

The tripartite EU agency
providing knowledge to assist
in the development of
social, employment and
work-related policies



Towards better living and working conditions

Promoting upward
convergence

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2017–2020





Eurofound

A centre of expertise

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) is a tripartite European Union agency based in Dublin, Ireland, and with an outreach office in Brussels. Established in 1975, Eurofound carries out independent, comparative research on labour markets, working conditions, industrial relations and living conditions. The agency seeks to record and analyse the reality of living and working in Europe and provide this knowledge to assist policymakers in the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies. Over its 40+ year history, Eurofound has built up in-depth expertise in its core areas of observation, making it a unique source of information for comparative socioeconomic research and analysis across Europe. Eurofound is an active member of the European Union Agencies Network, a vehicle for support and cooperation among 45 EU agencies and joint undertakings.

Mission and vision

The living and working conditions of Europeans are changing. By monitoring the latest developments and providing timely, in-depth analysis and information in these areas to EU-level institutions, national governments and social partners, Eurofound aims to support the EU agenda by providing knowledge to improve the quality of life and work in Europe.

Mission

Eurofound's **Mission** is to provide knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies.

Vision

Eurofound's **Vision** is that the agency's knowledge will contribute to effective policies that lead to the improvement of quality of life and work in a fair and competitive Europe.

Strategic objective

Eurofound's strategic objective for the programming period 2017–2020 is ***to provide scientifically sound, unbiased, timely and policy-relevant knowledge that contributes to better informed policies for upward convergence of living and working conditions in Europe.***

The work of Eurofound

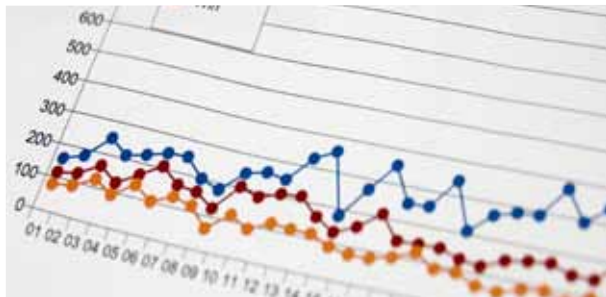
Six strategic areas of intervention

Eurofound's multiannual programme 2017–2020 commenced at a time when the European Union looked back at a decade of economic turmoil and one of the most challenging periods in its history.

Eurofound's work priorities for the period are based on an analysis of the policy and institutional context and the associated information needs of its stakeholders and users.

Over the years, Eurofound has developed a strong knowledge base in the area of **working conditions and industrial relations, labour markets and structural change and living conditions and quality of life.**

It is in these core areas of expertise that Eurofound can make the most valuable contribution and increase knowledge which will assist policymakers in their decision-making.



For the programming period 2017–2020, Eurofound has selected six **strategic areas of intervention**:

- > Working conditions and sustainable work
- > Industrial relations
- > Labour market change
- > Quality of life and public services
- > The digital age: Opportunities and challenges for work and employment
- > Monitoring convergence in the European Union

The first four are the core areas where Eurofound has established its expertise over four decades. The final two, on the digital age and convergence in the EU, introduce a new dimension into Eurofound's activities as they capture cross-cutting challenges and paradigmatic changes that are likely to have a transforming influence on the areas at the centre of Eurofound's work.



Observatories

Eurofound presents much of its work via three specialised online portals.

EMCC | *European Monitoring Centre on Change*

The **European Monitoring Centre on Change (EMCC)** looks at the functioning of European labour markets, identifying structural changes and emerging trends. It includes analyses of restructuring and innovation and job creation. Within it, the **European Restructuring Monitor**, a one-stop shop for information on restructuring, provides up-to-date analysis on company restructuring, plus details of relevant legislation and support initiatives.

Also presented in the EMCC, the **European Jobs Monitor** describes shifts in employment at Member State and EU level, analysing changes in terms of occupation and sector and the implications for job quality.

EurWORK | *European Observatory of Working Life*

The **European Observatory of Working Life (EurWORK)** monitors – on a comparative basis – key developments in industrial relations and working conditions that affect work in all Member States and at European level. It seeks to contribute to the development of evidence-based policymaking and practices that improve the quality of working life.

It provides information tools such as:

- > Working life country profiles
- > Collective wage bargaining database
- > Studies of representativeness of social partners to support EU social dialogue
- > European industrial relations dictionary

EurLIFE | *European Observatory on Quality of Life*

The **European Observatory on Quality of Life (EurLIFE)** makes available the results of survey data analysis as well as qualitative research in the field of quality of life and public services.

Its main focus is on:

- > Quality of life and quality of society
- > Public services

EurLIFE research explores the impact that quality of society has on well-being and also examines access to and quality of public services.

European Working Conditions Survey



European Quality of Life Survey



European Company Survey



Surveys

Eurofound carries out three EU-wide surveys on a regular basis. They provide valuable information on how Europeans work and live.

Since its launch in 1990, the **European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)** has provided a comprehensive picture of working conditions across Europe. The survey, which is carried out every five years, draws a picture of job quality in the EU, covering a wide range of dimensions: physical environment, work intensity, working time, social environment, skills and discretion, prospects, and earnings. The sixth survey, conducted in 2015, interviewed nearly 44,000 workers in 35 countries and will be repeated in 2020.

