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# EURES

# FINDING A JOB IN EUROPE

A GUIDE FOR JOBSEEKERS



Social Europe



## SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE FUTURE

Living and working in another country is an exciting option for Europeans of all ages. Indeed, more and more people are recognising the benefits of gaining professional experience in another European country.

Even so, still only 3% of Europeans live and work in a different Member State than their country of origin. Yet by working abroad, even for short periods, you can greatly increase your skill levels and boost your chances of finding a better job in your own country.

The European Union's principle of free movement of workers\* is considered one of the most important rights of EU citizens. It means that you

*'Working abroad widens your horizons and gives you a taste of independent life. It also helps to build your self-confidence and enlarge your personal network. If you do move, be open to the new culture, as well as ready and willing to learn new things.'*

*Jobseeker from Lithuania, living and working in Denmark*

can move to any EU Member State, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. As a result, there are endless opportunities for the motivated and mobile jobseeker. And if you need advice and information along the way, there are also plenty of experts to guide you.

What can you gain from living and working abroad?

- **An opportunity to develop new professional and personal skills.** Learn a new language, add to your professional experience, boost your self-confidence, and improve your ability to communicate with others. Living and working abroad really is the ideal solution for those that want some 'added value' on their CV to impress future employers.
- **Greater understanding of other countries and cultures.** Europe is a wonderfully diverse continent with lots to discover. By immersing yourself in life in another country, you can experience a new culture and lifestyle. At the same time, others can learn more about your own country.
- **Valuable experience meeting new people and new challenges.** If you're not sure that working abroad is right for you, look into seasonal or temporary work. You

don't have to commit to a long-term contract, but will still gain valuable experience to open up future work opportunities.

**Learning new skills and gaining international professional experience can only be beneficial. This easy-to-use guide provides you with top tips and useful information to help you if you have set your sights on Europe!**

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

**Do you have a specific job skill? If your expertise and experience is in a sector with 'hard-to-fill' vacancies, such as the environment, healthcare, or ICT, you could find yourself in particularly high demand in many European countries.**

\* Do you need a work permit?

Some European citizens may have restricted access to the European labour market for a certain period, depending on when their country joined the EU. EURES can tell you which countries you can move to freely and which will require a work permit.

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## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE MOVING ABROAD

If you are thinking about moving abroad, you need to give it some serious thought. Here's an overview of a few things you might want to consider before making the move.

- **Can you get a job?** A good starting point when looking for a job abroad is to look at your options and apply for jobs whilst still in your home country. Carefully investigate in which countries there is a demand for workers with your background and experience, or in the area of work you are interested in. Do some research on the labour market in those countries. Ensure that your CV is clear and concise, highlighting what you have already learnt or achieved, and its relevance to the available opportunities.
- **A career is just one option.** Mobility can also mean further education, professional training, and internships, amongst many other opportunities. The EU has support programmes in these fields. They include Leonardo da Vinci (vocational education and training), Erasmus (student exchange and placements abroad), and the 'Rethinking education' strategy, which is focused on developing skills for the labour market. See [ec.europa.eu/education](http://ec.europa.eu/education) for more information.
- **Do you speak the language?** Your employer will probably expect you to have some knowledge of the local language. Basic English, whatever country you are in, will also be an advantage. Consider taking a language course before you leave – even if it is not mandatory for every job opening, it could enhance your opportunities.
- **Will your professional qualifications be recognised?** If you are qualified to work in your home country, you can work elsewhere in Europe. Under the principle of free movement of workers, you can practice your profession in all EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. But check each job specification carefully – some employers may require certain diplomas, certificates, or other qualifications.
- **What about educational qualifications?** There is currently no universal recognition of educational qualifications across Europe, meaning that an employer in one country may hesitate to hire a worker from another country if they do not recognise their level of qualification. You can find useful information in the Work and Retirement section of the Your Europe portal ([europa.eu/youreurope/citizens](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens)).

