

Come together: Fighting Social Exclusion Through Comprehensive Care

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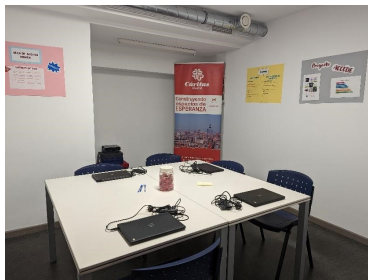
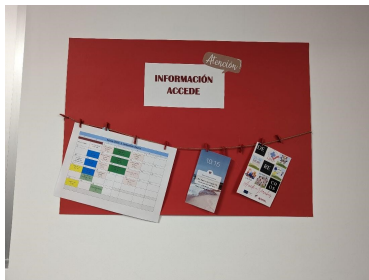
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- 1 Introduction
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- We evaluate a pilot intended for families who regularly go to parishes of one Catholic organization (Cáritas) seeking help.
- The program aims to improve social inclusion following a new approach that promotes the autonomy of participants through the design of **personalized itineraries** and the development of **relational spaces**. It focuses on three fundamental areas:
 1. **Training** and intensive support in administrative procedures, access to public services, management of material resources, digital skills, active job search techniques, etc.
 2. Provision of **digital access points** (devices and connections)
 3. An easily identifiable **physical space**, called ACCEDE (come in, in Spanish), where all planned activities were carried out
- We quantify the results of this intervention relative to the traditional model (the usual support that this organization provides to everyone) using a Randomized Controlled Trial.

ACCEDE (come in, come together)



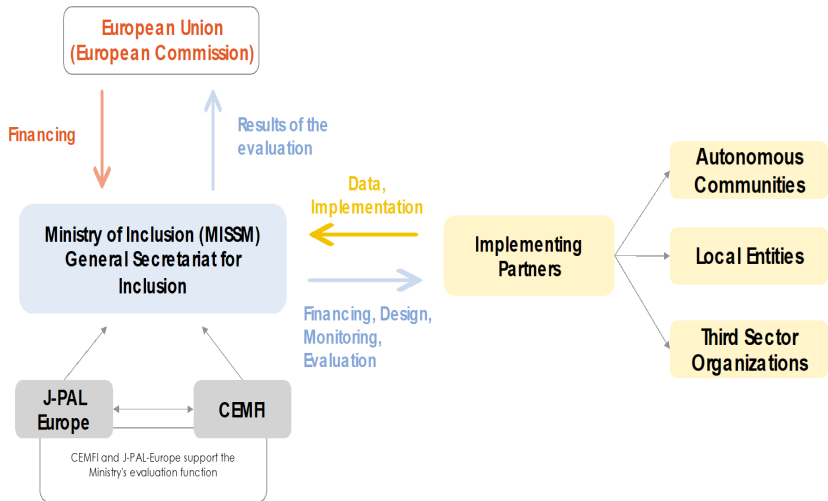
A Social Inclusion Policy Lab in the PRTR

- This pilot is one of the 32 projects on social inclusion policies:
 - ▷ launched in 2021 funded by NextGenerationEU within Spain's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR)



- ▷ designed as RCTs
- As researchers we were on board from the start collaborating with the Ministry and the counterparts

Governance Structure

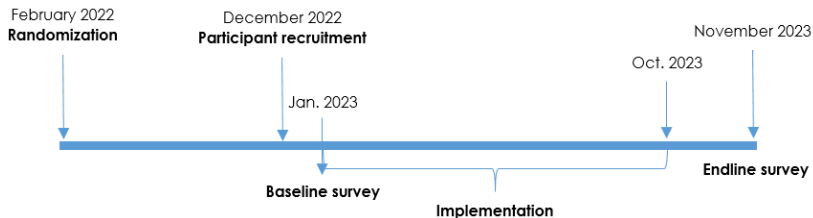


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- Target population: families who, when the pilot was launched, were already attending the parishes with which Cáritas España collaborate + those who request help during the recruitment.
- Random assignment of participants to Control and Treatment.
- Unit of randomization: parish or group of parishes (cluster).
Random assignment of 64 parish clusters (32 in C & 32 in T).

Program design and implementation chronology



- Both groups received the usual coverage that Cáritas provides: financial and/or in-kind aid, referrals to social services, and information on procedures.
- The treated parishes created the physical space, called “ACCEDE”, where participants received 8 additional actions:
 1. Preparation of a personalized itinerary
 2. Training in procedures and complaints with administrations
 3. Training in access to the IMV and other benefits
 4. Training on active job search techniques
 5. Training in skills, service management, and access to resources
 6. Creation of groups with participatory methodology
 7. Provision of digital access points (devices and connection)
 8. Intensive support for the different areas of action

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- In total, 2,625 people responded to the initial questionnaire: 54 % T, and 46 % C.
- 73 % women, 46 % Spanish nationality, and 44 average age. More than 65 % are unemployed.
- Low attrition: the probability of taking the final survey was pretty high (86 %) and was not significantly different between the treated and controls.
- Balancing tests at baseline: worked reasonably well, although there were some characteristics unbalanced that we included in the regressions.

