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The impact of limitation in activities on the employment and unemployment rates and the educational attainment in Lithuania

Abstract

The inclusion of people with disabilities is essential in order to ensure they can access their fundamental rights. However, people with disability still face some barriers. The aim of this paper is to determine the impact of limitation in activities due to health problems on the employment and unemployment rates and the educational attainment. In order to achieve this purpose, the objectives of this paper are the following: to present 3 new indicators, published in the database of State Data Agency (Statistics Lithuania), and to analyse the data in employment and unemployment rates and educational attainment by the limitation in activities due to health problems.

The results of 2022 data show that there are some differences in the unemployment and employment rates, as well as the educational attainment. The unemployment rate of persons with some or severe limitation was almost 3 times higher than persons whose activity was not limited at all in 2022. The analysis of the employment rate shows that it was higher for the persons whose activity was not limited at all than whose activity was some or severely limited. The results of educational attainment reveal that almost half of the persons whose activity was not limited have graduated from universities or professional colleges, to compare with only less than a quarter whose activity have been limited.

To conclude, these newly introduced variables indicate a significant issue that there are some relatively big differences in the labour market and in educational attainment between persons whose activity is restricted or not. This available data is undoubtedly important for the policy makers who can rely on it when solving this matter.

Key words: Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI), employment rate, unemployment rate, educational attainment

Introduction

The 17th principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights states that „people with disabilities have the right to income support that ensures living in dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a work environment adapted to their needs“¹. The need of the barrier-free Europe is emphasized in the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021–2030².

¹ European Commission, Secretariat-General, *European pillar of social rights*, Publications Office, 2018, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2792/95934>

² European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, *Union of equality: strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030*, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/31633>

Thus, the inclusion of people with disabilities is highly on top of the political agenda and it is relevant to analyse it in more depth.

Disability can be conceptualized in several ways. In this paper the disability is approximated according to the concept of global activity limitation indicator (GALI), which is defined as a limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems for at least the past six months. It is a self-assessed evaluation which is not being checked by any exercises or proved any official documents which states person's disability. The same definition is used in various surveys conducted in the European Union (EU), e.g. EU-Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), European Health Interview Survey (EHIS).

Currently there are several topics relatively well developed on the disability statistics, for instance, financial situation. The data of EU-SILC shows that people with a disability are more likely to struggle to make ends meet or are less likely to afford a one-week annual holiday³. As the Regulation 2019/1700⁴ came in force in 2021, the new variables were introduced in the LFS which allow us to analyse the disability and labour market. The aim of this paper is to determine the impact of disability on the employment and unemployment rates and the educational attainment. In order to achieve this purpose, the objectives of this paper are the following: to present 3 new indicators, published in the database of State Data Agency (Statistics Lithuania), and to analyse the data in employment and unemployment rates and educational attainment by the limitation in activities due to health problems.

Methodology

Newly introduced variables in the Labour Force Survey about the self-perceived health and GALI allow us to bring up some profound insights. Statistics Lithuania has published 3 indicators in its database regarding persons whose activities have been or have not been restricted due to health problems for at least the past 6 months.

The first indicator is the unemployment rate of 25–64 years old persons. The data is classified into two groups – either the persons' activity is not limited at all or there are some and severe self-perceived limitations.

The second indicator is the employment rate and the same categories apply. To calculate these indicators, the following methodology is used: the unemployment rate is expressed as a ratio of the number of people unemployed to the labour force and the employment rate is expressed as a ratio of the employed population to the comparable total population.

