



## FINDINGS IN FIGURES

**9%** – the proportion of European households that reported rent (or mortgage) arrears as well as utility arrears during 2011, according to the European Quality of Life Survey – up from 6% in 2007.

*Quality of life in Europe: Trends 2003–2012*  
[www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1364.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1364.htm)

**32%** – the proportion of young people among all unemployed people in Greece in 2013, compared to 21% across the EU as a whole.

*Social partners try to tackle high youth unemployment*  
[www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2013/12/articles/gr1312029i.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2013/12/articles/gr1312029i.htm)

**10,000** – the number of jobs retail giant Amazon plans to create in logistics centres in the Czech Republic and Poland over the next few years.

*European Restructuring Monitor quarterly 4 – Jan 2014*  
[www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/index.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/index.htm)

**17%** – the proportion of women who are board members in the largest publicly listed companies in the EU.

*Too few women in leadership positions across the EU*  
[www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2013/11/EU1311031i.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2013/11/EU1311031i.htm)

**3.7 million** – the decline in the total number of young people aged 15–24 in employment in the EU in the period 2008–2012.

*Young people and temporary employment in Europe*  
[www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/studies/tn1304017s/index.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/studies/tn1304017s/index.htm)

**€3.20** – the difference in the hourly rate of pay between full-time and part-time workers in Austria, equivalent to a shortfall of 24% for part-time workers.

*Tackling low pay for part-time workers*  
[www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2013/09/articles/at1309031i.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2013/09/articles/at1309031i.htm)

**€4,012** – the highest monthly wage judged appropriate by Polish public opinion; the lowest wage judged acceptable is €550.

*Survey reveals discontent about wage inequality*  
[eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2014/01/PL1401019i.htm](http://eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2014/01/PL1401019i.htm)

## Spotlight on pay in Europe

The issue of wages has attracted considerable attention at European level since the onset of the economic crisis. Changes in economic governance, notably within the European Semester, have prompted discussions on wage-setting mechanisms. Overall, wage-bargaining regimes have remained relatively stable over time; however, substantial changes can be seen in those Member States facing more difficult economic circumstances.

A new report from Eurofound, *Pay in Europe in the 21st century*, provides comparative time series on wage-bargaining outcomes across the EU Member States and Norway, discussing pay developments against the background of different bargaining regimes and looking into the link between pay and productivity developments. It also investigates and calculates the implications in all EU Member States of setting a hypothetical threshold for minimum wages (for example, set at 60% of the median in each country) and estimates the number and types of workers who would be affected by this development.

To download the report, go to [www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1388.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1388.htm)

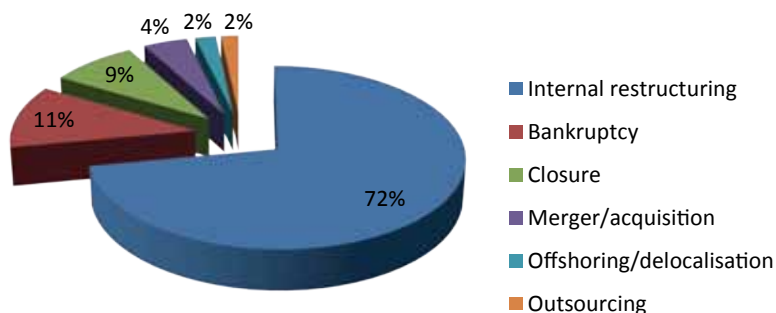
## Quality of life trends over past decade

Overall subjective well-being has remained stable, but happiness and work–life balance levels have declined, and more people are having trouble making ends meet, according to a new report that looks at trends in perceptions of quality of life in Europe over the past decade.

In the Member States with the lowest scores in 2003, well-being increased, and most of the other Member States show more or less stable scores. The main exception is Greece, where the economic crisis is linked to sharp falls in both life satisfaction and happiness between 2007 and 2011. Average levels of trust in other people declined between 2003 and 2011, and there was an even sharper fall in trust in institutions across all Member States. However, reported tension between social groups seems to be decreasing, with the exception of the EU12, where tensions between racial and ethnic groups are perceived as having increased between 2007 and 2011, a change in the downward trend between 2003 and 2007.

