

# The four Territories explored with grupo social ONCE

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## 1. Leisure

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**Leisure is a right and is recognised for everyone.**

The Constitution itself, including the Declaration of Human Rights, refers to "rest and leisure". The problem is that leisure is not always designed to be inclusive: transport, infrastructures in the city or in the natural environment, even the design of the very activities themselves.

**When people with disabilities have their leisure pursuits curtailed because they have different needs, they are being deprived of a fundamental right.**

**Inclusive leisure** is the set of activities aimed at ensuring that **people with disabilities enjoy their free time.**

To achieve their development, there are keys to guarantee **universal accessibility** and having **specialised professionals** who can organise and coordinate the activities to meet each person's needs.

But it is not all up to the experts, everyone, with small contributions and **an inclusive vision of our environment** can help everyone to enjoy this right.

Ensuring that **people with visual disabilities** can independently access all printed, represented and electronic information is one of the goals in which the **ONCE cultural services are involved.**

To this end, printed documents that are of interest to everyone are adapted to **more accessible formats** for example, those who need them to study, do their work, or enjoy their leisure and cultural training time. This is a basic aspect, since leisure is a creative space, implies a plural and public dimension, facilitates relationships, develops individuals and is a clear indicator of the level of social inclusion.

Of course, ONCE also works to make shows, films, music, museums and video games accessible to everyone, as well as promoting workshops, recitals and own auditions to encourage contact with leisure and culture for our members, while promoting their creativity and social skills.

The Grupo Social ONCE, through its entities, organises and promotes accessible tourism, from ILUNION, as well as providing resources for the full experience of integrated leisure through the Fundación ONCE.

## 2. Education

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Inclusive education is education that seeks to **meet the learning needs of all** children, young people and adults, with special attention to those with **special needs**.

We are all different, so we need different procedures and ways of learning. People with disabilities also have their own needs: **access to information, learning rhythms, need for special formats** that can be perceived through other channels, etc.

**When we consider the educational needs of people with barriers to learning, we achieve an education in which we all feel that we are all participants.**

In inclusive education it is decisive to have good professionals dedicated to it, **but achieving an education where no one is left behind is a challenge that involves all of us.**

The **education intervention model** carried out in Spain with students with **blindness or severe visual impairment**, is a model that is enabling their full academic and social inclusion.

This is why ONCE signs collaboration agreements on educational matters with all the educational administrations of the autonomous communities. Through these agreements, students have access to all the resources of the ordinary system and, in addition, the specific resources of the ONCE through its **Educational Resource Centres (ERC)**, in Alicante, Barcelona, Madrid, Pontevedra and Seville, which provide direct care and complementary services.

Currently, more than 99% of students with visual impairment attend mainstream schools in their towns, neighbourhoods or cities, following the official school curriculum.

These students receive additional attention according to their specific needs related to visual impairment (**Braille system** lessons, new technologies, personal autonomy, guidance and mobility and social skills, among others), which is provided by the specialised professionals of the Specific Teams for educational care for visual impairment.

The aim is greater normalisation and inclusion of the student in the family, society and the educational environment.

The Grupo Social ONCE works on and promotes initiatives that are committed to the access and promotion of people with disabilities in higher education, for which it is essential to build inclusive universities that guarantee equal opportunities.

### **3. Employment**

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In Spain, around three million people have a disability of over 33%. According to the SEPE, the unemployment rate of these people is higher than that of the average non-disabled population.

This means that currently, **access to employment is more difficult for a person with a disability than for a non-disabled person...** A challenge that we must overcome as a society.

The professional development of people with disabilities, as well as improving autonomy and economic stability, **is a way of integrating into society.** By holding down a job, they show themselves and others **what they are capable of achieving, breaking down stereotypes.**

One of the factors that is helping most in labour inclusion is the **digital transformation**, provided the technology is accessible, as it gets rid of many physical barriers and enables anyone to work and train from anywhere.

The professional development of people with disabilities is a **way of integration into society.**

**The ONCE acts in two spheres:** stressing the importance of training and seeking **commitments from social agents** involved in the world of work.

In our country, the main source of employment for people with **blindness or severe visual impairment** is the sale of lottery tickets, although there are many people with visual impairment who are quite **capable of other tasks**, and who are looking for an opportunity to prove their worth and have a fully normalised professional development.

In addition to facilitating and supporting training processes, blind and partially sighted people **receive advice, resources** and certain **ayudas** for their personal and professional development from ONCE.

The ONCE and the **Fundación ONCE** are social agents that generate employment, provide 15,000 new jobs and carry out around 30,000 training activities for people with disabilities of various kinds.

**ILUNION** is a unique business model, made by people and for people, whose ultimate goal is to create quality jobs for people with disabilities. It has a workforce of 38,000 people, of whom more than 15,000 are people with disabilities (40.5%). Furthermore, it makes diversity one of its greatest values; more than 48% of its staff are women and around 6% are people of different nationalities.

ILUNION is not only the largest employer of people with disabilities. It is also a generator of concepts and applications for the market, products and services, conceived to be used and enjoyed by all people.

## **Universal Accessibility**

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**“Universal accessibility and design for all”** is charged with making the environment and, in general, all the products and services around us fully accessible to all people, regardless of whether they suffer from any kind of disability or not...

This includes **city infrastructures without architectural barriers** - such as stairs, walls or poor signage - as well as “**access to information**”: educational materials, public procedures, consultation of information (internet, posters and signs, etc.) designed so that they can be **understood and useful, for all people**, independently and safely.

As citizens and as part of a society, we can also make our environment more accessible, , **by ensuring that each and every corner of it offers solutions to the different needs of people**, with or without disabilities.

Since, on a day-to-day basis, accessibility is more a question of empathising and having ideas that make life easier for others, rather than employing great resources.

The rise of new technologies has brought about a substantial change in the way we produce, manage and access increasingly abundant information, which does not mean that it is increasingly accessible to all people, with and without disabilities. **Technology, for a blind person**, is not only a vehicle to access information with full **personal independence**, but it is more than that: it is an opportunity to feel **equal** and to have a better life.

Too often we do not think about everyone being able to access its content and that is when the **risk of exclusion** appears and new barriers emerge that marginalise many people, including the visually impaired, who are at greater risk if they do not have the necessary technology and training.

To avoid this, **the ONCE has made a commitment** to guarantee that people who require it can learn all the technologies that facilitate their full development in all areas: health and daily life, education and culture, employment, leisure and sport, etc. From its Centre for Tiflotechnology and Innovation (CTI), they enter the world of accessible technology and the adaptation of technology for the visually impaired known as /strong>, which is the basis for not missing the train of the information and knowledge society.

Technology has become a necessary tool to carry out many tasks in the daily life of a blind, visually impaired or deafblind person

The ONCE Foundation, for its part, works to ensure that criteria and standards are established, known and applied when designing, building, adapting and maintaining the environment, its equipment, as well as products and services so that they reach, maintain or improve their levels of accessibility.