



Author: Justyna Patro

NEWSLETTER

MAY/5/2024

Sustainable
Development
Office

ZIŁONY
WSiZ

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



ISSUE TOPIC:

DISABILITY

Task 10.2: Promote and strengthen the social, economic, and political inclusion of all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or economic or other status

Inequalities persist in the world and not everyone has equal access to health care, education and other goods. It is becoming increasingly clear that economic growth alone will not be enough to reduce poverty. It is essential that every person can benefit from inclusive economic progress, based on the three pillars of sustainable development economic, social and environmental*.

* <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>

THROUGH THE EYES OF SPECIALISTS

dr Monika Struck-Peregończyk



Who are people with disabilities?

The first association is usually a person in a wheelchair, blind or deaf. However, there are many more causes of disability – they may be chronic diseases, intellectual disabilities, or mental illnesses. It is important to remember that a disability may be visible to those around it, but it may also be invisible when it is not visible at first glance or not at all.

Universal disability

Disability is a **universal human experience** because everyone, at some point in their lives, will experience limitations in their abilities. Hence, eliminating barriers – whether architectural, transport or mental – benefits us all!

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- adopted by the UN Assembly on the 13th of December 2006;
- the Polish government signed it on March 20th, 2007;
- ratification of the Convention by Poland on September 6th, 2012.

So far, 164 countries around the world have signed the Convention¹.

¹bip.brpo.gov.pl/pl/content/konwencja-onz-o-prawach-osob-niepelnosprawnych

What is disability?

Formerly

the so-called *medical model of disability*

Medical aspects, define disability as poor health, deficiency, impairment, or damage.

Currently

the so-called *social model of disability*

Social model of disability recognizes that disability may be primarily the result of barriers that a person with a disability encounters in society.

These barriers can occur at all levels but are most severe in access to material goods, health, and education.

THROUGH THE EYES OF SPECIALISTS

dr Monika Struck-Peregończyk



The words used to describe disabilities have a direct impact on social attitudes towards people with disabilities. How we speak is not only a reflection of reality but also a tool for shaping it. Through language, existing stereotypes and prejudices can be perpetuated or eliminated.

Media and disability

The mass media are usually dominated by **two very different images** of people with disabilities – as **people in need of help** (*victims*) or as **people performing extraordinary acts** (*heroes*)².

Why is it important?

- The media take part in the process of shaping attitudes, and the media's influence is stronger the less personal contacts the recipients have with people with disabilities.
- Representation – accurate representation in the media and cultural works allows people with disabilities to identify with characters and learn about stories similar to those they experience.

²M. Struck-Peregończyk, I. Leonowicz-Bukała (2018) Bezbronni ofiary czy dzielni bohaterowie: wizerunek osób niepełnosprawnych w polskiej prasie. Studia de Cultura. Annales Universitatis Paedagogicae Cracoviensis, 10(1)/2018

Worth following on social media

Life on Wheelz
@lifeonwhlz



Bogumiła
Siedlecka-Gościńska
@aniolnaresorach



Renata Orłowska
@zaniczka



Agata Roczniak
@agataroczniak



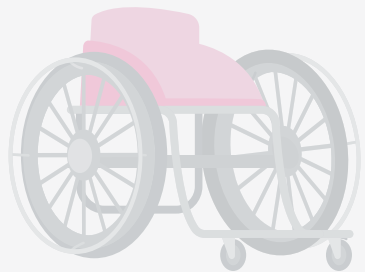
27%

In 2022, 27% of the EU population over 16 years old had some form of disability³,



equating to **1 in 4** adults or **101** MILLION people

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



52%

According to Eurostat data, every second person with disabilities feels discriminated against³.

³ www.consilium.europa.eu/pl/infographics/disability-eu-facts-figures/



5.4

 MILLION people

♀ 54.9% ♂ 45.1%

According to the 2021 census, the number of people with disabilities in Poland increased to 5.4 million. 54.9% of this number are women, while 45.1% are men⁴.

⁴ <https://niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/p,79,informacje-i-dane-demograficzne>

34.2%

In 2022, the economic activity rate of working-age people with disabilities was 34.2%⁵,



↑ **1.3%** which is a 1.3% increase from the previous year.

Among people with disabilities aged 20–26, 17.7% were unemployed, in comparison to 8.6% of people without disabilities³.

 **17.7%**

 **8.6%**

⁵ <https://niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/index.php?c=page&id=80&>

20.900 people = 1.7% OF THE TOTAL number of students

According to data from the Central Statistical Office, in the 2021/2022 academic year, 20.9 thousand students with disabilities studied at Polish universities, which constitutes 1.7% of the total number of students⁶.

These include:

- people with motor organ dysfunction;
- blind and visually impaired people;
- deaf and hard of hearing people.



⁶ https://stat.gov.pl/download/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/default-aktualnosci/5487/26/5/1/osoby_niepelnosprawne_w_2022_r..pdf

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The "**Strategy for the Rights of People with Disabilities 2021–2030**", adopted by the Commission in March 2021, is part of a series of programs aimed at building a "Union of Equality". This 10-year plan by the EU is designed to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities in Europe and globally.

BLUMIL SPORT

Miłosz Krawczyk is the creator of the trademarked **Blumil** wheelchair. It is a two-wheeled vehicle, controlled by body movements interpreted by a computer and gyroscopes.

One battery charge allows you to travel approximately **35 km** at a speed of **20 km/h**⁷.



⁷ <https://blumil.pl/o-nas>

On **September 6, 2023**, the European Commission approved a proposal for a directive to create **a European card for individuals with disabilities** and **a European parking card** for individuals with disabilities.



These cards will act as evidence of a person's disabled status and ensure access to various facilities and benefits recognized in all EU countries⁸.



The Polish legal system urgently needs to abolish restrictions on legal capacity, as using **incapacitation due to disability** violates fundamental human rights and is inconsistent with the Convention⁸.

The "**Strategy for People with Disabilities 2021–2030**" developed by Poland assumes the implementation of the Convention through broad-spectrum activities, including the level of employment of people with disabilities.

⁸ https://poland.representation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/df6eba8b-9634-4716-88ca-fd04aedcb3ec_pl?filename=Raport_Unia_rownosci_marzec%202024.pdf



Task 10.2 under Goal 10 included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

By 2030, promote and strengthen the social, economic and political inclusion of all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or economic or other status.

ARCHIVING THE NEWSLETTER

For **students and lecturers**, the newsletter is available on the Moodle platform in the "Sustainable Development at UITM - Newsletter" course (navigation bar on the left, tab under the Technical Forum).

Employees can find the newsletter on the General Drive O; in the folder of the Office of Sustainable Development.



Team of Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Office – RA 143
+48 17 866 12 82 / +48 17 866 11 84



Author: Justyna Patro