



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



DAY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

NOVEMBER 28

UfM Regional Agenda Disability

Workshop 16 November 2023, Barcelona

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43 member countries

All EU member states

16 Southern and Eastern
Mediterranean countries

I. Environmental and climate action

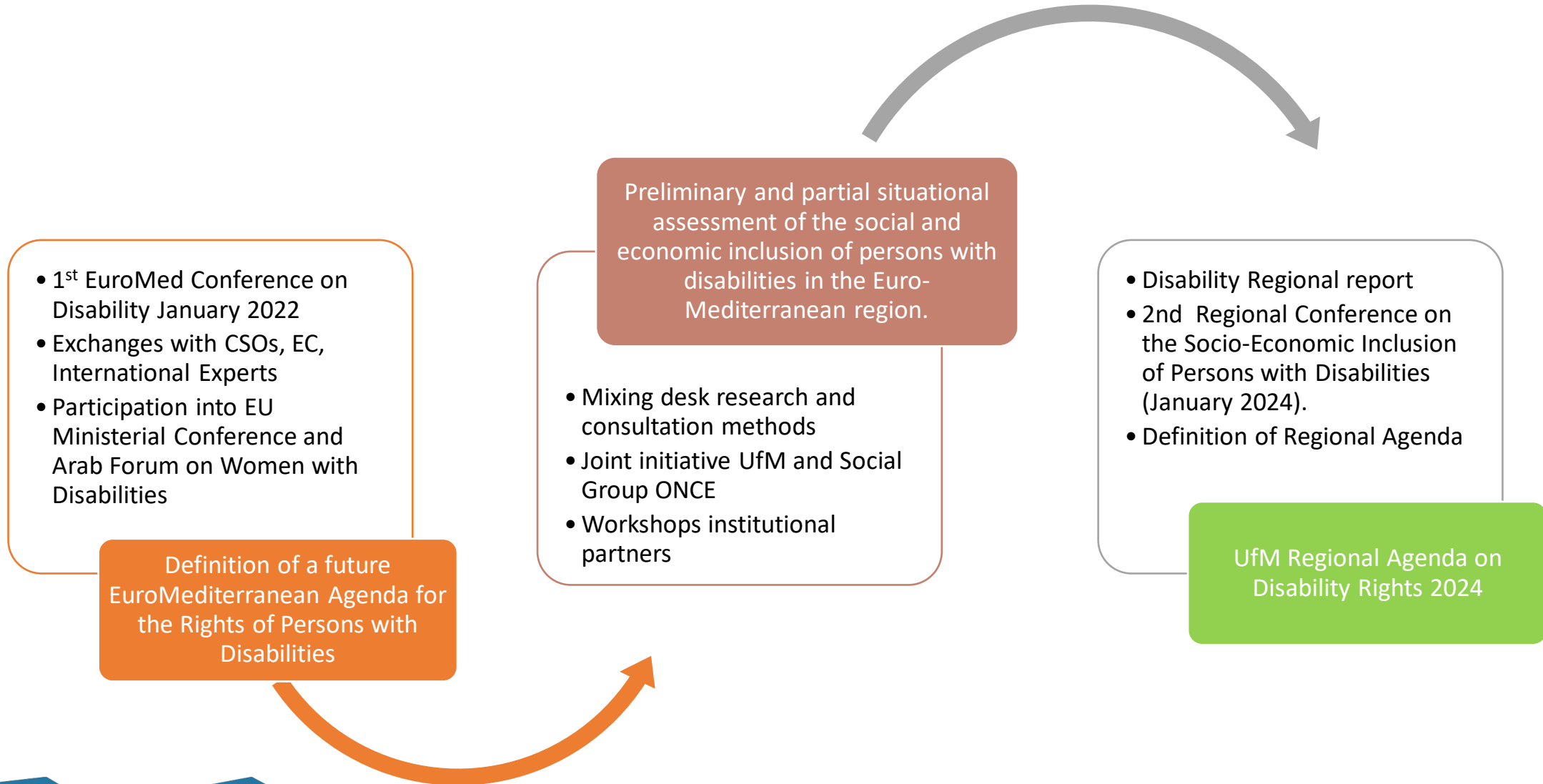
II. Sustainable and inclusive economic and human development

