
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Accessibility Of Public Events: The Perspective of Persons With Disabilities And Special Needs

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| ABSTRACT

The article analyzes issues related to the creation and development of an inclusive society, where it is essential to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals to participate in social and cultural life, and where the accessibility of public events for persons with disabilities is a key condition for such inclusion. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and scientific literature, it is emphasized that the participation of persons with disabilities or special needs in public events is limited by physical, organizational, and social barriers, while the application of universal design principles can significantly enhance event accessibility. The aim of the study is to examine the participation of persons with disabilities or special needs in public events. A quantitative research method—an electronic survey—was employed. The sample consisted of 250 respondents. The study revealed that the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in public events are assessed as average, with somewhat more favorable evaluations provided by women, younger respondents, and residents of cities and towns. It was found that persons with disabilities typically attend events once a month, and their main reasons for participation include self-education, personal development, and entertainment. Most respondents attended in-person events over the past 2–3 years, while online events were more popular among women, residents of major cities, and those aged 25–44. Summarizing the findings, it was determined that in-person participation remains the most preferred format, and the choice of events is often based on individually assessed possibilities for participation.

| KEYWORDS

public events, accessibility, persons with disabilities, persons with special needs

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1.Introduction

In order to maintain and advance an inclusive society model, ensure equal rights for all members of society to actively participate in social interactions, foster relationships based on communication and cooperation, and guarantee opportunities to acquire knowledge or skills in various fields, it becomes particularly important to create conditions that enable diverse groups of individuals to engage actively and participate in societal life (Kim, Shin, Yu, Ki Kim, 2017; Durmuş & Ahmet Nohutçu, 2025). Public events, as a particularly significant form of social activity, must be adapted and accessible to various groups, including persons with disabilities, for whom participation in public events may be especially meaningful from physical, social, or psychological perspectives (Stumbo, Wang, Pegg, 2011). Events should be open and accessible to everyone without exception. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) emphasizes the necessity to protect and ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, guaranteeing accessibility and opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in cultural events.

In the academic field, increasing attention is devoted to issues of equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities (Valet, 2016; Zhaoa, Zhang, 2018; Priestley, Grammenos, 2021), as well as to opening and enabling various forms of social activity based on individuals' needs (Stumbo, Wang, Pegg, 2011; Gurgendize, Mamuladze, 2017; Labbé, Mahmood et al., 2021). For instance, recent studies (Tremblay-Turcotte, Lynn Best, Prescott et al., 2025) address the participation of persons with disabilities in outdoor spaces (e.g., national parks). Attention is given to creating equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to strengthen their physical and psychological health by reducing barriers to participation in outdoor environments.

Researchers (Booth, Ainscow, Kingston, 2002; Poria, Reichel, Brandt, 2009; Kim, Shin, Chul Yu et al., 2017; McMillen, Alter, 2017, etc.) also examine the participation of persons with disabilities in public events, focusing particularly on identifying the factors that limit participation (Hall, 2009; McMillen, Alter, 2017; Nwokorie, Devlieger, 2019, etc.) or, conversely, encourage it (Hall, 2009; Hall, 2017; Araten–Bergman, Stein, 2014; McMillen, Alter, 2017, etc.). It is argued that the universal design concept is relevant to the event management sector, as it enables the implementation of principles of flexibility, tolerance, accessibility of the physical environment, and more (Irish, 2020). It is also important to note that recent studies (Fullana, Pallisera, Valls, Vidal & Vilà, 2025) highlight not merely superficial participation, but inclusive participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities in community life, where the goal is not simply being present in the community, but achieving meaningful participation that reflects personal interests and preferences.

In order to successfully implement the practices of participation of persons with disabilities in public events in Lithuania, it is important to analyze previous research, identify prevailing trends, and examine the experiences of persons with disabilities in attending events in our country.

Considering the relevance of the topic, this study examines the characteristics of participation of persons with disabilities in public events, and identifies the factors that restrict or facilitate such participation.

The research problem is defined by the following questions:

What are the experiences of persons with disabilities when participating in public events? What factors influence their event choices and participation?

Research object – the experiences of persons with disabilities or special needs when participating in public events.

Research aim – to examine the situation of participation of persons with disabilities or special needs in public events.

Research methods – to achieve the research aims, an analysis of scientific literature and a quantitative study—an electronic survey—were conducted.

Research limitations. The most challenging aspect of this study was establishing contact with the respondents. Without the assistance of the leaders of the Lithuanian Association of People with Disabilities, this would not have been possible. Not all persons with disabilities use the internet, have email, or are able to answer questionnaire items independently due to the specific nature of their disabilities. Their activity in the digital environment is also lower. For these reasons, the researchers were unable to gather the planned sample size for the quantitative study, even after extending the data collection period. Another issue emerged when it became clear that the questionnaire needed to be prepared in sign language for respondents with hearing impairments. Preparing and delivering such a questionnaire required professional assistance and additional time.

Originality / relevance of the study. This study was commissioned. It was requested by the Lithuanian Conference and Event Association, as the issue of event accessibility and suitability for persons with disabilities or special needs has not been previously explored in Lithuania, despite being highly important and sensitive. The results and recommendations of this study are expected to help the commissioning organization and other institutions and companies involved in event organization to better understand the needs of persons with disabilities and to create conditions for their equal and equitable participation in public events. The researchers believe that the aspects revealed in this study will encourage further research aimed at promoting the full integration of persons with disabilities or special needs into contemporary society.

