

KOMJÁTHY, ZSUZSANNA¹**Statistics regarding Economic Activity of People with Mobility Disability in Western Transdanubia**

This article – with the help of the population census from 2001–2011 – seeks to document a thorough and comparative examination of the employment case of people with mobility disability in Transdanubia. After introducing the region's economic activity (with the help of the results of a future dissertation which examines the employment characteristics of 20 Transdanubian companies from the aspects of both the employer and the employee) the study reveals the labour market possibilities of the people with mobility disability in the region.

The difficulties of comparing statistics

The population census from 2001 and 2011 gave national data about the demographic and economic activity of people with mobility disability² in the past sixteen years. The different methods applied in the two periods' registers basically make the investigation of the changes in population employment, the data comparability and the research itself difficult. Consequently, it is difficult to do a fair comparison following the changes of the employment case. Without aiming to give an thorough list, the methodological differences applied during the two registers are the following:

- (1) According to the population census guidance 2011 of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) titled Methodological Notes and Concepts, the concept of disability, compared to the previous census period has changed significantly in Europe. The domestic registers of the population census in 2011 have been done according to these changes (HCSO 2011). Most importantly, while earlier the concept of disability was defined from medical aspect, nowadays it is thought to be a health care problem by the experts and it is defined as a factor which obstructs social inclusion (HCSO 2011).

¹ Doctoral Candidate, Széchenyi University Apáczai Csere János Faculty Research Group for Special Needs Education, zsuzsa.komjathy@gmail.hu

² The author uses the term *people with mobility disability* according to the use of terms of statistics.

(2) The population census in 2001 involved the entire population. „*Disability was mentioned as an exclusive question in connection with health*” (Laki, 2013, p. 306). The entire population was asked to measure the number of disabled people and to record data in the relevant time period (Lakatos–Tausz, 2009).

The population census of HCSO in 2011 also involved the entire population, but the answers to disability related questions were on a voluntary basis under the terms of the census law, so only those people were categorized disabled who declared their disability (Laki, 2014). Given that 89% of the population answered the questions, there are no exact data about the number of people with disability, with mobility disability.

(3) In 2001, classifying the type of disability, *lower and upper ectromelia* and *other physical disability* became separate categories beside *disability*. It is unknown which categories the approximately 47 thousand people concerned are assigned to. Therefore, regarding the 2001 data, only the data of disabled people can be interpreted with certainty. Unfortunately, the 2011 statistics cannot be compared to the 2001 data since in 2011 maximum three types of disabilities could be marked while in 2001 only the most severe ones so.

(4) Statistical data regarding people with mobility disability in 2001 were measured in regions and in counties while in 2011 in the capital, in county towns, in cities with county rights, in other cities and in municipalities.

(5) Data showing the economic activity of people with mobility disability cannot be compared methodologically. In 2001 the economic activity of the population regarding disabled and non-disabled people was measured in regions and in counties by the statistics. Data regarding economic activity of certain types of disability do not appear in details.

The data collection in 2011 represented the economic activity of the population in national dimensions, at the same time in regions and in territories it did not.

The latest data about the employment characteristics of people with disability were detailed in the publication entitled *Statistical Pocketbook of Hungary 2011 The Social Situation and Services of Disabled People*. These data were updated by HCSO in 2014 and it was published on the Internet in portable document format (PDF) in 2015. A big deficiency of data service is the lack of published surveys about the economic activity of population quantified according to disability types in territories and in regions to the present. Statistics contain global data

representing national conditions, which can only be compared to the data of previous population census with difficulties.

Employment characteristics of disabled people in Transdanubia according to statistics

Economic environment defining employment

According to the summary of employment case of the population census in 2001, „*the country was extensively divided regionally regarding economic activity. Employment in western regions was higher while in eastern regions it was lower*” (Lakatos–Tausz, 2009, p. 24). This fact, of course, had an impact on the labour market situation of people with mobility disability. The employment rate was the lowest among the people with mobility disability within the contracted disability categories: only 6,3% (Lakatos–Tausz, 2009, p. 24). The population census in 2001 examined the economic activity of disabled people only in counties and regions regarding the whole disabled population. In connection with different disability types, for instance, the economic activity of people with mobility disability, there has not been any data collection in counties or regions.

