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EURES

Coordination
Group meetings

Outcome reports





Outcome report

13 – 15 May 2024

A EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on 13-15 May 2024 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The European Commission presented an update on EU level developments related to labour mobility, which included information about the launch conference of European Skills, Competences, and Occupations (ESCO) v1.2, the latest call on the Targeted Mobility Scheme (TMS), the EU Talent Pool and the state of play on Europass-EURES synergies. Furthermore, the Commission announced the official publication of the 'Annual report on intra-EU labour mobility 2023'. The Commission urged NCOs to properly implement EURES legal frameworks including ESCO.

ELA presented an overview of its most recent activities, emphasising progress and strategic initiatives aimed at improving labour mobility across the EU.

The agenda encompassed an update from ECO on the development of the EURES 2025-2030 strategy since the previous ECG meeting in November 2023. To advance the strategy's development, ECG members approved the mandate of the Ad hoc Working Group (Ad hoc WG) aiming at supporting ECO in drafting the EURES 2025-2030 strategy. Feedback from NCOs was collected on the mandates of the other Working Groups - the Interoperability Contact Working Group (IOCWG), the Training Coordinators' Working Group (TCWG), and the Communication Working Group (CWG) - which will be integrated into the relevant documents.

ECO also presented updates on the implementation of the EURES portal strategy, as well as user statistics and feedback from the IOC meeting. The upcoming release of version 6.0 scheduled for the end of June 2024 was also presented. This version will enhance the matching engine, introduce new user experience (UX) designs, and improve language requirements for job searches. In addition, the new visual identity for the portal was showcased, featuring improved design and usability aimed at attracting more users. ECO updated ECG members on the ELA – CEDEFOP collaboration to further improve EURES labour market information.

ECO presented the development of the EURES Communication Strategy, focusing on key aspects of current and planned activities to enhance the visibility and impact of EURES services. ECO presented the ongoing EURES 30th anniversary campaign, detailing the use of campaign and press toolkits, which are available on the EURES Extranet and translated

into 26 languages. Additionally, ECO outlined communication activities that include media partnerships, financial support for EURES countries to promote EURES in traditional media, and collaborations with influencers to boost the visibility and impact of EURES services across Europe.

ECO provided a summary of the recent meeting of the Training Coordinators' Workshop, emphasising enhancements in training delivery and coordination. ECO shared updates on the planning and organisation of the EURES in Action event, which is set to take place on 12 – 13 June 2024. Moreover, specific training initiatives for Cross-Border Partnerships (CBPs) were discussed.

A further discussion point was the streamlining of documentation and reporting processes of the Performance Measurement System (PMS), which aims inter alia at alleviating the administrative burden of NCOs. Regarding the PMS Implementing Decision, the focus of the discussion was on interpreting and implementing the Decision effectively.

ECO presented the results of the strategic foresight activity on the impact of labour market imbalances on EURES services. This is part of a broader effort to enhance the adaptability and effectiveness of EURES services in response to dynamic labour market conditions anticipated over the next decade.

Moreover, ECO provided a summary of key insights from the consultation on NCOs' collaboration with social partners conducted earlier in the year. The survey revealed that, while most respondents are aware of and occasionally engage with social partners, about half reported structured cooperation. The majority expressed a desire to expand these collaborations citing benefits, such as enhanced networking opportunities and improved labour market responsiveness.

Finally, NCO FI and NCO FR presented updates regarding recent or upcoming structural changes in the FI and FR PES having an impact on national EURES operations.

The next ECG meeting is scheduled to take place in December 2024 in Bratislava, Slovakia.



Outcome report

9 – 10 April 2024

Introduction and background

This meeting was the first of a series of meetings to create – via interactive workshops – input into the development of a EURES strategy 2025 – 2030.

During the first part of the meeting, Mr Cosmin BOIANGIU, Executive Director at the European Labour Authority (ELA), welcomed the participants. Mr BOIANGIU highlighted that the fundamental freedom of movement is essential for growth in the EU economy and that internal mobility within the EU is crucial for prosperity. In order for EURES to remain relevant in the future and continue supporting internal mobility, its network and services have to be well equipped in order to address future challenges, bringing benefits for EU jobseekers and employers.

Mr Andrei LUCHICI, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, during his presentation, underscored the importance of EURES. Mr LUCHICI stressed that the EURES strategy will not be binding for the EURES countries or the Commission, but rather serve as a guiding document.