³ Eurostat, Statistics Explained, *Disability statistics - financial situation*, November 2022, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics_-_financial_situation#Struggling_to_make_ends_meet

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, amending Regulations (EC) No 808/2004, (EC) No 452/2008 and (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 (Text with EEA relevance) <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1700/oj>

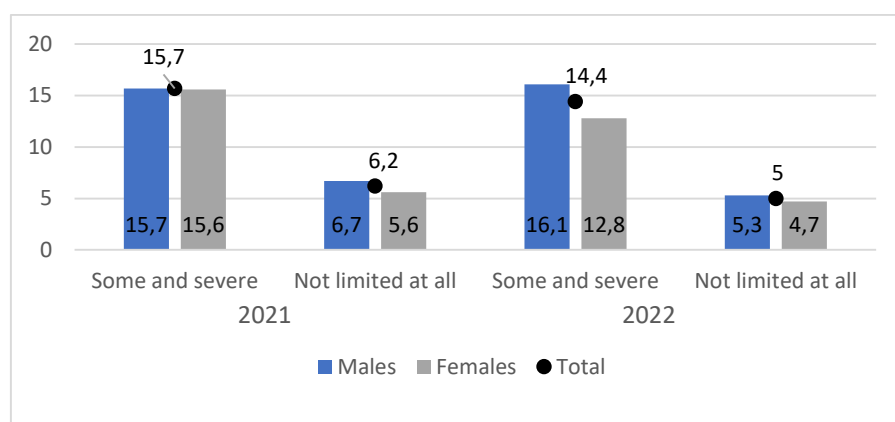
Lastly, the third indicator is educational attainment of persons whose activities have been or have not been restricted due to health problems for at least the past 6 months. The data covers the population aged 25–64 and the data is available by sex. The educational attainment is divided into 5 groups: higher, professional colleges; vocational upper secondary, general upper secondary, vocational lower secondary; general lower secondary, vocational qualification without completion of lower secondary; primary; special upper secondary, vocational post secondary. The results are expressed as a percentage of the certain educational attainment group to the comparable total population.

The data on GALI in Lithuanian LFS has been collected since 2021 annually, due to its high importance to the national statistics.

Results

The results of 2022 data show the unemployment rate of persons with some or severe limitation was almost 3 times higher than persons whose activity was not limited at all (14.4 percent and 5 percent respectively, Figure 1).⁵ The unemployment rate for males was 3.3 percentage points higher than for females. Furthermore, compare to 2021, the total unemployment rate of persons with disability and without was lower, however, the gap between these two groups remains relatively big.

Figure 1. Unemployment rate of persons aged 25–64 whose activities have been or have not been restricted due to health problems for at least the past 6 months, 2021–2022, %.



Source: Lithuanian LFS data, available at [Indicators Database](#)

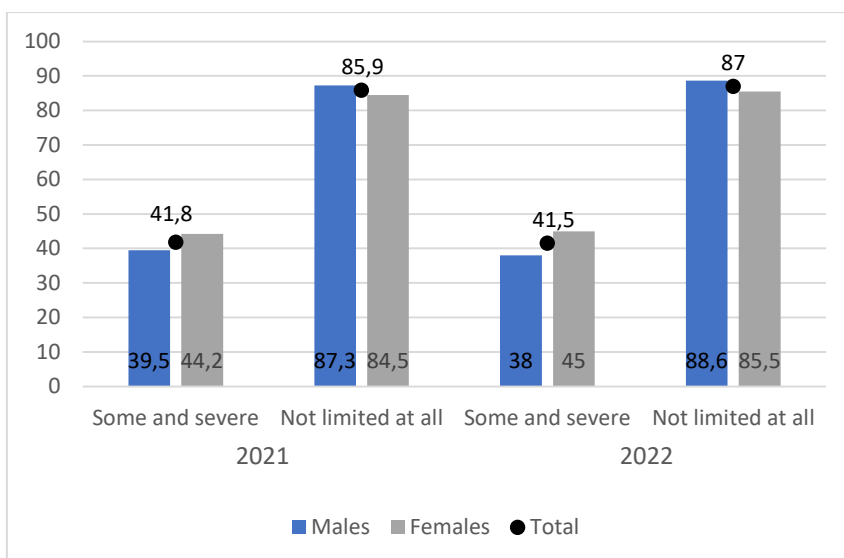
The analysis of the employment rate shows that it was much higher for the persons whose activity was not limited at all than whose activity was some or severely limited (87 percent and 41.5 percent respectively in 2022 and 85.9 percent and 41.8 percent respectively in 2021)⁶. Figure 2 indicates that females who had a disability tend to have higher employment rate than man (45 percent and 38 percent

⁵ [Indicators Database](#) Accessed 10 May 2023.

