

**mgr Paweł Nowak**  
**Pedagogical University**  
**Warszawa**

### **Barriers of labor market in zachodniopomorski region**

We have been hearing so much about will to help disabled persons. Often government points out actions which purpose is to improve disabled persons life. Social barriers are being broken; therefore, classes for disabled and healthy children are something normal. In every latest building investments needs of disabled persons are taken into account. All this improvements vanish when confronted with obstacles which disabled person met while trying to undertake a job.

Undoubtly the group of people who are influenced by these difficulties in finding, doing and holding a job are disabled persons for whom work is not only a source of income, but also the most effective way of rehabilitation<sup>1</sup>.

Rehabilitation by work is a very important part of complex rehabilitation, in which we include: medical rehabilitation, psychological rehabilitation, work rehabilitation and social rehabilitation.<sup>2</sup> International Organization for Work defines work rehabilitation in this manner: (...) *is a part of general process of rehabilitation and it is providing disabled person certain services like work counselor, courses in a given profession and employment, to make possible for this person finding, holding and promotion in a given profession, thus making possible integration or reintegration in the society*<sup>3</sup>

Zygmunt Wiatrowski claims that every man, especially physically and psychologically healthy, has right to work and organization of social life should guarantee this right<sup>4</sup>.

Being a part of EU is for Poland, as I will show later, the only chance for improving situation of unemployed disabled persons. However, EU just gives possibilities to fight this problem, it is the Polish government that will be responsible for the effectiveness of using this chances.

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<sup>1</sup> K. Mlonek, *Bezrobocie w Polsce w XX wieku w świetle badań*, Warszawa 1999r., s.148.

<sup>2</sup> T. Majewski, *Problemy rehabilitacji zawodowej i społecznej osób niepełnosprawnych*, w: W. Dycik, *Pedagogika specjalna*, Poznań 2001, s. 396.

<sup>3</sup> Tamże, s.396.

<sup>4</sup> Z. Wiatrowski, *Podstawy pedagogiki pracy*, Bydgoszcz 2005, s.81.

The public statistics very broadly treats the notion of disability. The proof for this is very detailed Report MPIPS-07 about unemployed disabled persons looking for work and who are not employed. Detailed data are gathered every half of a year and more general data, concerning number of unemployed disabled persons and work offers for them, every month.

I will start describing the dynamic of unemployment among disabled persons from the end of 1999. This was the first data from a whole year gathered for newly created zachodniopomorskie region. On the 31 December 1999 in the zachodniopomorski region 1 508 disabled persons include 743 women (49, 3%) were registered. At that time disabled persons were 1,1% of all unemployed. It should be considered that in the year 1999 there were 130,9 thousand unemployed persons. In the next years worsening situation did not cause decrease in the number of unemployed disabled persons. In 2000 1 949 - include 959 women (49,2%) - unemployed disabled persons were registered. Disabled persons were already 1,3 % of all unemployed persons. Increase in a number of unemployed disabled persons seemed to be a result of economic recession. Increase in number of unemployed persons in zachodniopomorski was observable until 2003, when in February statistics of labor market noted unbelievable high number of unemployed persons – 198, 7 thousand. Typical occurrence in 2001 was stabilization of the number unemployed, disabled women, which will be systematically decreasing in later years. Another increase in the number of unemployed disabled persons was observed in 2002, at the end of 2002 there were 2 246 persons and in 2003 the general number changed to 2 384. As we can observe in 2003 and 2004 the increasing tendency was present, despite the slowing down of increasing of unemployed at the end of 2003 and first visible decrease in general number of unemployed in 2004. Not very good situation occurred in 2005, while general number of unemployed persons in zachodniopomorskie decreased (13,8 thousand), the number of disabled unemployed increased – the data from 31 December 2005 say about 2 674 ( 1,6 % of general unemployed) unemployed disabled persons included 1 275 women(47,7% in this category).

The reason for constant increase in the number of unemployed disabled persons seems to be insufficient job offers. While analyzing number and sources of job offers, we can observe severe decrease in the number offers from public sector – from 150 in 2000 to 58 in 2004 and 70 in 2005. Much more offers origin from subsidiary offers. Number of this offers systematically increased from 342 in 2000 to 715 in 2002. In later years we could observe high number of these offers – in 2003 and 2004 above 600.

A comparison between numbers of unemployed disabled persons undertaking jobs may be interesting. In recent years 2000 and 2001 740 to 680 undertakings of a job were registered. In later years number of job undertakings significantly increased, from 890 in 2003 to 1310 in 2005.

The public statistic also monitors number of disabled persons looking for work, who are not employed. Frequently, these are persons who use social support or have other source of income, thus they cannot be classified as unemployed. Therefore, they are registered as persons looking for work. At the end of 2001 this category included 1 402 persons with 550 women. These persons were 0,8% of general number of unemployed. While analyzing further data, we can observe systematic decrease of unemployed in this group. In 2005 the percent of this group in general number of unemployed was 0, 7%, which is 1 195 persons.

Now, when we know situation of unemployed disabled persons and persons looking for work in zachodniopomorski region, I will describe situation in certain counties, from 2005 to August 2006.

