).

It is estimated that there are 42,460 children aged 0-5 years with some sort of disabling condition, about 1.32 % (SMPI data 2004/2005).

It is estimated that the number of disabled or elderly people living in Assisted Health Residence is 190,134 (ISTAT data 2003).

Because the above figures come from estimates based on information gathered from interviews it is likely that the real figure is higher than reported.

Disability is pretty related to age - 18.7% of the population over 65 - and the percentage rises to 44.5% (35.8% men and 48.8% women) for the population over 80 years old (ISTAT data 2004/2005)

The rates of disability underline that women are more likely, with age, to incur disabling conditions (6.1 %) than men (3.3 %) due to longer life expectancy.

In conclusion it is interesting to see the distribution of the disabled population in Italy's territory includes: Islands 5.7%; South 5.2%; Centre 4.9%; North-East 4.2%; North-West 4.3%. With no differences related to gender (Source ISTAT)

For more information,

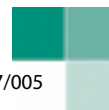
see: http://www.disabilitaincifre.it/prehome/stima_numerodisabili.asp

Data on employment indicate that:

In 2005 the percentage of employed disabled people was 3.5%, while the percentage of people looking for a job was 0.9%, with a big disparity between territories. The highest employments are recorded in Bolzano (Trentino Alto Adige) with 5.7%, Umbria 5.4% and in Lombardi with 4.8%; while the worst rate is represented by Sicilia with 1.2%, followed by Liguria and Sardinia with 2.3% and 2.4% respectively.

For different groups the numbers are very diverse, specifically the percentage of employed people with functional disability is 1.3%, with movement difficulty 2.7%, while for people with visual, hearing and speech impairments it is higher at 6.4%.

Dividing the data by gender we notice a significant gap, with 6.8% disabled men (vs. non disabled men: 61.0%) and only 1.8% disabled women (vs. non disabled women: 37.5%).



The age group with the highest percentage of employed disabled people is 15-44 years, at 18.4% (22.3% men, 13.9% women), then from 45-64 at 17.0% (24.6% men, 10.4% women) and finally up of 65 years with 0.5% (0.9% men, 0.3% women).

Data on education indicate that:

Since the 1970s Italy has recognized full access to normal schools for students with disability.

In the academic year 2006/2007 the number of disabled students enrolled in normal (public and private) schools was 187,567 (approximately 2.1% of the entire student population). Of these 173,692 (92.6% of the entire disabled student population) are enrolled in Public State schools.

In recent years Italy has had an increasing trend of disabled students enrolling in Public Universities.

From the Academic Year 2000/2001 to 2006/2007 students with disabilities enrolled in public universities rose from 4,813 to 11,407 an increase of 137%. Students with motor disabilities represent the largest group at 27.5 % (in the Academic Year 2006/2007) followed by students with mental health conditions (3.5 %) and with dyslexia (0.9 %).

Data from: SIMPI 2004/2005, MUR-CINECA 2007

For more information

see: <http://www.disabilitaincifre.it/indicatori/istruzione/istruzione.asp>

Data on accessibility indicate that:

Although in recent years some results have been achieved, major work remains to be done in standardization towards more accessible and usable built environments and services (private and public), with particular regard to transportation.

[Data from the MeAC accessibility survey](#) (2008) showed that

Only 1 out of 6 selected public websites, and none of the selected commercial websites, passed even the accessibility evaluation.

The main emergency number was not accessible by text phone (although a relay service was available).

Both of the main public television channels provided some national language programs with subtitling, (28% and 90%), and a small number of programmes with signing.

Both commercial TV channels provided some national language programs with subtitling and one provided some signed programmes.

Both of the two main banks had installed some talking ATMs (1,100 out of 6,557 in one case, with another 1500 planned).

Data on poverty and incomes indicate that:

The poverty rate of the employed disabled population was 19.3% compared to the non disabled employed population at 56.8% (ISTAT data 2002);

The rate of non employed disabled population was 9.9% compared to non employed non disabled population at 8.7%

Approximately 40-45 % of people who can benefit of the low on 'Compulsory Employment' for disabled people, is employed .

The higher levels of employment are in the north of the Country and they decrease while going south.

