



Poverty and women with disabilities

Pirkko Mahlamäki

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European Disability Forum

- Umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities (100 members)
- Defend rights of over 100 million persons with disabilities in Europe (+60 million are women)
- EDF and women's rights
 - Women's Committee
 - Member of the European Women's Lobby

Women with disabilities and poverty

Women with disabilities at **higher risk of poverty** than men with disabilities and women without disabilities

→ **29.5%** of women with disabilities in the EU are at risk of poverty and social exclusion (compared to 27.5% of men with disabilities) - EU-SILC 2018

Causes of poverty – increased by COVID-19

- Barriers in access to education
- Unemployment
- Pay gap and lower financial resources
- Extra disability related costs
- Discrimination by association (e.g. mother of a child with disabilities)

Employment

- only **48.3%** of women with disabilities are in employment in the EU, compared with 53.3% of men with disabilities (EU-SILC 2017)
- only **20,7%** of women with disabilities are in **full time employment**, compared to 28,6% of men with disabilities (Gender Equality Index 2019) – greatest employment disparities in Greece, Malta and Ireland

Pay gap / financial resources

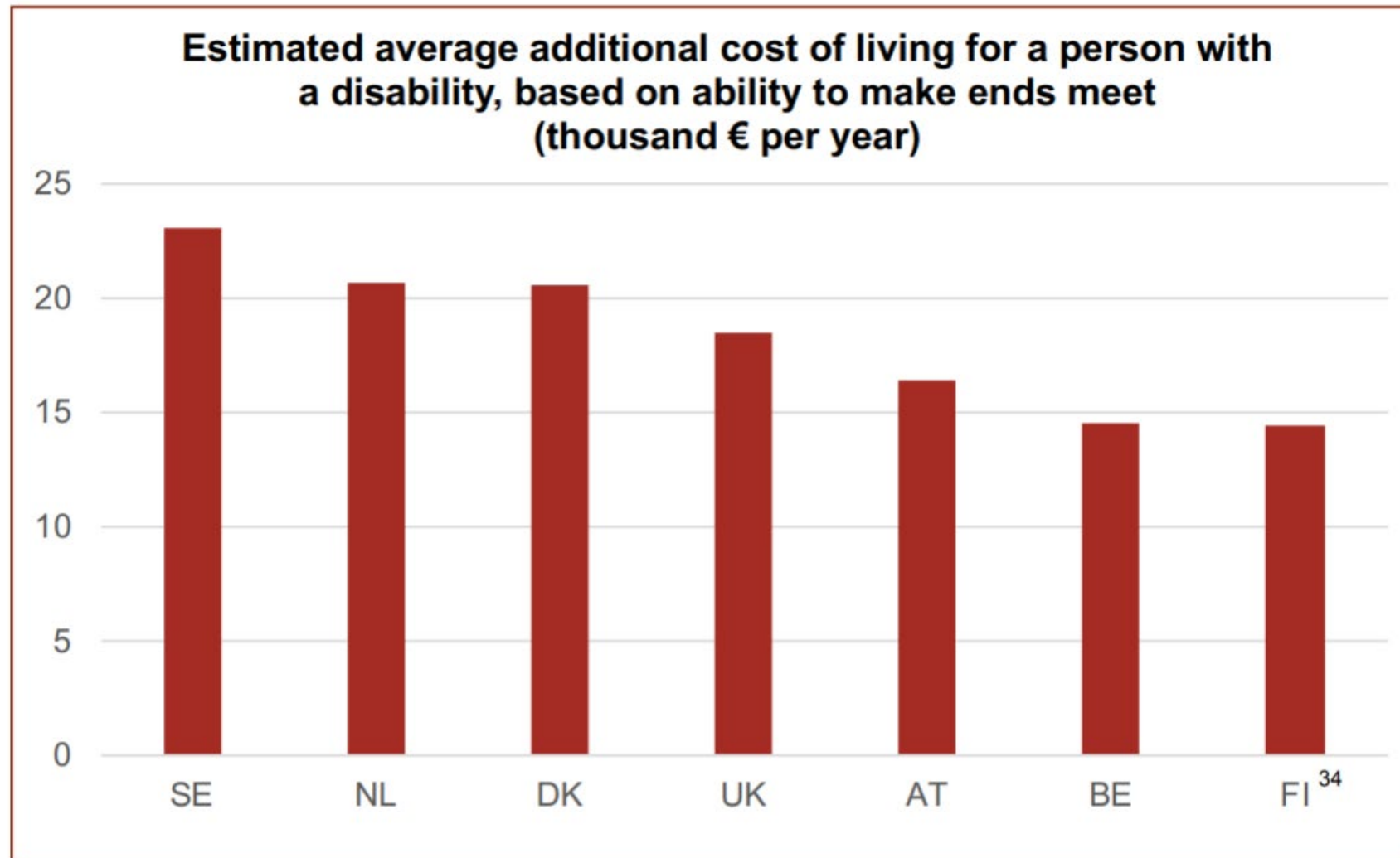
(based on Mean equivalised net income (PPS) Gender Equality Index 2019)

- Women with disabilities have the have the **lowest financial resources** (16.380 EUR/year) comparing to men with disabilities (17.275 EUR/year) and women without disabilities (19.572 EUR/year)
- Lowest mean equivalised net income of women with disabilities is in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary

Extra disability related costs

- Additional costs of access to goods and services faced by persons with disabilities in the EU combined comes to **between 15€ and 41€ billion per year** (2018 report of European Parliament Research Service)
- Example: Special Report by the Spanish National Disability Observatory- main expenses tend to be medical treatment (29% of expenses), medicine (28.3%), technical aids (28%), transport and mobility (24.3%) and personal assistance (21.6%).

Extra disability related costs



Discrimination by association

Example: Poverty faced by mothers of children with disabilities due unequal access to employment, extra disability related costs...

- Children with disabilities are more likely to live in a single parent household than other children (EIGE report Gender equality and long-term care at home) – often being with their mother (Women make up almost 85 % of all single-parent households in the EU (EIGE, 2016))

Recommendations for Equality Bodies

- Address **causes** of poverty coming from discrimination:
e.g. equality in accessing inclusive education,
employment and pay equality
- Address the **impact** of poverty on women with
disabilities: e.g. equal access to housing and
accessibility- homelessness as a consequence of poverty
- Disability AND gender perspective

Thank you for your attention

The European Disability Forum

www.edf-feph.org

Avenue des Arts 7-8, Bruxelles
1210, Belgium

Twitter: @MyEDF

Facebook: @MyEDF

