



## NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT OBSERVATORY

### Issue No. 1, 2010: January-February 2010

This EEO Newsletter covers the following developments in the employment policy area at the EU level:

- Launch of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion;
- Applications for assistance from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund,
- 2010 joint progress report on the implementation of the work programme "Education and Training 2010",
- Europe's strategy for 2020 – first overview of responses to the public consultation and the Commission's evaluation,
- New Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,
- Informal Council discussions on the economic situation and the future EU strategy,
- European Parliament's approval of the Micro-finance facility for employment and inclusion,
- Discussion of the EU automotive sector Ministers on measures to overcome the economic crisis.

Other news includes:

- Activities of the European Employment Observatory,
- Activities of the Mutual Learning Programme,
- Latest labour market research publications,
- Announcements of the upcoming conferences and events.

The next EEO Newsletter (No. 2, 2010, March-April 2010) will be available in early May 2010.

If you wish to receive an **email alert**, informing you about the publication of the EEO Newsletter, please register on the European Employment Observatory website, at <http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net>



## ACTIVITIES IN THE EMPLOYMENT POLICY AREA AT THE EU LEVEL

### ►► 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

21 January 2010

The EU has launched the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The 2010 European Year aims to raise greater awareness of the causes and consequences of poverty in Europe, both among key players such as governments and social partners and among the public at large. It also aims to: mobilise these different partners in the fight against poverty; promote social integration and inclusion; and encourage clear commitments on drawing up EU and national policies to tackle poverty and social exclusion.

The Year's activities will be largely decentralised, with national programmes drawn up by each of the 29 countries taking part (the 27 EU countries plus Norway and Iceland). A EUR 17 million budget will support awareness-raising campaigns at European and national levels and hundreds of national projects linked to the different national priorities.

The European Year communication campaign will include a journalists' competition, an art initiative and two 'focus weeks', involving various national events around the EU taking place over two weeks in May and in October. The Year will end with a closing conference on 17 December 2010 in Brussels, under the Belgian Presidency of the EU.

For more information visit:

<http://www.2010againstpoverity.eu/?langid=en>

### ►► Assistance from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for workers in Lithuania

18 and 29 January 2010

The European Commission has approved two applications from Lithuania for assistance under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). If the first application is approved by the European Parliament and the Council, the total of EUR 1 185 569 requested will help 491 redundant workers in the clothing sector and 636 workers in the furniture manufacturing sector to get back into employment. If the second application is approved, the EGF funding will help 806 workers in the buildings construction sector back into employment. The application – for assistance amounting to EUR 1 118 893 – concerns workers made redundant in 128 small and medium-sized enterprises in the country.

The package of the assistance from the EGF will help the most disadvantaged back into employment by offering them employment incentives, career guidance and retraining.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=326&langId=en>



---

►► **2010 joint progress report on the implementation of the work programme "Education and Training 2010"**

18 January 2010

This 4th joint report from the European Commission and the Council focuses on progress towards agreed education and training objectives during the period 2007-2009. It is based on a detailed assessment of national reports and performance against a set of indicators and reference levels of European average performance

The report underlines how important it is to continue reforms and keep up investment in education and training, both to help Europe emerge from the current economic crisis and to support more growth and jobs in the long term.

Based on national education reports and countries' performance against a set of indicators and benchmarks, the report focuses on how to provide all learners with a set of key competences. It also looks at how lifelong learning policies are being put into practice across Europe as well as reforms to improve vocational training and to modernise higher education.

The full report can be accessed at:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st05/st05394.en10.pdf>

---

►► **Europe's strategy for 2020 – first overview of responses to the public consultation**

2 February 2010

The public consultation on Europe 2020, which the Commission launched on 24 November 2009, officially closed on 15 January 2010. To date, the Commission received over 1 500 contributions from a wide range of interested parties. Preliminary indications as to the main trends emerging from the consultation are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/eu2020\\_public\\_consultation\\_preliminary\\_overview\\_of\\_responses.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/eu2020_public_consultation_preliminary_overview_of_responses.pdf)

---

►► **Evaluation of the Lisbon strategy**

2 February 2010

The European Commission has published its evaluation of the Lisbon strategy for growth jobs for the period 2000-2010. The assessment is focussed on the extent to which the Strategy shaped reform agendas, by forging greater consensus amongst stakeholders on challenges and policy responses to achieve growth and create jobs in the Member States. The evaluation found that overall, the Lisbon Strategy has had a positive impact on the EU even though its main targets (i.e. 70% employment rate, and 3% of GDP spent on R&D) will not be reached. Its key successes are identified as follows:

- The Strategy has helped build broad consensus on the reforms that the EU needs;
- It has delivered concrete benefits for EU citizens and businesses;



- Structural reforms have made the EU economy more resilient and helped us 'weather the storm';
- Earmarking of Structural Funds has helped mobilise considerable investments for growth and jobs;
- The partnership between the EU and Member States has generally been a positive experience.

