

SPAIN AND DISABILITY

VILNIUS 2010

Spain and Disability: STATISTICS

Data from the Survey on Disability, Independence, and Dependency Situations (*Encuesta de Discapacidad, Autonomía personal y situaciones de Dependencia*) (2008) show that

8.5% of Spanish population have a disability (3.847.900 people).

Males: 40 % (1.547.300,00)

Females: 60 % (2.300.500,00)

Under 17: 4%

17- 64: 38%

Over 64: 58%

Spain and Disability: ORGANIZATIONS

The national organisation representing disabled people at the European level (European Disability Forum) is

The Spanish National Council of Disabled Representatives (Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad - CERMI):

- More than 4,500 member organizations
- 3.8 million disabled Spanish people

Other significant national organisations of disabled people:

- **ONCE** - National Organization of the Spanish Blind, a Foundation for co-operation and social integration of persons with disabilities.
- **National Confederation of Deaf People** (CNSE)

Spain and Disability: LABOUR MARKET

Only 35% of people with disabilities in Spain are employed.

Reasons for this include:

- **Low work motivation**
- **Widespread stigma concerning the work ability of people with disability**
- **Ineffectiveness of employment regulations and supports.**

OECD Report "Sickness, Disability and Work: Breaking the Barriers" (Vol.2)

Spain and Disability: LABOUR

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Problem 1 .

People with disabilities are not readily signing up to employment programmes because the system is too complex with a number of decentralised and centralised actors, including the Public Employment Service and the Institute of Social Security

Recommendations:

- > The current focus on mainstreaming has not sufficiently helped people with disability get jobs and should be reconsidered, emphasising vocational rehabilitation and training.
- > Institutions responsible for employment, vocational rehabilitation and training, and benefit matters should co-operate better and responsibilities should be streamlined.

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Spain and Disability: LABOUR MARKET

Problem 2.

The Spanish labour law contains a series of obligations for employers but these regulations are not enforced.

Recommendations:

- > Disability policies in collective agreements should be stronger
- > Employers should be controlled and sanctioned if they don't comply
- > Employers should take some financial responsibility for preventing illness and retaining workers

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Spain and Disability: LABOUR MARKET

Problem 3.

Some elements of the disability benefit system need to be adjusted to today's medical, economic and labour market realities.

Recommendations:

- > Granting incapacity benefits to workers who cannot return to their old job is an outdated policy in today's increasingly mobile and well-trained workforce.
- > The 20% supplement to a "partial" disability benefit for unemployed people aged 55 and over is a strong incentive not to seek work. More employment support for this group of people would be a better alternative.

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Spain and Disability: SOCIAL PROTECTION

Key features of the national system include (MISSOC, 2008):

- Disability benefits
- Welfare payments are funded through the contributions of employees and employers

Spain and Disability: SOCIAL PROTECTION

Two main benefit systems:

- 1st system: people with working capacities reduced or annulled, for loss of income.
Eligibility depends: minimum length of employment, accident or occupational illness.
Payments: based on previous salary.
- 2nd system: people with a handicap of 65%, with no (or very little) income and who cannot benefit from the 1st system.
Paid a fixed amount to guarantee a minimum subsistence level.

Spain and Disability: SOCIAL PROTECTION

Total beneficiaries of financial and social benefits: 41.777

With physical disabilities – 70.75%

Psychological disabilities - 18.96 %

Sensory disability – 10.28%.

The typical profile: an individual aged more than 80, with physical disabilities.

IMSERSO 2008

Spain and Disability: SOCIAL PROTECTION

Most people who need assistance receive this from family members.

(Costa-Font and García González, 2007)

Family support: 76.64%

Private support: 6.7%

Social support: 3%

(International Disability Rights Monitor, 2007)