

2006 European Year of Workers' Mobility: EurActiv launches new Mobility Section

EurActiv.com, the independent policy portal on EU affairs and four of its national media partners have opened a policy section on workers' mobility in 7 languages: English, German, French, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak. The first sponsors of this section are Manpower and Shell International, with support from the European Commission's DG Employment as part of the 2006 European Year of Workers' Mobility.

The new section is available at: www.euractiv.com/en/mobility.

Workers' Mobility is a key element in the Lisbon agenda. There are only about 1.5% of EU citizens who live and work in a member state other than their country of origin, a figure which has not changed for 30 years, despite many improvements for working abroad.

The European Year of Workers' Mobility aims to increase this figure and also encourages job mobility within countries, which develops new skills and knowledge in an EU labour market characterised by high unemployment.

In the words of Jérôme VIGNON, Director DG EMPL, "EurActiv's ability to nationalise the debate surrounding worker mobility via its network of policy portals made it a natural partner for the European Year of Workers' Mobility".

The EurActiv Workers' Mobility section will cover: legal restrictions on mobility; mobility of researchers and other professionals; support for mobility and public opinion on mobility. EurActiv will also carry interviews with key players as well as case-studies in the field.

"Mobility is necessary for an efficient labour market to function," says Manpower's David Arkless, Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs. "We support open policy dialogue because achieving an inclusive institutional framework is crucial to protect weaker members of the labour force."

Along with the launch of EurActiv's focused coverage, the communication consultancy IsaMedia organised a special workshop for journalists from EU member states on 12 July 2006 in Brussels. This interactive event reached out to journalists from Western EU member states in particular; EurActiv seeks to stimulate the debate in EU member states by enhancing the interest of national media in covering mobility issues.

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Note to the editor:

EurActiv.com is the independent portal on EU Affairs. With more than 1,5 million page views per month and over **334,000 unique visitors** (CIM certified figures – May 2006), the portal is an important working instrument for the majority of EU Actors (institutions, industry federations, NGO's, think tanks, the press and others) involved in defining or influencing EU policies.

EurActiv's CrossLingual network is sponsored by Total, Visa Europe and Shell International.

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