According to the population census of HCSO showing population economic activity, „*the Western Transdanubian region has been considered to be one of the best regions from the aspect of the economy and employment for decades*” (KSH, 2014, p. 16). The unemployment rate has been varying between 4–6% in the past decades. According to a study in 2013³ it was 'only' 9% after the economic crisis and by 2011 it became 7%, which is a far more favourable percentage than the national rate (Lócsei et al. 2013). It is unknown how this positive economic environment influenced the employment of people with disability and with mobility disability since like the previous statistical period, the population census in 2011 does not have territorial or regional data about the economic activity of people with disability and mobility disability.

Economic activity of people with mobility disability in the region between 2001 and 2015

According to the last two population censuses, the Western-Transdanubian area has the least disabled people in the country (Antal, 2005). „*Their number is also decreasing in national terms*” (Laki, 2013, p. 79). However, it is not true in connection with the number of people with mobility disability since it is constantly increasing.

³ http://gvi.hu/files/researches/122/regio_2012_tanulmany_131028.pdf [2016. július 23.]

Number of people with mobility disability in Western Transdanubia – 2001							
<i>Mobility disability (person)</i>	<i>Lower-upper ectromelia (person)</i>	<i>Other physical disability (person)</i>					Total (person)
14 847	1 338	2 078					14 847
						Employed (person)	
						935 (6,3%)	
Number of people with mobility disability according to their unavailability in Western Transdanubia – 2011							
<i>In self-sufficiency (people)</i>	<i>In everyday life (person)</i>	<i>In education, employment (person)</i>	<i>In family (person)</i>	<i>In transport (person)</i>	<i>In communication, information (person)</i>	<i>In social life (person)</i>	Total
5 498	9 668	117	568	11 127	759	1 294	18 274
						Employed (person)	
						1912 (10,5%)	
Number of people with mobility disability and their economic activity in Western Transdanubia – 2015 I. quarter							
<i>People living with musculoskeletal problems or disability (person)</i>	<i>People living with musculoskeletal problems (person)</i>	<i>People living with musculoskeletal disability (person)</i>					
51 158	31 010	43 793					
Employed (person)	Employed (person)	Employed (person)					
15 434 (30,2%)	10 032 (32,4%)	10 885 (24,8%)					

Table 1. Number of people with mobility disability and their economic activity in Western Transdanubia in 2001–2015 1st quarter.
Source: Own table according to the data of the population censuses in 2001 and 2011

Table 1 illustrates both the number and the economic activity of people with mobility disability in the Western Transdanubian region together with the difficulties caused by methodological changes which make identifying the population number and comparing the data of the two population census difficult. Besides the difficulties, due to data collection with different methods, the 2011 statistics have a significant methodological positive aspect. This can also be seen in *Table 1* and can be followed in the data referring to the type of unavailability. This data helps to illustrate the problems which make everyday life, social participation thus employment of people with mobility disability difficult. Disability used to be clearly a medical approach earlier. Now it is a social approach, which categorizes disabled people according to the type of their unavailability and it also brought new dimensions to the image of this social group and their employment. The methodology of the 2011 statistics is suitable for representing the circumstances which encumber social participation. Taking these into account, at government level it could make the whole social thus labour market participation of people with mobility disability easier. The statistical data referring to 2011 of *Table 1* illustrates the difficulties which mostly encumber social thus labour market participation of people with mobility disability in Western Transdanubia.

The methodology of quarterly surveys preparing the micro census for the time period between October 1–31. 2016. seems to differ slightly from the method of statistics in 2011. The signs referring to this conclusion can also be seen in *Table 1* in the data of the partial results of the study titled *Disadvantaged People in the Labour Market*, which is a supplement to the HCSO's 1st quarterly survey about the number of people with mobility disability and economic activity in 2015. The statistics defines mobility disability according to its severity as *problem* or *disability*. The aggregation of the data of people with mobility disability is determined as *musculoskeletal abnormalities or disability* (51 158 persons). This amount is inconsistent with the results of adding the number of people living with musculoskeletal abnormalities (31 010 persons) and *musculoskeletal disability* (43 793). All the data illustrating the population's economic activity by percentage have been determined by the author of the present study according to her own calculation, which, although not officially, present the population's increasing economic activity in the region.

