



**Professor Mark Priestley**  
**Academic Network of European**  
**Disability experts (ANED)**



**ANED is...**

**a research network established  
in 2008 by the European  
Commission to support policy  
monitoring and development in  
the field of disability.**





## ANED is...

- A network of national teams in 34 European countries
- An online public resource
- The DOTCOM database
- Statistical indicators
- Thematic policy based reports
- led by Human European Consultancy (NL) and the University of Leeds (UK) in partnership with civil society



## Four main strands of work 2012-14

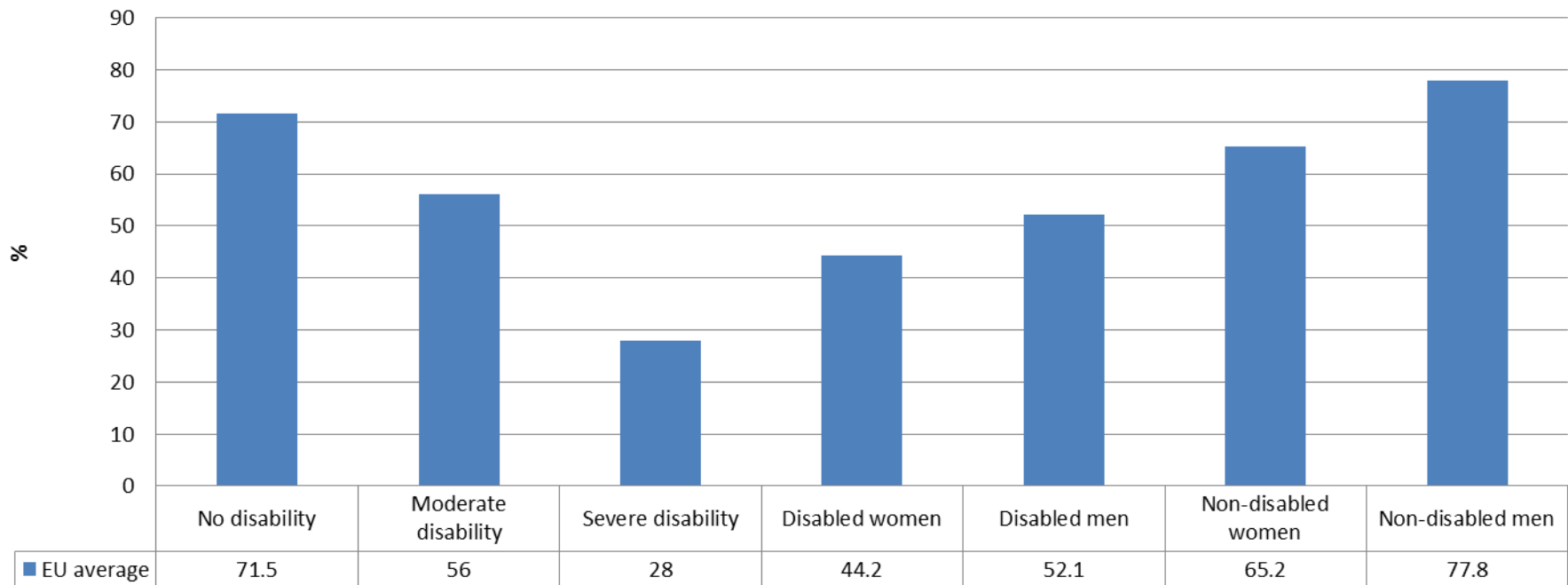
- Accessibility (Professor Anna Lawson)
- Statistical indicators (Stefanos Grammenos)
- EU law and policy (Professor Lisa Waddington)
- National disability policies (Professor Mark Priestley)



## The EU2020 employment rate target

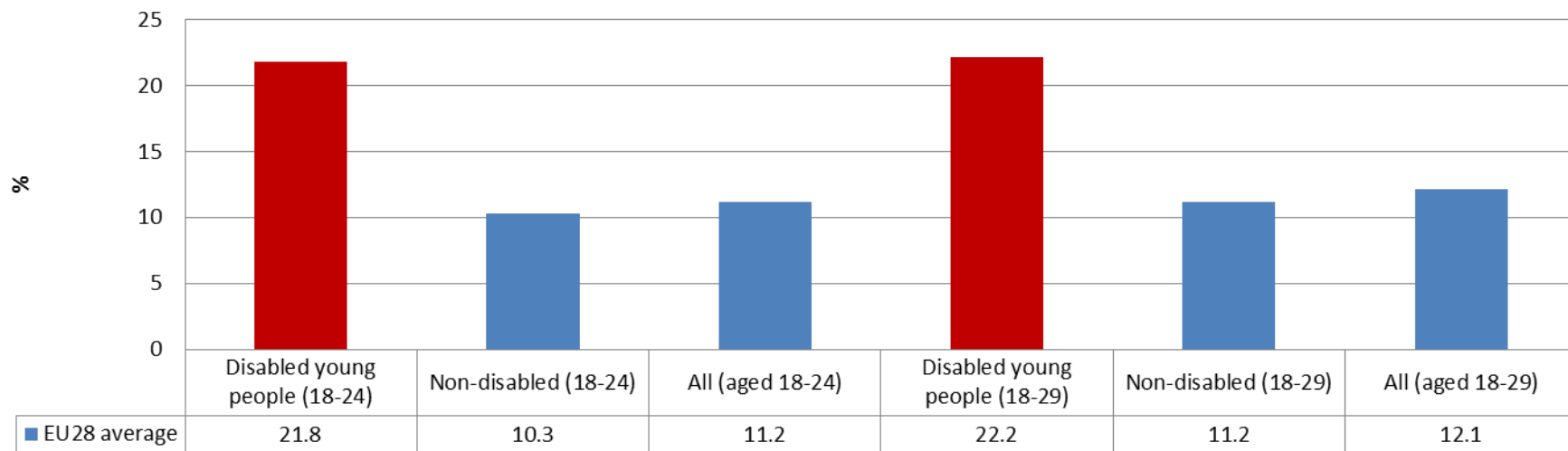
- it will be hard to achieve the overall EU target of 75% employment rate without increasing the employment rate of disabled people (a reduction of 4 or 5 percentage points)

