

AccessibleEU – Accessibility Indicators

Highlights 2024

Ireland

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 Ireland

Percentage of people with disabilities ([Eurostat, 2024](#)): 20,5%

AccessibleEU National Expert: Donal Fitzpatrick

National Council of Persons with Disabilities (member of the European Disability Forum): [Disability Federation Ireland \(DFI\)](#)

[Annual Country Report 2024 for Ireland](#)

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:** Accessibility in transport, built environment and public policies is covered by the national law. No specific information has been identified in Ireland regarding the reference to enforcement mechanisms within accessibility-related legislation in Ireland.

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

- **Findings:** The European Accessibility Act and the Web Accessibility Directive are both transposed. Standards such as EN 301 549 and EN 17210:2021 are also both adopted by the national standardisation bodies. No specific standards have been identified in reference to transport and public policies.

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

- **Findings:** The [National Development Plan 2020-2040](#) refers to regional accessibility. The plan covers ten strategic outcomes, building around the overarching themes of wellbeing, equality, and opportunity.

Process indicators

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

- **Findings:** Different accessibility trainings have been identified in various colleges and universal design has been incorporated in the accreditation criteria of different sectors such as Engineers and Architectural Technologist. Some of them have been identified as involving people with disabilities in their design and / or delivery. CEUD also runs the Universal Design Grand Challenge Awards, promoting UD and awarding third level and post-graduate students for Universal Design projects, prototypes and design in areas of Built Environment, Products and Services and ICT

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:** Web Accessibility Directive (WAD), as part of the NDA CEUD, is responsible for monitoring public bodies website and mobile apps and produces a Monitoring Report for Ireland annually ([NDA Monitoring Reports](#)). NDA conducted 231 Simplified Reviews, 21 In-depth reviews on websites and 11 mobile app reviews for the 2023 monitoring period. The NDA monitors public bodies and prepares Compliance Reports annually. In regards to Public Policies, Part 5 of the Disability Act (2005) States the minimum statutory employment target for persons with disabilities to be employed in the public sector is currently at 3% with an increase in 2024 to 4.5%. The NDA monitors public bodies and prepares [Part 5 Compliance Reports](#) annually.

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:** NDA CEUD Annual events such as the National Disability Annual Conference and The Universal Design Grand Challenge raise awareness and promote accessibility each year and Awards which incorporate building activities around Universal Design are also organised. Most of these initiatives involve people with disabilities in their design and / or delivery.

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

- **Findings:** [Housing Adaption Grant](#) for people with disabilities is available with a maximum grant of €30,000 or 95% of the cost of the work. For Transport, the [Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme](#) provides a range of tax reliefs linked to the purchase and use of specially constructed or adapted vehicles. Schools can get an [Assistive Technology Grant](#) from the Department of Education. The [Reasonable Accommodation Fund](#) provide financial support to private sector employers, jobseekers and employees with disability to make the workplace more accessible.

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:** The Network of Disabled Person Organisations (DPOs) and National Guidance on implementing the obligation to meaningfully engage with disabled people in public decision making.

Outcome indicators

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

- **Findings:** No specific information has been identified.