



## NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT OBSERVATORY

### Issue No. 7, 2011: September 2011

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The next EEO Newsletter (No. 8, 2011, October 2011) will be available in early November 2011.

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

### ►► Labour Market Update

9 September 2011

The stability of the average EU unemployment rate is hiding a growing divergence between Member States' labour markets. There is also growing uncertainty amongst citizens and employers against the backdrop of an increasingly stagnant economic recovery, which is beginning to look more at risk.

According to the latest Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet of the European Commission, although unemployment across Europe fell by 705 000 between April 2010 and March 2011, there has been a rise of 83 000 in the four months since March.

A considerable rise in unemployment of 18 000 was seen from June to July alone. Nevertheless, the average EU unemployment rate has remained stable, at 9.5 % - 0.2 percentage points (pp) below the July 2010 peak.

The latest edition of the quarterly EU Employment and Social Situation Review also observes that the hesitant recovery of the EU labour market seems to have come to a halt. The overall number of people in employment is still well below that recorded before the crisis, although there have been gradual improvements, mainly resulting from increases in part-time and temporary jobs. According to the Review, the increasing segmentation of the labour market is an area for concern.

Thus, employment and unemployment expectations are at best mixed in the current uncertain economic context. The Labour Market Fact Sheet describes an outlook that is one of greater risk of deterioration and persistent divergence between Member States.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1069&furtherNews=yes>

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1080&furtherNews=yes>

### ►► G20 Employment and Labour Ministers meet in Paris

26-27 September 2011

The G20 Employment Ministers met in Paris on 26 and 27 September 2011 to discuss employment policies, with a focus on youth employment and vulnerable groups. The Ministers' discussions have been translated into a set of recommendations for the G20 leaders who will meet in Cannes on 3 and 4 November. These recommendations are:

- To improve active employment policies, particularly for young people and other vulnerable groups;
- To strengthen social protection by establishing social protection floors adapted to each country;
- To promote effective application of social and labour rights; and
- Strengthen the coherence of economic and social policies.



For more information and to read the detailed recommendations in full visit:

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>

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►► **Investing in an ageing workforce – why and how?**

9 September 2011

From 21-22 September 2011, an international seminar in Brussels, organised by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the European Commission, examined the impact of investing in an ageing workforce.

The seminar, 'Learning later in life – Uncovering the potential of investing in an ageing workforce', will contribute to the [European year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012](#) by providing a solid basis for further work. The European Year seeks to raise awareness of the issues surrounding an ageing working population and the best ways of dealing with them.

For more information visit:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/news/18748.aspx>

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►► **EGF funding to support workers in Austria and Greece**

22 September 2011

The European Commission has proposed to provide both Austria and Greece with financial assistance of EUR 3.6 million and EUR 2.9 million, respectively, from the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#) (EGF).

The funding will go towards helping 502 lorry drivers back into employment in Austria, and assist 642 workers in Greece made redundant by ALDI to find new jobs. The total estimated costs of the package of EGF assistance proposed by the Commission in Greece and Austria is EUR 4.4 million and EUR 5.6 million, respectively. The packages will include occupation orientation, active job search, entrepreneurship promotion, training and re-training, corporate internships and relevant allowances among other means of assistance.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1077&furtherNews=yes>

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1076&furtherNews=yes>

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►► **Monitoring Report on the Europe 2020 Strategy**

22 September 2011

The Committee of the Regions will publish, in December 2011, a Monitoring Report on the Europe 2020 Strategy as a contribution to the European Commission's 2012 Annual Growth Survey. The report will use the results of an online survey, carried out in recent months, which looked at whether, and to what extent, the strategy is adding value to local and regional policies and whether it is being implemented in partnership at all government levels. More specifically, it examined the implementation of: the flagship initiatives; National Reform Programmes; Country Specific Recommendations; and, involvement of local and regional partners (including through Territorial Pacts and other multilevel governance tools).



For more information visit:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/Europe2020whatshappeningontheground.aspx>

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►► **Proposed reform of higher education to improve employability of graduates**

20 September 2011

The European Commission has presented a higher education reform strategy, as part of Europe's strategy for jobs and growth, to increase graduate numbers, improve teaching standards and optimise the potential of higher education to help the EU economy emerge strongly from the economic crisis. Priority areas where EU countries need to do more to achieve shared education objectives are identified by the reform strategy, which also sets out how the European Union can support the Member States' education modernisation policies.