III. Social inclusiveness and equality

IV. Digital transformation

V. Civil Protection

The five areas of action





2 Workshops on June and July 2023





Methodology

Mixed desk research and consultation methods

Targeted area

- Focus on six countries (Italy, Malta, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco)

Selection criteria

- *Availability of recent data and information to produce a representative picture of disability socio-economic inclusion in the Mediterranean.*
- *Demonstrated political willingness to advance an agenda of disability rights and inclusion in line with the provisions of the CRPD including existence of good practices with potential for replication across the region.*
- *North-South Med balance.*



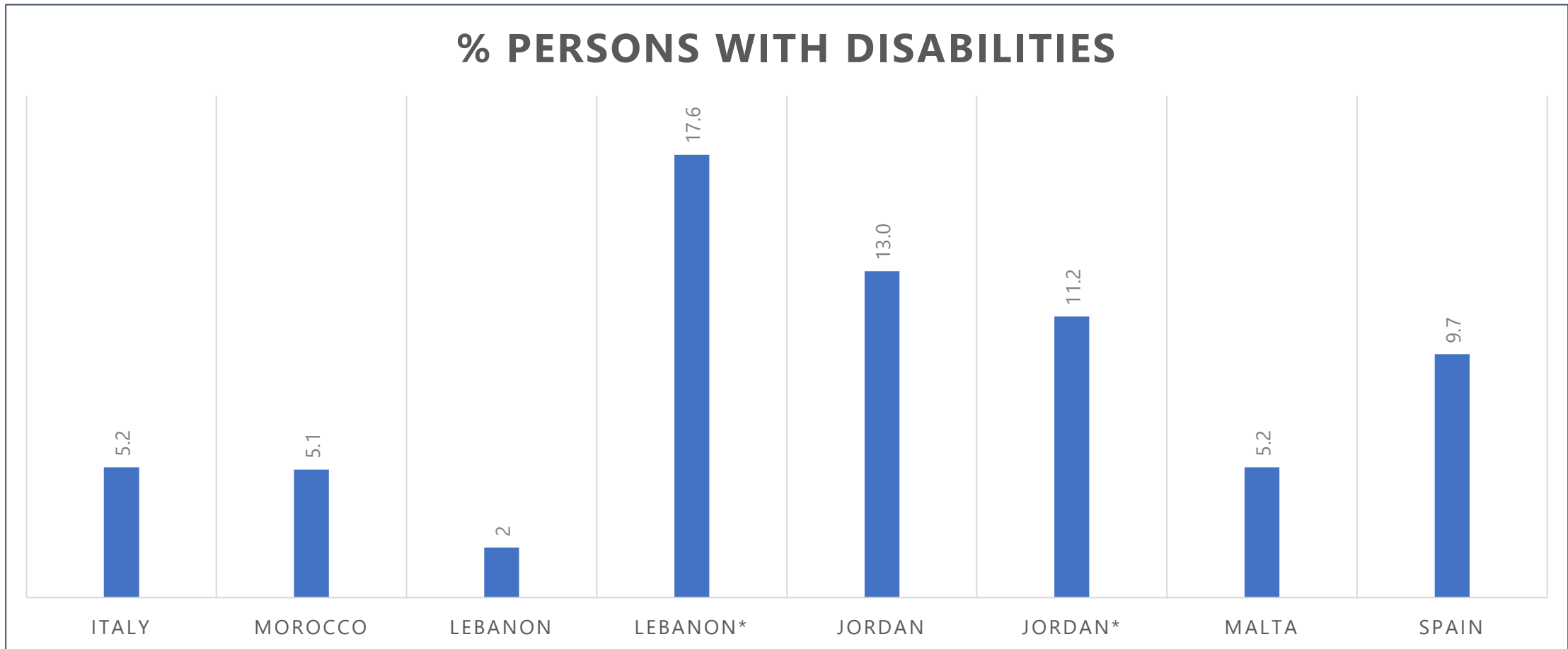
Persons with disabilities are **among the most marginalized and excluded** groups in the Euro-Med region.

