

SPAIN IS STILL IN A DANGER ZONE:
PERSISTENT UNEMPLOYMENT AND
PRECARIOUS EMPLOYMENT,
CHRONICALLY HIGH AT RISK OF
POVERTY AND EXCLUSION RATES
(PARTICULARLY CHILDREN,
IMMIGRANTS AND SINGLE PARENTS),
AND INSUFFICIENT EFFORTS BY THE
GOVERNMENTS.

COUNTRY REPORT 2020
ASSESSMENT



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

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COUNTRY REPORT ON POVERTY

“The proportion of people at risk of poverty and / or social exclusion continues to decrease, but remains high, especially for children.

Labour market challenges and the low impact on poverty of social transfers result in one of the highest risks of poverty or social exclusion for children in the EU

The weakness of family benefits and income guarantee schemes limits the poverty reduction effect of social transfers.

Regional minimum income schemes are estimated to only reach 20% of their potential beneficiaries nationwide, with strong regional disparities.

Even though fertility rates are much below the population replacement level, family benefits in Spain remain the lowest in the EU.

They reach only half of the children at risk of poverty or exclusion as a strict means test for child benefits results in low coverage, and tax allowances are of limited benefit for lower income families.”

COUNTRY REPORT ON ATYPICAL WORK

“The widespread use of temporary contracts weighs on productivity growth and fuels inequality and in-work poverty. The share of employees on a temporary contract is the highest in the EU, at around 26%.

This has negative impact on human capital formation, impeding faster labour productivity growth.

Temporary contracts are increasingly shorter and commonly used even in sectors with little seasonality. Employment subsidies are not effective at promoting stable employment.”

EUROPEAN PILLAR SOCIAL RIGHTS

Social Scoreboard for SPAIN						
SOCIAL SCOREBOARD					SDGs	
Equal opportunities and access to the labour market	Early leavers from education and training (% of population aged 18-24)			4 QUALITY EDUCATION		
	Youth NEET (% of population aged 15-24)			5 GENDER EQUALITY		
	Gender employment gap			10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES		
	Income quintile ratio (S80/S20)					
	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (in %)					
Dynamic labour markets and fair working conditions	Employment rate (% of population aged 20-64)					
	Unemployment rate (% active population aged 15-74)			8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		
	Long-term unemployment rate (% active population aged 15-74)					
	GDHI per capita growth					
	Net earnings of a full-time single worker earning AW					
Social protection and inclusion	Impact of social transfers (other than pensions) on poverty reduction			1 NO POVERTY		
	Children aged less than 3 years in formal childcare					
	Self-reported unmet need for medical care			3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING		
	Individuals' level of digital skills					
Critical situation	To watch	Weak but improving	Good but to monitor	On average	Better than average	Best performer

Members States are classified on the Social Scoreboard according to a statistical methodology agreed with the EMCO and SPC Committees. It looks jointly at levels and changes of the indicators in comparison with the respective EU averages and classifies Member States in seven categories. For methodological details, please consult the proposal for a Joint Employment Report 2020, COM(2019) 653 final; NEET: neither in employment nor in education and training; GDHI: gross disposable household income. Update of January 2020.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

CSR 2: Ensure that employment and social services have the capacity to provide effective support. Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts, including by simplifying the system of hiring incentives. Improve support for families, reduce fragmentation of national unemployment assistance and address coverage gaps in regional minimum income schemes. Reduce early school leaving and improve educational outcomes, taking into account regional disparities. Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to improving the provision of labour market relevant skills and qualifications, in particular for information and communication technologies.



**LIMITED
PROGRESS**

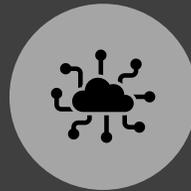
CSR 2 (breakdown)

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Ensure that employment services have the capacity to provide effective support. | 1. SOME PROGRESS |
| 2. Ensure that social services have the capacity to provide effective support. | 2. SOME PROGRESS |
| 3. Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts, including by simplifying the system of hiring incentives. | 3. LIMITED PROGRESS |
| 4. Improve support for families, reduce fragmentation of national unemployment assistance and address coverage gaps in regional minimum income schemes. | 4. LIMITED PROGRESS |
| 5. Reduce early school leaving and improve educational outcomes, taking into account regional disparities. | 5. LIMITED PROGRESS |
| 6. Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to improving the provision of labour market relevant skills and qualifications, in particular for information and communication technologies | 6. SOME PROGRESS |

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Adapting to climate change, ensuring a more efficient water and waste management, reducing emissions from transport, further decarbonising energy and increasing energy efficiency are key challenges for Spain.



The geographical location and topography of Spain make it particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.



Transport is the sector where greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow most. Spain heavily relies on roads for freight transport.



Spain is not on track to meet its 2020 energy efficiency targets.



Spain's resource efficiency has improved significantly since 2009, but waste management and the circular economy remain important challenges.



Tourism faces the challenge of becoming more sustainable.

CORONAVIRUS



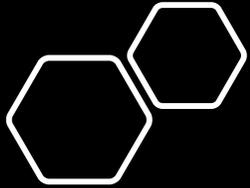
CDC.gov

The Country-
Report already
warned about
three of the key
issues regarding
the managing of
the Coronavirus
Epidemy

“The primary care system performs well but needs further adaptation to cope with the demographic and epidemiological shifts.”

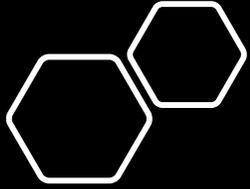
“There are inefficiencies in the purchase and use of pharmacy-dispensed medicines. Regional variations in spending on pharmacy-dispensed medicines are not explained by healthcare needs.”

“Inefficiencies are also linked to the recruitment and working conditions of health workers. The persistent use of temporary contracts contributes to the large turnover of health workers.”



EAPN Spain
considers that
this COVID crisis
is having and will
have higher risk
and negative
effects on:

- Households in poverty, because they have fewer resources and fewer options -especially, those with dependent members (children, chronically ill and disabled persons).
- Gender inequality. More episodes of gender-based violence, due to the effects of confinement.
- Immigrants and homeless persons, due to poor access to healthcare and proper care.
- The elderly and individuals with disabilities or important chronic illness, due to isolation, lack of domestic and care services, and more propensity to become sick with the COVID 19 and die.



COVID-19 ISSUES

- Lack of coordination and insufficient resources have been confirmed as a huge problem. Measures regarding confinement and the State of Alarm were taken late, despite the World Health Organization warning and scientific reports available, and without an overall consensus with the regional governments, nor the political opposition. Buying medical equipment and protection items has been a matter of dispute among the central and some regional governments.
- The level of infections among health workers is the highest in all the OECD countries until now, due to lack of personal protection equipment and insufficient well-equipped medical facilities, particularly at the Intensive Care Units.
- Indebtness and loss of income are generalized among self-employed and those with precarious work. Workers who cannot work from home are laid off temporarily, with a considerable drop of their income (30% less) (ERTE, temporal regulation of work expedients). Mortgage payments and rented housing can be postponed for low-income families. EAPN forecasts that income poverty will increase if the VITAL MINIMUM INCOME is not implemented at a large scale.