Starting in 2003 and carried out every four years, the **European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS)** examines both the objective circumstances of European citizens' lives and how they feel about those circumstances and their lives in general. It looks at three main areas: quality of life, quality of society, and public services. Eurofound carried out the fourth survey in the series between September 2016 and March 2017. Nearly 37,000 people were interviewed in 33 countries – the 28 EU Member States and five candidate countries (Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey).

The European Company Survey (ECS) has been carried out three times since its inception in 2004–2005 as the European Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance. The second survey (performed under the new title European Company Survey) was completed in 2009 and the third survey in 2013, which surveyed some 30,000 workplaces in 32 countries. The next ECS takes place in 2019 and will be implemented in cooperation with Cedefop, the EU agency responsible for vocational training. It will look at workplace organisation, human resource practices, employee participation and social dialogue, skills strategies, and digital changes in company practices.



Tripartite governance

The day-to-day management of Eurofound is undertaken by the Director, assisted by the Deputy Director, both of whom report to a Governing Board. The Board comprises representatives of governments, employers and workers of Member States, as well as representatives from the European Commission. This reflects the tripartite nature of Eurofound's work.

Eurofound is financed as part of the general budget of the European Commission. Funds are allocated during the official budgetary process between the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

In total, Eurofound has a multicultural staff of just over 100 specialising in socioeconomic research, communication and public administration. Eurofound also works extensively with external experts from Europe's leading research institutes.

Network of Eurofound Correspondents

Eurofound's network of correspondents (NEC), based in research institutes in all EU Member States plus Norway, provide information from the national level, giving both an up-to-date picture of the country's situation and informing Eurofound's pan-European comparative analysis. The network covers the fields of industrial relations, working conditions, employment and industrial restructuring, and social policy.

EU-level representation

Eurofound assures a central presence at the heart of EU affairs through its Brussels Liaison Office. This office has the dual role of strengthening the visibility and impact of Eurofound research at EU level and monitoring developments in policymaking. Established in 2002, the office keeps in close contact with the EU institutions and contributes to Eurofound's strategic approach towards key players at EU level.

National-level information

Eurofound offers a wide range of resources by country. It publishes: a series of living and working in Europe country profiles; report summaries in all official languages; comparative analyses between countries and sectors; information on the work of the social partners at national level; and country fact sheets, case studies and databases. Eurofound also undertakes a programme of activities at national level as part of its work to map and analyse socioeconomic and related trends across the Member States. Its aim is to provide comparative information to local actors in tune with national priorities, and to support the EU agenda in the context of the European semester process.



Accessing Eurofound's information

www.eurofound.europa.eu

Eurofound's website is the easiest way to find information on socioeconomic developments in the EU.

Whether you are looking for the latest data on corporate restructuring or want to examine the implications of an ageing society in Europe, Eurofound's website is the gateway to the information you need: www.eurofound.europa.eu

With an easy-to-navigate interface, the website offers you the option of accessing information by subject, by sector, by language or by country, drawing on relevant data and analysis from all Eurofound's surveys and observatories as well as parallel in-depth Eurofound research. The site is optimised for use on tablets and smartphones as well as PCs and includes specialist databases plus a **Data explorer** to explore and visualise survey data.

You can register online to receive **Eurofound's monthly newsletter** for a regular update on all our activities or stay in touch with Eurofound through social media channels.



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Country pages

<http://eurofound.link/country>

The agency strives both to document and understand change across the Member States and to develop ideas that will facilitate a better quality of life and work for EU citizens. On this page, you will find specific information relating to each Member State on a wide range of topics, from working life to pay, to health and well-being.

Data explorer

<http://eurofound.link/data>

Providing comparative, accurate and reliable information on living and working conditions across the EU Member States and beyond is at the core of what Eurofound does. Over the years, it has amassed a wealth of knowledge which it makes available to all interested parties. On this page you can find an overview of the different data resources available, including the latest survey data, as well as thematic databases.



Publications: Online and EU Bookshop

Eurofound produces a wide range of printed publications, including a monthly e-newsletter, policy briefs, executive summaries, flagship reports and detailed research reports. These publications can be downloaded free of charge from Eurofound's website and downloaded or ordered via the EU Bookshop.

Information centre

In addition to its online facility, Eurofound's information centre provides an extensive range of both internal and external information sources, which are accessible to researchers and visitors. The centre uses specialised library services that include bibliographical databases, newspapers and newsletters, and electronic journals in addition to reference materials.

Visitor programme

Eurofound is open to visitors and offers tailor-made programmes in order to meet the specific information needs of groups or individuals. Arranged by prior appointment, visits are designed to provide an opportunity for direct contact with Eurofound staff working on the areas of most interest to each visitor.

How to stay in touch

Let us keep you informed about our work:

1. Sign up for information from Eurofound <http://eurofound.link/subscribe>
2. Get involved in the debate and follow Eurofound on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn
3. Keep an eye on Eurofound's calendar for events and publications <http://eurofound.link/calendar>

Working with Eurofound

- Eurofound is an equal opportunities employer. All vacancies are published on its website.
- Eurofound selects contractors in accordance with the public procurement rules of the EU institutions. All information is provided on the website.
- Calls for expression of interest for experts are made available in the Official Journal and on the website.
- Eurofound occasionally hosts visiting researchers who collaborate in, and complement, research projects.



European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

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