For more information visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news3049\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news3049_en.htm)

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►► **PES to PES Dissemination Conference**

8-9 September 2011

A conference held this September, 'New Developments, good practices and lessons learnt', was dedicated to the discussion and dissemination of the results from the first year of activities of the 'PES (Public Employment Service) to PES Dialogue' programme. Key messages from the conference include:

- Finding the right balance between flexibility and accountability;
- Multi-channelling;
- The development of various profiling tools to better target services and scarce resources;
- PES as a 'transition broker' that supports people in making various transitions during their working lives;
- PES service delivery as being key to extending working lives, assisting older workers to return to work through providing specialist services and measures.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=964&langId=en>

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►► **Conference on wage trends in Europe**

15 September 2011

The aim of this conference was to contribute to a better common understanding on the role of wages in correcting macroeconomic imbalances and the rising trend in wage inequality in Europe in recent years. A summary report, as well as further details of the programme and presentations, can be found on the conference website:

<http://www.destree.be/wage/home.html>



### ►► Innovative responses to the social impact of the crisis

26 September 2011

A ministerial conference of the Polish Presidency was held in Wrocław (Poland) on 26 September 2011. The discussions focused on responses to the social impact of the crisis and how to intensify the support to innovation within social policies.

Ten social experiments implemented in Member States, covering the fields of education, employment, homelessness, minimum income benefit and youth policy, were presented at the conference by their practitioners and evaluators.

For more information visit:

<http://www.mpips.gov.pl/en/presidency/events/event/innovative-responses-to-the-social-impact-of-the-crisis-september-26th-2011-wroclaw-hala-stulecia/>

## ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT OBSERVATORY

### ►► EEO Review on Adapting Unemployment Benefit systems to the Economic cycle

September 2011

As a result of the economic crisis, unemployment has increased across Europe, leaving many people in need of financial support to avoid falling into poverty as well as help to find a new job. In response to the high levels of unemployment brought about by the recession, European countries have increased expenditure on labour market policies, including both active labour market policies and passive measures providing income support, such as unemployment benefits. The latest EEO Review summarises the key messages emerging from 33 national articles - on the theme of 'adapting unemployment benefit systems to the economic cycle' - which were produced in July 2011 by the EEO network of SYSDM experts. The summary provides a discussion of: unemployment and expenditure on labour market policies in Europe using data collected at European level; the different unemployment benefit (UB) systems and labour market incentives in place across the 33 countries covered by the Review; the different reforms to UB systems implemented across Europe during the economic crisis; and the national responses to the reform priorities identified in the Europe 2020 strategy.

The 33 national articles (covering the EU-27 countries, Croatia, FYROM, Turkey, Serbia, Iceland and Norway) and an executive summary outlining key messages emerging from the national articles and drawing links with policy developments, studies and data collected at European level, are now available to download from the EEO website. A printed version, available in English, French and German, will be published in the near future.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net/en/documents/EEORreviews.aspx>



### ►► Long-term unemployment in Croatia

This document, produced by the EEO SYSDem expert for Croatia in response to a request from the Commission, describes the current situation and consequences of long-term unemployment in Croatia, as well as measures which can bring the unemployment rate down. The document provides an analysis of the causes of long-term unemployment; the Government's measures aiming to decrease long-term unemployment; and concludes with an overview of future perspectives and recommendations for improvement.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net/resources/reports/Croatia-AdhocRequest-LTU-Croatia.pdf>

### ►► Wages in Bulgaria

This document, produced by the SYSDem expert for Bulgaria in response to a request from the Commission, provides an overview of wages in Bulgaria. It covers the relationships between wages and economic development, between wage dynamics and productivity, and between labour costs and productivity dynamics; describes expected trends in wage and productivity growth; and describes the difficulties associated with the minimum wage in Bulgaria.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net/resources/reports/Bulgaria-Adhocrequest-WagesinBulgaria.pdf>

### ►► Mismatch of labour market needs and skills in Slovenia

This document, produced by the SYSDem expert for Slovenia in response to a request from the Commission, describes the mismatch between labour market needs and skills in Slovenia. It covers, in brief, statistical data and analyses, provides an in-depth qualitative description of data and the causes and consequences of the bottlenecks on the labour market, describes and assesses measures already taken to address this issue, as well as measures foreseen and those supported by the European Social Fund (ESF).

