Data sources guidance for outcome indicators on article 29:

Participation in political and public life

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29.27: Voter turnout disaggregated by sex, age, disability and electoral district for national, regional and local elections

Level 1: Indicator for which data are already being produced and reported on in at least some countries

The key source of data on registered voters is the voter registers themselves.

Information on countries is summarized in the Voter Turnout Database of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, which includes figures for voter registration by election and by country, but it does not include information on voters with disabilities.

Information on voter turnout can also be obtained through surveys designed to measure voting activity if questions on disability are included. For example, in the United States of America, the Voting and Registration Supplement of the United States Census Bureau is added to the monthly Current Population Survey following national elections, in November of even-numbered years. The Current Population Survey is a monthly representative survey of the American population, designed primarily to obtain employment information. It includes six questions to identify disability status – not the questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, but six yes-or-no questions about difficulties in core functional domains.

In the Voting and Registration Supplement, respondents are asked if they voted in the most recent election. If they respond affirmatively, they are assumed to have been registered, whereas non-voters are asked an additional question about whether they are registered. Depending on these answers, respondents are then asked additional questions about the methods used for voting and registering, and non-participants are asked about the main reason why they chose not to participate, according to Lisa Schur of Rutgers University in her presentation to the Committee on the Future of Voting of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Table 1 below presents the voter turnout for three past elections, disaggregated by disability, and the disability turnout gap.

Table 1: Disability and voter turnout in 2008, 2012 and 2016, United States of America

	2008 (percentage)	2012 (percentage)	2016 (percentage)
People without disabilities	64.5	62.5	62.2
People with disabilities	57.3	56.8	55.9
Disability turnout gap	-7.2	-5.7	-6.3

Source: Lisa Schur, "Disability, voter turnout, and polling place accessibility", presentation to the Committee on the Future of Voting of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States, 12–13 June 2017.

Information on the voting method is also collected through the Voting and Registration Supplement, disaggregated by disability, and on the gap between persons with disabilities and those without disabilities, as presented in table 2.

Table 2: Voting at polling place or by mail before or on election day by disability status, United States

How person voted in 2016	Disability (percentage)	No disability (percentage)	Gap (percentage)
At polling place on election day	52.6	60.9	-8.3
At polling place before election day	18.1	19.2	-1.1
By mail before election day	28.4	18.6	9.8
By mail on election day	0.9	1.4	0.5

Source: Lisa Schur, "Disability, voter turnout, and polling place accessibility", presentation to the Committee on the Future of Voting of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States, 12–13 June 2017.

29.28: Number and proportion of persons with disabilities eligible to vote who submitted complaints during electoral processes and were provided with remedies to exercise the right to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and electoral district

Level 3: Indicator for which acquiring data is more complex or requires the development of data collection mechanisms that are not currently in place

Each country has an electoral authority (or in some countries, such as the United States, each state or province has an electoral authority) to which voters can submit complaints. A list of European commissions can be found on the website of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. National administrative records of the electoral authorities should include information on complaints submitted during electoral processes.

No reports were found that categorized public complaints by type, and thus by disability, although that information could be collected and reported.

Other sources for data collection could be national human rights institutions, which may monitor complaints about elections should they be mandated to consider complaints about alleged voting rights violations.

This indicator could also include the number of recommendations made by national and international observer groups, such as the European Union or the Carter Center, concerning

the access and inclusion of persons with disabilities and the proportion of recommendations complied with during the electoral process.

29.29: Proportion of persons who stand for election (candidates) who are persons with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and electoral jurisdiction, at all levels of government, as compared to the proportion of persons with disabilities among the total population

Level 3: Indicator for which acquiring data is more complex or requires the development of data collection mechanisms that are not currently in place

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.1 refers to proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service and judiciary), compared to national distributions. However, the metadata for the indicator pertains only to the judicial branch.

Local government associations may collect these data. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Census of Local Authority Councillors in England is regularly carried out, with a breakdown of councillors by long-term health problems or disabilities, age, ethnicity, gender, political group and region.

Computing this indicator through such a census would require all candidates to self-identify as having or not having a disability as part of filing for their candidacy. The United Kingdom offers candidates with disabilities additional financial support, which provides an incentive to self-report, according to the government website.

In countries with a similar system, administrative records of candidates receiving such financial support could provide data for this indicator.

