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International Institute for Labour Studies

Studies on Growth with Equity

Spain: Quality jobs for a new economy

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The purpose of "Studies on Growth with Equity" is to examine how employment and social policies can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable growth pattern. Moreover, if polices are well-designed and introduced in a complementary manner, they can be both pro-growth and equity-enhancing. This report on Spain documents how such policy complementarities among the strategic objectives of the ILO can be achieved.

The exceptional increase in Spain's unemployment reflects the simultaneity of the global crisis and the end of a period of unbalanced growth. So the challenge is to make a structural transformation of the growth model, while addressing the deteriorated employment situation. There are early indications of a positive transformation taking place and this can be accelerated through a coherent policy strategy, including a number of recent measures and, hopefully, a series of new measures: firstly to facilitate the transition to a more productive economy; secondly to align education, skills and training policies to the new growth model; thirdly, to promote active policies while adequately supporting jobseekers;, fourthly, a comprehensive strategy to ensure that no youth is left behind; and finally, by continued efforts to reduce labour market duality while promoting more and better jobs. Spain can make a successful transformation to a new economy but it will require placing labour market and social policies at the heart of the recovery. Social dialogue is more important than ever if the vision of a new growth model is to be successfully carried out. It is also vital for averting social unrest.

The full report is available at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_158537.pdf