

**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CAREER GUIDANCE**  
**EACG WEBSITE: [WWW.EACG.EU](http://WWW.EACG.EU)**  
**CAREER-EU CONFERENCE WEBSITE: [WWW.CAREER-EU.INFO](http://WWW.CAREER-EU.INFO)**



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## THIRD ANNUAL EUROPEAN CAREER GUIDANCE CONFERENCE CAREER-EU CONFERENCE DURING THE ERASMUS CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION 2012

*On 18-22 April 2012, the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC) in cooperation with the Babes-Bolyai University, successfully organized the 8th annual ERASMUS Congress and Exhibition, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. At the same time and place the European Association of Career Guidance (EACG) organises the 3rd Annual European Career Guidance Conference "CAREER - EU Conference" 2012.*



*The 3rd European Career Guidance Conference "CAREER - EU Conference" 2012 of the European Association of Career Guidance (EACG) took place in Cluj - Napoca, Rumania,*

*during the 8th ERASMUS Congress and Exhibition, which was organised under the patronage of Ms Androulla Vassiliou, Member of the European Commission.*

The CAREER - EU Conference offered the opportunity to career guidance counsellors, experts on vocational training issues, as well as representatives of European projects on career guidance and employment to deliver presentations and exchange views and ideas on the **modernisation of the labour market and on how to address the high unemployment rates in Europe.**

Some of the Conference's main topics presented and discussed were "**New Skills for New Jobs: Vocational Guidance and Counselling for all Skills Aspects**", by Mr. Helmut Loidl, (Loidl Art.com), "**Engineering your Career How can the New Work Life Challenges be met**", by Mr. Roger Hessel, (TOBB Economics and Technology University), "**EUROPEMOBILITY for young people: the secrets of success of cross-country exchange of work placements**", by Mrs Faten Urso (University of Lausanne), "**If I want to be different, I must change something**", by Mr. Peter Gabor (Employment Service of Slovenia).

The CAREER - EU Conferences, are one of the outcomes of the EU funded project **CAREER-EU**



CAREER - EU Conference 2012

**shop - One-stop-service Career Guidance Counselling for Europeans**, under the Lifelong Learning Programme sub-programme GRUNDTVIG, which was coordinated by the University of Cyprus. The objective of this project is to **provide EU counsellors with a common framework of best career counselling services, methods and practices in public and private institutions and authorities and develop a training programme for career counsellors.** More information about the project can be found at: <http://www.career-eu-shop.eu/>

The Erasmus Congress and Exhibition is organised annually since 2005. More information can be found at the website of the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators: <http://www.eaec.eu.com/>



**Sponsors and Collaborators**  
[Babes-Bolyai University](#), [Inenter Project](#), [European Association of Career Guidance](#), [MOVEON](#)

**More information:** <http://www.eracon.info/?id=119>, <http://www.eaec.eu.com/>, <http://www.career-eu.info/>

## EU EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SITUATION QUARTERLY REVIEW—MARCH 2012

**The latest EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly review by the European Commission shows that, after a moderate recovery during 2010 and early 2011, the European labour market contracted again in the second half of 2011.**

Since spring 2011 the number of unemployed has been steadily increasing. This new rise has added 1.6 million jobless, with the unemployment rate hitting a new high at 10.1 % in January 2012. All large Member States, including Germany, are now facing deteriorating labour market prospects, while divergence in performance remains high across Member States.

This latest review takes a closer look at the labour markets and social situation in Greece, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia and Romania. It also analyses the situation in the agricultural sector, extended to the agri-food industry.



More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7548&langId=en>

## MONTHLY LABOUR MARKET FACT SHEET JUNE 2012



**The number of unemployed in the EU has continued to increase in April 2012, reaching a new high of 24.7 million. Although the pace of increase of EU unemployment has eased over the last three months, the trend remains upward in majority of the Member States.**

While stable at EU level at 22.4%, youth unemployment has worsened again in 15 Member States. Only three countries - Germany, Nether-

lands and Austria - post youth unemployment rate lower than 10 %. Consumers' expectations have improved slightly at EU level, but in two-thirds of Member States, they expect unemployment to go on worsening. EU firms' employment expectations have deteriorated overall.

