



THREE DECADES OF EURES MATCHING JOBSEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS IN EUROPE

February 2024, Bratislava – EURES, the European network of Employment Services turns 30 years in 2024. To celebrate the special date, the European Labour Authority and the network members will run a one-year-long campaign dedicated to 'Fair work anywhere in Europe'. The aim is to highlight EURES position as a key tool for European and cross-border recruitment and placement, particularly focusing on the benefits of its network services, for European jobseekers and employers.

Established in 1994, EURES emerged as a bequest to the EU's commitment to the free movement of labour. From its inception until today, the network aims to overcome barriers to employment by facilitating jobseekers' access to jobs across borders and providing continuous and reliable information about the national job market and living and working conditions.

EURES is grounded in the belief that a dynamic and integrated labour market would not only enhance individual career prospects but also contribute to the harmonious development of the European economy by creating a true European labour force that brings innovation to companies.

Over the years, EURES has evolved with the changing dynamics of the European labour market, adapting to emerging challenges and realities, namely digitalisation, the increasing number of labour movers in Europe, the financial crisis, and the pandemic. In 2016, the network was opened to private members partners and is progressively adapting to new ways of recruitment and labour trends.

Technical innovations were introduced that mark the unique service to employment in Europe that EURES provides: the EURES portal matching engine, that helps employers find their ideal candidates despite language, through matching skills of different countries; the European online job days, recruitment and information online events that facilitate, *e.g.*, direct job interviews; online chat with the EURES advisers of any country, so any jobseeker or employer can meet online EURES advisers of other countries; the full facilitation of relocation; helping with administrative barriers in schools, banking, taxes, etc. These are the many reasons to choose EURES instead of the available private services on the market.

After three active decades, EURES will continue to play a relevant role in shaping the landscape of European employment. The services cover 31 European countries (EU Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) through more than 1,000 EURES Advisers and other staff and the EURES portal, a European job portal (eures.europa.eu). On the portal alone, there are over 1 million registered CVs and more than 4,5 million advertised jobs.

If looking at the whole network in all countries and not just the EURES portal, securing a fair job anywhere in Europe has become a reality for numerous jobseekers, and the scale is different. To highlight some figures, between 2020 and 2022, EURES facilitated connections with 5.5 million workers and nearly 400,000 employers.

The Executive Director of the European Labour Authority (ELA), the EU agency that coordinates the network since 2021, Cosmin Boianiu, said: 'EURES could be compared to a 30-year-old young professional, who has a bright future ahead. EURES is an extensive human network connecting 31 corners of Europe, and has been built by three decades of cooperation, and many stories of jobseekers that moved abroad for work and employers that recruited them. EURES embodies a fundamental principle of the European Union: the freedom to work and live anywhere in the participating countries.'

The anniversary serves as a unique occasion to reflect on the achievements and impact of EURES, acknowledging its vital role in empowering jobseekers and employers alike, as well as its road to the future. It is an affirmation of the resilience and effectiveness of a network that has not only stood the test of time but has also thrived in its pursuit of facilitating cross-border collaboration and ensuring the free movement of talent across the European Union.

Contact information: For any more general information about the campaign, or any specific requests for material, please email EURES at eures@ela.europa.eu.

Throughout the campaign, EURES is posting on social media using #EURES30 alongside with the classic hashtag #EURESJobs.

For more information about the EURES30 campaign go to eures.europa.eu/eures30.

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