2. Research methodology

A quantitative research method was applied—an online electronic survey. An interactive questionnaire consisting of 35 questions was created using the Office 365 Forms program. Different types of scales were used, including closed- and open-ended questions, a Likert scale, and 10-point rating scales. For persons with hearing impairments, a version of the questionnaire with sign language video recordings was prepared. The survey was conducted from July to October 2021. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS software, and graphs were created using MS Excel. During the research process, the principles of research ethics were upheld, ensuring respondent anonymity and confidentiality in analyzing and publishing the data. A targeted sampling method was used in this study, specifically aiming to survey individuals with disabilities. During the data analysis phase, descriptive statistical indicators—means and percentages—were calculated using SPSS, allowing the assessment of respondent distribution and key trends. The sample of the quantitative study consisted of 250 respondents, whose characteristics in terms of age, gender, place of residence, and other aspects are presented in the figures below. For example, Figure 1 shows the distribution of respondents by age, while Figure 2 presents the distribution of respondents by gender.

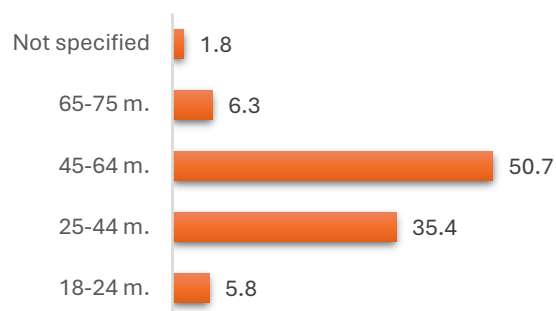


Figure 1. Age of respondents (%)

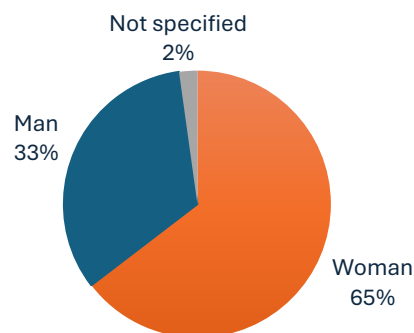


Figure 2. Distribution of respondents by gender

As shown in Figure 1, the majority (50.7%) of respondents fall into the 45–64 age group, while more than one-third (35.4%) are aged 25–44. The smallest group of participants (5.8%) consists of individuals aged 18–24. Likewise, as illustrated in Figure 2, 65% of respondents who took part in the quantitative survey are women and 33% are men.

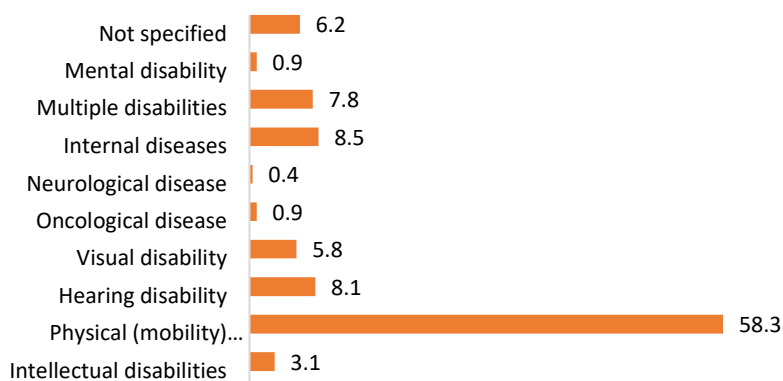


Figure 3. Distribution of respondents by type of disability (%)

Respondents with mobility impairments were the most active in completing the survey, representing more than half (58.3%) of all participants (Figure 3). Four other respondent groups are of similar size: 8.5% of respondents have chronic internal illnesses; 8.1% have a hearing impairment; 7.8% have multiple disabilities; and 5.8% have a visual impairment. A smaller share of respondents reported other types of disabilities: 3.1% have intellectual disabilities, 0.9% have mental disabilities, 0.9% have oncological diseases, and 0.4% have neurological conditions. Additionally, 6.2% of respondents did not specify their type of disability.

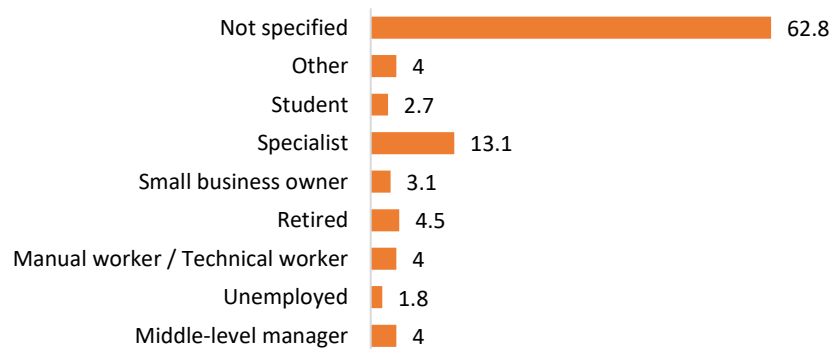


Figure 4. Respondents' professional activities and occupations (%)

Respondents were asked to indicate their professional activities or occupations. As many as 62.8% of participants did not provide this information (Figure 4). Among those who did, the distribution was as follows: 13.1% are specialists or employees; 4.5% are retirees; 4% are civil servants; 4% are senior or mid-level managers; 3.1% are small business owners; 2.7% are students; and 1.8% are unemployed. An additional 4% of respondents are engaged in other, unspecified activities.

3. Analysis of the research results

The study aimed to determine how respondents evaluate the opportunities provided for people with disabilities to participate in events. Respondents were asked to rate these opportunities on a ten-point scale, where 10 indicated *excellent opportunities* and 1 indicated *very poor opportunities* (see table 1).

Table 1. Assessment of opportunities created by respondents for the participation of persons with disabilities in public events (M – mean values, Max = 10)

Category	General mean values	Gender		Place of residence			Age				Degree of disability		
		Men	Women	Rural areas	Towns, small towns	Major cities	18–24	25–44	45–64	65–75	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Mean values	5,50	5,43	5,55	5,68	5,88	5,23	6,00	5,86	5,19	4,85	5,81	5,85	5,15

The research results showed that the overall average rating (M = 5.50) indicates that respondents assess the opportunities created for persons with disabilities to participate in public events as average. Differences between the responses of women and men are quite similar, although women assessed the opportunities slightly more positively (M = 5.55). When analyzing the data by place of residence, a higher score was observed among respondents living in towns and small towns (M = 5.88), compared to those living in rural areas (M = 5.68) or major cities (M = 5.23) (see Table 2.1). A comparative analysis across different age groups revealed that the highest average score was found in the youngest group (18–24 years) (M = 6.00), indicating that these respondents evaluate the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in public events most positively. When analyzed by degree of disability, it was found that respondents with moderate disabilities rated the opportunities slightly higher (M = 5.85).

The study also sought to determine how respondents with disabilities themselves evaluate the opportunities available to them to participate in public events. They were asked to rate these opportunities on a ten-point scale, where 10 indicated *excellent opportunities* and 1 *very poor opportunities* (see table 2).

Table 2. Assessment of opportunities for respondents with disabilities to participate in public events (M – average values, Max = 10)

Category	General mean values	Gender		Place of residence			Age				Degree of disability		
		Men	Women	Rural areas	Towns, small towns	Major cities	18–24	25–44	45–64	65–75	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Mean values	5,85	5,49	6,03	5,90	6,25	5,59	5,38	6,19	5,68	5,21	7,38	6,36	5,23

The overall average score ($M = 5.85$) indicates that respondents assess the opportunities available to *themselves* to participate in public events as average. When analyzing the data by gender, it was found that women rated these opportunities slightly higher ($M = 6.03$) than men ($M = 5.49$). Data analyzed by place of residence show that respondents living in towns and small towns gave a higher rating ($M = 6.25$) compared to those living in rural areas ($M = 5.90$) or major cities ($M = 5.59$) (see Table 2). A comparative analysis across age groups revealed that the highest average score was observed in the 25–44 age group ($M = 6.19$), indicating that respondents in this group evaluate their own opportunities to participate in public events most positively. When analyzed by degree of disability, respondents with mild disabilities rated the opportunities available to them significantly higher ($M = 7.38$).

The study also sought to determine how many times per year, on average, respondents with disabilities participate in public events. The research results are presented for the overall sample (Figure 5), by degree of disability (Figure 6), by place of residence (Figure 7), by gender (Figure 8), and by age (Figure 9).

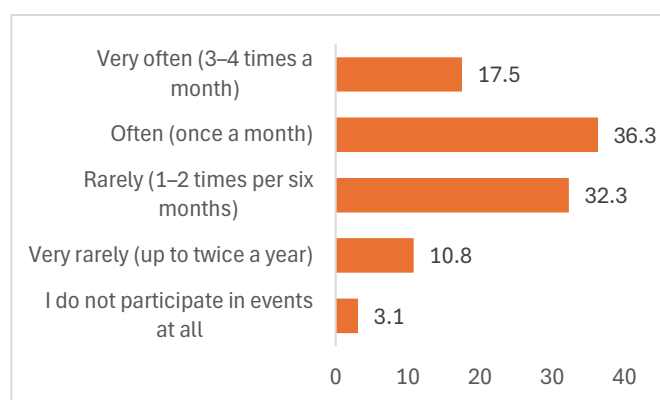


Figure 5. Assessment of the frequency of participation of persons with disabilities in public events (%)

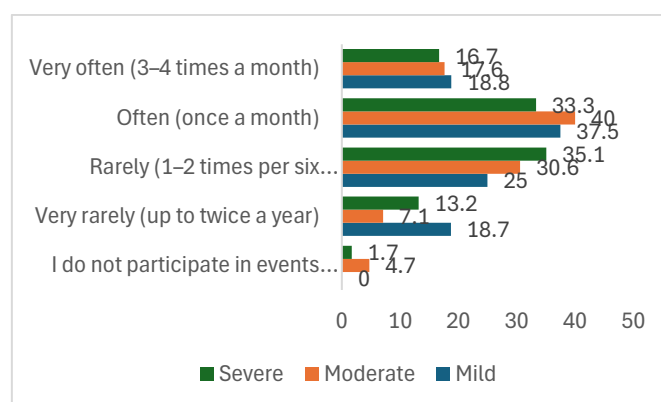


Figure 6. Assessment of the frequency of participation of persons with disabilities in public events by degree of disability (%)

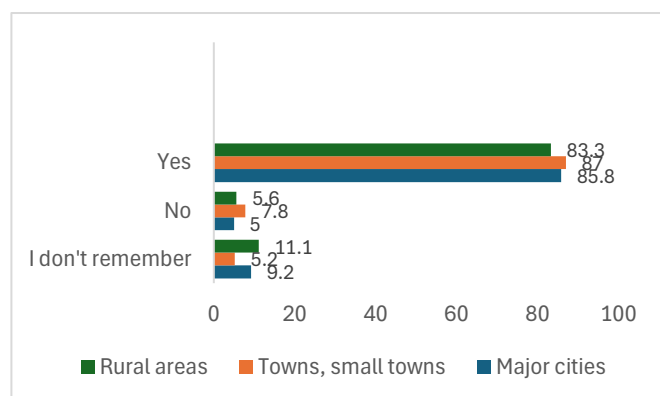


Figure 7. Assessment of the frequency of participation of persons with disabilities in public events by place of residence (%)

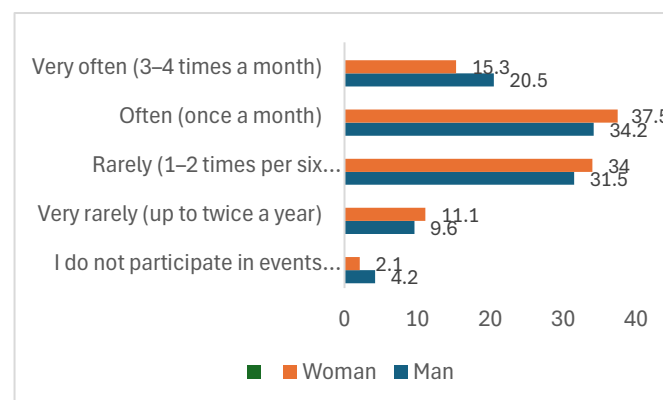


Figure 8. Assessment of the frequency of participation of persons with disabilities in public events by gender (%)

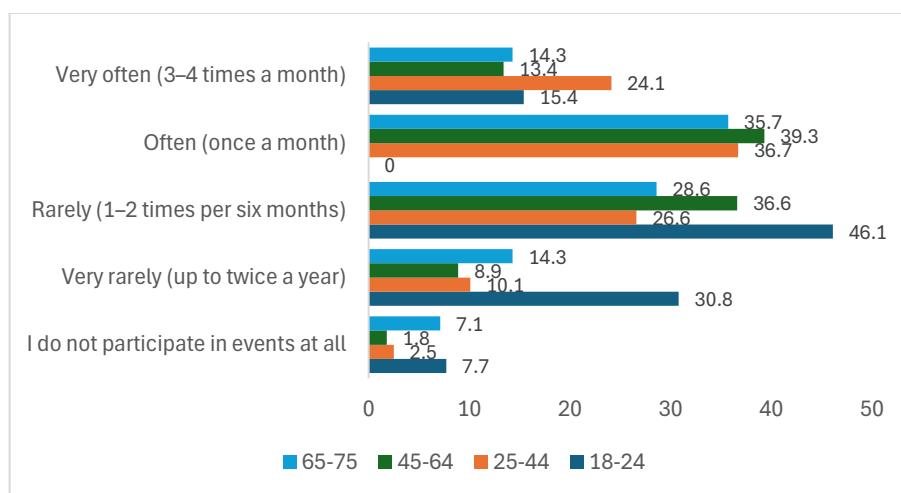


Figure 9. Assessment of the frequency of participation of persons with disabilities in public events by age group (%)

The research data show that in the overall sample, most persons with disabilities indicate that they participate in public events once a month (36.3% of respondents) or 1–2 times every six months (32.3%). When examining the data by place of residence, it can be seen that 25% of respondents living in towns and small towns attend public events 3–4 times per month, compared to 14.5% of those living in major cities and 5% of those living in rural areas. The largest share of respondents living in major cities (43.5%) tend to attend public events once a month. The research data show that in the overall sample, most persons with disabilities indicate that they participate in public events once a month (36.3% of respondents) or 1–2 times every six months (32.3%). When examining the data by place of residence, it can be seen that 25% of respondents living in towns and small towns attend public events 3–4 times per month, compared to 14.5% of those living in major cities and 5% of those living in rural areas. The largest share of respondents living in major cities (43.5%) tend to attend public events once a month. When analyzed by degree of disability, it was found that the largest share of persons with moderate disabilities (40%) and mild disabilities (37.5%) participate in public events once per month. At the same time, the highest proportion of persons with severe disabilities (35.1%) and moderate disabilities (30.6%) participate once or twice per year.

