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**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON SOCIAL
INCLUSION OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN
2008-2010**

**Annex II
Report on the execution of the measures included
in the NAP-Inclusion 2006-2008**

SEE CONTENT →



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GENERAL ASSESSMENT

As general observations, first we need to emphasise that the content of this report refers to the measures executed in the years 2006 and 2007.

The achievement rate in the measures included in this National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006-2008 has been very high. With regard to the priority objectives, we can affirm that the achievement in terms of execution has also been very high. In nearly all the initiatives envisaged full or, in some cases, partial progress has been made.

As explained below, the progress made in the area of employment promotion has been marked by Law 43/2006 dated 29th of December, as regards improving growth and employment, derived from the "Agreement on improving growth and employment", which includes measures aimed at boosting and supporting employment and indefinite employment contracts, highlighting the new Programme for Promoting Employment and improving the unemployment protection of specific collectives (disabled persons).

Organic Law 3/2007, dated 22nd of March, as regards Equality for Women and Men, has implemented the principle of equal treatment and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in all areas of life and public or private activity.

Likewise, we should also mention the National Agreement on Vocational Training for Employment and highlight the approval of the Statute on Self-employment as well as the Law on Labour-market Integration Companies, whose objective is to regulate the legal status of labour-market integration companies and to establish a framework for promoting labour-market integration among persons in a situation of social exclusion through this type of companies.

With regard to guaranteeing minimum economic resources, we should emphasise the increase in the Minimum Inter-professional Salary and the pensions for the second consecutive year.

Improving the living conditions of persons with fewer resources has been achieved with such initiatives as the increase in the Minimum Inter-professional Salary (SMI) to 570.6 Euros per month, as part of a strategy aimed at dignifying the amount, established in Royal Decree 2388/2004, dated 30th of December, as well as the increase in pensions.

In 2006, additional improvements of a 4.5% increase for pensions of beneficiaries with a spouse to support and 3% for beneficiaries without a spouse to support were added to the increase adjustment. With these improvements, the minimum contributory pensions increased between 14.1% and 17.4% in the period January 2004/December 2006.

The general increase-adjustment of Social Security pensions for the year 2007 was established at 2%, in accordance with the inflation forecast for that year, although introducing into the



increase adjustment the differential (0.6%) of the evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the year 2006 in relation to the increase-adjustment applied the previous year.

The minimum contributory pensions increased by 5%, although some experienced even higher increases: the minimum retirement and permanent disability pension for persons with a spouse to support increased by 6.5%; the minimum orphan's pension for beneficiaries below 18 years of age with a disability equal to or above 65% increased by 55.29%, and the minimum widow/widower's pension for beneficiaries below 60 years of age with family burdens by 12.68%.

The Law on Measures in the area of Social Security was approved, with initiatives to consolidate the Social Security system, family support (several amendments were made to the original text to improve the protection of orphans, the disabled and widows with underage children) extension of working life, employment disability and retirement.

As regards achieving equality in education, the measures established in the Organic Law on Education have been implemented and published in Royal Decree 1631/2006, dated 29th of December, which establishes the minimum studies for Compulsory Secondary Education, considered as basic aspects of the curriculum in terms of objectives, basic skills, contents and assessment criteria.

In this respect, the study "Basic Data of Spanish Education in the academic year 2006-2007" has been published, which includes data concerning free second-cycle education and education grants and support. For 2007, the allocations for education grants and support are increased by 16.14% compared with 2006, which is an additional injection of 157 million Euros.

As regards the PROA Programme (Reinforcement, Guidance and Support Programme), one of its main objectives is to "consolidate the falling tendency in the school dropout rate". In the academic year 2006-2007, the programme is being implemented in 1,165 education centres, with an investment of 44 million Euros. In the academic year 2007-2008, 2,500 education centres will have the programme in place, with a budget of more than 97 million Euros, half of which will be financed by the Autonomous Communities and the other half by the Ministry of Education and Science.

"Diversity support" is contemplated in Royal Decrees, which establish the minimum studies in Primary Education and the minimum studies in Compulsory Secondary Education.

In terms of support for Social Integration of immigrants, it is worth highlighting the support Fund for sheltering and integrating immigrants and providing them with education reinforcement, endowed in 2007 with a credit of 200 million Euros (an increase of 9.6% from 2006), and distributed as 98 million Euros aimed at shelter and integration, 90 million Euros at education reinforcement and 10 million Euros at assistance to non-accompanied foreign minors.



Other instruments for the social integration of immigrants include the Forum for the social integration of immigrants, regulated by Royal Decree 3/2006, dated 16th of January, as regards its structure, responsibilities and operating system (Official State Bulletin dated 17-1-2006). Officially founded in June 2006 and assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, it is a consultation, information and advice body for the integration of immigrants. The Forum is comprised of a balanced number of representatives of the public administrations, associations of immigrants and social support organisations.

Likewise, reference should be made to the approval of the Strategic Civic Responsibility and Integration Plan 2007-2010, with a budget of 2,005 million Euros.

In relation to Guaranteeing assistance to persons in a situation of dependence, we should highlight the publication of Law 39/2006, dated 14th of December, on Promoting Personal Autonomy and Assistance to Persons in a Situation of Dependence, which was published in the Official State Bulletin of 15th of December 2006 and entered into force on the 1st of January 2007. In the last few months, the entire regulatory framework was laid down and approved by the General Administration of the State to articulate the implementation of the contents of this Law.

Likewise, the Territorial Council on Dependency and the Consultation Committee were established, creating a Technical Unit to provide information and support to the managing bodies of the Autonomous Communities.

As regards "Other measures regarding access to all the necessary resources, rights and services for participation in society", we should highlight the following:

By areas of action:

The publication of Law 8/2007, dated 28th of May, as regards land, which came into force on the 1st of July, and the introduction of the Plan prepared jointly between the Ministry of Housing and the Treasury to support the emancipation of young people and to promote the home-rental market through direct support; the introduction of 42 exclusive courts on violence against women; the Anti-smoking Law; the first study on discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims in Spain; the presentation of the Quality Plan for the National Health System; the introduction of the Observatory on Women's Health; the implementation of the *Préstamo Avanza* programme (Advance Loan) and the granting of support for the implementation of measures aimed at the inclusion of the disabled and the elderly, promoting gender equality and encouraging the incorporation and permanence of citizens from rural areas in the information society; as well as the introduction of the Revitalisation of the Tele-centre Network programme to encourage the practical use of Internet in the 3,000 Public Access to the Web Centres spread over 39 Spanish provinces.

As regards initiatives aimed at the most vulnerable, the increase in the number of places and in the budget of active-ageing programmes (vacations and social stays in spas), the approval of the I Action Plan on Disabled Women 2007; the approval of the Law on sign- language



and means of communication support; the approval of the National Plan on Awareness-raising and Prevention of Gender Violence (2007-2008) and the Catalogue of Urgent Measures against Gender Violence; the creation of the National Observatory on Violence against Women, the Youth Emancipation Programme aimed at facilitating access to decent and quality employment and housing for young people between 16 and 35 years of age, the approval of the National Strategic Plan on Children and Adolescents 2006-2009 and the II Action Plan against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents 2006-2009; the approval of the single-payment financial benefit of 2,500 Euros per child born or adopted; the founding of the National Council on the Gipsy Population and the approval of the Statute on Spanish Citizens Abroad.

Lastly, with regard to governance, progress continues to be made in the area of collaboration and co-ordination of social policies.

Over the last two years, the Spanish parliament has held several debates on different aspects of social exclusion. Likewise, a debate on the state of non-discrimination was held in the Chamber of Deputies.

As regards the Autonomous Communities, the majority have their own Inclusion Plans in place or in the process of elaboration. In terms of the Plans of local authorities, we find that 67 local authorities have approved or are in the process of elaborating Inclusion Plans, affecting 16,774,559 inhabitants and 2,149 municipalities, a percentage that amounts to 37.51% of the population.

As a result of the Decision of the European Commission to declare 2007 “European Year of Equal Opportunities for All”, and to meet its objectives, different seminars and monographic studies on poverty, good practices and the participation of persons affected by situations of exclusion have been realised.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Objective 1. Promote access to employment: foster participation in the labour market and combat poverty and social exclusion.

The 2005 Spring European Council decided to review the Lisbon Strategy (2000) and expressed the need to re-launch the Strategy focusing its objectives on growth and employment with the over-reaching goal of cohesion and sustainable growth. The 2006 Spring European Council was also fundamental in consolidating this reformulation by declaring that growth and employment are no more than a means of achieving these objectives, giving a new impulse to the Lisbon process through a joint reinforcement of the three pillars to guarantee job creation, competitiveness and social cohesion.

Additionally, and as in previous assessments, the framework of reference for this priority objective is the National Action Plans for Employment (NAPE), which subsequently became part of the National Reforms Programmes (NRP) after the Lisbon Strategy review.



Structured around eight specific guidelines (guidelines 17 to 24), according to the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Employment 2005-2008, the National Action Plans for Employment pursue previously-established objectives, such as full employment, employment quality and productivity, territorial cohesion and social inclusion, together with other new objectives, such as, among others, flexibility and security in employment and inclusive labour markets. In addition, the active employment policies of this National Reforms Programme (PNR) focus on increasing labour-market participation and reducing unemployment among women.

As regards the objective of carrying out the actions in the area of employment, established in the National Reforms Programme of Spain, such as increasing the employment rate to 66% by 2010; increasing the rate of female employment from 48% to 57% by 2010 and reducing the youth unemployment rate to 19.3% by 2008 and to 18.6% by 2010, and, more specifically, the actions to be carried out in these areas in the budget years 2006 and 2007, the objective of “Promoting access to employment: fostering participation in the labour market and combating poverty and social exclusion” was included in National Action Plan of the Kingdom of Spain for Social Inclusion (NAP) 2006-2008, as the first priority objective.

Provided below is the progress made in the measures established in the NAP (2006-2008), in relation to this first priority objective “Access to employment”:

With the aim of advancing in equal opportunities in the area of access to employment; combating wage discrimination between men and women and the elaboration of equality plans to encourage companies to take positive measures aimed at women, Organic Law 3/2007, dated 22nd of March, as regards Effective Equality for Women and Men, published in Official State Bulletin no. 71, dated 23rd of March 2007, was approved, with the ultimate objectives of making the principle of equal treatment effective and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women in all areas of life and public and private activity.

The Law establishes a series of cross-cutting measures for all areas of political, legal and social life aimed at: the conduct of public authorities; education and health policies; the conduct of the public and private media; access to new technology and the Information Society; rural development and housing policies; requesting and granting public subsidies; labour, employment and Social Security policies; the civil service and the law-enforcement agencies; access to goods and services; and the organisation of the State Administration.

Among the measures included in the Law that specifically refer to labour equality, we can highlight: companies are obliged to observe equal treatment and equal opportunities in the labour environment and, with this aim, they must adopt measures aimed at preventing all forms of labour discrimination between men and women, which should be negotiated and, as the case may be, agreed with the legal representatives of the workers as provided in the applicable labour legislation.

In the case of companies with more than two hundred and fifty workers, the equality measures must be applied to elaborate and implement an equality plan. The elaboration and



implementation of equality plans will be voluntary for the rest of the companies, after consultation with the legal representation of the workers. Additionally, to encourage the voluntary adoption of these equality plans, the Government will introduce promotion measures particularly aimed at small and medium-sized companies, which will include the necessary technical support.

The equality plans are understood as a set of structured measures adopted after assessing the situation aimed at achieving equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men and eliminating sex-discrimination in companies.

The equality plans establish specific equality objectives to be met, the strategies and practices to be adopted to meet them, and effective follow-up and assessment systems to ensure that they are met.

To achieve the established objectives, the equality plans may include, among others, the areas of access to employment, professional ranking, promotion and training, salaries, structure of working time to encourage, in terms of equality for women and men, balancing work with family life, and prevention of sexual harassment and harassment for reasons of sex.

At the same time, and with the aim of encouraging that 60% of the positive action measures of the access to employment plans be aimed at women, Ministerial Order PRE/525/2005, dated 7th of March, was adopted, which establishes 54 measures to promote equality for men and women in access to employment. The first measure establishes that women should benefit from 60% of the employment policy initiatives of the National Action Plan for Employment, currently the National Reforms Programme. Women are a priority in the programmes of active employment policies in general, particularly in the areas of self-employment and disability.

According to the data supplied by the Information System of the Employment Public Services (SISPE), the share of women in the different active policy initiatives in the year 2006 reached the objective of 60%. Specifically, women who had initiated some active employment policy programme or initiative (guidance, training, professional experience, establishment of a professional activity, etc.) made up 61.61% of the total number of participants (659,652 men compared with 1,058,615 women). If we compare the number of persons who completed such initiatives in the year 2006, 65.8% of them were women (1,289,455) and 34.2% were men (669,929).

In 2007, the initiated active employment policy initiatives or services in which women participated made up 57.40% of the total number of initiatives. The concluded initiatives or services in which women participated made up 57.70% of the total, compared with 42.30% of the initiatives or services in which men participated.

Another measure in which the National Employment Public Service (SPEE) is participating is the specific employment programme for women victims of gender violence. In the near future, this programme will be the subject of a specific Royal Decree regulation, for which



joint efforts are being made with the Special Government Delegation on Violence against Women.

Along this same line, the Council of Ministers held on the 19th of October 2007, on the proposal of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, approved the Agreement on the measures included in the Addendum to the Annual Progress Report for 2007 of the National Reforms Programme of Spain (PNR), aimed at increasing and facilitating the incorporation of women into the labour market.

The Agreement of the 19th of October consists of a series of measures, based on the data that reveals a low rate of women joining the labour market, mainly aimed at women between 45 and 64 years of age, to encourage the integration of adult unemployed women (over 45 years of age) who stopped working more than 5 years ago or who have never worked into the labour market. Among them, it is worth highlighting the initiative of the Employment Public Services to implement an assessment and diagnosis programme to assist, within a period of 12 months, 60% of the women, providing them with detailed information and guidance (including job offers) on job opportunities not currently covered by the labour market.

It also includes a programme which provides training to facilitate training and labour-market integration and improve employment opportunities; the review of the policy on subsidies for hiring this collective of women under fixed contracts; designing specific subsidies to encourage the use of part-time employment contracts when companies agree to adapt working hours to family and personal needs; financial support as compensation for travel or similar expenses derived from the move from inactivity to employment; a special integration programme within the framework of the manpower requirements derived from the Law on Dependency and the Extension of Infant Education; guidance and environment measures to facilitate and increase the tendency towards labour activity; and tutorial and guidance programmes to integrate women above 45 years of age into the labour market, combined with specialised professional guidance. Also scheduled are promotion campaigns on balancing work and family life, sharing family burdens in the household, the extension of paternity leave, and on employment services and opportunities.

In addition to the above measures, activities associated with local services, such as child assistance, assistance to youths with difficulties, the disabled and the elderly, have been enhanced in collaboration programmes with local authorities.

On another front, with the aim of introducing incentives (within the framework of Organic Law 1/2004 on Integral Protection Measures against Gender Violence, dated 28th of December, published in Official State Bulletin no. 313, dated 29th of December) that include, among other elements, subsidies for substitution contracts of women victims of gender violence as well as a specific labour-market integration programme, in the year 2006 the number of substitution contracts for replacing female workers victims of gender violence forced to leave their jobs as a result of gender violence amounted to 57, of which 13 were signed by men and 44 by women. In 2007, these substitution contracts amounted to 86, of which 15 were signed by men and 71 by women.



Also worth highlighting are the amendments to the regulations on unemployment protection, as established in Organic Law 1/2004, such as:

- The suspension and extinction of the labour relation, derived from the status of victim of gender violence, entitles the woman to unemployment protection on grounds of a legal situation of unemployment.
- Additionally, in the event of suspension as a result of being a victim of violence and subsequent extinction of the labour relation due to the same reason, the term of suspension is considered as in active employment with the respective payment of contributions for the purpose of estimating the unemployment benefit to which the victim is entitled during the extinction.
- Financial support of a sum equal to three months of active income is also provided to the victim for changing residence, and the National Employment Public Service (SPEE) guarantees a special approach towards the commitment to work, reducing the victim's obligations in this respect to preserve her privacy and security.
- With the same aim, article 22 of Organic Law 1/2004 establishes the creation and introduction of a specific action programme for victims of gender violence registered as jobseekers, which also includes measures to encourage these women to initiate a self-employment activity. The primary objective of the programme is to ensure the labour-market integration, on an employee basis, of women victims of gender violence.

Lastly, the Active Income Labour-Market Integration Programme, regulated by Royal Decree 1369/2006, dated 24th of November, for unemployed persons with special economic needs and facing difficulties in finding a job, guarantees victims of gender violence and domestic violence an income of 80% of the public index of income for multiple effects (IPREM), without the restrictions of age and registration as job seekers imposed on the rest of the workers included in the Programme, and it also provides them with financial support of a sum equal to three months of the previously-mentioned income for moving residence.

In 2007, 65,000 unemployed persons benefited from the Active Income Labour-Market Integration Programme, of whom 6,640 were women victims of gender violence or domestic violence.

For the purpose of improving the flexibility and security of employment leave for persons with children, as well as extension of employment leave in specific cases (disability and adoption), and with the over-reaching aim of fostering an appropriate balance between work and family life, Organic Law 3/2007, dated 22nd of March, on Effective Equality for Women and Men, published in Official State Bulletin no. 71, dated 23rd of March, includes in its Statement of Reasons that one of the most innovative measures to foster an appropriate balance between work and family life is the establishment of the paternity leave at thirteen days, extendable to two days per child in the event of multiple birth as of the second child. It also introduces improvements to the current maternity leave, extending it by two weeks in



the event of a handicapped child, with the possibility of both parents making use of this extension. These improvements are also introduced with regard to self-employed workers and workers under special Social Security regimes.

Another strategic objective of the Spanish Government, in its efforts to improve access of all citizens to the labour market, particularly the most vulnerable, was to establish a new system of vocational training for employment which brought together the system of occupational training for unemployed persons and on-going training for occupied persons, for the purpose of facilitating access to training to the most disadvantaged groups, among them, young and older people and, in this manner, contribute towards these persons' access to better jobs, likewise, special emphasis is placed on training in small companies. To achieve this strategic objective a new training model has been introduced, the result of the Agreement on Vocational Training for Employment signed by employer and trade union associations and the Government on the 7th of February 2006, under the umbrella of Social Dialogue, which addresses a reform of the existing subsystem of vocational training in the labour environment.

The main initiatives taken in the year 2007 are the following:

- Royal Decree 395/2007, dated 23rd of March, published in the Official State Bulletin of 11th of April, aimed at regulating the different training initiatives that make up the new Subsystem of Vocational Training for Employment, its operating and financing system, as well as its organisation and institutional participation structures. This law regulates a new model of vocational training in the labour environment, bringing together under a single umbrella the occupational and on-going training modes which had co-existed as different modes over the last thirteen years.

One of the objectives of the subsystem of vocational training for employment is to guarantee access to training to workers with large labour-market integration difficulties or difficulties in remaining in employment. In this respect, the following elements that make up the new subsystem are worth highlighting:

- Establishment of priority collectives for participation in training initiatives: women, youths, the disabled, persons affected by and victims of terrorism and gender violence, the long-term unemployed, persons above 45 years of age and persons at risk of social exclusion, as well as occupied workers of small and medium-sized companies and low-skilled workers, in accordance with that provided in each particular case in the priorities of national employment policies, the execution plans of the European Employment Strategy, the Operative Programmes of the European Social Fund and the competent Administrations (section 5.3 of Royal Decree 395/2007, dated 23rd of March).
- Authorisation to programme and manage the offer of training, both at state and autonomous-community level, of specific training programmes for persons with



special training needs, labour-market integration difficulties or vocational recycling needs (sections 22.b and 23.c of Royal Decree 395/2007, dated 23rd of March).

- At state level, the subsystem includes the programming of training initiatives for the prison population, through agreements signed by the National Employment Public Service and the institution of the General Administration of the State responsible for this area (section 22.c of Royal Decree 395/2007, dated 23rd of March).

As well as the initiatives described in the previous section, and also as a result of the Agreement on Improving Growth and Employment, signed in May 2006 by the Government and the main Social Agents, and within the framework of preventive measures, the Government adopted a more ambitious approach when it affirmed “we will achieve the objective of ensuring that, within a period of six months from the date of registration in the Employment Office, young jobseekers under 25 years of age will receive an offer of guidance, vocational training or labour-market integration”.

With the aim of promoting stable employment by reducing the temporality rate, as of the 1st of July 2006, the system of Social Security contribution allowances was reformed as a result of the Agreement on Improving Growth and Employment, included in Royal Decree-Law 5/2006, dated 4th of June, as regards Improving Growth and Employment, subsequently transformed into Law 43/2006, dated 29th of December, published in Official State Bulletin no. 312 dated 20th of December 2006.

This regulation establishes economic incentives for employment stability (new programme to promote employment and reduce social security contributions) and measures aimed at preventing employment precariousness and improving the use of temporary contracts. This reform marked a commitment to employment security (it fosters job creation, job stability and more protection) whilst maintaining the necessary flexibility for an efficient labour market. Therefore, as well as being a regulation agreed with the social interlocutors, it is also consistent with the common principles of “Flexicurity”, included in the Communication of the European Commission dated June 2007.

Its effects are proving to be very significant, both in terms of the number of temporary contracts turned into indefinite ones (relative to which the extraordinary Plan concluded in 2006 with more than 670 thousand), and of the number of newly-created indefinite contracts (more than 2.3 million between July 2006 and June 2007). Also worth highlighting is the case of young people between 16 and 30 years of age, a new collective included in the Agreement as the subject of subsidies to stable employment, which, in the same period, amounted to one million new indefinite contracts.

The full cost of this initiative in the year 2006 was 9.3 million Euros and, on the 31st of December 2006, 51,807 subsidised employment contracts for young people between 16 to 30 years of age had been signed, each with a subsidy of 800 Euros per year for a period of 4 years.



In 2007, 115,900 subsidised employment contracts for young persons between 16 and 30 years of age were signed, of whom 88,052 were men and 27,848 were women.

In 2007, transformations of temporary contracts into indefinite contracts exceeded 900,000, whilst the number of newly-created indefinite contracts stood above 1,300,000 contracts, which, added to the transformations give a total of more than 2,200,000 indefinite contracts in the year 2007.

Another new collective included in the reform is that of women hired after five years of labour inactivity, provided that they have worked at least three years prior to withdrawing from the labour market. In this case, the Social Security allowances amount to 1,200 € during a period of 4 years or the respective amount if the contract is for a part-time job. In the period between the 1st of July 2006 and the 31st of December 2006, 466 subsidised contracts were signed among this collective.

In 2007, the number of subsidised contracts among this collective of women hired after five years of labour inactivity, provided that they had worked at least three years prior to withdrawing from the labour market, was 888.

Additionally, with the aim of encouraging remaining in employment, the duration of the incentives was extended from two to four years, whilst remaining indefinite, i.e., for the entire length of the contract, for people above 45 years of age (the subsidy amounts to 1,200 Euros per year) and for disabled persons (the subsidy varies from 3,500 Euros per year to 6,300 Euros per year, depending on gender, age, type of disability and level of handicap).

Lastly, incentives for hiring disabled persons on a temporary basis were also introduced. The amounts of these incentives are higher than those of the above-mentioned collectives and are established as fixed modules on the employer's quota, set according to the type of disability and the condition of woman victim of gender violence. The first amounts are:

- Disabled men: a) Without a severe disability and below 45 years of age 3,500€/year and above 45 years of age 4,100 €/year; b) with a severe disability and below 45 years of age 4,100 €/year and above 45 years of age 4,700 €/year.
- Disabled women: a) Without a severe disability and below 45 years of age 4,100 €/year and above 45 years of age 4,700 €/year; b) with a severe disability and below 45 years of age 4,700 €/year and above 45 years of age 5,300 €/year.

To be entitled to these subsidies, it is understood that persons with a "severe disability" are those with cerebral palsy, a mental illness or an intellectual disability of at least 33% and persons with a physical or sensorial disability of at least 65%.

As well as the above-mentioned subsidies, with regard to the second target of these initiatives, the subsidy for temporary contracts for victims of gender violence or domestic violence (600 €/year) and for persons at risk of social exclusion (500 €/year) is maintained for the entire length of the contract. In 2006, between indefinite contracts (1.191) and



temporary contracts (2.495) a total of 3.686 contracts were signed by persons at risk of exclusion. Compared with the above, the improvements are that the amount of the subsidy is deducted from the total amount of the Social Security quota and not from the quota for common contingencies and that the duration is extended to the entire length of the contract.

In 2007, the number of contracts signed with socially excluded persons was 2,480, of which 930 were indefinite and 1,550 were temporary.

With the aim of increasing employment among disabled persons with special difficulties in gaining access to the ordinary labour market, 2006 saw the introduction of Royal Decree 469/2006, dated 21st of April, Official State Bulletin no. 96 dated 22nd of April, which regulates the Professional Activity Support Units within the framework of the Social and Personal Adaptation Services of the Special Employment Centres, whose main objective is to perform productive work by regularly participating in market operations with the ultimate aim of ensuring remunerated employment and the provision of social and personal adaptation services required by handicapped workers; whilst it is also a means of integrating the highest number of handicapped persons into the system of normal work (number 1, section 42, Law 13/1982, dated 7th of April, as regards Social Integration of the Handicapped).

In addition to the legislation mentioned in the previous paragraph, in the interest of disabled workers, Royal Decree 870/2007, dated 2nd of July, Official State Bulletin dated 14th of July, regulates the Employment with Support Programme as a measure to promote employment of disabled persons in the ordinary labour market, establishing subsidies for hiring labour-market coaches responsible for carrying out the employment with support initiatives. The budget allocation for this measure is 7,200,000 Euros.

On another front, with the aim of achieving the labour-market integration of disabled women and immigrants, in light of their high unemployment rates, within the framework of the Vocational Guidance for Employment and Assistance to Self-employment Programme, the Employment Public Services design personalised labour-market integration itineraries, bearing in mind the particular characteristics and needs of disabled women and immigrants. These itineraries are adapted to the specific characteristics of the different types of jobseekers. Additionally, to ensure more effectiveness, the Employment Public Services have the collaboration of non-profit entities to perform these professional guidance tasks, among them, NGOs.

In addition, with the aim of ensuring that the public employment selection examinations reserve a quota of at least 5% of the vacancies to be filled by disabled persons with a disability level equal or above 33%, Royal Decree 2271/2004, dated 3rd of December, was approved and published in Official State Bulletin no. 303 dated 17th of December, regulating access to public employment and the provision of jobs to disabled persons, in accordance with that provided in Law 53/2003, dated 10th of December, as regards public employment for the disabled, according to which each year's offer of public employment must reserve a quota of at least five percent of the offered vacancies to persons with a disability level equal



to or above 33 percent, with the aim of ensuring that this collective makes up two percent of the total number of the public employees of the State Administration.

On another front, the Employment Public Services, managing bodies of policies on employment, are responsible for promoting integral employment programmes aimed at the socio-labour integration of persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion through personalised itineraries that include information, guidance, training, follow-up and assessment, as well as the provision of services for employment, given that they are responsible for managing and developing all the active policies (guidance and advice, combined employment and training programmes, etc.).

However, as regards this initiative, it is also important to highlight that, within the framework of the Collaboration with Agencies and Institutions Programme aimed at hiring unemployed persons to carry out projects of a general and social interest, priority is given to projects involving, among others, support initiatives aimed at collectives with special labour-market integration difficulties, such as those targeted to marginalised persons, persons excluded from the labour market and similar.

Closely associated with the previous measure is the legal regulation of the system of Labour-market integration companies through Law 44/2007, dated 13th of December, published in Official State Bulletin no. 299 dated 14th of December 2007, i.e., companies dedicated to hiring socially excluded persons so that, after applying social and professional adaptation measures, they may join the ordinary labour market, thus fulfilling the Government's electoral promise expressed in a mandate included in the Law on Improving Growth and Employment.

The objective of this Law is to regulate the legal system of labour-market integration companies and to establish a framework to promote the labour-market integration of persons in a situation of social exclusion through this type of companies.

Labour-market integration companies and workers may sign an employment promotion temporary employment contract aimed at the voluntary provision of paid services on an employee-basis in a labour-market integration company as an essential part of a personalised itinerary, and may be agreed for a minimum period of 12 months and a maximum of 3 years, with the possibility of reducing the minimum period to 6 months on the decision of the Social Public Services of the Autonomous Communities.

Labour-market integration companies are entitled to financial support to adapt themselves to that provided in the Law, i.e., to create and set up the company and to perform their activity, as well as for technical assistance, training and hiring technical personnel to help manage the company, and for R+D+I initiatives. They are also entitled to the following types of support:

- Rebates in Social Security quotas, for employment contracts of unemployed persons in a situation of social exclusion 70.83 Euros /month (850 Euros/year) through the length of the contract, or a period of three years in the event of an indefinite contract.



- Subsidies for maintaining the socio-labour integration job positions, in the form of financial compensation for the extra labour costs derived from the labour-market integration processes.
- Support for the fixed investment associated with performing the corporate-purpose tasks.

Overall, with the approval of Law 44/2007, strong progress has been made in developing new initiative models in the area of social inclusion.

On another front, with the aim of modernising the Employment Public Services and reinforce the mechanisms of co-operation with the Social Services of the different Public Administrations, the Employment website of the National Employment System has been established, which can be accessed from the website of the National Employment Public Service (SPEE).

With the aim of achieving a gradual increase in most disadvantaged groups' real access to the labour market, a decision was made to promote micro-credits and other lines of finance to promote self-employment. The micro-credits have experienced a large and fast increase in our country, both in terms of the number of micro-credits granted and the total amount allocated to them. This growth has been largely due to the efforts of the Savings Banks that manage these micro-credits through their charitable work, which are, together with the Official Credit Institute (ICO), the main sources of finance, as well as to the increasing incorporation of NGOs and entities providing social guidance to potential users of these micro-credits.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has backed micro-credits in various areas, as an instrument to combat poverty and social exclusion. On the one hand, it continues with the Micro-credits Programme for entrepreneurial and business women, promoted by the Women's Institute in collaboration with the General Directorate for Small and Medium-sized Companies (DGPYME) and La Caixa., and the different women's organisations that help manage this programme co-financed by the European Social Fund (E.S.F.).

On the other hand, the 2006 and 2007 calls for applications for subsidies to social co-operation and volunteer work programmes funded through the Personal Income Tax allocation of 0.52%, gave priority to access to employment programmes for persons in a situation or at risk of exclusion "that establish structures for providing information on micro-credits for self-employment and that act as a link to financial entities, as well offering advice on putting the project in motion and support when applying for the micro-credit.

Also worth highlighting is the introduction of the First Micro-credit Programme for Young Persons on the 7th of May 2007, promoted by the Youth Institute together with the Charitable Fund of "La Caixa" as well as a number of collaborating entities. This Micro-credit Programme is framed within the Youth Emancipation Programme and is available to young persons below thirty-five years of age residing in Spain who hold a work permit



enabling them to work on a self-employed basis and who wish to set up a company. The maximum financing will amount to 95% of the total cost of the project.

The Official Credit Institute (ICO) and the OATPFE (Independent Agency for Penitentiary Work and Training for Employment) signed a collaboration agreement on the 2nd of July to provide financing through the ICO-Micro-credits line 2007-2008 to prisoners whose investment projects have been previously approved by the OATPFE and meet the conditions of the ICO-Micro-credits line 2007-2008, with the aim of encouraging their labour-market integration.

As a result of the Agreement signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Spanish Confederation of Savings Banks (CECA), a series of conferences on “Micro-credits and Social Exclusion” were held on the 19th and 20th of December 2006 in the College of Savings Banks. These conferences included the official presentation of the recently created Spanish Network of Microfinance, which is open to any entity that decides to work in Spain with finance products of a marked social inclination, with the objective of providing information on “an alternative way of financing”.

The different micro-credit experiences with persons in a situation of social exclusion over the last years highlight the need for consensus on, on the one hand, the basic access to micro-credits guidelines for persons facing social difficulties and, on the other, the characteristics to ensure that the entrepreneurial initiative is successful.

On the 22nd of March 2007, the Nantik Lum Forum on Microfinance, dedicated to micro-credits and immigration, was held. Likewise, on the 13th of December 2007, the V International Conference on “Equality and Economics” organised by the Women’s World Bank and subsidised by the Women’s Institute, was held, with the aim of sharing experiences in the area of financing micro-credits and to debate and identify new ways of facilitating women’s access to financing for their self-employment projects, fostering the role of micro-credits as a key to well-being. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs participated in both events.

As regards initiatives to promote self-employment among persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs introduced a new regulation concerning the self-employment promotion programme through Ministerial Mandate TAS/1622/2007, dated 5th of June, to regulate the granting of subsidies to the programme, published in Official State Bulletin no. 136 dated 7th of June 2007, and which develops that provided in Royal Decree 357/2006, dated 24th of March, which regulates the granting of specific subsidies for the areas of employment and occupational training. The aim of this Ministerial mandate is also to define the common contents of this programme throughout the entire national territory, on the basis of the competence of the State in the area of labour legislation, without prejudice to its execution by the Autonomous Communities.

The beneficiaries of these subsidies are unemployed persons registered in the Employment Public Services as jobseekers who establish themselves as self-employed workers. The



collectives entitled to these subsidies are: unemployed persons in general; unemployed persons under 30 years of age; unemployed women; unemployed persons with a disability; unemployed women with a disability. It is worth highlighting that with this new regulation, for the first time, the collective of disabled persons is included as beneficiaries. Until now, disabled persons had a specific self-employment programme in place within a global and comprehensive self-employment promotion programme, which, as described above, also included other categories of persons facing difficulties in gaining access to employment and for whom self-employment may become a socio-labour integration instrument.

Likewise, in addition to the above collectives, the Employment Public Services may consider other collectives with labour-market integration difficulties. In this respect, and in the case of women victims of gender violence, the respective subsidies are increased by up to 10 percent.

