

2018 Country Report for Portugal

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Employment is fast increasing contributing to a decrease in total unemployment.
- Unemployment declined considerably from 11.2 % in 2016 to 9 % in 2017 and is now lower than the euro area average.
- The employment rate reached its highest level since 2008.
- **Some progress has been made to improve active labour market policies and address long-term unemployment.**
- The labour market continued to improve strongly in 2017 benefitting from the job-rich recovery.
- Despite an increase in permanent hiring, the proportion of workers on temporary contracts is high.

II. Education Policy

- Educational outcomes keep improving, but there are equity concerns.
- Early school leaving in Portugal remains higher than the EU average but recent improvements in education outcomes could be the result of greater efficiency in education provision.
- The early school leaving rate dropped significantly in previous years, but slightly increased in 2016 and remains well above the EU average.
- **The tertiary education attainment rate for people with disabilities is low in Portugal. (20.9 % vs 29.4 % in the EU.**

III. Social Policy

- **The health status in Portugal is above the EU average but health inequalities remain a general problem.**
- Self-reported unmet needs for medical care equal the EU average and reflect efforts undertaken so far.
- Despite universal coverage, geographical gaps in providing services hinder access.



- In the health sector a significant number of professionals were recruited from EU and non-EU countries.
- A new social inclusion benefit and a scheme to support independence for people with disabilities have been recently approved. The latter targets people with disabilities who are over 18 and have a disability above 60 %, aiming to help them access employment.
- Under this new measure, in addition to receiving the new social benefit (approximately EUR 264, non-means-tested for single beneficiaries) people with disabilities will be able to earn up to a certain amount of income from work, potentially increasing their employability and reducing the risk of poverty. This scheme to support *to an independent life* is to be launched as a pilot project and aims to test a model of assistance that enables people with disabilities to become independent (both at personal and professional level).

IV. Anything else?

- While the employment gender gap remains low, the difference in pay between women and men is increasing fast.
- The at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate is getting closer to the EU average.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Portugal](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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