Main outcomes of the brainstorming sessions

EURES future target groups and their needs

Participants agreed that the formulation of the future EURES target groups is subject to various factors, including national priorities, market dynamics, and the integration of new Members and Partners, as well as practices within the network. As a result of the discussions, the following target groups were identified as relevant to EURES by 2030:

- high-skilled people
- low-skilled people
- long-term unemployed
- self-employed

- senior (age) people
- apprentices
- third-country nationals (TCNs)
- remote workers/digital nomads
- less IT-literate people
- students
- large enterprises
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- public employers
- disabled people

EURES future services

The groups agreed on services' improvements both for the human network and the portal tools with a few of the main ones presented below:

EURES human network

- post-recruitment services with EURES Advisers providing assistance on social security and taxation topics and public employments services (PES) organising integration programmes and information events;
- services for cross-border regions targeting cross-border jobseekers and employers;
- dedicated services for employers addressing their increasing needs;
- facilitation of cross-border apprenticeships.

EURES portal

- create synergies between the EURES portal and the European (Online) Job Days (E(O)JD) platform;
- create links between data in the EURES portal and data requested by the Performance Measurement System (PMS);
- improve matching of jobs and CVs on the EURES portal;
- enable tracking of job placements on the portal;
- explore synergies with the Europass portal.

Setting priorities for the future

Due to differences in the national context of EURES countries, it was agreed that setting priorities for the future should follow national labour market developments. That said, among the target groups identified, the following are currently less addressed by the PES and could hence be a specific focus for EURES:

- SMEs
- students/youth
- high-skilled individuals.

In response to future services, the following remarks were noted on top of the previous discussions:

- not all target groups require the same services; therefore, there is a need for services to be broken down into sub-services, tailored to the specific target groups;
- the topic of free movement requires greater visibility, incl. the active role of the European Labour Authority (ELA) and of national-level decision makers.

Network and networking

Participants agreed that national networks are not identical across EURES countries. The following recommendations were formulated:

- identify how the network could benefit from the services of Members and Partners;
- develop a dedicated forum for interaction between Members and Partners;
- provide a tool for facilitating collaboration between EURES Advisers across EURES countries;

foster collaboration among NCOs, e.g. by holding focused round tables on topics of interest.



Outcome report

22 – 24 November 2023

A EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on 22-24 November 2023 in Malaga, Spain. As per the EURES Regulation, it brought together the European Labour Authority (ELA) as the European Coordination Office (ECO), the Commission (DG EMPL) and the EURES National Coordination Offices (NCOs). According to the EURES Regulation¹, this group acts as a 'platform for the exchange of information and for the sharing of best practices, in particular regarding the development and dissemination of appropriate information and guidance to workers, including frontier workers, and employers, across the EURES network. The ECG 'should also be consulted during the process of preparing templates, technical standards and formats as well as regarding the definition of uniform detailed specifications for data collection and analysis'. This meeting was an opportunity for the ECG members to discuss the latest developments in EU labour mobility and to receive updates regarding ELA's, ECO's and the Commission's activities. Taking into account specific momentum of the beginning implementation of the EURES portal strategy 2023-2030, there was a dedicated block of the ECG meeting where Interoperability Contact Working Group (IOC WG) members were invited to join the ECG meeting.

ECO presented, inter alia, updates on the implementation of the EURES portal Strategy 2023-2030, updates on ELA's activities, the EURES/Europass synergies project, updates on the Programming Cycle documentation, EURES training and Training Coordinators' Working Group, EURES 30th anniversary celebration plan, 2023 strategic foresight and EURES Strategy 2025-2030.

The Commission presented EU-level developments and policies related to labour mobility as well as cross-border mobility projects and updates on compliance with ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) and on admission system.

Finally, NCO BE and NCO NL presented two initiatives at national level to the participants of the ECG.

ES NCO co-hosted the meeting in Malaga as a combined event with the Spanish Presidency event held on the third day. The Spanish Presidency event showcased various initiatives, including the European Commission's introduction of the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to bolster employment and training programmes. Similar experiences in Active Support for

¹ 1 Recital 23 of Regulation (EU) 2016/589.

Employment in the country were highlighted through presentations on inspiring practices for labour market recovery, transformation, and resilience. These included the utilisation of the ESCO classification to identify training needs, the establishment of the new Centre of Excellence (COE) Network of National Employment System Public Centres, the TándEM alternance training scheme, the Initial Professional Experience and Investigo programmes, digital learning initiatives for women in rural communities (PFEA), and efforts supporting digital transformation.



Outcome report

30 – 31 May, 1 June 2023

A EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on 30 May-1 June 2023 in Stockholm. As per the EURES Regulation, it brought together the European Labour Authority (ELA) as the EURES Coordination Office (ECO), the Commission (DG EMPL) and the EURES National Coordination Offices (NCOs). According to the EURES Regulation², this group acts as a 'platform for the exchange of information and for the sharing of best practices, in particular regarding the development and dissemination across the EURES network of appropriate information and guidance to workers, including frontier workers, and employers'. The ECG 'should also be consulted during the process of preparing templates, technical standards and formats as well as regarding the definition of uniform detailed specifications for data collection and analysis'. This meeting was the opportunity for the ECG members to discuss the latest developments in EU labour mobility and to receive updates on ECO's and the Commission's activities.