In conclusion, it can clearly be seen that the number of people with mobility disability is gradually growing in the region despite the data that can only be compared with each other with

difficulties according to different statistical methods. At the same time, it means the population's economic activity has been increasing in the past two decades.

People with mobility disability on the labour market in Western Transdanubia according to statistics⁴

As Table 1 illustrates, by 2015 1st quarter the economic activity of people with mobility disability in Western Transdanubia has significantly grown compared to the population census period in 2001.

My objective is to introduce the actual employment of people with mobility disability in the Western Transdanubian region from the research of my PhD thesis in progress. Although the results of my research cannot be considered representative because of the size of the sample, it might be seen as an informative possibility for further research.

In order to understand the current employment circumstances the present study introduces data representing the employment tendency of employers which are: (1) *The main employment characteristics of companies*; (2) *The accessibility of companies*; (3) *Positions helping employment*; (4) *Future plans of employers about employment*. Furthermore, I consider it important to introduce the results from the employers' point of view which represents the employment situation and experiences of people with mobility disability in the region. The introduction of this is helped by answering the following questions with research results: (5) *Employment rate of people with mobility disability at large corporations*; (6) *Acceptability of employers*; (7) *Experiences in connection with relevant jobs associated with educational status*, and (8) *Data referring to the consideration of employees' situation*.

Research data

The doctoral research examines the possibilities of labour market integration of people with mobility disability in the region by asking employers and employees about work experiences of large corporations of Western Transdanubia (Győr-Moson-Sopron county; Zala county; Vas county). Twenty large corporations in Western Transdanubia are involved in the research.

When choosing the size of the sample, the research focused on those labour market employers who are required to use an employment quota system. The research did not examine protected organizations, accredited employers or employers that work on the labour market but

⁴ Komjáthy Zsuzsanna: Labour market integration of people who gained mobility disability in their youth or adulthood. PhD thesis in progress.

the number of their employees do not reach 250 people, and it did not examine those employers who are exempt from employers' obligations since they are armed forces or law enforcement bodies.

Data collections on the employers' side were made from 2013 to 2015 in half structured interviews with HR generalists of large corporations on the phone or in person. The research worked with large corporations employing at least 250 people. (Mean: 4579,35; SD.: 5912,24; Sum: 91587).

The region's disabled organizations were asked to interview the employees with questionnaires. The size of the planned sample per county was at least 100-100 persons, N=300. The rate of filling and resending the questionnaires represented such indifference on the employees' side that I had to reduce the size of the planned sample to N=130 persons according to the received answers.

The factors of the employees' sample of the research were the following:

- *Active people in working life aged 15–64*
- *People with mobility disability on different levels*
- *Rate of women-men (the labour market employment was taken into consideration.*

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office 2011. Population census)

Most important results of the research

(1) The main employment characteristics of the corporations

As it is presented in *Table 2*, the twenty large corporations employed 91 587 people, with 1570 people with reduced capacity to work and altogether 39 people with mobility disability. According to the level of mobility disability, eight corporations of ten employed people with mild mobility disability and one large corporation employed two people in wheelchair, altogether 39 people.

