

Enhancing workers' mobility and reinvigorating EURES

After more than 20 years in place, the cooperation network for labour mobility – EURES – shows some shortcomings, such as a lack of transparency in labour markets, a constrained matching potential due to technical reasons, and limited support services, information exchange and cooperation. The European Commission has made a proposal to remedy these deficiencies, and the February plenary is due to vote on an agreement reached in trilogue on the proposal.

What is EURES?

The free movement of workers allows EU nationals to look for a job and to work in another EU country without a work permit, enjoying the same treatment as that country's nationals in terms of access to employment, working conditions and social benefits. Set up in 1993, [EURES](#) (European Employment Services), one of the three axes of the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), is a cooperation network aimed at enhancing the free movement of workers within the EU-28, as well as Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The EURES network is made up of the European Coordination Office, the National Coordination Offices and partners, such as public and private employment services, trade unions and employers' organisations. EURES provides its services through an internet portal, and a network of around 1 000 advisers across Europe who maintain contact with jobseekers and employers.

Shortcomings and further challenges

Despite [increased labour mobility](#) in the EU during the past decade, the number of workers working in other Member States is still [low](#) (3.1% of the active population or 7.5 million of the European labour force – frontier workers not included), in comparison to the high unemployment rates in some Member States and the high numbers of open vacancies in others. The European Commission adopted a [Decision](#) in 2012 to partly modernise the EURES network; however, in order to better reflect new mobility patterns, technological changes and recruitment channels, a more thorough revision is needed. In its 2014 [proposal](#), the Commission aims to develop EURES into a true European placement and recruitment tool. For this purpose, the EURES portal should make available a near-complete supply of job vacancies and an extensive pool of CVs, and it should gain an effective, automated system to match them across Member States (including through the translation of texts). It is also important to supply basic information about the EURES network throughout the Union to any jobseeker or employer, and to assist persons interested in recruitment through the EURES network. The functioning of EURES should be supported through information exchange on national labour shortages and surpluses, and the coordination of actions across Member States. The network should be extended to cover apprenticeships and traineeships, and further support the recruitment of young people through [Your first EURES job](#).

European Parliament

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) [adopted](#) on 1 July 2015 the [report](#) drafted by Heinz K. Becker (EPP, Austria). Trilogue negotiations with the Council aimed at a first reading agreement were finalised in November 2015. Important new points are the abolishment of discrimination based on the nationality of workers, as regards employment, remuneration and other conditions related to work, the better involvement of social partners (representing employers and employees) in the EURES network in accordance with national labour law. Member States should be able to exclude certain vacancies for apprenticeships and traineeships due to the differences in their education systems and their active labour market policies. EURES partners should provide personalised advice to jobseekers about destination countries, such as living and working conditions, social security, healthcare, taxation, labour law or pension rights. Cross-border partnerships should also be set up in order to facilitate cross-border labour mobility.