Balancing tests

Variable	Control		Treatment		t-test	
	Obs./Clusters	Mean/(Var)	Obs./Clusters	Mean/(Var)	Obs./Clusters	p-value
Age	1205	45.25	1420	42.34	2625	0.00***
	32	(6487.85)	32	(7282.44)	64	
Male	1205	0.26	1420	0.28	2625	0.10*
	32	(7.44)	32	(9.15)	64	
Country of birth Spain	1205	0.41	1420	0.38	2625	0.10
	32	(9.42)	32	(10.76)	64	
Spanish nationality	1205	0.48	1420	0.45	2625	0.20
	32	(9.70)	32	(11.33)	64	
No. of member	1205	3.02	1420	3.15	2625	0.01**
	32	(107.53)	32	(104.74)	64	
Citizenship: non-EU	1205	0.46	1420	0.47	2625	0.54
	32	(9.64)	32	(11.40)	64	
Citizenship: Spanish	1205	0.48	1420	0.45	2625	0.24
	32	(9.69)	32	(11.34)	64	
Citizenship: EU non-Spanish	1205	0.04	1420	0.04	2625	0.31
	32	(1.37)	32	(1.85)	64	
Citizenship: EU family members	1205	0.02	1420	0.01	2625	0.53
	32	(0.63)	32	(0.64)	64	
Citizenship: non-EU family member of Spanish/EU	1205	0.01	1420	0.02	2625	0.04**
	32	(0.48)	32	(1.04)	64	
Working	1205	0.15	1420	0.16	2625	0.21
	32	(5.00)	32	(6.21)	64	
Unemployed	1205	0.65	1420	0.67	2625	0.31
	32	(8.80)	32	(10.10)	64	

Balancing tests (cont'd)

Inactive	1205	0.20	1420	0.17	2625	0.05**
	32	(6.12)	32	(6.37)	64	
Unliterate	1205	0.17	1420	0.12	2625	0.00***
	32	(5.38)	32	(4.56)	64	
Primary education or ESO or basic FP	1205	0.50	1420	0.51	2625	0.49
	32	(9.32)	32	(11.06)	64	
Baccalaureate or intermediate FP	1205	0.19	1420	0.24	2625	0.00***
	32	(5.73)	32	(7.99)	64	
University or higher FP	1205	0.13	1420	0.13	2625	0.87
	32	(4.19)	32	(4.93)	64	
Individual housing	1205	0.83	1420	0.85	2625	0.37
	32	(5.43)	32	(5.69)	64	
Shared housing	1205	0.15	1420	0.13	2625	0.46
	32	(4.88)	32	(5.13)	64	
Substandard housing or no housing	1205	0.02	1420	0.01	2625	0.27
	32	(0.76)	32	(0.64)	64	
Property paid or paying	1205	0.16	1420	0.15	2625	0.21
	32	(5.20)	32	(5.82)	64	
Rented or sublet	1205	0.70	1420	0.73	2625	0.08*
	32	(7.89)	32	(8.90)	64	
Leased, occupied, accommodation center	1205	0.13	1420	0.12	2625	0.27
	32	(4.32)	32	(4.69)	64	
Non-payments for household supplies in the last 6 months	1205	1.36	1420	1.34	2625	0.80
	32	(156.24)	32	(180.66)	64	
Job offers you have applied for in the last 6 months	1205	4.08	1420	4.91	2625	0.05*
	32	(4678.82)	32	(9299.00)	64	
Interviews conducted in the last 6 months	1205	1.07	1420	0.97	2625	0.51
	32	(664.76)	32	(701.83)	64	

Balancing tests (cont'd)

Occupational training actions in the last 6 months	1205	0.36	1420	0.30	2625	0.10
	32	(67.16)	32	(39.99)	64	
Job training actions in the last 6 months	1205	0.53	1420	0.49	2625	0.20
	32	(90.20)	32	(203.40)	64	
Degree of participation in a group in the last 6 months	1205	1.37	1420	1.32	2625	0.07*
	32	(19.90)	32	(20.95)	64	
Sum of income in the last 6 months	1205	3856.87	1420	3795.96	2625	0.85
	32	(4.17e+08)	32	(5.27e+08)	64	
Level of success in managing public services in the last 6 months	1205	3.44	1420	3.50	2625	0.29
	32	(65.58)	32	(74.05)	64	
Level of skill in using the Internet for personal, work, etc. purposes	1205	4.13	1420	4.16	2625	0.37
	32	(92.88)	32	(91.49)	64	
Level of social inclusion	1205	3.41	1420	3.41	2625	0.93
	32	(47.23)	32	(59.65)	64	
Internet access at your home	1205	0.70	1420	0.72	2625	0.35
	32	(7.93)	32	(9.10)	64	
Internet access by any means	1205	0.81	1420	0.86	2625	0.00***
	32	(5.94)	32	(5.49)	64	

