



EU opportunities Guide for young jobseekers in Europe

- More than 5 million young people aged 15-24 (21.9%) were unemployed in the EU in 2013. This means that more than one in five young Europeans on the labour market cannot find a job. In Greece and Spain, it is even one in two.
- Are you one of these jobseekers?
- There are many EU opportunities that you can make use of to find a job!
- For sure there is something in it for you.
- In this guide we present you some of these opportunities. For more information visit our website at youth.euda.eu.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKET?

The fundamental rights of the citizens of the EU are the following:

- To **move** and reside freely within the territory
- To seek employment **opportunities** and work in all the Member countries
- To be treated in the same way as employees of any country of the EU
- To provide services throughout the whole EU as a **self-employed person**
- To study, learn, prepare for a future profession and carry out research **anywhere** on the territory of the EU
- To vote and be elected to the **European Parliament**
- To submit petitions to the European Parliament
- To **vote** and stand as a candidate at municipal elections in a place of their stay
- To use the consulate or **embassy** of another member state in a country where their own diplomatic representation is missing
- To recourse to the European Ombudsman or **file a complaint** to the European Commission
- To **access all documents** of the Union and the member states of the European Union



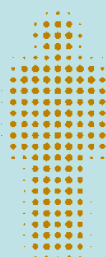
Any person who holds the nationality of a member state is a citizen of the European Union. Citizenship of the Union complements the citizenship of a member state, it does not replace it. Citizens of the Union shall enjoy the rights and duties laid down in the treaties.

The European citizenship gives you important rights on the labour market:

- **Non-discrimination** in working conditions between the workers of the host country and persons who come to work in the territory of the country from another member state.
- Free movement of not only workers but also their **families**.
- **Equality** in all matters relating to work including the equal status of men and women.
- The same **assistance in search of employment** provided by the employment services of the member state as provided to its own nationals.
- The same **social and tax advantages** as national workers.
- The possibility of using the same training in vocational schools and retraining centres as national workers.
- The possibility to enjoy all the **rights and benefits** granted to local workers in the area of housing, including ownership of the housing they need.



Every EU citizen who is unemployed has the right to search and apply for a job in another member country of the EU. Unemployment benefits which belong to them are transferred from the home country to the country in which the applicant is unemployed and seeking employment (of course, when the necessary formalities are met).



Emanuele moved from Italy to Germany to work. Unfortunately the company got into financial difficulties and went bankrupt. Emanuele lost his job. He was worried he would have to go back to Italy because he wouldn't get social benefits in Germany. However, he got the right information at the appropriate employment office! He is insured on the basis of a non-discrimination principle. You are entitled to social security support in the country you work in and under the laws of the country in which you live and work.

HOW DO I FIND A JOB IN THE EU?

Are you looking for a job abroad? Then you might be interested in the **EURES Network!**

EURES (European Employment Services) is a cooperation network, which facilitates the free movement of workers within Europe. EURES is a free service to both jobseekers and employers.

You can find the following information in the European Job Mobility Portal of the EURES network:

- Database of job vacancies
- Database of job candidates and their CVs
- Information about living and working in a foreign country (practical, legal and administrative questions);
- Database of learning opportunities.



There are EURES advisers in each of the participating countries so you can even contact the EURES adviser in your region (and you can do it in your language). You can find this option in the section EURES Services/What can EURES do for you. You can either chat with your local adviser or contact them directly.

How do I find a job in EURES website?

EURES European Job Mobility Portal has a search interface. Jobseekers can select a country, region, profession, type of contract, or combine several criteria for finding a job.

The database is updated daily by the European employment services and the information only stays in the system as long as it is current.

The vacancies available in the European Job Mobility Portal cover a wide range of occupations and include permanent and seasonal opportunities.

Each vacancy has information on how to apply and whom to contact. In some cases you will contact the EURES adviser, in some cases contact can be made directly with the employer. Some vacancies have a blue flag, which indicates that an employer is particularly interested in recruiting workers from other European countries.

Are job vacancies available in all EU languages?