'Contacting EURES was the best thing I could have done for my career. Last year I sent a letter to my local EURES Adviser explaining that I wanted to do an internship in a wine company in Italy. Three months later, EURES Italy had found a position including accommodation and living costs. The support continued throughout the internship. When I arrived in the country, EURES helped me to complete all the necessary documents.'

*Dalma, jobseeker from Hungary*

Alternatively, you can visit the European Commission's European Qualifications Framework (EQF) website ([ec.europa.eu/eqf](http://ec.europa.eu/eqf)).

- **Is your family moving with you?** As a European citizen, you and your family have the same rights as national workers. Your family can study or work in your country of destination, so it is worth exploring options for them too before leaving.

## WHO CAN HELP YOU TO FIND A JOB ABROAD?

You've decided to make the move and now need more information. For help and advice throughout the process, you can tap into the following resources:

**EURES, the European Jobs Network,** covers all Member States, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. It has a network of partners, including public employment services (PES), and is now being extended to include further partners in your home country. Information on these can be found on the EURES portal: [eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu)

The EURES network offers a range of services tailored to your needs:

- **The EURES Job Mobility Portal:** The EURES Portal provides job vacancy information in 31 countries, and allows you to create a profile, register your CV, and access details on living and working conditions across Europe. The portal is featured on leading social media sites, and has its own smartphone app. If you need assistance with creating an account, building a CV, or searching for

vacancies, the EURES helpdesk is available via live chat, e-mail, phone, or Skype. Visit [eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu) for details.

- **A network of EURES Advisers:** EURES has over 1 200 advisers in 31 countries working with national PES to provide mobility information to jobseekers. Contact them by telephone, e-mail, or via a face-to-face meeting or at European (Online) Job Days events (see next page for details).
- **EURES in cross-border regions:** Working and living in two different countries is the most common form of labour mobility. EURES also operates in cross-border regions throughout Europe. Information for cross-border workers is available on the EURES Job Mobility Portal, from your local EURES Adviser and on page 11 of this brochure.

You can also take advantage of the following:

- **Private recruitment agencies:** In your home – or destination – country, private recruitment agencies provide a wide range of information and an efficient job-matching service. Their advisers can guide you through each stage of the recruitment process.

- **Online job search engines:** Some job search engines allow you to create a CV, build a jobseeker profile, get notifications of interesting job offers, and view vacancies.
- **Social media:** Around half of EU Internet users have a social media presence. If you regularly use platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn, you can use them to promote your job skills and interests, as a sort of virtual CV. Just be careful what you do and say online, and review settings to keep personal posts and photos private!

'The EURES Adviser gave me information about doing a greenhouse gardener's course in Denmark and combining it with a Danish language course and work on a Danish farm. I saw it as an interesting opportunity, and a way to develop new skills and knowledge for my future professional life. It broadens your horizons, makes you more independent, builds your self-confidence, and expands your personal network!'

*Sarunas, jobseeker from Lithuania*

## HOW CAN EURES HELP?

EURES' services are comprehensive and available to all European jobseekers – before, during, and after their job search.

They address every aspect of living and working abroad, from providing career guidance, reviewing and translating CVs, analysing offers, and facilitating video-conferencing for interviews, to providing information on the European labour market, giving legal and social security advice, organising job fairs, and advising on training, language learning, and funding opportunities – to name just a few!

Broadly, the services comprise the following:

**The EURES Job Mobility Portal**, which currently hosts more than one million job vacancies from all over Europe, almost as many CVs, and thousands of registered employers. It offers you tools to:

- Create a profile allowing you to tag interesting sectors or countries, and receive e-mail notifications of relevant job vacancies;
- Build and maintain a CV in one or several language versions and post it online, so it is visible to the 30 000 employers registered on the portal;

- Search for information on living and working in your country of choice;
- Search for European (Online) Job Days and other recruitment events in your region;
- Connect with other jobseekers and exchange tips on job-hunting and living and working abroad.