The persons who meet the requirements established in the regulation may be entitled to the following subsidies:

- Subsidy for establishing oneself as a self-employed worker. This subsidy, which is a maximum amount of 10,000 Euros, is adjusted according to the applicant's difficulty in gaining access to the labour market.
- Financial subsidy. The aim of this subsidy is to reduce the interest on the loans used to finance investments made in creating and setting up the company. The limit of the amount of the subsidy is 10,000 Euros.
- Subsidy for assistance: The amount of this subsidy is 75 percent of the cost of the services provided, with a limit of 2,000 Euros.
- Subsidy for training: The amount of this subsidy is 75 percent of the cost of the courses received, with a limit of 3,000 Euros.

It is also worth highlighting that the initiatives introduced by this regulation may be subject to co-financing from the European Social Fund (ESF), through the respective Operative Programme for the period 2007-2013.

Finally, collaboration with NGOs has continued and even increased in the area of developing access to employment programmes for persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, through the annual call for subsidy applications published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MTAS).

In the call for subsidy applications of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the year 2006 financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 1,145,150 € were granted to 21 access to employment programmes for persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion who cannot gain access to training initiatives or the ordinary labour market, with the aim of improving their employability and labour-market integration.



The activities financed in this call for subsidy applications involved social support, training and empowerment for labour-market integration. Priority was given to programmes combining different kinds of activities: information, guidance and advice, training, work practice and a personalised support and follow-up itinerary during the labour-market integration process, as well as those facilitating the labour-market integration of vulnerable persons or groups in activities associated with emerging needs, such as local services, cultural and leisure services, the environment, restoration of housing and neighbourhoods and new information and communication technology. Also supported were local development programmes backed by the co-operation and co-ordination of public and private institutions in the area, as well as programmes that provide a bridge to the ordinary labour market, in collaboration with the different social agents, labour intermediation services and other employment services.

In total, 21 programmes from 18 entities, aimed at 9,287 users were subsidised.

On the other hand, of this total amount invested in promoting employment, 119,000 Euros and 121,980 Euros were assigned in 2006 and 2007, respectively, to 2 programmes aimed at establishing information structures on micro-credits for self-employment to act as a link between users and financial institutions, an to offer advice and assistance in applying for the micro-credit and setting up the business project.

Objective 2. Guarantee minimum economic resources

One of the fundamental elements of the Spanish Government's political commitment is to guarantee citizens a level of social protection that allows, on the one hand, access to a sufficiently high standard of living to meet people's basic needs and, on the other, an improvement of the income of those sections of the population which, according to the data available, face a higher risk of finding themselves below the risk-of-poverty threshold, i.e., the unemployed, inactive persons, persons excluded from the labour market and persons who, although in employment, are on very low incomes. For these reasons, the policy to increase the Minimum Inter-professional Salary (MIS), introduced a few years ago, has been continued in 2006 and 2007, with the aim of ensuring more purchasing power for low-skilled workers, guaranteeing a recovery of the losses in purchasing power suffered by the Minimum Inter-professional Salary in previous legislatures. In light of this, the Minimum Inter-professional Salary increased by more than 4% in the last few years.

For 2006, section 1 of Royal Decree 1613/2005, dated 30th of December, published in Official State Bulletin no. 313 dated 31st of December 2005, provides that "The minimum salary for any agricultural, industrial or services activity, regardless of the gender or age of the worker, remains established at 18.03 Euros/day or 540.90 Euros/month, depending on whether the salary is fixed by days or months".

Section 3, part 2, establishes that the minimum inter-professional salary calculated by year may not fall below 7,572.60 Euros per year.



In this line of gradually improving the purchasing power of low-skilled workers, for the year 2007, section 1 of Royal Decree 1632/2006, dated 29th of December, published in Official State Bulletin no. 312 dated 30th of December 2006, provided that “The minimum salary for any agricultural, industrial or services activity, regardless of the gender or age of the worker, remains established at 19.02 Euros/day or 570.60 Euros/month, depending on whether the salary is fixed by days or months”.

Section 3. Part 1, establishes that the minimum inter-professional salary calculated by year may not fall below 7,988.40 Euros per year.

In addition to the above improvements, with the aim of continuing to ensure improvements in the socio-economic conditions of the most disadvantaged groups, in 2006 and 2007, the minimum contributory pensions were also increased further than the general increase-adjustment of pensions, with the ultimate objective of reaching an increase of 26% in the period 2004-2008.

To be precise, additional improvements of a 4.5% increase for beneficiaries with a spouse to support and 3% for beneficiaries without a spouse to support were added to the increase adjustment. With these improvements, the minimum contributory pensions increased between 14.1% and 17.4% in the period January 2004/December 2006.

As of the 1st of January 2006 a new minimum was established for beneficiaries of orphan's pensions below 18 years of age with a disability equal to or above 65% (Law 30/2005, dated 29th of December).

The general increase-adjustment of Social Security pensions for the year 2007 was established at 2 percent, in line with the inflation forecasted for that year, although introducing into the increase-adjustment the differential (0.6 percent) of the evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the year 2006 (period November 2005 to November 2006) in relation to the increase-adjustment applied in the previous year, as per Royal Decree 1578/2006, dated 22nd of December, although, in the same line of increasing the lowest pensions further, the minimum contributory pensions increased by 5 percent, and some increased even further. For example:

- The minimum retirement and permanent disability pensions, with a spouse to support, increased by 6.5 percent.
- The minimum orphan's pensions of beneficiaries below 18 years of age, with a disability equal to or above 65 percent, were raised to the level of non-contributory pensions, which is an increase of 55.29 percent from 2006.
- The minimum widow/widower's pensions of beneficiaries below 60 years of age, with family burdens, increased by 12.68 percent from 2006, since in 2007 the minimum pensions of beneficiaries aged 65 were raised to the level of pensions of beneficiaries with family burdens, regardless of their age.



In this respect, with the aim of guaranteeing that no citizen lacks the necessary resources to ensure their level of subsistence, as provided in Law 42/2006, dated 28th of December, as regards the National Budgets for the year 2007, and Royal Decree 1578/2006, dated 22nd of December, as regards the increase-adjustment of Social Security pensions, whether contributory or non-contributory, retirement or disability, in the year 2007, non-contributory pensions (NCP) increased by 3.6%, which includes the previous year's CPI deviation of 0.6%. Therefore, the amount was established at 4,374.02 €/year, paid in 12 monthly payments plus two extraordinary payments per year, leaving the purchasing power of these pensions intact and updating the sufficient-income amount.

As well as the above-mentioned improvements, an additional improvement of 1% was made to the increase-adjustment of Compulsory Old-age and Disability Insurance (SOVI) pensions.

On another front, with aim of guaranteeing the financing of the supplements for contributory pensions that do not reach minimum levels, in light of the concluding process of separating the sources of financing of Social Security benefits, the State progressively continues to increase its contributions to finance these supplements. In 2006, the contribution of the State was 1,506.35 million Euros, which was used to finance 31.3% of the expenditure on these supplements, exceeding the percentage 27.4% of the previous year. In 2007, the contribution of the State was 1,806.35 million Euros, an increase of 19.92% from the previous year.

Additionally, with the aim of gradually extending the supplement guarantee to pensioners below 60 years of age with a certified, total and permanent disability, so that, subsequent to this gradual process, all beneficiaries of certified, total and permanent disability pensions may receive these supplements, provided that they meet the legal requirements, Law 40/2007, dated 4th of December, on measures in the area of Social Security, published in Official State Bulletin no. 291 dated 5th of December 2007, provides in its first additional provision that "the table of minimum annual contributory pensions included in the respective National Budgets Law, will establish the minimum amounts of total and permanent disability pensions in the events referred to in part 2 section 139 for beneficiaries below 60 years of age" .

In the year 2007, and also for the purpose of receiving the respective supplements to bring widow/widower's pensions to minimum levels, regardless of age, it has been established that the certification of a disability equal to or above 65 percent be comparable to the existence of family burdens.

As regards family support, Law 35/2007, dated 15th of November, was approved and published in Official State Bulletin no. 276 dated 17th of November 2007, establishing the Personal Income Tax deduction for every birth or adoption and a single-payment financial benefit from the Social Security for every birth or adoption. On the one hand, this Law is key to rounding off the series of measures approved in the course of the legislature aimed at facilitating a balance between work, personal and family life through financial benefits of a Social Security contributory nature and family benefits of a non-contributory nature, thus



guaranteeing the reinforcement of support policies aimed at low-income families, and, on the other hand, it is an instrument aimed at increasing the birth rate in Spain, encouraging the necessary generational rebalance for the development of social cohesion.

For every child born or adopted, the beneficiaries of this Law will be entitled to:

- A deduction of 2,500 Euros/year from the Personal Income Tax, approved by Law 35/2006, dated 28th of November, provided that the beneficiary was working on a self-employed or employee basis and registered in the respective Social Security regime or mutuality at the time of the birth or adoption, in addition to having obtained in the previous tax period gross earnings from one's job, capital or asset earnings, subject to withholding or payment to the Tax office, or earnings from economic activities for which the respective instalment payments were made. This deduction may be received in advance on account of the State's tranche of the tax; or
- A non-contributory Social Security benefit of 2,500 Euros, in the event of not meeting the requirements established in the previous point.

In addition to the benefit of 2,500 Euros, in the event of the birth or adoption taking place in a large or single-parent family, the Social Security will add a single payment of an additional 1,000 Euros, with which, in these cases and with established limits, the support amounts to 3,500 Euros.

To be entitled to any of these benefits the beneficiary must have effectively and continuously resided in Spanish territory at least during the two years immediately prior to the birth or adoption. The benefits established in the Law are applicable to children born as of the 1st of July 2007, as well as adoptions formalised as of that date.

It is also worth highlighting that this single payment for every birth or adoption is compatible with all the other family support benefits in place, both from the Social Security and the Treasury, as well as any other public administration, such as, the current deduction for maternity regulated in the Personal Income Tax.

It is estimated that the economic impact of this benefit will be 626 million Euros in 2007, of which 501 (80%) will come from the respective tax deductions and 125 (20%) from direct Social Security payments.

From the 16th of July to the 5th of November 2007, the number of "benefit communications", to the total number of births or adoptions was 118,624 beneficiaries.

On another front, with the aim of gradually improving the living conditions of persons with serious disabilities, the method of calculating the supplement for severely disabled persons has been changed for the purpose of making the amount fairer, increasing the lowest benefits through Law 40/2007, dated 4th of December, on measures in the area of Social Security, published in Official State Bulletin no. 291 dated 5th of December 2007. In section 2, part 3) the Law includes an amendment to section 139 of the Revised Text of the General Social



Security Law which affects the method of calculating the supplement for severely disabled persons, disassociating it from the amount of the total and permanent disability pension. To this end, the Law establishes that "The amount of the supplement will be equal to the result of the sum of 45 percent of the minimum contribution base in force at the time of the triggering event and 30 percent of the worker's last contribution base corresponding to the contingency that gave rise to the situation of permanent disability. The supplement in question may not be less than 45 percent of the pension received by the worker, excluding the complement".

As regards other workers' collectives not included in the General Regime of the Social Security, the Government is studying the possibility of introducing measures to facilitate the gradual convergence of types of contributions between the General Regime and the Special Domestic Workers' Regime, with the objective of converging the benefits of both regimes (particularly with regard to coverage of professional contingencies and the initiation date for collecting the temporary disability benefit). For this reason, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is considering the abolition of the Social Security's Special Domestic Workers' Regime, whose numbers last April stood at 282,272 workers, and the subsequent transfer of these workers to the General Regime. In principle, the government is studying the possibility of initially transferring employees caring for dependent persons to the General Scheme, within the framework of the new Law on Promoting Personal Autonomy and Assistance to Persons in a Situation of Dependency.

The first contingencies that could be incorporated into the General Regime could be the recognition of work accidents and work-related illnesses or bringing forward temporary sick leave, which is currently not covered until the twenty-ninth day.

On another front, the Active Labour-market Integration Income (RAI) has been regulated, defining it as a subjective right with Social Security contributions, under the same conditions as unemployment benefit, as established in section 218.1 and 4 of the General Social Security Law, providing it with a permanent rather than an annual nature and subject to budget availability, as it had been since its creation in 2000. This reform was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the 24th of November 2006, which approved Royal Decree 1369/2006, published in Official State Bulletin no. 290 of 5th of December, which regulates "the active labour-market integration income programme for unemployed persons with special economic needs and difficulties in finding employment".

With this Law, the Active Labour-market Integration Income Programme is permanently incorporated into the unemployment protection system, protecting around 66,000 unemployed persons. The budget for the year 2007, including the Social Security contribution and excluding the cost of the labour-market integration initiatives, is approximately 360 million Euros, which is an increase of 20 percent from the 300 million Euros budgeted in 2006.

In addition to the above-mentioned aspects, the most significant improvement of this new Law is that, for the first time, it is defined as a subjective right of compulsory recognition,



provided that the established requirements are met. Lastly, another important improvement is that contribution to the Social Security during the time that person is collecting the Active Labour-market Integration Income is paid by the National Employment Public Service as established for unemployment benefits.

Along the line of making progress in protection for unemployed persons, unemployment benefit for persons above 45 years of age without family burdens who have exhausted a contributory benefit of less than 12 months has been extended by 6 months through Royal Law-Decree 5/2006, dated 9th of June, subsequently ratified by Law 43/2006, dated 29th of December, as regards Improving growth and employment, published in Official State Bulletin no. 312 dated 30th of December, more precisely, Chapter III, on "Improving unemployment protection for specific collectives", section 15.2. which amends letter b), number 1, part 1, section 215, of the Revised Text of the General Social Security Law, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1994, dated 20th of June; which remains worded as follows: b) "Having exhausted the unemployment benefit, without family burdens and above forty-five years of age on the date the benefit was exhausted".

BENEFICIARIES OF MINIMUM INTEGRATION INCOMES 2006 (TITLE HOLDERS)					
EXECUTED ANNUAL EXPENDITURE AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PER TITLE HOLDER					
AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES	BASIC INCOME (EUROS)	BENEFICIARIES (Title holders of benefit)	BENEFICIARIES (Depend. members)	BUDGET	EXECUTED EXPENDITURE
	Holder/month	Total	Total	Euros	Euros
ANDALUSIA	335,36	17.574	79.083	36.300.000,00	36.300.000,00
ARAGON	336,00	1.109	1.491	4.491.797,60	2.361.889,21
ASTURIAS	377,78	5.197	7.146	15.400.625,00	10.603.966,00
BALEARIC ISLANDS	351,77	1.024	1.851	2.754.000,33	2.694.490,41
CANARY ISLANDS	342,79	5.431	13.604	8.298.660,73	8.298.660,73
CANTABRIA	286,83	1.187	2.689	3.216.890,00	1.526.594,00
CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	335,37	444	1.121	2.825.000,00	1.757.000,00
CASTILLA Y LEON	359,33	2.466	5.965	12.910.000,00	12.255.836,55
CATALONIA	349,45	12.568	16.261	64.109.437,89	64.109.437,89
CEUTA (*)					
EXTREMADURA	359,33	474	1.226	2.243.000,00	1.094.953,00
GALICIA	335,37	5.951	17.853	20.441.373,00	16.510.515,34
MADRID	326,00	9.952	17.615	47.000.000,00	45.300.000,00
MELILLA (**)	270,45	293	1.585	686.973,48	726.253,02
MURCIA	300,00	278	378	1.600.000,00	499.205,00
NAVARRA	383,28	1.963	4.456	5.400.000,00	6.090.023,30
BASQUE COUNTRY	549,01	33.824	76.465	179.000.000,00	153.700.000,00
RIOJA (***)	335,37	328	802	649.000,00	537.138,09
COMUN. VALENCIANA	351,81	2.599	7.033	4.150.618,91	4.150.618,91
TOTAL	6.285,30	102.662	256.624	411.477.376,94	368.516.581,45

(*) Has not established the Minimum Integracion Income.

(**) The City of Melilla has two benefits: the Melilla Intgration Income and the Basic Benefit.

(***) La Rioja has two benefits: the Minimun Insertion Income (IMI) and Social Inclusion Aid (AIS).



BENEFICIARIES OF MINIMUM INTEGRATION INCOMES 2007 (TITLE HOLDERS) EXECUTED ANNUAL EXPENDITURE AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PER TITLE HOLDER					
AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES	BASIC INCOME (EUROS)	BENEFICIARIES (Title holders of benefit)	BENEFICIARIES (Depend. members)	BUDGET	EXECUTED EXPENDITURE
	Holder/month	Total	Total	Euros	Euros
ANDALUSIA	353,77	18.838	54.788	37.700.000,00	37.700.000,00
ARAGON	366,00	901	1.491	2.410.000,00	2.189.485,00
ASTURIAS	396,67	6.399	7.539	18.846.777,38	18.755.780,59
BALEARIC ISLANDS	364,47	1.006	552	2.809.079,00	2.857.619,07
CANARY ISLANDS (***)	342,79	2.434	9	11.468.052,00	3.285.540,26
CANTABRIA	399,36	1.850	1.804	3.216.890,00	1.546.714,00
CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	349,44		665	2.500.000,00	1.475.880,25
CASTILLA Y LEON	374,40	2.148	3.167	13.000.000,00	11.855.520,55
CATALONIA	385,00	12.605	16.148	71.755.40,97	71.755.430,97
CEUTA (*)					
EXTREMADURA	374,40	473	1.196	1.700.000,00	1.148.000,00
GALICIA	374,40	5.723	6.210	21.100.000,00	18.308.236,84
MADRID	340,00	8.681	11.889	46.900.000,00	46.493.000,00
MELILLA (**)	285,30	263	1.054	690.000,00	673.211,22
MURCIA	300,00	286	626	1.700.000,00	602.726,00
NAVARRA	456,48	2.269	5.150	6.427.885,78	7.352.448,56
BASQUE COUNTRY	585,62	36.004	78.270	179.040.000,00	186.560.000,00
RIOJA (***)	349,44	325	808	661.000,00	574.014,06
COMUN. VALENCIANA	364,50	2.470	4.092	4.410.000,00	4.410.000,00
TOTAL	6.762,04	102.675	195.458	354.579.684,16	417.543.607,37

(*) Has not established the Minimum Integration Income.

(**) The City of Melilla has two benefits: the Melilla Integration Income and the Basic Benefit.

(***) La Rioja has two benefits: the Minimum Insertion Income (IMI) and Social Inclusion Aid (AIS).

(****) The Canary Islands begins to include the number of dependent beneficiaries in December for the first time, hence the low figures

Objective 3. Achieve equality in education

In the last two years, 2006 and 2007, attempts have been made to extend and improve the Spanish education system within the framework of the European Objectives for 2010, by fully implementing Organic Law on Education 2/2006 (LOE) dated 3rd of May 2006, whose main objective is to reform the Spanish education system with a series of measures that address the main problems in the system, among them, school failure and early school leaving, in order to provide an adequate education response to all students, founded on the principle of social inclusion to encourage equality and contribute to social cohesion.

As described in the 2006 Annual Progress Report of the National Reforms Programme for the period 2006-2010, the Organic Law on Education (LOE) has been allocated a budget of 7,033 million Euros, financed by the General Administration of the State (60%) and the Autonomous Communities (40%). This budget is divided into four large blocks which, as well as defining the Government's main lines of action in the area of education to the year 2010, are aimed at achieving the European Education Objectives:

- Extension and improvement of the Spanish education system: For which, 1,269 Euros will be allocated. Among the main initiatives, special emphasis is placed on increasing



the number of places in the first stage of infant education (0 - 3 years), and increasing post-compulsory secondary education schooling.

- Free education: 2,281 million Euros will be invested in extending free education to second-cycle infant education (benefiting 1.3 million children) and increasing the allocation for education grants and support.
- School success: 2,795 million Euros will be allocated to guaranteeing the success of all students through education reinforcement programmes. In this line, special emphasis will be placed on diversity and the specific needs of each student to provide personalised education aimed at facilitating learning and acquiring basic skills.
- Improvement of teacher training: 687 million Euros will be invested in improving teacher training, the social recognition of teachers and early retirement at 60 years of age.

The budget allocations of 664 million Euros from the General Administration of the State and the Autonomous Communities for 2006, 1,094 million Euros for 2007 (430 million Euros more than in the previous year) have enabled the administration to implement the measures included in the Organic Law on Education, with the initial aim of extending and improving the Spanish education system within the framework of the European Objectives for 2010, through the following initiatives:

- Gradually increase schooling among children below three years of age and ensure that all children aged three go to school by 2010, with the co-ordination of all the Administrations. Schooling at early ages is one of the most important factors in ensuring that students achieve better results, particularly students from families with low socio-economic levels. In this respect, the LOE calls the education authorities to promote a progressive increase in the number of places in first-cycle infant education, giving it the status of a stage of formal education rather than mere childcare, thus contributing to improve the quality of education. Spain is among the EU countries with the highest rates of schooling among three year-olds, with 96.0% in 2006. In terms of children under 3 years of age, strong progress has been made. The percentage of children under 3 years of age in school has increased from 2.4% in 1991 to 15% in 2005 and 16.6% in 2006. These numbers exclusively refer to children attending centres authorised by the education authorities to impart first-cycle infant education. In the Living Conditions Survey, conducted in 2005 by the NSI, the percentage of children below 3 years of age who are regularly cared for in an education or care centre is 44.7%.

Another fundamental objective of the NAP 2006-2008 and an integral part of MEASURE 1, was to increase schooling in Post-compulsory Secondary Education, through a progressive reduction in the early-school-leaving rate, with the objective of ensuring that the rate does not exceed 15% of the target population (persons between 18 and 24 years of age) by the year 2010. In this respect, and after the approval of the Organic Law on Education, a series of



specific measures were developed for the academic year 2007-2008 and following, with the consensus of the Autonomous Communities, within the framework of this new legislative scenario.

Specifically, in 2007, as agreed with the Autonomous Communities, a programme aimed at reducing early school leaving was introduced, with specific initiatives designed by the Autonomous Communities for the purpose of reducing the impact of the factors that affect early school leaving prior to obtaining the respective academic title. The budget allocation in 2007 was 28,000,000 Euros, of which 11,200,000 Euros was financed by the General Administration of the State and the rest by the Autonomous Communities - and this amount will be increased in 2008.

Among the main education indicators, it is worth highlighting that the early school-leaving rate fell from 31.7% in 2004 to 30.8% in 2005 and to 29.9% in 2006.

On another front, the percentage of the population between 20 and 24 years of age with at least higher secondary education increased slightly, shifting from 61.2% in 2004 to 61.8% in 2005 and 61.6% in 2006. Although still far behind the Lisbon Objectives, it is worth pointing out that these indicators show a rising tendency as they cover large age cohorts, therefore the improvements introduced will not be fully reflected for several years.

Other important initiatives established in the Organic Law on Education (LOE) have been implemented, such as the approval of new Decrees that develop the Programmes on Syllabus Diversification in Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO), such as, the incorporation of basic skills in the new syllabus of reference. The basic skills must be acquired before completing compulsory education to enable personal realisation, exercising an active civic responsibility and lifelong learning. Therefore, these basic skills must act as a benchmark in compulsory education syllabuses and their acquisition must be an essential part of student assessment.

Specifically, Official State Bulletin no. 5 dated 5th of January 2007, published Royal Decree 1631/2006, dated 29th of December, which establishes the minimum contents of Compulsory Secondary Education, considered basic aspects of the syllabus, in terms of objectives, basic skills, contents and assessment criteria.

Section 13 of the above-mentioned Royal Decree includes the syllabus diversification programmes, stating in section 1 that " within the framework established by the education authorities, education centres may organise syllabus diversification programmes for students who, after the respective assessment, require a different organisation of the contents, practical activities and subjects of the syllabus than the standard organisation, as well as a specific methodology for achieving the objectives and basic skills of this education stage and the Compulsory Secondary Education qualification". Section 3 establishes that "the education authorities will establish the syllabus for these programmes, which will include two specific areas, one with educational elements of a linguistic and social nature, and the other with educational elements of a scientific-technological nature and, at least, three of the



subjects laid down for the ordinary syllabus of the education stage not included in the previously-mentioned areas, which the student will preferably study in an ordinary group. A practical area may also be established”.

In Chapter III, section 84, the LOE establishes the basic criteria for student admission to public and semi-public education centres, with the aim of guaranteeing the right of education, access under equal conditions and the freedom of parents and guardians to choose the education centre. The LOE does not establish any implementation regulations, leaving the Autonomous Communities to lay down their respective implementation regulations under the supervision of the State, through its Inspection Department.

As mentioned at the start of this priority objective, achieving a fair and free education system is one of the fundamental pillars of Government action. It is a basic means of developing the human capital to become a productive resource that will contribute to economic growth and to improving the country's productivity, and it is one of the basic pillars for achieving equal opportunities in our society. In order to achieve these general objectives, a number of significant measures have already been adopted. For example, with the co-ordination of all the Administrations, to gradually increase the guarantee of free schooling in the second cycle of infant education and the schooling of 100% of children between 3 and 6 years of age by 2010, guaranteeing free schooling through 300.000 new places in this education state in 2006. This objective is in response to the conviction that it lays down the necessary foundations for effective learning throughout the subsequent stage of compulsory education. In specific reference to achieving totally free Second-cycle Infant Education prior to 2010, according to the National Budgets for 2007, a total of 285,995 thousand euros have been invested.

In short, according to the data supplied by the Ministry of Education and Science, in the 2005-2006 academic year, the number of students registered in Second-cycle Infant Education was 1,260,415, and the forecast for the 2006-2007 academic year provided a total of 1,298,647 registered students, making up net schooling rates of approximately 100% of the children aged three and 100% of the children aged four and five.

Another measure of the Organic Law on Education is the full development of the education grants and support programme, with the double objective of raising the number of beneficiaries and the increasing the effectiveness of the support, as essential instruments for achieving equal opportunities. In this respect, the budget for education grants and support increased by 10%, both in 2005 and in 2006. This budget increase has enabled the number of grant recipients to increase by 40,000 students in 2006.

In global terms, the budget allocated to education grants and support in 2007, more than 1,200 million Euros, is the highest in Spanish history, representing an increase of 50% from 2004, and 16.14% from 2006. This has meant many more measures aimed at improving both the amounts of the education grants and support, increasing the modalities and making the payments at the start of the academic year.



According to the estimates of the Ministry of Education and Science with regard to the number of student beneficiaries of grants awarded directly by the Ministry of Education and Science (excluding only the Basque country, which has been transferred this area of competence), in the 2006-2007 academic year, the number stood at 433,206, representing an expenditure of 803,385 thousand Euros, whilst the number of student beneficiaries of grants in the 2005-2006 academic year was 413,566, generating an expenditure of 720,244 thousand Euros, in other words, an additional 19,640 beneficiaries and 83,141 thousand Euros in the last 2006-2007 academic year.

We should point out that the figures provided in the previous paragraph do not include the financial support provided for buying text books and education material as well as the exemption of education costs for large families with three children or more.

Also with the aim of fostering the success of all students, certain plans and programmes, such as the PROA plan (Reinforcement, Guidance and Support Programmes), designed as a territorial co-operation project between the Ministry of Education and Science and the Autonomous Communities, with the aim of reducing the school failure rate in Primary and Secondary Education Centres located in socially disadvantaged areas, have been developed further to reach a total of 2,000 education centres in 2010.

One of the main objectives of the PROA plan (Reinforcement, Guidance and Support Programmes) is to “consolidate the falling tendency in the early-school-leaving rate”, i.e., prior to completing compulsory education.

Since its introduction in the 2004-2005 academic years, the number of centres with this plan in place has gradually increased. In the 2005-2006 academic year, 609 education centres implemented the plan, with an investment of 24 million Euros, and in the 2006-2007 academic year, there were 1.165 education centres with the plan in place, with an investment of 44 million Euros. In the current academic year, 2007-2008, 2,500 centres will implement the plan, with a budget of more than 97 million Euros, financed by 50% between the Autonomous Communities and the Ministry of Education and Science.

In the last two years, efforts have also been made to improve the attention given to student diversity, particularly in Primary and Compulsory Secondary Education, through the co-ordination of the Administrations. Attention to student diversity is understood as the adaptation of education to the characteristics and needs of students, ensuring non-discrimination and effective equality in access to and permanence in the education system. With this objective in mind, Official State Bulletin no. 293, dated 8th of December 2006, published Royal Decree 1523/2006, dated 7th of December, which establishes the minimum education contents of Primary Education, and, in section 13, specifically makes reference to “Attention to diversity”, establishing in point 1 that “as a principle, education must contemplate student diversity, considering that, in this manner, the development of all students concurrent with personalised attention based on the needs of each student is guaranteed”.



On its part, Official State Bulletin no. 5, dated 5th of January 2007, published Royal Decree 1631/2006, dated 29th of December, which establishes the minimum contents of Compulsory Secondary Education, understood as basic aspects of the syllabus, in terms of objectives, basic skills, contents and assessment criteria. As in the case of the Law mentioned in the previous paragraph, in section 12 this Law makes reference to "Attention to diversity", stating in point 1 that "Compulsory Secondary Education is organised in accordance with the principles of common education and attention to student diversity. The attention to diversity measures in this education stage will be aimed at catering to the specific education needs of students, to acquiring the basic skills and achieving the objectives of Compulsory Secondary Education and may never give rise to discrimination preventing students from achieving these objectives and the respective qualification."

On another front, in co-ordination with the Autonomous Communities, a programme has been introduced to improve school success through the reinforcement and support measures included in the LOE aimed at students in Primary and Secondary Education, with the objective of increasing the number of students who progress adequately throughout their school life. The budget allocation in the year 2007 was 62,500,000 Euros, of which the General Administration of the State financed 25,000,000 Euros and the Autonomous Communities financed the rest.

In this respect, Royal Decree 275/2007, dated 23rd of February, published in Official State Bulletin no. 64, dated 15th of March 2007, established the National Observatory on School Coexistence, founded as a inter-ministerial collegiate body responsible for providing advice, based on the principle of territorial co-operation and institutional collaboration, on teaching school coexistence, drawing up reports, conducting research studies, assessing school coexistence, and proposing measures to help design national policies, fostering initiatives to facilitate improving the climate in schools and coexistence in education centres.

The Observatory is comprised of representatives of the administrations (central and autonomous communities), the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), trade unions, teachers, parents' associations, owners of education centres and field experts.

Lastly, the Ministry of Education and Science has set up the CREADE (Centre for Attention to Cultural Diversity in Education Resources), a project headed by the CEIDE (Centre for Education Research and Documentation), established in response to the concerns of professionals from the social and education areas with regard to cultural diversity and its implications. It is a specialised centre offering all kinds and documentation and resources associated with intercultural and education, the latter understood as a process of permanent support to the human experience. The centre has a physical space located in the CIDE building, conceived as an advice centre for professional teams from the areas of education, research and social intervention. It is also a virtual resources centre, offering a website through various databases.

Starting from the premise of the fundamental importance of learning foreign languages, since 2006, Foreign Language Reinforcement Programmes have been introduced, ensuring



the generalised learning of a first foreign language in Primary Education and the opportunity to learn a second foreign language in Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO). This importance is recognised in the Organic Law on Education (LOE), which introduces, as one of its main novelties, the academic organisation of foreign language education. For the first time, it is established that all students must study a foreign language as of the age of six (first year of Primary Education) and the education authorities may introduce an initial introduction to learning a foreign language in the last year of the second cycle of Infant Education, as well as learning a second foreign language as of the age of ten (third cycle of Primary Education).

In 2006, the Foreign Language Learning Support Programme (PALE) was introduced, through which 15 agreements were signed, one with each of the Autonomous Communities under the common system of financing, with an investment of 37,500,000 Euros, of which 15,000,000 Euros were financed by the General Administration of the State. In 2007, this programme continued with the initiatives initiated in 2006 although introducing others closely associated with providing training to teachers who are already teaching foreign languages in Infant and Primary Education, as well as learning programmes that combine education contents with foreign languages, and initiatives aimed at increasing the number of conversation assistants. The budget allocation from the General Administration of the State in 2007 for PALE, as in the year 2006, was 15 million Euros, and the rest was financed by the Autonomous Communities, to reach the figure of 37,500,000 Euros.

In addition to the above-mentioned initiatives, with the aim of reducing the social gap in knowledge of new Information and Communications Technology from the education system, the Organic Law on Education (LOE) introduces into the objectives of all the education stages the use of information and communications technology, from an introduction and initiation stage in Infant and Primary Education to acquiring basic skills in Compulsory Secondary Education and, finally, a good command by the end of the second stage of Secondary Education.

Support from the education authorities to promote information and communications technology, as a generalised learning resource in all the education stages, is framed within the Ministry of Education and Science's ratification of a Framework Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce and the public business entity Red.es, to introduce Internet in the Classroom Programme (2005-2008).

Among other objectives, this programme, which also has the collaboration of the Autonomous Communities, aims to encourage the acquisition of all the skills to take maximum advantage of the new languages and systems devised for information and communications technology and to guarantee the effective use of this technology in education centres.

Through the previously mentioned Agreement a total of 453 million Euros will be invested. The co-financed amounts will be increased by all the signatories of the Agreement: Red.es



will provide more than 171 million Euros, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce 104 million Euros, in the form of refundable advance payments, the Ministry of Education and Science will provide more than 8 million and the Autonomous Communities will destine nearly 170 million Euros. The targets of this Agreement are public education centres under the general non-university regime and the special regime, teacher-training centres and teacher-training university colleges. On the other hand, the “Internet in the classroom” programme is expected to provide the basic infrastructure to the education centres, i.e., broadband Internet connection and the necessary multimedia equipment to provide students and teaching personnel with an adequately equipped web connection. In short, on the one hand, this is aimed at eliminating or reducing to the maximum the so-called “digital gap” by implementing digital inclusion strategies aimed at collectives with a higher risk of exclusion in terms of the information society and, on the other, at taking convergence initiatives to compensate for the inequalities derived from socio-economic and territorial factors as well as any other cause associated with the individual student.

In addition to the previously mentioned objectives, efforts are made to encourage communication between families and education centres through new information and communications technology. To achieve this, the “Connected Families” programme finances the acquisition of broadband equipment and connection by families without resources with children studying primary, secondary and university education in public centres, with the end of objective of boosting family participation in the education process through this new technology. This initiative to facilitate buying computer equipment is promoted through a preferential line of credit at a 0% interest rate, repaid in 36 months. Each loan has a maximum limit of 1,000 Euros

Among the functions of the National Centre for Education Information and Communication (CNICE) is to provide computer material to centres in its area of competence, training to teachers on the use of information and communications technology (ICT) as a teaching device and a tool open to new methodological concepts in the teaching and learning process, the development of on-line syllabus material, the dissemination and publication of experiences, reports, etc., and any other initiative or activity associated with the use of ICT.