The screenshot shows the EURES job search interface. At the top, it says "Find a job" with a help icon and a disclaimer: "Specific data quality disclaimer and terms of use for job vacancies". Below this, it states "There are currently 1,888,807 jobs waiting for you!". A search bar contains "All fields" and "(Enter a keyword)". There are buttons for "+ Add a keyword", "CLEAR", and "SEARCH". A "More criteria" dropdown is visible. Below the search bar, a green bar displays "Active filters": "Contract type : Part-time", "Education level : Higher Training, Including Academic", "EURES flag : With EURES flag", and "Country: United Kingdom". A "Save as new search profile" button is also present. The search results section shows "26 vacancies found (showing from 1 to 10)". The first result is "Part-Time History Teacher - 1 post" in the "United Kingdom, LONDON." with a "New" tag. The category is "Teaching professionals not elsewhere classified". The description mentions Harris Westminster Sixth Form. There are "Page view" and "Expand" buttons for the result.

The European Job Mobility Portal is available in 25 European languages and users can make their search in any of them. The predefined categories under “profession”, “experience required”, “location” etc. do cover all available language versions.

The screenshot shows the header of the EURES website. It features the European Commission logo and the text "EURES The European Job Mobility Portal". A language selection dropdown menu is open, showing 25 languages: English (en), български (bg), čeština (cs), Dansk (da), Deutsch (de), eesti keel (et), ελληνικά (el), English (en), español (es), français (fr), Gaeilge (ga), Hrvatski (hr), íslenska (is), italiano (it), latviešu valoda (lv), lietuviu kalba (lt), Magyar (hu), Malti (mt), Nederlands (nl), Norsk (no), and polski (pl). The website also includes a "PARTNER SITES" section with a "European" link, a "LOG IN" button, and a navigation menu with categories like "Jobseekers", "Employers", "Living & Working", "Skills & Careers", and "EURES Services".

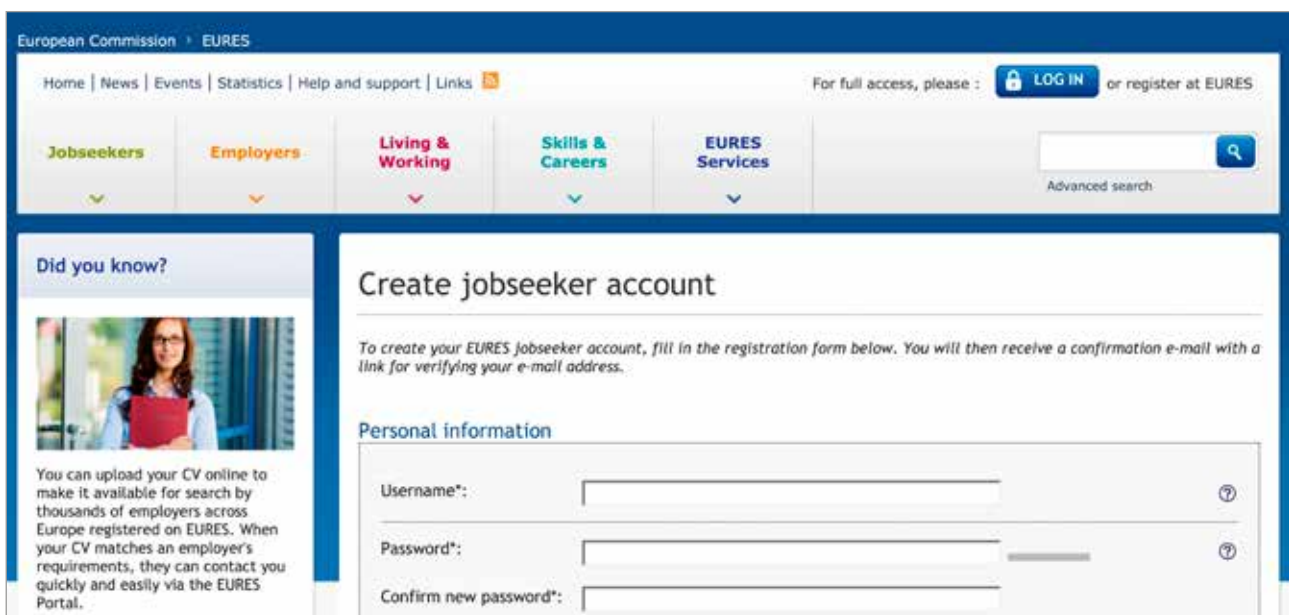
The textual content of the vacancy spots (title and description of the job) is generally written in the national language of the country source. Other details about the job, such as type of contract, experience and educational level required etc. are translated into all the languages.

