



The project partners



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<http://www.optiwork.org>



The Opti-Work Target Audience

- EU & National Policy Makers;
- Social Partners;
- Representative Organisations of People with Disabilities; and
- Employment Services Providers

The models built by Opti-Work have been synthesised into two major outputs – a decision support tool and a public sector economic impact tool.

Project Methods

Opti-Work has carried out desk-based and interview based studies in 15 countries to examine the factors affecting the employment prospects of people with disabilities. Data from these studies have been used to produce models showing how higher employment levels may be achieved for people with disabilities.

Descriptive Models

The studies addressed the following questions:

- What factors in national systems can promote the employment of people with disabilities?
- What influences employers to employ people with disabilities?
- What influences the job seeker to take up employment?

Models at each of these three levels were produced – the Framework Analysis model, the Employer Threshold Model and the Job Seeker threshold model.

The Economic Models

Opti-Work has generated three economic models which support the calculation of the impact of changes in policy affecting national systems, employers and job seekers. These models include:

- The Public Sector Impact Model – which shows the effects of policy changes on public costs and savings.
- The Costs and Benefits Model – which shows the costs and benefits to employers of employing a person with disabilities under different policy scenarios.
- The Better Off Analysis Model – which shows the costs and benefits to the individual of taking up employment.

Decision Support for Policy Makers

Opti-Work has created two tools to support policy makers in their analysis of employment prospects for people with disabilities.

- Decision Support System, which details the main findings from the project; and
- Public Sector economic Impact Tool which provides examples of how economic models can be built using the frameworks and data from the Opti-Work project.

The Opti-Work Initiative

Opti-Work is a European research initiative which seeks to promote the employment of people with disabilities by modelling of the factors that influence their employment chances. The research focuses on:

- the individual job-seeker;
- the prospective employer; and
- the national system of legislation, supports and incentives for employment.

Opti-Work is also building quantitative models that examine the financial impacts of employment for the job-seeker, the employer and the State.

These modelling activities will help to evaluate the effects of employment policies on people with disabilities. Better models can support the policy maker in making decisions, the employer in identifying the costs and benefits of employing a person with disabilities and the individual in deciding whether to take a job or not.

