



THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL INCLUSION IN SPAIN

Rodrigo Fernández
Economist / Policy Analyst
Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

29 September 2023

Publication available at <http://oe.cd/spain-social-inclusion-2023>





Outline

1. Methodology to identify barriers to social inclusion
 - Definition of target population
 - Identification of barriers
 - Characterisation of populations
2. Challenges for social inclusion
 - Overall approach to address social exclusion issues
 - Coordination mechanisms
 - Adequacy of resources
 - Monitoring and evaluation



Outline

1. Methodology to identify barriers to social inclusion
 - Definition of target population
 - Identification of barriers
 - Characterisation of populations
2. Challenges for social inclusion
 - Overall approach to address social exclusion issues
 - Coordination mechanisms
 - Adequacy of resources
 - Monitoring and evaluation



Whose barriers?

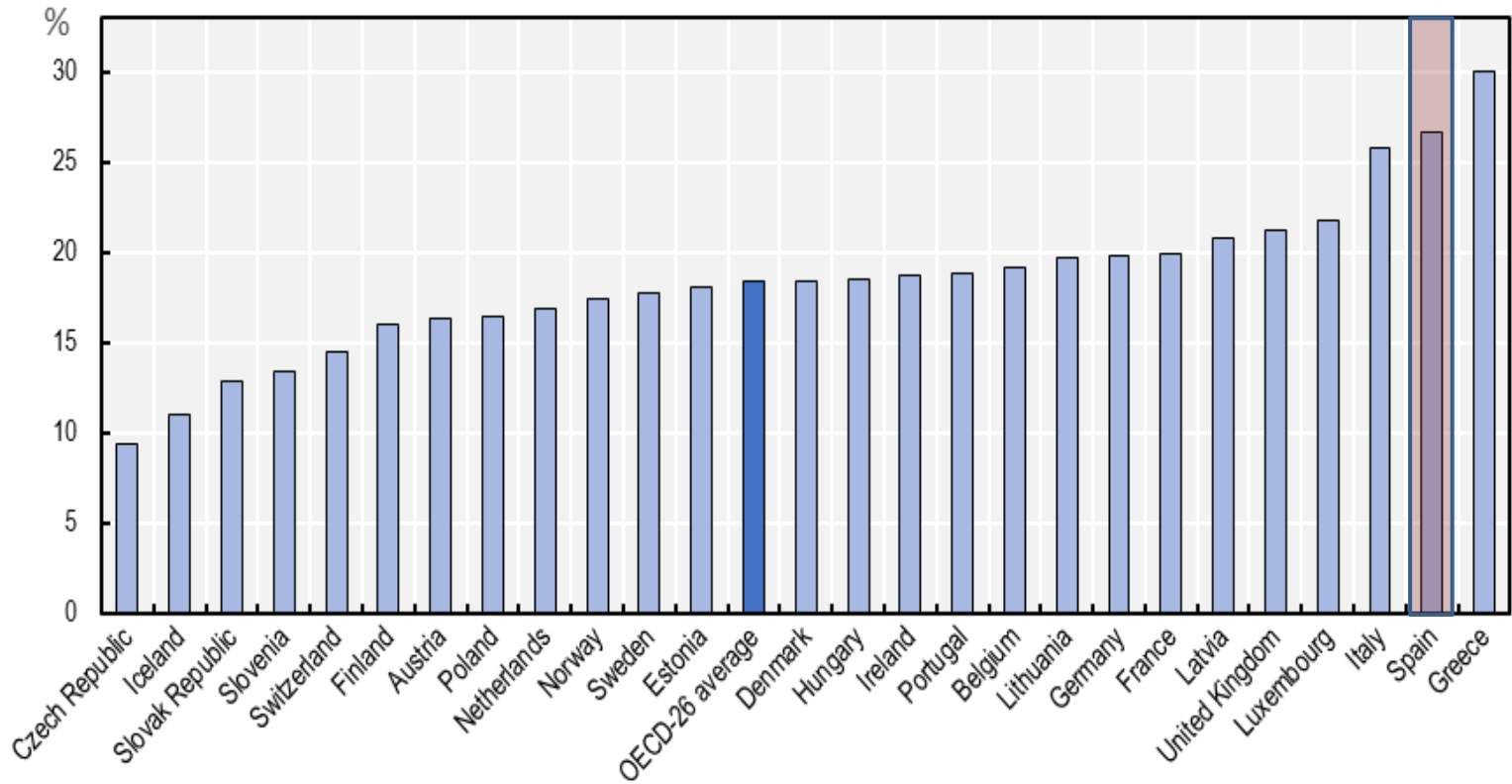
Population of interest – options for defining it

