

**Caldera considers that creating schools with capacity for 300, 000 children aged 0 to 3 years will allow 70, 000 women to join in the labor market**

**The Vice President of the IDEAS stresses that social services and the implementation of the Dependency Law are two of the most important sources of job creation**

Salamanca, November 11, 2011

The Vice president of the IDEAS Foundation, Jesús Caldera, affirmed today in Salamanca that, in the coming years, job creation will depend on the ability of Spain to have a specialized production in strategic sectors like Social Services, with “very intensive labor and which are currently employing 1.3 million people.”

During the presentation of the proposals included in the election manifesto of the PSOE -he coordinated-, as regards social Services, Caldera reminded that social expenditure in Spain currently stands at 263,900 million Euros (available data from 2009), which accounts for 25% of the GDP, that is 5 points more than 2004.

Although this figure is already substantial, Caldera thinks that “this sector stills has a great growth potential for the coming years due to two factors: the aging of the population (in 2025 almost 7% of the Spanish population will be above 80 years) and the growing access of women to the labor market.”

In this respect, he noted that there are currently 8,122,000 women working in Spain, 18.6% more than in 2004. Women labor accounts for almost 44.7% of the total workers. The progressive access of women to the labor market “is very positive in economic and social terms because they work in sectors with greater added value,” and fosters the existence of two areas with high growth potential for employment in the coming years: the activities linked to the Dependency Law and pre-primary education from 0 to 3 years.

As regards the implementation of the Dependency Law, promoted by Caldera himself when he was Labor Minister, the objective is to reach budget provision of 1% of the GDP in 2015. Right now, there are more than 700, 000 dependent people who get some kind of service or benefit, which has permitted the creation of 280, 000 jobs.

Regarding pre-primary education, Caldera explained that “the establishment of schools with the Educa 2 Program, has allowed the full schooling of children aged 3 to 5 years, and a coverage for 34.1% of children aged 0 to 3 years.” according to data released by Caldera himself, “the implementation of pre-primary education, with the aim to extend schooling to children from 0 to 3 years, will have a clear multiplier effect on the economy by improving birth rates, facilitating women’s professions and addressing the need of families to balance their family and work life.” Essentially, according to Caldera “it is estimated that creating schools with capacity for 300,000 new children of pre-primary education will allow a minimum of 70,000 more women to access the labor market.”

For all this and to conclude, Caldera declared that “the social policy of the future should be conceived of and designed not as expenditure but as investment. We must “prepare” and not “repair”, that is why our social program brings together sustained protection policies and the development of new activation policies.”