EU28 average employment rates

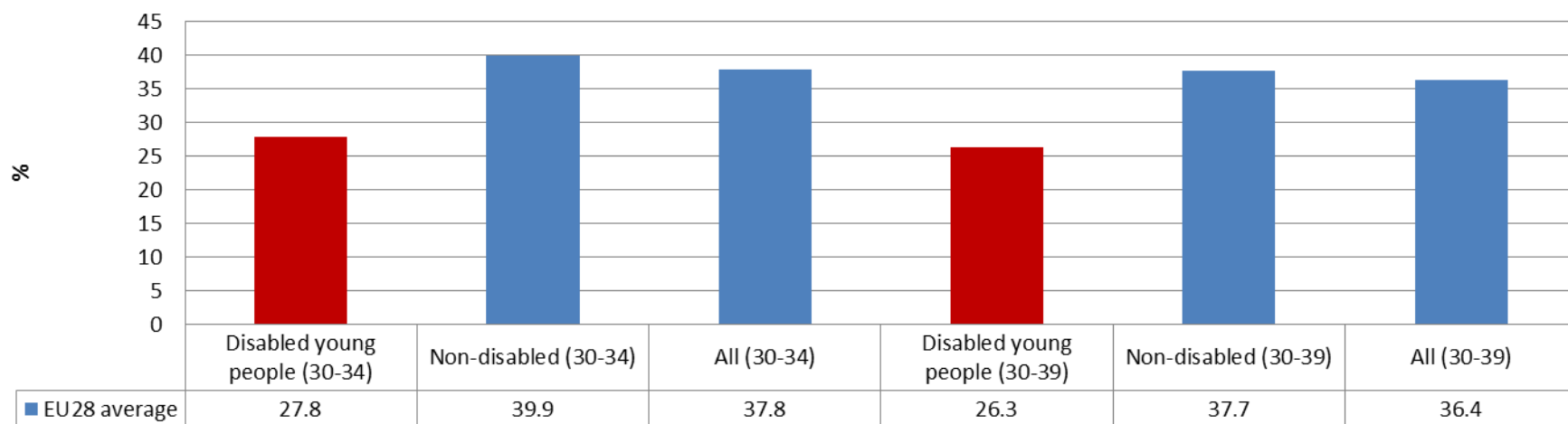




## Early school leavers in EU28



## Completion of tertiary education in EU28

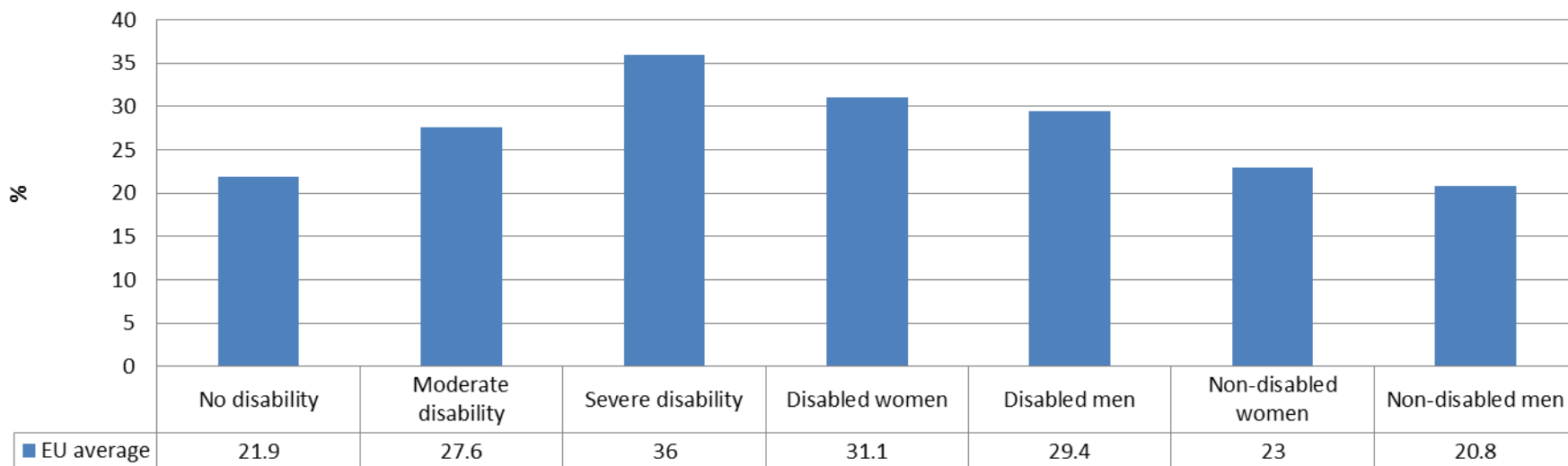




## Risk of poverty and social exclusion

- Disabled people and their families face significantly greater risks of poverty and social exclusion on all the key measures used in developing the Europe 2020 Scorecard indicators.
- The high risk and need for action concerning those of working age is striking

Overall risks of poverty and social exclusion in 2012





# Progress?



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The EU and all but three of its Member States (Finland, Ireland and Netherlands) have ratified the CRPD, as well as Candidate and Associated countries (only Lichtenstein is not a signatory at the UN).

Legal capacity legislation was updated in the Czech Republic and Romania (and under review in Ireland and Iceland). Danish sign language was recognized. Voting rights were increased in Slovakia. New national disability strategies or CRPD implementation plans were launched in Estonia, Latvia, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain, with consultation on draft national strategies in Malta and Romania.



# Progress?



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Accessibility for disabled people was included in the Estonian Information Society Development Plan. A new buildings Construction law, rail inter-operability regulations and web Development Guidelines came into force in Latvia. Transport accessibility measures were included in Slovakia's new national disability programme.

Greater school choice was proposed in Sweden. More flexible methods for assessing children with intellectual impairments were introduced in Slovakia. In Belgium, a Flemish Decree required schools to provide reasonable accommodation. There was a new law on vocational rehabilitation and employment in Croatia.



# Progress?



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

---

New standards or guidance on quality of social services came into force in Croatia, Latvia and Slovakia, with consultation in Romania and a review of social service options published in Lichtenstein. A development plan on special care services was elaborated in Estonia and in Lithuania an action plan on transition from institutional care for children.

Rights to community services were strengthened in Iceland and a Bill published on user-led personal assistance. In Denmark the Social Service Law was also updated.



# Progress?



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

- 
- There were improvements in data provision from Eurostat, including a new website of statistical information from EU datasets.
  - The Estonian statistical programme developed a special bulletin on 'Integration of disabled persons' with indicators.
  - Slovakia committed to enhanced data collection in its National Disability Program.