- There is no universally accepted definition of *social exclusion*
- Reasonable consensus that it is not limited to monetary poverty
 - Multidimensionality
 - Non-participation
 - Account for dynamics, persistence
 - Multi-level
- Operationalise to make informative in practice
 - Can be implemented with chosen data source (EU-SILC)
 - Informative in the Spanish context (agreed with MISSM)
 - As simple as possible and directly applicable to policy analysis
 - Applicable across years

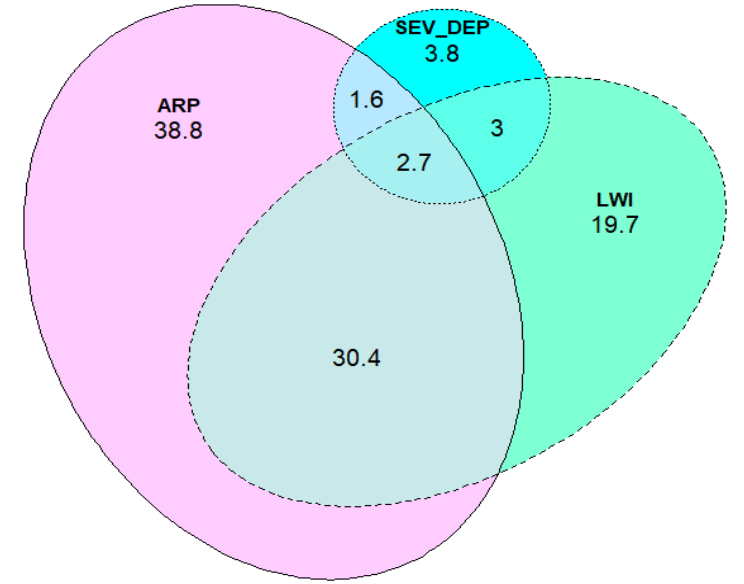


How to identify socially excluded in practice? The AROPE indicator

Share of AROPE among working-age population in selected OECD countries



Example - Finland, 16%



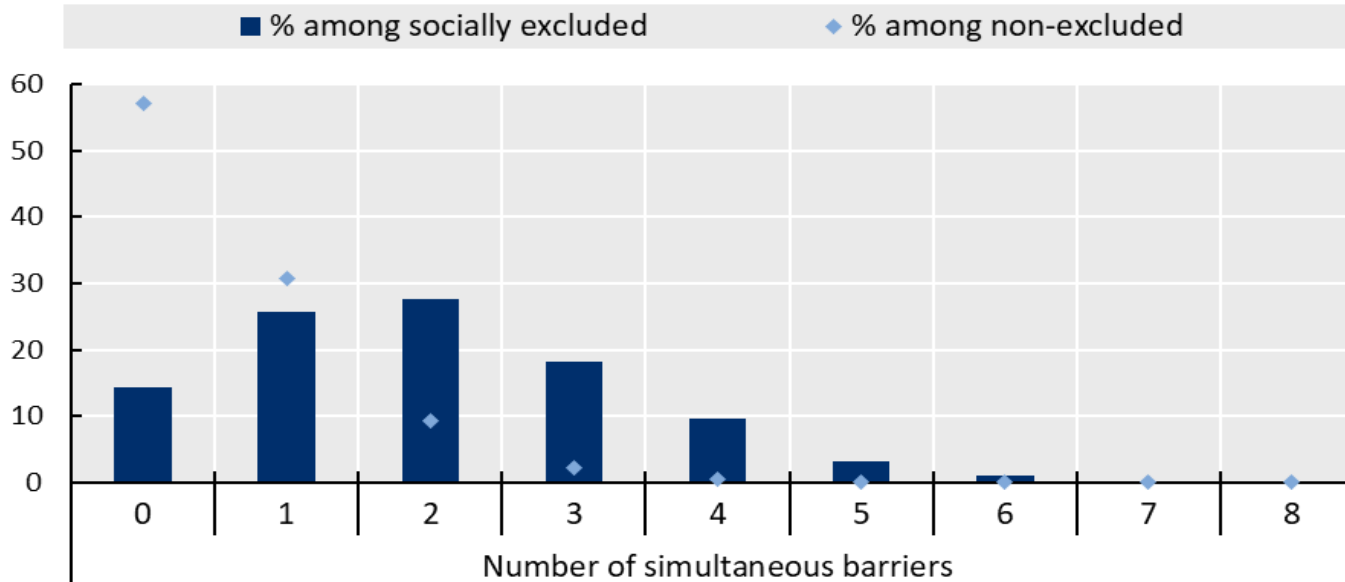
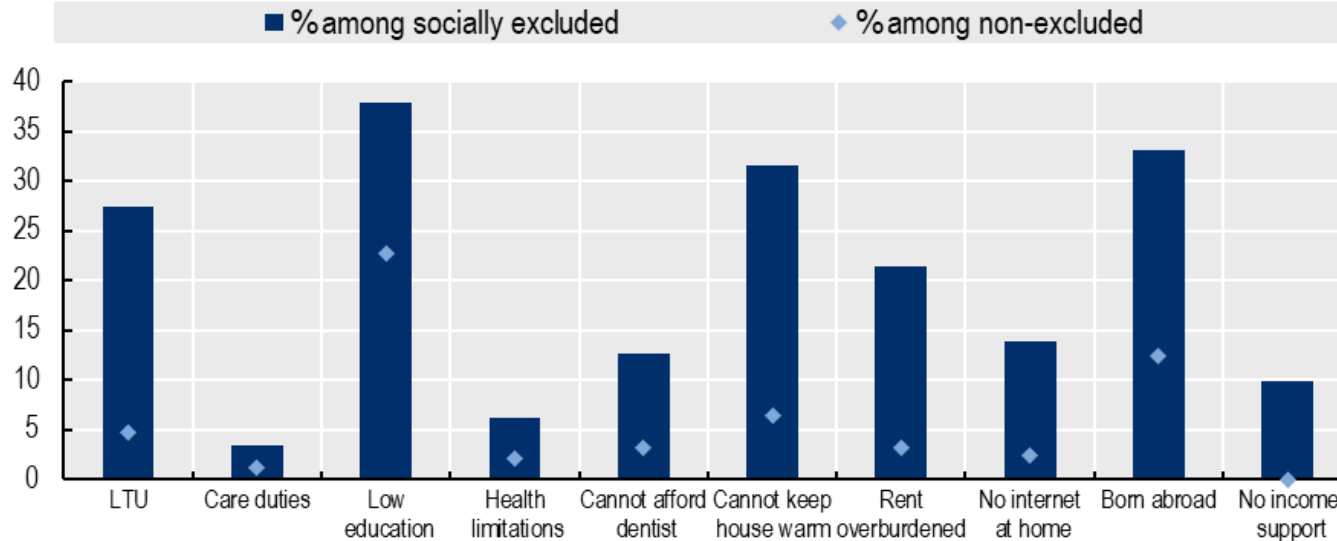


Example of barriers to social inclusion - mapping

Variable	Relevant policy areas	
Long-term unemployed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ALMPs - Lifelong learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Integration - Income Support
Care duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childcare services - Income support for caregivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term care services
Low education and not in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lifelong Learning - Remedial education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies for NEETs - Prevention of absenteeism
Strong health limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to health care - Disability benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term care services
Difficulties affording dental treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income support
Can't keep house warm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy-related cash transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income support
Rent overburdened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Housing benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family benefits - Accompaniment for persons/households under emergency housing situations
Born Abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal and administrative support (to access to social services and benefits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language classes
No internet at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digitalisation policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific cash transfers
Severe material deprivation or ARP plus no income support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to social work



Barriers to social inclusion - Frequencies



- **Top panel**
 - LTU, low education and lack of monetary resources are the most frequent barriers
 - **Bottom panel**
 - About 15% of target population do not face any (of these) barriers.
 - Many face **multiple barriers**
- **Clustering** to identify sub-groups with similar profiles



Outline

1. Methodology to identify barriers to social inclusion
 - Definition of target population
 - Identification of barriers
 - Characterisation of populations
2. Challenges for social inclusion
 - Overall approach to address social exclusion issues
 - Coordination mechanisms
 - Adequacy of resources
 - Monitoring and evaluation



Challenge 1 - Lack of a holistic approach to inclusion

- As of end-2021, **less than half AACCC have a Regional Plan** for Social Inclusion
- In most AACCC, the **social services department** is the main – and often the only – actor **in charge of inclusion policies**
- Across AACCC, there is a trend towards (further) **integration of employment and social services**
- But **integrated services** approaches, considering social integration as a whole, **are still rare**.



