

SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH GREEN ECONOMY: THE CASE OF PRISON POPULATION IN SPAIN

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Abstract

Global sustainability is based on intergenerational responsibility. The planet cannot withstand environmental assaults that the capitalist production system can produce if there is not a regulatory mechanism. This mechanism is contained, at least in part, in several regulations and commitments, as “Europe 2020”, which includes goals related with energy efficiency and green economy and others areas linked with social sustainability, as employment, education or social inclusion. This work is centred in a specific group at risk of social exclusion, the Spanish prison population, and the possibility of join two objectives: achieving the social inclusion of this collective through the enhancement of their skills in green economy to get a job. In this way, two of the most important sustainability areas, environmental and social, would be linked and improved. Types of work in prison in Spain are analysed and new proposals are provided.

Keywords: social inclusion, green economy, environment, employment, inmate, prison

JEL Classification: J64, J71, J78, K10, Q56, Q58

Introduction

Global sustainability is based on intergenerational responsibility (Lecaros, 2013). The planet cannot withstand environmental assaults that the capitalist production system can produce if there is not a regulatory mechanism. This mechanism is contained, at least in part, in several regulations and

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commitments, as the EU's 10-year strategy, known as “Europe 2020”, which includes goals related with energy efficiency and green economy and others areas linked with social sustainability, as employment, education or social inclusion.

This work is centred in a specific group at risk of social exclusion, the Spanish prison population, and the possibility of join two objectives: achieving the social inclusion of this collective through the enhancement of their skills in green economy to get a job. To analyse this issue, this article is structured as follows: section 2 and 3 present the analysis of the part of Europe 2020 linked with not only climate and energy, but also employment and social inclusion. Section 4 contains a description of the case of study, prison population, and the problems that they find to achieve social inclusion. Section 5 shows the major types of work in prison in Spain and some Government and NGOs actions in the labour area linked or not with green economy. Section 6 discusses the findings and shows the conclusions to be drawn.

Conflicting goals

Nowadays, the idea of “use once and throw away” and the primacy of short-term profits is extended and generalized. The main consequence of these way of thinking about is that the environmental sustainability have been put at risk.

Because of this, it is necessary to make decisions in this area to change the direction of the actions of governments, firms and households.

In this line, green economy is considered as a vehicle to deliver sustainable development (UNEP, 2012). In a clean energy economy, green businesses play a central role by utilizing renewable energy technologies and employing green labour forces to provide clean energy services and goods (Yi, 2014). Green economy is a new terminology for what is known since 40 years as ecological modernisation (Lorek and Spangenberg, 2014).

The apparently conflicting goals of green economy are, on the one hand, the resources efficiency and, on the other hand, reducing the impacts (externalities) associated with production and consumption. At first, doing compatible these objectives seems difficult, because short and long term targets may conflict:

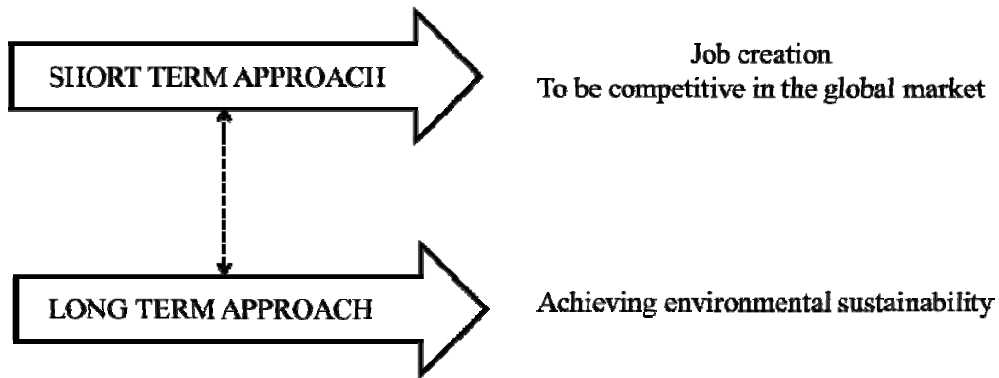


Fig.1: Short term approach vs long term approach

Source: *Authors' own*

As Figure 1 shows, if we follow short term approach, the main need is the job creation and being competitive in the global market. However, long term approach defends the importance of the environmental sustainability.