In the end of December 2005 the biggest number of disabled unemployed was registered in three counties: City of Szczecin (397 persons with 164 women), City of Koszalin (346 persons with 169 women) and Szczecineckim (309 persons with 153 women). In mentioned counties percent out of general number of unemployed disabled persons in zachodniopomorski region was 39, 4%. It highlights concentration of unemployment in cities, which should motivate disabled persons to act. In five counties the number of unemployed was between 200 and 100: Koszaliński (189 persons with 85 women), Sławieński (169 persons with 86 women), Białogardzkim (154 persons with 77 women), Kołobrzeskim (151 persons with 71 women), Wałecki (136 persons with 67 women) and Stargardzkim (104 persons with 51 women). In eight counties number of unemployed persons was about 90 to 20: Myśliborski (84 persons with 36 women), Świdwiński (79 persons with 41 women), Goleniowski (73 persons with 43 women), Choszczeński (70 persons with 40 women), Gryfickim (66 persons with 34 women), Polickim (43 persons with 18 women), Kamieńskim (39 persons with 12 women), City of Świnoujście (38 persons with 16 women) and Pyrzyckim (25 persons with 16 women). The smallest number of unemployed persons was observed in Łobeski county ( 7 persons with 3 women).

The state monitors also number of people who are looking for work. The largest number of persons, who were looking for work and were not employed, was in City of Szczecin (357 persons with 155 women) and in City of Koszalin (156 persons with 55 women).

Among unemployed disabled persons in the end of 2005 above 369 persons (with 174 women, which is 47, 2%) had right to receive social support for unemployed. The largest number of persons, with a right to receive social support, was registered in two counties: City of Koszalin (61 persons) and Szczecinecki (51 persons). In City of Szczecin, despite the big number of unemployed, only 27 used the right to receive social support.

We have counted Mount of job offers for disabled persons, which certain counties offered in 2005 (1 268).Majority of them (47 % - 596 offers) were offered by County Labor Govern in Szczecin. Additionally in a City of Koszalin, 126 job offers were registered and in Starogard county 103.The sum of above offers was 65% out of general number of job offers.

The latest data from 31 August 2006 prove increase in number of unemployed disabled persons registered in Labor Govern. According to this data 2 566 were registered, 1 306 women included. Despite the move in the labor market o zachodniopomorski region, disabled persons are 1,9 % out of general number of unemployed, which is a 0,3% increase comparing to 2005.

Contemporary situation in certain counties in zachodionpomorski region in the August 2006 is similar to situation from December 2005. The problem of unemployed disabled persons became visible in the City of Szczecin, where in describing period 433 persons (205 women, 47, 3%) and 321 persons looking for work were registered. In the City of Koszalin the level of unemployment stays the same as in 2005 (335 unemployed persons and 139 persons looking for work). In the Szczecinski county a visible improvement of situation is observable, in the August 2006 number of unemployed disabled persons was 250 with 165 women, which is a 59 persons decrease (19,1%).

In the first eight months of 2006 1 036 (with 471 women), which is 45,5% unemployed disabled persons undertook job. The biggest number of job undertakings was registered in three counties: Szczecinecki (174 undertakings), City of Koszalin (136 undertakings) and City of Szczecin (113 undertakings). Researching dynamics of correlations between changes of number of unemployed and undertakings of jobs we can conclude that the bigger number of unemployed disabled persons are registered in the City of Koszalin(274), the more undertook job (136). Very similar situation is in Szczecinecki county; in 2006 the 230 person registered and 174 of them undertook work.

The number of job offers for disabled people from January to August 2006 was 687. Majority of them were from Szczeciński labor govern and were 35, 7% (245 job offers). It should be remembered that one offer may include many positions.

Work rehabilitation, as we proved, are also job consultations and work courses. In this situation we can use statistics done by counties labor governs (appendix 4 Work Consulting, help in active work searching, training of unemployed and looking for work persons, interns and preparation in a place of work). In 2005 475 disabled persons in zachodniopomorski region used help of work consolors. In mentioned period, 92 unemployed, disabled persons (mostly men – 67,4%) started training, but only 89 finished it and even less started to work during training or after finishing it – 27 persons, which is 29,3%.

Difficulties of disabled persons in the labor market force them toward high job mobility. Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  unemployed is willing to undertake job in different professional field, change qualifications, and above 64% is willing to decrease professional status. Disabled persons are rather reluctant to change place of living (9%)<sup>5</sup>.

Forced unemployment (most of disabled persons worked earlier) has negative influence on health, leads to psychological changes, helps creating pathology and leads to worsening social well-being. Unemployment among disabled persons is the notion of great importance in Poland in the 90's<sup>6</sup>. Problem and importance of professional career of disabled persons was, as we can see, analyzed and researched for years. Nowadays it is still a major social problem In Poland.

## References

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<sup>5</sup> J. Sikorska, *Materialne warunki życia osób niepełnosprawnych*, w: *Polityka społeczna wobec osób niepełnosprawnych*, s. 210.

<sup>6</sup> K. Mlonek, *Bezrobocie w Polsce w XX wieku w świetle badań*, Warszawa 1999, s. 153.