In this context and in relation to students with specific education needs (hereafter referred to as SESN), the CNICE has established the following lines of action:

- Drawing up a plan for comprehensive initiatives in the area of ICT aimed at students with SESN studying in education centres located in Ceuta and Melilla. This plan includes the following basic lines action:
 - Provision of specialised computer equipment (hardware and software)
 - Training the teachers of these students
 - Follow-up on the use of ICT in the teaching and learning process



- Collaboration with the General Sub-directorate of Education Centres, Programmes and Inspection of the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport (MEPSYD) by offering advice and selecting the type of computer equipment sent to the itinerant classrooms and designing and imparting training activities to the teachers responsible for these classrooms.
- Publication and dissemination of ICT resources for students with SESN in the education system. Among the specific resources published, the following are worth highlighting:
 - Material designed by the CNICE in CD format, published in its website and available for free download by teachers.
 - On-line education resources, which include material designed in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, specialised articles and reports.

In 2005, a new Renovation and Improvement of School Libraries and Encouraging Reading programme was introduced, with an investment of 26 million Euros, of which 25 million were distributed among the Autonomous Communities, and the remaining million was allocated to initiatives aimed at improving libraries and fostering reading in Ceuta and Melilla. The plan is targeted to public Vocational Training and Second-stage Secondary Education Centres in Spain, and it is co-financed by the Autonomous Communities.

In 2006 and 2007, 20 million Euros of the budget for these activities was employed on Primary Education public schools, of which, the General Administration of the State financed 50%.

With the objective of developing the Initial Vocational Qualification and On-going Training programmes, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, aimed at socio-educational and labour integration, the following initiatives have been taken:

In this respect, Official State Bulletin no. 3, dated 3rd of January 2007, published Royal Decree 1538/2006, dated 15th of December, establishing the general structure of vocational training in the education system. The first additional provision of this Royal Decree addresses the “The offer of training initiatives aimed at disadvantaged or at-risk-of-social-exclusion collectives”, pointing out that, in accordance with that provided in Organic Law 5/2002, dated 19th of June, as regards Qualifications and Vocational Training, the education authorities may take other training initiatives adapted to the specific needs of young under-achievers, disabled persons, ethnic minorities, the long-term unemployed and, in general, persons at risk of social exclusion.

Another measure of the new education law worth highlighting is the introduction of the Initial professional Qualification Programmes aimed at encouraging students who are unable to obtain the first-stage of Secondary Education qualification to continue in education. Likewise, the number of places has been increased to guarantee a sufficiently large offer of places. Campaigns will be conducted to encourage more students to enrol and to complete



the intermediate level training cycles. Likewise, making the offer of professional training cycles more flexible will facilitate access to education/training and lifelong learning.

With the aim of introducing and developing the National Reference Centres and the Professional Training Integrated Centres, with the collaboration of the Autonomous Communities, Chapter X of the Royal Decree mentioned in the previous initiative, establishes the definition of the education centres authorised to impart professional training, explaining that these can be:

- Public and private centres authorised by the competent education authority.
- National Reference Centres, in accordance with that provided in section 11 of Organic Law 5/2002, dated 19th of June, as regards Qualifications and Professional Training and as per the terms established in the law that regulates the requirements of these centres.
- Professional Training Integrated Centres, in accordance with that provided in the above-mentioned section 11 and in Royal Decree 1558/2005, dated 23rd of December, which lays down the basic requirements of the Professional Training Integrated Centres.

For the purpose of financing the dissemination of adult and compensatory education initiatives, section 34.1, chapter VI (Professional Training for Adults), of Royal Decree 1538/2006, establishes that, in accordance with the objectives and principles established in section 66 of Organic Law 2/2006, dated 3rd of May, as regards Education, with the aim of facilitating on-going training and the social integration and inclusion of disadvantaged persons and groups into the labour market, the education authorities may offer professional modules, either through classroom or distance learning, included in the titles associated with the units listed in the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications, and the subjects of these initiatives will be persons above sixteen years of age.

Additionally, from 1999 to the current year, with the exception of 2004, as well as the strictly regulatory task, the Ministry of Education and Science has been conducting dissemination campaigns on Professional Training co-financed by the European Social Fund. In 2006, the cost of this campaign was 4,943,587 Euros.

The objectives of these campaigns are to promote the image of quality professional training designed to qualify persons for skilled professions, facilitate access to employment and personal progress, fostering equal opportunities both in terms of access to Professional Training and to the respective professions.

Objective 4. Support for the social integration of immigrants

An adequate integration of immigrants is an effective mechanism for generating new development opportunities in their societies. Cultural links, financial support to improve the



economies of families and the remittance of funds open an avenue which, although very new, gives rise to co-development, in both the origin and destination countries.

The Government has continued to made efforts in executing social integration of immigrants policies. One of the initiatives introduced in 2006 was the set up of a new computerised system to speed up the procedure of renewing the work and residence permits of foreigners.

The Support Fund for the Reception, Integration and Education of Immigrants is the main financial instrument for promoting and boosting public policies in the area of integration of immigrants and, at the same time, reinforce social cohesion. Likewise, it has enabled the definition and establishment of a co-operation framework between the General Administration of the State and the Autonomous Communities and, through the latter, with the Municipal Councils. The Co-operation Framework for managing the Fund and assigning the resources is based on objective criteria, and the distribution of the Fund to the Autonomous Communities is adopted through a Council of Ministers Agreement.

In 2006, the Fund had a budget of 182.4 million Euros, an increase of 52% from the previous year, and in 2007, 200 million Euros, which is an increase of 9.6% from 2006.

A large part of the Fund, nearly 50% in 2006 and 2007 is destined for reinforcing initiatives in the education system, with a view to catering for the increase in the number of students. The credits destined for reception and integration of immigrants basically go to Municipal Councils, given the important role of the local environment in integration, co-existence and social cohesion. In the Fund's budget there is an item of 2 million Euros destined for multi-regional initiatives to facilitate assessment of the Fund's application process, training of professionals and interchange of good practices.

Another instrument for the social integration of immigrants is the Social Integration of Immigrants Forum. The Forum is a consultation, information and advice body for the area of integration of immigrant. It is assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Immigration through the General Directorate for Integration of Immigrants.

The Forum's structure, functions and operating system is regulated by Royal Decree 3/2006 dated 16th of January. This Royal Decree has given the Forum more relevance, in terms of functions and authority as a consultation and participation body, consistent with an immigration policy based on consensus between the different social actors involved.

It has a tripartite and balanced structure: 10 members belonging to the Public Administrations, 10 to the associations of immigrants and refugees and 10 to social support organisations, including business and trade union organisations.

It was founded on the 6th of June 2006. It operates as a body, a standing committee and through four commissions: Education and Awareness Raising; Employment and Education/Training; Integration and Participation Policies; and Legal Affairs, the European Union and International Affairs.



Since June 2006, the tasks performed by the Forum include: issuing opinions on immigration issues and drawing up the report on the situation of social integration of immigrants and refugees in 2007, which analyses and presents more than 100 proposals in the following areas: legal aspects of integration, reception, education, employment, housing, social services, health, childhood and youth, equal treatment, women, participation, awareness raising, co-development and asylum.

On the 16th of February 2007, the Council of Ministers approved the Strategic Plan on Civic Responsibility and Integration of Immigrants 2007-2010. The Plan is geared towards boosting social cohesion by promoting social policies based on equal rights and responsibilities, equal opportunities, fostering the feeling of belonging to the society of reception among immigrants, and respect for diversity. The plan is designed as a framework for co-operation where the initiatives of the different public administrations and civil society come together, thus joining efforts, creating synergies and giving consistency to the initiatives as a whole.

The governing principles of the Strategic Plan are equality and non-discrimination, civic responsibility and intercultural.

The budget of the Strategic Plan is 2,005 million Euros, distributed among the different areas of intervention, namely, the area of education, which will receive 40% of the total, the area of reception, 20%, and the area of employment, 11%.

Co-operation between the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, through the State Secretariat for Immigration and Emigration, and, more specifically, the General Directorate for Integration of Immigrants, and the Autonomous Communities is channelled through the Action Plans agreed with each Autonomous Community, whose initiatives are framed within a series of focal areas, namely, reception, education, employment, social services, housing, health, participation, childhood and youth, equal treatment, co-development and gender.

Every year, all the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla draw up their action plans on the implementation of the measures financed through the Support Fund. The main focal areas, besides Education to which a minimum of 45% of the allocation is assigned, are Reception, Social Services, Employment, Awareness Raising and Participation. In 2006, 18 protocols were signed for extending the collaboration agreements between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (currently, Ministry of Labour and Immigration) and all the Autonomous Communities, except La Rioja, and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta. The total sum of the agreements signed was 246,348,922 €, of which the allocation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was 180,342,868 Euros. Once again, in 2007, the respective extension-of-agreement protocols were signed with the same Autonomous Communities and Cities and the cost of the initiatives included in the agreements stood at 281,898,431.35 Euros, of which 195,840,586.00 Euros were financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.



For the implementation of measures in the centres for unaccompanied foreign minors, in 2006, collaboration agreements were signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (currently, Ministry of Labour and Immigration) and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, for the purpose of improving the assistance provided to minors found in these cities. The amount financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was 4,000,000 Euros and 6,000,000 Euros in 2007.

In 2007, in light of the new need generated as a result of the large number of foreign minors arriving on its shores, a collaboration agreement was signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (currently, Ministry of Labour and Immigration) and the Regional Government of Andalucía to develop, improve and extend the resources necessary for assisting unaccompanied foreign minors, for an amount of 4,000,000 Euros.

Due to the special circumstances surrounding the massive arrival of unaccompanied foreign minors in the Canary Islands, in 2006, a special programme was developed to transfer minors from the Canary Islands to other Autonomous Communities. The framework of this programme includes the co-ordination of the transfers and financing the expenses derived from caring for these minors.

In 2006, a direct subsidy of 970,000 Euros was granted to the Autonomous Communities participating in the programme. In 2007, the Support Fund met the financing for the Reception and Integration of Immigrants, with an allocation of 10 million Euros.

Likewise, in 2006, a direct subsidy of 460,000 Euros was granted to a specialised social entity to transfer unaccompanied foreign minors from the Canary Islands.

In 2007, faced with a saturation of the specific resources provided by the Autonomous Communities participating in the Special Transferral Programme, direct subsidies for a total of 2,102,160 Euros were awarded to two collaborating social entities to complete the reception needs established in the programme.

In the area of local intervention, Ministerial Mandate TAS/3141/2006, dated 11th of October, established the regulatory bases and the call for subsidy applications from municipalities, associations of municipalities and regions aimed at implementing innovative integration of immigrants' programmes.

In 2006, subsidies were awarded to 129 local entities and 13 autonomous communities for an amount of 6,381,370 Euros. The main intervention areas of the programmes were aimed at the prevention of discriminatory, racist and xenophobic behaviour, awareness-raising campaigns and the areas of youth and assistance to women. Other programmes focus on education/training aspects aimed at labour-market integration and improving employability as well as problems associated with housing. These programmes are in the process of implementation in 2007.

In July 2007, what was then the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced a new call for applications - Ministerial Mandate TAS/2039/2007, dated 4th of July - targeted at



municipalities, associations of municipalities and regions, for subsidies to innovative programmes aimed at the integration of immigrants, with a budget of 6,347,790 Euros. Subsidies were awarded to 130 local entities for the implementation of 197 programmes.

With the aim of facilitating follow-up, joint learning and interchange of experiences, in June 2007, four follow-up seminars were conducted with local entities subsidised within the framework of the 2006 call for applications for subsidies to municipalities, associations of municipalities and regions for the implementation of innovative programmes aimed at the integration of immigrants. In total, 76 local entities participated in the seminars, which were clustered according to the following types of programmes: integral local intervention; awareness-raising and citizen participation; non-formal education, training and labour-market integration; social intervention and assistance to specific groups.

In September 2007, nine seminars targeted at local entities were conducted, with the participation of 80 entities, NGOs and researchers from several universities. The purpose of the meetings was to analyse the different policies implemented in local areas aimed at the integration of immigrants. This initiative was financed by the Support Fund for the Reception and Integration of Immigrants.

In November 2007, a congress of Municipal Councils was held under the slogan “Building Civic Responsibility”. Representatives of 60 municipalities were present, as well as invited guests from Autonomous Communities and NGOs. During the congress, the website “Integra Local” was presented, aimed at providing a point of reference to local entities on the different services and information available concerning the area of immigrant integration; this website provides links to contents that describe the actions of municipal councils in the process of integration and normalisation of immigrants. The Support Fund financed this initiative for the Reception and Integration of Immigrants.

In 2007, an analysis and overall assessment of the Support Fund for Reception, Integration and Education/Training of Immigrants was conducted. The Fund being understood as an instrument for the provision of supplementary funds to the programmes and initiatives of Autonomous Communities and Municipal Councils aimed at the integration of immigrants.

In 2006, direct financial support was established through two Royal Decrees to provide humanitarian assistance to immigrants:

- Royal Decree 603/2006, dated 19th of May, which regulates the granting of direct subsidies to specific entities for the provision of humanitarian assistance to immigrants arriving in the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands in a situation of vulnerability.
- Royal Decree 1142/2006, dated 6th of October, which regulates the granting of direct subsidies to specific entities for the provision of humanitarian assistance to immigrants arriving in the Autonomous Communities of the Canary Islands and Andalucía and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla in a situation of vulnerability.



The distribution of the subsidies was as follows:

ENTITIES	ACTIVITIES
CRE:	7,725,000 €
ACCEM:	1,740,000 €
CEAR:	1,700,000 €
CEPAIM:	1,000,000 €
MPDL:	1,095,000 €
The street:	180,000 €
Total:	13,440,000 €

Royal Decree 441/2007, dated 3rd of April, approves the regulations for granting direct subsidies to entities and organisations that perform humanitarian assistance programmes aimed at immigrants. Through a system of a permanent call for applications for direct subsidies, this Royal Decree has enabled to speed up the response of the State Administration when faced with unforeseen situations requiring immediate measures.

The budget allocation for these subsidies was 29,580,400 Euros, and the subsidies were granted as follows:

ENTITIES	ACTIVITIES	INVESTMENTS	TOTAL
RED CROSS	5,084,560.50	810,000.00	5,894,560.50
ACCEM	3,076,959.29	890,000.00	3,966,959.29
CEAR	2,223,921.75	840,000.00	3,063,921.75
CEPAIM	2,430,000.00	690,000.00	3,120,000.00
THE STREET	522,117.00	271,000.00	793,117.00
MPDL	1,386,166.52	679,000.00	2,065,166.52
TOTALS	14,723,725.05	4,180,000.00	18,903,725.06

The number of beneficiaries assisted by these entities was:



ENTITIES	BENEFICIARIES		
	<i>Reception/shelter</i>	<i>Action in Settlements</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
CEAR	7.314	543	7.857
ACCEM	1.620	323	1.943
CEPAIM	2.764	732	3.496
MPDL	820		820
THE STREET	821		821
RED CROSS	10.931	3.246	14.177
TOTAL	24.270	4.844	29.114

Through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' call for applications for subsidies funded through the Personal Income Tax allocation of the 2006 budget (executed in 2007), with the aim of providing support for the social integration of immigrants, asylum seekers and other persons with international protection, subsidies of 9,653,702.95 € were awarded to 52 programmes conducted by 29 entities. Of this sum, nearly 95% went to reception/shelter, guidance and information programmes (9,025,472.95€, 44 programmes), which included programmes for securing shelter places to build a national network of basic shelter, to which 6,632,937 € were dedicated (28 programmes), and guidance, information, legal advice, social and labour-market integration and translation and interpretation programmes, to which 2,392,535.95 € were dedicated (16 programmes).

The remaining programmes subsidised under this call for applications were aimed at voluntary return (372,730 €, 4 programmes) and family reunification (255.500€, 4 programmes). No subsidies were granted to geographical mobility and relocation programmes.

In the 2007 call for applications, for execution in 2008, 9,805,203.00 € were awarded to 56 programmes managed by 33 entities. For Reception/Shelter, Guidance and Information programmes, 9,104,973.00 € were allocated (46 programmes), of which, 6,780,141.00 € (27 programmes) went to securing basic reception/shelter places and 2,324,832.00 € (19 programmes) went to guidance, information, legal advice, social and labour-market integration and translation and interpretation. The 7 voluntary-return programmes received funding of 560,730.00 € and the 3 family-reunification programmes received 139,500.00€.

No subsidies were granted to geographical mobility and relocation programmes.

The following thirty-two programmes were subsidised under the general regime through the 2006 budget, for execution in the following year, and conducted by 84 entities through the call for applications for subsidies for the areas of integration of immigrants, asylum seekers and other persons with international protection:



Extracurricular education programmes, 1,387,796.09€; reception/shelter programmes, 2,427,968.39 €; programmes for co-financing projects within the framework of the EQUAL EC initiative, 232,466.25 €; health programmes, 285,000 €; women support programmes, 703,500 €; organisation and structure improvement, equipping entities and quality management, 1,740,573 € (52,000 € co-financed by the ESF); awareness-raising and promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination programmes, 1,346,241.13 € (fully financed by the ESF); and employment programmes, 3,725,600 € (co-financed by the ESF 3,430,600 €).

In the May 2007 call for applications for subsidies aimed at strengthening Spain's immigrant organisations, 25 entities were subsidised with a total of 1,300,000 € to conduct 51 programmes. All the programmes were co-financed by the ESF, based on the following priorities: maintenance of basic structures, fostering solidarity, women's participation, and equipment.

Additionally, in 2007, a call for applications was announced for subsidies of a total of 19,163,166.70 € for the area of integration of immigrants, asylum seekers and persons with international protection. The subsidies were awarded to 304 programmes executed by 110 entities and distributed based on the following priorities:

Integral reception/shelter, accommodation, diet and other expenses: 945,000 €; extracurricular education programmes: 2,523,500 €, employment programmes: 6,122,592,00 € (co-financed by the ESF), health programmes: 350,000 €, women support programmes: 1,378,200 €, organisation and structure improvement: 5,099,374.70€, awareness-raising and promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination programmes: 2,044,500 € (co-financed by the ESF); provision of equipment and adaptation of buildings programmes: 700,000 €.

The objective of the European Fund for Refugees (EFR) is to support and encourage the efforts of Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of accepting refugees and displaced persons, as well as to conduct integration and voluntary repatriation programmes of refugees, displaced persons and persons under other forms of international protection or persons who have ceased to receive said protection or waive it, as established in Decision 2004/904/EC, dated 2nd of December 2004, through which the European Fund for Refugees is established for the period 2005-2010.

As the authority responsible for managing this Fund, the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants grants a line of subsidies co-financed by the European Fund for Refugees on an annual basis. Of the total amount of these subsidies, 1,025,828.87 € in 2006 and 1,380,043.10€ in 2007, half was employed in improving the reception conditions of asylum seekers and the procedure for recognition of the asylum and refugee application. On the other hand, 35% of the amount of the subsidies in both years went to integration activities, and 15% to voluntary repatriation of asylum seekers projects.

As regards programmes aimed at the social and labour-market integration of asylum seekers and persons with another type of subsidiary protection, in the period 2004 to 2007, the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants was the entity responsible for and the



financial administrator of the “Eneas-Equal 2” project, within the framework of the “Equal, Priority Axis 5” Community initiative. This project has been executed by a network of entities (4 Refugee Shelter Centres of the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants, 3 NGOs, CEAR, ACCEM and the Red Cross). The total amount of the project was 4,944,797.06€, of which 1,503,569.69€ were executed in 2006 and 1,889,527.80 € in 2007, 70% co-financed by the European Fund for Refugees.

Through the National Budgets, the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants nominally subsidises the Spanish Red Cross, the Spanish Committee for Refugee Support and the Spanish Catholic Commission Association for Migrations to implement programmes aimed at immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, which include initiatives in the following areas: information and legal advice, reception/shelter, labour-market integration and employment, housing, training and education, voluntary return, family reunification and refugee relocation programmes, as well as awareness-raising, personal training, information on documentation, and participation in European networks and forums. The annual total of these subsidies, both in 2006 and 2007, was 16,397,960 €.

On another front, to conduct programmes aimed at providing assistance to vulnerable immigrants arriving on the Spanish shores, in 2006, 3,400,000 € were granted to the Spanish Red Cross through a direct subsidy, which was increased to respond to the existing needs to reach an annual total of 6,636,000 €. The number of immigrants assisted was 37,737. In 2007, 6,400,000 € were granted to the same entity (of which 1,600,000 € were invested in equipment) and 14,021 persons were assisted.

In addition to the subsidies granted to non-profit organisations working in the area of integration of immigrants, the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants has signed collaboration agreements with different public and private organisations to boost the integration of this collective. Some of these collaboration agreements were co-financed by the European Fund for Refugees.

In the years 2006 and 2007, agreements were signed for conducting the following:

- Education/training activities with Universities, Professional Lawyers and Psychologists’ Associations, Law Enforcement Agencies and research centres.
- Participation in meetings and conferences to share knowledge on integration of immigrants and intercultural.
- Strengthening of entities that dedicate their efforts to the collective of immigrants.
- Integration of immigrant families in depopulated rural areas.

Currently, the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants has four Refugee Centres (CAR), located in Madrid (Vallecas and Alcobendas) Seville and Valencia.

Services and benefits:

- Temporary accommodation and maintenance.



- Information and guidance on new situation.
- Guidance on joining the education, health and social systems.
- Psychological assistance.
- Specialised social assistance and assistance in the procedure for obtaining supplementary economic support.
- Language and basic social skills courses.
- Guidance and intermediation on vocational training and labour-market integration.
- Occupational and leisure activities.
- Awareness-raising and dissemination activities on the work of these Refugee Centres aimed at Spanish society.

As regards the assistance to immigrants in the Refugee Centres, the financial support is aimed at enabling the beneficiary to resolve the most pressing personal and/or family needs, as well as facilitating the adequate means to ensure personal independence and subsequent social integration.

Requirements for beneficiaries:

- Be an asylum seeker, refugee or under international protection.
- Be a beneficiary of a Refugee Centre or otherwise follow an assistance programme initiated as a resident of a Refugee Centre.
- Lack economic resources, both the individual concerned and the family members under his/her care.

The types of support are clustered according to the following categories:

- Personal and transport expenses.
- Personal expenses for basic needs and personal use items.
- Transport expenses: Cost of public transport monthly season ticket.
- Acquisition of clothes.
- Education activities.
- Occupational training and professional recycling.
- Nursery school and complementary expenses of the education kind.
- Leisure activities: cultural, outings, sports and similar: Real acquisition price of item or service.
- Support to facilitate the independence of beneficiaries when leaving the centre.
- Other extraordinary expenses.

The number of persons sheltered in 2006 was 859, and they were provided with individual financial support of a total sum of 586,836.26 €.

In 2007, 938 beneficiaries were assisted, granting them 674,548.35 € in financial support.



The maximum amounts of financial support for beneficiaries of Refugee Centres were updated in 2006 through Resolution 23-1-2006 of the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants and in 2007 through Resolution 16-03-2007 of the State Secretariat for Immigration and Emigration.

Additionally, it is worth highlighting that in 2006, the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia was set up, with the following main objectives:

- Provide a regular assessment of the situation of racism and xenophobia in Spain.
- Establish formal and informal communication networks with national and international bodies and organisations working to combat discrimination of persons on grounds of race or ethnicity and promoting equal treatment.
- Provide technical support to the Council in the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination of persons on grounds of race or ethnicity.

Also worth mentioning is the set up of Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia's website and the declaration of 2007 as the Year of Equal Opportunities for all.

Among the programmes conducted in collaboration with NGOs aimed at re-housing foreign workers living in shantytowns or settlements of badly built houses, it is worth highlighting the programmes subsidised through the call for applications for subsidies financed through the 0.52% Personal Income Tax allocation and conducted by the Columbares Association, aimed at collaborating with Municipal Councils affected by high rates of immigrants and shantytowns with a view to offering solutions to the housing needs of this collective, within the programme aimed at improving the accommodation conditions of immigrants living in the region of Murcia. Also worth highlighting is the programme conducted by the Consortium of Organisations for integral action with immigrants (CEPAIM), which monitors cases, visits households, accommodations and shantytowns, keeping an inventory and facilitating access to a decent house, guaranteeing minimum living conditions through its programme on access and management of housing and accommodation for settled immigrants, seasonal agricultural workers and transient persons in Sevilla and Almería.

In the 2006 call for applications for subsidies financed through Personal Income Tax, 10 programmes were subsidies with a total of 1,522,700 €.

In 2007, the Beneficiary Entities assisted 4,844 persons in settlements. (See breakdown by entities in Measure 4)

The amounts of the subsidies awarded under Royal Decree 441/2007 aimed at initiatives associated with settlements were as follows:

ENTITIES	Amounts employed in settlements(*)
RED CROSS	332,239.39
ACCEM	99,548.76
CEAR	117,358.70



ENTITIES	Amounts employed in settlements(*)
CEPAIM	40,500.00
MPDL	102,049.96
TOTALS	691.696,81

(*)Figures in Euros obtained from the justification reports for the subsidies received by the Entities in 2007.

The CEIM Foundation (Centre for Research into the Social Integration and Education/Training of Immigrants) invited students from developing countries to participate in the 2007 Co-development Programme.

The CEIM grants 37 grants to students from developing countries to participate in the Co-development Programme. The objective of the programme is to facilitate specific education/training to students from countries with high levels of emigration to become local development actors in their communities of origin, promote intercultural, support associations of immigrants as actors of co-development and maintain a link with these countries to encourage interchange processes.

The objective of the project is to establish collaboration between foreign and Spanish entities to join human and technical efforts to strengthen co-development programmes that serve to promote community leadership in the countries of origin.

On the 13th and 14th of December 2007, the State Secretariat for Immigration of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs organised the work seminar “Migratory Projects: Voluntary Return and Co-development” with the aim of addressing these issues through open, reflective and constructive dialogue. The main objective was to bring together the main agents involved, social institutions and organisations, to join efforts and to interchange knowledge and experiences in order to arrive at an assessment of the issues of voluntary return, reintegration and co-development in the countries of origin, as well as to establish the needs and challenges likely to arise in the near future and define work and action lines.

Through various financing channels: the European Fund for Refugees, Nominal Subsidies, Personal Income Tax and Collaboration Agreements, a voluntary return programme aimed at vulnerable persons in a situation of risk of social exclusion has been introduced through various entities: ACCEM; Cáritas Española; CEPAIM; VOMADE (only in 2006); the Spanish Red Cross; MPDL; OIM and RESCATE. In 2006, an amount of 1,441,259.02 € was employed in returning a total of 958 persons, and in the year 2007, 1,694,109.33€ to return 1,184 persons.

Objective 5. Guarantee assistance to persons in a situation of dependence

Assisting persons in a situation of dependence is one of main goals of the social policies of developed countries. Dependent persons are understood as those who, finding themselves in a situation of special vulnerability, require support to carry out basic daily activities and to be able to exercise their citizen rights fully.



Therefore, the development of policies, measures and initiatives aimed at introducing the National System of Dependence has been a priority.

With the aim of “Guaranteeing assistance to persons in a situation of dependence”, one of the priority objectives of the NAP 2006-2008, Law 39/ 2006, dated 14th of December, as regards the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Assistance to Persons in a Situation of Dependence, was approved. This Law is conducive to the adequate framework for the establishment of a new right to assistance aimed at persons in a situation of dependence and to guarantee assistance and care for these persons.

Additionally, in support of the introduction of the system for autonomy and assistance to dependent persons (SAAD), the following regulations have been published:

- Royal Decree 504/2007, dated 20th of April, which approves the scale for assessing situations of dependence established in Law 39/2006.
- Royal Decree 614/2007, dated 11th of May, as regards the minimum protection level of the System for Autonomy and Assistance to Dependent Persons guaranteed by the General Administration of the State.
- Royal Decree 615/2007, dated 11th of May, which regulates the Social Security of carers of persons in a situation of dependence.
- Ministerial Mandate TAS/1459/2007, dated 25th of May, which establishes the Information System relative to the System for Autonomy and Assistance to Dependent Persons’ and creates the respective personal data file.
- Resolution dated 23rd of May 2007, of the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services, which publishes the Agreement of the Council of Ministers which approves the framework for inter-administrative cooperation and the criteria for the distribution of the credits from the General Administration of the State to finance the established level, provided in Law 39/2006.
- Resolution dated 23rd of May 2007, of the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services, which publishes the Agreement of the Territorial Council on the System for Autonomy and Assistance to Dependent Persons, through which the agreements on assessing situations of dependence are established.
- Royal Decree 727/2007, dated 8th of June, as regards the criteria for determining the degree of protection of the services and the amounts of the economic benefits established in Law 39/2006.
- Resolution dated 16th of July 2007 of the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services, as regards the procedure to follow for recognition of the situation of dependence and the right to benefits under the System for Autonomy and Assistance to Dependent Persons.



On another front, also worth highlighting is the publication of Law 41/2007, dated 7th of December, which amends Law 2/1981 dated 25th of March, as regards the regulations governing the mortgage market, the mortgage and financial system, inverse mortgages and the dependence insurance and it also establishes a specific tax regulation. In its second additional provision, it establishes the regulations governing the dependence insurance, and in its fifth additional regulation, it establishes the specific rules for assessing the individual's wealth for determining the financial capacity of applicants of dependence benefits.

Within the same objective, another measure introduced, was the establishment of the Territorial Council on Dependence, a body for developing the regulations of the Law on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Assistance to Persons in a Situation of Dependence. The Territorial Council on Dependence is comprised of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), General Administration of the State, Autonomous Communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla. The Consultation Committee is one of the consultation bodies of the new System of Dependence. It is comprised of representatives of the public administrations (Government, Autonomous Communities and the FEMP) and the social agents (UGT, CCOO, CEOE and CEPYME).

The Consultation Committee is responsible for providing information and advice and drawing up proposals on issues of special interest for the adequate operation of the System, particularly on issues associated with the catalogue of services and the content of the benefits, the fulfilment of the rights and responsibilities of the users, the development and set up of services and programmes, co-ordination and co-operation between the Public Administrations, financing and budget execution, assessment, quality, the information system and law-making.

As established in Annex II of Royal Decree 504/2007 dated 20th of April, which approves the scale for assessing situations of dependence, children below three years of age will be subject to an assessment of the situations arising from health conditions of a chronic, prolonged or long-term nature.

Royal Decree 615/2007, dated 11th of May, which regulates the social security of carers of persons in a situation of dependence, addresses the issue of non-professional carers.

As regards the programmes conducted with NGOs, in the call for applications for subsidies awarded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in 2006 and 2007 financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, subsidies of 258,000 € and 233,200 € were granted to 2 programmes per year aimed at providing support to families living with persons in a situation of dependence.

In this same call for applications, in the year 2006, 21,919,814 € were destined for the elderly, and distributed among 67 programmes. Likewise, in the year 2007, 22,333,786 € were destined for 74 programmes.

Within this collective, in 2006, 9,606,704 € were destined for 32 programmes aimed at offering personal care, night care, family rest, family support and adaptation of housing,



conducted by 22 entities. In 2007, 9.859.204€ were destined for 36 programmes with this same objective.

As regards the promotion and adaptation of places for dependent persons in permanent-stay gerontology centres, 8,944,210€ were destined for 23 programmes. In 2007, the amount reached 8,525,210 € distributed among 25 assistance programmes.

In 2006, 3,374,300 € were destined for programmes, conducted by 12 entities aimed at the promotion of places in gerontology day centres for persons in a situation of dependence or moderate dependence, for the purpose of avoiding their institutionalisation. These programmes include the creation, adaptation, equipping and maintenance of places in gerontology centres, including the provision of adequate vehicles to transfer these persons to the centres. In 2007, 3,949,372 € were destined for such programmes conducted by 13 organisations.

On another front, in 2006, 14,038,627 € were destined for 70 programmes aimed at the independent life and social integration of disabled persons, particularly those in a situation of dependence. In 2007, the figure rose to 14,533,212 €, destined for an equal number of programmes. These programmes include those aimed at encouraging and developing personal skills and abilities as a means of support for personal autonomy and independent living, including the application of new assistance, information and communication technology. Also included are programmes on specialised personal assistance and care in the home, night assistance, family rest and support, as well as the development of external assistance centres.

<p>OTHER MEASURES RELATIVE TO ACCESS TO ALL THE NECESSARY RESOURCES, RIGHTS AND SERVICES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY</p>
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In addition to the priority objectives, the NAP 2006-2008 included other initiatives aimed at ensuring access to resources, rights, goods and services among all citizens.

Initiatives by areas:

1. Health

First of all, to provide an adequate response to the need to improve access to health, and thereby improve the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons and groups, Royal Decree 1030/2006, dated 15th of September, published in Official State Bulletin no. 22, dated 16th of September 2006, was drawn up, establishing the list of common services of the National Health Service. This Royal Decree gives the contents of the list the status of basic and common services, guaranteeing comprehensive, and adequate and continued assistance to all users.



Subsequently, on the 28th of November 2007, Official State Bulletin no. 285 published Mandate SCO/3422/2007, dated 21st of November, which lays down the procedure for updating the National Health System's list of common services. The first objective of this Mandate is to regulate the procedure for updating the list of common services provided under the National Health System, established in article 8 of Royal Decree 1030/2006, dated 15th of September. The second is to regulate the criteria for prioritising the techniques, technologies and procedures to be assessed. The prior assessment of the techniques, technologies and procedures must be conducted by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs through the Healthcare Technology Assessment Agency of the Carlos III Health Institute, in collaboration with other assessment agencies put forward by the Autonomous Communities.

It is important to emphasise that the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food, has included in Law 45/2007, dated 13th of December, as regards the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas, published in Official State Bulletin no. 299, dated 14th of December, measures for reinforcing Primary Healthcare in rural areas in order to ensure the availability of more modern technology to Primary Healthcare professionals, as well as measures for improving primary healthcare emergencies in rural areas. The objective of this Law is to achieve a public healthcare system based on the principle of solidarity with citizens living in particularly disadvantaged areas, as part of the general interest, given that the rural environment provides benefits to society in general, as well as on consensus between the public administration and rural society.