For the third month in a row, the agency work industry in Europe posted negative growth in March, down by 3.3 % compared with the same period in

2011. In May, nearly 20 000 restructuring-related announced job losses were reported by the European Restructuring Monitor, against less than 8.000 job gains. Manufacturing was the most affected sector by announced job losses. Overall, the unemployment figures confirm that unacceptable numbers of people are out of work. The Commission underlined the urgency for Member States to take concrete measures to boost employment.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7718&langId=en>

## TOWARDS A JOB-RICH RECOVERY

**Job creation is one of the EU's most pressing concerns as it struggles to emerge from the economic crisis. Unemployment has risen to record highs. In response, the Commission is making a package of recommendations on the best ways to boost demand for workers and help people find jobs.**

The recommendations aim to provide jobseekers with more training and more job opportunities.

General recommendations include:

- encouraging job creation through support for businesses, entrepreneurs and self-employed persons,
- targeting key industries where jobs are being generated,
- using existing EU programmes to fund job creation,
- reforming labour markets to meet future demand,
- developing programmes to encourage lifelong learning and providing young people with training to advance their careers,
- investing in skills training, anticipating future job requirements,
- removing obstacles to finding a job in another EU country,
- fine-tuning schemes – including the EURES jobs database – that match jobseekers with jobs across Europe,
- improving coordination of employment policies across Europe.
- increasing the involvement of employers' and workers' groups in employment policy making.



More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7619&langId=en>

## “YOUR FIRST EURES JOB” PILOT PROJECT TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE FIND JOBS



**A pilot project to help young people find a job in another EU country has been launched by the European Commission. In its initial phase 'Your first EURES job' will aim to improve cross-border mobility for 5,000 people. It will also serve as a testing ground for transforming EURES - the network of Member States' employment services – towards a pan-European employment service.**

Your first EURES job is based on support from national employment services – information, job search, recruitment, funding – for both young jobseekers and businesses interested in recruiting from outside their home country. Funding is subject to conditions and procedures put in place by these services. The Commission intends to improve EURES so as to provide more transparency on the European labour market and direct jobseekers and job changers to where the jobs are. It will also provide easier and real-time access to vacancies available in the EU, while presenting employers with a pool of candidates with the right skills.

Under the “first EURES job” scheme, four selected employment services from Germany, Spain, Denmark and Italy will help young people look for work in Member States other than their own. As part of the scheme, young **EU nationals between the ages of 18-30** will be provided with information and help for their recruitment, as well as the possibility of financial support for their application or training. **Small and medium businesses**, i.e. companies with up to 250 employees, may apply for financial support to cover part of the cost of training newly-recruited workers and helping them settle in.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=993>

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECVET IN EUROPE

**The paper reviews the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) decision-making process in different education and training systems, focusing on objective-setting and governance development. It shows how ECVET is sustained and might also compete with VET reforms and existing credit systems and arrangements.**

Preparing for ECVET<sup>1</sup> means building on qualifications systems to allow for the introduction of credits. It includes mapping existing support elements such as legal regulations or credit systems/arrangements in place. The last section of this paper addresses major challenges in establishing by 2012 the necessary conditions for gradual ECVET implementation in Europe.

More information: [http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/6114\\_en.pdf](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/6114_en.pdf)



## EU SETS OUT PLANS FOR ADEQUATE, SAFE, AND SUSTAINABLE PENSIONS

**Pensions are the main income source for around a quarter of the EU's population today and younger Europeans will also come to rely on pensions later in their lives. Unless Europe delivers on decent pensions now and in the future, millions will face poverty in old age. To support these efforts, the European Commission has published a White Paper on adequate, safe and sustainable pensions.**

It looks at how the EU and the Member States can work to tackle the major challenges that confront the pension systems. It puts forward a range of initiatives to help create the right conditions so that those who are able can continue working - leading to a better balance between time in work and time in retirement; to ensure people who move to another country can keep their pension rights; to help people save more and ensure that pension promises are kept and people get what they expect in retirement. The White Paper builds on the results of a wide consultation, launched in July 2010. It cuts across different policy areas and is fully in line with the Commission's 2012 Annual Growth Survey. The measures at European level will support and complement national pension reforms.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7341&langId=en>