SE NCO hosted the meeting in Stockholm because SE held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first six months of 2023. Together with the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) and Swedish EURES network provided presentations and organised panel discussions on the green transition.

ECO presented inter alia updates on the mandates of the ECG working groups (WGs) and the organisation of the Interoperability Contact Group (IOC) WG meetings, the EURES Portal Strategy 2023-2030, EURES training, EURES in Action and the EURES 30th anniversary celebration plan.

The Commission presented EU-level developments and policies related to labour mobility as well as updates on the EURES/Europass synergies project, Targeted Mobility Scheme (TMS) projects and on compliance with ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations).

Finally, ELA presented the results of an awareness survey on labour mobility services (EURES included). ELA indicated that the survey report will be sent to the NCOs after the ECG meeting and would welcome any feedback by 14 July 2023.

The next ECG meeting is scheduled to take place in November 2023.

² 1 Recital 23 of Regulation (EU) 2016/589.



Outcome report

19 April 2023

An Ad-hoc EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on 19 April 2023 online. As per the EURES Regulation, it brought together the different European actors involved in the field of the free movement of workers: the European Labour Authority (ELA) as the 'EURES Coordination Office' (ECO), the European Commission (DG EMPL), and the EURES National Coordination Offices (NCOs). According to the EURES Regulation, this group acts as a 'platform for the exchange of information and for the sharing of best practices, in particular regarding the development and dissemination across the EURES network of appropriate information and guidance to workers, including frontier workers, and employers'.

This meeting was the opportunity for the ECG members to discuss the initial draft of the EURES portal strategy 2023-2030, and more specifically its rationale, objectives, strategic actions, and roadmap included, proposed by ECO. NCOs and DG EMPL mainly shared their views on the length of the roadmap, their good practices in terms of technological developments and the need to have access to user statistics. ECG members were also invited to send their additional comments on the draft EURES portal strategy to the ECG mailbox by latest 3 May 2023.

Next to the portal strategy, EURES synergies with Europass were not presented, but briefly discussed during the meeting. NCOs and DG EMPL mainly shared their views on the importance of interoperability and consistency with relevant EU legal frameworks (EURES Regulation and General Data Protection Regulation) when developing synergies.

The next regular ECG Meeting is scheduled to take place from 30 May – 1 June in Stockholm (Sweden).



Outcome report

14 - 16 November 2022

An EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on 14, 15 and 16 November 2022 in Prague. As per the EURES Regulation, it brought together the different European actors involved in the field of the free movement of workers: the European Labour Authority (ELA) as the “EURES Coordination Office” (ECO), the European Commission (DG EMPL and DG HOME) and the EURES National Coordination Offices (NCOs). According to the EURES Regulation, this group acts as a “platform for the exchange of information and for the sharing of best practices, in particular regarding the development and dissemination across the EURES network of appropriate information and guidance to workers, including frontier workers, and employers”. This meeting was the opportunity for the ECG members to discuss the latest developments in EU labour mobility and to receive updates on ECO’s activities.

Czechia holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and hosted the meeting in Prague. Together with the the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), and research centers, the Presidency provided presentations on the particularities of their labour market, on the Ukrainian crisis and its impact as well as on new working forms such as platform work.

ECO also presented updates related to the EURES portal interoperability, the state of play of the EURES portal strategy (2023-2030), the EURES Youth campaign, EURES trainings, the Performance Measurement System and the Programming Cycle. Concerning the EURES Youth campaign, ECO launched a campaign named “Jobs for young people” and invited the NCOs and the Public Employment Services (PES) to use the communication toolkits available to them to spread this campaign among their network. The next EURESinAction event will be held in June 2023.

Finally, first ideas for the 30 years of EURES celebrations were shared and discussed among the participants. The campaign will be prepared in 2023 and launched from January to December 2024.

The next ECG Meeting is scheduled to take place on 30 and 31 May 2023.



Outcome report

15 September 2022

An ad hoc EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on 15 September 2022 online. As per the EURES Regulation, this ECG brought together the different European actors involved in the field of the free movement of workers: the European Labour Authority (ELA) as the European Coordination Office (ECO), the European Commission (DG EMPL and DG HOME) and the EURES National Coordination Offices (NCOs).

This ad hoc meeting was the opportunity for the ECG to discuss the latest developments of the EU Talent Pool Pilot initiative. The initiative is aimed at facilitating a successful labour market integration of the beneficiaries of the Temporary Protection Directive relate to the war in Ukraine. Participation in the Pilot Initiative is voluntary.