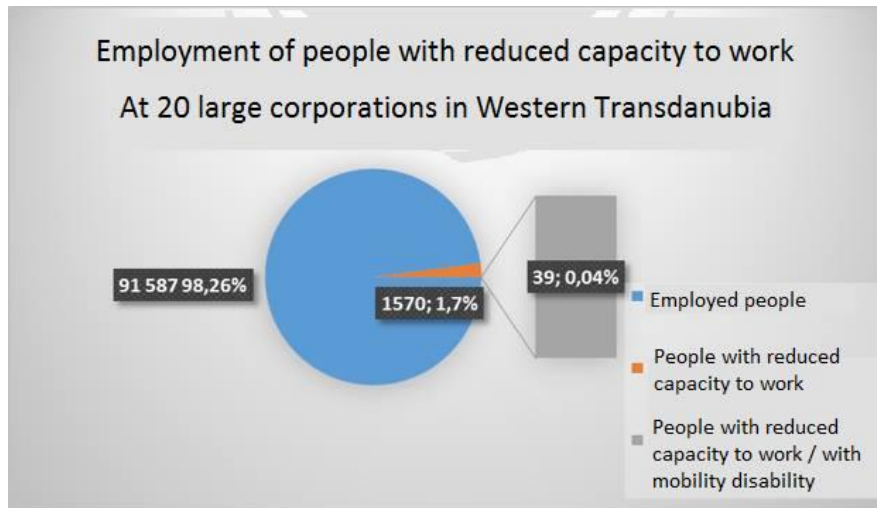


Table 2. Employment of people with reduced capacity to work at 20 large corporations in Western Transdanubia
Source: own research N=20

(2) *Accessibility of corporations*

One of the most important criteria of employing people with mobility disability is the accessibility of the environment.

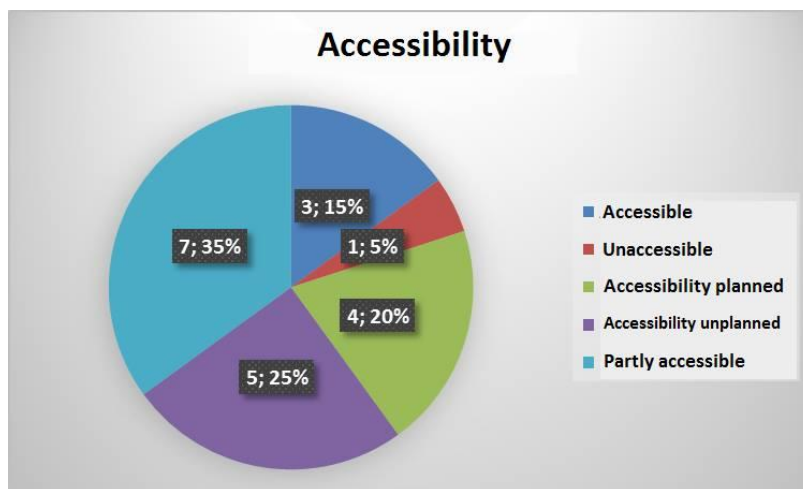


Table 3. Accessibility Data source: own research N=20

Table 3 presents that 15% of the corporations fully, 35% partly provided accessibility. However, half of them did not provide any accessibility at all. 25% of the corporations did not even plan to achieve accessibility in the future. The majority of corporations did not have accessibility either in administrative or in working area. To sum it up, large corporations declared that they did not plan to achieve accessibility to a larger extent.

(3) Positions

The low level of accessibility of corporations foresees the possibilities of establishing relevant positions. The majority of corporations did not answer the question whether it could be possible to establish proper positions for people with mobility disability.

Table 4 presents twelve out of twenty corporations do not have positions for employees with mobility disability and they have not even thought about any possibilities or consideration of positions. Six companies employ administrative employees with mobility disability, one employs a light physical worker with mobility disability and one employs a person with mobility disability in an intellectual position.

Half of the corporations do not have possibilities to employ people who became reduced capacity workers due to an accident or illness. Six corporations did not have any data about continuation of employment and they have not worked out any strategy for this possibility. One of the corporations claimed that they do not have any possibilities to employ people who became reduced capacity workers due to an accident or illness, two of the corporations did not answer the question.