**EURES Advisers** and other recruitment professionals – particularly in the EURES network – can be contacted for information and advice at any stage of your job search and moving process. With specialised expertise in the practical, legal, and administrative aspects of European labour mobility, they can:

- Recommend interesting opportunities based on your profile, and even seek to match your profile with a suitable employer in another European country;
- Assist with your job application and pass on your CV to potential employers;
- Give you information on the living and working conditions in your country of destination;
- Help you get started in your new country by providing information on accommodation, social security, taxes,

and on schools and healthcare for your family, if relevant.

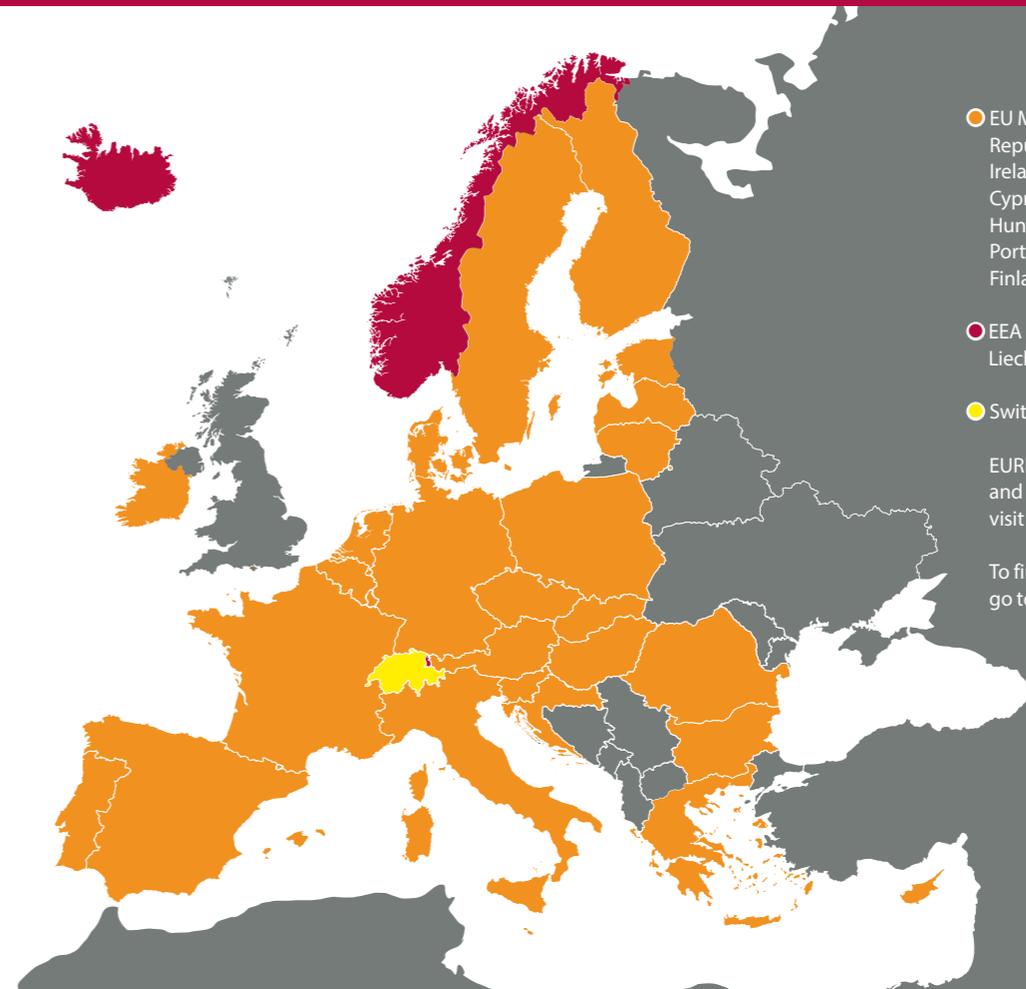
**Please note that the services available may differ from one country or EURES partner organisation to another.**

You can find more information, along with the contact details of your local EURES Adviser and other recruitment professionals, on the EURES Job Mobility Portal.