On another front, the measures included in the NAP 2006-2008 include taking initiatives aimed at health protection, promotion and healthy living habits, such as:

With the aim of improving the health of the population as a whole and, more specifically, the health of particularly vulnerable groups, such as girls, boys, adolescents and elderly persons, prevention recommendations are regularly issued on such subjects as vaccinations, nutrition, physical exercise, the hazards of smoking, prevention of dependence in old age, etc., for which, in 2006 and 2007, the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs launched a series of advertising campaigns on different areas targeted at different collectives, among them:

- *"Hábitos Saludables"* (healthy habits) aimed at improving the quality of life of elderly persons through healthy eating and physical exercise habits.
- *"¡Despierta, Desayuna!"* (wake-up and have breakfast!), with the aim of preventing child obesity, emphasising the importance of a good breakfast as a healthy way to begin the day, providing expert advice on what a varied and balanced breakfast should consist of and suggesting many examples of this, with the priority on milk, bread and fresh fruit. This campaign is targeted at young people above 13 years of age, parents and education professionals, all responsible for a healthy diet.



- *“El doble de ridículo”* (doubly ridiculous), again, aimed at warning young people about the risks of drinking alcohol.
- *“El alcohol puede llevarte muy lejos”* (alcohol can take you very far), aimed at reducing alcohol consumption among young people and increasing their perception of the health risk. Targeted at young people between 13 and 18 years of age to explain the risks of drinking alcohol and thereby reduce the health and social risks derived from alcohol abuse.
- *“Si no tomas precauciones ¿sabes quién actúa?”* (If you don't take precautions, ¿do you know what will be next on the stage?), with the objective of encouraging the use of condoms among young people as a way of preventing unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases, targeted at young people between 14 and 20 years of age.
- *“Gracias por no fumar”* (Thank you for not smoking), with the objective of raising awareness among the population about the health risks of smoking, promoting the need to give up smoking, the killer of more than 55,000 persons in Spain every year.
- *“Esta niña fuma un paquete al día”* (This little girl smokes a packet a day), with the aim of preventing children and pregnant women from being exposed to smoke-contaminated air, as a health priority.
- *“Drogas. Hay trenes que es mejor no coger”* (Drugs. Some trains are not worth catching), with the aim of *informing* and raising awareness among society about young people's consumption of cannabis and cocaine. The campaign is targeted at society at large with special emphasis on preadolescents and adolescents between 12 and 18 years of age, as well as parents, given that they are the ones responsible for their education.

Another initiative taken in recent years has been aimed at preventing obesity and promoting physical exercise among the child and youth population. In this respect, one of the most important measures introduced in the last two years by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs has been the presentation and set up of the Strategy on nutrition, physical exercise and prevention of obesity (NAOS), with the aim of “improving eating habits and encouraging regular physical exercise among all citizens, with special emphasis on prevention in childhood”. This objective has been pursued, among other means, through agreements with industrial players and other sectors involved. Within this framework, agreements have been signed with Autonomous Communities, municipal councils and public and private entities. The initiatives established in the Strategy are headed, since December 2006, by the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN), an independent body assigned to the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, whose mission is to guarantee the highest level of safety and to promote the health of all citizens. With this aim, media information campaigns have been launched and agreements signed with sports associations and local authorities to promote these values among young people.



Likewise, the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN) is publishing educational material (more than 12 publications and approx. 100,000 documents) on issues associated with healthy eating and physical exercise for students, practical guides for teachers and families, guides for education centres on school menus; and guides for primary healthcare professionals on ways of detecting, preventing and treating child obesity. (.2.2.)

Lastly, with emphasis on preventing dangerous habits, particularly among the child and youth population, an initiative aimed at preventing the consumption of alcohol among young people below 18 years of age was introduced. With this objective, on the 20th of February 2007, the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs presented in public the Bill on Health Measures for the Protection of Health and the Prevention of Alcoholic Consumption among Minors.

The reasoning behind this bill is that, first of all, alcohol presents the third largest risk to the health of citizens in developed countries, closely behind tobacco and high blood pressure; and, secondly, that underage drinking in Spain has increased considerably in recent years (with serious risks to young people's physical and mental health), with a marked increase among female adolescents. In this respect, the bill addresses the gender perspective in the measures for preventing the damage associated with alcohol consumption.

As regards care and social integration of persons affected by mental health problems, the Plenary Session of the Inter-territorial Council comprised of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs and the Autonomous Communities, held on 11th of December 2006, approved the National Health System's Strategy for Mental Health. The Strategy was drawn up and agreed between the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, scientific associations, patients' associations and the Autonomous Communities.

The objective of the Strategy is to improve the care provided to patients suffering from these disorders, reduce the stigma and the marginalisation that they are subject to and promote prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and social re-integration initiatives.

In addition to the above, this Strategy seeks to act as a co-ordination and cohesion instrument for all the healthcare administrations, thus guaranteeing healthcare to all citizens under equal conditions, regardless of where they live.

The document is structured in six large lines of action: promotion of mental health; prevention and eradication of the social stigma; healthcare assistance to patients; co-ordination between institutions, scientific societies and associations; training for healthcare personnel; fomenting research; and information and assessment systems.

The diversity of the initiatives taken by the Autonomous Communities in the National Health System offers broad opportunities for mutual learning and collaboration in the efforts to improve quality. The evolution of the system, its territorial characteristics and its adaptation and innovation capacity allow the co-existence of common aspects and different situations in response to health problems and needs.



The Observatory of the National Health System will issue a yearly report on the state of the National Health Service which will be presented by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs to the National Health System's Inter-territorial Council.

The Observatory of the National Health System acts as a tool in this analysis. On an annual basis it presents to the National Health System's Inter-territorial Council a permanent analysis of the public health system as a whole, based on the data and indicators supplied by the National Health System's information system and the data supplied by the health services of the Autonomous Communities relative to the areas of organisation, provision of services, healthcare administration and results in their territories. Four reports have been presented so far in 2003, 2004, 2005 and the last in 2006, on the functioning, achievements and problems of the National Health Service.

Although not included in the measures of this Plan, the first National Strategy on Equal Healthcare aimed at the Roma Population was established in 2003, after noticing existing difficulties both in the Roma community's access to healthcare and in the results that the National Health System was obtaining with the Roma community. This strategy has been implemented through a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs and the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation (FSG), establishing a strategic framework of initiatives aimed at ensuring the implementation or introduction of a series of measures in the healthcare area, aimed at achieving levels of health among the Roma population equal to the rest of the population, by the year 2008.

In 2005, the National Council on the Gipsy Population (CEPG) was founded through Royal Decree 891/2005, dated 22nd of July, as a collegiate body for participating and offering advice in general and specific public policies affecting the integral development of the Roma population in Spain. The Health Group of the National Council on the Gipsy Population actively participates in all the analysis, planning, implementation and assessment phases of the joint activities derived from the Strategy.

The most relevant activities of this Strategy include: advice, support and training on health intervention aimed at healthcare professionals, administrations and civil society; training and awareness raising aimed at hundreds of healthcare professionals in the entire national territory, and the publishing of a "Guide on assisting the Roma Community in the Healthcare Services", aimed at facilitating this process. Additionally, a large number of national debate seminars have been held on Health and the Roma Community and, lastly, in 2006, the first National Health Survey on the Roma population was conducted, with the objective of gaining knowledge on their state of health, life styles and access to the healthcare services, assess their main needs and whether in fact there are inequalities compared with the Spanish population as a whole, with the objective of prioritising areas of intervention. The results of the survey and its recommendations are currently being studied. Both from the Health Group of the National Council on the Gipsy Population, and through the Agreement with the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation, efforts are being made to achieve health equality among the Roma population, from a point of view of health promotion, with the



conviction that the participation and prioritisation of the Roma community must take place in all the planning phases and intervention processes.

Another of the initiatives envisaged consists of analysis health policies and propose actions aimed at reducing health inequalities, with emphasis on gender, through the publication of an annual report on Health and Gender. In December 2006, the report on "Health and Gender", the first on the subject prepared by the Observatory on Women's Health (OSM), was published. The objective of this agency, which reports to the General Directorate of the Quality Agency of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, is to contribute to reducing inequalities between women and men, in response to the Government's commitment to promote equality between women and men. The report is the first in a series to facilitate follow-up on the progress achieved and the aspects to be addressed in the future.

This initial report includes areas with existing evidence of gender inequalities, such as cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS or the effects of different types of work on health, regarding which measures are already being addressed to reduce them.

The report also highlights the healthcare authorities' need for more and better information on gender inequalities found in other relevant areas, such as injuries caused by traffic accidents, obesity, smoking, alcohol and drug consumption, etc. For this reason, the report proposes research and study efforts that will give rise to improving or enhancing these areas in the near future.

On another front, an initiative aimed at improving health and access to services among the most disadvantaged and at risk of social exclusion groups was proposed. To achieve this, chapter 5 of the 2005 Report on the National Health System (SNS), prepared by the Observatory of the National Health System under the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, headed "The Health Services of the Autonomous Communities" dedicates a section of the chapter to the initiatives taken by the Autonomous Communities in the area of "Equality". The Autonomous Communities have taken a large number of initiatives centred on equality and aimed at improving and guaranteeing equal treatment and access to healthcare services among the collectives with fewer financial resources or most vulnerable; on the one hand, by reducing the most visible inequalities specifically suffered by certain social groups (immigrants, drug addicts, the homeless, dependent elderly people, etc.) through an estimate of the number of persons belonging to these specific collectives at risk with the aim of including them in the respective healthcare programmes and, on another hand, by locating and preventing the causes which, if not addressed, can lead to inequality and social exclusion (age, disability, mental health, chronic illnesses, lack of education/training, women without resources, etc.). On this last point in particular, the measures addressed in the equality plans of the Autonomous Communities centre on the factors with a greater impact on gender inequality, offering a comprehensive and promotional outlook on health, without forgetting training and awareness raising for healthcare professionals on everything associated with detecting and combating domestic violence from the public health system.



Another key area of action of these equality policies has been the growing immigrant population; other action has been aimed at elderly persons with social alienation problems and a dependent economic situation, as well as child health, including the identification of social risk factors.

To enable the Autonomous Communities to take the above-mentioned initiatives and others, the Council of Ministers gathered on the 27th of April 2007 approved the distribution of 23.17 million Euros among the Autonomous Communities for implementing health promotion and prevention policies.

The Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs conducted a survey on access to and use of the National Health System according to population characteristics, socio-economic level, academic achievement, disability or personal autonomy restrictions, immigrant population, etc., whose results were published on the 30th of April 2007 in the “Provisional Anticipated Data of the Results of the 2006 National Health Survey”, a series of statistical data gathered since 1987, which provides information on the state of health of Spanish people and the determining factors, the use made of healthcare services and the impact of healthcare policies on the evolution of health indicators.

As of 2003, the survey is conducted in collaboration with the National Statistics Institute giving rise to a series of changes in the application methodology. In the 2006 edition, the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs introduced large changes to the traditional content of the survey, in response to the need to include new health-related aspects, such as mental health, both among the adult and child population, and the quality of life of minors, as well as new determining factors of health, not included in previous editions, and basically related to the physical and social environment. The aim was to improve the survey as a measuring instrument of health inequalities and adapt its format to the requirements of the European Health Survey project.

A survey has also been conducted on pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery healthcare in Spain, which includes pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery healthcare among vulnerable groups. Information has been gathered on healthcare to pregnant immigrant women from countries with a low socio-economic level, pregnant adolescent girls and pregnant women victims of abuse as well as on other collectives chosen by the healthcare professionals interviewed. The report presents the results of the survey and its conclusions and recommendations.

Likewise, and in the strictest sense of research into health and gender, a Report on “Mature Women’s Health: A Comparative Analysis of Women and Men from a Gender Point of View” has been prepared. This report, commissioned by the Observatory on Women’s Health, reviews the current health situation of Spanish women, in an attempt to identify inequalities between women and men.

As regards the healthcare needs of groups particularly exposed to work-related health hazards, a survey was conducted with organisations of mediators on the health and care



needs of male and female prostitutes, offering an analysis of this collective's needs and access to healthcare services. The objective of the survey was to gain insight into social agents' perceptions of the health needs of persons working in the prostitution trade, as well as their experience in good practices to apply in initiatives aimed at this section of the population.

The last measure in this area was aimed at taking specific initiatives targeted at especially vulnerable groups of the population, namely:

Intensify the initiatives of the National Plan against HIV/AIDS, particularly aimed at persons with hazardous practices, increasing collaboration with NGOs working towards the prevention of AIDS among the most vulnerable groups, through:

- The transfer of funds to the Autonomous Communities aimed at 10 priority areas of action, which include persons who exercise prostitution, parenteral drug users, men who have sex with men, immigrants, and the fight against stigmatisation and discrimination.
- Agreement with the General Directorate of Penitentiary Institutions for the prevention of HIV/AIDS in penitentiary centres (750,000 € in 2007).
- Financial support to NGOs (4,152,000 € in 2007, an increase of nearly 32% from 2006 and 313% from 2004) for the prevention of HIV in different areas, among them, especially vulnerable groups, like:
 - Parenteral drug users
 - Persons exercising prostitution
 - Men who have sex with men
 - Immigrants
- Granting of 2,923,694 € through the call for applications for subsidies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for 2007, funded through the Personal Income Tax allocation and destined for 54 programmes managed by 30 entities developing the following types of programmes:
 - Support for patients and families with persons suffering from HIV/AIDS
 - Creation and maintenance of shelter homes
 - Creation and maintenance of accommodation or flats for social integration.
- Prevention campaign targeted at men who have sex with men (HSH): In 2007, the Secretariat of the National Plan on AIDS presented the second campaign on prevention of HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases jointly with the NGOs of the LGTB movement (FELGT, Coordinadora gay y lesbiana de Cataluña, COGAM, Stop Sida, Fundación triángulo and Federación Colegas) aimed at men who have sex with men (HSH).
- Prevention campaign targeted at the immigrant population. In 2007, a new campaign was launched under the slogan “El sida no entiende de culturas, fronteras o colores. Protege usando preservativo en tus relaciones sexuales” (AIDS knows no cultures, borders or colors. Protect using condom in your sexual relations).



borders or colours. Protect yourself by using a condom in your sexual relations). This campaign was translated into various foreign languages.

- Training seminars on HIV prevention among the immigrant population. In 2007, the General Directorate for the Integration of Immigrants organised 3 training seminars on HIV prevention aimed at persons working with the immigrant population, with the active collaboration of the Secretariat of the National Plan on AIDS.
- II National Reunion on prevention of HIV/sexually-transmitted diseases among persons who exercise prostitution. October 2007. 132 attendants.
- II National Reunion on prevention of HIV/sexually-transmitted diseases among men who have sexual relations with men. May 2007. 98 attendants.
- Conference on HIV among users of injectable drugs. Panel of Experts. February 2007.
- Support for the information/dissemination campaign against labour discrimination of UGT-Madrid.
- Workshop on stigmatisation and discrimination of persons affected by HIV, with the participation of Autonomous Communities, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Social Inclusion), the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs (Secretariat of the National Plan on AIDS) and NGOs.
- Approval of the Multi-sector Plan against the Transmission of HIV and AIDS, Spain 2008-2015, in the National Commission on co-ordination and follow-up of HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, held on the 13th of December 2007, which, among others, includes all aspects associated with addressing HIV in vulnerable populations. The governing principles of this new Plan are: multi-sectoriality, quality and equality. In addressing this last principle, the Plan states that “poverty and social exclusion are directly associated with the epidemic of HIV transmission, and when designing interventions, the response must bear in mind the close link between the social determinants of health and the risk of HIV infection, and address the necessary changes in the structures that sustain risk conduct”. The general objectives of the Plan continue to be those approved by the 1987 World Health Assembly, i.e., preventing new infections, reducing the negative personal and social impact of the epidemic and mobilise and co-ordinate efforts.

Increase the number of programmes aimed at assistance and re-integration resources for persons with drug-addiction problems, within the framework of the National Strategy on Drugs (2000-2008), as well as increase the support to NGOs to maintain the assistance and the socio-labour re-integration resources aimed at these persons.

In 2006, also through the call for applications for subsidies funded through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 72 programmes, managed by 40 entities, aimed at persons with drug addictions were subsidised with 5,067,311 €. In the year 2007, the amount stood at 5,143,320€, distributed among 69 programmes aimed at supporting and maintaining assistance and socio-labour re-integration resources, with the main objective of consolidating the network of assistance services for persons with drug addictions in the Autonomous Communities, i.e., day centres, therapeutic communities as well as meeting and shelter centres. On another front, also included are programmes on drug prevention in vulnerable environments.



Implement the measures of the Forum "*La sociedad ante las drogas*" (Society against drugs), made up of representatives of families, young people, the media and entities working towards the drug prevention and assistance to and re-integration of persons with drug addictions.

The Forum, established in 2005, and currently made up of more than 50 entities, is divided into three Working Groups "Youth", "Family" and "the Media". It held its second plenary session in February 2007, to present and share the thoughts and the details of the tasks performed by the Working Groups. The main contributions of the groups were the following:

The Working Group on Youth reiterated the need for the participation of youth entities in the development of prevention policies and their will to get involved. It also manifested the convenience of reinforcing prevention measures aimed at youths in the different areas where they concentrate, preferably the school environment and places of leisure activities. Likewise, it showed an interest in the development of prevention programmes aimed at youths who do not go to regular schools. This working group gathered on four occasions in 2006 and twice between January and July 2007.

The Working Group on the Family started off with the suggestion that it would be very interesting to focus the "family and drugs" problems from a community intervention point of view, involving other social agents and, particularly, NGOs working in the area of drug addiction, so that they adopt a responsible and leadership role.

In view of how the family models have changed, the Group recommends designing and introducing specific programmes based on the family structures with special needs elaborated by the group itself, tailored to the levels of risk of the different family nuclei. In 2006, the Group gathered on six occasions and twice between the months of January and July 2007.

The Working Group on the Media has prepared a Good Practices and Recommendations Guide for media professionals, as well as a decalogue for journalists on the rigour and balance required to present information on subjects related to drug addiction. In this same line, the Good Practices Guide for media managers, script writers and producers involved in the process of creating fiction and entertainment series. Likewise, the Group proposed the set up of a line of collaboration with music magazines, radio programmes, singers and record producers to explore the possibilities of music acting as a tool to help prevent drug abuse. This Group gathered on four occasions in 2006 and twice in 2007.

2. Social Services

Access by all citizens to the basic social services and maintenance of the basic social services network takes place through the participation of the Autonomous Communities and local authorities in the implementation of the Consensual Plan on the Basic Social Services offered by local authorities. In 2006, agreements were signed with all the Autonomous Communities,



except the Basque Country and Navarra, through which 1300 projects affecting 7,406 municipalities were co-financed, with a total budget from the three administrations of 782,697,010.49 €. In 2007, 1321 projects were co-financed, affecting 41,554,773 persons from 7,406 municipalities, with a total budget of 915,280,936.94 €

As regards the set up of the Information System of Users of the Social Services (SIUSS) in the entire national territory, one of the main objectives of this initiative has been to set up the system throughout the entire territory as far as possible or to obtain the data from those municipalities with their own programmes in place. This task has been carried out jointly between this Ministry and the Autonomous Communities and Cities.

Currently, three Autonomous Communities (Cataluña, Castilla-La Mancha and the Basque Country) have not signed the agreement. Among those who have, three (Valencia, the Balearic Islands and Extremadura) have a municipal coverage below 50%, and the Canary Islands is not using the system.

The data dumps referring to 2005 shed results that show a fall in the number of municipalities in Autonomous Communities that had an almost complete set up, which, in some cases, could be caused by the inability to do the dumps from external applications due to the conditions established to guarantee the reliability of the data. Cantabria and Andalucía, where a reduction in the number of dumped municipalities has been noted, have possibly encountered this problem.

On the other hand, the rest of the Autonomous Communities, particularly those that had a lower coverage, have experienced a large increase. The largest increases are in Madrid 7.5%, Galicia 6.35% and Navarra 5.88%. Both the latter stand at a coverage of over 96% of the total number of municipalities.

Despite the fluctuations in the data dumps, it is worth highlighting the efforts made by all the Autonomous Communities, both in terms of the set up and the improved quality of the data dumps.

Still on the subject of collaboration with the Autonomous Communities which signed the agreement, and within the ongoing process of continuous updates to improve the programme, a review of the operation of the programme has been carried out with all the Autonomous Communities, giving rise to a number of improvement proposals made by the SIUSS Working Group. All these changes will be included in the new version to be installed with the child abuse module.

Among the general improvements, the follow-up of resources has been extended, adapting it to each of the existing services, the home-help module has been improved, registers adapted to the Law on Dependent Persons have been introduced, and different improvements have been made both to the structure and the contents of the family file.

In terms of users, the follow-up is as follows:



- Number of user files registered in 2006: 987,796. Increase rate compared with previous year: 15.08%
- Number of users in 2006: 1. 325.864. Increase rate compared with previous year: 15.39%.

GLOBAL DATA OF THE CONCERTED PLAN ON BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES FACILITIES PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES (Budgetary allocation 19.04.231F.453.00)								
PRESENTATION DATA								
AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES	2006				2007			
	FINANCE MIN. I & S.A.	A.C.	LA	TOTAL FINANCE	FINANCE MIN. I & S.A.	A.C.	LA.	TOTAL FINANCE
ANDALUSIA	17.879.859	35.687.167	140.365.945	193.932.971	18.685.255	37.645.620	153.851.246	210.182.121
ARAGÓN	3.146.313	9.677.720	11.416.834	24.240.868	3.288.020	10.106.073	12.513.915	25.908.008
ASTURIAS	2.849.505	17.213.337	16.542.376	36.605.218	2.977.722	18.690.147	18.008.966	39.676.835
BALEARS ISLANDS	1.753.491	1.753.494	36.371.054	39.878.040	1.832.371	1.832.372	28.033.691	31.698.434
CANARY ISLANDS	3.972.382	7.648.307	23.541.319	35.162.009	4.151.541	7.880.722	32.998.457	45.030.719
CANTABRIA	1.403.577	9.306.914	4.902.010	15.612.500	1.467.036	10.530.713	7.084.314	19.082.063
CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	4.786.266	21.143.190	15.221.464	41.150.920	5.001.776	23.372.340	17.030.251	45.404.367
CASTILLA and LEÓN	6.930.279	8.000.000	39.410.548	54.340.827	7.242.185	8.000.000	39.256.851	54.499.036
CATALUÑA	12.915.079	20.863.931	95.817.378	129.596.388	13.496.540	22.473.972	105.859.677	141.830.189
EXTREMADURA	3.139.823	6.819.663	2.986.032	12.945.518	3.281.378	7.752.844	3.268.750	14.302.972
GALICIA	7.595.644	13.091.772	33.066.657	53.754.073	7.937.746	9.946.383	50.452.294	68.336.423
MADRID	10.438.959	42.061.627	41.859.144	94.359.730	10.908.826	52.736.194	47.689.482	111.334.503
REGION DE MURCIA	2.683.743	2.914.554	1.866.099	7.464.396	2.805.018	3.005.894	1.921.177	7.732.090
LA RIOJA	1.362.037	1.362.037	1.828.092	4.552.166	1.423.385	1.423.385	1.661.212	4.507.983
C. VALENCIANA	9.037.365	14.148.423	11.303.171	34.488.959	9.444.637	14.154.858	11.171.885	34.771.379
CITY of CEUTA	454.014	454.014	0	908.027	474.462	474.462	0	948.924
CITY of MELILLA	454.014	3.250.387	0	3.704.400	474.462	2.844.686	0	3.319.147
TOTAL	90.802.350	215.396.537	476.498.124	782.697.010	94.892.360	232.870.665	530.802.167	858.565.192

The development of own or joint projects with local authorities to introduce comprehensive social intervention programmes aimed at eradicating poverty has been done through collaboration agreements signed with all the Autonomous Communities, except the Basque Country and Navarra, having co-financed 54 projects with a population coverage of 363,090 persons, of whom 196,119 are women and 166,971 are men. The total funding from the three administrations was 7,210,900.74 €.

In 2007, protocols were signed with all the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla (except the Basque Country and Navarra), on the development of basic social services offered by local authorities or the Consensual Plan, given that the total allocation for the Programme on the eradication of poverty was included in the Consensual Plan. Thus, in 2007 the amount of the Consensual Plan increased by 4.5%: from 90,802,350.00 € in 2006 to 94,892,360.00 € in 2007.

Additionally, with the objective of developing comprehensive programmes aimed at persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, in the call for applications for subsidies for 2006 announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 499,362 € destined for 5 programmes, were granted. In the 2007 call for applications, the amount reached 420,672 €, distributed among 6 programmes.



These programmes are crosscutting and their initiatives comprehensive, including simultaneous activities in the following areas of intervention: education, training and labour-market integration, health, social action, justice, housing and accommodation, aimed at the socio-labour integration of persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion. Additionally, they establish mechanisms for co-ordination and co-operation with the different public administrations, social services and economic and social agents of the different areas of action and they focus on mediation and social support, information and advice on access to the social protection systems (access to housing, employment, health, education, justice and social services) by persons, families or groups at risk or in a situation of social exclusion. They include initiatives aimed at all persons, families and groups at risk or in a situation of social exclusion, living in the area where the intervention is taking place, boosting solidarity and the use of the networks in place to achieve the participation of the population.

On another front, in the above-mentioned calls for applications for subsidies of 2006 and 2007, financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 1,455,624 € and 1,484,736 €, respectively, were granted to 5 programmes all aimed at the disadvantaged rural population. This time, the objective of the programmes is to promote the full development of the rural population through comprehensive and permanent initiatives, with emphasis on the most vulnerable rural communities, including economic, social, educational, training and employment aspects, by making the most of the existing resources. Programmes carried out with the support of the respective municipal council, to encourage the creation of grass-roots movements and joint services, as well as those aimed at boosting the use of Internet as an instrument for permanent connection and intercommunication between isolated rural areas and social services centres have been given priority. Priority has also been given to programmes proposed by entities established in the rural environment and specialised in social intervention projects, favouring those comprised of partnerships between various NGOs.

As regards assistance to volunteer work, the initiatives of the National Plan on Volunteer Work have been taken, essentially through:

- Transfers to the Autonomous Communities aimed for the execution of projects established in the National Plan on Volunteer Work, through collaboration agreements with the Autonomous Communities. In 2006, 148 projects were co-financed. These consisted of conferences and seminars, preparing volunteer workers' guides, awareness-raising campaigns and training courses, and others. The funding from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was 3,371,670 Euros, of which 150,253 € were initially set aside to organise the 9th National Congress on Volunteer Work held in Toledo. The contribution of the Autonomous Communities was 3,844,949.02€. In 2007, 144 projects were co-financed. The contribution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was 3,221,417 €, and another 150,253 € were employed on organising the 10th National Congress on Volunteer Work held in Gijón. The allocation from the Autonomous Communities was 4,352,318.14€



- Organisation of national congresses, as main solidarity awareness-raising initiatives at national level.
- Establishment and operation of the Working Group on Volunteer Work, within the National Council on Social Action NGOs.
- The technical and financial boost to the creation of the Observatory on Volunteer Work.
- The signing of a Framework Agreement with the third sector on the 17th of October 2006, through which, among other issues, a commitment to quality volunteer work was made, based on solid values and ethical principles as well as on training and empowerment specifically geared towards the concrete needs of each target collective.
- The Conferences held with the Platform of Spain's Volunteer Workers, with the aim of getting closer to a clear definition of the concept, limits and characteristics of voluntary action.
- The promotion of set up and use of new technologies in NGOs and volunteer-work management by organising a series of Net.es conferences, signing an agreement with the Chandra Foundation and financing computer equipment through subsidies funded through the General Regime.
- Strong efforts to introduce quality and ongoing improvement systems into the management and operation of volunteer agencies and for new technologies to be used in training and managing volunteer workers.
- Boosting follow-up mechanisms for implementation of the National Plan, through the Technical Commission responsible for overseeing all the Autonomous Communities.
- Financial collaboration in the implementation of the Quality Plan for NGOs, subsidised by the General Regime.
- Subsidies funded through Personal Income Tax for implementation of awareness-raising and support projects conducted by NGOs aimed at volunteer worker.

In the call for applications awarded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation for 2006, 4,111,818 € were awarded to programmes aimed at supporting volunteer work and raising awareness on its importance among the population. In 2007, the figure was raised to 4,225,568 €.

In 2006, 27 awareness-raising programmes were subsidised with a total of 874,235 €, and 29 programmes were subsidised in 2007 with a total of 914,235 €. These programmes are aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of adopting a social commitment and collaborating in volunteer work through social organisations, disseminating the role of volunteer work and its efforts to help other persons or social groups, through information and awareness-raising campaigns, conferences and debate forums, research work,



publishing information material, etc. These programmes are jointly conducted by various organisations and are geared towards raising social awareness in the education, business and media sectors. Also included are programmes aimed at encouraging volunteer work and social participation among the elderly.

Additionally, 73 volunteer work support programmes, managed by 68 organisations, have been subsidised with 3,237,583 €, aimed at reaching 713,000 persons. The objective of these programmes is to provide training to the persons responsible for volunteer work and the volunteer workers themselves in order to guarantee and improve the quality of the solidarity initiatives, as well as boosting the development and the reinforcement of co-ordination structures. Priority has been given to programmes aimed at developing co-ordination systems and networking, as well as collaborating with companies in projects aimed at promoting volunteer work among company workers. Also supported are programmes aimed at promoting the use of new information technologies and providing specific training to volunteer workers on technical knowledge and abilities geared towards the needs of the beneficiaries.

As regards surveys targeted at the social services, in collaboration with the university, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, in 2006, a survey was conducted among the heads of primary-assistance social services on the needs detected, the services provided and the response that should be given to the new challenges in the future.



BUDGET OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, FAMILIES AND THE DISABLED (MINISTRY OF LABOUR & SOCIAL AFFAIRS)			
SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, data in en euros	2005	2006	2007
Action Plan for Persons in a situation of Dependence		200.000.000	400.000.000
Gipsy Development Programme	3.065.160	3.065.160	3.065.160
Programme for Eradicating Poverty	3.090.010	3.090.010	(*)
Consensual Plan on Basic Social Services	90.802.350	90.802.350	94.892.360
Balancing Work & Family Life Programme-Early childhood care	28.793.830	28.793.830	29.793.830
Support for Families in Special Situations	13.702.030	13.702.030	13.702.030
<i>* Family education, assistance to disadvantaged families and in situations of risk and to single-parent families</i>	9.055.501	9.055.501	9.055.501
<i>* Family guidance and/or mediation and Family Meeting Points</i>	2.939.574	2.939.574	2.939.574
<i>* Families with family violence</i>	1.706.956	1.706.956	1.706.956
Experimental Programme on Child Abuse	915.750	915.750	915.750
Programme on Execution Measures for Juvenile Offenders	3.005.060	3.005.060	3.005.060
Action Plan for Elderly (2003-2007)	69.356.910	69.356.910	71.356.910
Action Plan for the Disabled	4.945.710	4.945.710	5.945.710
National Voluntary Work Plan	3.305.560	3.371.670	3.371.670
TOTAL (euros)	220.982.370	421.048.480	626.048.480

Note:

(*) The budget of this programme was included in the Consensual Plan on Basic Social Services.

Source: MTAS.

3. Housing

In the area of housing and land, the most novel and significant initiative in recent years has been the approval and entry into force of Law 8/2007, dated 28th of May, as regards Land, which regulates the rights and responsibilities of all citizens, not just land owners, establishing a basic statute on civic responsibility in relation to land and the urban/rural environment, recovering the concept of the city as a collective space to enjoy and exercise civic responsibility. The Law expresses the need for sustainable development that guarantees a balance between economic development, the environment and social cohesion.

As regards fostering public protection policies on access to housing and access to home rental, in the last two years the Ministry of Housing has signed collaboration agreements with all the Autonomous Communities (except the Basque Country and Navarra) and the Cities of Ceuta y Melilla for the implementation of the National Plan 2005-2008.

The measures included in these agreements mark the objectives to be achieved in the area of newly constructed subsidised housing, both for sale and rent, in each of the modalities provided in the National Plan; the purchase of second-hand housing for renting out; financial support for rental; restoration; and land.



In terms of promoting access to housing (whether purchased or rented), 95,255 subsidised houses began to be constructed in Spain in 2006 (the highest figure of the last 16 years). Seventy-nine point eight percent of the total was subsidised by the Central Administration, whilst 20.2% was subsidised through Autonomous Community initiatives. On the 31st of December 2006, more than 410,000 houses had been subsidised through the 2004 Crash Plan and the 2005-2008 Housing Plan and, on the 31st of December 2007, 617,112 houses had been subsidised, representing an achievement rate of 118.7% of the objectives agreed with the Autonomous Communities.

On the 19th of September 2007, the Support Plan for the Emancipation of Young People and Boosting Home Rental was presented. The Plan was designed jointly between the Ministry of Housing and the Treasury. Among the measures included in the Plan, fiscal deductions on rental and income to help young people emancipate are worth highlighting.

As regards the first measure, it is recognised that all persons living in rented accommodation with a maximum net annual income of 24,000 Euros are entitled to a 10.05% deduction in the State quota of the Personal Income Tax, as is currently the case with home buying (up to a maximum of 9,015 Euros). In the first year, this deduction could benefit as many as 700,000 families and it will be compatible with the above-mentioned income to help young people rent a property.

As regards the second measure, Royal Decree 1472/2007, which regulates the Basic Income to help Young People to Emancipate (RBE) was approved, which includes the following financial support:

- A monthly amount of 210 Euros, aimed at facilitating the payment of expenses associated with the rental contract of the usual house.
- An amount of 120 Euros, aimed at facilitating the payment of all kinds of expenses associated with putting down and maintaining a guarantee, if a guarantee is established with a private guarantor to guarantee the rental.
- A State loan of 600 Euros, paid back without interest when the deposit put down as rental guarantee expires at the end of the last of the many possible rental contracts successively signed within a maximum period of four years from the recognition of the right to the financial support, or, in any case, when the entitlement characteristics for continuing to receive the financial support are no longer met.

In addition to the above-mentioned measures, Royal Decree 14000/2007, dated 29th of October, which establishes the rules for the recognition of the supplement for beneficiaries of Social Security non-contributory retirement and disability pensions residing in a rented house, was approved. In the year 2007, this annual supplement was 350 Euros and paid in full by the Government of Spain.

