

Summary of "The social and labour insertion of people with difficulties in accessing the labor market through public procurement"

Following the EU and national recommendations concerning public procurement policies modernization, the Avilés City Council has developed a municipal legislation that avoid legal uncertainties as to how social criteria must be applied and uses public procurement as a tool at the service of public administrations to develop inclusive social policies for groups having difficulties in entering the labour market. ICESA can be easily replicated, it needs a low budget and it has a great impact on social cohesion policies, contributing to the modernisation of public administrations.

Avilés is a medium-sized city located in the north of Spain with a population of 83,000 in an area of 26.81 km; it has an ageing population (21%) and an unemployment rate at 17.1%, the latter dramatically affecting youth population (47%). The economic has hit harder people with difficulties to enter the labour market (women, people with disabilities, people with low qualifications). This situation takes them further away from the labour market and increases the risk of possible social exclusion.

This complex situation needs of innovative approaches to create new cooperation networks among groups sharing a common objective: progress in terms of social cohesion and create new future opportunities for citizens.

This initiative obliges to incorporate social criteria in public procurement procedures, favouring access to the labour market and making possible for social economy enterprises to access public procurement processes. The Avilés Avanza programme, Retos network and companies have helped the implementation, dissemination and replication of this practice.

Its implementation, which does not incur in additional costs and has a great social impact, has allowed hiring people in difficulties who were on benefits and who become net payers. Besides, it puts the emphasis on cooperation within the public administration and encourages social responsibility practices within companies while promoting a new framework to establish relationships with business associations.

147 tendering specifications including social clauses: 82 works, 48 services, 17 supplies.

11 reserved contracts (8 Special Employment Centres, 1 Social Insertion Companies).

2 contracts with Social Insertion Companies regarding Technical Solvency.

420 people hired (279 women – 141 men):

- 88 people with disabilities.
- 107 long-term unemployed.
- 75 people over 45 years-old.
- 39 immigrants.
- 15 first job seekers.
- 19 open-ended contracts.

This is a comprehensive, flexible and innovative system for the introduction of social criteria in public procurement procedures, which can be adjusted to and replicated in different situations and administrative levels and territorial contexts.