### EUROPEAN (ONLINE) JOB DAYS AND OTHER EVENTS

Each year, hundreds of EURES events are held throughout Europe – all easy to access and free of charge. The best-known are European Job Days, which provide an ideal environment for you to meet potential employers, on-site or online, and to benefit from live Q&As and one-to-one video coaching with job mobility and other relevant experts. EURES also hosts conferences, seminars, and general mobility information days, where EURES Advisers are on hand to provide expert advice on finding a job in Europe. Check the Events calendar on the EURES Job Mobility Portal for more information on events in your area.

## HOW CAN EURES HELP?



● EU Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden.

● EEA = EU Member States + Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

● Switzerland.

EURES is represented in different regions and cross-border regions. For further details, visit the EURES portal.

To find your nearest EURES Adviser, go to [eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu).

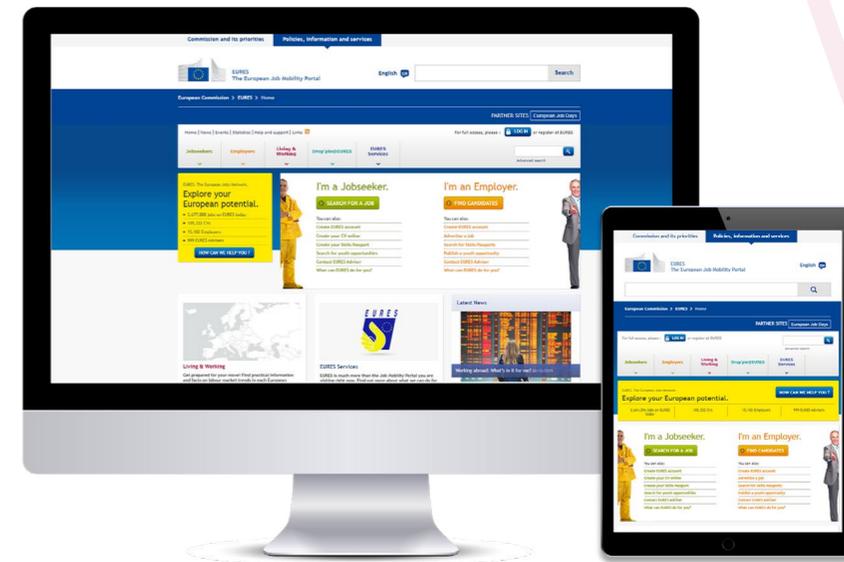
## KEY SECTIONS

As a jobseeker, this is where you can find information on working abroad, preparing for an interview, settling into life in a new country, as well as information on the European Commission's education and training opportunities throughout Europe.

- 1. What can EURES do for you?** Here you can find all the services offered by EURES members and partners.
- 2. Search for a job** explains how to search for a job in 31 European countries, create and manage your online job search profiles, and subscribe to e-mail notifications for interesting vacancies.
- 3. Create your CV online** allows you to create and manage your CV in several languages, free-of-charge, and in the Europass format if desired.
- 4. Contact a EURES Adviser** allows you to find the contact details of a EURES Adviser close to you, who can help with matching you to job vacancies at the local, regional, or national level.
- 5. Living & working** contains practical, legal, and administrative information on mobility. Look up current trends on the European labour market by country, region, and sector of activity.
- 6. The Events** calendar shows you upcoming events of interest in your region. Keep track of European Job Days and other recruitment events or general mobility information sessions with EURES Advisers.
- 7. News** is packed with the latest articles and videos on European jobs and mobility. Watch inspiring success stories from other jobseekers who benefited from EURES services.
- 8. EURES & You newsletters** are issued every month, and feature information on job mobility, current trends, upcoming EURES events, etc. You can read the newsletters online or receive them by e-mail.
- 9. In Help & Support**, you will find answers to most of your questions. The EURES helpdesk is also available to answer your queries via telephone, e-mail, live chat, and Skype.
- 10. Links** directs you to other websites dealing with European labour mobility, including national PES, as well as a range of publications that will guide you through your search.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

**European (Online) Job Days** enable jobseekers and employers to gather 'virtually' and free of charge, saving them the time and money involved in travelling to an on-site event. Participants can view presentations, submit vacancy applications, and meet directly with recruiters and EURES Advisers. See [europeanjobdays.eu](http://europeanjobdays.eu) for details of previous and upcoming online Job Days.