29.30: Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service and the judiciary) compared to national distributions (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.1)

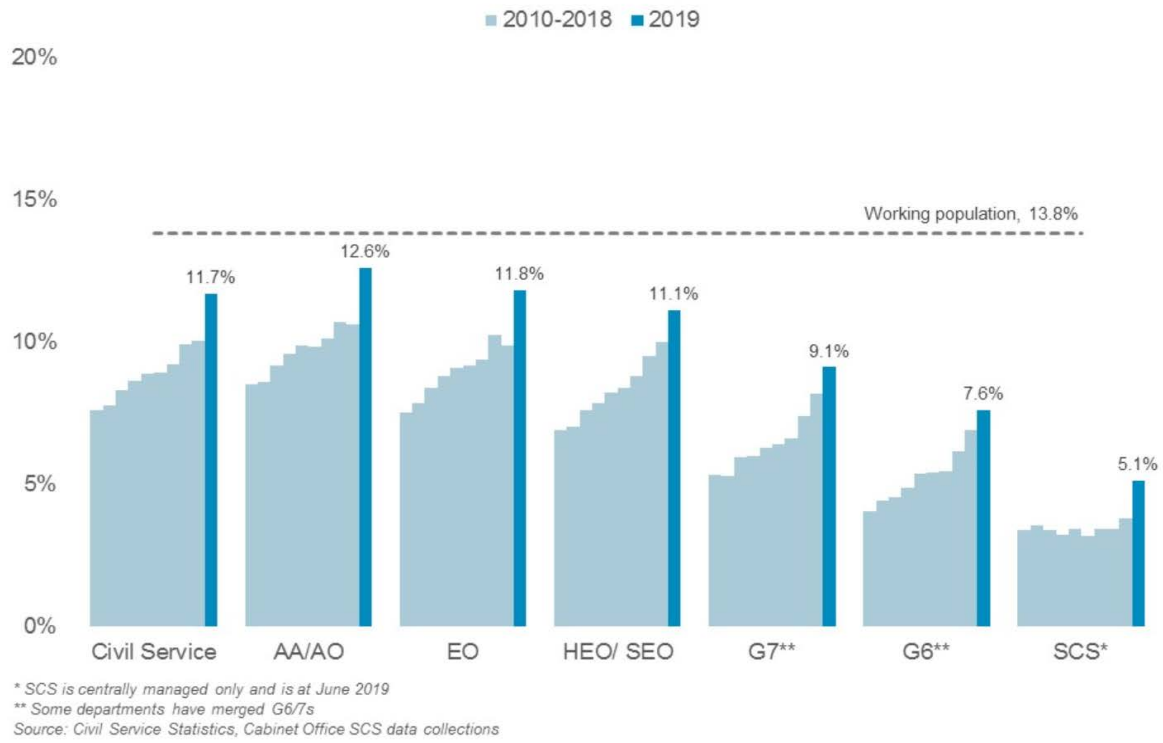
Level 2: Indicator can be produced with existing data but has not been reported on

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have developed the Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey initiative, which is aimed at providing a coherent survey instrument that countries can use to measure progress on multiple survey-based indicators on Goal 16. The survey is dedicated to the collection of data on governance, access to justice, violence, corruption, discrimination and trafficking in persons. It focuses on 13 global indicators on Goal 16 and others, with data derived from population surveys. This type of data source presents numerous advantages, including high quality data and the ability to produce indicators disaggregated by a number of variables. Monitoring progress on these indicators will require a substantial increase in the number of national surveys on crime victimization, access to justice and corruption, which can be costly and challenging for national statistical offices to implement on a regular basis. To ease the task of these offices to monitor the survey-based indicators as part of their reporting on Goal 16, it is proposed that dedicated Goal 16 survey modules be developed and then included in ongoing data collection programmes of household and other relevant statistical surveys. The survey initiative has been piloted in eight countries. The Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey initiative questionnaire is available online.

The United Kingdom operates the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Dashboard, from which the figure below is taken. This figure shows that, overall, 11.7 per cent of civil servants in 2019 had a disability.

Representation of staff with disabilities by grade, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 2010–2019



Source: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Dashboard. Available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-diversity-inclusion-dashboard.

Notes: Terms as presented by the source.

AA/AO – Administrative Assistant/Administrative Officer; EO – Executive Officer; HEO/SEO – Higher Executive Officer/Senior Executive Officer; G – grade.

In addition, as referred to under indicator 29.29, the Local Government Association regularly carries out the Census of Local Authority Councillors in England, which breaks down councillors by long-term health problems or disabilities, age, ethnicity, gender, political group and region.

Canada also reports on employment equity in core public administration by disability and gender.

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.1 refers to proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service and the judiciary) compared with national distributions. However, the metadata for the indicator pertain only to the judicial branch.

To compute this indicator, all public employees are asked to self-identify as having or not having a disability as part of their personnel records. This can raise privacy concerns, as the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights points out in the report *The Right to Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities: Human Rights Indicators*.