⁶ [Indicators Database](#) Accessed 10 May 2023.

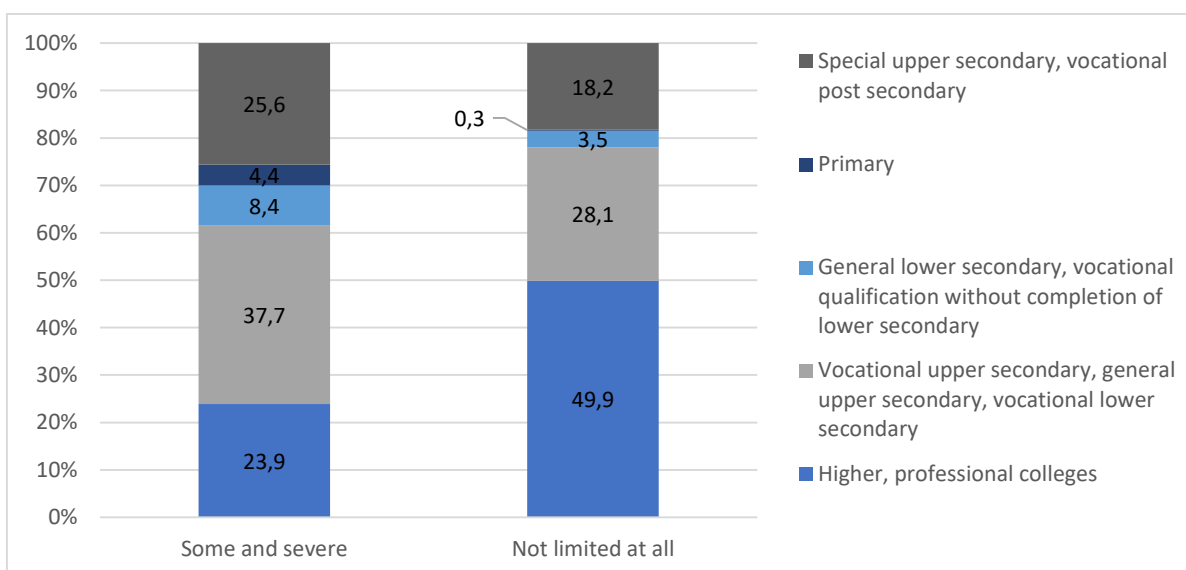
in 2022). However, females' who did not have any disability, employment rate was lower than men – 85.5 percent compare to 88.6 percent.

Figure 2. Employment rate of persons aged 25–64 whose activities have been or have not been restricted due to health problems for at least the past 6 months, 2021–2022, %.



Source: Lithuanian LFS data, available at [Indicators Database](#)

Figure 3. Educational attainment of persons whose activities have been or have not been restricted due to health problems for at least the past 6 months (of the population aged 25–64), 2022.



Source: Lithuanian LFS data, available at [Indicators Database](#)

Lastly, the third new indicator is educational attainment of persons whose activities have been or have not been restricted due to health problems for at least the past 6 months. Figure 3 reveals that persons whose activities had not been limited at all had higher education than the ones with limited activities. Almost half of the persons (49.9 percent) whose activity was not limited have graduated from universities or professional colleges, to compare with only 23.9 percent whose activity have been limited⁷.

Conclusion

In summary, the findings of these figures indicate a significant issue that there are some relatively big differences in the labour market and in educational attainment between persons whose activity is restricted or not in Lithuania. This available data is highly important for the policy makers who should tackle this matter and ensure that people would have the same opportunities to participate in the labour market and in the educational system regarding their disability.

References

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Statistics Lithuania. State Data Agency. Indicators Database, 2023, <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/>

⁷ [Indicators Database](#) Accessed 10 May 2023.