The health, climate and conflict crisis have further exacerbated their challenges and highlighted the need for urgent action to ensure their full inclusion.

The socio-economic, cultural, and political **heterogeneity** of the region also contribute to the diversity of approaches to disability inclusion.

Vast disparity in income levels, varying levels of education and literacy rates, significant differences in labor market participation rates and unemployment rates

There is an urgent need to act for the **equal rights of women and girls with disabilities** in the Mediterranean region.





All countries dispose of legislations and/or national policies/strategies, mostly based on quotas which are seldom respected, even in countries with binding systems (Italy and Malta).

Data variation is gigantic and reflective of different data collection methods (ex.: data for Lebanon vary significantly depending on the source)

Differences appears also within more homogenous contexts (see recent EDF human rights report 7/2023)

Cases of Malta and Jordan are interesting, in their own ways



Fragmented mechanisms (central-local), expenditures in % of public budget vary significantly.

Italy and Spain are at around the OECD average (1.9 and 2.5% GDP respectively, avg: 2% [2019]), Malta among the lowest levels in Europe

Morocco: The 2017-2021 Action Plan has the theme of social protection as a priority axis and encourages the coverage of costs and expenses related to the loss of autonomy of persons with disabilities, BUT according to the last 2014 census, two out of three persons with disabilities do not benefit from any social protection (65.9%).

Jordan at the forefront: The National Aid Fund (NAF) is articulated in six programs which include cash transfers to family living below the poverty line and families with members with disability. In 2019, 3,5% of the GDP is invested in social protection. The beneficiaries are entitled to free health care and receive insurance cards.



In terms of employment, women face more disparities than men, with both men with disabilities and women with disabilities facing more unemployment than those without disabilities.



In terms of financial resources, women tend to earn less than men, with both men and women with disabilities facing a greater disparity than people without disabilities.



In general, women have lower levels of education, tend to be segregated at home and have limited access to employment, social services or, generally speaking, inclusion in society.





Developing mechanisms for the economic empowerment of women with disabilities, their rehabilitation, employment and inclusion in financial services

Updating the data collection system and adopting quantitative and qualitative indicators

Encouraging the private sector to invest in the projects of women entrepreneurs with disabilities, and technological programs and applications for training

Promoting access to decision-making positions and their participation in all legislative and executive bodies

Developing of a regional program for the political participation of women with disabilities



Supporting data collection and monitoring in accordance with the disaggregation principles laid down in art. 31 of the CRPD

Spearhead and streamline initiatives that underline the intersectionality of climate change and disability rights, investing in the support to and capacity reinforcement of OPDs.

Overall, there is a lack of formal procedures to identify migrants and refugees with disabilities, although some tools to support identification are available.

Identification of persons with disabilities often relies either on information provided by individuals themselves, or on the presence of a 'visible' disability, leaving individuals with invisible impairments unnoticed.

Some persons with disabilities fear that their disabilities may affect their status of asylum applicants.



Expand the desk research to the whole Mediterranean region

Elaborate a pillar-oriented Theory of Change for the future UfM Agenda

Ensure participation and funding



Mediterranean Disability Rights Agenda

Promotion of the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Mediterranean

Cross-cutting pillar 1

Reinforcing national disability data collection and use

Cross-cutting pillar 2

Ensuring meaningful participation of OPDs in decision-making processes

Pillar 1

Access to employment in equal conditions with others

Pillar 2

Strengthening social protection mechanisms and covering disability extra costs

Pillar 3

Achieving gender equality for women and girls with disabilities

Pillar 4

Addressing emerging issues from a CRPD perspective

Additional sub-topics

- *Independent living and inclusion in the community.*
- *Access to inclusive education.*
- *Access to inclusive health care.*
- *Equality and non-discrimination, particularly regarding the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.*



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