For more information visit:

<http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net/resources/reports/Slovenia-AdhocRequest-MismatchofLMneedsandskillsinSlovenia.pdf>

## ACTIVITIES OF THE MUTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

By the end of 2011, the Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) will have run five Peer Reviews and two European seminars. The main theme for 2011 activities is, "Working towards the employment targets and priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy".

The themes for the Peer Reviews in 2011 are based on the draft Joint Employment Report. Activities under the Mutual Learning Programme will focus on successful and



innovative developments in line with the Europe 2020 thematic approach which could inspire other Member States to achieve the EU and national targets.

The two Peer Reviews (PRs) in autumn 2011 are:

- **‘Evaluation of Labour Market Policies and programmes: methodology and practice’, 29-30 September in London (United Kingdom):** This Peer Review shared learning on how the employment field should be based on labour market policies that have been evaluated and the recognition that there is a continuous challenge to identify labour market policies that work.
- **‘Scheme for the Job Placement and Training of Tertiary-Education Graduates’, 20-21 October in Larnaca, (Cyprus):** This Peer Review will focus on the Scheme introduced by Cyprus to combat unemployment at the level of young tertiary-education graduates and helping enterprises to successfully meet their needs by bringing new expertise in the business and enhancing their management capabilities.

Full reports and related documentation of the MLP activities are available at <http://www.mutual-learning-employment.net/>

## LATEST LABOUR MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### ►► The new Social Europe guide – available now

13 September 2011

[The Social Europe guide](#) is a bi-annual publication that aims to provide a concise overview of specific areas of EU policy in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion. The Guide details key issues and challenges, explains policy actions and instruments at EU level and provides examples of best practice from EU Member States. In addition, the Guide provides views on the subject from the Council Presidency and the European Parliament. The topic of the first volume in this series is employment. The first volume of the guide, which has just been published, describes EU actions to fight unemployment, develop new skills and create new jobs in light of the major challenges the EU currently faces in the area of employment. The role of employment policy in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy and European economic governance are also explained and the guide concludes with an outline of the main orientations for EU employment policy.

The publication is available in English, French and German.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1070&furtherNews=yes>



►► **Eurofound Yearbook 2010 – Living and working in Europe**

14 September 2011

The [European Foundation](#) for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) has published its second annual [Yearbook on Living and working in Europe](#). The Yearbook aims to present the principal findings of some of Eurofound's key research, namely, results and analysis from its three pan-European surveys on company practice, working conditions and standard of living. The surveys have enabled trends over time to be identified, which are crucial factor to understanding how Europe, and challenges it is encountering, are developing. Among these challenges is a task being undertaken daily by both majority and minority communities to create a truly multicultural European society.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1119.htm>

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►► **Analysis of pay trends in 2010 now published**

19 September 2011

The European Industrial Relations Observatory (EIRO), as part of Eurofound's Network of European Observatories, has this month published its annual analysis of pay trends for the year 2010 in a comparative study, Pay Developments – 2010.

The study has found that average collectively agreed nominal wage increases were lower than in 2009 in all but one (Malta) of the 13 countries for which data was available. As well as documenting these findings, the report also examines collectively agreed pay increases in three selected sectors (metal, banking and local governments), developments on minimum wages and youth pay rates, and gender issues in collective pay setting.

For more information visit:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/tn1109060s/tn1109060s.htm>

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►► **European Migration Network**

September 2011

The European Migration Network (EMN) is soon to publish a Synthesis Report of its second Study for 2011, "Temporary and Circular Migration: empirical evidence current policy practice and future options in EU Member States". The EMN Study, which reviews the different understandings, approaches to, legislation, and practice associated with temporary and circular migration in all Member States (apart from Cyprus, Denmark and Romania), provides an important, up-to-date and unique insight into these forms of migration in the EU, at a time when there is increasing policy interest in them.

Indeed, the Study responds to requests from the Council of the European Union through Council Conclusions and the Stockholm Programme regarding further exploration and development of circular migration as a part of EU migration policy. It also considers the 'triple win' hypothesis, looking at the extent to which circular migration benefits the migrant, host society and the country of origin.





Needs for future policy in this area are identified by the study, and it demonstrates that improved data collection is essential; as such data could increase Member State understanding of the phenomena and help inform future policies.

