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**Cross-border services boost growth – study says**

**According to the new study commissioned by the European Economic and Social Committee, cross-border services generate new jobs and economic growth. They are positive for all EU countries, for different kinds of jobs – both labour and knowledge intensive. The document proves that avoiding strict regulation in the cross-border services internal market is beneficial for the EU economy. A reduction of the share of cross-border services by 1 % would cost the EU economy around 8 billion euro.**

In 2014, almost 11 million jobs in the EU were based on export of cross-border services. Since 2000, the number of employees dependent on cross-border services has almost doubled. While total employment in the EU grew by 5.5 %, employment dependent on cross-border service has risen by 94 %. This clearly shows a positive impact on the EU economy. Countries with a higher share in cross-border services have registered much stronger growth in employment and GDP than countries less involved in the cross-border service market.

"The study proves that cross-border services are neither social dumping nor a danger to the economies of the Member States. Ever-harsher regulation of cross-border services would have a negative impact on the economy and would endanger the integrity of the single market," said Peter Clever, Vice-President of the Employers' Group.

According to the document – contrary to public perception – 3 in 4 cross-border jobs are located in the EU-15 states. Almost 40 % of the postings of workers occurred from one high-wage country to another. This clearly shows that the economies of all EU Member States benefit from cross-border services. In 2014 the total value added dependent on the exports of cross-border services was 625 billion euro in all 28 Member States.

Moreover, cross-border services are not limited to labour intensive, low-paid jobs. The share of jobs in knowledge intensive sectors dependent on cross-border services has grown nearly as much as the share of labour intensive jobs.

The research also suggests that countries with a higher share of cross-border service on average have a lower ratio of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion and register higher levels of happiness and satisfaction with life.

The study was prepared by German think-tank IW Consult and was commissioned by the European Economic and Social Committee on the request of the Employers' Group. The document can be downloaded here: [https://europa.eu/!yQ36mK](https://europa.eu/%21yQ36mK).

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*The European Economic and Social Committee is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. The Committee has 350 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union. It represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process.*

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