Challenge 2 - A need for formal coordination mechanisms

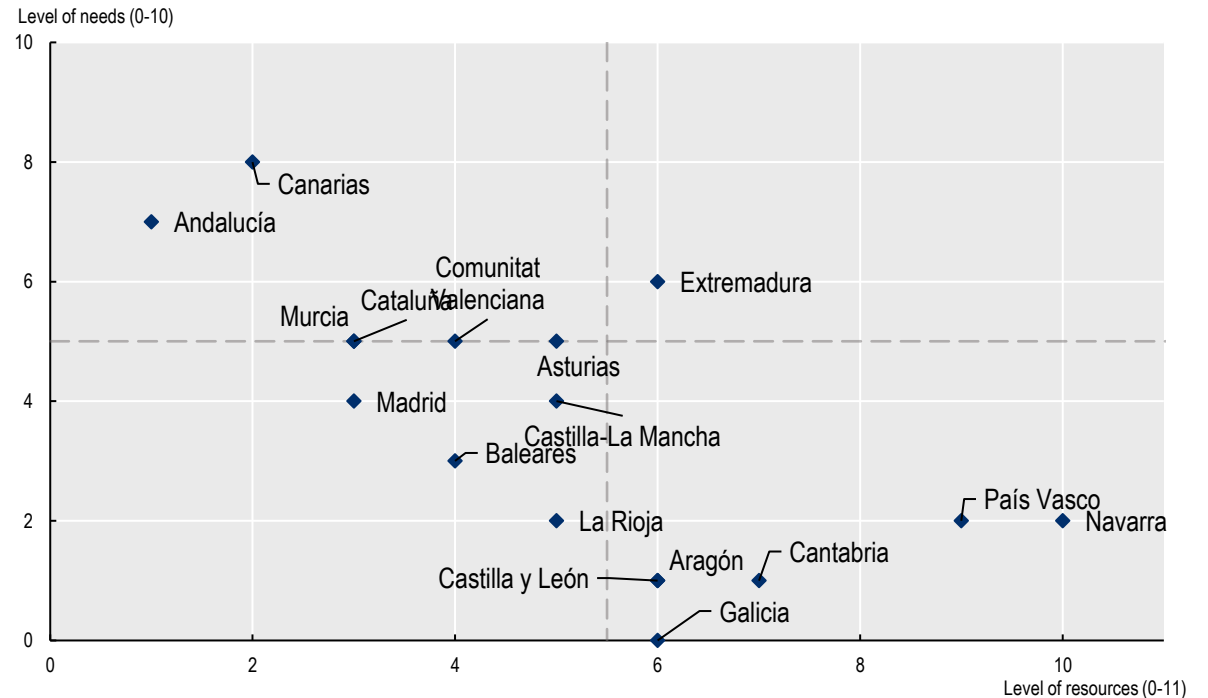
- Horizontally, **interdepartmental bodies and coordination protocols** can enhance within-government communication but not available in all AA.CC.
- Vertically, **need for more bidirectional communication** between local entities and regional governments
- At the local level, there is a strong need for formal coordination mechanisms in a majority of AA.CC., notably **referral protocols and institutionalized working groups**
- **Data-sharing** between various administrative bodies is also beneficial for coordination



Challenge 3 – The adequacy of resources

- Few AACCC show a **level of resources** that appears in line with support needs
- Challenges include **waiting lists** (health, long-term care) and **staff/client ratios** (social services, health), as well as **low investment** (social housing) and **benefit levels** (minimum income schemes)

Ranking of Spain's AACCC based on their social inclusion needs and resources





Challenge 4 - A need for a monitoring and evaluation framework

- In most AACCC, there is **limited continuity of social inclusion plans across planning cycles**
- Evaluations not being incorporated into new frameworks, interrupting the policy feedback → **long-term evidence-based policy design becomes difficult**
- Lack of systematic **involvement of users/clients**



THANK YOU

Rodrigo.FERNANDEZ@oecd.org

Publication available at <http://oe.cd/spain-social-inclusion-2023>

 <https://oecd.org/els>