

Eurofound News



European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Issue 2, February 2010

FINDINGS IN FIGURES

27,448 – the number of announced job losses in the last quarter of 2009 in the UK, the highest number in all 27 Member States

European restructuring monitor quarterly, Issue 4 – winter 2009
www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/index.php?template=quarterly

218 – the number of cases of restructuring reported by the ERM in the last quarter of 2009 that involved job loss; 67 cases involved job creation

European restructuring monitor quarterly, Issue 4 – winter 2009

15,000 – the announced worldwide reduction of jobs by German steel manufacturer ThyssenKrupp

European restructuring monitor quarterly, Issue 4 – winter 2009

70% – the proportion of respondents in a poll of Romanian public-sector workers who placed job security at the top of their list of priorities

Trade unions reject austerity measures in public sector
EIRO, www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2009/12/articles/ro0912029i.htm

€130 billion – the estimated sum, equivalent to about 1% of the EU's total GDP, that the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) believes should be made available to address high levels of unemployment and support economic recovery

ETUC criticises EU finance Council's recommendation to cut public spending
EIRO, www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2009/11/articles/eu0911019i.htm

14 – the number of new appointments of women to executive level at listed companies in the Netherlands in 2008, as against 112 appointments of men

KPN sets example by appointing women to key executive positions
EIRO, www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2009/11/articles/nl0911019i.htm

79.5% – the proportion of respondents in a Danish survey on workplace bullying who report being exposed at least occasionally to so-called 'negative acts', such as being set tasks with unreasonable deadlines, or having one's opinions or views ignored

Negative health outcomes resulting from bullying in the workplace, EWCO,
www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2009/12/dk0912019i.htm

Investigating social exclusion

As part of its contribution to the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, Eurofound launched its latest resource pack at an event on 21 January in Madrid, hosted by the EU Spanish Presidency.

The resource pack, *All aboard – leaving social exclusion behind*, comprises a series of articles on the issues involved, including in-work poverty, the need for childcare provision, assisting workers on long-term disability back to work, and the often difficult situations faced by older citizens. The resource pack also includes the latest report based on secondary analysis of the 2007 European Quality of Life Survey, entitled *Living conditions, social exclusion and mental well-being*. The report finds that employment plays a major role in determining feelings of inclusion: those who are unemployed feel considerably more excluded than their fellow citizens, while those in higher occupational positions and in non-manual jobs tend to feel less excluded than the average worker.

For more information, go to

www.eurofound.europa.eu/resourcepacks/integration.htm

Fewer jobs lost, but fewer new jobs

While levels of restructuring in the EU slowly decline, Member States continue to suffer the effects of recession, according to the *European restructuring monitor quarterly*. In its latest issue, which looks at the data for the last quarter of 2009, the periodical reports lower levels of announced job loss, but also lower levels of announced new job creation.

The EU emerged from recession in the third quarter of 2009 but growth remains weak at +0.3% across all 27 Member States. 'Though they are, on the whole, more positive than in recent quarters, macroeconomic indicators in the EU continue to send mixed messages,' says Eurofound research manager Donald Storrie. 'On the one hand, there are clear signs of recovery, albeit one that is slow and potentially vulnerable. On the other hand, labour markets continue to suffer and unemployment is unlikely to peak before the second half of 2010.'

Read more at www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/index.php?template=quarterly

NEWS IN PICTURES

ECS 2009 findings to be launched at European Parliament



On 3 March – at a seminar jointly organised with MEP Alejandro Cercas in the European Parliament premises in Brussels – Eurofound will launch the overview report of its European Company Survey (ECS) 2009. The seminar – 'Company strategies in Europe: Flexibility and social dialogue' – will bring together MEPs, representatives of the social partners in Europe and experts in the field to debate the issue of flexibility. The new EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Mr László Andor, will participate as closing keynote speaker. For more details on the event, go to www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/2010/semflexibility/index.htm

Eurofound embraces social media

Increasingly, social media tools are being used for professional purposes, allowing organisations to engage in dialogue with their audiences and stakeholders. Now you can follow Eurofound on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/eurofound>, become a 'fan' of Eurofound on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/dublin-ireland/eurofound/66500373395 and subscribe to Eurofound's channel on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/eurofound

Log on and let us know what you think!

Telework on the increase

Although telework is carried out by only a small proportion of workers in the EU, this proportion is rising: up from 5% in 2000 to 7% in 2005. A new report from Eurofound, *Telework in the European Union*, examines the incidence of telework across the 27 EU Member States and Norway. The report also looks at issues concerning the employment and working conditions of teleworkers: it highlights the fact that teleworkers can encounter specific problems such as difficulty in accessing training, social isolation and the blurring of boundaries between work and home life. Nevertheless, governments and social partners are generally positive towards this innovative form of work.

Read the full report at

www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/tn0910050s/tn0910050s.htm

Workplace health and safety in Romania

Analysis of the Romanian Household Labour Force Survey reveals that health and safety problems are more frequent in rural areas of the country and in the agricultural sector than in urban areas or in such sectors as manufacturing, construction and services. In urban areas, practices and regulations are converging with those of the rest of the EU; in rural areas, the population works largely in the agricultural sector, and consists mainly of self-employed people and unpaid family workers. Men account for 71.6% of all workplace injuries, while workers in rural areas account for 64%.

For more, see

www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveyreports/ro0910019d/ro0910019d.htm

A snapshot of working conditions in Europe today

Eurofound has just launched the fieldwork for its fifth European Working Conditions Survey. Between January and April, Eurofound, in cooperation with Gallup Europe, will put around 120 questions to approximately 43,000 workers in 34 European countries. The survey provides unique pan-European comparative information about such issues as working time, exposure to risks at work, health and safety, work organisation, work-life balance, training, and overall job satisfaction, with the aim of helping social policymakers make decisions that will improve overall living and working conditions. The first findings of the survey will be presented at the end of 2010.

For more on the survey, see www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveys/index.htm

Spotlight on Spain

During the current Spanish Presidency, Eurofound is working with the Spanish government to bring new research findings, data and recommendations to European policymakers through collaboration on a wide range of conferences, seminars and events. At the request of the European Commission, Eurofound has produced a background paper, *Spain: a country profile*. The paper aims to brief policymakers on the main features of the Spanish economic model, the country's industrial relations system, the key labour market developments covering the period 1995–2009, and the quality of working and living conditions in Spain.

Read the report at www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1008.htm

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Visits to Eurofound

A key element of Eurofound's work in communicating the results of its research is its visitors programme at its premises in Dublin, Ireland. Eurofound's doors are always open to representatives of employer organisations, trade unions, national and local government and European bodies – our key target audiences. Visiting Eurofound in person enables our stakeholders to better understand our work and, crucially, allows us to learn more about their information needs.

To arrange a visit to Eurofound, please contact Elisabeth Gouilleux Cahill at egc@eurofound.europa.eu

PUBLICATIONS

Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems

(background paper)

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1013.htm

Condiciones de trabajo en la Unión Europea: Tiempo de trabajo e intensidad del trabajo – Resumen ejecutivo

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef09271_es.htm

Európai vállalati felmérés - első eredmények (összefoglalás)

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0997_hu.htm

Etätyö Euroopan unionissa (Yhteenveto)

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef09961_fi.htm

Individual disputes at the workplace: Alternative disputes resolution (EIRO comparative analytical report)

www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/tn0910039s/index.htm

Restructuration et faillite: exemples nationaux récents (résumé)

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef091031_fr.htm

Publication of the month

Annual work programme 2010



www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1012.htm