As regards fostering rental, it is important to highlight the efforts of the State Corporation for Rental, Sociedad Pública de Alquiler (SPA), which handed over the keys of 3,391 rental



houses in 2007, 64.7% more than in the period from the introduction of the SPA, in October 2005, and the end of 2006, when 2,058 rental contracts were signed, according to the data supplied by this agency assigned to the Ministry of Housing.

With the aim of improving the real state property sector in all its facets, particularly in terms of promoting rental houses, on the 31st of July 2007 a "Round Table" was established comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Housing and the main property developers in Spain. One of the topics of debate of this round table will be the promotion of new developments for the rental market.

Within this line, another initiative is aimed at promoting the effectiveness of the land reserved for Subsidised Housing. The new Law on land, establishes a minimum reserve of 30% of the new residential land for subsidised housing, with the objective of contributing to curbing the prices of non-subsidised houses and facilitating access to housing among those excluded from the market.

The Law also obliges the establishment of publicly-owned land, separated and comprised of land free of building encumbrances specifically destined for the construction of subsidised housing and it therefore prohibits the sale or auction of publicly-owned land destined for subsidised housing above the maximum value established for land aimed at social use.

As regards the increase in the number, categories and new types of subsidised housing, 95,255 subsidised houses were constructed in Spain in 2006 (the highest figure of the last 16 years). The Central Administration financed Seventy-nine point eight percent, whilst 20.2% were subsidised through Autonomous Community initiatives. On the 31st of December 2006, more than 410,000 houses had been subsidised through the 2004 Crash Plan and the 2005-2008 Housing Plan and, on the 31st of December 2007, 617,112 houses had been subsidised, representing an achievement rate of 118.7% of the objectives agreed with the Autonomous Communities.

In terms of the system of possession, 75,312 houses (79.1%) were for purchase, 18,648 (19.6%) for rental, and the remaining 1.3% were self-built.

In 2007, 83,859 subsidised houses began to be constructed and 67,127 were finished, 11.2% more than in the previous year.

In terms of the system of possession, 61,794 houses (73.7%) were for purchase, 19,368 (23.1%) were for rental, and the remaining 3.2% were self-built.

The Plan boosts and strengthens restoration through four different initiatives: Full Restoration in Rundown Areas; Restoration in Historic or Urban Centres, One-off Restorations and Restoration for the Promotion of Rental.

On the 31st of January 2008, the Ministry of Housing had financed the restoration of 124,635 houses, representing a fulfilment rate of 73% of the Plan's forecasts.



In June 2007, 189 agreements had been signed with different town/city councils to restore Historic and Urban Centres including the Full Restoration of rundown districts, with an investment of more than 754 million Euros for restoring 35,506 houses.

In this respect, it is worth highlighting Spain's signing the "Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities". The second recommendation of this document calls for "special attention to deprived neighbourhoods within the global context of the city", given that the strategies aimed at caring for the environment, strengthening the economy, improving the labour market and fostering efficient and affordable urban transport are also determining factors of the urban regeneration process.

The financial support and subsidies established in the National Plan to facilitate access to subsidised housing for purchase continue in place through direct State support for making the initial down payment on a subsidised house and the loan subsidy.

On the 11th of December 2007, the Ministry of Housing and the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation signed an agreement for implementing a plan of initiatives to facilitate the Roma population's access to housing. The objectives of this agreement include making a diagnosis, designing intervention models and putting forward recommendations for addressing poor housing and shantytown problems in an active way.

This agreement is a follow up of the agreement signed in 2006 between the Ministry and the Foundation through which a joint commitment was made to conduct a Study-Map on housing and the Roma community in the entire Spanish territory as well as establish a working group to design initiatives aimed at promoting active policies for the eradication of poor housing and shantytowns.

The efforts of this team of experts gave rise to the document "Report on the Roma Community and Housing" whose final draft was presented in the Conference on Housing and the Roma Community held in October.

The only other thing similar to this Study-Map on housing and the Roma community in the Spanish territory has been the Roma Population Map of 1991. The aim was not to conduct a population census but to establish the base for obtaining reliable data on the location and distribution of the Roma population in the Spanish territory in order to be able to assess its evolution over the last fifteen years and the current living conditions in order to detect needs and propose adequate solutions to its present needs.

This study is designed in such a way as to generate an engine for loading information which, when adequately updated, will become the "Permanent Observatory on Housing and the Roma Population".

The task is complemented with the establishment of a network of guidance services aimed at the Roma population on housing issues, and the implementation of measures to promote active housing policies aimed at the Roma population, with special emphasis on the definitive eradication of shantytowns and poor housing.



On another front, we should specifically highlight the European Seminar held in Avilés under the name, “Municipal Plan for the Eradication of Shantytowns in Avilés” (Asturias). The overall objective of this experience, organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the European Commission and presented as a good practice, was the eradication of shantytowns in Avilés through access to legal housing backed by support measures aimed at the socio-labour integration of the Roma population and the promotion of intercultural coexistence.

The most immediate objectives were: access to decent housing which facilitates coexistence and social integration; restoration of the urban areas occupied by the eradicated shantytowns; awareness raising on the importance of the right to standard education as a means of achievement social integration as well as the schooling and regular attendance of all minors; improving the Roma population’s personal and social conditions for employability and encouraging habits that enhance the quality of life.

The determining elements of the Plan include the joint efforts of different public and private entities, the participation of Roma associations and affected families and the involvement of the Public Administrations in funding and executing the Plan.

In the last two years, programmes conducted by NGOs aimed at setting up and maintaining social integration flats, providing temporary accommodation and support during the socio-labour integration process of excluded persons, thus encouraging the development of personal and social skills, have been subsidised through the 0.52% Personal Income Tax allocation. Eight organisations were subsidised with 1,220,424 €.

Supervised flats provide stable accommodation with professional supervision to persons in a highly destructured situation. Although it includes persons requiring a slow process and intensive support, it is a temporary resource of an adaptable period. This resource is supervised by professionals with the aim of fostering the acquisition of interpersonal and domestic organisation skills.

Also subsidised through the 0.52% Personal Income Tax allocation were programmes conducted by different NGOs (among them, PROVIVIENDA) in 2006 and 2007, aimed at initiatives offering social mediation and support as well as information and advice on access to housing for persons, families and groups at risk or in a situation of social exclusion, including mediation with the private sector to facilitate these persons’ access to rental housing. The amount subsidised was 151,500 €.

The objectives of these programmes are to compile and assess applications and to mediate with the landlords, provide mediation, support and follow-up to the tenants, establish relations with organisations for joint interventions, create group activities with single-parent families, provide special support to families in crisis, and collaborate with other organisations working with the same target groups.



4. Justice

As regards access to free justice and legal counsel for arrested persons belonging to the most vulnerable groups, in addition to continuing with the implementation of Law 16/2005, dated 18th of July, published in Official State Bulletin no. 171 dated 19th of July 2005, which amends Law 1/1996, dated 10th of January, as regards free legal aid, the different professional associations, Autonomous Community Councils, Municipal Councils and even social organisations have been establishing and financing various services over the last years, either entirely with their own funds or together with entities or institutions of local, provincial or autonomous community administrations. Among others, the following are worth highlighting: Legal Counsel to Crime Victims, Legal Counsel to Abused Women (currently, gender violence), Legal Counsel on Immigration Issues (currently institutionalised as part of the administrative jurisdiction), Legal Counsel to the Elderly and Legal Advice and Counsel on Penitentiary Issues.

We can affirm that just over one million Spanish citizens receive assistance from Spanish lawyers when using the public justice system, whether paid with public funds or by professional associations.

Following the analysis of the current situation of the Legal Aid Scheme in Spain, the committee of experts of the Observatory on Free Justice has issued a series of proposals and recommendations to improve the exercise of this right, which, in relation to the most disadvantaged collectives, can be summarised as follows:

- Free selection of lawyer by the beneficiary of free justice.
- Improvements to immigrant's access to effective protection of the court.
- Improvement to the coverage of the Penitentiary Legal Advice and Counsel Service.
- Proposal for improving the service for disabled persons.
- Update and adaptation of the legal requirements for the granting of the free justice benefit.

In the last two years in Madrid, in legal counsel to arrested persons, 15,339 persons were assisted with regard to gender violence, 8,210 minors, 186 Minors with extrajudicial repairs, 8,292 refuge seekers and 994 asylum seekers.

With the aim of taking initiatives associated with the Plan against Domestic Violence, a series of measures have been implemented, such as:

The approval in 2006 of the National Plan on Awareness Raising and Prevention of Gender Violence (2007-2008) and the Catalogue of Urgent Measures against Gender Violence, in accordance with that established in section 3.1. of the Integral Law against Gender Violence (Organic Law 1/2004, dated 28th of December). The Government allocated 47,799,033 Euros



to this mission, of which 33,111,373 Euros were invested in the implementation of the Urgent Measures and 14,687,660 in the National Plan.

The series of measures approved (102) make up a common framework where all the players involved in the fight against gender violence share concepts and basic guidelines from which to steer their initiatives aimed at achieving two basic objectives: improving the response to this social scourge and generating a change in the social model to embrace the citizen's rights of women.

The goal of the Catalogue of Urgent Measures (20) is to reinforce a number of measures already in place as well as to introduce new ones aimed at making those already in place more effective. The measures have been grouped into four major objectives: Increase assistance and awareness raising; reinforce legal mechanisms and court protection; improve co-ordination between all the professional bodies dedicated to women victims of gender violence and the resources of all the administrations and secure the maximum restraint of abusers and aggressors, and establish common re-education of aggressors programmes and their implementation in all penitentiary centres.

All the above was reinforced with the approval in 2007 of ten additional measures against gender violence aimed at promoting sociological and statistical studies; increasing resources; fostering the tele-assistance service for all women with protection and stay-away orders; and mobilising society.

Additionally, it is worth highlighting that, in 2007, more than 140 million Euros were spent on assistance to gender violence cases. From the 15 exclusive courts in place in June 2005, in June 2007 the number was 83. From the 12 integral assessment forensic units in place in 2005, in 2007 the number was 30. From the 742 officers of the Law Enforcement Agencies' specialised units in December 2004, the number stood at 1,614 in 2007. To be more precise, the following measures were implemented:

- The establishment of the Assistance to Victims of Violent Crimes and Crimes against Sexual Freedoms Offices, a free public service under the Ministry of Justice whose basic functions are to provide information, guidance and support to citizens with regard to the rights recognised to them by law as victims of violent crimes and crimes against sexual freedom, as well as information, guidance and support with regards to the administrative procedures for applying for financial support. These offices are in place in all the provinces and to date are located in Tribunal buildings and Palaces of Justice of capital cities and in a number of other cities. They function in co-ordination with the institutions responsible for providing assistance to victims in the different Autonomous Communities and municipalities, in accordance with that established in the so-called "Specialised General Individual Model", which records the activities carried out and establishes a standard procedure guide executed all the way through the reception, guidance, information, intervention and follow-up phases.



- The establishment of an agreement with the Official Association of Psychologists for the provision of personalised assistance in the Assistance to Victims Offices, given that extending the psychological assistance service offered by the Assistance to Victims Offices, particularly to victims of gender violence, and ensuring a stronger presence of these professionals, is considered a priority by the Ministry of Justice.
- With the aim of complying with one of the measures included in the Catalogue of Urgent Measures, 42 exclusive Violence against Women courts have been established and 42 new specialised public prosecutors assigned, which will entail an investment of nearly 11 million Euros. Additionally, the legal aid scheme will be reinforced to ensure immediate 24-hour assistance.
- Lastly, specific training to professionals has been intensified, given that the Catalogue of Urgent Measures establishes that 222 new Law Enforcement officers will be assigned to the prevention and fight against gender violence, on which 7 million Euros will be invested.

Likewise, we should highlight the establishment of a free 24-hour assistance telephone number as well as an assessment of the necessary resources to guarantee the right to integral social assistance. Another initiative envisaged is the signing of several protocols aimed at improving the assistance to women victims of gender violence. The first, relative to healthcare assistance specifically addresses immigrant women, disabled women and minors. The second will establish common guidelines for risk assessment and will be aimed at the Law Enforcement Agencies and Autonomous Community Police Forces. The last will address co-ordination between the different administrations to ensure a global and integral response from all the services involved in situations of violence against women.

5. Inclusion in the Information Society

The Advance Plan, approved by the Council of Ministers on the 14th of November 2005, is framed within the strategic pillars of the National Reforms Plan designed by the Government to meet the Lisbon Agenda. To be precise, it is framed within the strategic pillar of promoting R+D+i (Research + Development + innovation) implemented by the Government through the 2010 Ingenio Plan and reinforced by the approval of Law 56/2007, dated 28th of December, as regards Promotion Measures aimed at the Information Society. The objective of the Plan is to encourage persons with special needs to join the Information Society through initiatives adapted to each of the collectives that make up the digital gap (the elderly, the disabled, or persons with social integration difficulties), given that the use of new technologies is an ideal means through which to ensure social integration, prevent digital exclusion and improve the quality of life.

With this aim, Resolution dated 19th of July 2006 and Resolution dated 12th of March 2007, both from the State Secretariat for Telecommunications and the Information Society, published a call for subsidy applications aimed at initiatives targeted to the inclusion of disabled and elderly persons in the Information Society. As a result, 51 projects presented by



31 institutions were approved and financed with 8,000,000 €, an average of 157,000€ per project.

On another front, the same State Secretariat selected the project, *Red Territorial de Ordenadores Adaptados a Personas con Discapacidad (Ret@dis)* (Territorial Network of Computers Adapted to the Disabled), presented by the Telefónica Foundation, within the framework of the 2006 call for subsidy applications for initiatives aimed at the inclusion of the disabled and the elderly in the Information Society. Ret@dis is an ambitious initiative entailing an investment of more than 324,000 Euros by the Ministry of Industry until December 2007, a figure that makes up 70 percent of the project's total budget, for the purpose of adapting computers to the physical capabilities of disabled persons. The project includes activities to encourage elderly persons to gain knowledge and use ICT, to which the most representatives associations of this collective in each of the Autonomous Communities will be invited.

All the studies conducted show that in Spain there is a gender gap in the use of internet and new technology. The causes of this situation range from the place that women hold in the labour market to cultural and institutional problems. In this line, Resolution dated 19th of July 2006 and Resolution dated March 2007, both from the State Secretariat for Telecommunications and the Information Society, published calls for subsidy applications for initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality in the Information Society. Forty-seven projects were approved for subsidies totalling 6,000,000 €, an average of 130,000 € per project.

Through Resolutions dated 20th of September 2006 and 12th of March 2007, the same State Secretariat published two calls for subsidy applications for initiatives aimed at encouraging the citizens from rural areas to join and remain in the Information Society. The objective of these calls for subsidy applications was to exercise a positive influence the following areas: the broadband in rural areas strategy, electronic administration in local authorities, digital cities, inclusion of citizens, the *Telecentros* programme, initiatives aimed at the safe use of internet by children and adolescents, and projects aimed at introducing local social agents into the Information Society. In total, 18 projects were approved in 2006, with total subsidies of 5,000,000 €, whilst in 2007, 18 projects were approved with total subsidies of 8,000,000 €, an approximate average of 360,000€ per project.

The *Telecentros* Programme (2005-2008) is aimed at municipalities located in rural areas and at disadvantaged urban districts. Its main objective is to facilitate rural populations and less integrated collectives access to new technologies in order to ensure their participation in the Information Society, and to programmes financed by Red.es, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food (MAPA) and the County Councils, with the collaboration of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP).

Within the framework of the Advance Plan, the public entity, Red.es, under the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce, has introduced the Revitalisation of the Tele-centre Network Programme to encourage the practical use of Internet in the 3000 public access to the Web centres spread across 39 Spanish provinces. The programme, which lasts 18 months



and on which Red.es has invested 2.5 million Euros, is aimed at emphasising the enormous potential of Internet in the area of local services. The initiative will promote the use of Internet in areas with Tele-centres in place, 85% in rural municipalities. The Tele-centres network currently has 2,342 centres and 219,800 registered users (and 658 new Tele-centres are expected to open in the course of 2007).

The Advance Loan Programme, included in the Advance Plan, seeks to promote, through a line of credit with an interest rate of 0%, the purchase of broadband equipment and connection by the public in general and young people, particularly university students. This measure has been channelled through collaboration agreements with credit entities and the Official Credit Institute, and includes the granting of preferential credits for purchasing broadband equipment and connection for boosting the use of ICT in the family environment.

Specifically, the “Loan to Young People and University Students” is aimed at young people between 18 and 35 years of age and students enrolled in Spanish university centres who have broadband internet connection or who request a new broadband internet connection. The “Digital Citizen Loan” is aimed at people residing in Spain, without an age limit, who have broadband Internet connection or who request a new broadband Internet connection. The maximum amount of the loan is 100% of the investment including VAT, up to 3,000 Euros per beneficiary at an interest rate of 0%. The amounts assigned throughout the course of the addendums to the agreement in 2006 and 2007 amount to 265,000,000 € with regard to the Digital Citizen Loan and 114,000,000 € with regard to the Loan to Young People and University Students. On the 31st of December 2007, the total amounts assigned and the number of operations carried out with regard to each type of loan were as follows: the Digital Citizen Loan: 66,599,034 € and 52,403 operations, the Loan to Young people and University Students: 13,4749,310 € and 10,045 operations.

The Singular Cities Programme, approved by the Council of Ministers on the 12th of May 2006 as part of the Advance Plan, was established as a continuation of the Digital Cities Programme. Its objective is to promote and introduce the Information Society into local authorities through the development and use of the digital public services, to improve the services provided by the Public Administrations, particularly in rural areas. The beneficiaries of this programme are local authorities which, in the 20005 census, held between 20,000 and 200,000 inhabitants.

The Mandate of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce announced the 2006 call for subsidy applications aimed at the implementation of the Singular Cities Programmes within the framework of the Advance Plan. Likewise, through Resolution dated 29th of January 2007, and within the Singular Cities Programme of the Advance Plan, the State Secretariat for Telecommunications and the Information Society granted 19,303,597 € to 72 town/city councils and Autonomous Communities. In 2007, 123 programmes were also subsidised through the Digital Town/City Council call for subsidy applications. The total amount of the subsidies destined for the projects approved in both calls for subsidy applications was 37,000,000 €, which is an approximate average of 200,000€ per project. As



regards the types of projects, they range from internal administrative management improvements to initiatives in the areas of healthcare, education, inclusion of citizens, infrastructure improvements, inclusion of citizens with special needs, etc.

As regards the Digital Cities Programme, which is the former name of the collaboration agreements signed between the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce and the Autonomous Communities with objectives similar to those of Singular Cities Programme, executed in 2006-2007, in 2006 the programme involved 42 cities and its funds were increased to 12,384,840 €. In 2007, when many of the projects subsidised through the call for subsidy applications ended, the cities involved were 24, with a total of 8,527,770 €.

The Extension of Broadband to Rural and Isolated Areas Programme (PEBA) implemented by the State Secretariat for Telecommunications and the Information Society, embraces the objectives and principles established in e-Europe 2005 and it is conducted based on the principles of co-operation between all levels of the Public Administration, equality and territorial cohesion.

This initiative is governed by Ministerial Mandate ITC/701/2005, dated 22nd of March 2005, and amended by Mandate ITC/996/2005, dated 16th of April 2005 (PEBA I). Subsequently, the 2007 call for subsidy applications to Extend Broadband to Rural and Isolated Areas Programme (PEBA II) was announced. The programme, which benefits 16 Autonomous Communities, has backed 29 projects and reached 5,706 municipalities with a total population of 8,037,139. The anticipated data for the PEBA I, shows that, on the 27th of July 2007, 92.3% of the citizens living in the areas included in the programme already had high-speed Internet service. The Autonomous Communities that do not participate in this initiative have their own programmes in place with the same objective. To encourage the investments of the awarded operators, in its day, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce approved public subsidies totalling 22.4 million Euros and repayable credits worth 34.7 million Euros at a zero interest rate.

Through the 2006 call for subsidy applications funded through Personal Income Tax, announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, for programmes aimed at facilitating excluded or at risk of exclusion persons access to information and communication technologies, 108,100 € were awarded to 4 programmes. In the 2007 call for subsidy application, the total amount awarded was 103,603 €, distributed among 3 programmes. The objective of these programmes was to counteract the obstacles in the way of access to and knowledge of information and communication technologies, given that a lack of minimum familiarity with these technologies can lead to major exclusion. Priority was given to programmes aimed at computer literacy and acquisition of basic skills on the use of new information and communication technologies by persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion.

In 2006, the State Secretariat for Telecommunications and the Information Society signed collaboration agreements with different Autonomous Communities, among them, the Basque Country, Cataluña, Murcia, the Canary Islands, La Rioja, Extremadura and the



Autonomous Cities of Ceuta y Melilla on the implementation of the Advance Plan in the period 2006-2010. These agreements cover different areas: Households and Social Inclusion of Citizens, Competitiveness and Innovation, Education and Learning in the Digital Era, Digital Public Services and Development of Broadband Infrastructure. Another objective of these agreements is to encourage the signing of the Citizens and Companies, e-Healthcare and Internet in the Classroom agreements. The ultimate aim is to contribute to the success of an economic growth model founded on increased productivity and competitiveness, the promotion of social and regional equality, universal accessibility and the improved well-being and quality of life of citizens.

There are 11 Autonomous Communities (Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, Aragón, Comunidad Valenciana, Murcia, Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, the Balearic Island and the Canary Islands) already holding approved projects within this National Programme. There are 8 Autonomous Communities included in the FEDER's Objective 1 regions (Andalucía, Asturias, the Canary Islands, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Comunidad Valenciana, Galicia and Murcia); for which the Programme is co-financed by the EU through the FEDER Operative Programme "Information Society".

According to the recent survey on the percentage of households with access to Broadband (including ADSL and cable) over the total number of households (first half of 2006), the percentage of households with access to internet through a broadband connection continues to rise. The percentage of households with broadband was 29.3% in June 2006, which is nearly 4.25 million households and 4.8 percentage points more than in December 2005, according to the results of the survey on equipment and use of information and communication technologies in households published by the NSI. Seventy-five percent of the households with access to internet have broadband, nearly 9 percentage points more than in December 2005, when 63% used ADSL and 13.1% the cable-modem supplied by cable television operators.

Support actions for persons in a highly vulnerable situation

1. The elderly

As part of the Action Plan for the elderly (2003-2007) different initiatives have been taken to maintain the elderly in their usual environments, strengthening the home-help and tele-assistance social services, among which, the extension of the collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha, and the Government's commitment to destine 5.9 million Euros to different collaboration agreements with public administrations on managing the home-help tele-service aimed at elderly and dependent persons, are worth highlighting.

Additionally, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs signed a collaboration agreement with the Autonomous Community of Asturias for the implementation of support initiatives



aimed at persons in a situation of dependence, through the pilot project “Prevention of Dependence and Day Support to Frail Elderly Persons”.

The programmes aimed at creating and maintaining places, and other initiatives, as well as those aimed at creating and maintaining places, and other initiatives, for persons suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, included in the Action Plan for the Elderly (2003-2007), are co-financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Autonomous Communities (except the Basque Country and Navarra) and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta y Melilla. The programmes, their activities and the co-financed amounts, are reflected in the annually-renewed collaboration agreement.

As of 2007, the programmes of the Action Plan for the elderly have been absorbed by the Action Plan for persons in a situation of dependence. Likewise, the co-financing and the selection of programmes and/or projects is now determined in collaboration agreements between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, through the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO), and the Autonomous Communities and Cities of Ceuta y Melilla. We should bear in mind that the concept of “dependent person” is not the same as that of “elderly person”, therefore the initiatives, in terms of beneficiaries and financing, are not comparable.

Through the 2006 call for subsidy applications, financed through Personal Income Tax and announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, aimed at implementing programmes for the elderly, 9,606,704 € were awarded to 32 programmes dedicated to personal assistance, night assistance, family break and family support as well as adaptation of housing, conducted by 22 organisations. In the 2007 call for subsidy applications, 9,859,204 € were distributed among 36 programmes conducted by 24 organisations. These programmes are aimed providing assistance to dependent or moderately dependent elderly persons in performing basic daily tasks as well as to the families looking after them, thus fostering the elderly person remaining in his/her home.

An amount of 8,944,210 € was spent on the promotion and adaptation of places for dependent persons in permanent stay gerontology centres, implemented through 23 programmes. In 2007, the amount was 8,525,210 €, distributed among 25 assistance programmes. The objective of these programmes is to create permanent-stay places for dependent persons, improving the infrastructure of gerontology centres in terms of operation, adaptation of places for dependent elderly persons and supplying equipment.

An amount of 3,374,300 € was spent on programmes managed by 12 organisations aimed at the promotion of places for dependent or moderately dependent persons in day gerontology centres, with the objective of avoiding their institutionalisation. In 2007, 3,949,372 € were spent on such programmes managed by 13 organisations. The programmes are aimed at creating, adapting, equipping and maintaining these places, including the provision of adequate vehicles for transporting these people to the centre. The objective is to reach more than 425,000 users through these programmes.



2. The Disabled

The Government approved Law 27/2007, dated 23rd of October, published in Official State Bulletin no. 255, dated 24th of October, which recognises the Spanish sign languages and regulates the oral communication support systems for deaf, disabled and deaf-blind persons.

The Law establishes the recognition and the regulation of the Spanish sign language, without prejudice to the recognition of the Catalan sign language within its sphere of linguistic use, and of the oral communication support systems, the right to learn, known and use the Spanish sign languages and oral communication support systems, allowing these resources to be chosen freely based on their ability to facilitate communication.

The first heading is dedicated to learning, knowledge and use of the Spanish sign languages. Chapter I specifically regulates learning in the education system whilst Chapter II addresses the use of Spanish sign languages through language interpreters in the different public and private areas.

The second heading is dedicated to learning, knowledge and use of oral communication support systems. Chapter I specifically regulates learning in the education system, and Chapter II addresses the use of oral communication support systems in the different public and private areas.

Likewise, the Law provides the establishment of the The Spanish Sign Language Linguistic Standardisation Centre, and the Spanish Centre of Subtitling and Audio-description and a Follow-up Commission is set up within the National Council on the Disabled.

Other initiatives have also been taken in this area, such as the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the National Confederation of the Deaf (CNSE) aimed at boosting the presence and the training of sign-language interpreters in the different administrations and public services, with a co-financed investment of 1.7 million Euros, of which, 1.1 million Euros was supplied by the Ministry; the signing of a collaboration protocol with Radio Televisión Española, the Federation of Autonomous Community Radio and Television Agencies and the Spanish Federation of Persons who Stutter to ensure that the media takes an appropriate approach and avoids the dissemination of humiliating or degrading stereotypes of persons affected by dysarthria or stutteringⁱ; and the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Confederation of Families of Deaf Persons (FIAPAS) for taking initiatives aimed at ensuring access to communication, information and knowledge to deaf persons who communicate orally.

The Government approved Law 49/2007, dated 26th of December, published in Official State Bulletin no. 310, dated 27th of December, which establishes the system of offences and sanctions in the area of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for disabled persons.



As regards the enabling regulations of the Law on Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination and Universal Accessibility, the heterogeneity of the existing legislation, the dispersion of responsibilities between the administrations, the scope and variety of the sectors involved, the economic implications and the need for a profound change of mentality, were sufficient reasons for, through the enabling regulations of the Law, defining the basic conditions of accessibility, listed in the actual law in line with the following areas, defined based on the criterion of transversality:

- Telecommunications and the information society.
- Developed public spaces, infrastructures and buildings.
- Transport.
- Goods and services available to the public.
- Relations with public administrations.

The Law established the obligation to execute a series of legislative regulations relative to the above-mentioned areas, which were drawn up with the participation of disabled persons through the Spanish Committee of Representatives of Disabled Persons (CERMI), as the most representative association.

The following regulations are currently approved:

- Royal Decree 366/2007, dated 16th of March, which establishes the conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination of disabled persons in their relations with the General Administration of the State; and Mandate PRE/446/2008, dated 20th of February, which defines the technical specifications and characteristics of the accessibility and non-discrimination conditions and criteria established in Royal Decree 366/2007.
- Royal Decree 505/2007, dated 20th of April, which approves the basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination of disabled persons as regards access to and use of developed public spaces and buildings.
- Royal Decree 1494/2007, dated 12th of November, which approves the Regulations on the basic conditions of access by disabled persons to technologies, products and services associated with the information society and social communication systems.
- Royal Decree 1544/2007, dated 23rd of November, which regulates the basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination as regards access to and use of means of transport by disabled persons.

Likewise, drawing up the basic conditions of universal accessibility and non-discrimination in the remaining areas, i.e., access to and use of goods and services available to the public in the areas of commerce, tourism, industry, and financial and insurance services, is near completion.



Section 17 of the Law on Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination and Universal Accessibility also envisages, among the defence measures referred to in the legal text, the establishment of an arbitration system which, without special formalities, is to hear and settle, binding both parties involved, the complaints or claims lodged by disabled persons relative to the areas included in the purpose of the Law. For this reason, Royal Decree 1417/2006, dated 1st of December, establishes the arbitration system for settling complaints and claims in the area of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility on grounds of disability, creating the equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility arbitration boards, as collegiate bodies for managing and administering the arbitration system.

In accordance with the II Action Plan for the Disabled (2003-2007) the following annual protocols of the Framework Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Autonomous Communities (except the Basque Country and Navarra) and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla have been signed, aimed at the implementation of annual projects, financed by the General Administration of the State and with a contribution of at least 50% of the total from each Autonomous Community. In 2006, the total amount invested in these projects was 10,102,518.12 € (4,945,710 € funded by the General Administration of the State and 5,156,808.12 € by the Autonomous Communities) and in 2007 the total amount rose to 11,992,809.25 € (5,945,710 funded by the General Administration of the State and 6,047,099.25 € by the Autonomous Communities). In 2007 a new criterion was added to the previous three (1. Social and healthcare assistance to disabled women, persons with brain damage and other groups with serious disabilities. 2. Support to families caring for a disabled person and 3. Promotion of autonomy), agreed by the Social Services Sectoral Conference and subsequently approved by the Government. The additional fourth criterion being “Assistance to severely or moderately dependent persons: families, carers or the dependent person”.

The implementation of the I National Plan on Accessibility 2004-2012 is carried out in periods of three years. A total investment of 625 million Euros is expected to be made during the entire length of the Plan. Through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the following initiatives have been taken to promote accessibility:

In 2006, 364,560 € were invested in conducting comprehensive studies on accessibility in the public administration and public service offices of the different Ministerial departments to ensure that these areas are user-friendly and accessible to all persons, with the aim of obtaining a diagnosis of accessibility to developed areas and buildings and to establish a Global Accessibility Sustainable Improvement Plan.

In 2007, 422,000 € were invested in conducting accessibility and user-friendly studies, as well as a proposal of recommendations aimed at achieving the recognised objectives of accessibility to the different websites of the General Administration of the State. Given the fact that electronic administration, resolving administration queries and performing full administrative procedures through the web is one of the basic pillars of progress towards a



modern public service, a design centred on all users is required, i.e., designed based on proven accessibility and usability criteria.

Through a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the National Confederation of the Deaf, the sign-language interpreters service was established to ensure deaf persons' access to the processes associated with exercising the basic rights of citizens, and to facilitate oral communication between the public administration and the deaf whenever they choose to communicate via this system. In 2006, the financing of this agreement stood at 1,140,750 €, rising to 1,174,973 € in 2007.

The Telephone Intermediation Centre is a service promoted by the General Directorate for Sectoral Policies on Disability under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, to facilitate telephone communication between deaf persons and/or persons with hearing or speech impediments using text telephones, mobile telephones, fax or videoconferences, with persons of normal hearing using conventional telephones. In 2006, the amount spent on this service (August-December) was 165,221.52 €, rising to 407,282.04 € in 2007.

The recently established National Demonstrator of Accessibility Technology Centre acts as a permanent accessibility technology showroom aimed at its dissemination and promotion both at national and international level; it is a centre for official recognition and standardisation of accessibility technology; a meeting point between the Spanish accessibility industry, service operators, users and the associative movement; a laboratory for testing accessibility technology and its adaptation to household technology; as well as a platform for producers of accessibility technology to carry out tests and assess initiatives designed to meet the demands of users.

As regards improvements in transport accessibility, 55 agreements have been signed with local authorities to set up accessible taxis and, as a result of several agreements with the Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and different Autonomous Community and local agencies, more than 500 urban and inter-urban accessible buses have been adapted. Additionally, on the 17th of November 2006 the Government approved the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Administration Agency of Railway Infrastructure (Adif) for the implementation of an accessibility programme in the stations and trains of the National Railway Network (RENFE). The agreement has been allocated six million Euros, half of which financed by each party. The signed agreement has been allocated 364,560 €.

An agreement signed in December 2006 between the Royal Patronage of Disabled Persons and the Distance Learning University (UNED) established the Assistance to Disabled University Students Centre (UNIDIS), with the objective of guaranteeing access to higher education to persons with some form of disability and offer advice to the Assistance to Disabled Persons Units. The service, which will be introduced in early 2007, will offer information and services to the Disability Offices of other universities, will work on research



projects associated with university and disability and will provide training on accessibility to trainers.

On the 1st of December 2006, the Government approved the 2007 Action Plan for Disabled Women, as provided in section 8 of the Law on Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination and Universal Accessibility, which expresses the need to take action aimed at disabled persons with special difficulties, such as women.

The objective of the first Action Plan for Disabled Women is to remove the obstacles that give rise to a large deficit of civic responsibility towards disabled women, through measures to guarantee the exercise and enjoyment of their rights and full participation in social life. This Plan includes a series of measures organised according to a structure divided into eight areas which establish operative objectives to respond to the detected needs. The eight areas are: I. Images and Prejudices, II. Family life, Emotional Relations and Maternity; III. Education; IV. Employment; V. Power and Participation; VI. Violence; VII. Health; and VIII. Social and Legal Protection.

