

International Labour Organization

STUDIES ON GROWTH WITH EQUITY



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Spain: Growth with jobs/ International Labour Office - Geneva: ILO, 2014

978-92-2-129098-8 (print) 978-92-2-129099-5 (web pdf)

International Labour Office

Spain / crisis / employment / unemployment / productivity / competitiveness / labour market policies/ social dialogue / collective bargaining

First published in 2014

Also available in Spanish: España: Crecimiento con empleo (ISBN 978-92-2-329098-6), Geneva, 2014.

ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data

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 This publication was produced by the Document and Publications Production, Printing and Distribution Branch (PRODOC) of the ILO.
Graphic and typographic design, layout and composition, printing, electronic publishing and distribution.
PRODOC endeavours to use paper sourced from forests managed in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner. Code: ALI-ATA-IMPR-DISTR

FOREWORD

In order to achieve a real and sustainable recovery, macroeconomic and employment goals need to be pursued in parallel. This was highlighted by 51 European Governments, Employers' and Workers' representatives in the Oslo Declaration adopted by the ILO's 9th European Regional Conference in April 2013, which stated that "...structural reform and competitiveness, on the one hand, and stimulus packages, investment in the real economy, quality jobs, increased credit for enterprises, on the other, should not be competing paradigms. It is in our common interest to elaborate sustainable approaches in order to promote jobs, growth and social justice". To that end, the ILO has been analysing the situation in a number of crisis-hit European countries since spring 2013 with a view to investigating and presenting policy options for a sustainable and job-rich recovery.

In different international meetings, including the G20, the ILO has supported and encouraged a comprehensive approach to the social and economic challenges stemming from the current crisis. The general objective is clear: to combine the pursuit of sound macroeconomic goals with the creation and protection of decent jobs and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. These issues go to the very centre of the conditions needed to achieve a sustainable European currency.

This new ILO report investigates the specific challenges facing Spain in the aftermath of the crisis. The report emphasises that Spain is in the early stages of the recovery process, and that a number of additional measures could be considered to solidify its gains. In order to achieve the objective of "Growth with Jobs", I hope the report, its findings and the discussions and debate it stimulates will provide useful inputs to the national and European debate on employment and social issues.

Guy Ryder ILO Director-General

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This report has been prepared by Verónica Escudero, Santo Milasi, Clemente Pignatti and Johanna Silvander of the ILO Research Department. The authors are grateful for research assistance provided by Cecilia Heuser, Yi Qu, Phoebe Sam and Rachael Singer. Elva López Mourelo, with assistance from Alberto Gamboa Gamboa, provided timely inputs and verified the translation of the report into Spanish. The team of researchers are also thankful to Miguel Ángel Malo of the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, and Sameer Khatiwada of the ILO Research Department for important contributions during the project's initial phase.

The study has been coordinated by Steven Tobin under the supervision of the Director of the ILO Research Department, Raymond Torres and with guidance from James Howard, Senior Advisor to the ILO Director-General.

A preliminary draft of the report was shared with the Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain and with social partners, namely Confederación Española de la Pequeña y Mediana Empresa (Cepyme), Confederación

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