The Commission Legal Service concluded to the legal feasibility of using the EURES portal (hereafter 'the portal') as the implementation tool of the Pilot initiative if the following conditions are met:

- A separate landing page is created within the EURES platform, limited to beneficiaries of temporary protection in terms of access;
- The access granted to beneficiaries of temporary protection is limited to making their CVs available on the portal, but excludes direct access to automatic matching with existing job vacancies submitted under free movement legislation;
- The CVs of beneficiaries of temporary protection would
- clearly indicate their status as third country citizens not
- enjoying movement rights under Article 45 TFEU;
- The access to functionalities of the portal is limited to the
- duration of the Council Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March
- (Temporary Protection Decision).

ELA presented the three major new technical components added to the EURES portal:

- The initiative's landing page;
- The temporary protection identification on the profile/CV creation;
- The temporary protection identification on the European Job Mobility Portal.

ELA shared that Member States can join the communication campaign after 5 October, date of the next EURES CWG meeting (tbc), in case they need more time to decide on their participation to the initiative. Also, the communication materials are currently in preparation but will be shared with the Member States participating in the initiative once ready.

Although participating in the pilot initiative is on a voluntary basis, the Commission strongly encourages the Member States to take part in the pilot and show solidarity. As concrete next steps, DG EMPL and DG HOME called the countries interested to participate to confirm their participation in the pilot initiative, appoint their national organisation and to communicate it to the National Coordination Offices (NCOs).

A first webinar on the Talent Pool Pilot initiative, the Temporary Protection Directive and the new functionalities of the EURES portal will be on 29 September 2022. Further support will be provided to the Member States who participate in the pilot. Webinars and Q&A sessions will be offered on demand between October and November depending on Member States' participation and needs.

The next ECG Meeting is scheduled to take place in Prague on 14, 15 and 16 November 2022, hosted by the Czech Council Presidency.



Outcome report

30 – 31 May 2022

An EURES Coordination Group (ECG) meeting was held on the 30 and 31 May 2022 in Lyon. The format of the meeting was hybrid, both in person and with a live online transmission. This ECG meeting was the first one being held partially in person since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. As per the EURES Regulation, it brought together the different European actors involved in the field of the free movement of workers: the European Labour Authority (ELA) as the “EURES Coordination Office” (ECO), the European Commission (more specifically DG EMPL) and the EURES National Coordination Offices (NCOs). According to the EURES Regulation, this group acts as a “platform for the exchange of information and for the sharing of best practices, in particular regarding the development and dissemination across the EURES network of appropriate information and guidance to workers, including frontier workers, and employers”. This meeting was the opportunity for the ECG to discuss the latest developments in EU labour mobility and to provide updates on ECO’s activities.

France holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the French NCO hosted the meeting. The French NCO provided a presentation on the current developments of their labour market. In particular, it explained the ‘Contrat d’engagement jeune’, an initiative recently created to help young people find a job.

In view of the latest geopolitical context with the conflict in Ukraine, a section of the meeting was dedicated to discuss how the EURES network can best support the Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war in Ukraine. Several NCOs shared their approach to facilitate the registration of Ukrainian refugees to the Public Employment Services (PES). The importance to share best practices in this regard and the need for the European Commission to provide more guidelines with regards to how Ukrainian refugees could benefit from EURES services were stressed by the NCOs.

The European Commission highlighted a few upcoming initiatives relevant for the EURES network. In particular, the “EU talent pool”, aiming at making the EU more attractive for non-EU nationals, will be launched mid-2023. An EU barometer on the impact of Brexit and COVID-19 on EU citizens will be launched in June and half of the Member States have committed to introduce the ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) initiative in their country.

A series of updates related to interoperability, EURES trainings, Programming Cycle and Performance Measurement System were also presented by ELA and DG EMPL. In particular, ELA is starting the development of a new strategy for the EURES Portal for 2023-2030, on which NCOs and all stakeholders relevant to the Portal will be consulted in the coming weeks.

Next to that, discussions were held on the EU-Login implementation, on the abuse assessment process related to the EURES Portal and the data processing agreement. The obligation for the countries to adopt the ESCO (European Skills, Competences, and Occupations) classification was reiterated and ELA presented to the ECG participants the new EURES branding with its different templates and the new trainings available to NCOs. The next EURES in Action event will be held in June in Rome, with 100 onsite and 500 online participants. The next report on Labour Shortages and Surpluses will also be revamped in view to become more reader-friendly and to include more qualitative insights.

Finally, ELA presented the main findings from the bilateral meetings that ECO held throughout the year with the NCOs. A number of recommendations stemming from these meetings were highlighted, on which ELA is currently acting upon in order to improve EURES services.

The next ECG Meeting is scheduled to take place in Prague on 14, 15 and 16 November 2022, as part of programme of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union.