The 2007 Action Plan for Disabled Women has taken positive initiatives and cross-cutting measures in a way that the initiatives taken by this Directorate take into consideration the different situations of men and women. The most significant are:

- In the area of research: the studies conducted, particularly those conducted with the Institute of Policies and Sociology, on “Indicators of disabled women” (2006), for the Action Plan on Disabled Women, and on the “Situation of disabled persons, with gender analyses” (2007), for the draft copy of the III Plan on Disabled Persons, were carried out using comparative data and analysis between both sexes in all areas. Likewise, the Survey on Disability, Personal Autonomy and Situation of Dependence (EDAD), conducted in collaboration with the National Statistics Institute and is about to be completed, contains information broken down by sex as well as gender analyses.
- On-line information: the Disability Information Service (SID) made available by the Ministry in collaboration with the University of Salamanca, has a women’s section that includes the above-mentioned Action Plan as well as information on events and many other areas of interest on and for disabled women.
- On-site information and guidance: the Specialised Permanent Office of the National Council on the Disabled offers information and guidance on resources available to disabled women and prepares reports on complaints and/or claims, broken down by sex. Likewise, the recommendations that it issues are conceived from a gender point of view.
- Assistance programmes: one of the priority criteria when co-financing projects with the Autonomous Communities and Cities is that the projects must be aimed at assisting to disabled women and single-parent families.



- Collaboration with other Directorates: this Directorate is part of the Childhood, Inclusion, Families and Roma Population Councils. In these Councils, the gap between disabled women and men, girls and boys is emphasised. Likewise, on request of the General Directorates responsible for promoting these Councils, they provide information on the initiatives taken. Likewise, reports are prepared for the Delegation of the Government on Gender Violence.
- Dissemination, Training and Awareness Raising: this Directorate participates in different forums of disabled women organised by the associative movement as well as in forums of women's organisations and other agencies, with the aim of highlighting the gap between both sexes and the measures to be taken to counteract such inequalities.

Through the call for subsidy applications financed through Personal Income Tax and announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for projects aimed at the disabled, a total of 17,477.327 € was assigned in 2006, rising to 18,018,312.05 € in 2007, to encourage independent living and social integration, particularly among persons in a situation of dependence. In both years, the funds were distributed among 70 programmes.

These programmes are aimed at encouraging independent living and social integration of disabled persons, thus helping them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. On this specific objective, 5,371,100 € were invested in 2006, distributed among 26 programmes managed by 21 organisations. In the 2007 call for subsidy applications financed through Personal Income Tax, the amount rose to 5,545,386 €, distributed among 29 programmes. This distribution also includes a series of interventions aimed at fostering and developing personal skills and abilities as a means of support for personal autonomy and independent living, as well as the implementation of new assistance, information and communication technologies.

On specialised personal home assistance and care programmes, promotion of day centres, residential centres and supervised or shared housing, 7,079,207€ were allocated to 25 programmes in 2006. In 2007, the figure rose to 7,296,207 €, distributed among 26 programmes.

These area also includes night care programmes as well as family break and family support programmes aimed at families caring for disabled persons, with an allocation of 5,027,020 € in 2006 and 5,176,720 € in 2007.

On another front, through the call for applications for subsidies under the General Scheme for the area of assistance to the disabled, announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, aimed at social action to encourage social inclusion and support the associative and foundational movement among disabled persons, a total of 3,984,220 €, distributed among 57 action programmes, was invested in 2006, and 4,984,220 € in 2007, distributed among 62 action programmes.



From its side, the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services granted 4,401,680 € in subsidies for tourism and spa initiatives aimed at the disabled in 2006 and 5,120,250 € in 2007. The objective of these programmes is to encourage socio-family integration, offering family groups the opportunity to travel with disabled minors under 16 years of age accompanied by their parents, guardians or carers.

In June 2007, the National Catalogue of Services for the Disabled was presented. It was prepared by the Psicost Scientific Association, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. It is a single database of the assistance resources available to disabled persons offered by public administrations and private entities. The catalogue enables disabled persons and researchers to consult the centres and services available in the Autonomous Communities and the cities of Ceuta y Melilla. The system was set up using the DESDE System (Standardised Description of Services in Spain for the Disabled), an adaptation of the Spanish version of the European Service Mapping Schedule (ESMS), which provides a standardised classification of the assistance devices, regardless of the name given to them, the territory where they are located and the administration offering them.

Lastly, Spain's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on the 27th of November 2007, and its entry into force on the 3rd of May 2008, marks a large step in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all disabled persons, fostering respect for their inherent dignity.

3. Women

Parliament approved Organic Law 3/2007, dated 22nd of March, as regards Effective Equality for Women and Men. The primary objective of this Law is to make effective the principle of equal treatment and the elimination of all discrimination against women in all areas of life and public or private activity. The text transcribes Directive 2002/73/EC, which amends Directive 76/207/EC, as regards the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in relation to access to employment, training and promotion of professionals, as well as working conditions; and Directive 2004/113/EC, as regards the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in access to goods and services and their supply.

Prior to that, in the area of equality, on the 3rd of February 2006 the Government approved an Agreement authorising the signing of a collaboration framework agreement (2006-2007) between the Women's Institute and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) to set up an Experimental Programme for the development of municipal policies with an added the gender perspective. The amount invested in financing the Agreement was 100,000 Euros, distributed in equal shares for the financial years 2006 and 2007. The aim of the experimental programme was to test a work methodology and instruments for the development of equality policies in local administrations (local authorities, town/city councils, provincial councils, associations of townships and inter-island councils) through



seven organisations selected by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces. The result would be the design of a local action plan for equality.

An agreement on the implementation of measures to encourage equality between women and men was also approved in March 2006, calling for the implementation of the measures still pending and for information on the execution of the measures in the course of 2006. The subsequent Report from the first vice-president of the Government on the degree of fulfilment of each of the measures, expressed that the majority had been fulfilled and incorporated into the bill on equality.

On another front, in March 2006 the National Statistics Institute (INE) presented the publication "Women and Men in Spain 2006 and 2007" based on different statistical sources. It provided information on gender inequality in Spanish society aimed at helping to promote equality policies. The information is broken down by areas, such as population and family, education, the labour market, decision-making, income, crime and violence, and health.

In September 2007, the Women's Institute set up the Virtual School on Equality, a free on-line information service on equal opportunities for men and women, co-financed by the European Social Fund.

In October 2007, the Government approved the guidelines for the inclusion in public contracts of conditions aimed at promoting effective equality between women and men, in accordance with section 33 of Organic Law 3/2007 dated 22nd of March, as regards effective equality between women and men.

As regards the implementation regulations of Organic Law 1/2004, dated 28th of December, as regards Integral Protection Measures against Gender Violence and, more precisely, as regards the Fund for Integral Social Assistance against Gender Violence, the Government allocated 12 million Euros in 2006 to setting up the services aimed at guaranteeing the right of integral assistance to women victims of gender violence. On the 26th of May 2006, the criteria for distribution 66.5% of the total between the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla were approved. Each Autonomous Community and City would contribute an amount that would at least match the Government's share.

The National Plan on Awareness Raising and Prevention of Gender Violence includes initiatives centred on a series of priority areas, among them, Social Services. To be precise, Point 2 includes the Promotion of Innovative Autonomous Community and Local projects aimed at guaranteeing the right to integral social assistance. These projects must necessarily contemplate the situations of disabled women, immigrant women, elderly women, rural women and women from ethnic minorities, as well as assistance to minors.

In accordance with that provided in the National Plan and in the meeting held on the 31st of January with the Equality Entities of the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, Royal Decree 972/2007, dated 13th of July, was published. This Royal Decree regulates the granting of direct subsidies to certain Autonomous Communities



and local authorities for developing innovative projects aimed at guaranteeing women victims of gender violence the right to integral social assistance.

To finance these projects, a total of 6.5 million Euros was allocated: 4,000,000 Euros to the projects of the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, and 2,500,000 Euros to local projects (municipalities with more than 150,000 inhabitants). In all cases, co-financing was required.

For this purposes, innovation is understood as “the overall measures adopted at Autonomous Community/City and local levels aimed at exploring new intervention models and/or methodologies that give or can give shape to an alternative intervention model aimed at the development and reinforcement of the right to integral social assistance, providing an added value from the usual practice, in accordance with section 19 of the Integral Law”.

It is about changing or going beyond the intervention practices that are proving to be insufficient or obsolete and initiating the implementation of integral experiences that can be transferred in the medium and long-term, once validated and contrasted.

In the social support chapter, section 27, this Integral Law establishes financial support for women victims of gender violence who do not have an income and have special difficulties in finding a job.

It is therefore an instrument aimed at instances where, once the labour-market integration itinerary has been prepared by the respective Employment Public Services, the special difficulties experienced by the victim in finding a job are contrasted and, as a result of this, she is not obliged to participate in the employment programmes in place for this purpose.

Its alternative nature also has another objective, provided that the financial support is aimed at making effective the principle established in section 2.e) of the Integral Law, which is to guarantee certain economic rights to the victims to facilitate their social integration.

Based on that provided in part 3, section 27, this financial aid is financed through the National Budgets, although it is granted by the competent social services administrations. Consequently, the Autonomous Communities are also authorised to establish, through their specific regulations, the procedure for granting the financial support applied for in their territory.

In 2006, this financial support was granted to 61 persons, making up a total of 333,454 Euros, and in 2007, the number of persons rose to 154, receiving a total of 892,513.44 Euros.

In May 2007, the Strategic Plan on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women 2008-2011 was approved. This plan defines the Government’s policy on equality in the following areas of action:

1. Political and social participation,
2. Economic participation,
3. Co-responsibility,
4. Education,
5. Innovation,
6. Knowledge,
7. Health,
8. Image,
9. Attention to Diversity and



social Inclusion, 10. Violence, 11. Foreign and co-operation for development policy, 12. Protection of the right to equality.

The mobile tele-assistance service has been operating since January 2005, as of the extension of the Framework Tele-assistance Agreement signed between the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.

It is a vital service in assistance to and protection of victims of gender violence for several reasons:

The mobile tele-assistance service guarantees integral, permanent (24 hours a day), immediate and adequate assistance in emergencies, through specialised persons, providing safety to the user and mobilising the necessary resources in accordance with the type of emergency.

The mobile telephone is equipped with GPS and GSM, therefore, in an emergency, it transmits the geographic location of the victim of gender violence.

It is a free service fully financed through the National Budgets, with the guarantee that it is available to all women who request, provided that they meet the eligibility requirements.

Since its introduction, there have not been any deaths of victims of gender violence, and a number of them have even been prevented.

Improvements in the area of information and access

With the objective of promoting this service, different measures aimed at improving the information on the service and facilitating access to it have been adopted:

In accordance with the Catalogue of Urgent Measures against Gender Violence, approved by the Council of Ministers held on the 15th of December 2006, the service is extended to women holding a stay-away order (a protection order was initially required).

Within the framework of the Commission on the establishment of the protection order, it was agreed that, as of the 1st of January 2007, the application form for the protection order should include specific information on the mobile tele-assistance service.

In 2007, the Delegation of the Government, in collaboration with the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services, published 155,000 information brochures on the service and the eligibility requirements (available in Castilian Spanish, Gallego, Catalan, Basque, English and French).

Collaboration protocols have been signed with the regional governments of Asturias, Valencia and Aragón.

Through Royal Decree 253/2006, dated 3rd of March, the functions, operation system and structure of the National Observatory on Violence against Women were established. The Observatory was founded as a collegiate body responsible for advising, assessing,



collaborating with institutions, preparing reports, conducting studies and proposing initiatives to combat gender violence. The Observatory assesses the impact of the implemented policies and measures aimed at eradicating gender violence and mitigating its effects. Its structure includes a broad and equal participation of the public institutions involved and civil society, with a high presence of women's organisations.

Among the initiatives taken so far by the National Observatory, we should mention the following:

-Drawing up the National Plan on Awareness Raising and Prevention of Gender Violence (2007-2008)

To draw up the National Plan on Awareness Raising and Prevention of Gender Violence a specific working team was set up in the National Observatory. Additionally, the Plan was unanimously approved in the Plenary Session of the National Observatory prior to being submitted to the Council of Ministers, which approved it on the 15th of December 2006.

-Drawing up and approval of the first report of the National Observatory on Violence against Women (2007)

Section 30 of the Integral Law provides that the National Observatory on Violence against Women will submit to the Government and to the Autonomous Community, on an annual basis, a report on the evolution of gender violence and the effectiveness of the measures in place to protect the victims, including proposals of initiatives which, as the case may be, may lead to legal reforms, with the aim of guaranteeing maximum protection for women.

This first report of the National Observatory on Violence against Women includes the System of Indicators and Variables based on which to build the National Observatory's Database. In its third plenary session held on the 28th of June 2007, the National Observatory approved this first report and, as an attachment, the System of Indicators and Variables. The Council of Ministers held on the 13th of July 2007 learnt of the contents of the report and the System of Indicators.

-Database

The first report issued by the National Observatory expresses the difficulty involved in gaining insight into the scope and characteristics of gender violence and making an adequate follow-up of the phenomenon due to the fragmentation, dispersion, heterogeneity and comparison difficulties of the data available on gender violence. Therefore, the first recommendation of the first report is the creation of the National Observatory's database based on the indicators and variables.

The Delegation of the Government completed the initial design of the National Observatory's Database on the 28th of September 2007 and, since then, its implementation has been underway.



The reception of micro-data - always without identifiable information - has begun. It is supplied by the Ministry of Justice, the National Public Service for Employment, the General Directorate for Social Inclusion, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Administrations and the National Statistics Institute.

Moreover, the Delegation of the Government has made available to the Observatory's Database, always observing non-availability of identifiable information, the data relative to:

Calls answered by the information and legal advice telephone 016. The statistical information relative to this service is already being exploited by the Delegation of the Government and disseminated through its web page.

Mortal victims of gender violence. The statistical information relative to mortal victims is a statistical operation included in the National Statistics Plan 2005-2008, and the agency responsible for this is the Studies and Reports Division of the Delegation of the Government on Gender Violence.

Types of financial support established in section 27 of the Integral Law.

On another front, the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services has already been asked to supply micro-data relative to users of the Mobile Tele-assistance Service.

As regards data from surveys and other primary sources, the National Observatory's Database includes micro-data from three macro-surveys on violence against women conducted by the Women's Institute, which will be subject to exploitation and analysis from the gender violence perspective. Moreover, there are plans underway to include the micro-data from the monthly barometers of the Sociological Research Centre, and, in the area of the Statistics Commission of the former Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, a proposal from the Delegation of Government to include, whenever appropriate, questions on gender violence in the surveys conducted by this Department was approved.

As regards documents of interest, a document database manager from the former Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is expected to perform this task.

- "Against Gender Violence. Statistics Bulletin"

Since March 2007, the Delegation of the Government on Gender Violence, through its Studies and Reports Division, prepares and disseminates the above-mentioned publication on a quarterly basis, providing the results and identification of sources of data and their analyses.

- Studies

The H axis of the National Plan on Awareness Raising and Prevention of Gender Violence, as regards research and study, establishes the need for different research studies on this phenomenon, both specific and as part of general lines of action.

In 2007, the Delegation of the Government promoted a specific research study on "Disability as a result of gender violence".



- Reports and Documents

The Delegation promotes and prepares reports and documents that provide new insight into the phenomenon of gender violence.

In this respect, in 2007 the Studies and Reports Division, in collaboration with SIGMA DOS, re-exploited the data gathered in the macro-surveys on violence against women, and part of the results were disseminated through the statistics bulletins and used as benchmarks of the scope of the phenomenon in the National Observatory's first report.

Moreover, in 2007, a contextualisation report was promoted on lines of work and actions of men who actively apply equality and non-violent practices; this report was written by the researcher Luis Bonino and is currently in the printing stage under the Publishing Programme of the former Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

As regards collaboration with NGOs, in the call for subsidy applications announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in 2006 and financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 8,548,921 € were granted to 85 programmes specifically aimed at women. The objective of these programmes is to reach more than 275,000 women. In the call for subsidy applications of 2007, 8,679,635 € were granted and distributed among 87 programmes.

Of these totals, in 2006 and 2007, 2,847,149 € and 2,839,650 €, respectively, were distributed among 30 programmes aimed at the social integration of women in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, particularly focussing on interventions in the areas of socio-education, personal, social and labour-market integration and health improvement throughout the life cycle, as well as information, legal advice and psychological assistance.

In 2006, 1,854,677 € and in 2007, 1,947,391 € were granted to 21 and 23 programmes, respectively, aimed at encouraging the incorporation of women into the labour market by fostering the incorporation, permanence and promotion of women in the labour market, as well as fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and business initiatives among women, particularly those facing special difficulties in gaining access to the labour market and those in a situation or at risk of social exclusion.

In 2006, 3,847,095 € were granted to 34 programmes managed by 23 organisations and, in 2007, 3,892,595 € were granted to 34 programmes all aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women in all its manifestations: gender violence, violence associated with trafficking with women for sexual exploitation purposes (prostitution) and crimes against sexual freedom. In addition to prevention and information, these programmes are also aimed at offering women victims of violence assistance through Shelter Centres and other assistance services. Priority has been given to programmes that promote the maintenance of Shelter Centres (emergency centres, shelter homes and/or supervised flats) and offer psychological assistance, social support and legal assistance to victims, programmes aimed at offering information, referral to specific resources, psychological assistance, social support and legal assistance to victims of gender violence, violence in the work place, crimes against sexual freedom and violence associated with trafficking with women for sexual exploitation



purposes, who do not reside in Shelter Centres, as well as programmes aimed at the socio-labour integration of victims of violence with a view to encouraging economic independence.

Programmes aimed at the social and labour-market integration of groups of women at risk of exclusion

The Women's Institute designs different initiatives aimed at improving the situation of different collectives of women that are vulnerable to situations of social exclusion, among them, a number of women from different collectives, such as gypsies and immigrants.

a) Collaboration with the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation

In this respect, since 1988 close collaboration has been maintained with the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation with the aim of taking initiatives aimed at promoting the social participation and labour-market integration of gipsy women.

b) The "CLARA" programmes

Its basic objective is to increase the employability of women in a situation or at risk of exclusion who are facing special difficulties in gaining access to the labour market, by improving their employment skills.

The programme is targeted at the following collectives of women:

- Victims of gender violence
- Women responsible for the family unit
- Women above 45 years of age without qualifications
- Women belonging to ethnic minorities
- Immigrant women
- Disabled women
- Women prisoners

This project consists of designing a comprehensive and personalised social and labour-market integration itinerary based on the specific needs of each woman and her starting point. It is implemented through an interactive methodology centred on the gender perspective, working on personal/professional aspects of the woman through different initiatives aimed at increasing self-confidence, offering vocational training and labour intermediation and encouraging labour-market integration. In 2007, 950 women requested information on this programme, 600 interviews were conducted and 434 students participated in the itinerary.

c) The "SARA" programmes

The main objective of this project is to improve the quality of life of immigrant women through improved social participation and, particularly, job skills.



The programme is targeted at immigrant women, victims of social and cultural barriers which make the socio-labour integration of this collective difficult.

It consists of integration itineraries based on the gender and intercultural perspective, adapted to the needs and characteristics of each woman through specifically designed contents with a diversity backdrop. It is implemented through an interactive methodology which works to provide motivation and support to women for their participation and integration.

In 2007, the project was implemented through agreements with the following voluntary and non-profit humanitarian organisations:

- THE RED CROSS

- CEPAIM (Consortium of Organisation for Comprehensive Action with Migrants)

The itineraries have been conducted in eight territories with the participation of 249 women of 18 different nationalities.

The "BEMBEA" project

Its objective is to foster employment promotion and employability of immigrants through the incorporation of gender mainstreaming into immigration and employment policies.

Within this framework, initiatives have been taken aimed at diversifying the professional opportunities of immigrant women and men and improving professional skills, the establishment of meeting and dialogue points between the native and immigrant population through the creation of citizen participation bodies, and the introduction a psycho-social assistance service.

One of the most important initiatives has been a research project on the scope and characteristics of gender violence associated with immigrant women and the design of intervention protocols.

Awareness-raising and training programme

d) ON-LINE

Virtual school on equality

This Virtual School on Equality was established in response to the firm determination to foster a better understanding of the concept of equal opportunities for women and men and what it really involves, encouraging its application in one's personal and professional life to achieve a fairer society.

The school is open to everyone and the subjects taught are associated with our own individual construction and the construction of an egalitarian society for both women and men.



There are two course levels:

- The basic course is aimed at persons interested in the area of equality and lasts 30 hours.
- The advanced course is aimed at persons associated with employment management and guidance and social services.

On another front, in the 2006 call for subsidy applications aimed at initiatives to foster gender equality in the Information Society, 28 projects from different organisations were subsidised with a total of 2,992.106 Euros.

Mobility for reasons of gender violence against female public servants is regulated in section 82 of Law 7/2007, dated 13th of April, as regards the Basic Statute of Public Employees, which reproduces section 20.1.i) of Law 30/1984, with the peculiarity that, instead of a preferential right, the woman victim of gender violence has the right to be transferred to another job post even if the vacancy did not necessarily need covering.

In the procedure for this type of mobility, the rules in force for temporary assignments are applied. In this respect, in the case of female public servants, mobility for reasons of gender violence is resolved within each Ministry, making available to female public servants all the available and suitable vacancies to enable a transfer to another organic unit or, as the case may be, to a different town/city from the usual place of residence. Should a change of Ministerial Department be required, the Ministry of Public Administrations intervenes through the General Secretariat of the Public Administration.

To be precise, in 2006 and 2007, 21 and 22, respectively, mobility applications for reasons of gender violence were authorised by Ministerial Departments.

Moreover, in the course of 2007, an instance arose where the mobility of the female public servant inside the same Ministerial Department was not possible, and a transfer to another Ministry was authorised by the Secretary of State.

In short, in the area of the General Administration of the State, there have been no major obstacles with regard to the implementation of this measure.

However, the biggest problem is found in the single-province Autonomous Communities and the town/city councils. For this reason, the General Directorate of the Public Service is going to propose the adoption of an agreement in this area in the Employment Co-ordination Commission.

The objective of this agreement would be to facilitate mobility between different Public Administrations in cases of gender violence by adopting mobility mechanisms between the Administrations of the different Autonomous Communities and of the Local Authorities, which would resolve the geographical restrictions in the search for vacancies.



Likewise, besides the above-mentioned initiatives, the General Directorate of the Public Service has solved two cases of female public employees assigned, respectively, to an Autonomous Community and a Town/City Council who confirmed that they were affected by this type of violence, by transferring them to job posts in the General Administration of the State.

Thus, the General Administration of the State is making progress in adopting and executing measures associated with mobility of female public servants for gender violence reasons, even when the violence affects female employees of other Public Administrations, in accordance with the principles of collaboration and co-operation.

From the above, we can assume that the General Directorate of the Public Service has moved forward the implementation of that future Agreement on inter-administration mobility for reasons of gender violence, interpreting the regulations in force in the area of transfers with certain flexibility.

4. Youth

The 2005-2008 Inter-ministerial Youth Plan, approved by the Government on the 1st of July 2005, is a strategic instrument for addressing the main challenges and demands of young people based on an assessment of the situation. Young people's participation in preparing the plan was essential, with more than 20,000 young people putting forward their proposals. Emancipation, including employment and housing; participation; co-existence and diversity; healthy living habits and the environment; leisure, culture and free time; and education/training, are the priorities areas of the plan.

In 2006, 229 initiatives were taken, with funding totalling 2,483,712,853 €, and in 2007, 228 initiatives were taken with a budget of 3,198,521,949 €.

By areas, we can highlight that, in the area of emancipation, in July 2006, the Youth Institute presented the Youth Emancipation Programme aimed at facilitating young people between 16 and 35 years of age access to employment and decent housing. The programme is implemented between the Youth Institute, the different Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta y Melilla. The first tool to be set in motion was the youth emancipation virtual office at <http://www.emancipacionjoven.es>, followed by a network of Youth Emancipation Offices that provide information, advice, supervision, support and training to young people, conceived as a free public service to promote the labour-market integration of young people in the European labour market, as well as to facilitate access to housing through purchase and, in particular, rental. In 2007, more than 150 Youth Emancipation Offices opened throughout Spain.

To promote participation, in 2006, the Youth Institute established the following Bodies for Dialogue with Young People: the Governing Board, the Tripartite Commission on Youth Employment (Mandate MTAS dated 10th of November 2006), the Youth Institute's Inter-



territorial Council and the Inter-ministerial Commission to enable young people to address themselves directly to the Government and co-manage all the issues affecting them.

In the area of healthy living habits, it is worth highlighting the collaboration agreements signed in 2006 with Autonomous Communities for the implementation of programmes on prevention of dangerous conduct, unwanted pregnancies, drug addiction and eating disorders (the Balearic Islands), alcohol prevention and road safety (La Rioja), the youth assistance telephone for sexuality and eating disorders issues (Comunidad Valenciana) and for the implementation of the Augamar programme on education and promotion of environmental volunteer work in the area of the coastline and the marine environment (Galicia).

In May 2007, a programme of micro-credits for young people was introduced, designed to facilitate young disadvantaged people below 35 years of age access to financing in the form of micro-credits aimed at setting up a business project. The financing set up for this programme was 6 million Euros, and subsequently extended by a further 700,000 Euros. The initiative was taken with the collaboration of the charity trusts of two savings banks as financial entities, as well as a number of social organisations.

In the area of housing, the current 2005-2008 Housing Plan particularly caters for the needs of low-income young people and families. Within the framework of the 2005-2008 Housing Plan, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, through the Youth Institute, collaborates with the Ministry of Housing through the Youth Emancipation Programme, with the programme “Bank of youth housing for rent”, managed by the Youth-Housing Emancipation Offices. In 2006, 279,770 young people and 93,678 homeowners were attended, and 5,791 flats were rented (to 11,096 young people) with an average rent of 485.68 Euros.

The Youth Institute (INJUVE) and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) signed a general agreement in 2006 and 2007 for the implementation of different initiatives aimed at young people in the local sphere. In 2006, a budget of 969,520 € was allocated to 109 projects and, in 2007, a budget of 696,550 € was allocated to 184 projects. These initiatives are aimed at areas of emancipation, health and the environment, co-existence, participation and infrastructure, resources and spaces.

As regards collaboration agreements with Autonomous Communities, the Youth Institute signed agreements with all of them (except Navarra and the Basque Country), as well as with the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta y Melilla, making a total of 16 agreements and a budget of 2,616,821.30 € allocated to 72 projects in 2006. In 2007, 15 agreements were signed for the implementation of 64 projects, with a total budget of 2,362,467.20 €.

Another agreement worth highlighting is the one signed in March 2006 between the Youth Institute and the Spanish Confederation of Associations of Young Entrepreneurs (AJE Confederación), which was extended in 2007, to collaborate in the area of the Youth



Emancipation Programme, for access to employment and housing, as well as in the Seedbed of Companies Project.

On another front, the Youth Institute (INJUVE) and the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation signed an agreement in April 2006 for the purpose of designing, implementing and assessing a programme of general interest aimed at fostering the social participation of young gipsy people through the promotion of their cultural identity in today's society.

In the area of subsidies, in 2006, the Youth Institute allocated 2,957,570 € to 64 organisations for the implementation of 147 programmes and, in 2007, it allocated 2,973,050 € to 68 organisations for the implementation of 145 programmes aimed at promoting young people's participation in all spheres of society, fostering youth community involvement and supporting the activities of youth associations and the organisations that provide services to young people, in all cases working at national level.

In terms of specific initiatives aimed at young people, in the call for subsidy applications announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the year 2006, financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 8,277,480€, were awarded to 79 organisations for the implementation of 104 programmes, and in 2007 the figure rose to 8,407,018€, allocated to 83 organisations for the implementation of 109 programmes.

Of this amount, 2,761,262€ were assigned to 42 programmes on comprehensive initiatives aimed at achieving young people's emancipation, increasing their personal independence and their social integration. In 2007, 2,806,838 € were awarded and distributed among 43 action programmes. These programmes are aimed at facilitating the emancipation and socio-labour integration of young people facing difficulties in gaining access to employment, with low professional skills, from rural areas or disadvantaged social sectors. Priority has been given to programmes aimed at promoting comprehensive processes in education/training, information and professional guidance, the new technologies, knowledge of labour rights, development of social skills, work practice, tutorials and follow-up throughout the entire process, those aimed at fostering entrepreneurial capacity, as well as those that include interventions in the area of housing geared towards promoting the emancipation of young people as well as inter-generational co-existence. Also included are programmes on socio-educational intervention and psychological and emotional support for young people and adolescents with social adaptation difficulties. Through these programmes, a total of 40,000 users are expected to be reached.

On another front, in 2006, 2,086,563€ were assigned to 27 programmes and, in 2007, 2,121,428€ to 29 programmes aimed at initiatives promoting co-existence between young people through education on values; giving priority to programmes that foster co-existence, intercultural and tolerance values, those aimed at prevention of anti-social, violent and racist behaviour and group behaviour disorders (sects, youth gangs, etc.), those specifically aimed at youths in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, those aimed at awareness-raising and prevention of gender violence as well as those that promote equality between young males



and females. Through these programmes, 2,000,000 young persons are expected to be reached.

To initiatives aimed at contributing towards the social participation of youths and the development of leisure activities, 1,947,953€ were distributed among 24 programmes in 2006 and 2,051,888 € among 27 programmes in 2007, with the hope of reaching 97,000 young persons.

Lastly, in 2006 and 2007, 1,481,702 € and 1,426,864 €, respectively, were assigned to different initiatives aimed at fostering the acquisition of healthy living habits and environmental education. These are 11 programmes expected to reach 78,000 young people, focusing on health education, prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases, smoking, eating disorders, unwanted pregnancies and prevention of traffic accidents. Also included are environmental education programmes aimed at promoting the responsible use of the environment.

5. Childhood

Following the approval of the 2006-2009 National Strategic Plan on Childhood and Adolescence (PENIA) by the Council of Ministers on the 16th of June 2006, these years' task has been to follow-up and analyse the measures established in the plan. It is worth highlighting that the implementation of this plan responds to, among others, the commitment made in the II National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2005 - 2006, approved by the Council of Ministers on the 8th of September 2005. As regards the follow-up of PENIA, the Autonomous Communities, the Ministerial Departments and the Local Authorities, through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, collaborate with the General Directorate for Families and Children, through the "ad hoc" working group of the Observatory on Childhood, whose objective is to do a follow-up of the Plan.

This process was reinforced in 2007, when the III and IV Follow-up Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Children in Spain, which is to be presented in January 2008 to the Committee on the Rights of Children, was drawn up. In this process, the central pillar of the report is the National Strategic Plan.

Another initiative envisaged was the implementation of experimental programmes on abuse and child exploitation aimed at prevention, detection, assistance and rehabilitation by the public administrations, in collaboration with NGOs. This initiative was taken through the call for subsidy applications granted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MTAS) to social co-operation and volunteer-work programmes, financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation. Programmes aimed at children and families are among the priority programmes for which the NGOs are entitled to receive support. To be precise, NGOs may apply for financial support funded through the Personal Income Tax allocation to conduct programmes aimed at the prevention of and assistance to cases of child abuse and exploitation. Through the call for subsidy applications of 2006, 679,942€ were awarded to programmes aimed at the prevention of and assistance to cases of child abuse and exploitation, distributed among 19 programmes managed by 9 organisations. Through the



call for subsidy applications of 2007, 594,024 € were awarded to 17 programmes. These programmes are aimed at initiatives on prevention, detection of and assistance to, as the case may be, instances of child abuse and exploitation. Priority has been given to initiatives aimed at families and/or minors at risk of child abuse, unaccompanied foreign minors, prevention of and assistance to cases of child abuse and sexual exploitation, child labour and prevention of group dependence (sects, youth gangs, etc.) In 2006 and 2007, the following subsidies were awarded to NGOs:

PRIORITIES	TOTAL SUBSIDISED P.I.T. 2006	TOTAL SUBSIDISED P.I.T 2007
PROGRAMMES ON PREVENTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO CHILD ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION	679,942 €	594,042 €

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

On another front, the Ministry collaborates technically and financially with the Autonomous Communities in the joint execution of experimental programmes in the area of child abuse, with the aim of preventing, detecting and intervening in situations of child abuse. These are innovative programmes of an experimental nature, which enable the identification of types and categories of abuse, detection sources and the environment in which child abuse takes place in order to establish more effective prevention and/or assistance processes, with special attention to the systems of notification and registration of cases.

With this aim, collaboration agreements are signed with Autonomous Communities, through which the Ministry assumes the co-responsibility of co-financing 50% of the cost. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' contribution to these programmes in 2006 and 2007 has been 915,750 €/year.

Another objective in the protection of the most vulnerable children has been to promote the Observatory on Childhood as a system for sharing information between the public administrations and the NGOs working in this area.

The Observatory on Childhood in Spain is a Working Group established in 1999 in response to a recommendation of the Convention on the Rights of Children aimed at setting up and maintaining a shared and centralised Information System capable of providing information on the well-being and quality of life of the child population as well as on the public policies that affect children, in terms of the development, implementation and effects of these policies on children. This Working Group is part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and it has its own web site at: <http://www.mtas.es/inicioas/observatoriodeinfancia/index.html>.

In 2006 and 2007, the Observatory has continued to work intensively, with the help of the following working groups: Intervention with foreign minors in Spain and their social



integration; Child abuse; Family fostering and adoption; Childhood, adolescence and the media; National Strategic Plan on Children, Adolescents, Co-existence and Inclusion.

In addition to the above-mentioned web site, which began to operate in January 2007, the Observatory promoted its initiatives with the introduction of its own publishing label, as part of the Ministry's publications, as well as designing brochures and dissemination material in general.

Another initiative promoted is liaison between Observatories on Childhood, both at regional (Asturias, Andalucía, Cataluña) and European level (participation in the European Network of National Observatories on Childhood, ChildONEurope, based in Florence).

Another of the basic initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable children is the promotion of measures to improve family fostering and adoption practices. In this respect, among the subsidies awarded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MTAS) to social co-operation and volunteer-work programmes financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, programmes aimed at children and families are priority programmes for which NGOs are eligible for financial support. To be precise, NGOs may apply for financial support financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation for the implementation of: Programmes aimed at promoting family fostering of minors and adoption of children with special needs.

In the call for subsidy applications for the financial year 2006, 439,290 € were awarded to 7 programmes aimed at promoting family fostering of minors and the adoption of children with special needs. In 2007, the amount rose to 449,291 € distributed among the same number of projects. These programmes are aimed at promoting and facilitating family fostering of minors protected by the Administration, as an alternative to admission in children's homes, and the adoption programmes are aimed at promoting and facilitating adoption of children with special characteristics and protected by the Administration. Priority has been given to programmes aimed at promoting non pre-adoption fostering of minors, family fostering, adoption of children with special needs, those that include post-adoption support activities for families and children as well as innovative programmes that define criteria on quality, assessment and good practices in family fostering.