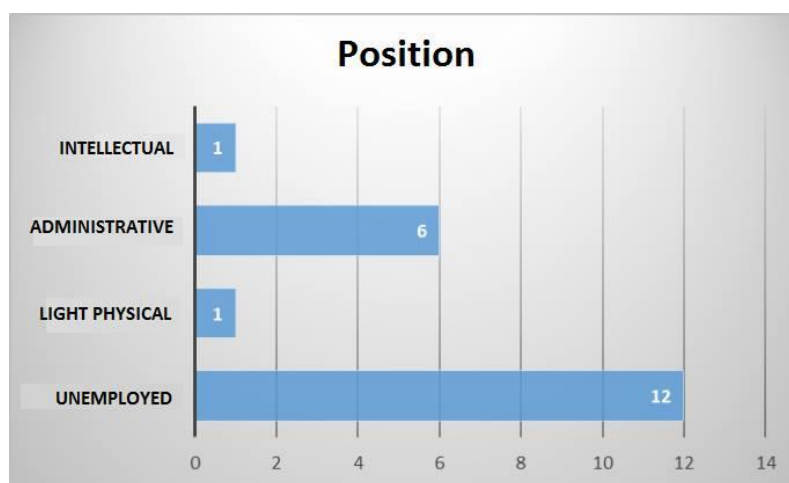


Table 4. Positions for people with mobility disability Source: own edition. N=20

(4) Employers' plans for the future

During in-person interviews the HR-generalists of the corporations declared they did not look actively for the possibility of employing people with mobility disability because their employment has several difficulties. Besides the necessity of the accessibility of the physical and working area, there are other difficulties:

- People with mobility disability have several extra demands: working time reduction; work schedule to bus service.

- They often demand the organization of bus services to the work place from the corporation.
- They often have alcohol problems.
- Most of them have not worked for a long time. It is difficult for them to keep the exact start of working time.

In spite of the difficulties, the HR generalists declared they did not refuse to deal with employing people with mobility disability, but in their point of view there are no often requests, employment demands from the employees side either.

Experiences of the examination of employees

(5) Employment rate of people with mobility disability at large corporations

130 people with mobility disability were involved in the research. 100 out of them worked, 29 did not and one person did not answer the question. Employment rate can be seen in *Table 5*.

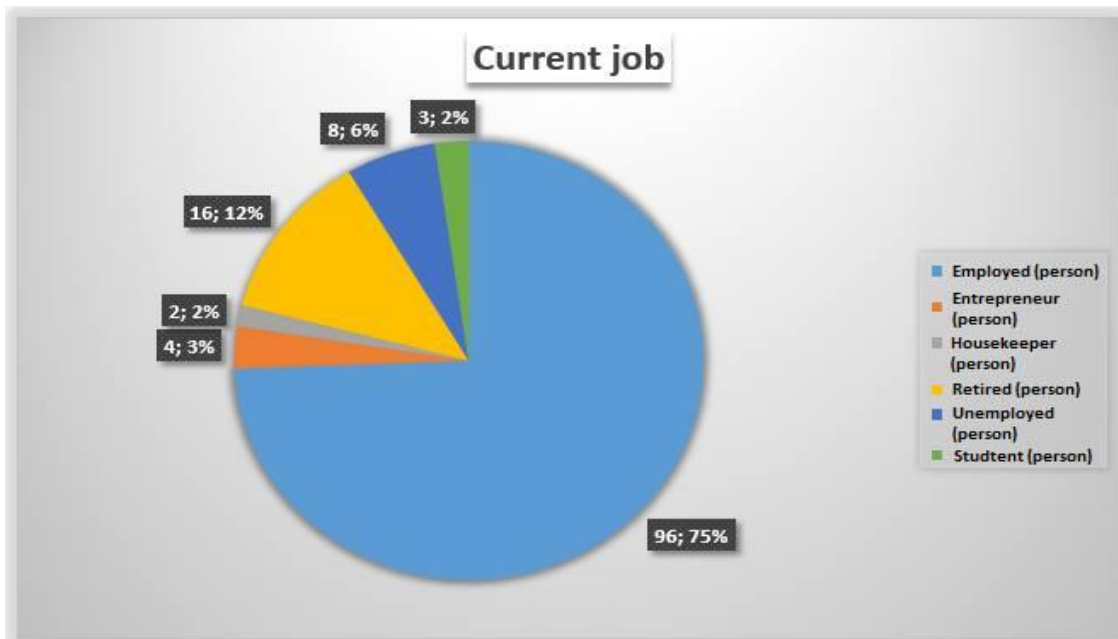


Table 5. Current job Source: own edition. N=130

(6) The acceptability of employers

Most of the employees, even though they were active employees, stated that currently it is difficult to find a job. 76 people declared they used their circle of acquaintance while looking for jobs. 26 people usually look for work through job advertisements, 7 people take every

opportunity, one person did not answer the question. 88 people out of 130 declared that the employers are not really interested in employing people with mobility disability. According to 97 people, employers do not favour people with mobility disability during recruitment. 26 people did not have any information or experience in the issue; 7 people claimed that the employers like employing people with mobility disability if they have proper amount information about how to handle them.

