



FINDINGS IN FIGURES

1,400 – the number of jobs American machinery manufacturer Caterpillar plans to cut at its plant in Gosselies, Belgium, by 2015.

EMCC Restructuring events database
www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/factsheets/23592

46% – the proportion of young people among the long-term unemployed in Bulgaria, according to a survey carried out in 2012.

Study points to alarming rise in youth unemployment
www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2012/10/BG12100111.htm

400 – the number of jobs to be created in Ireland by Centra, the retail grocery chain, in a planned expansion that includes the opening of 20 new stores.

EMCC Restructuring events database
www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/factsheets/23600

€60 million – the value of the new ‘car charter’ aimed at sustaining production and employment in France’s automotive industry until 2015, signed on 20 December 2012

Social partners sign new charter for car industry
www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2013/01/articles/fr1301031i.htm

35% – the proportion of employees working overtime in Romania who did not receive any pay for the extra working time in 2011.

Working conditions and satisfaction at work: Survey data report Romania

www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveyreports/RO1210019D/RO1210019D_3.htm

9,000 – the number of companies in Belgium that went bankrupt in the period January–October 2012.

Economic crisis puts social dialogue in disarray
www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2012/11/articles/be1211031i.htm

63% – the proportion of respondents in Portugal in a 2011 survey who left formal education with a basic level of education, of which 20% are unemployed in the 15-24 age group.

Young people’s transition from school to working life
www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveyreports/PT1212019D/PT1212019D.htm

Youth disengagement in Europe – what cost?

Eurofound joined forces with the European Youth Forum in organising a seminar on youth disengagement in Brussels on 28 February, hosted by the European Parliament Intergroup on Youth. The focus of the discussion was Eurofound’s recent research on young people ‘not in employment, education or training’ (NEETs).

Participating at the event, Eurofound Director Juan Menéndez-Valdés and Research Manager Massimiliano Mascherini emphasised the importance of policy initiatives for young people in Europe, particularly NEETs. Mr Menéndez-Valdés highlighted the high number of NEETs across Europe (7.5 million aged 15–24 and 3.4 million aged 25–29) and the costs of around €153 billion to the European economy. He pointed to the policy challenges in addressing the social disengagement of these young people, arguing that being NEET is not just a problem for the individual but for societies and economies too. On the same day, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) reached political agreement on a ‘Youth Guarantee’ which will help integrate young people into the labour market. The debate on youth and social inclusion continued at another event held in Dublin on 11–13 March: the EU Youth Conference, a major event in the Irish EU Presidency programme.

Read about the NEETs event at www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/2013/neets2802/index.htm

Crisis deepens wage polarisation

Europe’s labour market has changed radically since the golden era of job expansion (1995–2007), when nearly 30 million jobs were added in that buoyant period. The Great Recession (2008–2010) and the stalled recovery in 2011–2012 have seen a net loss of five million jobs.

This loss has been far from uniform, however. While the period was characterised by the large-scale destruction of mid-paid jobs, particularly in construction and manufacturing, at the same time the number of higher-paid jobs continued to grow, as well as the employment share of women, particularly in mid-paid and ‘good’ jobs. The polarisation of the jobs market in terms of wages was already known, but became much more pronounced in the recession. Eurofound’s new report, *Employment polarisation and job quality in the crisis: European Jobs Monitor 2013*, describes and analyses in detail the structural shifts in employment in European labour markets by wage distribution and sector/occupational category. It also sets out a new multidimensional measure of job quality, the non-pecuniary job quality index. This index is based on collecting information about a wide range of job attributes linked to workers’ well-being.

Read the report at www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1304.htm

NEWS IN PICTURES



EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion **László Andor** (right) shares a platform with Eurofound Director **Juan Menéndez-Valdés** at Eurofound’s Foundation Forum – ‘Social and employment policies for a fair and competitive Europe’ – which took place in Dublin Castle on 14–15 February last.