### APPLYING FOR A JOB

So you've found an interesting opportunity? Now you have to put together an application that makes you stand out from the crowd! EURES Advisers can help you with this – or you can refer to the Job Mobility Portal for essential tips.

Typically, an application will consist of a cover letter and your CV, though some employers may require you to complete a standard application form. Remember – this is the first impression you make on the employer, so spend some time perfecting it.

- Your **cover letter** should state why you are interested in the position, what in your background makes you suitable for the job, and what you can bring to the company. Make sure the language is clear, accessible, and straight to the point.
- **Interviews** could take place in person, virtually, or over the phone. Regardless of this, **thorough preparation is vital**. Bring any necessary paperwork, such as your CV or identity card, just in case.
- **Know the company**. Make sure you have researched the company you're

interviewing with. Show that you are familiar with what it does and what it is looking for. Prepare some insightful questions about it and the role to prove you have done your research.

- **Know the job**. The job description is the best clue you are given regarding what an employer will be looking for in an interview. Does it emphasise teamwork, the ability to take initiative, or flexibility? Show that you match these requirements with concrete examples and skills from your past experience.
- **Expect the unexpected**. Difficult or unexpected questions may be asked. Don't panic! Prove you can remain calm under pressure by taking a moment to consider the question, and answering calmly. It doesn't matter if you don't know the answer. An employer will be interested to see how you phrase your answer and hear about how you would go about finding out new information.

### YOUR CV

- List your most recent experience and qualifications first.
- Use short sentences and positive language.
- Highlight responsibilities applicable to the desired job and use 'active' verbs.
- Make sure your CV is factual, up-to-date, and accurate.
- Keep your CV to a maximum of two pages.
- Have your CV proofread by someone else, preferably a native speaker of the language in which you are applying.



Leaving your country and arriving in a new one can be a daunting experience. There are new administrative processes to deal with, people to meet – perhaps a language to learn. You can contact your local EURES Adviser for advice and information before you leave.

Here are a few tips from EURES to help the process run smoothly:

### MOVING

- Ensure all your loose ends are tied up and cancel any contracts with service providers.
- Inform your local authority you are leaving, if this is a requirement.
- Change your postal address and leave your forwarding address for any mail that may arrive after your departure.
- Remember to bring important documents with you – valid passports or identity cards for you and your family members, for example.

### ARRIVING

- It helps to research **accommodation options** before you arrive in your new country, so you have an idea of areas that suit your budget and expectations.

- All **social security** benefits linked to an employment contract in your new country are equally granted to all EU Member States, as well as citizens of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The same applies to 'posted workers' employed in one EU Member State but temporarily sent to work in another (see the Policies and activities section at [ec.europa.eu/social](https://ec.europa.eu/social)). Social benefits cover sickness and maternity leave, unemployment and family benefits, accidents at work, occupational benefits, invalidity, and retirement and pensions. Contact your social security institution before you leave your home country for the necessary information and the required EU forms. Also check out the EU's Mutual Information System on Social Protection (Missoc) at the website above.

- **The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** is available free-of-charge to all citizens of EU/EEA countries, plus Switzerland. It ensures they have the same access to emergency public sector healthcare abroad (such as doctors, pharmacies, hospitals) as nationals of their host Member State. You should still look into obtaining national health insurance in your new country as soon as you arrive.