It is up to each employer to decide in what language a vacancy spot is presented in the European Job Mobility Portal. If an employer is particularly interested in recruiting internationally it may be published in one or several languages other than the employer's national language.

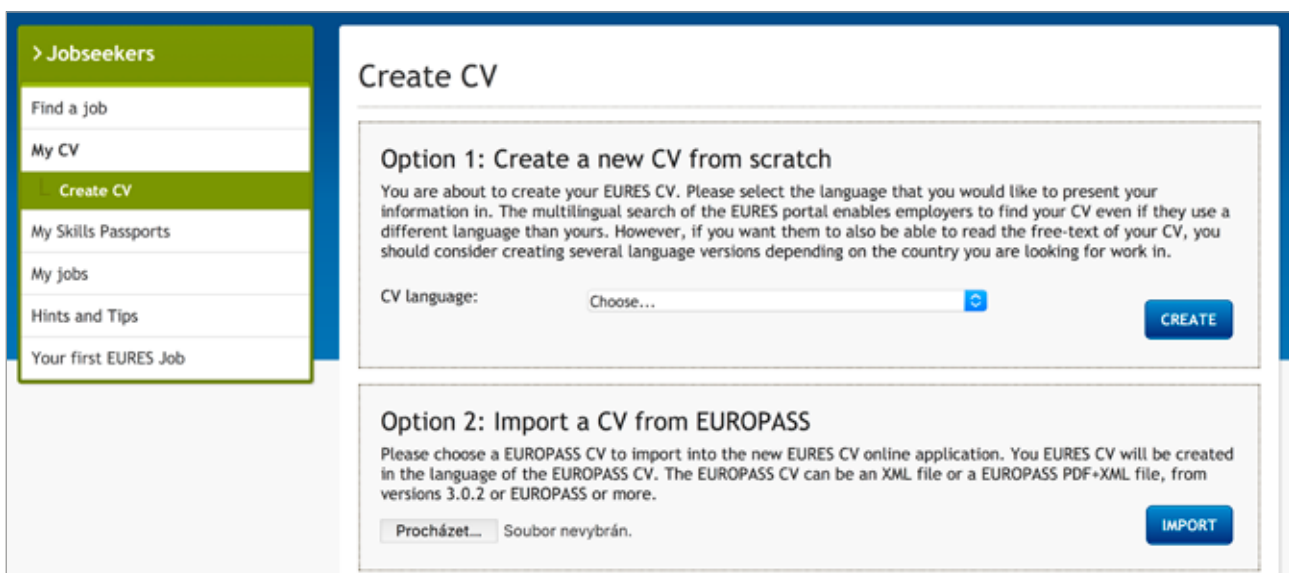
The EURES portal offers many other services if you register there. You can for example upload your CV or Skills Passport so that the employers can contact you.

How do I put my CV in the EURES CV-Search database?

The first thing is to create a "My EURES" account.



After the registration a validation e-mail will be sent. Your account will only be activated after you have followed the instructions included in the validation e-mail you have received.



Second, follow the instructions displayed in the step-by-step procedure and fill in all the mandatory fields. The service is free of charge.

You can modify your CV at any time by logging into “My EURES” with your user ID and password.

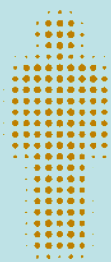
If a jobseeker has not visited his/her homepage for twelve weeks, the profile is no longer accessible to employers and without being visited for a year it is deleted.

Who has access to my CV?

