



## NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT OBSERVATORY

### Issue No. 5, 2010: July-August 2010

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

- EU Youth on the Move initiative to commence in September
- New tool to classify European skills, competences and occupations
- Communication on free movement of workers launched
- Commission launches debate on the future of pensions
- EU adopts new measures to simplify management of structural and cohesion funds
- PROGRESS Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2009
- Commission proposes to ease restrictions on seasonal workers and intra-corporate transfer of non-EU skilled workers
- EU takes action to guarantee benefits for Britons abroad
- Infringement case against France on working conditions for rail workers closed

Other news includes:

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

The next EEO Newsletter (No. 6, 2010, September 2010) will be available in early October 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

### ►► EU Youth on the Move initiative to commence in September 2010

September 2010

In September, the Commission will adopt 'Youth on the Move', an initiative that aims to promote the mobility of students and trainees and to improve the employment situation of young people. The Commission's upcoming proposal is a contribution to Europe 2020, the EU's reform strategy for the coming decade. The Europe 2020 goal is to develop, over the next ten years, an economy that is based on knowledge and innovation. Young people have an important role to play in this but they need more support in order to unleash their full potential.

For more information visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1786\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1786_en.htm)

### ►► New tool to classify European skills, competences and occupations

August 2010

The European Commission is developing a new tool for institutions and stakeholders in the labour market and education sector, which will describe the most relevant skills, competences and qualifications needed for several thousand occupations. The 'European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy' (ESCO) will be progressively developed over the coming years and once finalised, will be available in all EU languages.

The ESCO Secretariat is currently inviting interested parties, such as employment services, social partners, companies, education and training institutions or developers of job search web tools, to take part in its development. To get involved or to find out more about the project, please contact the [ESCO secretariat](#).

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=852&furtherNews=yes>

### ►► Communication on free movement of workers launched

13 July 2010

A Communication has been released by the European Commission on "Reaffirming the free movement of workers" which sets out the rights of Europeans to live and work in another EU country. This Communication provides an updated picture of the rights of EU migrant workers, taking into account legal developments over the past decade. It aims to clarify the impact of a series of judgements by the EU Court of Justice and how they apply to these rights, as well as to raise awareness of the rights of migrant workers.



For more information and to download the Communication visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=847&furtherNews=yes>

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### ►► Commission launches debate on the future of pensions

7 July 2010

The European Commission launched a Europe-wide public debate on how to ensure adequate, sustainable and safe pensions and how the EU can best support national efforts on 7 July 2010. The consultation document - a Green paper - poses a series of questions inviting all interested parties to contribute views, opinions and ideas on confronting the pension challenge.

The consultation period will run for four months (ending 15 November 2010) during which anyone with an interest in the subject can submit their views via a dedicated [website](#). The European Commission will then analyse all responses and consider the best course for future actions to address these issues at EU level.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=839&furtherNews=yes>

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### ►► EU adopts new measures to simplify management of structural and cohesion funds

24 June 2010

The EU has on 24 June 2010 adopted new measures aimed at simplifying management rules for the structural and cohesion funds. The changes are intended to help facilitate access to the funds and accelerate implementation of the programmes at a time when public budgets are strained.

Key new measures include:

- Only projects over EUR 50 million will require the Commission's approval.
- Allowing major projects to be financed by more than one programme.
- Simpler procedure for the revision of programmes to adapt more quickly to current challenges
- Simplifying the rules on 'revenue-generating' projects.
- Targeting additional advances of EUR 775 million (4 % from the ESF and 2 % from the Cohesion Fund) to Member States which received a loan under the IMF balance of payment scheme, or saw a GDP decrease of more than 10%
- Postponing 'N+2 decommitment' rules: under N+2 if the funding allocated in 2007 had not been spent by the end of 2009 it would be automatically returned to the EU budget. The changes will allow the commitments for 2007 to be spent over a longer period.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=838&furtherNews=yes>

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►► **PROGRESS Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2009**

July 2010

The Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2009 of the EU programme PROGRESS on employment and social solidarity has just been published on the PROGRESS website. The report highlights that PROGRESS has contributed to several policy initiatives, including the revision of the Directive on equal treatment of the self-employed and assisting spouses, by developing a thorough evidence base and engaging a wider circle of stakeholders in debate. The report will serve as the basis for a mid-term and final evaluation of the programme. The mid-term evaluation (covering 2008 - 10) will look at the extent to which PROGRESS is achieving its objectives, its use of resources and its 'added value'. The final evaluation will update the mid-term results and give an overall review of PROGRESS and its impact.

The report can be accessed here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=659&langId=en>

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►► **Commission proposes to ease restrictions on seasonal workers and intra-corporate transfer of non-EU skilled workers**

13 July 2010

The European Commission announced on 13 July 2010 plans to ease restrictions on seasonal migrant workers and make it easier for companies to transfer high-skilled employees into the European Union. The Commission now wants to create a fast-track procedure which will make it easier for seasonal workers – mainly in agriculture and tourism – to obtain fair contracts for the services they provide. The new legislation would affect approximately 100 000 seasonal workers.