(ISTAT data 2002, Ministry of Labour 1996/2000)

For more information: <http://www.disabilitaincifre.it/indicatori/lavoro/lavoro.asp>

Data on attitudes indicate that:

The [2007 Special Eurobarometer on Discrimination in Europe](#) showed that 54% of people knew someone who was disabled (compared to 55% EU average) and 78% acknowledged that being disabled tended to be disadvantage in society (EU average 79%).

Disability discrimination was viewed as widespread by 68% (EU average 53%); 39% thought that disability discrimination was more widespread than five years ago. 53% thought that not enough was being done to combat discrimination in general in Italy (EU average 51%).

59% thought that more disabled people should be in the workplace (EU average 77%) but 86% agreed that specific measures on equal opportunities were needed in this field.

Data on public spending indicate that:

In Italy the total number of 'Disability Pensions' is 2.6m, amounting to an average spending of €13 billion. (INPS)

In 2006 Italy spent 5.9% of total social benefit expenditure on disability benefits compared to the EU27 average of 7.5% (European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics, provisional data).

In 2005 Italy spent 2% of GDP on incapacity related benefits (including all public, mandatory private, cash and in-kind benefits) compared to the OECD average of 2.6% (OECD Social Expenditure Database).

It is estimated that support for 'Independent Living' for persons with disabilities requires funding of about 20,000 euro\year, while the same person, within an institution, cost about three times more 60,000 euro\year (figures given by Onlus DPI Italy - Disabled People International www.dpitalia.org).

Social protection

Key features of the national system include (including adapted items from the [MISSOC](#) database December 2008):

Disability benefits

Invalidity benefits are funded as part of the general financing system, including compulsory social insurance contributions from employers and employees and partly funded by the state.

An invalidity allowance is payable for persons assessed as having 66% reduction of work capacity, and an incapacity pension for those assessed at 100%.

In 2008, the minimum invalidity allowance (assegno ordinario d'invalidita, AOI) was €5,760.56 (depending on the person's taxable earnings in relation to the minimum social pension).

At the conclusion of 65th year the invalidity allowance and assistance allowance are changed into social allowance.

There is the possibility of a monthly assistance allowance of €200 from social insurance (not compatible with other invalidity allowances supplied by other institutions, nor is it compatible with war, work and service allowances).

More detailed information can be found at: www.handylex.org (which explains every Act regarding allowances and indemnities due to disability) and www.inps.it (through their circulated letters this company makes annual adjustments, where necessary, to the monthly allowance amounts).

Rehabilitation and re-training

The accidents occurred at the work place, that have been economically compensated and have determined a permanent disability have been 20,000 in the year 2003. Professional diseases that have been economically compensated have been 1,000 in the year 2003. People with a disability entitled to a INAIL revenue were 700,000 in the year 2003 (INAIL data, year\2003).

Preferential employment and quotas

There were 645,220 people enrolled 'Preferential Employment' (ex Law 68/ 1999), of whom 327,929 were women (ISTAT data, year 2005)

Long-term support and care

There is no single system of long term care, operating under both the social security and social welfare systems. Different regional programmes provide different levels of support in terms of home services, meals on wheels, medical treatment, nursing care and the provision of equipment or transport.

Disabled residents of Health Care Residential Structures included: Minors 1,451 (female 569); adults 33,439 (female 14,950); elderly 161,328 (female 125,358).

Additional information

Useful sources of more detailed information about the situation of disabled people, and the policies and support available, include:

Provider of statistical data on people with disability being part of the project 'information system of statistics on disability' promoted by the Ministry of social solidarity and carried out by ISTAT.

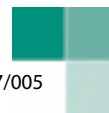
www.disabilitaincifre.it

National statistic institute, a public research centre on the entire national territory. It is the main provider of official statistic data to support the citizen and public decisions operating in perfect autonomy and in continue interaction with the academic and scientific world.

www.istat.it Website collecting all the laws and norms which refer to the realm of disability.

www.handylex.org

Website which publishes news and research aiming to give information on topics all round persons with disability.



www.superando.it

Website including all data and statistics of the national territory regarding the macroarea: Health, Social matters, Occupation and Education.

www.disabilitaincifre.it

Other data for the promotion of information in general terms all round disability.

www.disabili.com