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 cooperation 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)
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.

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

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

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