

## 2018 Country Report for Spain

### Key points for EASPD members

#### I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Economic activity and employment grew again strongly.
- Unemployment has continued its rapid decline, but remains among the highest in the EU.
- As past efforts to promote employment creation are bearing fruit, the creation of permanent employment is slowly increasing in prevalence, but the use of temporary contracts remains widespread.
- In Spain, active labour market policies are managed at regional level and passive measures at national level.
- Strong labour market segmentation and widespread involuntary part-time employment persist in Spain.
- Segmentation remains a key feature of the Spanish labour market.
- The share of employees with a temporary contract in Spain is higher than in the EU in all sectors, not only those with strong seasonal or cyclical nature such as agriculture, tourism and construction.

#### II. Education Policy

- Educational outcomes continue to vary considerably across regions.
- The early school leaving rate remains amongst the highest in the EU.
- Regional differences remain in students' performance in terms of skills.
- Since education is a regional competence, policies also differ considerably.
- The institutional set-up allows for coordination through the exchange of best practices and peer review amongst regions, but in practice it is not used systematically.
- Targeted measures to help regions improve educational outcomes have so far only had a small effect in reducing differences between them.
- The Parliament has already agreed on a National Strategy for University Education but it still has to agree a National Pact on (non-university levels of) Education.
- The 2017 budget law envisaged additional funding for the education system and an increased replacement rate of retired teachers.



### III. Social Policy

- Inequalities in access to health care are low compared to the EU average.
- Spain has one of the lowest rates of reported unmet needs for medical care in the EU.
- Disparities in access to healthcare are also sizeable.
- Although competences for healthcare organisation and delivery are devolved to the regional health ministries, there is an Inter-territorial Council that can serve as a forum for coordination.

### IV. Anything else?

- Income inequality stabilised but it remains relatively high.
- The risk of poverty or social exclusion is especially high for children, the unemployed, people living in single earner households and people with disabilities.

### Additional Information

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

### For more information, please contact

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