

EN

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Answer given by Mr Schmit
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.11.2020)

1. At EU level, several analyses¹ and statistical indicators² provide an overview of developments of EU movements of persons within the EU. Furthermore, the implementation of the 2017 Council Recommendation on tracking graduates³ will lead to a better understanding of brain circulation in the EU.

2. Free movement of people and learning mobility are at the heart of the European project. As part of the 2016 EU Skills Agenda, research and peer learning on good practices on movements of skilled labour were carried out⁴, underlining that reducing disparities and stimulating economic convergence within the EU is the main way to mitigate the problem of unbalanced flows of skilled workers. EU tools like the European Semester and Cohesion funds contribute to effective Member State policies and foster upwards convergence.

3. The Commission is in dialogue with national, regional and local administrations across the relevant policy areas, in order to provide comprehensible solutions to facilitate key policy choices and to stimulate developments. Cohesion policy funding for 2021-2027 will reflect national, regional and local needs and challenges, and will provide an important contribution to green, digital and just transition. Integrated and place-based regional initiatives can improve quality of life, access to services and infrastructure, business environment, and address the negative impacts of depopulation.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8242&furtherPubs=yes>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>

³ Council Recommendation of 20 November 2017 on tracking graduates; OJ C 423, 9.12.2017, p. 1–4;

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32017H1209%2801%29>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223#bestpractice>