

AccessibleEU – Accessibility Indicators

Highlights 2024

Spain

Background

AccessibleEU intends to monitor action and progress of member states to implement accessibility legislation and standards by using a framework largely based on the [United Nations \(2020\) Article 9: Illustrative Indicators, Human Rights Indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

This monitoring framework is composed of structural indicators, process indicators, and outcome indicators:

- **Structural indicators** aim to capture the institutional aspects of national commitments.
- **Progress indicators** focus on efforts of member states to transform commitments into results.
- **Outcome indicators** relate to the impact of commitments and efforts onto individuals.

AccessibleEU uses a total of 30 indicators covering the areas of Built Environment, Transport, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Public Policies.

Overview for Spain

Percentage of people with disabilities ([Eurostat, 2024](#)): 29,60%

AccessibleEU National Experts: [Delfin Jiménez Martín](#) and [María Fernanda Cabrera Umpiérrez](#)

National Council of Persons with Disabilities (member of the European Disability Forum): [Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad \(CERMI\)](#)

[Annual Country Report 2024 for Spain](#)

Structural indicators

Topic: Legislation enacted ensuring the right to access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications, including ICTs, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas.

- **Findings:** Legal frameworks including accessibility requirements are in place across sectors. The right to equal access for diverse disability groups is explicitly stated and strengthened with non-discrimination legislation covering public services, infrastructure, transport, and information and communication. Enforcement mechanisms are foreseen in the respective legislation, operating at national and regional levels.

Topic: Incorporation of EU accessibility standards and/or transposition of EU Directives in national legal frameworks

- **Findings:** National legislation aligns with EU Directives and incorporates accessibility standardization instruments across the sectors of the Built Environment (e.g. EN 17210:2021 in Technical Building Code), Transport (e.g. TSI 1300/2014 and rail transport standards in relevant Royal Decree 1544/2007), ICT (e.g. EN 301 549 in Royal Decree 1112/2018 transposing the EU Directive 2016/2102) and Public Policies (e.g. Law 9/2017 transposing EU Directives 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU).

Topic: Accessibility related Strategic and action planning is up to date on national level and aligned with EU relevant strategies.

- **Findings:** A [National Plan for Universal Accessibility \(2023-2032\)](#) is in place and aligned with the CRPD and the European Accessibility Act, outlining specific objectives and actions for improving accessibility in the Built Environment, Transport, ICT and Public Policies. Sector-specific strategic plans covering accessibility include: the State Housing Plan (2022-2025), the Spanish Urban Agenda Plan (2019), the Sustainable Mobility Plan, and the Digital Agenda. A National Disability Strategy 2022-2030 is also in place focusing on promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities at wide.

Process indicators

Topic: Training on universal design and accessibility standards is part of higher education courses/ professional accreditation.

- **Findings:** Many universities in Spain include modules on Universal Design and Design for All across sectors, such as: in architecture and urban planning courses (the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya); transport engineering (Politécnica de Valencia and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) and accessible web

design, assistive technology and digital accessibility (Universidad de Alcalá, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and Universidad de Valencia). There are also examples of training courses in other higher/vocational education. Representative organisations of persons with disabilities, and individuals, are often invited to contribute to course content and share their experiences.

Topic: Implementation of accessibility audits on government facilities, services and programmes that require the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including with respect to emergency protocols, procedures, services and facilities.

- **Findings:** Accessibility audits are systematic in the sectors of the Built Environment, Transport, ICT and Public Policies. These are performed by a range of public authorities and private entities. Auditors typically are required to hold professional qualifications in related fields, i.e. urban planning, transport, IT and web development, and policy evaluation. Training programs are available for auditors to specialize in accessibility audits, often provided by organizations of persons with disabilities, like Fundación ONCE and CERMI. Persons with disabilities participating in audit processes may receive specific training to understand audit procedures and standards. Additional accountability mechanisms include complaints handling by various public bodies such as the Consejo Nacional de la Discapacidad, mandated Ministries, and the Spanish Ombudsman's Office.

Topic: Awareness raising campaigns and activities to promote accessibility across all services open to the public and promote knowledge of universal design and accessibility standards by relevant professionals, manufacturers and service providers, as well as informing individuals of their rights and responsibilities as they relate to accessibility.

- **Findings:** A number of national awareness raising campaigns are taking place about disability rights and accessibility. Both civil society and public authorities are often involved in partnerships. Continuity is ensured through the creation of networks, rich information material and media used, series of webinars and annual events. Topics include: accessibility of urban environments, accessible housing, accessible transport, accessible online services, including online banking and e-commerce and cognitive accessibility of public services.

Topic: Incentives and support provision to improve accessibility in the provision of goods and services and/or information about accessibility to potential users.

- **Findings:** A number of incentives and support measures are available to promote accessibility across sectors, including: subsidies for improving accessibility to property owners; tax incentives for accessible constructions; allocated budgets for upgrading transport services annually; funding programs to support the development of accessible ICT

products and services; awards for companies that excel in creating accessible digital services; and grants for accessibility projects in public services.

Topic: Consultation processes undertaken to ensure the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, policies and programs, related to accessibility of the built environment, transportation, information and communication.

- **Findings:** Representative organisations of persons with disabilities are actively involved in policy making processes. During the development of the National Plan for Universal Accessibility 2023-2032, the National Disability Council conducted multiple consultation sessions involving various disability organizations to ensure their perspectives were incorporated. Disability organizations also participate in the review of accessibility-related strategic plans in the areas of transport, ICT and public policies.

Outcome indicators

Topic: Reported access to public transport, public buildings/spaces and websites and compliance with legal requirements.

- **Findings:** Official data is available to monitor progress on accessibility across key sectors. Approximately 80% of public buildings comply with basic accessibility requirements according to annual reports by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility, and Urban Agenda. Data from the National Urban Mobility Strategy reports that 60% of public urban spaces comply with accessibility standards. A national study on public housing found that 75% of newly constructed residential buildings (post-2015) meet the requirements of universal design. Moreover, according to latest data by Renfe: 85% of train stations are equipped with accessible facilities; 78% of long-distance trains are fully accessible, including ramps, accessible toilets, and auditory and visual information systems, and 50% of regional trains are accessible. In the field of digital accessibility, 65% of public sector websites are fully compliant (Observatorio de Accesibilidad Web, 2022 Annual Accessibility Report). Finally, as of 2022, 80% of public procurement contracts at the national level include accessibility clauses, according to data from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation.