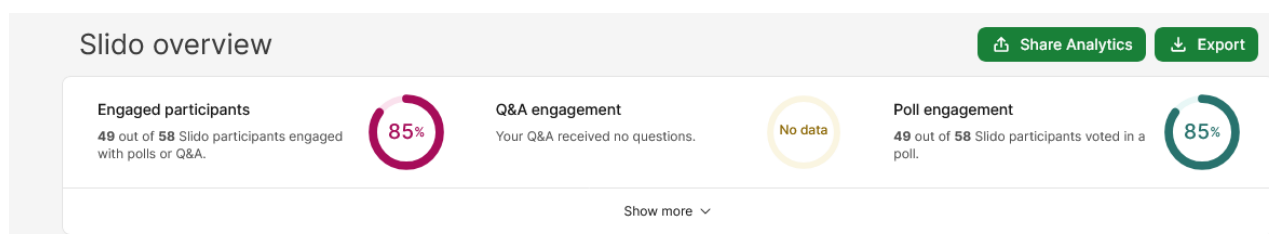


Summary of findings from the initial survey during Event 1 (in Cestica, HR)

1. Introduction

During the first day of the first event for Project “GET-IN”, which was held in Cestica, Croatia on March 24th 2026; one of the important activities was gathering citizens’ opinions and views on issues impacting the rights of persons with disabilities in the community. The survey included some general questions and more detailed questions regarding access to education in the community. The survey was presented at the opening conference of the project and served as a means to encourage discussion and analysis on how communities can make meaningful steps towards promoting democratic life in the community, as well as building understanding and empathy towards the needs of persons with disabilities.

Of the 67 participants that took part in day 1 activities, 49 persons were engaged in the survey and provided responses to questions as seen below:

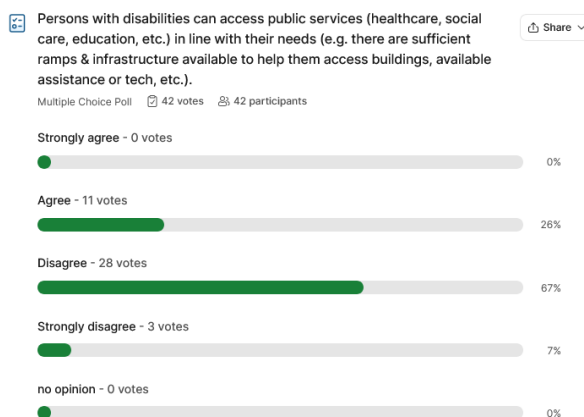


The following sections detail the answers to the specific questions and provide insight on how the results could be interpreted for future projects and actions focusing on improving access to rights for persons with disabilities.

2. Main questions

Question 1: Persons with disabilities can access public services (healthcare, social care, education, etc.) in line with their needs (e.g. there are sufficient ramps & infrastructure available to help them access buildings, available assistance or tech, etc.).

The participants were instructed to state their level of agreement with the statement. The findings are:





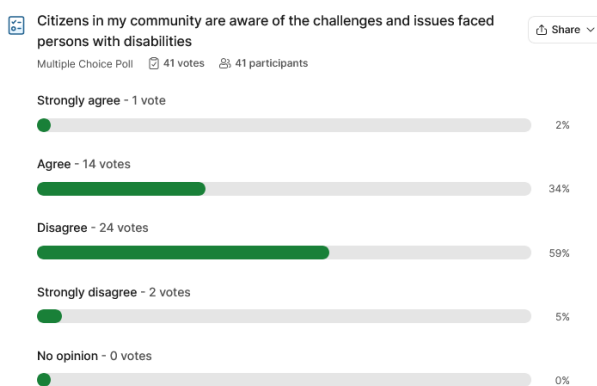
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As shown above, 67% of respondents disagree with the statement, showing that the majority believe that more insightful and meaningful actions need to be taken place in order to ensure persons with disabilities can fully access their rights as EU citizens. It could also be interpreted from this outcome that the belief in rural areas is that for the most part, persons with disabilities are living on the margins; often excluded from the democratic life of the community. This means that all citizens need to take a more active role in ensuring that inclusion and diversity initiatives take into account the needs and capacities of persons with disabilities.

Question 2: Citizens in my community are aware of the challenges and issues faced persons with disabilities

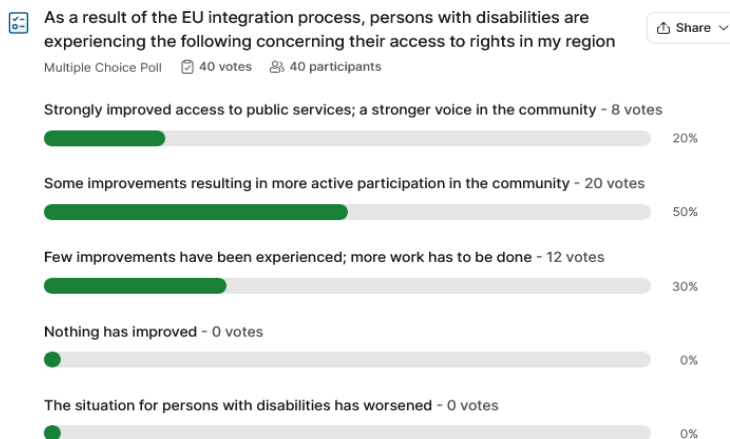
The purpose of the statement was to determine whether communities believe that their fellow citizens have empathy and understanding for the needs of persons with disabilities. The finding is as follows:



59% of respondents disagree with the statement, indicating that most citizens need to learn more about the needs of persons with disabilities, and that communities need to take more action in order to build awareness and understanding. This could be achieved through more targeted awareness campaigns in the community, new actions to engage youth in volunteering, social media campaigning, etc.

Question 3: As a result of the EU integration process, persons with disabilities are experiencing the following concerning their access to rights in my region

The purpose of the statement/question is to determine overall perceptions and views towards the EU integration process. Basically, we were trying to determine whether it is regarded as a positive or negative phenomenon. Here are the findings:





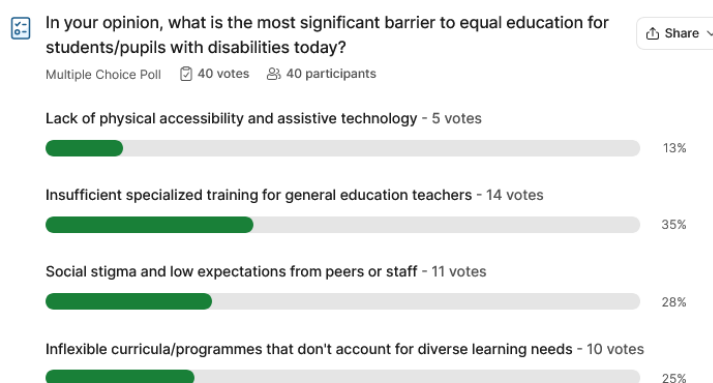
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The findings show that the respondents see EU integration (including key values such as inclusion, diversity, solidarity, etc.) as positive aspects. All respondents say that there have been improvements, but most say that there have been “some” improvements. This indicates that in future policymaking processes, there perhaps needs to be more engagement between the EU level and citizens (if possible) and more awareness among citizens about what the EU actually does and aims to do in communities.

Question 4: In your opinion, what is the most significant barrier to equal education for students/pupils with disabilities today?

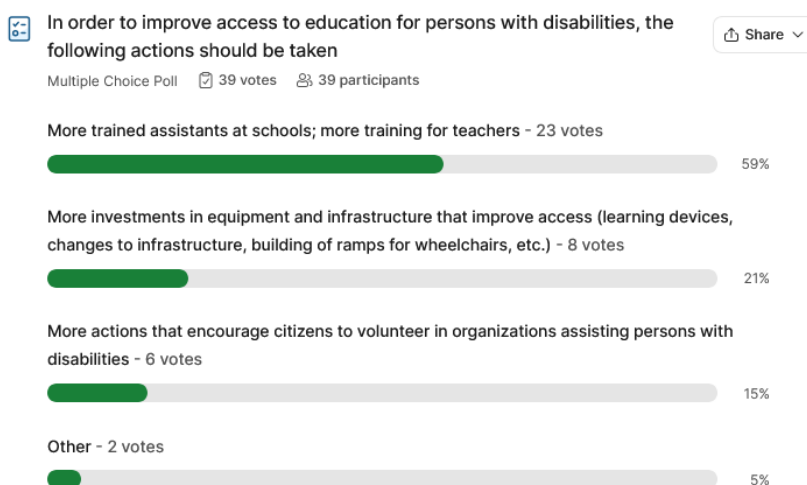
The question had the purpose of trying to get participants to reflect on what exactly needs to change in communities. As the event focused on equal opportunities in education, the question focused on this aspect:



35% of the respondents considered insufficient training for general education teachers to be a major issue; however, the other issues gained notable responses. In the discussion, participants had mentioned that all the issues should receive equal weight as they are interconnected and contribute to persons with disabilities being able to access their rights and participate in democracy. This shows that there is considerable ground that needs to be covered in addressing the education needs of persons with disabilities.

Question 5: In order to improve access to education for persons with disabilities, the following actions should be taken

This served as a follow-up to the previous question. Basically, the question aimed to have citizens determine the best solutions to the problems identified in the last question. The findings are as follows:



The most effective solution (according to respondents) is more training for teachers and assistants. More investments in infrastructure and equipment were also considered viable solutions. Surprisingly, most respondents did not consider specific awareness actions targeting citizens despite the responses in question#2 showing that there is a need for this.

3. Conclusions

Based on the responses received, it can be concluded that despite support for EU integration, there needs to be more citizen-centred actions that focus on the needs and rights of persons with disabilities. Respondents consider that most citizens are unaware of the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, and that most persons with disabilities lack access to public services (meaning a lack of access to rights). Enhancing the approach to persons with disabilities in the education system is a crucial way in which more progress can be made in increasing the democratic participation of persons with disabilities in the community. Respondents consider training for staff and more teaching assistants as a key way in which we can enhance access to rights. The findings of this survey will be used to draft the citizens' toolkit (to be completed by the end of the project).

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