How can we make them compatible? A possible solution is the development and the merchandising of green technologies increasing energy efficiency. It would be a solution if it had the aid of public policies, as Europe 2020. In fact, one of the goal of United Nations Environment Programme is to demonstrate the contributions that green investments can make to the growth of income and jobs.

The aid of public policies: Europe 2020

According to the European Union (2010), we need to accept that the increased economic interdependence demands also a more determined and coherent response at the political level. Economic realities are moving faster than political realities, as we have seen with the global impact of the financial crisis. Europe 2020 is about delivering growth that is: smart, through more effective investments in education, research and innovation; sustainable, thanks to a decisive move towards a low-carbon economy, and inclusive, with a strong emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction.

The strategy is focused on five ambitious goals in the areas of employment, innovation, education, poverty reduction and climate/energy. These targets are interrelated and critical to overall success. To ensure that each

Member State tailors Europe 2020 to its particular situation, the Commission proposes that EU objectives are translated into national targets and trajectories.

The goal related with climate and energy (objective 3) says that increasing energy efficiency, supporting research and developing and commercialising innovative green technologies, Member States can also boost their competitiveness and create jobs. In fact, employment is a really important target in the States Members. The Commission has proposed the following EU headline target related with job (objective 1): 75 % of the population aged from 20 to 64 years old should be employed.

Moreover, the Commission is putting forward seven flagship initiatives: in the environmental area, the initiative is “Resource efficient Europe” “to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise our transport sector and promote energy efficiency”. At EU level, the Commission is working in mobilising EU financial instruments, in enhancing a framework for the use of market-based instruments or in presenting proposals to modernise and decarbonise the transport sector thereby contributing to increased competitiveness.

In the employment area, the initiative is “an agenda for new skills and jobs”, with the objective of “modernising labour markets and empower people by developing their of skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand, including through labour mobility”.

On the other hand, Europe 2020 establishes a target related with poverty and social exclusion (objective 5): 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.

There are interrelations between these three goals linked with climate, employment and exclusion and it can be done strategies that incorporates common elements to walk towards this smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Figure 2). In fact, according to García-álvarez, Varela-Candamio and Novo-Corti (2013) renewable energy sector can be an opportunity to create employment.

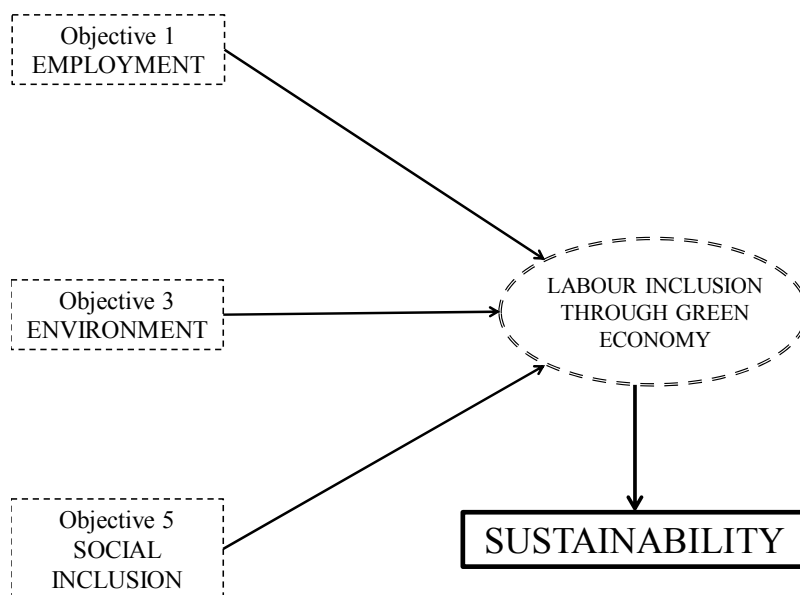


**Fig. 2: Labour inclusion through green economy
linking three Europe 2020 targets**

Source: *Authors' own*

Acting all States together in these areas is the proposition of EU. According to the Commission, the EU adds value on the global scene. In this way, EU will influence global policy decisions only if it acts jointly.

The case of prison population

Nowadays, there are some groups with special problems to achieve social inclusion, as rural women, homeless or Gypsies (Gago-Cortés and Novo-Corti, in Press; de Souza et al. 2009; Hunter and de Simone, 2009; Novo-Corti, Varela-Candamio and García-Álvarez, 2014).