The study also aimed to determine the reasons why persons with disabilities participate in public events. To obtain this information, respondents were asked to select the answer option(s) that applied to them. The data are presented for the overall sample, as well as by gender, place of residence, age, and degree of disability (Table 3).

Table 3. Reasons for participation in public events by persons with disabilities (N=250) (%)

Reasons for attending public events	Evaluation	In the overall sample ¹	Gender		Place of residence			Age				Degree of disability		
			Men	Women	Rural areas	Towns, small towns	Major cities	18–24	25–44	45–64	65–75	Mild	Moderate	Severe
For socialization, communication	Yes	57	48,6	59,7	60	62,3	52,4	38,5	55,7	57,5	71,4	62,5	48,2	60
	No	43	51,4	40,3	40	37,7	47,6	61,5	44,3	42,5	28,6	37,5	51,8	40
For self-education, personal development	Yes	61	55,4	63,2	40	67,5	59,7	46,2	63,3	63,7	36,7	50	61,2	60,9
	No	39	44,6	36,8	60	32,5	40,3	53,8	36,7	36,3	64,3	50	38,8	39,1
For professional development	Yes	33,6	28,4	35,4	10	31,2	37,9	30,8	41,8	31,9	0	37,5	37,6	28,7
	No	66,4	71,6	54,6	90	68,8	62,1	69,2	58,2	68,1	1000	62,5	62,4	71,3

¹ It is noteworthy that percentages representing the proportion of respondents who did not provide answers are not provided.

Reasons for attending public events	Evaluation	In the overall sample ¹	Gender		Place of residence			Age				Degree of disability		
			Men	Women	Rural areas	Towns, small towns	Major cities	18–24	25–44	45–64	65–75	Mild	Moderate	Severe
For emotional satisfaction	Yes	48,9	37,8	52,8	55	49,4	46,8	38,5	45,6	49,6	64,3	56,3	42,4	51,3
	No	51,1	62,2	47,2	45	50,6	53,2	61,5	54,4	50,4	35,7	43,8	57,6	48,7
For entertainment	Yes	57,4	60,8	54,2	65	57,1	55,6	76,9	69,6	48,7	35,7	56,3	48,2	63,5
	No	42,6	39,2	45,8	35	42,9	44,4	23,1	30,4	51,3	64,3	43,7	51,8	36,5

- the smallest percentages.

- maximum percentages.

An analysis of the data in the overall sample revealed that most respondents across all groups indicated that they participate in public events for self-education and personal development (61%) or entertainment (57.4%). The smallest proportion (33.6%) stated that they attend events for professional development. This suggests that, in order to engage persons with disabilities in public events, it is important to identify their needs related to personal growth, self-education, and their interests. When examining the reasons for participation by gender, men more frequently indicated attending events for entertainment (60.8%) and for self-education and personal development (55.4%), while women placed self-education and personal development in the first position (63.2%), followed by socialization and interaction (59.7%). Both men and women gave the least importance to professional development, although women valued it slightly more than men (35.4% and 28.4%, respectively). Analyzing the data by place of residence, the views of town/small-town and major city residents aligned, with self-education and personal development being the primary reason for choosing an event (67.5% and 59.7%, respectively). In contrast, rural residents emphasized entertainment (65%) as their main reason. Across all residential groups—rural (10%), town/small town (31.2%), and major city residents (37.9%)—professional development was consistently identified as the least significant reason for attending events. Interestingly, this was also the least important reason among respondents aged 18–24 (30.8%), 25–44 (41.8%), and 45–64 (31.9%), with the exception of respondents aged 65–75, who reported that they least frequently attend events for entertainment (35.7%). Meanwhile, younger respondents (18–24 and 25–44) highlighted entertainment as the main reason for attending events (76.9% and 69.6%, respectively). Older respondents disagreed with this and more frequently chose events for other reasons—self-education and personal development being more common in the 45–64 age group (63.7%), while socialization and communication prevailed among respondents aged 65–75 (71.4%). When evaluating the data by degree of disability, a similar trend emerges: respondents with different levels of disability least often indicated attending events for professional purposes. Participation for socialization and communication was most common among persons with mild (62.5%) or severe disabilities (60%). Meanwhile, the highest proportion of individuals with severe disabilities (63.5%) attended public events for entertainment.

The study also aimed to determine whether participants had attended “live” public events in the past 2–3 years. The results are presented for the overall sample (Figure 10), by type of disability (Figure 11), by place of residence (Figure 12), by gender (Figure 13).

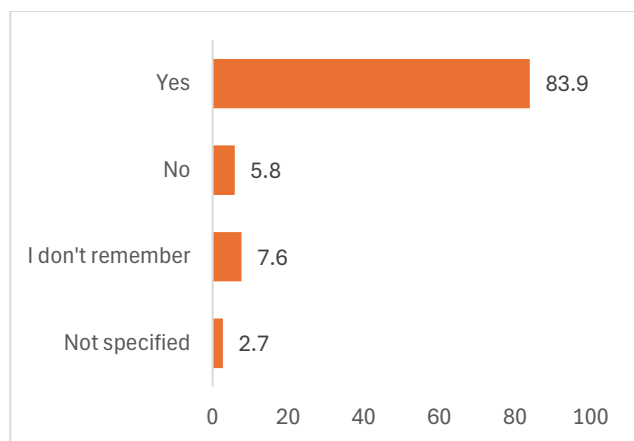


Figure 10. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in "live" public events over 2–3 years (%)