## COMMISSION TO BOOST PROTECTION FOR POSTED WORKERS

*Worker protection and fair competition are the two sides of the EU single market's coin, yet findings suggest that minimum employment and working conditions are often not respected for the one million or so posted workers in the EU. To address the specific issues of abuse where workers do not enjoy their full rights in terms of for example, pay or holidays, especially in the construction sector, the Commission has put forward concrete, practical proposals as part of an enforcement Directive to increase monitoring and compliance and to improve the way existing rules on posted workers are applied in*

*practice. This will ensure a level playing field between the businesses involved, excluding companies that don't follow the rules.*

To send a strong message that workers' rights and their freedom to strike are on an equal footing with the freedom to provide services the Commission has also put forward a new regulation that takes on board existing case law. This is especially relevant in the context of cross-border services provision like the posting of workers. The overall aim of both proposals is to boost quality jobs and increase competitiveness in the EU by updating and improving the way the single market works, while safeguarding workers' rights.



More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7479&langId=en>

## BOOSTING SOCIAL SECURITY RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE MIGRATING TO AND FROM THE EU



*The Commission is putting forward fresh ideas to clarify the social security rights of people migrating into and out of the EU. The aim is to ensure better protection of workers' rights, in particular acquired state pension rights.*

The policy communication stresses how migrants and businesses from third countries often face fragmented social security systems which create obstacles in terms of entering, moving within and leaving the EU. To address this difficulty, the Communication sets out how EU rules currently impact on the external dimension and gives clear guidance on the legal relationship between EU law and national bilateral agreements. It also suggests different ways to encourage cooperation between the Member States in the field of social security coordination with third countries and emphasises the need for strengthened Member State cooperation on bilateral social security agreements made with non-EU countries. In addition, the Communication calls for the development of a common EU approach. One concrete measure proposed is the possible **conclusion of EU-level social security agreements with selected third countries.**

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7549&langId=en>

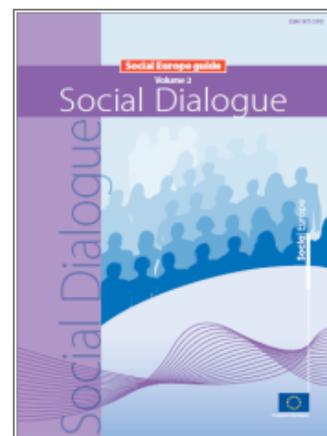
## SOCIAL EUROPE GUIDE - VOLUME 2 SOCIAL DIALOGUE

*The Social Europe guide is a bi-annual publication aimed at providing an interested but not necessarily specialised audience with a concise overview of specific areas of EU policy in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion. It illustrates the key issues and challenges,, explains policy actions and instruments at EU level and provides examples of best practices from EU Member States. It also presents views on the subject from the Council Presidency and the European Parliament.*

The second volume in this series describes the history, workings and accomplishments of social dialogue at EU level. Negotiations, consultations and exchanges of information among organisations representing employers and workers (the social partners) and public authorities are an essential element of the European social model and play a key role in defining and implementing EU economic, employment and social policy as well as sectoral policies. The volume also looks at how social dialogue has evolved at the level of individual Member States in response to the economic crisis.

More information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=101&langId=en&pubId=6352&type=2&furtherPubs=yes>



## A MULTILINGUAL TOOL KIT FOR TRAINING PROFESSIONALS



**An new online tool designed to ensure that those working in vocational education, training and employment have a common understanding of terms, the multilingual synopsis of the European Training Thesaurus allows for a quick search by 11 languages and 18 topics. It covers 1207 terms and concepts used frequently in vocational education and training.**

This tool forms the basis of the full-fledged online thesaurus Cedefop is currently preparing. Rather than having the full features of a thesaurus, the synopsis allows for a quick navigation by language, term and topic.

Each term/concept is presented in 11 languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Swedish. Topics covered include skills needs and shortages, lifelong learning, vocational education and training policy, assessment and certification of learning outcomes, recognition of certificates and diplomas, and vocational guidance.