For more information visit:

<http://www.emn.europa.eu>

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### ►► European Job Days 2011 kick off in Brussels

1 October 2011

On 1 October 2011, the fifth of the Brussels European Jobs Days will be held at the European Commission's headquarters.

Visitors to this event will be offered the opportunity to build a tailor-made tour of meetings with recruiters and to receive guidance and advice about moving abroad, setting up a business or becoming self employed. These opportunities can be found in the various areas available at the Job Day: [the employers zone](#); the [EURES village](#); and [JobCoaching for 45+](#). In these areas, jobseekers will have the chance to meet over 50 employers, more than 20 EURES advisors (all providing practical information on looking for work abroad) and specialists in human resources who will provide private consultations.

The webpage for the event ([www.jobdays.eu](http://www.jobdays.eu)) provides users with the possibility of identifying available vacancies that correspond best to their profile. In addition, there is a pre-registration system available on the webpage that allows users to maximise their chances for the direct on-the-spot interviews.

Furthermore, a new European Commission initiative, [Create your job](#), will be presented this year at the Job Day. The new initiative is part of the [Youth@Work](#) awareness-raising campaign and consists of interactive information sessions for young people willing to start their own business or seeking to be self-employed.

Apart from the event in Brussels, there will be more than 200 Job Days throughout September and October. The Job Days vary in size, focus and types of session available but all are run with the aim of encouraging mobility throughout the EU and matching candidates to vacancies.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1075&furtherNews=yes>

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### ►► The Single Market Forum

3-4 October 2011

On 3 and 4 October 2011, the 'Single Market Forum', a debate on the realities of the Single Market, will be held in Krakow, Poland. This event will bring together market participants, such as businesses, social partners, non-governmental organisations, public authorities at various levels of government and Parliaments.



Beyond facilitating exchanges of best practice, the forum will examine the state of the single market and the transposition and application of existing directives aimed at making the single market work in practice. There will be presentations of real-life stories that aim to highlight challenges faced by citizens and businesses in the EU's Single Market, as well as a series of workshops on key areas of the Single Market. Participants will discuss ways in which the functioning of the Single Market might be improved.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=353&furtherEvents=yes>

### ►► Youth@Work Roundtable

6 October 2011

The Youth@Work roundtable – one of the many events happening throughout the [European SME week 2011](#) – is part of the [Youth@Work awareness-raising campaign](#) and will take the form of an open discussion in Brussels on 6 October. Topics to be discussed include: youth unemployment in Europe, the role of SMEs, the mismatches in qualifications between labour supply and demand and the employability of young people by SMEs.

For more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=361&furtherEvents=yes>

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### ►► European Employment Strategy

More information about the European Employment Strategy and related documents can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=101>

### ►► Europe 2020 Strategy

More information on the EU's strategy for growth can be found at the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

### ►► European Social Fund (ESF)

More information on the ESF, one of the EU's Structural Funds, set up to reduce differences in prosperity and living standards across EU Member States and regions, can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp?langId=en>

### ►► European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

Find out more about the EGF, which exists to support workers who lose their jobs as a result of changing global trade patterns, at the following link:



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

►► **Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative ‘An agenda for new skills and jobs’**

More information about the Europe 2020 flagship initiative which aims to give fresh momentum to labour market reforms to help people gain the right skills for future jobs, to create new jobs and overhaul EU employment legislation, can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=958>

►► **Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative ‘Youth on the Move’**

More information about the Europe 2020 flagship initiative which aims to improve young people's chances of finding a job by helping students and trainees gain experience in other countries, and improving the quality and attractiveness of education and training in Europe, can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=950&langId=en>

►► **Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative ‘Platform against Poverty’**

More information about the Europe 2020 flagship initiative which aims to bolster work at all levels to reach the agreed EU headline target of lifting at least 20 million people out of poverty and exclusion by 2020, can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=961&langId=en>

►► **Youth@Work awareness-raising campaign**

More information about the autumn 2011 information sessions of the Youth@Work awareness-raising campaign can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=982>

►► **PARES strategic dialogue**

A new initiative to encourage dialogue at EU level between employment services was launched at the end of September. Its aim is to improve cooperation between the different employment services (public, private and non-profit) in EU member countries and to define fields where they can deliver complementary services.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=991&langId=en>