

Opti-Work

Optimising strategies for integrating people with disabilities into Work

6th Framework Research Programme: research for policy support

Integration of people with disabilities into the
labour market

October 2003

Background

- Unemployment among people with disabilities is high in all countries
- Access to the labour market is an important tool for improving the quality of life of people with disabilities
- There is an enormous loss to society of the productive capacities of people with disabilities who cannot find employment
- There is little insight in effective reintegration strategies aimed at people with disabilities

A Coordination Action ...

- to add value
 - to the European Union
 - to national employment policies, and
 - to national systems
- to promote the integration of people with disabilities into the labour market

A Coordination Action ...

- to develop a conceptual framework that gives insight into factors influencing the threshold decisions of:
 - persons with disabilities, and
 - employers
- in a national context

A Coordination Action ...

- to give insight in the economic costs and benefits of crossing the threshold to employment for:
 - the state
 - the employer, and
 - persons with disabilities

A Coordination Action.....

- Start: January 2005
- Ten partners
- Fifteen National Contact Centres
- Seven Work Packages
- One Aim: do what we promised!

What can we do at the end?

1. Identify good practice based on cross-jurisdictional comparisons
2. Analyse the effectiveness of legislation, policies, strategies etc.
3. Estimate the economic and social costs and benefits of different approaches to increasing employment rates
4. Adapt existing policies in such a way that they stimulate rather than restrict high-quality and durable labour participation
5. Create innovative measures and new policies

Brussels, October 2007

- We can:
 - identify good practice based on cross-jurisdictional comparisons
 - analyse the effectiveness of legislation, policies, strategies
 - estimate the economic and social costs and benefits of different approaches to increase employment rates
 - adapt existing policies in such a way that they stimulate rather than restrict

- We know:
 - more about what works and what doesn't work
 - the costs of doing nothing, these are high

Thanks to ...

- The Brussels Office of DG Research
 - The Brussels Office of DG Employment
 - Ten committed partners
 - Our positive critical external and internal reviewers
- Fifteen highly motivated National Contact Coordinators and their directors in the National Contact Centres

An Invitational Conference

- An introduction to a model in decision making
 - David McDaid

- More information on the key issues of Opti-Work
 - Donal McAnaney

- Discussion on implications and use for policy making
 - In workshops
 - In policy forum

The labour market position of people with disabilities

The proven way to improve it!