Prison population is another group at risk of social exclusion (Barreiro-Gen, 2012). Table 1 shows the relation among prison population and crimes recorded by the police in some European countries, as Spain, Romania or Germany (2003-2012).

As this Table shows, the most developed European countries, such as Germany, France or Finland, have fewer people in their prisons during whole studied period than others states such as Spain, Portugal or Greece. It has been

included the case of Romania or Turkey because the percentage is higher, in the line with others European countries less developed.

Table 1 Relation (%) among prison population and crimes recorded by the police in European countries (2003-2012)

Country/Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Belgium	0,9%	0,9%	0,9%	1,0%	0,9%	0,9%	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%
Denmark	0,8%	0,9%	0,9%	0,8%	0,7%	0,8%	0,8%	0,9%	0,9%
Germany	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%	1,1%
Greece	2,2%	2,2%	2,2%	2,7%	3,0%	3,0%	3,8%	6,4%	6,4%
Spain	2,8%	2,7%	2,8%	2,9%	3,1%	3,3%	3,2%	3,1%	3,0%
France	1,5%	1,6%	1,6%	1,7%	1,8%	1,9%	-	-	-
Italy	2,3%	2,3%	1,4%	1,7%	2,1%	2,5%	2,6%	2,4%	2,3%
Luxembourg	2,1%	2,9%	2,8%	2,4%	2,4%	2,1%	2,2%	1,8%	1,7%
Netherlands	1,3%	1,3%	1,3%	1,2%	1,1%	1,1%	1,2%	1,2%	1,2%
Austria	1,4%	1,5%	1,5%	1,5%	1,4%	1,4%	1,6%	1,6%	1,6%
Portugal	3,1%	3,2%	3,1%	2,9%	2,5%	2,6%	2,7%	3,1%	3,4%
Romania	16,9%	17,6%	14,6%	10,4%	9,1%	8,9%	9,7%	11,9%	10,3%
Finland	0,8%	0,9%	0,8%	0,8%	0,8%	0,7%	0,7%	0,7%	0,8%
Sweden	0,6%	0,6%	0,6%	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%
England and Wales	1,3%	1,4%	1,4%	1,6%	1,8%	1,9%	2,0%	2,1%	2,3%
Scotland	1,5%	1,6%	1,7%	1,9%	2,1%	2,4%	2,4%	2,6%	-
Northern Ireland (UK)	1,0%	1,1%	1,2%	1,4%	1,4%	1,3%	1,4%	1,6%	1,7%
Norway	1,1%	1,1%	1,2%	1,3%	1,3%	1,2%	1,3%	1,4%	-
Switzerland	1,5%	1,7%	1,8%	1,8%	1,8%	0,9%	0,9%	0,9%	0,9%
Turkey	11,4%	8,4%	7,2%	9,3%	10,2%	9,0%	7,9%	7,8%	-

Source: Eurostat, the author's calculation. Prison population/crimes recorded by the police

Spain has a lot of people in prison. On the one hand, it is expensive. On the other hand, if these people cannot achieve their reintegration, the probability to continue in their criminal life is higher. Because of this, it is necessary to look for instruments to avoid it.

This collective finds many difficulties in different areas, as employment. Achieving a job is one of the most important instrument to avoid exclusion (de

Oliveira and Ornellas, 2011; Gallie, Paugam and Jacobs, 2003; Naraine and Lindsay, 2011). Leaving prison with a lawful source of income, such as a job or a pension, is decisive for the non-recidivism (Barreiro-Gen, Novo-Corti and Ramil-Díaz, 2013). Those prisoners who have good prospects in the labour market reoffend less, while those who do not, relapse more easily, especially if they have drug problems (Entorf, 2009). In fact, most of the models related with social exclusion incorporates employment as a key factor: for instance, according to Commins (1993), social exclusion should be defined in terms of the failure of one or more of the following four systems: 1. the democratic and legal system, assuring everyone is alike to the rest of the society; 2. the labour market, which promotes economic integration. The importance of this system stems from being able to pay your way; 3. the welfare state system, promoting social integration and letting social services help people who cannot manage entirely alone; 4. the family system, which promotes interpersonal integration.

