

Business cycle and policy effects on labour market transitions of older and disabled workers in Spain

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Business Cycle and Policy Effects on Labour Market Transitions of Older and Disabled Workers in Spain

Judit Vall Castello

1. Social integration of disabled individuals comes from their integration in the labour market.
2. Disability policies in Spain have been forgotten for a long time and there is a current need to reform the system.
3. From the group of disabled individuals, particular attention has to be paid to older individuals and women in the efforts to integrate them in the labour market.
4. Some good examples of employment integration policies for disabled individuals have already been implemented in other OECD countries such as the U.K. and Luxemburg. These programs could serve as a starting point for the Spanish government.
5. This is all very optimistic. However, chances are that with the current economic crisis and the already approved cuts on social spending in Spain, nothing is going to improve in the coming years as the need to reform the disability system is probably the last of the current priorities of the Spanish government.
6. Furthermore, the cuts on social spending (which will come into effect during the second half of 2010 and 2011) could hurt even more the already fragile economic situation of disabled individuals if their benefits are affected by the cuts on public spending.
7. Nonetheless, I am still a firm believer that, overall, doing a PhD is a good experience that is worth it both for you (in terms of acquiring new knowledge and skills) and for the society (I don't know exactly in what terms doing a PhD is good for the society but I am sure that it is...somehow).
8. The PhD experience is even better if you have either a really fun hobby or a great social life that can balance the boringness of writing a thesis for (some) years in your office. Conferences and summer schools bring also an improvement with respect to the baseline experience.