EURES advisers and employers, who are registered in EURES CV-Online, have a full access to your CV. You can decide by yourself if you want your certain personal data, such as your name, address etc., to be visible or not. You can choose the “anonymous” option for your “CV Online” – employers will still be able to contact you via the EURES service without knowing your personal details.

You can also find other important information in the EURES website, for example information about the work permits, unemployment benefits, taxes in the EU, finding a school, social legislation, comparability of qualifications and others.

EURES helps you to find the right opportunities!



Joana was contacted by her local job centre which invited her for an interview organized by EURES at the end of 2012. Five German employers looking to recruit Portuguese nurses came over at the invitation of EURES, to meet pre identified candidates. She went along and was happy to receive the help on offer from both Portuguese and German EURES Advisers. They answered all her questions and talked through her doubts. Even if she didn't get the job in the end she confirmed that EURES demystified her fears regarding the credibility of the job vacancies and the working conditions abroad.

EUROPEAN TOOLS FOR RECOGNITION OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATION

Are you too young to get a permanent job? Do you want to study, increase your skills and get new experience?

Of course you can do that!

The European Union will help you to get your new skills and qualifications quickly and easily recognised using the tools such as ECTS (for university students), ECVET (for vocational education learners), youth-pass (for youngsters) and europass (for everybody).

ECTS – The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

ECTS is a credit system designed to make it easier for students to move between different countries. Since they are based on the learning achievements and workload of a course, a student can transfer their ECTS credits from one university to another so they are added up to contribute to an individual's degree programme or training. ECTS helps to make learning more student centred. Together with the Erasmus+ programme it enables the students to travel Europe while studying.

ECTS credits represent the workload and defined learning outcomes of a given course or programme. 60 credits are the equivalent of a full year of study. In a standard academic year, 60 credits would be usually broken down into several smaller components.

A typical "first cycle" (or Bachelor's) Degree would consist of 180 or 240 credits, whereas a typical "second cycle" (or Master's) Degree, would consist of 90 or 120 credits. The use of ECTS at the "third cycle" (or Ph. D. level) varies.

You can get your ECTS credits for your study or for your work (for example for a traineeship or work placement).

There are several tools being used by the universities and the students to make it work, such as:

- **Course Catalogue:** it includes detailed, user-friendly and up-to-date information on the institution's learning environment that should be available to students before entering and throughout their studies to enable them to make the right choices and use their time most efficiently.
- **Learning Agreements:** it provides an official, binding commitment between the student, the sending institution, and the receiving institution/organisation/company on all the learning activities to be carried out. The approval of the Learning Agreement and its amendments is possible through digital signatures or copies of scanned signatures, sent electronically, according to institutional regulations or practice.
- **Transcript of Records:** it provides an up to-date record of students' progress in their studies: the educational components they have taken, the number of ECTS credits they have achieved, and the grades they have been awarded.
- **Work Placement Certificate:** it aims to provide transparency and bring out the value of the experience of the student's work placement. This document is issued by the receiving organisation/enterprise upon the trainee's completion of the work placement, and it can be complemented by other documents, such as letters of recommendation.

ECVET – The European Credit System for Vocational Education & Training

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) is a credit system designed to make it easier for people to get validation and recognition of work-related skills and knowledge acquired in different systems and countries.

The system should make it more attractive to move between different countries and learning environments and increase the compatibility between the different vocational education and training (VET) systems in place across Europe.

The system supports the employability of VET graduates and the confidence of employers that each VET qualification requires specific skills and knowledge.

ECVET works hand in hand with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) to provide greater transparency in European qualifications, promoting the mobility of workers and learners, and facilitating lifelong learning.

Compared to ECTS, the ECVET system is still less used and less developed.

EUROPASS & YOUTHPASS TOOLS

Have you learned a lot and acquired many skills through formal and non-formal learning?



Europass tools will help you to communicate your skills and qualifications effectively when looking for a job or training!