According to the Spanish Constitution (1978), the model of prison in this state is based on social reintegration (art. 25). If different ways to find a job are analysed, it can be said that the personnel and recruitment systems adopted by public institutions prohibit the incorporation of candidates with a criminal record. The adverse effects of disqualification constitute a two-fold punishment for the inmate. Public employment is inaccessible for prisoners. In spite of serving their full sentence, those released from prison suffer, as do all inmates, the stigma of their criminal record (Barreiro-Gen, 2012; Jensen and Giegold, 1976). The institutions extend this behaviour to the inmates' life after prison.

In addition, these inmates have difficulties in obtaining employment in the private sector. Employment policy in most private companies includes the screening of candidates. The existence of any factors that undermine the employer's confidence, such as being ex-inmate, is likely exclude candidate from the selection (Hitt et al., 2001).

It is necessary to walk towards the reduction of these obstacles and the construction of instruments that help this collective to find an employment.

In this line, work at prison can be an interesting key factor to prepare inmates in a specific area. De Alos et al. (2009) observe the inmates at work and conduct interviews with them. The results of their study confirm that prison work acquires several functions: it provides inmates with earnings that enable

them to meet personal or family needs, working in prison allows them to make better use of their time, provides working habits and improves social relationships.

In this work it is proposed the possibility of join two objectives: achieving the social inclusion of this collective through increase their skills in green economy to get a job. In this way, two of the most important sustainability areas, environmental and social, are linked and improved.

Government and NGOs actions linked with this area in Spain are analysed.

Government and NGOs actions related with work in prison

There is an Autonomous Agency Work Prison and Training for Employment in Spain (OATPFE). According to this organism, the main goal of work in prison is the subsequent labour integration of inmates. They can acquire labour habits and skills to be competitive through different programs. Productive activity in prisons has to be self-funded, because Spanish General Budgets doesn't fund these activities. Because of this, the projects must be economically viable. Scenarios should be created similar to reality in the characteristics that it is possible (for instance, labour or technological characteristics).

There are different areas where prison population are working through this Agency as Table 2 shows.

Table 2: Activities per prison in the production units (Spain)

Production Units. Activities.	Prison
Industrial garment-making	Burgos
	Córdoba
	El Dueso
	Jaén
	Madrid I
	Madrid V
	Puerto III
	Segovia
	Topas

Metal carpentry	Almería Bonxe Cáceres El Dueso Jaén Monterroso Ocaña I Ocaña II Sevilla Valladolid
Wood carpentry	Albolote Almería Bonxe Cáceres El Dueso Ocaña I Sevilla
Graphic arts	Madrid II Madrid III,
Manipulated	Ocaña I
Electricity and electronics (repair of computers)	Ocaña I Ocaña II
Agriculture (self- consumption and sell of flowers)	Burgos Jaén Málaga Sevilla
Craft	Ocaña I

Source: *Autonomous Agency Work Prison and Training for Employment in Spain (OATPFE)* ([http://oatpfe.es/portada/AreasdeActividad/ TrabajoPenitenciario/seccion=1179&idioma=es_ES.do#](http://oatpfe.es/portada/AreasdeActividad/TrabajoPenitenciario/seccion=1179&idioma=es_ES.do#)).

There is a lack of programs directly related with green economy. Despite the work offered is linked with areas related with natural resources, they do not receive specific training in that field.

If we pay attention of NGOs actions related with work after prison, we can find some regional activities like these:

In Galicia, Itinere program consists in helping former drug addicts to get a job (Érguete Foundation, 2014). In other region, Murcia, Diagrama Foundation has created Insertion companies Bridge (Diagrama Foundation, 2014). On the other hand, in Andalucía, SAL-Córdoba is a labour inclusion program in the agriculture (Andalusian Public Foundation Training and Employment Fund, 2014). However, there are not specific programs linked with mechanisms of green economy.

Conclusion

On the one hand, prison population face serious problems to achieve social inclusion. Employment is an important instrument to facilitate the reintegration of groups at risk of exclusion, such as this collective, in the society.

On the other hand, there are some niches in European market, such as the sector related with the green economy, that is being promoted by European Union, trough Europe 2020.

However, it have been showed that there is a lack in the training in prison related with this sector. Increasing training in prison of green economy is a contribution to improve labour skills of prison population in this market niche, which is on the rise. This proposition not only would contribute with environmental sustainability, but also would do easier the social sustainability and the social inclusion of this group. In this way, three of the five Europe 2020 targets would be encouraged: the goals linked with environment, employment and social inclusion.

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