Download *Quality of life in Europe: Trends 2003–2012* from [www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1364.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1364.htm)

## Internal restructuring: main source of job loss



Internal restructuring continued to be the main source of announced job losses across the EU in the final quarter of 2013. Restructuring accounted for over 70% of the announced job losses, while the incidence of job loss due to bankruptcy (11%) and closures (9%) decreased compared to the previous quarter. Overall, more than 96,000 job losses were announced, and around 37,500 announced job gains. Read more at [www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/index.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/index.htm)

Source: ERM quarterly, Eurofound

## Eurofound contribution to Greek Presidency

In January, Greece took over the reins of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Against a background of austerity, unemployment and shaken social cohesion across Europe, the Greek Presidency reaffirms the policy priorities for the EU of fostering growth, competitiveness and jobs, and ensuring stability and prosperity for all citizens. Eurofound is well placed to deliver the analysis that policymakers will require over the course of the Presidency; in particular, the Agency's research findings will form a relevant input into the informal EU Employment Committee meeting on 7–8 April and the Senior Labour Inspectorates Committee meeting on 26–27 May (both in Athens). Eurofound's contribution will culminate in a jointly organised conference with the Presidency on social dialogue as a way to develop and foster labour relations, on 23 June in Athens. For more information, visit

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/presidencies/index.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/presidencies/index.htm)

## Violence at work an ongoing issue

Violence – physical or psychological – is a reality in the European workplace. Overall, some 6% of workers are likely to have experienced some form of workplace violence in the past 12 months. At the same time, research shows that both physical and psychological violence have serious implications for the health and well-being of workers. Workers exposed to such risks report significantly higher levels of work-related ill-health, the most common symptoms being stress, sleep problems, fatigue and depression. Greater understanding of the scope and the damaging nature of workplace violence has made it a focus of attention for policymakers, EU institutions, social partners, legal authorities and legislators.

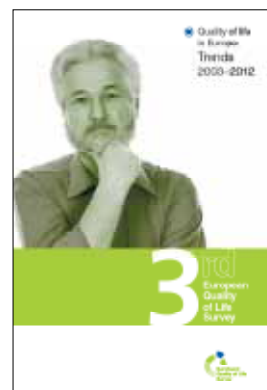
For more, read the report *Physical and psychological violence at the workplace* at [www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1381.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1381.htm)

## Responding to the situation of young people

It is estimated that around 14 million people in Europe between the ages of 15 and 29 are not in employment, education or training. Policy focus has intensified in recent years on these so-called 'NEETs'. Along with its sister agencies Cedefop and the European Training Foundation, Eurofound will be contributing research findings and analysis at a conference addressing the needs of such young people. Organised by the Romanian government, the conference *Keeping young people in employment, education and training: Common challenges - Shared solutions* in Bucharest on 10–11 March will be opened by European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou. Eurofound experts will provide specific examples of good practices aimed at reaching the most vulnerable groups as well as on policy measures targeted at easing school-to-work transitions. For more on the event, visit

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/2014/neetsbucharest/index.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/2014/neetsbucharest/index.htm)

### Quality of life in Europe: Trends 2003–2012



[eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1364.htm](http://eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1364.htm)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Confiance politique et engagement civique durant la crise

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1374\\_fr.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1374_fr.htm)

### Rappresentatività delle organizzazioni europee delle parti sociali: il settore tessile e dell'abbigliamento (Sintesi)

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef13451\\_it.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef13451_it.htm)

### Representativeness of the European social partner organisations: Electricity sector

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/t1305028s/index.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/t1305028s/index.htm)

### Überschuldung von privaten Haushalten in der EU: Die Rolle von informellen Schulden

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1373\\_de.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1373_de.htm)

### Working conditions and job quality: Comparing sectors in Europe – Overview report

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1384.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1384.htm)

### Τρίτη έρευνα για τις ευρωπαϊκές επιχειρήσεις: πρώτα πορίσματα

[www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1386\\_el.htm](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1386_el.htm)

## Eurofound continues programme of visits to the Agency



On 23 January, a delegation from the Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers (Fellesorganisasjonen for Barnevernpedagoger, Sosionomer og Vernepleiere, FO) visited Eurofound to learn more about the Agency's work – in particular, its work on gender and diversity, on the social inclusion of young people, and on new forms of employment, labour trends and job creation. Welcoming FO to Eurofound were (from left) Research Managers **Irene Mandl** and **Isabella Biletta**, Publications Editor **Aidan McKeown** and (fourth from right) Research Manager **Anna Ludwinek**.