



Join the online debate on the single market  
23.09 > 23.10 2013

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#Ideas4Europe

## Jobs

The unemployment rate in the EU currently (July 2013) stands at around 12 % and has reached as high as 26 % in certain countries. For young people, unemployment is at a critical level: 22.7 % in the EU and up to 50 % in some countries. While there is no easy solution, the European Single Market offers workers the opportunity to go across borders to look for work or offer their services as a professional in any of the 28 Member States of the EU.

When seeking work in another country, however, jobseekers across Europe may encounter some obstacles. One problem is getting qualifications and skills recognised. To make it easier for you to work anywhere in Europe, the EU has rules about procedures and the time that this process can take. Should this whole area go more digital? Still, only 3.1% of the EU labour force live in another EU country than their own.

Mobility already takes place even before graduating. The Erasmus programme for example enables thousands of students every year to study in another Member State. Do you think this helps find a job?

The freedom to set up a business or to provide services is guaranteed by the EU. Since the Single Market was set up, EU companies can also buy and sell goods across the EU. Thanks to this freedom, European entrepreneurs can set up a business in any EU country, or provide their services across borders in other EU countries.

Yet challenges also remain for businesses. Companies, and especially SMEs, wanting to explore the many opportunities offered by the Single Market can be easily discouraged when faced with hurdles such as language barriers, different tax codes and labour laws. Entrepreneurs continue to sometimes struggle with complex, long, and legally hazy administrative procedures when they try to use or to provide services across borders within the EU. Finding customers and business partners outside their home country may also be a challenge. How do you think all this could be solved?

**JOBS**  
23-27 September

**SOCIAL RIGHTS**  
30 Sept. - 04 Oct.

**BANKS**  
07-11 October

**E-COMMERCE**  
14-18 October



EU rules allow companies established in a Member State to temporarily post workers to the territory of another Member States. However transnational provision of services requires fair competition and measures guaranteeing respect for the rights of workers. How to safeguard this balance, according to you?

The EU offers certain tools for young entrepreneurs and young jobseekers. Some examples are:

- The EURES Job Mobility Portal links over a million jobseekers with 30 000+ employers, in 31 countries and puts a network of trained advisers at jobseekers' disposal;
- The Europass Portal helps citizens register and present clearly their academic and professional skills and qualifications;
- Innovative schemes such as 'Your first EURES job' provide financial support (travel expenses, language courses etc) for young people looking to work abroad.
- Support for apprenticeships and work-based learning, which can make the transition for young people from education and training into work easier, such as the Leonardo da Vinci exchange programme.
- Besides the Erasmus Programme, the Ploteus learning opportunities portal provides useful information on study programmes across Europe.

What obstacles remain? 'Do you have further suggestions for actions at European level?

In time of austerity, the EU is taking measures to create jobs.

**Join in the online debate on jobs between 23 and 25 September and have your voice heard.**



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## Facts and figures: Jobs

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More than half of Europeans think the EU has a beneficial impact on general employment and social policies.

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In 2012, 216.1 million persons were employed in the EU, with 70.1 % of the persons employed in the service sector.

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EURES, the EU's job mobility portal, links jobseekers with 31.054 employers in 31 countries (the 27 EU Member States, plus Switzerland, Iceland and Norway).

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There are 20.9 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe. They are regarded as a key driver for economic growth, innovation, employment and social integration. Today, 85 % of net new jobs in the EU's private sector are created by SMEs.

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The European Investment Bank Group's support for SMEs reached EUR 13 billion in 2013. In addition, with a budget of EUR 1.1 billion, Commission-founded guarantees helped to mobilise loans worth more than EUR 13 billion boosting nearly 220 000 small business across Europe.

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In 2011, only 3.1% of the working age European citizens (15-64) lived in another EU country than their own.

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15% of European citizens would not consider working in another Member State because they feel there are too many obstacles.

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Nearly 3 million students have participated in ERASMUS since it started in 1987, as well as over 300 000 higher education teachers and other staff since 1997.

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The current rate of unemployment in the EU is 12 % with this being as high as 26 % in Greece and Spain.

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22.7 % of young people in the EU are neither in work nor training.

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