For more information on the evaluation findings visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/lisbon\\_strategy\\_evaluation.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/lisbon_strategy_evaluation.pdf)

---

### ►► New Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

10 February 2010

The new European Commission took office on 10 February 2010, following the positive vote in the European Parliament on 9 February 2010. Mr László Andor is the Member of the European Commission responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=832&langId=en>

---

### ►► Informal Council discussions on the economic situation and the future EU strategy

11 February 2010

European leaders met to discuss the shape of the future EU strategy for employment and growth. The informal summit, the first under the presidency of Mr Van Rompuy, discussed how the policy efforts should be focussed and how co-ordination between the Member States can be increased. Discussions also took place about how to address the major challenges faced by the EU, given that structural growth is not sufficiently high to create employment and to maintain the European social model

For more information visit:

<http://www.eu2010.es/en/documentosynoticias/noticias/09febpreviacumbre.html>

---

### ►► European Parliament's approval of the Micro-finance facility for employment and inclusion

11 February 2010

The European Parliament has approved EU funding to help Europe's unemployed start up small businesses. Credit will be made available to promising entrepreneurs through a 'microfinance facility', funded partly from the existing PROGRESS programme and partly from unallocated money in the EU budget. The European PROGRESS Microfinance Facility is expected to make it easier for people who have lost, or risk losing, their jobs to get credit to start up their own businesses. The Facility will be funded by EUR 100 million over four years.

For more information visit:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/048-68827-039-02-07-908-20100210IPR68826-08-02-2010-2010-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/048-68827-039-02-07-908-20100210IPR68826-08-02-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm)



►► **Discussion of the EU automotive sector Ministers on measures to overcome the economic crisis**

19 February 2009

EU-27 Ministers with responsibility for the automotive sector have discussed the economic crisis implications for the car industry, in an extraordinary meeting in Brussels organised by the Vice President of the European Commission and the new EU Commissioner for Industry, Antonio Tajani. Possible short to medium-term measures for stimulating recovery in the sector were discussed at the meeting, as well as the restructuring plans of US group General Motors for its Opel plants in Europe.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eu2010.es/en/documentosynoticias/noticias/feb19automocionsebastian.html>

## ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT OBSERVATORY

►► **EEO occasional workshop on short-term working arrangements**

13 January 2010

A workshop was held in the European Commission to discuss the short-term working arrangements schemes in various Member States, as well as their costs, advantages and disadvantages. A workshop report and expert presentations are available on the EEO website.

►► **EEO SYSDM network meeting workshop on 'Successful exit from the crisis: how to reach the right balance'**

14 January 2010

During the meeting of national EEO experts, a session took place to discuss measures taken to prepare successful exit from the current economic crisis. A workshop report and expert presentations are available on the EEO website.

►► **December 2009 Quarterly Reports Executive Summary**

January 2010

This report presents an Executive Summary of the national quarterly reports submitted by the SYSDM correspondents of the European Employment Observatory from 29 European countries to the European Commission in September and December 2009.

The purpose of this Executive Summary is to provide an overview of country-level developments in the key employment policy areas. The Summary covers two quarters, from July to December 2009. It is available on the EEO website.

►► **EEO Review: The employment dimension of economy greening, 2009**

February 2010

This Review was published on the EEO website in February 2010 and discusses the employment dimension to the greening of the economy in 30 European countries.



Further information on the above, and other EEO activities, is available on:

<http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net>

## ACTIVITIES OF THE MUTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

In the Mutual Learning Programme of the European Employment Strategy, the priority theme for 2010 is defined as '*How to balance employment policy responses to the crisis and preparing individuals and companies to meet structural challenges*'.

The following activities are envisaged for Spring 2010:

- Peer Review, Pathways to Work for Lone Parents: 10-11 May 2010 – Northern Ireland (Belfast);
- Peer Review, Activation of the elderly: increasing participation, enforcing employability and working until the age of 67: 31 May-01 June 2010 – the Netherlands (The Hague);
- Peer Review, The Ageing Population and Educational Choices: 14-15 June – Finland (Helsinki).

