

Same chances to work in Europe: Collecting the right information

'PATHS 2 INCLUDE' is a project that studies:

- Why some people are left out of jobs;
- How to make work fairer for everyone.

The project was made
thanks to money from the European Union.



The risk of being left out of work

Certain groups of people are at higher risk of not getting a job.
They may be left out because:

- They are women;
- They have a disability;
- They come from a different country;
- They need to look after a child or another family member.



A person can be more than one of these things at the same time.

This makes it even harder for this person to work.
For example, women who look after children or other family members struggle much more to stay in work.



Support makes a big difference

In countries that offer good health care and support, people with health problems can keep working more easily.

In countries that offer less support to their people, fewer people manage to stay at work when they get older or sick.



Problems with collecting information

Among other things, our study showed that:

1. The European Union and its countries do not collect enough information about people at risk of not finding a job.

When the European Union and its countries do studies about working in Europe, they may not ask enough questions about things that make it hard for people to get or keep a job.

For example:

- Do they have a disability?
- Are they looking after a child or a sick family member?
- Are they from another country?



Because this information is missing, people who make laws and decisions in Europe cannot see who struggles most to find or keep a job.

2. Even when the countries collect some information about these things, they may do it in different ways from each other.

For example, countries may ask different questions or mean things differently.

This way, it is hard to know which countries are doing better and what really helps people.

3. Some groups of people are too small to be noticed in surveys.

For example, people with disabilities or women coming from different countries. Often, only a few people from these groups have the chance to take part in these surveys and talk about the problems they face in getting a job.

What should change

Our study shows that the European Union and its countries should:

- Collect better information about what makes it hard for certain groups of people to work.
- Protect people who may have more than one difficulty in getting a job.
For example, people who come from different countries and also have children to look after.
- Ask people who are often forgotten about the difficulties they have in getting a job.
- Take into account that different people have different needs and give people the support they need to get a job.
- Collect information in the same way so that we can compare the situation in different countries and check what works and what does not.