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Audio – Spain entrepreneurs - Transcript

(Spain jobs crisis gives rise to entrepreneurs

Spain's unemployment rate currently stands at more than 26 per cent, and as such a growing number of people are turning to self-employment to earn a living. From cafe owners to clothing companies, many Spaniards are finding it a viable alternative to being jobless, although few manage to remain operational for more than three years. Duration: 01:27)

In tough times of unemployment, one way to ensure a job is to create your own.

Two years ago Ana, an engineer by trade living just north of Madrid lost her job as Spain's economic crisis grew deeper. Undeterred, one year later she launched her own clothing business.

I had the choice of either staying at home, bored, risking depression or deciding that I am in this situation but I have to move ahead. And I decided to move ahead.

Anna invested nearly 30,000 euros from savings and unemployment benefits. As a wage-earner she made around 1,700 euros a month. Now she just manages to pay the bills, relying on her family's help to survive.

A growing number of people are self employed in Spain. In 2012 the number increased by 53,000 people.

The only sector that has been a net creator of jobs in the last year in Spain is the self-employment sector. But unfortunately 50 percent of them don't make it beyond three years.

For Tamara and Quique, they do seem to have been up to the challenge. The cafe they've just opened in a trendy area of Madrid is always full.

But to get there, like Ana, they had to overcome many obstacles.

The Spanish government says it is keen to help entrepreneurs and is preparing legislation to do so. It's help that can't come fast enough for a country where one in four people are out of work.