People's right to privacy conflicts with mandatory reporting of disability status. Moreover, some people with functional difficulties, who would be identified as having a disability through tools such as the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning, may not self-identify as having a disability if simply asked to record their disability status on an administrative form.

The above-mentioned report contains information on parliamentarians who self-identified as having a disability obtained through government sources, requests for accommodations, or information posted on their websites or other social media. However, these sources would not provide comprehensive information.

29.31: Number of organizations of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by type of organization, constituency represented, total membership and registration status

Level 3: Indicator for which acquiring data is more complex or requires the development of data collection mechanisms that are not currently in place

Agencies that administer registration processes have basic information about each organization, which could, theoretically, be compiled. However, this would not include non-registered organizations, and the degree of registration most likely varies significantly by country. Alternatively, other agencies or non-governmental organizations may compile a list – for example, the Japan International Cooperation Agency compiled a list of such organizations in Ethiopia.

Another approach would be to include questions about participation in a national disability survey or a survey specifically targeting social participation. For example, a survey in the United Kingdom reports on civic engagement, and it has shown that participation is actually higher among persons with disabilities. Without doubt, this is partly due to activities related to representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

However, the interpretation of this indicator requires careful analysis. An increase or a decrease in the number of organizations may reflect various developments. For instance, new organizations may develop in areas where there were none, large organizations may divide, or smaller organizations may merge.

To obtain information on the size of memberships, the organizations would have to be surveyed.

29.32: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.2) (see also indicator 1/4.28 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

Level 2: Indicator can be produced with straightforward additions or modifications to existing data collection efforts

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

According to the metadata:

> There is no official, globally comparable data set on the proportion of the population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and population group. While a large number of countries have experience with measuring external political efficacy, there is large variability in the ways national statistical offices and government agencies in individual countries collect data on this concept in terms of the wording of questions and response formats, among others. This variability poses a significant challenge for cross-country comparability of such data.

OHCHR, UNDP and UNODC have developed the Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey initiative, which is aimed at providing a coherent survey instrument that countries can use to measure progress on multiple survey-based indicators on Goal 16. The survey is dedicated to the collection of data on governance, access to justice, violence, corruption, discrimination and trafficking in persons. It focuses on 13 global indicators on Goal 16 and others, with data derived from population surveys. This type of data source presents numerous advantages, including high quality data and the ability to produce indicators disaggregated by a number of variables. Monitoring progress on these indicators will require a substantial increase in the number of national surveys on crime victimization, access to justice and corruption, which can be costly and challenging for national statistical offices to implement on a regular basis. To ease the task of these offices to monitor the survey-based indicators as part of their reporting on Goal 16, it is proposed that dedicated Goal 16 survey modules be developed and then included in ongoing data collection programmes of household and other relevant statistical surveys. The survey initiative has been piloted in eight countries. The Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey initiative questionnaire is available online.

The eighth round of the European Social Survey included two questions to measure political efficacy:

1. "How much would you say the political system in [country] allows people like you to have a say in what the Government does?"

2. "How much would you say that the political system in [country] allows people like you to have an influence on politics?"

Data are available for sex and age, but the European Social Survey does not include questions about disability. A sample of the results from the eighth round can be found in table 3.

Users can download de-identified individual-level data or create tables through an online analysis tool available on the survey website.

Table 3: Results of questions from the eighth round of the European Social Survey, 2016

Perception that the political system allows people to have a say in what the Government does (percentage)						
Country	**Czechia**	**Estonia**	**Germany**	**Italy**	**Norway**	**Poland**
Not at all	26.6	36.1	14.2	47.3	3.1	30.1
Very little	35.3	38	35.4	42.5	28.3	39.6
Some	29.6	22.2	38.0	9.0	51.0	25.4
A lot	7.5	3.3	11.5	1.1	16.1	4.1
A great deal	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.2	1.6	0.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number	2,234	1,996	2,841	2,518	1,534	1,620
Perception that the political system allows people to have an influence on politics (percentage)						
Country	**Czechia**	**Estonia**	**Germany**	**Italy**	**Norway**	**Poland**
Not at all	33.5	38.2	14.2	47.1	4.8	33.7
Very little	41.5	39.0	35.0	43.8	23.5	40
Some	21.9	19	36.4	7.8	44.9	22.9
A lot	2.9	3.3	13.4	1.3	23.5	2.9
A great deal	0.2	0.5	1	0.1	3.4	0.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number	2,251	2,007	2,832	2,527	1,535	1,643

Source: European Social Survey. Available at https://ess-search.nsd.no/en/study/f8e11f55-0c14-4ab3-abde-96d3f14d3c76.