  - A project group in Denmark convened to develop CRPD equality indicators





**REALITY  
CHECK  
AHEAD**



## Issues

Reduced eligibility to disability pensions and supports (with more medicalised and functional assessments of work capacity) are generating a risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Making more people 'available' to work is not matched by accessibility measures in the work place and flexible routes into work, or decent standards of living.



## Issues

Reductions in spending on public support services, particularly in local support at the frontline, affects routes into employment, education, training and out of poverty for (e.g. cuts to employment services, social services, education support services; transport services; civil society and advocacy organisations). These local impacts are often difficult to monitor at a national policy level.



## Issues

A trans-sectoral approach to disability strategy co-ordination enables linkages between accessible environments, transport, education, housing and employment.

There are national disability strategies and CRPD action plans in the Member States, but how are these linked to mainstream policy developments or EU2020?



## Issues

There remains a lack of effective human rights monitoring or engagement with new forms of data collection and evidence to show the progress that is being made and the gaps that remain.

Disabled people's organisations also need to be more engaged in policy dialogue and impact assessment.





**Key points**





## We need better data

- Member States could include disability evidence in all major surveys and datasets, including:
  - national Labour Force Survey questionnaires
  - data representing the education and poverty of children and young people
  - data on people living in institutions
  - participate in DOTCOM



## Policies and outcomes vary (a lot)

- There is great variation in the levels of social protection available to disabled people in European countries
- There is some association between equality gaps and the level of social protection available to disabled people in different countries



## Policy responses create risks

- In times of austerity disabled people of working age are often targeted for reduced eligibility to social protection and services.
- We need to monitor the impact on social exclusion, especially for people with severe impairments or fluctuating conditions, including mental health conditions.



## Disability effects are cumulative

- Most people with impairments in Europe acquire them in later life so a focus on young people's transitions should not hide the real inequalities experienced by older adults
- But...the risks associated with disability are cumulative over the life course, educational disadvantage at a young age is compounded by economic inactivity in adulthood and poverty in old age.