Committee of the Regions visits Eurofound

Eurofound played host to participants of the two-day EU Committee of the Regions conference, 'An agenda for new skills and jobs: Regions and cities contributing to training and active labour market policies', which took place in Dublin on 28 February–1 March last. Organised in the framework of the Irish EU Presidency, the event explored the potential of local and regional authorities to improve education and training and respond to the need for more flexible careers, in line with Europe's growth strategy. On the morning of 28 February, participants paid a visit to Eurofound, where they were welcomed by Director Juan Menéndez-Valdés. During the course of their visit, Research Managers John Hurley and Irene Mandl presented recent Eurofound research in the areas of shifts in job structure and restructuring at regional level post crisis respectively.

Commission launches Social Investment Package

The European Commission presented its 'Social Investment Package: Towards social investment for growth and cohesion' on 20 February 2013, to address the growing risk of poverty and social exclusion arising from the economic crisis. According to the Commission, investing in people will raise people's standards of living, boost the economy and help the EU emerge from the crisis in a stronger position. The Commission stresses the need for Member States to invest in social policy, to improve the links between social assistance and activation, to address the needs of children through trans-generational policies, to strengthen skills and to spend EU funds – mainly the European Social Fund – more effectively. Much of Eurofound's recent and current research is relevant to these topics, in particular the European Quality of Life Survey, and research into the issues of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), sustainable work and the ageing workforce, active inclusion measures and childcare and parenting support.

Read more about the SIP at <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/socialcohesion/socialinvestmentpackage2013.htm>

Helping parents to help themselves

One of the challenges of modern families is juggling working life with family and care responsibilities. Public measures to support parents can help to alleviate stress, provide practical assistance and bring parents together with people who are dealing with similar issues. Eurofound has analysed parental support measures in seven EU Member States. These range from very practical help at early stages of child development (for example, encouraging breast feeding) to increasing parents' self esteem and confidence through training and education. The report shows that there is a wide variety of approaches with regard to integration into other services, level of qualifications of staff, target groups and evaluation. It also emphasises the need to maintain these programmes during times of crisis, as this form of social investment will pay off later.

Read the report at www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1270.htm

Eurofound hosts high-level visitors

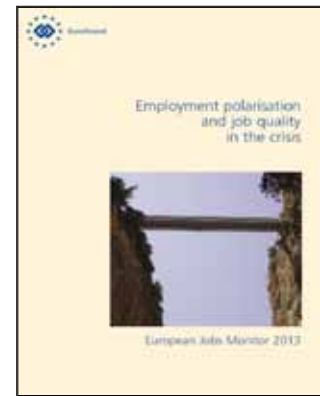
Since the beginning of 2013, Eurofound has opened its doors to diverse visitors from around Europe. Swedish Minister of Employment Hillevi Engström visited Eurofound on 7 February, the visit culminating in an exchange of views on Eurofound's added value for the EU and Swedish policy making. On 21 February, seven representatives of the Labour Relations Agency in Belfast met with research staff to discuss the impact of the crisis on working conditions and industrial relations. On 11 March, Deputy Director Erika Mezger delivered the welcome speech at a Public Hearing organised by the Single Market Observatory (SMO) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) at Eurofound's Conference Centre. Finally, the EESC's Communication Group held their annual meeting at Eurofound's Conference Centre on 12–13 March at which Eurofound Director Juan Menéndez-Valdés welcomed the participants.

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European Jobs Monitor 2013



www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1304.htm

PUBLICATIONS

Greening of industries in the EU: Executive summary

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef12481.htm

Greening of industries in the EU: database of cases

www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/labourmarket/greening/search.php

Employment polarisation and job quality in the crisis: European Jobs Monitor 2013

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1304.htm

Parenting support in Europe

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1270.htm

Van crisis naar herstel: Beter onderbouwd beleid voor een concurrerend en eerlijk Europa

www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1252_nl.htm

Working conditions and satisfaction at work: Survey data report Romania

www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveyreports/RO1210019D/RO1210019D.htm

Young people's transition from school to working life: Survey data report Portugal

www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveyreports/PT1212019D/PT1212019D.htm

Eurofound on your mobile

Romania: Working conditions and satisfaction at work



www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveyreports/RO1210019D/RO1210019D.htm