

Inclusive entrepreneurship trends and policies in Spain

This profile presents self-employment and entrepreneurship indicators for women, youth and seniors in Spain and highlights recent inclusive entrepreneurship policy actions such as measures to support youth and women's entrepreneurship.

Key trends: The self-employment rate was slightly higher than the European Union average in 2016 (16.1% vs. 14.0% for the EU), and this was true across all social target groups. While self-employment rates increased slightly following the economic crisis in 2008, they have since returned to pre-crisis levels. This is true for all key social target groups such as women, youth and seniors. However, the Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) rates were lower than the EU average for women, youth and seniors over the 2012-16 period even though Spanish people were more likely than the European Union average to believe that they have the capabilities and skills to create a business (47.0% vs. 41.9% for the EU). Women (42.3% vs. 34.1% for the EU) and youth (40.4% vs. 36.0% for the EU), in particular, were confident in their entrepreneurship skills. However, Spanish entrepreneurs were less likely than the EU average to expect to exploit innovative products and services over this period (23.7% vs 28.9% for the EU).

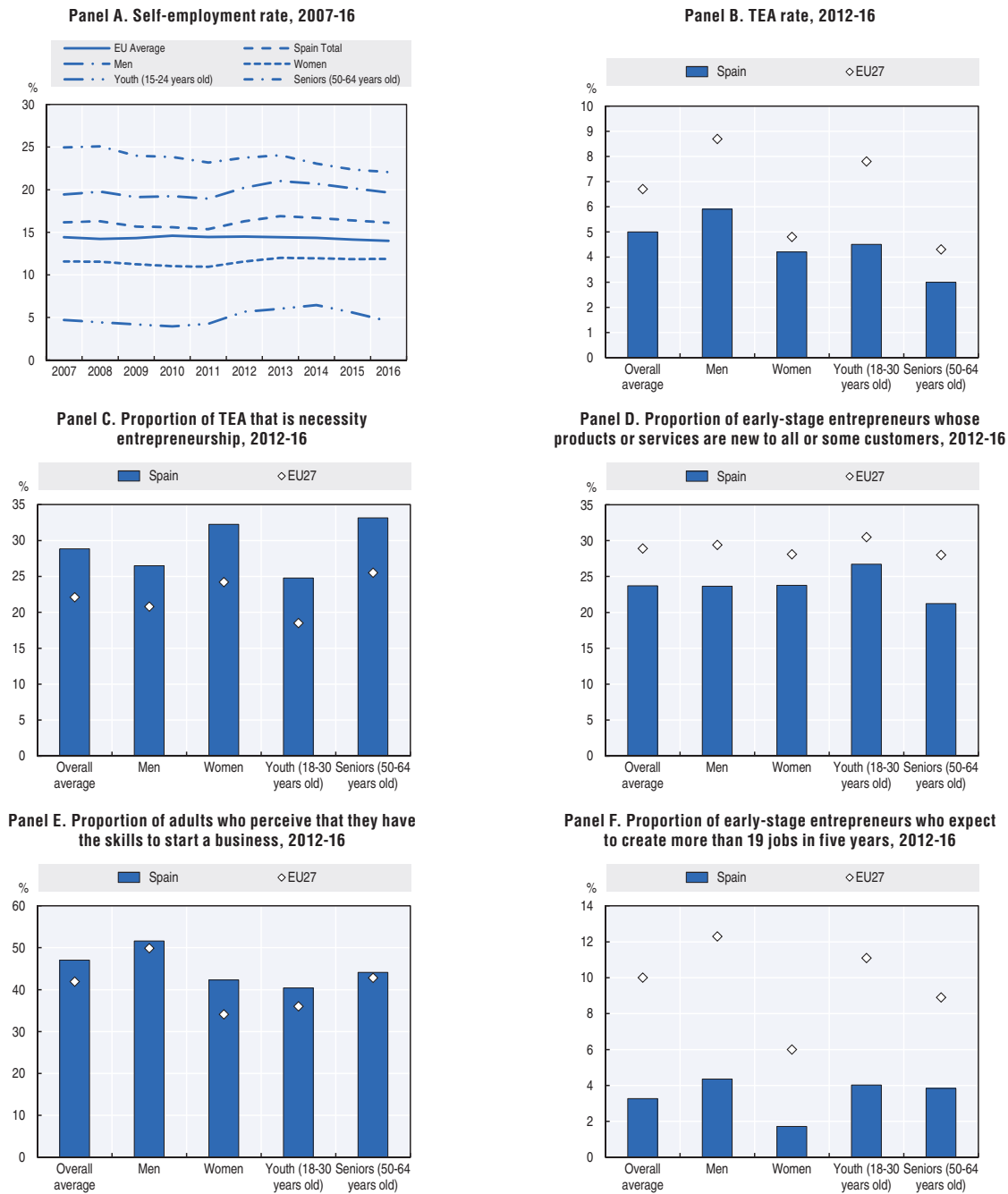
Hot issue: Access to finance for disadvantaged groups is a major concern. Microcredit remains under-developed but could be important to stimulate entrepreneurship. The private sector has only recently started to launch microcredit products for business creation. MicroBank (a subsidiary of *La Caixa*) offers microcredit programmes for the implementation, promotion and financial support of business projects, with no collateral required. Other banks such as *LaboralKutxa* and *CaixaPollença* have also started to offer microcredit for entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups with the support of the European Investment Fund connected with the European programme Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). However, the development of the microcredit sector has been slow due to a lack of a specific regulatory framework.

