

Cross-border EURES advisers help to find practical solutions to mobility problems and customise their services to the needs of the regional end-users. EURES is working towards improving transparency in these local labour markets through the exchange of local vacancies across borders and the distribution of information on vocational training opportunities.

There are currently over 20 cross-border partnerships in EURES, spread throughout the network. The Commission supports efforts to establish new cross-border cooperation with a view to covering all relevant border regions where labour mobility can be assisted.

Making job mobility a reality

Since its inception in 1994, EURES has helped make occupational and geographical mobility a reality by the services it provides through its network. The introduction of the euro, developments in high-speed and cheap transport services between EEA countries and the enlargement of the European Union have all brought new opportunities for work-related mobility compared to previous generations of workers. The demand for job mobility is likely to grow in the future, increasing the demand for EURES services.

Moving to another country is a big step. Job seekers need to be well informed about what the European labour market has to offer in terms of jobs, social rights, better qualifications and career prospects. Employers need information about the availability of qualified workers in other countries so they can build up a multicultural, multilingual labour force and hence increase their competitive advantage. Lack of accessible information is one of the key obstacles to job mobility in Europe. EURES exists to help remove this obstacle by providing information, advice and brokerage services to citizens and employers throughout the EEA Member States.

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A network to help workers cross borders

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EURES – a network to help workers cross borders

EURES - EUROpean Employment Services - is a cooperation network designed to facilitate the free movement of workers within the European Economic Area (EEA) (1). The freedom to live and work abroad is one of the basic rights of European citizens as set out in the Treaty of Rome, and the Accession Treaty of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia to the European Union. The EURES network promotes geographical and occupational mobility by informing, advising and assisting European citizens who want to work in another country, and employers who want to recruit staff abroad.

The network brings together the Public Employment Services (PES) of all EEA Member States with other regional and national bodies concerned with employment issues such as trade unions, employers' organisations and local and regional authorities. The network is coordinated by the European Commission.

There is a considerable number of employment opportunities offered within EEA, covering as it does the 25 Member States of the European Union, plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein (Switzerland has a bilateral agreement with the EU on the free movement of persons and also participates in the EURES network). For job seekers, this offers an opportunity to expand skills and experience in the short term and to improve their long-term career prospects. For employers, the EEA, through the services offered by the EURES network, provides a greater supply of candidates. Such a large recruitment pool is especially useful when employers demand specific skills that are not being met by their national labour markets.

1. The following countries belong to the EEA: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Switzerland has a bilateral agreement with the EU on the free movement of persons and participates in the EURES network.

A comprehensive human network

EURES offers a network of EURES advisers, whose primary role is to disseminate the most up-to-date and practical information required by job seekers and employers. There are more than 700 EURES advisers located in all 28 Member countries of the EEA. You can locate a local EURES adviser by using the adviser search on the EURES job mobility portal.

EURES advisers offer three core services: information, guidance and placement, to both job seekers and employers interested in entering the European job market. They have specialised expertise in practical, legal and administrative matters related to geographical and occupational mobility. They also have access to a number of information tools, among them a database containing details of living and working conditions in each of the Member States such as information on labour markets, accommodation, education, cost of living, health, social legislation, taxation, training opportunities, comparability of qualifications, etc. Using the EURES services job seekers and employers can make more informed decisions about mobility.

Online job and CV search

All employers located within the EEA can advertise their vacancies on the EURES job database, giving them access to job seekers from any one of the 28 member countries. Job seekers can directly search the EURES job database online, or they can go through the local public employment service, which usually integrates the EURES vacancies into their own lists of vacancies. There are literally thousands of vacancies on the jobs database at any given time and the number is steadily increasing.

Job seekers can also make their CVs available online via the CV search database. Employers can access the database to head-hunt and can contact suitably qualified candidates directly without using an intermediary.

A one-stop job mobility portal

EURES acts as a single entry point for all job-related mobility information. Any user can freely access the database on living and working conditions (mentioned above), as well as a database on labour needs throughout the regional labour markets of the EEA. The updated job mobility portal also contains links to other useful information on mobility issues from the European Commission and the Member States.

Helping to solve specific recruitment needs

EURES can help to identify surpluses and deficits in the labour market for different sectors, thereby helping to solve specific job or skills bottlenecks. It has been particularly successful in the health, information technology and tourism sectors. Large multinationals may use the EURES services for their recruitment campaigns, while small- and medium-sized businesses may also benefit from EURES when trying to recruit personnel with specific know-how from the European labour market.

Breaking down barriers in border regions

Many people living in border regions of the EEA live and work in different countries. However, there are administrative, legal or tax obstacles to mobility resulting from different national practices and legal systems.

EURES is helping to overcome these obstacles by bringing together social partners and organisations such as public employment services, trade unions, employers and local bodies to actively promote common and open regional labour markets within the EEA. These partnerships aim to meet the need for information and can act as a forum for consultation on local labour markets.