For more information on the Programme visit:

<http://www.mutual-learning-employment.net>

## LATEST LABOUR MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### ►► Monthly labour market monitor, February 2010

The latest monthly labour market monitor from the European Commission presents the most recent employment data covering the period up to January 2010. It shows that the labour market continues to deteriorate, although at a more moderate pace over recent months. Although unemployment rates continued to rise in most EU countries, the only particularly strong rises were in Latvia and Estonia, while in several countries the rates appear to be stabilising and, in a few cases, even declining. The monitor includes a special focus on the financial sector and the postal services sector.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=113&newsId=703&furtherNews=yes>

### ►► Combating poverty and social exclusion: A statistical portrait of the European Union 2010

29 January 2010

This report from the European Commission presents a broad range of statistical concepts and indicators from social statistics on the topics of poverty and social exclusion, coinciding with the campaign of the 2010 European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The publication explores poverty and social exclusion



across the 27 Member States, as well as providing (whenever possible) information about candidate and EFTA countries.

Just over 84 million people, or 17 % of the EU-27's population, were at risk of poverty in 2007, while a similar proportion (17 %) of the total EU-27 population suffered from material deprivation. There was a clear overlap between those who were at risk of poverty and those suffering from, among other issues, being unable to face unexpected expenses, afford a holiday, keep their home adequately warm, or being able to afford a car.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=693&furtherNews=yes>

---

### ►► Eurobarometer survey on the social climate in Europe

2 February 2010

Results from a special Eurobarometer survey have been published, exploring the current social climate in Europe (the fieldwork took place in May and June 2009). The survey explores Europe's social climate from three perspectives - the respondents' view of their personal situation, the perception of the general situation and views of social protection and inclusion.

For more information visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_315\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_315_en.pdf)

---

### ►► News from the European Restructuring Monitor

1 February 2009

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions has published its European Restructuring Monitor's (ERM) quarterly report for the 4th quarter 2009.

The European Restructuring Monitor (ERM) recorded a total of 285 cases of restructuring in the European Union between 1 October and 31 December 2009, involving some 100 000 announced job losses and 20 000 announced job gains. Levels of restructuring job loss continue to decline from the peak levels of the fourth quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009. So too did levels of job creation, which fell to their lowest level since the ERM started systematically recording such cases in 2004.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/press/releases/2010/100201.htm>

---

### ►► EU Social Situation Report

2 February 2010

This annual report published by the European Commission takes a closer look at long-term social trends in the EU in order to provide up-to-date, reliable and comprehensive information on the social situation. This year, it focused on two key issues in public policy: housing (including ownership status and costs), and the possible effects of the recession including results from the Eurobarometer survey on social climate.

For more information visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=675&langId=en>



►► **New Skills for New Jobs: Action Now - A report by the Expert Group on New Skills for New Jobs**

4 February 2010

A report by the Expert Group on New Skills for New Jobs has been prepared for the European Commission and presented in a high-level conference on 4 February 2010. The mandate of the expert group was to provide independent advice on developing the EU's New Skills for New Jobs initiative further in the context of the EU's future 2020 strategy for growth and jobs. The key recommendations for governments, social partners, education providers and individuals were formulated as follows:

1. Provide the right incentives to upgrade and better use skills for individuals and employers.
2. Bring the worlds of education, training and work closer together.
3. Develop the right mix of skills.
4. Better anticipate future skills needs.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=568&langId=en>

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

►► **First European Conference of Regional Labour Market Observatories 'Confronting experiences and building bridges in the perspective of a common Labour Market in Europe'**

C.E.R.E.Q. - Marseille, 6th and 7th October 2010

The conference is organised by the European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring. This network is composed of 400 scientists, consultants and administrative experts from 20 European countries. It is coordinated by the Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK) at the Goethe-University Frankfurt in Germany and was set up four years ago. Periodical conferences have been held in Germany, Ireland and Denmark. The purpose of this network is to drive the development of scientifically sound and, in Europe, practical standards, especially statistical methods for regional labour market monitoring.

The conference will be organised by CEREQ as the local hosts, and by a secretariat, located with the network coordinators at Goethe-University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. For further information, please contact with Christa Larsen or Jenny Kipper ([C.Larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:C.Larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de) / [Kipper@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:Kipper@em.uni-frankfurt.de))



►► **9th European Evaluation Society Conference 'Evaluation in the Public Interest: Participation, Politics and Policy'**

Prague: 6-8 October 2010

This is a conference organised by the European Evaluation Society and is aimed to provide opportunities for exchange, learning and for the advancement of evaluation theory and practice. The conference is designed to stimulate forward and expansive thinking about the ways in which evaluation is embedded in the processes of politics and participation.

For more information visit:

<http://www.ees2010prague.org>