For more information visit:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/323>

Meanwhile, a separate proposal to improve 'intra-corporate' transfers within companies, including among other measures the creation of a common set of rules for a new fast-track entry procedure, will affect a far smaller pool of workers (16 000 to 20 000 people), but is expected to have significant benefits for the EU economy.

For more information visit:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/931&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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►► **EU takes action to guarantee benefits for Britons abroad**

June 2010

The European Commission has sent a formal request to the United Kingdom to pay care benefits to Britons – often pensioners – residing abroad in accordance with its obligations under EU law.

Under EU rules, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance are considered 'sickness cash benefits', which UK citizens resident in another EU country are also entitled to receive. The UK authorities now have two



months to respond to the request, which takes the form of a 'reasoned opinion' under EU infringement procedures. In the absence of a satisfactory response from the UK authorities, the Commission may refer the matter to the European Court of Justice.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=837&furtherNews=yes>

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**►► Infringement case against France on working conditions for rail workers closed**

June 2010

New French rules on working conditions in the international rail sector that regulate driving times, breaks and daily and weekly rest periods mean that France now complies with its obligations under EU law in this area. As a result, the Commission has closed its infringement case against the country. The EU rules in this area should have been implemented by the Member States by 27 July 2008 at the latest, following consultation of the social partners.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=835&furtherNews=yes>

## ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT OBSERVATORY

**►► Bi-annual SYSDÉM meeting held in July 2010**

13 July 2010

A meeting of the EEO national SYSDÉM experts took place on 13 July 2010 to discuss the work programme and priorities for the Observatory's work for the coming months.

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**►► EEO Review: Self-employment**

September 2010

The EEO Review on Self-employment will be published on the EEO website in September 2010. The Review comprises an executive summary, which outlines key messages emerging from these articles and draws links with policy developments, studies and data collected at European level, as well as 33 national articles. The executive summary will be available in English, French and German.



### ►► EEO Quarterly Report

October 2010

The executive summary of the next EEO quarterly reports, submitted by the SYSDÉM correspondents from 32 European countries (EU-27, Croatia, FYROM, Turkey, Serbia and Iceland), will be published on the EEO website in October 2010

### ►► EEO Review: Youth Measures

January 2011

The second EEO Review for 2010 will be dedicated to the topic of youth measures. The Review will be published on the EEO website in January 2011.

Further information on the 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 will take place in Autumn 2010:

- **Employment measures to tackle the economic downturn: Short time working arrangements/partial activity schemes**  
27-28 September–France (Paris), Peer Review
- **Systematic preventive integration approach (support) for jobseekers and the unemployed**  
28-29 October–Germany (Berlin), Peer Review
- **Supporting the Labour Market integration of the Roma Community**  
25-26 November–Czech Republic (Prague), Peer Review

For more information on the Programme visit:

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



## LATEST LABOUR MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### ►► Monthly Labour Market Monitor, July 2010

20 July 2010

This month's edition of the Labour Market Monitor warns that although the EU labour market is beginning to stabilise, it may take some time before the pick-up in economic activity brings a solid rebound in the labour market. The rises in unemployment rates have eased in all member states and in May the rate remained unchanged or declined in a majority of EU countries. However, the unemployment rate remains higher than it was a year ago in all but five Member States.

This issue focuses on the labour market situations in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the UK, as well as recent developments in the sector for the manufacture of basic metals.

The report can be accessed here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=850&furtherNews=yes>

### ►► Update of database on women and men in decision-making

August 2010

A quarterly update of data on the gender balance in political decision-making at European, national and regional level has recently been completed. Data were collected in the first three weeks of July 2010 and reflect changes since the last update in mid-May. The annual update of information on key decision-makers in central banks, courts, European administration, European financial institutions and European NGOs is also now available. The data were collected at various times between May and July.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=854&furtherNews=yes>

### ►► Special Eurobarometer survey on geographical and labour mobility

13 July 2010

A special Eurobarometer survey on geographical and labour mobility was published on 13 July 2010. This survey, which was carried out between 13 September and 9 October 2009, explores Europeans' mobility experiences and intentions. It follows the themes used in previous Eurobarometer mobility surveys in 2005 and 2007 but has been modified and expanded to cover a range of areas relating to cross-border mobility, particularly in relation to working abroad.

Some of the findings of the survey are that:

- Some 10 % of Europeans say they have lived abroad for work either within or outside the EU at some point in their lives, while 17 % of Europeans envisage working abroad in the future;



- A slightly larger share (13 %) have lived abroad for education and training;
- Almost half (41 %) know a friend or relative who has either worked or studied abroad.
- Unemployment is a powerful reason to move: 48% of Europeans would consider moving regions or countries for work if they lost their job.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=847&furtherNews=yes>

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### ►► OECD report on migration

12 July 2010

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report 'International Migration Outlook 2010' was released on 12 July 2010. The report finds that labour migration has slowed as a result of the economic crisis and that unemployment has generally hit migrant workers harder than nationals in the OECD countries. In the EU, migrant workers from the new Member States have faced a larger rise in unemployment than third country nationals, leading many to return to their home country or to go elsewhere.