(7) *Experiences in connection with relevant jobs associated with educational status*

Table 6 shows the educational status of people with mobility disability involved in the research. According to the statistics of the last years, people with mobility disability usually have 8 primary school years. According to the data about disabled people's highest level of education reported by the HCSO population census in 2011, the number of people with mobility disability graduated in technical school or with final exam has grown. At the time of statistics, 8510 people had final exam and 7049 people graduated in technical schools in the country (KSH, 2011, p. 45).

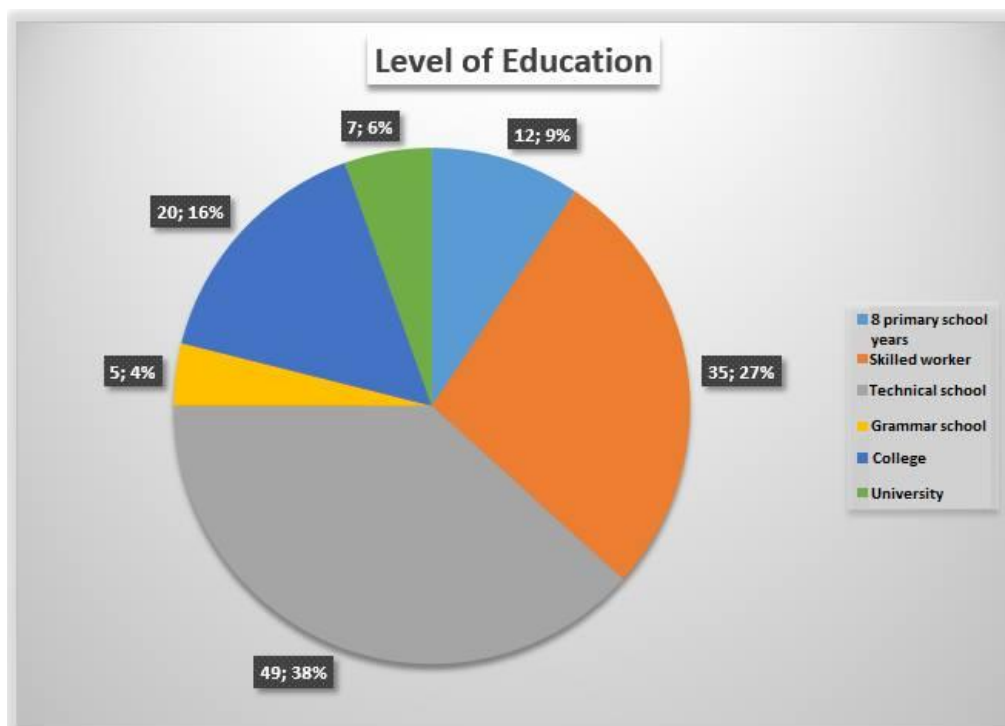


Table 6. Level of education of people with mobility disability. N=130
Source: own edition

The data of the research also demonstrate the rise of education level, although it is not reflected in holding positions regarding educational levels.

57 people from the 100 employed did not work according to their educational status. The majority of employed people had light physical work (40 people) or administrative work (37 people).

(8) Consideration of employees

The majority of people with disability (56 people) saw their positions uncertain despite the fact that they had jobs, 32 people could not evaluate their positions and 36 people were satisfied with their positions.

Research experiences

Employees with mobility disability at large corporations are under-represented in Western Transdanubia in spite of positive statistics. The employment attitude, which is demonstrated in the level of corporational accessibility and establishing relevant positions, obviously reports low employment tendency. It is also clarified by the experiences of questionnaires filled by the employees.

The favourable employment indicators of the employees are not due to large corporations' labour force demands regarding population. People with mobility disability mostly do not get their positions via job advertisements or manpower agencies, which are the large corporations' official, generally strictly protocolled method to indicate labour force. People with mobility disability rather get positions via their friends and, acquaintances because they, due to the region's favourable economic and labour force market, might help them to get less or better qualified employment opportunities. The majority of people with mobility disability in the research have light physical or administrative work regardless of their educational status.