For an in-depth analysis of the situation of minors in family foster care in Spain, the University of Oviedo was commissioned a study (which is about to be published) on "Family foster care in Spain: An assessment of results".

In 2006 and 2007, the following subsidies were awarded to NGOs:

PRIORITIES	TOTAL SUBSIDISED P.I.T. 2006	TOTAL SUBSIDISED P.I.T. 2007
PROGRAMMES AIMED AT PROMOTING FAMILY FOSTERING OF MINORS AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.	439.290 €	449.291 €

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs



The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs collaborates with the Autonomous Communities by financing programmes aimed at implementing alternative measures to confinement as well as providing training to the professionals of the Autonomous Communities involved in the implementation of programmes with juvenile offenders through agreements/programmes with the Autonomous Communities. In 2006, the total amount invested was 3,005,060 Euros, included in the budget assignment 19.04.313O.454.04. In 2007, the amount invested was the same as in 2006.

Within the subsidies awarded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for programmes aimed at social co-operation and volunteer work, financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, in the 2006 call for subsidy applications, 2,202,636 € were assigned to 27 programmes aimed at improving the facilities of centres for minors in situations of difficulties and/or social conflict, and to experimental programmes aimed at implementing alternative measures to confinement. In the 2007 call for subsidy applications, the amount rose to 3,731,036 € spread among 31 programmes. These programmes are aimed at offering accommodation and co-existence, fostering personal development and social skills for social integration, in centres, flats or mini-centres, depending on the needs and circumstances of each target collective, i.e., under 18 year-olds under a protection measure and minors serving a measure adopted by a juvenile court. These programmes particularly cater for the circumstances of non-accompanied foreign minors, as well as those of adolescents over 18 years-old who have been under a protection measure and due to their personal circumstances still remain in such centres. Also included are programmes aimed at the implementation of alternative measures to confinement targeted at juvenile offenders, in accordance with the sentences of juvenile courts and provided that they can be implemented by NGOs, as well as addressing the extrajudicial responsibility for the damage caused for the purpose of co-ordinating with the socio-community resources to facilitate the integration of minors in the family, social and labour environments.

In 2006 and 2007 the following subsidies were awarded to NGOs:

PRIORITIES	TOTAL SUBSIDISED P.I.T. 2006	TOTAL SUBSIDISED P.I.T. 2007
PROGRAMMES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE FACILITIES OF CENTRES FOR MINORS IN SITUATIONS OF DIFFICULTIES AND/OR SOCIAL CONFLICT.	2.202.636 €	3.731.036 €

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has promoted common strategies through local authorities and the associative movement to improve the quality of life of children, with special emphasis on rural areas and focusing on social, cultural and environmental aspects. In this respect, in the 2006 call for subsidy applications announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 3,551,303€ were



assigned to 38 programmes aimed at promoting the quality of life of children and expected to reach 410,000 users. In 2007, the figure was 3,514,303 € distributed among 40 programmes. These programmes seek to promote the personal and social development of children essentially through education, cultural and leisure activities that foster social participation and/or facilitate awareness raising on the rights of children and to carry out integration activities aimed at immigrant minors, particularly in pre-school centres. These programmes are conducted in areas of risk and propose prevention and intervention initiatives that complement the standard education services and social services and they are conducted in education centres located in disadvantaged areas, through collaboration with NGOs and town/city councils. The programmes are also aimed at facilitating the labour activity of families whilst children are on school holidays.

To summarise, it is worth highlighting that in the 2006 call for subsidy applications announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and financed through the 0.52% Personal Income Tax allocation, 6,858,171 € were granted to 90 programmes aimed at children and, in 2007, the amount rose to 8,294,672 € distributed among 95 programmes.

Another of the most important programmes financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the Programme, *Ciudades Amigas de la Infancia*, (children-friendly cities), an initiative of UNICEF-Spanish Committee, which also has the collaboration of the *Instituto Universitario de Necesidades y Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia* (IUNDIA) (University Institute on the Needs and Rights of Children and Adolescents), *La Red Local a favor de los Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia* (The Local Network for the Rights of Children and Adolescents) and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). The objectives of this programme are:

- Promote, in the municipal context, policies that foster the rights of children, i.e., the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Children.
- Establish stable channels for the participation of children in their municipalities.
- Mobilise the local agents in favour of the rights of children.

Within the framework of this programme, from 2001 to date, three events on the Rights of Children and Municipal Policies have been held: the first in 2001, the second in 2002, and the third in 2005. These events confer the recognition of "Children-friendly City" to municipalities that present projects and programmes that promote and intend to implement the Convention on the Rights of Children in the local area and are therefore an example of good municipal practices with regard to children. In 2007, following the three above-mentioned events, the number of Children-friendly Cities in Spain stands at 30.

Also, within the framework of the programme, Children-friendly Cities, on the initiative of UNICEF-Spanish Committee, the funding of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the technical collaboration of the *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and *La Red Local a Favor de los Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia* (The Local Network for the Rights of



Children and Adolescents), are series of initiatives are being taken as a result of the national research study "Good Practices Guide for Childhood Plans and Councils in the Sphere of Spanish Municipalities".

The last measure in this section is the implementation of initiatives and measures contained in the II National Action Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2006-2009). The Observatory on Childhood approved this II Plan in December 2005, which, as in the case of the I Plan, it is the agency responsible for its assessment and follow-up.

The medium-term assessment report is expected to be issued at the end of 2008, when it will be presented in the III World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

The Observatory on Childhood performs its activity through Working Groups, among them, the Child Abuse Working Group. Within this Group, a Sub-group has been established for the area of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which, as of the approval of the II National Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2006-2009) is, among other functions, responsible for the assessment and follow-up of the Plan.

The implementation and follow-up process of the II Action Plan has been reinforced with the approval, by the Council of Ministers held on the 16th of June 2006, of the National Strategic Plan on Childhood and Adolescence 2006 - 2009. Indeed, in its 11 Objectives and 147 measures, some of the most relevant objectives of the Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation are reproduced and, in some cases, the measures are literally quoted (measures 4.13, 5.9, 6.6). Both in the Strategic Plan and the Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation, each measure is accompanied by the competent/responsible agency for its implementation and the collaboration organisation. The National Strategic Plan on Childhood and Adolescence is available in all the languages of the Spanish State and English in the website of the Observatory on Childhood.

6. Families

With the basic objective of defending and protecting families, as a basic institution of society which currently takes on many shapes, in the last two financial years a series of significant measures have been implemented with various objectives, among them, encouraging a right balance between family life and work, through different initiatives, such as, the promotion of programmes and legislative and social measures in the area of working hours and childcare leave. In the 2006 call for subsidy applications financed through Personal Income Tax, 1,534,244 € were assigned to 10 programmes aimed at facilitating compatibility between work, family and personal life and, in the 2007 call for subsidy applications, 1,595,510 € were assigned to 9 programmes with the same objective, expecting to reach more than 15,000 users. These programmes are aimed at offering education care through services for children under three years old, preferably referred by Social Services, enabling families to balance work and family life. Priority has been given to programmes that include services with



catering facilities for children of working mothers and fathers, and those offering supplementary services to the functions performed by the family and education care to children from families living in rural areas and areas with a scattered population, the latter provided in the home.

Another initiative has been aimed at increasing and improving the offer of quality services to children under 3 years old. In 2006, 17 collaboration agreements were signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Autonomous Communities for the implementation of programmes aimed at offering infant care (0-3 years), including the maintenance, extension and adaptation of services already financed through this programme in previous years, as well as the creation of new places for children under 3 years old.

In 2006, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs contributed a total of 28,793,830 €, whilst the Autonomous Communities a total of 91,055,226 €, making it possible to co-finance a total of 795 services and 48,864 places, of which 4,111 were newly created.

In 2007, the budget allocation destined for collaboration agreements for services to children under 3 years old was increased by 1 million Euros, therefore the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will provide a total of 29,793,830 €.

In addition to the above-mentioned initiatives, the Public Administrations, in collaboration with NGOs, have promoted the implementation of programmes aimed at offering support and intervention in families in situations of special difficulties, with this aim, in the 2006 financial year, 17 collaboration agreements were signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social affairs and the Autonomous Communities for the implementation of programmes aimed at offering support to families in special situations, among them, the sub-programme on family education and assistance to disadvantaged families in a situation of risk and single-parent families.

In 2006, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs contributed 9,055,500 €, whilst the Autonomous Communities allocated 21,303,870 €, making it possible to co-finance 313 projects.

The contribution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the 2007 financial year under this heading was equal to that of the previous year, i.e., 9,055,500 €, whilst at the time of writing this report, there is not information available on the contribution of the Autonomous Communities to these programmes.

This kind of intervention programmes and/or projects have also been promoted with families in a situation of special difficulties. In the 2006 and 2007 calls for subsidy application financed through Personal Income Tax, 1,352,295 € and 1,379,595 €, respectively, were distributed among 19 programmes aimed at reaching more than 200,000 users. These programmes include intervention initiatives with families in a situation of social difficulty or social exclusion, large families and single-parent families in a situation of social difficulty and low income as well as families, which have been victims of aggression, with priority given to intervention with the victims.



Another initiative in the area of protection to the most vulnerable families was the implementation of programmes aimed at offering support to families suffering from domestic violence. To implement this measure, in 2006, 17 collaboration agreements were signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Autonomous Communities for the implementation of programmes aimed at offering support to families in special situations, among them, the sub-programme on support to families suffering from domestic violence. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs contributed a total of 1,706,955 € in 2006, whilst the Autonomous Communities a total of 3,249,394 €, making it possible to co-finance a total of 46 projects.

At the time of writing this report, no information is available on the contribution made by the Autonomous Communities towards this kind of programmes. The contribution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was the same as in the previous year, i.e., 1,706,955 €.

The initiatives forecasted in the NAP 2006-2008 in the area of “families” include “boosting programmes aimed at family guidance and/or mediation and meeting points by the Administrations, in collaboration with NGOs”, therefore, to implement this initiative, in 2006, 17 collaboration agreements were signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the implementation of programmes aimed at offering support to families in special situations, among them, the sub-programme on family guidance and/or mediation and family meeting points. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs financed this initiative by contributing 2,939,573 € in 2006, whilst the Autonomous Communities contributed 4,826,290 €, making it possible to co-finance 76 projects.

Additionally, 7 family guidance and/or mediation programmes were subsidised with a total of 733,447€. These programmes are aimed at extending the offer of services that cater for problems arising in the family structure as a result of interactions between family members and are fundamentally aimed at families which, due to their low incomes, cannot gain access to private services. They include psycho-social guidance, family mediation, family therapy, as well as the creation of meeting points adequate for exercising parental rights and duties following the break-up of the couple, or other situations derived from judicial sentences.

At the time of writing this report, no information is available on the contribution of the Autonomous Communities to this type of programmes. The contribution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was the same as in the previous year.

To summarise, we can highlight that in the 2006 call for subsidy applications financed through the 0.52% Personal Income Tax allocation and announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, a total of 3,892,986 € were assigned to 39 programmes aimed at families, and that in the 2007 call for subsidy applications the amount was increased to 3,961,752 € and was also assigned to 39 programmes.

Lastly, and as the most relevant novelty of the past years, 258,000 € and 233,200 € were assigned to programmes aimed at offering support to families living with persons in a situation of dependence, in both cases distributed among 2 programmes, with the objective



of providing integral assistance. Priority was given to programmes aimed at providing information and guidance, psychosocial support and family support services. The objective was to reach 49,000 users (4).

In addition to the above initiatives, and as mentioned in other chapters of this Annex, the Spanish Government has embarked on a general and profound reform of the Social Security System, giving rise to the enactment of Law 40/2007, dated 4th of December, as regards measures in the area of the Social Security System, published in Official State Bulletin no. 291, dated 5th of December 2007. In accordance with that established in this Law, and as regards the “recognition of the widow/widower’s pension in “common-law couples with children or economically dependent on the deceased”, it is worth highlighting that this is the first time since 1978 that a reform to the widow’s/widower’s pension is addressed and, more specifically, in the context of the recent changes in the Spanish family structure. In this respect, we highlight two specific aspects:

- Equality between married couples and common-law couples in relation to the widow’s/widower’s pension. The widow/widower’s pension is recognised to common-law couples who can prove that they lived together (for at least five years) or who have common children. This recognition also applies to the death benefit and the lump-sum compensation in the event of death caused by a work accident or professional illness.
- Temporary widowhood benefit for common-law couples that do not meet the above requirements and for couples who have been married for less than two years, without children and when the death was caused by a common illness.

7. The Spanish Roma population

In 2006, the budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Autonomous Communities (all except the Canary Islands, Navarra and the Basque Country as well as the Autonomous City of Ceuta) and the local authorities for co-financing 108 projects aimed at comprehensive social intervention to cater for the needs of the most disadvantaged sections of the Roma population and promote the development of the Roma peoples, was 6,533,623€ (6,383,638€ in 2005). The estimated number of beneficiaries was 109,616, of whom 54.68% were women. In 2007, this budget rose to 6,615,903 €, co-financing 109 projects, with an estimated number of beneficiaries of 111,423, of whom 55.52% were women. These comprehensive projects are aimed at the implementation of simultaneous social intervention activities in the areas of social action and education, with priority given to education support and follow-up, job training, health, housing and the local environment.

As regards activities aimed at education/training, three courses for professionals were given in 2006: “Social Intervention with the Roma Community in the Process of Social Incorporation” (in Oviedo) and “Social Intervention with the Romanian Community” (in Amposta and Barcelona).



As a good practice, we can highlight the “peer review” held in October 2006 in Avilés (Asturias) under the title “Municipal Programme for the Eradication of Shantytowns in Avilés, organised and financed in collaboration with the European Union.

In 2007, Royal Decree 1262/2007, dated 21st of September, which regulates the structure, functions and operating system of the Council on the Promotion of Equal Treatment and Non-discrimination of Persons for reasons of Race or Ethnic Origin, was published. This Council is assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, with the participation of members of the organisations of the Roma associative movement. The objective of this Council is to promote the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination of persons for reasons of race or ethnic origin in the areas of education, health, benefits, social services, housing and, in general, access to any goods or services, as well as access to employment, self-employment and to professional practice, affiliation and participation in trade union and employers’ organisations, working conditions, professional promotion, vocational training and on-going training.

According to the Law, among the functions of this Council, in the area of assistance to victims of discrimination for reasons of race or ethnic origin, is to help the victims file their respective claims, conduct studies and draw up reports on discrimination of persons for reasons of race or ethnic origin, as well as promote measures aimed at contributing to eradicate discrimination of persons for reasons of race or ethnic origin, in each case, making the appropriate recommendations.

On another front, 2007 has been the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. Within the framework of this commemoration, a research study associated with the Roma population has been scheduled, whose results will be published in the “Report on the Social Situation of and Changing Tendencies in the Roma Population”. No specific training courses have been given.

During the term of the Plan, specific plans aimed at the Roma community have been implemented: The Integral Plan for the Roma peoples (2005-2008) in Cataluña, and the Basque Plan for the Integral Promotion and Social Participation of the Roma Peoples, in the Basque Country.

In June 2006, the Sociological Research Centre (CIS) began to conduct a socio-demographic survey of the Roma population at national level. The survey was conducted at the beginning of 2007 and the data was known in the month of April. This data is being exploited by a team from the Universidad Pública de Navarra and, once this task is concluded, an interpretation will be required which, together with the information gathered through other surveys on the subject, will provide more insight into the Roma population. On another front, the Universidad Pública de Navarra conducted another survey (financed through the 2005 budget): Social Situation of and Changing Tendencies in the Roma Community, based on which a seminar of experts was held in 2006.



The Ministry of Housing has sponsored the elaboration of a Map on “Housing and the Roma Community in Spain” through an agreement with the Gipsy Secretariat Foundation. The field work took place in 2007 and the data exploitation and subsequent report is underway.

On another front, through the call for subsidy applications for 2006 announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation, 2,796,541 € were awarded to 33 programmes aimed at the Roma peoples. In 2007, the amount was increased to 2,855,707 € distributed among 35 programmes.

To be precise, 977,838 € were assigned to 10 programmes in 2006 and 1,088,283 € to 14 programmes in 2007, aimed at labour-market integration with the objective of improving the employability and labour-market integration of sections of the Roma community in a situation of social exclusion and unable to gain access to training initiatives or to the regular labour market. Priority has been given to programmes that include training courses, preferably for women and young people, with pre-labour education activities, information-guidance, support and follow-up in the labour-market integration process, programmes that include training for intercultural mediators in the areas of social, labour, education, housing, local environment and health actions and to programmes on facilitating access to new technology.

On another front, as an additional contribution, 1,818,703 € were assigned to 23 social integration programmes in 2006 and 1,767,424 € to 21 programmes in 2007, aimed at ensuring social integration and at performing activities to facilitate access to the necessary resources of the most vulnerable sections of the Roma community. Priority has been given to programmes aimed at fostering schooling in infant education (0-6 years) and compulsory education (6-16 years), those aimed at promoting social support activities with gipsy families in the area of education. Innovative and global programmes have also been subsidised, aimed at preventing absenteeism and early-school leaving, with special emphasis on gipsy girls and adolescents, offering extra-school education support and reinforcement to facilitate continuity and permanence in secondary and further education, and programmes aimed at teaching adults to read and write, which include social participation learning activities as well as access to and knowledge of new technologies.

Through the call for subsidy applications for the year 2006, financed through the social action General Regime and announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 507,290 € were assigned to 6 programmes aimed at supporting the associative and foundational movement working with this collective, for the purpose of strengthening its internal structure and implementing activities aimed fostering quality, research studies and reports, facilitating the use of new technology and promoting new strategies for action. In the same call for subsidy applications for the year 2007, 654.040 € were distributed among 10 programmes.

In 2005, the National Council on the Gipsy Population was established (Royal Decree 891/2005, dated 22nd of July), and formally founded on the 20th of June 2006. This is the inter-ministerial collegiate body, of an advisory nature, through which collaboration and co-



operation with the gipsy associative movement and the General Administration of the State is institutionalised for designing welfare policies based on the integral promotion of the gipsy population. It is comprised of a President (a Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and 40 members (20 representatives of different Ministries and 20 representatives of the gipsy associate movement).

The functions of the Council include proposing measures aimed at promoting the Roma people, offering advice on development plans for the Roma population, issuing opportune reports on subjects affecting the Roma people and promoting research studies for projects and programmes.

The Council's Permanent Commission gathered twice in 2006 to decide on the number of working groups and their sectors. Currently, the Council is working to set up five working groups, Employment and Social Action, Education, Health, Culture and Housing, with the participation of the respective Ministries and the members of the gipsy associative movement assigned to each working group.

In 2007, two Council meetings have been held: a plenary session and a meeting of the Permanent Commission. The five working groups (Employment and Social Action, Education, Health, Culture and Housing) have begun to work, with the participation of the respective Ministries and the members of the gipsy associative movement assigned to each group. Each of the groups gathered on three occasions throughout the year.

Likewise, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has financed brain-storming and debate seminars held by the gipsy associative movement in Madrid and Mérida, with the participation of the representatives of the gipsy organisations in the National Council as well as other experts and contributors.

In 2006, the Minister of Culture presented the Institute of Gipsy Culture Foundation to the public, which was registered in the Ministry of Culture's register of foundations on the 21st of June 2007. The aim of the foundation includes proposing measures aimed at achieving harmonious co-existence between the different groups and cultures that make up our society, ensuring that such measures pursue equal opportunities, equal treatment, gender equality and non-discrimination of the Roma population, promoting Roma history, culture and language, as well as promoting and disseminating knowledge of them. The end objective is to establish mechanisms and strategies aimed at effectively contributing to the conservation and development of the cultural heritage of the Roma community.

8. Emigrants

In the area of emigration, the regulatory framework is Law 40/2006, dated 14th of December, as regards the Statute on Spanish citizens abroad. In it, Spanish citizens abroad lacking sufficient resources who are elderly, disabled, young or women with special social or labour-market integration difficulties are recognised as groups entitled to special protection. The



Statute extends the existing social rights by introducing the “benefit for reasons of need” which encompasses the welfare pension for old age, disability and healthcare. It also regulates the representation bodies of emigrants, comprised of the General Council on Emigration, the General Council on Spanish Citizens Abroad and the Councils on Spanish Residents, assigned to the Spanish Consular Offices abroad. (Statute)

In April 2006, the Spanish Citizens Abroad website was presented, which is an Internet site offering comprehensive information at: <http://www.ciudadanos exterior.mtas.es>

The Statute created the Spanish Office for Returning, assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, to facilitate guidance and advice to Spanish nationals deciding to return home. The Spanish Office for Returning was inaugurated on the 16th of April 2007, with the main objective of facilitating the integration in our society of emigrants returning to Spain from other countries, implementing the return policy established in section 42 of the Constitution, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, local authorities and other organisations offering support to returnees. In the first six months in operation, the Spanish Office for Returning answered 700 queries.

In October 2006, the Guide for Returning was presented, a document aimed at offering the more than 40,000 Spanish emigrants who decide to return to Spain each year, basic information on the necessary procedures prior and subsequent to returning as well as information on housing, education and healthcare.

In its seventh additional provision, Law 52/2007, dated 26th of December, extends the instances of eligibility for Spanish nationality to the grandchildren of those who lost or were forced to give up the Spanish nationality as a result of living in exile.

The Statute guarantees the right to receive a benefit to Spanish residents abroad who, having moved abroad for work, economic or any other reasons, and being 65 years of age or over or disabled for work, are in a situation of need as a result of lacking a sufficiently high income to cover their basic needs, with respect to the socio-economic reality of the country of residence.

The welfare pensions for emigrants, who have returned to Spain and used to receive them abroad, as well as for those who apply for these pensions upon returning to Spain, remain unchanged until the returnees are entitled to a non-contributory pension. The number of persons who received these pensions in 2006 was 639, making up a total of 1,708,986.86 Euros whilst in 2007 the number of persons was 834, a total of 2,472,148.63 Euros.

The old-age welfare pension for emigrants, established in Royal Decree 728/1993, dated 14th of May, are a protection mechanism aimed at covering the basic needs of Spanish citizens above 65 years of age residing abroad and lacking sufficient resources, and it is paid every three months. In 2006, 55,488 Spanish residents in 32 countries received this pension, mainly in Latin America, making up a total sum of 89,334,300.41 Euros. In 2007, the number of beneficiaries was 51,991, making up a total sum of 86,067,707.50 Euros.



As regards the economic benefits to citizens of Spanish origin displaced abroad when they were minors as a result of the Civil War and who spend most of their lives outside the national territory, established in Law 3/2005, dated 18th of March, these benefits are subject to other requirements, such as, residing abroad and receiving a welfare pension, residing in Spain and receiving a non-contributory Social Security pension or a pension from the former SOVI (Obligatory Old-age and Disability Insurance) and not exceed the established income threshold. The maximum amount of this benefit in 2006 was established at 6,394.56€/year. In 2006, 1,994 residents abroad received this benefit, reaching a total sum of 8,624,598.76 Euros. In Spain, 150 persons received this benefit, making up a total of 539,665.99 Euros. In 2007, the number of beneficiaries residing abroad was 2,226, and the sum of these benefits made up 10,294,021.06 Euros. In 2007, the beneficiaries residing in Spain were 166 persons, and the total amount of the benefits was 574,744.58 Euros.

The welfare benefits established through Mandate TAS/561/2006, dated 24th of February are social protection measures for Spanish nationals not residing in Spain and lacking sufficient resources. The ordinary benefits are destined for persons between 18 and 65 years of age who are disabled for work. In 2006 1,175 persons received these ordinary benefits, making up a total sum of 2,217,371.42 Euros. In 2007 the number of beneficiaries of these ordinary benefits was 1,230, making up a total sum of 2,042,300.10 Euros. On the other hand, with regard to the extraordinary benefits, whose aim is to help palliate the burden of extraordinary expenses, particularly of the healthcare kind, of emigrants and their families, in 2006, 1,499 persons received these benefits, making up a total sum of 1,042,474.09 Euros. In 2007, the number of beneficiaries stood at 1,606, making up a total sum of 899,571.51 Euros.

In 2006, within the subsidy programmes established through Mandate TAS/562/2006, dated 24th of February, through programme 1 destined for the extraordinary needs of returnees and their families, financial support was granted to 660 persons, making up a total sum of 951,658 Euros. In 2007, framed within the return programme, financial support was granted to 355 persons, making up a total sum of 529,450 €. Within the same programme, financial support is also provided to initiatives aimed at offering information and advice to returnees, with the objective of facilitating their integration upon returning to Spain. These subsidies are available to public and private entities performing information and advice activities aimed at persons wishing to return to our country for good. In 2007, financial support totalling 599,280 Euros was awarded to 17 entities.

In 2006, financial support aimed at facilitating the labour-market integration of returnees was granted to 21 beneficiaries, making up a total of 68,200 Euros (programme 2 of Mandate TAS/562/2006).

For adapting to the Statute of Spanish Citizens Abroad, in 2007 the General Directorate for Emigration introduced new subsidy programmes with the aim of catering better to the needs of Spanish persons living abroad and those returning home.

Ministerial Mandate 874/2007, dated 28th of March, establishes nine programmes, each aimed at an individual collective, such as, young persons, women, the elderly or dependent



persons, or concentrating on a specific area of action, such as, education, associations and centres, returning, research projects or communication. These subsidies are aimed at Spanish residents abroad and at institutions, centres and associations working with these collectives.

Through the education programme, which includes education promotion activities, aimed at Spanish citizens abroad lacking economic means, grants to enable Spanish residents abroad to study in Spanish universities, and aid programmes for enable students from Spanish universities abroad to perform internships. In 2007, 2,890 Spanish citizens residing in 34 countries benefited from this programme. The total amount awarded through this programme was 1,894,279 Euros. In 2006, aid was granted to 2,911 Spanish persons, making up a total sum of 1,700,776.28 Euros.

The youth programme includes subsidies for initiatives that respond to the problems of second and subsequent generation Spaniards living abroad and it is structured in two areas: training/education for employment and activities aimed at fostering associativism and preserving one's cultural identity. The first subsidises education/training initiatives aimed at the labour-market integration of Spanish young people residing abroad with the aim of encouraging and facilitating their return.

The second area is "Support for initiatives aimed at Spanish young people abroad" and its objective is to grant support to enable the beneficiaries to stay in contact with the Spanish reality and Spanish young people through associativism, information and participation in cultural trips to Spain. In 2007, the Youth Programme received 58 applications, twelve in six Spanish provinces, and the rest from ten foreign countries, entailing an expenditure of nearly 1,853,000 Euros.

The women programme is subdivided into two programmes, one aimed at promoting effective equality and the other aimed at fostering participation in education/training labour-market integration activities. In 2007, the first year that these subsidies were granted, 43 applications were received, of which 25 were granted, making up a total sum of 430,000.00 Euros.

The elderly or dependent persons programme is aimed at facilitating the implementation of initiatives carried out by associations/centres of Spanish persons abroad or organisations dedicated to providing socio-healthcare assistance to these collectives, for improving the living conditions of elderly or dependent persons. On the other hand, this programme also includes support for trips to Spain aimed at elderly persons who left Spain and now reside abroad to enable them to reunite with Spanish society and enjoy the social benefits of those residing in the national territory, through participation in the Holidays for the Elderly Programme of the Institute of the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO.)

In 2006, 88 entities received support for the social integration of elderly emigrants and returnees (programme 13 of Mandate TAS/562/06), making up a total sum of 3,800,176 Euros.



In 2007, within the elderly or dependent persons programme, under support for activities aimed at providing healthcare and assistance to dependent persons, 125 applications from organisations spread among 23 countries were approved, making up a total sum of 3,141,036.31 Euros.

As regards trips for the elderly, it is worth highlighting that, in 2007, this sub-programme had been allocated a budget of 2.5 million Euros and that the number of beneficiaries was 3,286, from 24 countries.

The centres programme is aimed at granting support and subsidies to help finance the building of new installations in institution centres, or the restoration/ adaptation of existing installations, as well as the purchase of equipment for centres, associations or installations belong to entities located abroad whose purpose is to provide social, healthcare or cultural assistance to Spanish residents abroad. In 2007, the centres programme received 447 applications, of which 377 were approved, making up a total sum of 1,924,717.25 Euros. In 2006, through programme 11, aid was granted to 346 centres located abroad for building work and equipment, making up a total sum of 2,659,000 Euros.

Through the call for subsidy applications for the years 2006 and 2007, financed through Personal Income Tax, and announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the purpose of implementing programmes aimed at offering assistance to returned Spanish emigrants, 159,000 € and 166,950 €, respectively, were awarded to 4 programmes each year. The objective of these programmes is to provide socio-labour information, guidance and advice to returned Spanish emigrants and their families with the objective of offering information on their rights in the area of social benefits as well as employment advice to ensure their fast integration. Included are programmes aimed at temporary shelter for emigrants and their families returning in highly precarious conditions.

Among the programmes co-financed by the European Social Fund, there are the subsidised programmes aimed at socio-labour information and guidance for Spanish emigrants and returnees (in 2006, included in programme 3 of Mandate TAS/562/2006), 10 associations received subsidies, totalling an amount of 115,017 Euros, as well as those aimed at promoting the participation of emigrants and returnees in training for employment programmes (programme 4 of Mandate TAS/562/2006) with 152 beneficiaries and a total amount of 881,352.81 Euros. In 2007, the number of co-financed applications was 4, totalling an amount of 674,000 Euros, relative to subsidies for training for employment under the youth programme.

The Statute guarantees Spanish persons residing abroad health protection in the terms laid down by the applicable laws which, in any event, shall be aimed at putting such protection on the level of that provided under the National Health System. The purpose of this support is to provide healthcare to Spanish emigrants beneficiaries of welfare benefits for disability or old-age welfare pensions, (currently, to the beneficiaries of the benefit for reasons of need), provided that they are not entitled to healthcare in the country of residence.



In 2006, the number of healthcare beneficiaries was 50.472, making up a total expenditure of 7,758,868.54 €.

In 2007, 19 agreements with institutions of eight Latin American countries, Russia and Morocco were in force. In 2007 the number of beneficiaries was 51,121, making up a total expenditure of 14,003,044.52 Euros.

9. The Homeless

Through the call for subsidy applications for the years 2006 and 2007, financed through Personal Income Tax, announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with the objective of implementing comprehensive programmes aimed at the social integration of homeless persons and persons without decent accommodation, 2,621,440 € and 2,615,201 € were awarded in 2006 and 2007, respectively, in both years spread among 11 programmes. These programmes are aimed at establishing comprehensive strategies, with intervention activities in all areas, to encourage the rehabilitation and gradual social integration of the vulnerable group of homeless people. Priority has been given to programmes backed by the respective town/city councils, programmes offering medium and long-term shelter and accommodation in centres that offer social support stretching beyond basic accommodation and maintenance as well as complementary activities or those that implement social and labour-market integration measures.

Also included in this assignation are programmes which, in the area of housing, provide mediation with the private sector for access to housing for rent for persons in a situation or at risk of exclusion, as well as programmes aimed at the creation and maintenance of social integration flats providing temporary accommodation and support throughout the social and labour-market integration of these persons, fostering personal development aspects and social skills for social integration.

In 2007, a survey on users of shelter and refuge centres was planned, to be presented in 2008.

Also, a study on homeless people was conducted in 2007 for the purpose of analysing the models of intervention with the homeless in Spain and the European Union, through the good practices mutual learning techniques, as well as the specific skills required from the professionals involved.

This study includes an analysis of the Spanish context of social exclusion and social assistance for the homeless, offering the results of the register and scale of homelessness, using the profile of beneficiaries of the minimum integration income in the Autonomous Community of Madrid. With regard to the necessary training for primary care social services professionals, a training plan is proposed, which includes: 1) information, prevention and advice systems; 2) development and progress in the lives of the homeless; 3) problems associated with homelessness; 4) social integration: models associated with accommodation and working life; 5) development of the network of resources and the quality of the services.



10. Prisoners and ex prisoners

Since 2005, the Autonomous Agency of Penitentiary Work and Training for Employment (as per Royal Decree 686/2005 dated 15th of July) has been implementing various support programmes lasting 18 months aimed at the labour-market integration of persons serving prison sentences and on conditional release, in collaboration with social services. These programmes are co-financed by the European Social Fund within the "Combating Discrimination" operative programme, and have been implemented in 2006 and 2007 inside the penitentiary centres of Cádiz, Córdoba, Huelva, Málaga, Asturias, Seville, Madrid, Zamora, Valencia and Pontevedra, with a total cost of 3,527,866.45 €.

In its Directive 4/2007, the General Directorate for Penitentiary Institutions has laid down the regulations for collaboration with NGOs, with a view to achieving the objectives established in the regulations, i.e., the social re-integration and full integration of persons serving prison sentences and persons on conditional release. This measure is implemented through the call for subsidy applications aimed at social co-operation and volunteer-work programmes financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation and announced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. In 2006, 412,700.00 € were assigned to these programmes. In 2007, several assignments were increased in 2007 and the Group, Interdisciplinary-Grupo GID, was included in the subsidised NGOs, with a total cost of 437,300 €.

The objective of these programmes is to cater for the needs of prisoners, persons on conditional release and their relatives that are not covered by the basic social services, offering them support to ensure their social and labour integration. Priority has been given to programmes that include shelter flats for prisoners on prison leave, conditional or definitive release and shelter for sick prisoners during prison leave and conditional release as well as education on ethical values.

Through Resolution dated 25th of February 2008, the State Secretariat for Security published a call for subsidy applications aimed at collaboration in the execution and follow-up of alternative imprisonment measures and specific social assistance programmes. The amount assigned to the alternative measures aimed at providing ambulatory treatment or admission for breaking old habits, as well as to special education programmes on sex and gender violence was 225,480 €.

Likewise, one of the sections of Resolution of the State Secretariat for Security dated 6th of February 2007 includes an amount of 285,974 € aimed at shelter and comprehensive assistance to persons on conditional release with an incurable disease who lack family shelter and require healthcare attention, whether or not requiring drug addiction rehabilitation together with, as the case may be, psycho-medical attention.