More information: [http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/4114\\_en.pdf](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/4114_en.pdf)

## EEO REVIEW - EMPLOYMENT POLICIES TO PROMOTE ACTIVE AGEING 2012

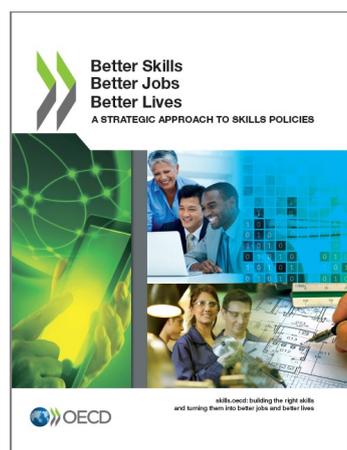
**Awareness of the need to increase labour market participation of older people is growing among national policy-makers and measures such as raising the statutory retirement age, phasing out early retirement schemes and introducing financial incentives into pension systems to prolong working life are already used in many EU Member States. These reforms can have an impact on labour market participation of older workers but an attempt to address the issue comprehensively should also include strategies to improve the supply of lifelong learning and age-adequate workplaces, and develop ways to reconcile work and family life.**

This document summarises key messages and draws links with policy developments, studies and data collected at European level.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=81&langId=en&furtherPubs=yes>



## BETTER SKILLS, BETTER JOBS, BETTER LIVES: A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO SKILLS POLICIES



**Boosting investment in education, skills and training now is the key to strong, sustainable and shared growth in the future, according to the OECD Skills Strategy. This major new initiative aims to help governments build economic resilience, boost employment and reinforce social cohesion. The Skills Strategy acknowledges that with public finances under pressure, governments have tough budgetary decisions to make. But spending on education and skills is an investment for the future and must be a priority.**

Today, one in five young people leave school in OECD countries without completing upper secondary education. And in many countries, a third of adults lack the minimum core skills needed to engage in further learning and get a good job. The Strategy tailors recommendations to particular needs in individual countries. In the short-run, the focus in most countries should be on helping youth acquire the skills required by the labour market. Among its recommendations are that countries should:

- improve the quality of learning outcomes by putting the premium on skills-oriented learning instead of qualifications-focused education upfront;
- involve employers and trade unions more closely in designing and delivering education and training programmes;
- encourage adults to invest in further learning, especially in small and medium-sized firms;
- facilitate the internal and cross-border mobility of skilled workers;
- calibrate tax and benefit systems to make work pay;
- help employers make more effective use of their employee's skills;
- help local economies to move up the value-added chain, foster entrepreneurship and stimulate the creation of more high-skilled jobs.

More information: [http://skills.oecd.org/documents/Skills\\_strategy\\_final\\_PDF.pdf](http://skills.oecd.org/documents/Skills_strategy_final_PDF.pdf)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **East Meets West on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Congress and Exhibition**  
1-4 September 2012, Nicosia, Cyprus  
<http://www.eastmeetswest.eu.com>
- **Conference on "Policy Transfer in Vocational Skills Development Revisited"**  
13-14 September 2012, Zurich, Switzerland  
<http://www.ife.uzh.ch/veranstaltungen/vsdconference.html>
- **Conference "Towards active ageing at home (age@HOME)"**  
24 October 2012, Barcelona, Spain  
<http://jornades.uab.cat/ageathome/>
- **21st Annual EfVET International Conference**  
24-27 October 2012, Palma de Mallorca, Spain  
[http://www.efvet.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=3&Itemid=18](http://www.efvet.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=3&Itemid=18)
- **The European Employment Forum**  
27-28 November 2012, Brussels, Belgium  
<http://www.employmentweek.com/cms.php>

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

The Association is open to any individual or organisation interested or dealing with Career or Employment issues, as well as any organisation willing to become a One-Stop-Service-Shop for Career Guidance.

The application procedure to become a member of the Association is very easy. The following link provides direct access to the subscription webpage and all the necessary information that the applicant needs to know:

<http://www.eacg.eu/index.php?id=3>

The Association offers **two kind of subscription schemes**:

- For Institutional/Organization membership €150
- For Individual membership €100

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