Bernd Marin
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Facts and Figures on Disability Welfare

A Pictographic Portrait of an OECD Report
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Only one in three recipients of a disability benefit works

The forgotten many: proportion of all disabled persons with neither income from work nor income from benefits

Proportion of non-employed disabled persons without income, by age group

The great majority of all disabled people does not receive a disability benefit

The majority of severely disabled people does not receive a disability benefit

One in three disability benefit recipients do not classify themselves as "disabled"

Only weak relationship between employment rates and participation in special employment programmes (1999)

Between normalization ...
Most employed people with disabilities are in regular employment ...

The forgotten many: proportion of all disabled persons with neither income from work nor income from benefits ...
... and protected employment ... but many of those with severe disabilities are likely to be in sheltered or supported employment

No clear relationship between benefit recipiency and employment rates

Disability benefit recipiency rate concentrated at 5 to 7 per cent

Declines and increases in average per capita disability benefits 1990-1999

Which benefit for non-employed disabled persons?

Extremely low annual outflow rates from disability benefits 1995-1999

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Contributory benefits 50% more generous than non-contributory benefits ...

... but ever more recipients on non-contributory benefits, if available

High diversity in disability benefit inflows of women and men

Extremely diverging country patterns in gendered disability inflows over the life cycle

Age profiles in benefit recipiency: remarkable country differences

Remarkable pattern diversity in age-specific inflow rates

Large country differences in age-specific inflow rates

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Remarkable pattern diversity in age-specific inflow rates

Legislative framework and extent of employer responsibility

Social exclusion – at 60% higher costs: More people are awarded a disability benefit than receive vocational rehabilitation services

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... mostly sheltered work

Highly variable expenses per employment programme participant

Almost no participation in active programmes of those most at risk – Age 45+
The great age-mismatch between disability inflow and vocational rehabilitation offer

Large variation in focus and type of employment programmes

Very low but increasing spending on active programmes in most countries

No employment value for active programme money?

The more generous the compensation, the more beneficiaries

The more generous the compensation, the more inflow of new beneficiaries

Benefit coverage and generosity determine recipiency numbers

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Foreword


All data is taken from the OECD database on programmes for disabled persons, which contains macro data on disability benefits and programmes as well as micro data from national population surveys. For the full story and interpretation of the results, and the far-reaching policy conclusions derived therefrom, reading the OECD report will be indispensable.2

The main purpose of this somewhat unusual booklet is to promote the findings and to make readers aware of and familiar with facts and dilemmas related to disability policies for the working-age population. Visualizing core findings in a complementary brochure has been considered valuable to reach as broad an audience as possible in this European Year of People with Disabilities 2003.

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1 The following surveys had been used: European Community Household Panel wave 1997 for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; Survey of Disability, Ageing and Careers 1998 for Australia; National Population Health Survey 1998 for Canada; National Survey on Disabled Persons 2000 for Korea; National Survey on Employment and Social Security 1996 for Mexico; Living Level Survey 1998 for Norway; Labour Force Survey 2000 for Poland; Health Survey 1997 for Switzerland; Survey of Income and Programme Participation 1997 for the United States.

2 Primary sources for the charts as well as detailed definitions for many of the terms used – e.g. severe disability, moderate disability, income, employment, benefit recipiency, etc. – can be looked up in the OECD report.