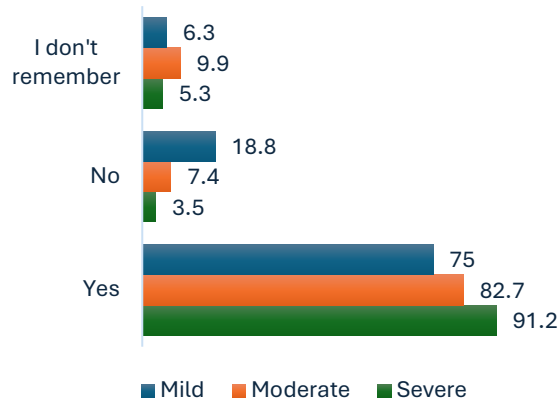


Figure 11. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in "live" public events over 2–3 years by disability level (%)

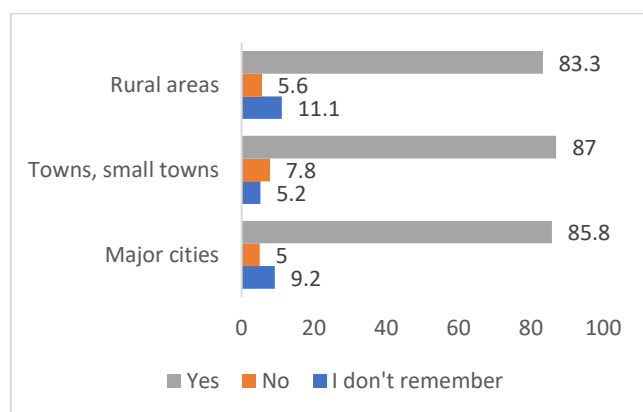


Figure 12. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in "live" public events over 2–3 years by place of residence (%)

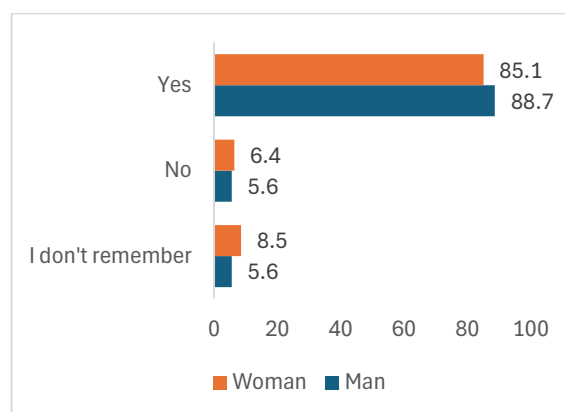


Figure 13. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in "live" public events over 2–3 years by gender (%)

The analysis of the data in the overall sample shows that 83.9% of respondents (85.1% of women and 88.7% of men) have attended "live" public events. A comparative analysis by degree of disability revealed that respondents across all disability levels had attended public events in the last 2–3 years. Notably, a larger proportion of respondents with severe disabilities (91.2%) had participated in live events, while the share was somewhat smaller among those with mild disabilities (75%). This suggests that persons with severe disabilities may be the most motivated to attend public events, while efforts should be directed toward encouraging event participation among persons with moderate or mild disabilities. A positive finding is that respondents—on average 85%, regardless of place of residence—reported participating in live events. When assessing participation in public events over the past 2–3 years by age group, it was established that attendance ranged from 66.7% to 88.3% across all groups (18–24 years: 66.7%; 25–44 years: 85.7%; 45–64 years: 88.3%; 65–75 years: 84.6%). It is noteworthy that the highest share of respondents who indicated that they had not participated (16.7%) or did not remember (16.7%) participating in public events within the past 2–3 years belonged to the 18–24 age group.

The study also sought to determine whether participants had attended remote/online public events in the past 2–3 years. The results are presented for the overall sample (Figure 14), by type of disability (Figure 15), by place of residence (Figure 16), by gender (Figure 17), and by age (Figure 18).

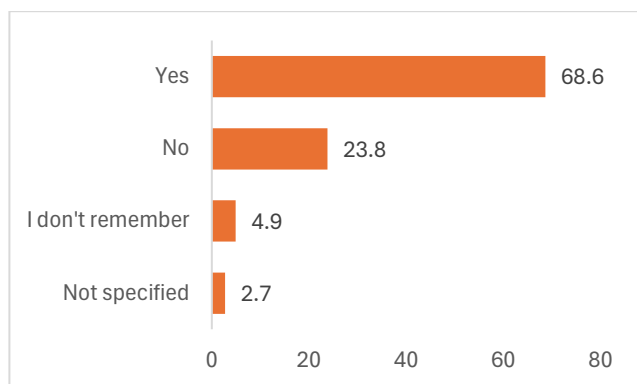


Figure 14. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in public remote events over 2–3 years (%)