In terms of prisoners and ex-prisoners, the subsidies financed through the Personal Income Tax allocation are aimed at healthcare and rehabilitation programmes for prisoners with drug addictions, persons suffering from AIDS and other illnesses or disabilities (attention to



AIDS sufferers, attention to drug addicts, attention to person with a psychological, sensorial or physical disabilities); at social and labour-market integration programmes (shelter flats for prisoners on prison leave, conditional leave or definitive release, shelter for sick prisoners, dependent units, vocational training, occupational workshops, employment guidance, integration support, social skills); at programmes aimed at collaboration in achieving alternative measures to imprisonment; and at programmes for providing assistance to specific collectives (women, foreigners, ethnic groups, youths). In total, in the calls for subsidy applications for 2006 and 2007, 2.966.020 € distributed among 46 programmes and 3,039,846 € distributed among 49 programmes, respectively, were assigned to prisoners and ex-prisoners with the aim of reaching more than 13,500 persons.

Within this collective, in 2006, 1,885,063.00 € were assigned to programmes aimed at providing personalised assistance to persons in prison or on conditional leave with health and drug addiction problems or disabilities, provided inside penitentiary centres, therapeutic communities, dependent units or shelter flats. In 2007, 1,877,238.00 € were assigned to these programmes.

For serving community-work sentences there is an agreement with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) with an offer of 3,700 places for town/city councils. Other agreements have also been signed with different public and private organisations and NGOs with the same aim, with an offer of 1,623 places. Likewise, the General Secretariat offers 588 places in its Penitentiary Centres and Penitentiary Social Services.

Within the call for subsidy applications financed through the 0.52% Personal Income Tax allocation, in 2006 and 2007, 446.320 €/year were assigned to programmes for collaboration in serving alternative measures to imprisonment, distributed among, respectively, 11 and 12 programmes aimed at promoting and encouraging the application of the alternative sentences and security measures established in the Penal Code. With a view to 2008, the programmes to be included in the call for subsidy applications are currently under study.

The General Secretariat for Penitentiary Institutions also finances action programmes for social inclusion through various channels. The budget of the General Secretariat finances welfare benefits for inmates, persons on conditional release and their relatives. These benefits are included in the regulatory bases for the granting of the welfare benefits established in Mandate INT/4067/2005, dated 22nd of December, which include welfare benefits for persons released from prison, documentation, transport, funeral expenses, scheduled leave, rewards, telephone calls during arrests and transfers and telephone calls to indigents. The 2008 budget for these benefits is approximately one million Euros.

Among the social assistance programmes subsidised by the State Secretariat for Security as per Ministerial Order INT/1651/2006 dated 18th of May, as regards collaboration in the execution and follow-up of alternative measures to imprisonment, as well as specific social assistance programmes, among them, the Open Horizons “Kotsta Programme” and the Red Cross’ “Integration Programme for children living with their mothers in penitentiary centres”, in 2006, 36,924.13 € were assigned to organisations for assistance programmes



aimed at the needs of children and their mothers, such as away days for female prisoners and their children at weekends and bank holidays, a week's holiday in the summer, away days at Christmas, children's parities, etc.

Likewise, through the above-mentioned call for subsidy applications financed through Personal Income Tax, in 2006, 5 programmes aimed at meeting the specific needs of foreigners, women and children under 3 years of age in penitentiary centres with a view to facilitating social integration were also subsidised, with an amount of 156,200 €. In 2007, 6 programmes were subsidised 176,200 €.

SUBSIDIES FINANCED THROUGH THE 0.52% PERSONAL INCOME TAX ALLOCATION, BY COLLECTIVE AND PRIORITY			
Collective	Priority	2006	2007
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	Programmes on interventions with families in situations of special difficulties.	1.352.295	1.379.595
	Programmes on family guidance, mediation and meeting points.	739.595	753.447
	Programmes on promotion of adoption of special needs children.		
	Programmes aimed at facilitating an appropriate balance between work and family life.	1.549.244	1.595.510
	Programmes on promoting the quality of life of children.	3.551.303	3.514.303
	Programmes aimed at equipping homes for minors in a situation of difficulty and/or social conflict and experimental programmes for implementation of alternative measures to confinement.	2.187.636	3.731.036
	Programmes on encouraging family fostering of minors and promoting adoption of minors with special difficulties.	439.291	449.291
	Programmes on prevention of and assistance to child abuse and exploitation.	679.942	594.042
	Programmes aimed at providing support to families living with persons in a situation of dependence.	258.000	233.200
TOTAL		10.757.306	12.250.424
YOUTHS	Comprehensive initiatives aimed at achieving youth emancipation by increasing personal autonomy and social integration.	2.761.262	2.806.838
	Initiatives aimed at fostering co-existence between youths through education on values and healthy living habits.	2.106.563	2.121.428
	Initiatives aimed at encouraging healthy living habits and providing environmental education.	1.481.702	1.426.864
	Initiatives aimed at contributing to the promotion of youth social participation.	1.947.953	2.051.888
TOTAL		8.297.480	8.407.018
WOMEN	Programmes aimed at ensuring the social integration of women in a situation	2.847.149	2.839.649
	Programmes aimed at encouraging the labour-market integration of women.	1.854.677	1.947.391
	Programmes aimed at preventing and eradicating all forms of violence against	3.854.085	3.892.595
TOTAL		8.555.911	8.679.635
THE ELDERLY	Personal assistance, night care, family break, family support and adaptation of housing.	9.915.013	10.191.733
	Promotion and adaptation of places for dependent persons in permanent-stay gerontology centres.	9.832.555	9.979.266
	Day care.	3.481.612	4.065.050
TOTAL		23.229.180	24.236.049
THE DISABLE	Programmes aimed at promoting independent life and social integration of disabled persons, particularly those in a situation of dependence.	5.371.100	5.545.385
	Day centres, homes and supervised or shared housing.	7.120.207	7.255.207
	Night care, family break and family support to families caring for a disabled person.	5.027.020	5.176.720
TOTAL		17.518.327	17.977.312

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SUBSIDIES FINANCED THROUGH THE 0.52% PERSONAL INCOME TAX ALLOCATION, BY COLLECTIVE AND PRIORITY			
Collective	Priority	2006	2007
PERSONS WITH DRUG ADDICTIONS	Support for maintenance of assistance and socio-labour re-integration resources.	4.507.700	4.306.653
	Programmes on prevention of vulnerable areas to drug consumption.	559.611	836.667
	TOTAL	5.067.311	5.143.320
AIDS VICTIMS	Support to patients and families of HIV/AIDS sufferers.	1.309.892	1.340.882
	Creation and maintenance of shelter homes.	1.402.711	1.408.759
	Creation and maintenance of social integration accommodation or flats.	166.591	174.053
TOTAL	2.879.194	2.923.694	
ROMA POPULATION	Labour-market integration	977.838	1.088.283
	Social integration	1.818.703	1.767.424
	TOTAL	2.796.541	2.855.707
PRISONERS AND EX-PRISONERS	Programmes aimed at providing healthcare and rehabilitation to prisoners with drug addictions, AIDS victims and those suffering from other illnesses or disabilities.	1.714.161	1.708.387
	Programmes aimed at the social and labour-market integration of persons serving prison sentences and those on conditional release.	649.339	688.939
	Programmes aimed at collaboration in fulfilling alternative measures to imprisonment.	446.320	466.320
	Programmes aimed at providing assistance to specific collectives.	156.200	176.200
TOTAL	2.966.020	3.039.846	
SOCIAL INCLUSION	Comprehensive programmes aimed at the social integration of homeless persons and persons without decent accommodation.	2.621.440	2.615.201
	Comprehensive programmes aimed at disadvantaged persons living in rural areas.	1.455.624	1.484.736
	Programmes aimed at facilitating access to information and communication technologies to persons excluded or at risk of exclusion.	108.100	103.603
	Programmes on access to employment for persons in a situation or at risk of exclusion.	1.145.150	1.260.193
	Comprehensive multi-annual programmes aimed at persons in a situation or at risk of exclusion.	499.362	573.672
TOTAL	5.829.676	6.037.405	
MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES	Programmes on guidance, information and integral shelter.	9.025.473	9.104.973
	Programmes aimed at reuniting families and voluntary return.	589.740	700.230
	Assistance to returned Spanish emigrants.	159.000	166.950
TOTAL	9.774.213	9.972.153	
TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER WORKERS	Awareness-raising programmes.	874.235	914.235
	Programmes on support for volunteer workers.	3.237.583	3.341.333
TOTAL	4.111.818	4.255.568	
TOTAL GRANTED		101.782.976	105.778.130

GOVERNANCE

The implementation of the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPin) 2006-2008 has entailed the execution of wide ranging activities by the different actors involved in the task of achieving the Plan's objectives and measures. These activities comprise the following:

a) In the last two years, the Spanish Parliament has debated different aspect of social exclusion on several occasions. In addition to the questions put forward by the Parliamentary Groups to the Government, we can highlight the interventions of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, the Secretary of State for Social Services, Families and Disabled Persons and the Secretary of State for Immigration and Emigration.



The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs appeared before the Labour and Social Affairs Commission to report on the Bill for the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Assistance to Persons in a Situation of Dependence.

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Families and Disabled Persons appeared before the Board of the Non-permanent Commission on Comprehensive Policies for Disabled Persons to report on the Plan on Women and Disabled Persons which at the time was in the process of being drawn up by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the agreements on accessibility for the disabled signed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the ONCE Foundation and Local Authorities, to explain her Department's lines of action, and to report on the Government's future initiatives in the area of disability.

Likewise, the Joint Commission on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities gave a presentation on Prostitution in Spain and held a debate in the Congress of Deputies on the state of non-discrimination in which it gave a rundown of the initiatives of the Operative Programme for Combating Discrimination 2000-2006.

In 2007, the interventions of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and those of both the above-mentioned State Secretaries in the Congress of Deputies and in the Senate made reference to information on the presentation of several Bills, such as those referring to the one-off payment financial benefit from the Social Security for every child born or adopted, the Spanish Strategy on Health and Safety at Work, the Statute on Self-Employment, and the Spanish Sign Language, as well as the approval of such laws as the Organic Law on Equality for Men and Women and the Law on Dependence. Additionally, the Minister also appeared before the Commission on Labour and Social Affairs to address immigration issues.

Likewise, the Prime Minister informed the Spanish Parliament about the European Councils on the Lisbon Strategy 2005-2007.

- 29th of March 2006: The Lisbon Strategy: Knowledge and Innovation. The Pact for Gender Equality.
- 21st of June 2006: The Lisbon Strategy: Situation Analysis. Growth and Employment.
- 22nd of December 2006: European Immigration Policy. Control and Social Integration.
- 14th of March 2007: Progress on the Lisbon Agenda and its Limits.
- 27th of June 2007: Co-ordination of Social Security Systems.
- 19th of December 2007: Review of Lisbon Strategy: Education, Research and Innovation. Social Inclusion and Flexicurity.

However, it was in the so-called State of the Nation Debates, held every spring on the request of the Prime Minister, where the problems of internal social cohesion held a key place in the debate agenda, together with the centrality of Social Dialogue as a method of political agreement on social policies.



- 30th of May 2006: Announcement of laws on dependence and gender equality. Analysis of the Agreement dated 9th of May on Growth and Employment signed between the Government and social agents.
- 3rd of July 2007: Rundown of the legislature's social policies with emphasis on job creation, social dialogue and analysis of the social problems pending: employment, low-incomes in a large collective of old-age pensioners, "too many sources of poverty", "too many unprotected elderly persons".

b) As regards the implementation of the Territorial Plans for Inclusion, the situation is as follows:

Plans in force: 17 (Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Balearic Island, Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Cataluña, Extremadura, Galicia, Madrid, Navarra, Basque Country, La Rioja, Comunidad Valenciana and Ceuta)

Plans in an advanced design stage: 1 (Murcia) and Plans in the study phase: 1 (Melilla)

c) As regards the Plans of Local Authorities, there are 71 Local Authorities which have or are in the process of having Inclusion Plans, affecting 16,925,739 inhabitants and 2,158 municipalities, i.e., 37.45 % of the population.

Plans in force: 32 Local Authorities (Murcia, Lorca, Cartagena, Association of Municipalities of Southeast Murcia (Torre Pacheco, La Unión and Fuentealame), Vitoria, Bilbao, San Sebastián, Burgos, León, Soria, Oviedo, Malaga, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Santa Cruz de Tenerife (and its Metropolitan Area: Tegueste and El Rosario), Telde, Estella, Barcelona, Cornellà, Figueres, Hospitalet de Llobregat, Mataró, Prat de Llobregat, Reus, Sabadell, Salt, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Gramanet and Badia del Valles, Alcazar de San Juan and Tarancón).

Plans in an advanced state of design: 19 Local Authorities (Sevilla, Puente Genil, Zaragoza, Cáceres, Lourenzá, Santander, Madrid, Alcobendas, Aranjuez, Logroño, Calahorra, Requena, Alicante, Aranda de Duero, Miranda de Ebro, Palencia, Medina del Campo, Zamora and the Provincial Council of Ávila.)

Plans in the study phase: 20 Local Authorities (Andalucía (8 Provincial Councils embracing Municipal Councils < 20,000 inhabitants), Reinosa, Torrelavega, Pamplona, Valencia, San Andrés de Rabanero, Segovia, Valladolid and Provincial Councils of León, Palencia, Salamanca, Segovia and Soria.)

d) In the area of awareness raising, dissemination and debate on social exclusion, it is first worth highlighting the approval of the NAP 2006-2008 in October 2006 - the document and its annexes can be found in the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in both Spanish and English. In addition, a copy of the publication was quickly sent to all the agents involved in preparing the Plan, as well as to other interested parties. This Plan has been disseminated to 5,000 persons



In support of this line of action, in 2007, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, through the State Secretariat for Social Affairs, Families and the Disabled, has backed the European project "For Social Inclusion: Awareness Raising, Mobilisation and Debate on Inclusion and Social Protection", presented by the Luís Vives Foundation in collaboration with the Spanish Network for Combating Poverty, as regards improved information, awareness raising and involvement of actors in the social inclusion project.

The objective of the project was to boost information, mobilisation and debate in Spain on the European Strategy for Social Inclusion and its challenges, for which a Forum on "The European Strategy for Social Inclusion and the Lisbon Summit, consequences for the disadvantaged groups" was held.

Its targets were public institutions, NGOs and social actors responsible for designing and implementing National, Autonomous Community and Local Exclusion Plans. The project also addressed improved living conditions, making special reference to issues associated with social protection and long-term care, within the framework of the National Dependence System.

The project's main activities centred on information and awareness-raising initiatives, as well as designing and disseminating information brochures and electronic bulletins on all issues associated with the European Strategy for Social Inclusion and social protection.

The project also established discussion and debate seminars held in the Autonomous Communities, in which the different actors affected by inclusion and social protection were involved, as well as the publication of the European Notebook on "New Challenges of the European Strategy on Social Inclusion at national and autonomous-community level".

The most significant initiative was the organisation of 14 seminars held in 13 of the 17 Spain's Autonomous Communities. Through which, 1,300 persons from the following sectors were mobilised:

- Public Administrations (State, Autonomous Community and Local)
- NGOs and other civil society organisations
- Trade unions
- Universities and research centres
- The media
- Employers, other areas of civil society
- Persons in a situation and/or at risk of social exclusion

The profiles of the participants were very wide ranging, given their different fields of action, such as, social action, employment, education, health, housing, etc., and their different functions within their organisations (executives, experts, volunteer workers, etc.).



The main feature of all the seminars was the shared responsibility of co-ordinating the event, between the Administration of the respective Autonomous Community and social initiative.

As well as the above, another two seminars were held. A seminar on "Social Investment and Social Protection as productive factors and guarantors of equal opportunities for all" through a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Spanish Council on Social Welfare (CEBS), with an investment of 16,000 €. Secondly, through a collaboration agreement with the National Confederation of Neighbours' Associations (CEAV), the Among-neighbours Congress "For Social Cohesion", with an assignation of 60,000 €.

e) As regards improving the participation of the social agents in the preparation, follow-up and assessment of the NAP, during the process of drawing up this Plan and assessing the 2005-2006 NAP contacts were held with the trade union organisations, Comisiones Obreras and UGT, as well as the employers' associations, CEOE and CEPYME.

f) Participation of those affected by social exclusion is channelled through a series of Councils and other similar bodies of a consultative nature, where the collaboration of the associative movement of the different sections of the population and the General Administration of the State are institutionalised, for the purpose of defining and co-ordinating coherent policies on comprehensive assistance to these groups, some of which are in a situation or at risk of social exclusion.

In addition to the Councils, there are other participation bodies for the affected groups, i.e., the Observatories.

With regard to participation in debate forums, in the last two years several forums have been organised. The European Anti-Poverty Network, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, held the "III National Meeting of Participation of Persons in a Situation of Poverty and Social Exclusion" in Madrid in April 2006, in preparation of the V European Meeting of Persons Experiencing Poverty, which was held in Brussels in May. Likewise, regional conferences have been held in a number of Autonomous Communities.

The IV National Meeting was held in Zaragoza in April 2007 and the targets were persons involved in participation processes of persons affected by poverty and social exclusion: this refers both to person affected by poverty and social exclusion and experts who already implement the criterion of participation in inclusion processes.

Of the 81 participants, approximately 60% were persons in a situation of poverty and 43 of them were women. Nine Autonomous Communities were represented.

The objectives pursued in these meetings were:

1. Design common information on the progress made and the future prospects of persons in a situation of poverty and social exclusion.



2. Identify policies and good practices that have an impact on the lives of persons in a situation of poverty and social exclusion.
3. Increase the capacity of those present to participate and ensure the participation of persons in inclusion processes.
4. Propose initiatives that give continuity to the objective of increasing the participation of persons suffering poverty and social exclusion.
5. Increase the commitment of NGOs and Public Administrations to the participation objectives of the NAP.
6. Define the Spanish contributions to the European Meetings of Persons in a Situation of Poverty.

g) With the aim of gaining more insight into the situation of social exclusion, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has conducted different studies associated with social exclusion and documentary analyses to support those studies.

In 2006, the following were conducted:

- "Assessment of the Public System of Primary Care Social Services. Survey of Social Services Centres". Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. Published in 2007 under the title "Primary Care Social Services in light of the social change".
- "Sociological Survey of Roma Households". Sociological Research Centre (CIS).
- "Evolution and tendencies of social inequality in Spain". Universidad de Alcalá. Published in 2007 under the title "Employment and Social Inclusion".
- "Assessment of the training needs in primary care social services". IMOP. Published in 2007 under the title "Training Needs of Primary Care Social Services' Professionals".
- Likewise, the following documentary analyses were conducted:
- Documentary analysis of the Roma population. Universidad Pública de Navarra.
- Documentary analysis of primary care social services in Spain. Documentation and Surveys Centre (SIIS).
- Documentary analysis of social inclusion. Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona.

In 2007, the following studies were conducted:

- "Analysis of the scale of social exclusion in Spain". Cáritas Española.
- "The homeless". Universidad Pontificia de Comillas.
- "Set of minimum basic data in primary care social services and assessment indicators". Universidad Complutense de Madrid.



- "Analysis of the Sociological Research Centre's Survey of the Roma population". Universidad Pública de Navarra.
- "Social Inclusion Plans in the Autonomous Communities". Tommillo Economic Research Centre.

h) With regard to improvements in training and recycling for workers involved in the social policies of the Public Administrations, in 2006 and 2007 the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs implemented the annual training plan, which includes programmes on issues associated with social inclusion aimed at professionals of different social areas, mainly belonging to all the Public Administrations and NGOs, for intervention with persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion. These programmes encompassed a total of 95 initiatives in 2006 and 118 in 2007, with a total budget of 473,954.11€ and 522,749.34€, respectively.

In 2006, the following activities were held:

Modality	Type of Activity	No. of times held	Timetable
On-site	Social services courses	45	15th May to 18th December
	Social Services' User Information System courses	35	7th May to 13th December
	Seminar on the Child Abuse module	4	Month of December
e-learning	e-learning courses	5	June to December
Distance	Distance courses	4	15th September – December
Other activities	Collaboration agreements	4	June to December
Studies	Training needs	1	June to December

In 2007, the following activities were held:

Modality	Type of Activity	No. of times held	Timetable
On-site	Social services courses	43	21st May to 12th December
	Social Services' User Information System courses	56	8th May to 28th November
	Presentation seminars of computer application and home-care, child abuse and domestic violence modules	1	Month of December
e-learning	e-learning courses	5	September to November
Distance	Distance courses	4	15th September – December
Other activities	Collaboration agreements	7	June to December
Studies	Training needs of social services professionals caring for the homeless	1	June to December
Seminar	Experts in assessing general social services	1	June



As regards the budget, to implement the Plan, the Ministry of Public Administrations awarded a subsidy through the III and IV On-going Training Agreements, of a total amount of 415,830 € in 2006 and 418,750 € in 2007.

- On-site courses on general social services:

The on-site courses on General Social Services were designed around the different areas requested by the Autonomous Communities which were clustered in blocks: Social Services Techniques, General Programmes in Social Services and Assistance to Collectives. Forty-five courses were held with 1,029 students and an expenditure of 161,173.04€ in 2006, and 43 courses with 967 students and an expenditure of 158,185.92€ in 2007.

- On-site courses on the Social Services' User Information System:

The contents of these courses include the requests of the Autonomous Communities, based on the needs detected in the operation of the programme: Training for Trainers, Basic courses on the Social Services' User Information System, Home care module, Child abuse module, configuration and installation, Gender violence module, Up-date and recycling courses, Advance course in SQL. Thirty-five courses were held with 547 students in 2006, at a cost of 76,271.80 €, and 56 courses with 1120 students were held in 2007 at a cost of 125,978.42 €.

In December 2006, the Module on Abuse was presented in seminars held in four Autonomous Communities, with the presence of primary care professionals and professionals from the Children and Family departments.

- e-learning courses:

Ten courses were held in the last two years (5 each year)

The courses include the following: Computer application Social Services' User Information System, Design and assessment of social programmes, Intervention with families suffering domestic violence, Social services and legal relations, Legal aspects of social intervention with foreigners. Additionally, a new course on social intervention and legal penal action has been prepared. The number of students and the amount spent in 2006 and 2007 were 507 and 277 and 65,992 € and 61,590 €, respectively.

- Distance courses:

Four distance-learning courses were held. The subjects were selected based on the proposals of the Autonomous Communities who requested the course: Quality of primary care social services, Management of social services centres, Team-work models, Marketing and communication in social services. In 2006, the number of students was 525, and the total expenditure 67,517.27€, and 380 students with a total expenditure of 39.995 € in 2007.

Other activities of the Training Plan include collaboration agreements with universities.



The collaboration agreements signed in 2006 were:

- An agreement with Universidad Complutense de Madrid to impart a Social Services module as part of the post-graduate course “*Magíster* in Participative Research for Local Development”, with an assignation of 9,000 €.
- An agreement with Universidad de Alcalá to impart a Social Services module as part of the University’s own post-graduate course on Management and Administration of Social Welfare and Social Services, with an assignation of 12,000€.

Likewise, a study on training needs has been conducted, totalling an expenditure of 29,000 €.

The collaboration agreements signed in 2007 were:

- A collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Universidad Complutense de Madrid, to impart a Social Services module as part of the post-graduate course “*Magister* in Participate Research for Local Development, with an assignation of 9,000€.
- A collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Universidad de Alcalá, to impart a Social Services module as part of the University’s own post-graduate course on Management and Administration of Social Welfare and Social Services, with an assignation of 12,000 €.
- A collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Universidad de Valladolid, to hold an International congress with the name “International Congress on Social Education: the third sector and immigration, with an assignation of 6.000€.

i) Another of the initiatives taken was aimed at encouraging the participation of companies in programmes and initiatives that foster inclusion and social cohesion, promoting their social responsibility.

The Forum of Experts in Corporate Social Responsibility was established on the 17th of March 2005 on the initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, with the participation of representatives of several Ministries and experts from employers’ groups, civil society organisations and universities.

On the 11th of December 2006 the Forum of Experts in Corporate Social Responsibility gathered for the purpose of addressing the development of Corporate Social Responsibility in Spain, highlighting the most relevant indicators and the evolution of the changes produced in this area.

The document agreed by a majority of the Forum’s members addresses Corporate Social Responsibility from a descriptive point of view, highlighting the progress made in the public and private sectors and the difficulties posed by the challenges and goals of Corporate Social Responsibility.



The Forum's tasks were completed on the 12th of July 2007, with the approval of the document "Public policies aimed at fostering and implementing Corporate Social Responsibility in Spain".

Likewise, the Congress' Commission on Labour and Social Affairs approved the report of the sub-commission on fostering and promoting corporate social responsibility in the meeting held in June 2006.

On another front, the Private Enterprise and Society Foundation promotes an open and independent movement that fosters a concept of private enterprise in which social action plays an integral role in its strategy. Its sphere of action centres on social action, understood as the assignation of company resources to projects associated with disadvantaged persons.

On the 7th of March 2006 and the 27th of June 2007, the Foundation awarded its Annual Private Enterprise and Society Prizes, aimed the recognition of companies who have stood out for their social action with disadvantaged persons as part of their strategy.

The Foundation also presented the fifth edition of the Annual Report of the Observatory of Social Action in Private Enterprises, which describes the initiatives of the 126 companies that wished to participate. This year, the first steps have been taken in the area of immigration.

The Observatory's Report for 2007 presents the main initiatives taken by 134 companies and savings banks in 2006 in the area of disadvantaged persons' full integration in society (immigrants, the elderly, the disabled, unemployed persons with special difficulties in gaining access to the labour market, etc.)

Among the Report's overall conclusions, it highlights that there are beginning to be advanced programmes in product and services companies associated with hiring persons with special difficulties in gaining access to the labour market.

The integration of disadvantaged persons in society is also a challenge for the business sector. For this reason, the Private Enterprise and Society Foundation has introduced the Private Enterprise and Immigration Programme, an initiative created in March 2007 with 23 associated companies.

As well as holding different internal work sessions, the programme has created a group whose objective is to issue a quarterly debate document containing thoughts and specific added-value proposals for large companies.

The concept of corporate social responsibility is beginning to find a place in the business sector and non-profit organisations. In the last two years, the Ercova project has boosted the implementation of corporate social responsibility in the Comunidad Valenciana and has created a hallmark to identify socially responsible companies. PATIM is one of the ten entities displaying the hallmark since its implementation of corporate social responsibility.



In the case of PATIM, the Ercova hallmark recognises “good practices in the integration of persons at risk of socio-labour exclusion”, the company’s commitment to social responsibility and the creation of a channel for dialogue with the target groups.

This certificate is framed within the EC initiative, EQUAL, and it is jointly implemented by *Instituto Valenciano de Atención a los Discapacitados* (Valencian Institute of Assistance to the Disabled), the Department of Social Wellbeing and Integration of the Municipal Council of Valencia, CIERVAL, the CEDAT Foundation, the Association of Businesswomen and Professionals of Alicante (AEPA) and *Fundación Servicio Valenciano de Empleo* (Valencian Employment Service Foundation.)

j) As regards the implementation of initiatives for the dissemination and promotion of the social economy, the General Directorate for Development of the Social Economy and the European Social Fund have subsidised the following initiatives:

In 2006

ENTITY	INITIATIVE	Amount subsidised in Euros.
Universidad Católica Sta. Teresa de Jesús de Ávila	Conference: “Labour-market Integration Companies. Present and Future”.	12,120.00
<i>Asociación de Familias y Mujeres del Medio Rural</i> (Association of Families and Women from Rural Areas) (AFAMMER)	Conference: “Cooperativism as a formula for development”.	12,020.24
<i>Asociación de Familias y Mujeres del Medio Rural</i> (Association of Families and Women from Rural Areas) (AFAMMER)	Conference: “Women as leaders of the social economy”.	12,020.24
Tomillo Foundation	Project “If you are enterprising. Network of entrepreneurs for inclusion”.	45,000.00
<i>Federación Española de Entidades de Empresas de Inserción</i> (Spanish Federation of Organisations of Labour-Market Integration Companies) (FEDEEI)	VI Conferences on social economy and labour-market integration companies	23,363.36
General Foundation of the UNED	“Designing new teaching supports for corporate social responsibility education/training”.	21,165.76

In 2007

ENTITY	INITIATIVE	Amount subsidised in Euros
<i>Confederación Española de Cooperativas de Consumidores y Usuarios, Unión de Coop.</i> (Spanish Confederation of Co-operatives of Consumers and Users. Union of Co-operatives)	<i>Design, publishing and distribution of a guide for a non-discriminatory selection with respect to gender equality in the social economy</i>	8,116.20
<i>Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social</i> (Spanish Employers’ Confederation of the Social Economy)	Conference on managing services for dependent persons.	5,925.00
Tomillo Foundation	Project: “If you are enterprising. Network of entrepreneurs for inclusion”.	30,000.00
<i>Federación Española de Entidades de Empresas de Inserción.</i> (Spanish Federation of Organisations of Labour-Market Integration Companies) (FEDEEI)	VII Conferences on “Labour-market Integration Companies: Sector regularisation”.	9,584.17



Asociación de Familias y Mujeres del Medio Rural. (Association of Families and Women from Rural Areas) (AFAMMER)	Conferences on "Contribution of women from rural areas to the social economy"	12,020.24
Fundación General de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (General Foundation of the Autonomous University of Madrid).	Labour-market integration companies in Spain: Overall assessment prior to approval of the National law.	7,927.10
Universidad Católica Santa Teresa de Jesús de Avila	Seminar "Social Initiatives Cooperatives: employment and social welfare".	15,200.00
Asociación de Familias y Mujeres del Medio Rural. (Association of Families and Women from Rural Areas)	Conference: "How to promote the social economy in rural areas", to be held in Ciudad Real.	12,020.24

k) On of the most important dates in the fight against poverty and social exclusion is the 17th of October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, on occasion of which different commemorations and public events are held. In 2006, a public event was held in the central offices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, with interventions from the Secretary of State for Social Services, the Family and the Disabled, the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of the Presidency and the President of the Platform of Social Action NGOs.

Prior to that event, a meeting was held between the Secretary of State, representatives of the National Council on Social Action NGOs, the Platform of Social Action NGOs and other organisations working in the field, to discuss the situation of social exclusion in Spain and the measures of the administrations to address the problem.

The Gipsy Secretariat Foundation sent a communication to the media to call its attention to the situation of the Roma community which, despite the Foundation's efforts and attempts to ensure its full social integration, it continues to be among the groups with the highest rates of poverty and risk of social exclusion.

The Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces participated in the initiative, "Levántate" (stand up), launched as part of the UN Millennium campaign with the aim of calling on Governments to meet the Millennium objectives, among them, primarily, the eradication of poverty.

The slogan for 2007 was "Juntos contra la pobreza" (together against poverty), aimed at uniting all countries in efforts to eradicate poverty. Many NGOs organised activities on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. One of these NGOs was *Alianza Española contra la Pobreza* (Spanish Alliance against Poverty), made up of more than 1,000 social collectives, which attempted to organise a large-scale public demonstration to call on politicians, governments and institutions to work towards the objective of eradicating poverty.

During the Against-Poverty Week, 15th to 21st of October, events were held in many Spanish cities under the slogan "Rebélate contra la Pobreza: Más hechos, menos palabras" (Rebel against Poverty: More action and less words). More than 100 activities were held throughout Spain to raise public awareness on world poverty and to bring to the problem to the



forefront of current affairs. The activities ranged from concerts, exhibitions, round tables, presentations, acts in education centres, to signing petitions and holding discussions, public demonstrations and cinema seasons.

The Week of Demonstrations against Poverty culminated on the 21st of October with a day of public demonstrations and gatherings in more than 40 cities.

1) Lastly, it is worth highlighting the initiatives taken as a result of the declaration of 2007 as the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

The European Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the Commission's decision to designate 2007 as European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. This decision was formally adopted at the end of May 2006.

The measures for achieving the objectives of the European Year involved organising or supporting the following in particular:

- meetings and events;
- information, promotion and education campaigns;
- surveys and studies at EC and National level.

In 2007, the following initiatives were taken:

- Framed within the objective of the European Year "Representation: stimulating debate on ways to increase the participation in society of groups that are victims of discrimination", the IV National Meeting on Participation of Persons in a Situation of Poverty and Social Exclusion was held on the 18th and 19th of April in Zaragoza.

The meeting was organised jointly with the EAPN- European Anti-Poverty Network-Spain. Its main objective was to reflect on the progress achieved and the steps to be taken in the future to improve the participation of persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion, as well as to hold workshops on aspects of participation processes.

Additionally, a methodological guide was drawn up on the participation of persons in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, the participation channels of these persons with the existing public and private resources, the effectiveness of their contributions to defining the strategies and designing the measures of social inclusion policies. The first part comprised an analysis of the situation for determining the diagnosis. The second part will consist of the actual methodological guide which will be distributed among the social action NGOs.

- Framed within the objective of the European Year "Rights – Raising awareness of the right to equality and non-discrimination and of the problem of multiple discrimination", the International Seminar of Experts on "Social Investment and Social Protection as Productive Factors and Guarantors of Equal Opportunities for All. The



role of decent work and social integration for an economically successful and socially cohesive society" was held in Madrid from the 14th to the 16th of December, and organised with the Spanish Council on Social Welfare, which is the Spanish arm of the International Council on Social Welfare. The objective of this meeting of international experts was to hold a debate on, among other issues, a positive approach to the social objectives, a balance between social and economic policies, social investment as a contribution to well-being, increasing productivity by raising the quality of labour, the socio-economic implications of healthcare inequalities, etc, through a high-level presentations and debates aimed at producing quality results. The Seminar, spread among three weekend days, was attended by 30 persons. The results were presentations by nine experts and a document of conclusions which includes a series of concrete measures which can be used as a base subsequent to an Action Plan, as well as a series of final recommendations.

- Study on the Roma population and their perceptions. Based on the elaboration of an exploitation plan of the Sociological Survey on Roma Households conducted by the Sociological Research Centre, with the objective of responding to the main doubts raised in relation to the social situation of the Roma community.
- Report on good practices and management models in the provision of assistance to the homeless. An analysis of intervention models with the homeless in Spain and in the European Union was conducted through the good practices' mutual learning techniques, as well as of the specific skills required from the professionals involved.