The employment of people with mobility disability in Western Transdanubia is not recognized either within large corporations or on the open labour market. Proving this raises a further research problem.

Summary

The statistics illustrating the economic activity and employment situation of people with mobility disability can often be interpreted with difficulties and are less comparable with earlier statistics as a consequence of different methodological data collections in the world of computer data processing. The aim of population censuses is that the collected data could help the country's administrative and economic plans and scientific research.

The population census in 2011 was the 15th in Hungary's history⁴ and the first one as a member of the European Union. „*The population census was bound by Union's laws. These laws require the list of compulsory data, however, the method of data collection depends on the member states*” (HCSO, 2011, p. 15).

Within the objectives of the European Disability Strategy of the European Commission⁵ planned between 2010-2020, the union of statistics and information regarding disabled people has an important role. This ambition may hopefully help follow the changes in the data of disabled people, including people with mobility disability in Hungary and also compare the changes all over Europe.

REFERENCES

- Antal, Zs. (2005). Nyugat – Dunántúli régió szociális helyzetének elemzése In.: *Kapocs*, 4. évf. 4. sz. (2005. augusztus) [online] http://epa.oszk.hu/02900/02943/00019/pdf/EPA02943_kapocs_2005_4_03.pdf [2016. június 25.]
- Európai Bizottság (2010). *Európai fogyatékoságügyi stratégia 2010–2020: megújított elkötelezettség az akadálymentes Európa megvalósítása iránt* Brüsszel, 2010.11.15. COM (2010) 636 [online] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HU/TXT/?uri=celex:52010DC0636> [2016. július 30]
- Központi Statisztikai Hivatal (2011.). A magyarországi népszámlálások története. 15. [online] https://www.ksh.hu/nepszamlalas/magyarorszagi_nepszamlalasok_tortenete [2016. július 23.]
- Központi Statisztikai Hivatal (2011.). Módszertani megjegyzések, fogalmak. [online] <http://www.ksh.hu/nepszamlalas/docs/modszertan.pdf> [2016. június 25.]

⁵ THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S NOTE TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: a renewed commitment to a barrier-free Europe Brussels, 2010.11.15. COM (2010) 636 final

- Központi Statisztikai Hivatal (2014). 2011. évi Népszámlálás. 13. A népesség gazdasági aktivitása. KSH 2014. p. 16. [online] http://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xftp/idoszaki/nepsz2011/nepsz_13_2011.pdf [2016. július 23.]
- Központi Statisztikai Hivatal (2015). 2011. évi Népszámlálás. 17. A fogyatékossgal élők helyzete és szociális ellátásuk. [online] http://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xftp/idoszaki/nepsz2011/nepsz_17_2011.pdf [2016. június 30.]
- Lakatos, M. – Tausz, K. (2009). *Fogyatékossgügyi statisztikák*. In.: Fogyatékossgtudományi tudásbázis. [online] ELTE Bárczi Gusztáv Gyógypedagógiai Főiskolai Kar, 2009. p. 24. URL: <http://mek.oszk.hu/10000/10020/10020.pdf> [2016.július17.]
- Laki, I. (2013). A fogyatékossgal élő emberekről. *Neveléstudomány*, 2013/3. szám p. 79. [online] http://nevelestudomany.elte.hu/downloads/2013/nevelestudomany_2013_3_79-85.pdf [2016. július 23.]
- Laki, I. (2014). *Magyarországi vonatkozású társadalmi kérdések a fogyatékkal élő emberek életterében*. In.: Karlovicz J. (szerk.) (2014): Kulturális és társadalmi sokszínűség a változó gazdasági környezetben p. 306. [online] URL: <http://www.irisro.org/tarstud2014kotet/39LakiIldiko.pdf> [2016. július 17.]
- Lőcsei, H. – Bublik, B. – Nyeste, A. (2013). *Magyarország régióinak társadalmi – gazdasági profilja*. [online] Budapest: MKIK Gazdaság-és Vállalkozáskutató Intézet, 2013. október. p. 201. URL: http://gvi.hu/files/researches/122/regio_2012_tanulmany_131028.pdf [2016. július 9.]