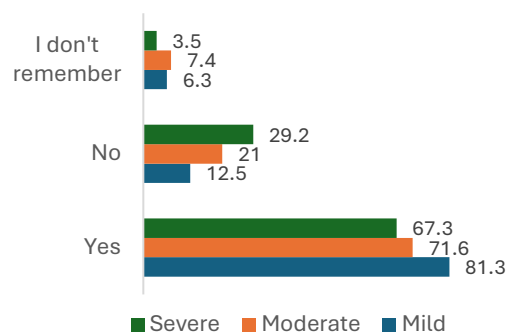


Figure 15. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in public remote events over 2–3 years by the degree of disability (%)

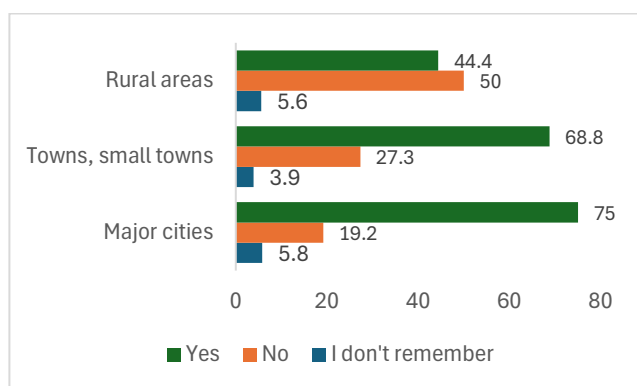


Figure 16. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in public remote events over 2–3 years by place of residence (%)

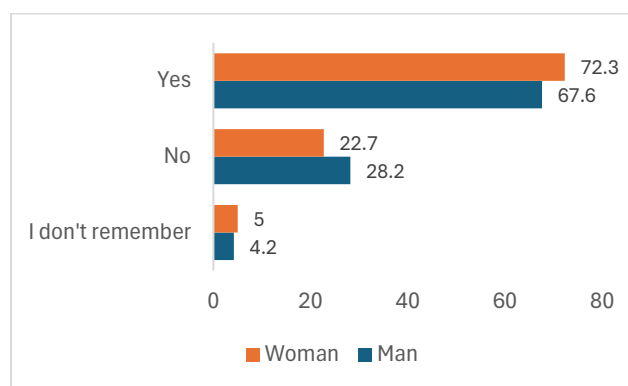


Figure 17. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in public remote events over 2–3 years by gender (%)

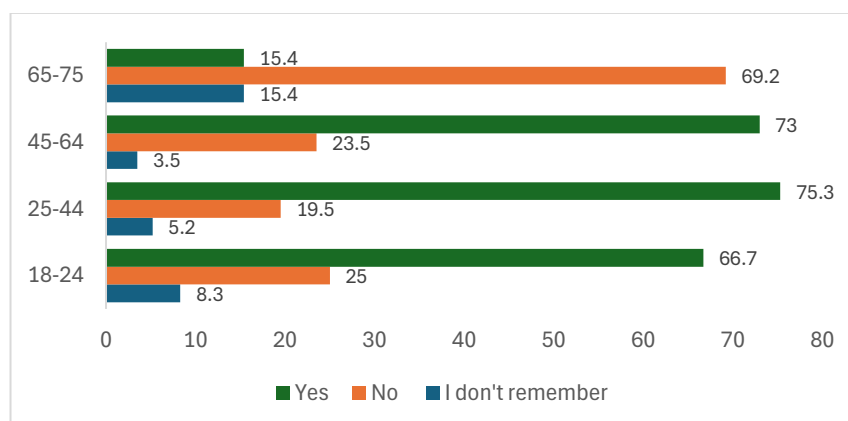


Figure 18. Assessment of participation of persons with disabilities in public remote events over 2–3 years by age group (%)

When evaluating participation in online events across the overall sample, it becomes clear that fewer respondents took part in remote events: 68.6% overall (72.3% of women and 67.6% of men) participated in online events during the past 2–3 years. A comparative analysis by degree of disability revealed that the highest share of participants in online events (81.3%) were individuals with mild disabilities. The lowest share (67.3%) consisted of respondents with severe disabilities, who indicated that they had participated in online events over the past 2–3 years. As seen, these results contradict the earlier findings regarding participation in “live” events, where persons with severe disabilities were the most active participants. The data also show that during the examined period, online events were more relevant to residents of major cities (75%), compared to those living in towns/small towns (68.8%), and especially rural residents, who were more likely to choose *not* to participate in online events than

to participate (50% vs. 44.4%). Women were also more active in choosing online events (72.3%) compared to men (67.6%). The research team was not surprised that the majority of older respondents (65–75 years) (as many as 69.2%) did not participate in online events, while the most active users of the online format were individuals aged 25–44 (75.3%).

The study also sought to determine whether participation in events depends on the type of disability. Therefore, respondents were asked to select the statement that best applied to them. The summarized research data are presented for the overall sample and broken down by gender, place of residence, age, and degree of disability (Table 4).