Standard errors, grouped by parish, reported in parentheses. Includes randomization strata as additional controls * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

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$$Y_{i,t=1} = \alpha + \beta T_i + \gamma Y_{i,t=0} + X_i \delta + \epsilon_i$$

where:

$Y_{i,t=1}$ is the dependent variable of interest for family i observed after the intervention (November 2023)

T_i indicates whether family i was assigned to the treatment (=1) or the control (=0)

$Y_{i,t=0}$ is the value of the dependent variable at baseline (January 2023)

X_i is a vector of controls (the cluster indicators and the unbalanced variables at baseline)

ϵ_i is the error term

SE are clustered at the parish (or group of parishes) level.

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Hypotheses included in the PAP

1. **Digital divide:** more use of the Internet, as a means to resolve everyday issues, for treated compared to the control group.
2. **Employability:** better employability outcomes by helping people know what work suits their own skill set and interests, and how to look for a job.
3. **Guarantee of rights:** better knowledge of their rights and more claims of social benefits, or aid related to education, health, housing, etc.
4. **Income:** greater income, or at least fewer difficulties in making ends meet.
5. **Social relationships:** improved social involvement and participation.

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1) Digital divide

Positive and significant effect on internet access and on the ability to carry out all types of online procedures.

	Degree of internet use for personal, work, educational purposes		Internet access at home		Internet access by any other means	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Treatment	0.380*** (0.066)	0.296*** (0.065)	0.248*** (0.071)	0.193*** (0.066)	0.199*** (0.063)	0.160** (0.059)
Observations	2265	2265	2265	2265	2265	2265
R^2	0.36	0.42	0.22	0.25	0.17	0.18
Control mean dep. var.	-0.217	-0.217	-0.145	-0.145	-0.144	-0.144
Initial value dep. var.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

Standard errors, grouped by parish, reported in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

2) Employability

Positive and significant effect on every indicator (reference period: last 6 months): job offers, job interviews, job training actions, and occupational training actions.

	Job offers presented		Interviews conducted		Occupational training actions		Job orientation actions	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Treatment	0.136**	0.121*	0.118***	0.074**	0.397***	0.375***	0.243**	0.231**
	(0.058)	(0.062)	(0.038)	(0.033)	(0.070)	(0.070)	(0.103)	(0.104)
Observations	2265	2265	2265	2265	2265	2265	2265	2265
R^2	0.10	0.11	0.05	0.07	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.14
Control mean dep. var.	-0.076	-0.076	-0.060	-0.060	-0.211	-0.211	-0.126	-0.126
Initial value dep. var.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

Standard errors, grouped by parish, reported in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

3) Guarantee of rights

Positive and significant effect on the degree of access to social rights.

	Degree of access to social rights	
	(1)	(2)
Treatment	0.183**	0.142*
	(0.088)	(0.082)
Observations	2265	2265
R^2	0.20	0.23
Control mean dep. var.	-0.109	-0.109
Initial value dep. var.	Yes	Yes
Controls	No	Yes

Standard errors, grouped by parish, reported in

parentheses. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

4) Income

Depending on whether we add controls or not (columns 1 and 2), the coefficients show a positive effect of 903 and 797 euros, respectively, on total income per family in the last 6 months.

	Total income per household		Non-payment of household supplies	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Treatment	903.261*** (197.610)	797.053*** (190.550)	0.024 (0.075)	0.016 (0.077)
Observations	2265	2265	2265	2265
R^2	0.23	0.26	0.12	0.13
Control mean dep. var.	4906.974	4906.974	-0.023	-0.023
Initial value dep. var.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes

Standard errors, grouped by parish, reported in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

5) Social relationships

Positive and significant effect on the degree of participation in a group (such as parent-teacher associations, the parish, neighborhood and/or sports organizations, NGOs, political parties, etc.)

	Degree of regular contact with other people		Degree of participation in a group in the last 6 months	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Treatment	0.082 (0.066)	0.056 (0.065)	0.474*** (0.107)	0.476*** (0.105)
Observations	2265	2265	2265	2265
R^2	0.24	0.27	0.21	0.21
Control mean dep. var.	-0.044	-0.044	-0.234	-0.234
Initial value dep.var	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes

Standard errors, grouped by parish, reported in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

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ACCEDE has proven to be a promising initiative to promote social inclusion among vulnerable families.

Through the implementation of personalized itineraries and the creation of a reference space, positive impacts have been observed in several key aspects of the lives of the treated participants relative to the controls.

Agenda: we recently got access to social security administrative data, hence we will test for long-run impacts on employment and the receipt of the guaranteed minimum income.

MANY THANKS!