For more information visit:

[http://www.oecd.org/document/41/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33931\\_45591593\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/41/0,3343,en_2649_33931_45591593_1_1_1_1,00.html)

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### ►► Commission study on the internationalisation of European SMEs

August 2010

A new study from the European Commission on the internationalisation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is now available online. The study, based on a survey of 9 480 SMEs in 33 European countries, identifies barriers and advantages of internationalisation and proposes policy recommendations. One conclusion of the study is that through importing, enterprises can learn how to work with international clients, other cultures and languages. The next step to exporting is then easier to make.

The report can be accessed here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/support\\_measures/internationalisation/internationalisation\\_sme\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/support_measures/internationalisation/internationalisation_sme_final_en.pdf)

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### ►► New EIRO annual review of industrial relations developments in Europe

29 June 2010

Eurofound's European Industrial Relations Observatory (EIRO) has started an annual review of developments in the field of Industrial Relations. According to the first of these reviews, which reports on 2009, key issues in social partner discussions and actions across Europe were maintaining jobs and avoiding redundancies. Moreover the



number of industrial actions seriously declined in that year; the main actions dealt with pay cuts in the public sector.

The review can be accessed here:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1035.htm>

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►► **Annual EIRO report on working time developments and trends, 2009**

July 2010

This annual report looks at a number of aspects of the duration of working time in the European Union and Norway in 2009, based mainly on contributions from Eurofound's European Industrial Relations Observatory (EIRO) national centres. It considers:

- average weekly working hours as set by collective agreements, both economy-wide and for three specific sectors;
- statutory limits on weekly and daily working time;
- average actual weekly working hours;
- annual leave entitlement, as set by collective agreements and law;
- estimates of average collectively agreed annual working time.

The report can be accessed here:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/tn1004039s/tn1004039s.htm>

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►► **European Restructuring Monitor (ERM) quarterly report, 2010**

July 2010

Eurofound publishes its European Restructuring Monitor (ERM) quarterly report for the second quarter of 2010. The second issue for 2010 includes:

- current macroeconomic trends and prospects;
- an overview of ERM cases for January-March 2010;
- restructuring research notes;
- special feature on signs of recovery in car manufacturing;
- special feature on developments in the media and broadcasting sector.

The report can be accessed here:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/index.htm>

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►► **Eurofound Yearbook 2009 – Living and Working in Europe**

1 July 2010

This is the first Yearbook to be published as part of Eurofound's four-year work programme 'Better work, better life'. The 2009 Yearbook covers Eurofound's key findings during 2009.

The Yearbook can be accessed here:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1016.htm>

►► **Commission study on short-time working arrangements**

June 2010

The European Commission published the study 'Short time working arrangements as response to cyclical fluctuations' in June 2010. It assesses the short-time working arrangements that have been introduced in different EU countries and looks at how these have been used in the context of the economic crisis. It suggests that such arrangements were effective in reducing the vulnerability of employment during the recession. They provide firms with a buffer to avoid mass redundancies during temporary downturns, while sharing the burden of the adjustment between workers, government and employers. The efficiency of short-time work schemes reduces rapidly when used in declining sectors as it delays their restructuring.

The report can be accessed here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=843&furtherNews=yes>

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

►► **Live web debate with Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou on 'Youth on the Move'**

17 September 2010

Androulla Vassiliou, the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth will host a web-streamed debate with European youth on the 'Youth on the Move' initiative on September 17 2010. During this debate, the Commissioner will answer questions from a live audience, as well as from remote participants who choose to send in questions, either beforehand or in real time.

More details about this event will soon be available on Commissioner Vassiliou's website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/vassiliou/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou/index_en.htm)



►► **OPEN DAYS - 8<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities**

4 – 7 October 2010, Brussels

[Online registration for the OPEN DAYS 2010](#) - European Week of Regions and Cities opened on 5 July 2010. The OPEN DAYS will be held for the eighth time in Brussels between 4 and 7 October 2010. This year the focus will be on competitiveness, co-operation and cohesion. Over 100 seminars, workshops and debates plus exhibitions will take place. Participation is free.

For more information visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/od2010/index.cfm?nmenu=1&sub=100](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2010/index.cfm?nmenu=1&sub=100)

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►► **Belgian EU Presidency conference: ‘Youth on the Move – achieving mobility for all!’**

5 – 6 October 2010

This conference will be held in Antwerp and will focus on the EU2020 flagship initiative ‘Youth on the Move’. The conference will consist of plenary sessions and workshops dealing with various mobility issues such as incentives, funding, types of mobility, quality, employability on the labour market, global mobility, the involvement of staff in mobility and the implementation of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and Diploma Supplement (DS). Participation is free.

For more information about the conference visit:

<http://www.education2010.be/en/calendar/learning-mobility/>

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