

Labour mobility, Europe, jobs

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Social Network for European Jobseekers Launched

EURES (European Employment Services) to launch online networking site for jobseekers at London Online Exhibition 4-6 December 2007

A new online social network for European jobseekers will be launched at the Online Information Exhibition at London's Olympia (4-6 December). The event is the biggest exhibition of its kind in the world. The network, which will be aimed at young mobile European workers and would be mobile jobseekers, will give them the chance to create their own home page and build up contacts, swap information and experiences, and maintain links with friends back at home.

"It is a logical extension of what the EURES network already provides for mobile workers" says Henric Stjernquist of DG Employment, which manages the EURES project. "We already have, through our member agencies – the public employment services of Europe – the best sources of information on working abroad. What this new network will do is to enable jobseekers and would be jobseekers to create their own information and share it with others."

A trial version of the website will be running at the European Commission's stand at the London Exhibition (stand 416-418). Members will be encouraged to join the site – which will be free – through EURES' partners, the national employment services of Europe.

"Encouraging mobility of labour is a key factor in boosting European productivity and growth", says Stjernquist, "EURES (www.eures.europa.eu) is already Europe's largest employment website, listing more than a million jobs in 28 countries. It already has 190,000 CVs online and 11,000 employers registered, all backed by the largest and most professional employment support organisation in Europe. We want to reach young mobile jobseekers and encourage them to exchange experiences and tell each other what being a mobile worker is like – the good things and the bad things. It will be a site led by its members and their concerns".

Note for Editors

EURES was set up in 1993 as a co-operation network between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of 28 European states, (EU countries plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.) EURES is a Europe wide employment service, supported by all the PES (Public Employment Services) in Europe. EURES provides information, advice and recruitment/placement (job-matching) services for the benefit of workers and employers across Europe. The EURES service is provided through a network of more than 5,000 local employment offices with more than 100,000 staff. In addition there are more than 700 EURES advisers who are in daily contact with jobseekers and employers across Europe. The central principles behind Europe's Single Market are that there should be free movement of goods, services, capital and people. All economic studies indicate that free movement of labour is an important

element in growth of productivity, which in turn is a major element in economic growth. Free movement of labour has been identified as an important component of the Lisbon Strategy for the improvement in Europe's global competitiveness.

The EURES project is aimed at delivering free movement of people in Europe. As recently as 2000, according to a Commission survey, only 0.1% of Europe's working age population had changed their official country of residence – as compared to 2.5% in the US.

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