



Eurofound contributes to Latvian Presidency

Over the next six months, Eurofound will be busy contributing to the Latvian EU Presidency.

The Agency's findings on the topic of activation of benefit recipients will be presented at the upcoming informal meetings of the Social Protection and Employment Committees, which are also hosting a conference on the topic of 'Inclusive labour markets in the EU: the role of improved job quality and enhanced inclusion', in Riga on 3–4 February 2015. Eurofound's work will contribute to a conference of the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum in Riga on 9–11 February. And on 11–12 February the Agency's work on employment and competitiveness will feed into a conference addressing the issue of 'Entrepreneurship in the Regions to Strengthen the European Union's Competitiveness'. In addition, the Latvian Presidency has asked Eurofound to prepare a background note on social dialogue with a view to stimulating discussion in EPSCO.

For more information on Eurofound's involvement with the Presidency, visit <http://eurofound.europa.eu/news/news-articles/eurofound-and-the-latvian-presidency-of-the-eu>

Eurofound – 40 years of research excellence

This year marks four decades of Eurofound's active contribution to improving the quality of life and working conditions of Europeans.

Created in 1975, Eurofound was set up to contribute to the planning and establishment of better living and working conditions, a European Agency with the unique mandate of providing knowledge on social and work-related issues. The goal then was to help policymakers shape a better future for Europe's citizens; 40 years on and now covering 28 countries and 520 million people, that goal remains as critical today as ever before. Eurofound will take this anniversary year as an opportunity to deepen its links with its core stakeholders, the social partners, governments and Institutions, and build on its vast network at EU and national level to continue to provide high-quality, policy-relevant information, which policymakers can use to shape a fair and competitive Europe. A series of initiatives and events will take place throughout the year, including a joint event with the European Agency for the Development of Vocational training (Cedefop) in the second half of the year. A promotional brochure – *Eurofound: The first 40 years* – has just been published to mark the anniversary, from which the timeline below of key developments is taken.

For more information on the anniversary, visit <http://eurofound.europa.eu/news/news-articles/eurofound-celebrating-40-years-in-2015>

FINDINGS IN FIGURES

3,200 staff covered by a new company agreement negotiated in Austrian Airlines.

5,000 estimated workers attended a rally in Sofia, Bulgaria, in December to protest at the raising of the retirement age by four months from 2015.

2.5 million labour contracts signed in Italy in the third quarter of 2014, according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – an increase of 2.4% since Q3 2013.

9,500 members lost in recent years by Ireland's Technical Electrical & Engineering Union, attributed largely to the collapse in construction as a result of the crisis.

22 Finnish trade unions signed a letter of intent in November 2014 to create a new peak-level organisation.

€7 – to be spent per person on preventive health measures by public health insurers in Germany as part of a reform of health prevention legislation. Formerly, the figure was €3.09 per person annually.

Source: EurWORK and Eurofound's network of European correspondents

Eurofound: 40 years in context

EU Treaties and enlargement of the EU



Milestones in European social policy 1975–2015



Sustainable work is the future of work

The ageing of European societies requires that more of the working-age population is brought into work and everyone's working life is extended. However, work itself is often the reason why people leave employment. Work may not adapt to the different needs of different people, may not change as workers get older, or may even damage their health, forcing them out of the workforce. To make work sustainable over the life course means adapting work so that people remain skilled, fit and motivated. Examining how this can be done in practice is a key research priority for Eurofound, highlighted by the recent publication of the latest issue of *Foundation Focus*, which takes as its theme *Sustainable work: Towards better and longer working lives*. The *Focus* will complement Eurofound's latest online spotlight, 'Sustainable work – The future of working life in Europe'. This will give visitors direct access to its latest findings on the topic, information on events and updates on developments in the area.

Annual work programme 2015 launched

In this, the third year of Eurofound's four year work-programme 2013–2016, the Agency's pan-European surveys and observatories remain core elements of its research activities. Fieldwork for the sixth wave of the European Working Conditions Survey will be conducted in 2015. Meanwhile, the fourth wave of the European Quality of Life Survey is being prepared and analysis of the results of the third European Company Survey will be published shortly. In addition to exploiting data provided through the surveys, the 2015 research projects also make full use of information provided by Eurofound's network of correspondents. Projects being conducted have been selected on the basis of their potential to feed into relevant policy debates and to provide evidence that can support decision makers in finding better solutions.

You can read the work programme at <http://bit.ly/1AHMaUF>

Member States continue fight against undeclared work

Undeclared work – any paid activities that are lawful forms of work but are not declared to the public authorities – continues to be a source of concern to public authorities across the EU. According to a Special Eurobarometer Report from 2014, almost a third of Europeans (32%) said they knew someone who had worked without declaring at least some of their income to tax or social security institutions. A recently published update from Eurofound's EurWORK observatory demonstrates the steps that Member States are taking to combat undeclared work. Latvia has temporarily increased its monitoring of certain sectors most implicated in the shadow economy, Lithuania and Slovenia have each introduced their own service voucher system as an alternative to undeclared cash payments, while in Estonia the hiring of a new employee must be reported to the authorities at least one day before they start work, in contrast to the previous regulation whereby employers could wait up to 30 days after employment began. For more, visit <http://bit.ly/1AQyxn>

Publication of the month

Foundation Focus – Sustainable work:
Toward better and longer working lives



www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications

Latest from EurWORK

UK: Plans to outlaw exclusivity clauses for zero hours contracts

<http://bit.ly/1AHNele>

Italy: Performance-related pay tax break

<http://bit.ly/1yaLS7Y>

Cyprus: Guaranteed minimum income

<http://bit.ly/1xU3vd8>

Portugal: Employment protection weakened

<http://bit.ly/1AQe57I>

Croatia: Outsourcing of non-core services to the private sector

<http://bit.ly/1FKUgI3>

France: Reinforcing protection for interns

<http://bit.ly/1KBD2Xe>

Netherlands: Pensions advice to clear up confusion

<http://bit.ly/1C7s6eb>

Lithuania: Right to strike and public sector social dialogue

<http://bit.ly/1IjCcMK>

Finland: Federation of Finnish Enterprises wants reform of national collective bargaining system

<http://bit.ly/14p36U3>

Eurofound and Lithuania join in national-level cooperation



On 13 November 2014, Eurofound co-hosted a national-level seminar with the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour in Vilnius on the posting of workers, their rights, and their living and working conditions. Participants included policymakers, public authorities, workers' representatives and employer representatives from a number of countries with a particular interest in the issue – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Sweden. Pictured at the event are (left) **Juan Menéndez-Valdés**, Director of Eurofound and **Algimantas Pabedinskienė**, Minister of Social Security and Labour.

More information on the event can be found online at

<http://bit.ly/112hhx3>

Links to Eurofound's work on the issue of posted workers is available at <http://bit.ly/15sjDHE>