

Two million potential jobs in Spain thanks to personal and household services

Women would be the first beneficiaries of regularizing employment in PHS

BRUSSELS, 22 February 2017: “An adequate public framework is required in order to formalize the PHS¹ sector and meet the needs of workers and elderly people towards qualitative and affordable personal and household services”. That was the main message sent during the seminar organized on 7 February 2017 by EFSI and its Spanish member *Asociación Española de Servicios a la Persona (AESP)* in the European Commission’s Representation in Madrid.

Such a regulation would create one million direct jobs in household services and another million resulting from the reintegration of women into the labour market thanks to a better work-life balance (*AESP, 2009*). Currently in Spain PHS remain invisible due to a massive degree of deregulation and a high tax burden. 95% of PHS workers are women and 45% of them have a migrant background. Furthermore, an estimated one million PHS workers are undeclared.

Gathering more than a hundred participants, the event was the occasion to discuss the path for future development of PHS in Spain and especially of household support services.

On this occasion, Aurélie Decker, EFSI’s Director, presented the [IMPact guide](#). Elaborated during an 18 months EU project, “the guide was designed to help Member States improving the assessment and monitoring of the macro-economic effects of their PHS supporting measures” she said. Available in five languages², it is meant to provide support in both the design of new policy and the implementation of existing ones by providing theoretical information, monitoring indicators and decision-support tools.

Thus participants – including representatives of the main parliamentary groups - unanimously agreed on the necessity to adopt legislative measures which would enable all Spanish citizens to access PHS regardless of their income. Among the incentives discussed, tax rebate on income tax, reduced VAT rates and reduced social contributions for companies were mentioned as appropriate measures to be further explored.

“It is fundamental that the cost on the formal market must equal the cost on the undeclared market without undermining working conditions of PHS workers” stressed Javier Benavente, AESP’s President.

¹ Personal and household services (PHS) include both care services (for children, the dependent elderly or the disabled) and non-care services or household support services (such as cleaning, ironing, gardening, remedial classes and minor home repairs).

² The guide is available online in Czech, English, French, Italian and Spanish on www.impact-phs.eu

In that respect, the data³ presented on the French system demonstrated that public investment in PHS can reach its social and employment objectives while being financially sustainable for public finances.

For further information; please contact:

Aurélie Decker, Director, aurelie.decker@efsi-europe.eu, +32 (0) 2 204 08 73

Detailed information about the event are available [here](#) (in Spanish only).

Note to the editor

EFSI is the representative body of national federations and associations as well as companies involved in the development of personal and household services. Through its members, EFSI is present in 22 EU Members' States.

More: www.efsi-europe.eu

³ Trésor Economics, N° 175, Policies to support personal and household services, Jean-François Lebrun and Alain Fournat, August 2016.