There are several tools which can be related to labour market:

- **Curriculum Vitae:** The form will help you to summarize your education, work experience, skills and competencies in a well-arranged way. You can create your Europass CV online on the Europass website or download the CV as a word document and fill it in offline.
- **European Skills Passport:** This electronic portfolio gives a comprehensive picture of your skills and qualifications. It will help you to find a job or a training and also to validate your skills.
- **Europass Mobility:** A document to record knowledge and skills acquired in another European country during a work placement or an exchange programme but also during a voluntary placement abroad.
- **Certificate Supplement:** A document describing the knowledge and skills acquired by holders of vocational training certificates. It provides additional information to what is already included in the official certificate and/or transcript, making it more easily understood, especially by employers or institutions abroad.
- **Diploma Supplement:** A document describing the knowledge and skills acquired by holders of higher education degrees.
- **Youthpass:** A European recognition tool for nonformal and informal learning in youth work. It describes competencies you have acquired during a youth exchange or during a similar activity.



Andrius from Lithuania studied for a bachelor's degree at a university in Vilnius. Already during his studies he decided to apply for the same course, but at a university in France. He was worried that his previous studies, ie courses, which he passed, wouldn't be valid because each country has its own evaluation system. However, due to the ECTS credit system, almost all the credits he earned during his studies had been recognized and he was able to continue his studies in France.

THE AVAILABLE FUNDING

So do you want to make use of these great European opportunities?

European Union will even support you financially to pursue this plan!

There are different European programmes and funds which are accessible for youngsters.

Through these programmes and funds, you can increase your qualification levels, live a work experience abroad, find a job or even get support for running a new business on your own.

The main programmes and funds are, among others, Erasmus+, COSME (Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs), Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ programme aims, among other objectives, to boost young people's skills and employability, in order to help them to succeed in today's world.

- Opportunities to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad.
- Language learning.
- Recognition of skills, including those learned outside the formal education system.
- A loan guarantee facility for master's degree students to finance their studies in another country.

Erasmus+ programme offers mobility opportunities for young people and youth workers:

- Young people have the opportunity to participate in youth-exchanges or to volunteer for a period up to one year in another country.
- Youth workers can take part in training and networking activities abroad or spend some time in a youth organisation abroad for a job shadowing or an observation period.

COSME – Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

The COSME programme supports the competitiveness, growth and sustainability of EU's small and medium-sized enterprises – SMEs. In particular, for promoting entrepreneurship, COSME includes the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) programme, which helps provide aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a small business in Europe.

EYE supports new entrepreneurs for gathering and exchanging knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur, with whom they stay and collaborate for a period of 1 to 6 months.

The target group are new entrepreneurs who have firmly planned to set up their own business or have already started one within the last three years.

New entrepreneurs who are willing to take part in the entrepreneurs exchange programme should apply via the tool available for it from the EYE programme website and choose their preferred local contact point. The programme website includes the list of the local contact available.

Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative

The **Youth Guarantee** (YG) is a new approach to tackling youth unemployment which ensures that all young people under 25 (whether registered with employment services or not) get a good-quality, concrete offer with-



in 4 months of them leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. The good-quality offer should be for a job, apprenticeship, traineeship, or continued education and be adapted to each individual need and situation.

Developing and delivering a YG scheme requires strong cooperation between all the key stakeholders: public authorities, employment services, career guidance providers, education & training institutions, youth support services, business, employers, trade unions, etc. The European Commission has helped each EU country to develop its own national YG Implementation Plan and start implementation.

The **Youth Employment Initiative** (YEI) has been launched to provide extra support to young people aged below 25 and living in regions where youth unemployment was higher than 25% in 2012. It will particularly support young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), including long-term unemployed youngsters or those not registered as job-seekers.

The purpose of the YEI is to provide financial support for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee in those regions that will have to make the biggest effort in order to implement the package due to very high numbers of young unemployed.



Justyna from Poland finished her secondary education last year. Since she did not get into college, she decided to try living in another country. She used the Erasmus+ programme which allowed her to take part in the European Voluntary Service and go to Sweden for a year where she gained new experiences and contacts. She got to know Swedish culture, learned Swedish through the provided language courses and gained a lot of new friends, not only from Sweden. After completing the Voluntary Service she was offered a job in Sweden.



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