- If you're receiving a State **pension** from one or more EU Member States and move to another country of the EU, or Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, or Switzerland, you can carry on receiving the entire amount of your State pension there. To find out more about how your social security rights are protected, visit: [ec.europa.eu/social-security-coordination](https://ec.europa.eu/social-security-coordination).
- **Taxation**: European countries have concluded bilateral tax agreements to prevent their citizens from paying twice for the same activity or income in another European country. Contact the relevant authorities in your home country for personalised advice.

EURES can give you more information on all these topics. Visit the Job Mobility Portal's Living and Working pages, or contact your local EURES Adviser.

Making up more than 99% of Europe's business, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of its economy, and an ever-growing number of European citizens have plans to set up their own business in another country.

If you're buzzing with ideas to start a business elsewhere in Europe, here are some recommendations:

- **Create a business plan.** Ensure you know exactly what your business will be, how much it will cost to establish, the time that will be involved, and the administrative processes you will have to go through. Don't leave your planning until you arrive in a new country – it will be easier to do in your home country. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce, as many offer courses in creating a comprehensive business plan.
- **Familiarise yourself with your new country.** Plan a few trips to your new destination before the final move. Get to know the banking system, the legal and administrative practices, and the people and culture. Do you need to learn a

language? If so, enrol in a course in your home country, so you have a good grasp of the language before you move.

- **Get advice from a fellow entrepreneur.** Contact someone who has set up their own business in your country of destination. No one will be able to give you better advice than someone who has already experienced what you are about to. Your local EURES Adviser may be able to put you in touch with a relevant person or organisation. Alternatively, go to [ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/sme-week](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/sme-week) to learn more about successful EU entrepreneurs in each country.
- **The Enterprise Europe Network** helps small businesses take advantage of Europe's open market. As an entrepreneur, you can find a wide range of information from any of the 600 member organisations across the EU and beyond. Visit [portal.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu](http://portal.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu).
- The **European Progress Microfinance Facility** is an EU initiative to help people who want to develop their own small business access credit up to EUR 25 000. Download a leaflet at [ec.europa.eu/social](http://ec.europa.eu/social).

'Before moving abroad, prepare a solid business plan with a description of the product or service to be offered, the target audience and existing competition, and a marketing strategy. And don't forget a financial plan – not just for the business, but a personal plan too. If you go abroad intending to retire in your own country, you must consider what your pension accrued in another Member State will be worth back there.'

*EURES Adviser, the Netherlands*

'I was invited to a recruitment meeting with EURES at the Public Employment Office in Gothenburg, Sweden. I had an interview with the Seven Seas Group, which was looking for crew for several cruise ships. After a useful information meeting and subsequent interview, I was offered a job some months later on a Caribbean line – my preferred choice!'

*Stefan, jobseeker from Sweden*

\* OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 1.

A cross-border labour market is an area in which workers living in one country can commute daily or weekly to work in a neighbouring country. This arrangement is popular throughout Europe; more than 600 000 people work in a different European country from where they live.

### BEING A CROSS-BORDER WORKER HAS ITS ADVANTAGES:

- The labour market in the neighbouring country may be stronger than that of your own;
- There is no need for your family to move with you, so partners can keep their jobs and children can stay in education in their own country;
- Health insurance and social security in your home country can usually be maintained, making the process easier.

Of course, cross-border commuting comes with some challenges, such as differing national administrative and legal practices. But there are plenty of services to help commuters with these issues.

### IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS, EURES IS AVAILABLE TO:

- Match jobseekers with suitable vacancies in a neighbouring country;
- Provide information on living and working in two different European countries, and help with the legal, administrative and practical aspects;
- Monitor the labour markets in both countries, providing up-to-date vacancy information to jobseekers.

EURES operates in over 20 cross-border partnerships across more than 13 countries. To meet the need for information and coordination between countries, EURES cross-border partnerships bring together public employment and vocational training services, trade unions, local authorities, and other institutions dealing with employment and training.

'We support hundreds of cross-border workers on a daily basis with questions such as, 'Where do I pay my taxes?', 'Where can I claim child benefit?', 'Can I use the health service?' This helps make the transition easier for mobile workers moving to another country!'

