

**Spain: case 1– The resurgence of active employment policies in the city of Valencia**

<p><b>Period:</b> 2015 - ongoing</p> <p><b>Target population:</b> (long-term) unemployed in inner city depressed areas,</p> <p><b>Life stage:</b> ongoing</p> <p><b>Investment theme:</b> active employment policies, public private collaborative action, humanization and individualization of of public services</p>
<p><b>Short description of the program:</b></p> <p>Valenciactiva is a new umbrella programme provided by Valencia city hall for its localized active employment schemes. It bridges the gap in skills mismatch by bringing employment services closer to businesses at a physical, local level. Valenciactiva is financed and managed by ideologically different sectors through the Pact for Employment Foundation. The Employment Pact brings together the Valencia Business Association (CAV), the town hall, and the two largest trade unions (Comisiones Obreras and the Union General de Trabajadores). The brand Valenciactiva was created with the aim of coordinating existing structures in the city of Valencia and utilize them for purposes of economic development and employment.</p> <p>Valenciactiva provides an alternative to the services offered by the regional employment service, employs a different methodology in its treatment of the unemployed, The idea is that local government is seeking to work with the companies and sectors that are active in each of the local areas in order to work together to provide the training that is necessary and required by local businesses to improve opportunities for job insertion. In this way, the capabilities for employability possessed by potential employees can be harnessed and put to use within the local environment, creating a personalized insertion itinerary, working in conjunction with local firms. The administration consults local businesses about the types of training courses that employers would like to see in place and to which the unemployed currently do not have access..</p>
<p><b>Policy Area:</b></p> <p>Introduction of innovative active and passive employment policies. Collaboration between public administration and third sector organizations.</p>
<p><b>The legislative and regulatory frame work:</b></p> <p>Labour reforms and job insecurity have affected essential areas of social protection such as healthcare The economic crisis is shaping policy in Spain both nationally and regionally, as a result of sizeable cutbacks and new legislation. These changes have an impact on who is insured, which benefits are covered, and what share of the cost of service provision people should pay, while at the same time reducing salaries and worsening working conditions.</p> <p>Since January 2015, the government introduced new legislation to provide for the needs of the long-term unemployed with a subsidy of 426 euros per month, while autonomous regions provide a personalized offer of training courses and help and advice in mapping out a route via which people can return to work, under a scheme called Employment Activation Programme. This and many other schemes and new legislation have come under fire though due to the restrictions on availability for the scheme. As many as 50% of long-term unemployed do not comply with the necessary requirements to enter such schemes.</p>
<p><b>Main actors:</b> Valencia city Hall, trade unions UGT and Comisiones obreras, Valencian business Association, Regional and Central Government</p>
<p><b>Innovative elements:</b></p> <p>Local administrations are beginning to take up the baton of active employment policies, especially in the large cities around Spain. Elements of these policies are new, with different types of employment offices spread around the city's (Valencia) worst affected areas in terms of unemployment. New methodologies are being used to stimulate job creation in these areas which, at least in the Comunidad valenciana</p>

indicate that individualized tailored and humanized services can produce more effective results.

**Links to to key policy documents, previous research, news reports, etc.**

Previous research:

Webpage of the Spanish ministry of Industry, Energy and the Digital Agenda:

<http://www.minetad.gob.es/energia/es>

Institute for Energy Saving and Diversification <http://www.minetad.gob.es/energia/es>

Alginet Energy Cooperative <http://www.electricadealginet.com/>



**Spain: case 2– Local government and cooperative initiatives to reduce energy poverty**

**Period:** 2015 - ongoing

**Target population:**

**Life stage:** ongoing

**Investment theme:** combating poverty, public private collaborative action, access to affordable renewable energy

**Short description of the program:**

This case study looks at the normative, legislative, cultural and political reasons for the existence of high levels of energy poverty in Spain and examines the example of energy cooperatives to provide a theory of change and sustainable solutions that might be transferred to other agents in the energy chain. The case study analyzes regional and local investment in policies to reduce energy poverty and also draws on good practice from local energy cooperatives to inform of possible improvements in the current service offered to most users.

**Policy Area:**

Social protection policies and legislation that supports at-risk families in meeting energy costs. Effects of the ongoing crisis on the ability to meet costs and how they can be reduced. This case study looks at policies currently in place to avoid energy poverty and uses the cooperative model to suggest new initiatives at an local administrative level that could help social services in the Valencia area to protect those at risk of losing basic services.

Energy cooperatives have existed for over a century in the community of Valencia and, faced with the limitations of the ability of public administration to provide protection in several areas of life to those that are most at risk, they have acted to bridge the gap where social services fail to act.

**The legislative and regulatory frame work:**

In the order of the regional Valencian Regional Government of 23rd December, 2015 (ORDRE 3/2015, de 23 de desembre, de la Conselleria d'Habitatge, Obres Públiques i Vertebració del Territori), and under Law 38/2003 of 17 November, General Subsidies Law 1/2015, of 6 February, the Generalitat, Public Finance Sector Instrumentation and Grants, the newly elected regional government created the document that established benefits specifically aimed at combating energy poverty. This Order establishes the regulatory framework for awarding "subsidies to avoid energy poverty in households at a risk of social exclusion".

**Main actors:**

Central government, regional government and local administrations. energy cooperatives such as the Grup Cooperativa Elèctrica d'Alginet, third sector organizations working to reduce energy poverty, large energy corporations

**Innovative elements:**

The case draws on innovative actions that have been in place in independent energy cooperatives to learn from social protection practices carried out on a small scale to inform where gaps can be filled in terms of social investment in the energy sector.

**Links to to key policy documents, previous research, news reports, etc.**

Previous research:

Webpage of the Spanish ministry of Industry, Energy and the Digital Agenda:

<http://www.minetad.gob.es/energia/es>

Institute for Energy Saving and Diversification <http://www.minetad.gob.es/energia/es>

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