Recent policy developments: Among the most recent reforms, the most ambitious is the "Entrepreneurs' Law" (including the 2013 reform), which includes a set of measures grouped into five categories: creating entrepreneurial motivation; tax and social security incentives; more flexible financial support; support for growth and development (including administrative simplification); and international mobility. Since the Entrepreneurs' Law was adopted, several complementary policy actions have been launched to provide tailored support to groups that face greater barriers to business creation and self-employment. In the case of women, the Equal Opportunities Strategic Plan 2014-16 (*Plan Estratégico de Igualdad de Oportunidades*) includes specific measures promoting women's entrepreneurship. For youth, the Youth Guarantee (*Garantía Juvenil*) programme and the Strategy for Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment 2013-16 (*Estrategia de Emprendimiento y Empleo Joven 2013-16, EEEJ*) include various supports for youth entrepreneurship. Furthermore, it has been announced that the Entrepreneur's Law, the Equal Opportunities Strategic Plan 2014-16 and the Strategy for Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment 2013-16 will all be reformed in 2017.

The full Country Assessment Note can be found at: www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/inclusive-entrepreneurship.htm.

Key inclusive entrepreneurship data

Figure 34.1. Entrepreneurship and self-employment data for Spain



Notes: 1. The self-employment rate is defined as the number of self-employed people (15-64 years old) divided by the number of people in employment. 2. The TEA rate is the proportion of adults (18-64 years old) involved in setting up a business or managing a business that is less than 42 months old. 3. Necessity entrepreneurship is defined as entrepreneurship activities that were launched because the individual did not have other options in the labour market. 4. Early-stage entrepreneurs are those who are in the process of setting up a business or manage a business that is less than 42 months old. 5. In Panels B, C, D, E and F, the population covered are those 18-64 years old.

Sources: Panel A: Eurostat (2017), Labour Force Survey, available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/database>; Panels B, C, D, E, and F: GEM (2017), Special tabulations of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor adult population survey, 2012-16.

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Reader's guide to the country profiles

This section of the book provides a short overview of inclusive entrepreneurship trends and recent policy actions in each European Union Member State. Each Country Profile highlights recent trends for key inclusive entrepreneurship indicators, focusing on activity rates, quality and barriers to business creation for people in under-represented and disadvantaged groups, drawing on a set of charts (see below). In addition, the Country Profiles briefly describe a current policy issue relevant for inclusive entrepreneurship policy development. Finally, each Country Profile describes a recent policy action that was introduced to support the unemployed, women, youth or seniors in business creation and self-employment.

The country overviews are complemented with a common set of country-specific data that benchmark key inclusive entrepreneurship indicators against the European Union average and over time. Data are presented for men, women, youth, seniors and the overall population total. These data help to show the scale of the challenge and its recent evolution. All Country Profiles contain six figures (except for the Malta profile, which does not participate in the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor survey):

Panel A: Self-employment rate, 2007-16. This presents the proportion of those in employment who are self-employed.

Panel B: Total Early-stage Entrepreneurship Activity (TEA) rate, 2012-16. This presents the proportion of the population who is actively involved in starting a business or who is the owner-operator of a business that is less than 42 months old.

Panel C: Proportion of TEA that is necessity entrepreneurship, 2012-16. This presents the proportion of early-stage entrepreneurship that was launched due to a lack of other opportunities in the labour market.

Panel D: Proportion of early-stage entrepreneurs whose products or services are new to all or some customers, 2012-16. This presents the proportion of early-stage entrepreneurs who self-report that they offer products and/or services that are new to potential customers.

Panel E: Proportion of adults who perceive that they have the skills to start a business, 2012-16. This presents the proportion of the population who believe that they have the knowledge and skills needed to start a business.

Panel F: Proportion of early-stage entrepreneurs who expect to create more than 19 jobs in five years, 2012-16. This presents the proportion of early-stage entrepreneurs who anticipate the creation of at least 19 additional new jobs over the next five years.



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