Table 4. Purposes of participation in public events by persons with disabilities, assessed by disability (N=250) (%)

Purpose of participation, assessed from the perspective of the disability	Evaluation	In the overall sample ²	Gender		Place of residence			Age				Degree of disability		
			Men	Women	Rural areas	Towns, small towns	Didieji miestai	18–24 m.	Men	Women	Rural areas	Mild	Moderate	Severe
I carefully choose events, assessing the possibilities of participating, so as not to burden myself and others.	Yes	55,6	56,3	57,4	44,4	57,1	59,2	50	54,5	60,4	53,8	37,5	44,4	69,9
I participate in events I want to, my special needs do not limit me.	Yes	31,4	31	33,3	44,4	32,5	30	33,3	37,7	27	38,5	43,8	51,9	15,9
I only participate in special events for people with disabilities.	Yes	9	12,7	7,8	5,6	7,8	10,8	16,7	7,8	10,8	0	6,3	3,7	13,3
I don't participate in events.	Yes	1,3	0	1,4	5,6	2,6	0	0	0	1,8	7,7	12,5	0	0,9

- the smallest percentages.

- maximum percentages..

The survey results show that **55.6%** of respondents carefully select events by assessing their ability to participate so as not to burden themselves or others. Meanwhile, **31.4%** of participants emphasize that they attend the events they want to attend, and their special needs do not limit them. It is also noteworthy that **1.3%** of persons with disabilities indicated that they do not participate in events at all. When evaluating the responses by gender, place of residence, and age groups, the results are very similar to those in the overall sample. Most respondents carefully choose events by considering their ability to participate in order to avoid causing difficulties for themselves or others—the distribution ranges between **44.4% and 69.9%**. In this context, rural residents stand out slightly, as they give equal importance to choosing events based on their abilities and based on their preferences (44.4% each). However, the most distinct group in this regard consists of respondents with **severe disabilities**, of whom the largest share (69.9%)—compared to other groups—prioritize selecting events based on their ability to participate. In contrast, respondents with **mild or moderate disabilities** place more emphasis on choosing events according to their preferences, as their special needs do not restrict them (43.8% and 51.9%, respectively), although other groups show somewhat more modest tendencies toward this choice.

² It is noteworthy that percentages representing the proportion of respondents who did not provide answers are not provided.

The least frequently selected options were: ***“I only participate in events specifically intended for persons with disabilities”***, most commonly chosen by men (12.7%), residents of major cities (10.8%), those aged 18–24 (16.7%), and respondents with severe disabilities (13.3%); ***Non-participation in events***, which was chosen more often by women (1.4%), rural residents (5.6%), respondents aged 65–75 (7.7%), and individuals with mild disabilities (12.5%).

4. Conclusions

1. Based on the analysis of scientific literature, it is emphasized that an inclusive society is impossible without equal opportunities for all individuals to participate in social and cultural life. The accessibility of public events for persons with disabilities is a key prerequisite for such inclusion. Research shows that the participation of persons with disabilities or special needs is restricted by various physical and social barriers; however, applying universal design principles can significantly improve accessibility.
2. The research results revealed that respondents rate the opportunities created for persons with disabilities to participate in public events as average. Women, residents of towns (excluding major cities) and small towns, persons with moderate disabilities, and respondents in the youngest age group (18–24 years) gave slightly higher evaluations of these opportunities.
3. The data analysis also showed that respondents rate the opportunities available to *themselves* to participate in public events as average. Once again, women evaluated these opportunities slightly more positively than men, as did residents of towns and small towns, individuals aged 25–44, and persons with mild disabilities.
4. The findings show that persons with disabilities most frequently participate in public events **once a month or 1–2 times every six months**. Individuals living in towns and small towns attend public events **3–4 times per month**, whereas most respondents living in major cities tend to attend events **once a month**. Men attend public events slightly more frequently (3–4 times per month) than women. The youngest respondents (18–24) attend infrequently (1–2 times every six months), while respondents aged 25 and older participate more often (at least once per month). By degree of disability, persons with moderate or mild disabilities most commonly attend public events **once per month**.
5. The survey results show that most respondents across all groups attend public events for **self-education, personal development, or entertainment**, while the fewest respondents attend for **professional development**.
 - o Men most often attend events for entertainment, self-education, and personal development.
 - o Women prioritize self-education and personal development, followed by socialization and communication.
 - o Town/small-town and major city residents attend primarily for self-education and personal development, whereas rural residents attend mainly for entertainment.
 - o Respondents aged 18–24 and 25–44 cited entertainment as the most important reason, while older respondents more often attend for self-education and personal development.
 - o Across different disability levels, professional reasons were least important, while socialization and communication were most important for persons with mild or severe disabilities.
6. The analysis shows that more than **80%** of respondents have attended “live” public events. Participation was high across all disability levels and across all places of residence. Fewer respondents participated in online events in the past 2–3 years, with women participating more actively than men. Persons with mild disabilities were the most active participants in online events. The data also show that remote events were more relevant for residents of large cities than for residents of cities/towns and, even more so, rural areas (67.6 percent). A majority of older respondents did not participate in online events, while persons aged 25–44 were the most active in choosing the online format.
7. The survey results show that more than half of the respondents carefully choose events by assessing their ability to participate so as not to burden themselves or others. The analysis also indicates that more than half of the respondents prefer **physical (in-person)** participation in events, while nearly one-third find both physical and virtual participation acceptable. The data reveal that virtual events are not highly in demand—not only among persons with disabilities but also across gender, place of residence, and age groups. When analyzing the popularity of physical versus virtual events by age, it becomes evident that the younger the age group, the less important the event format becomes.

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