*EURES Adviser, Cross Border Partnership Ireland/Northern Ireland*

'I already knew some things about life in Hungary, as I had studied there, but EURES helped me with the more "technical" details of living life between two countries, such as the differences between tax systems and social security systems. When you move somewhere new, you don't know what to expect. Each country has its own uniqueness, and it's invaluable to get this advice.'

*Marcel, jobseeker from Germany, living in Hungary, commuting to work in Austria*

### A PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL, 'ALL ROUND' SERVICE

There are more than 1 200 EURES Advisers across 31 countries, all experts in European labour mobility. They are available to provide personalised advice based on your skills, qualifications and desired occupation, ensuring support throughout the moving process. Visit the EURES Job Mobility Portal for the contact details of your local EURES Adviser.

'A European Job Day is, for many jobseekers, an interesting first approach that allows them to come into contact with companies offering jobs, and to hand over their CV directly. The on-site presence of different "temporary work" agencies is also useful, as well as the availability of EURES Advisers who can help with "job mobility" applications.'

*EURES Adviser, Luxembourg*

### EUROPEAN (ONLINE) JOB DAYS

These events take place across Europe several times a year, from Norway to Cyprus, and from Portugal to Romania. They offer the ideal opportunity for jobseekers to meet with EURES Advisers, as well as potential employers, either on-site or online. Participants can discuss their plans and address their questions to a range of experts in European job mobility via real (or virtual) seminars, debates, workshops, and one-on-one meetings.

### SPECIAL EURES INITIATIVES

There are a number of targeted job mobility schemes that support jobseekers and job-changers aged 18–30 with finding work in other European countries, regardless of their qualifications, skills, or experience, by providing different funding opportunities. This service also provides significant benefits to employers, as it opens up their business to a workforce they may be unable to find at local, regional, or national level, and helps them to find suitable candidates for 'hard-to-fill' positions (see ec.europa.eu).



'I attended a job fair in Basel and met a EURES Adviser from Luxembourg. He gave me practical and useful advice, including information on the labour market, the living and working conditions in the country, and on how to apply for jobs – as well as the steps to be taken before moving abroad.'

*Jobseeker from Switzerland,  
living and working in Luxembourg*



### Getting in touch with the EU

#### In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

#### On the phone or by email

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by email via: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

#### Finding information about the EU

##### Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: [https://europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en)

##### EU publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)).

##### EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

##### Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, both for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

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## THE KEY EU WEBSITES AND PROGRAMMES FEATURED IN THIS BROCHURE ARE LISTED BELOW:

- EURES Job Mobility Portal:  
[eures.europa.eu](https://eures.europa.eu)
- Enterprise Europe Network:  
[portal.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu](https://portal.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu)
- EU entrepreneurs:  
[ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/sme-week](https://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/sme-week)
- European (Online) Job Days:  
[europeanjobdays.eu](https://europeanjobdays.eu)
- Questions about the EU:  
[europa.eu/europedirect](https://europa.eu/europedirect)
- European Progress Microfinance Facility  
Download a leaflet at:  
[ec.europa.eu/social](https://ec.europa.eu/social)
- European Qualifications Framework (EQF):  
[ec.europa.eu/eqf](https://ec.europa.eu/eqf)

- Support programmes in education:  
[ec.europa.eu/education](https://ec.europa.eu/education)
- Mutual Information System on Social Protection:  
[ec.europa.eu/missoc](https://ec.europa.eu/missoc)
- Posted workers:  
[ec.europa.eu/social](https://ec.europa.eu/social)
- Social security rights:  
[ec.europa.eu/social-security-coordination](https://ec.europa.eu/social-security-coordination)
- Your Europe: Help and advice for EU nationals and their families:  
[europa.eu/youreurope/citizens](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens)
- Your first EURES job:  
[ec.europa.eu/social](https://ec.europa.eu/social)

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