

EVALUATION ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	Ex-post evaluation of EURES activities covering the period 2009-13		
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	EMPL D.1	DATE OF THIS ROADMAP	21/04/2016
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Ex-post Evaluation	PLANNED START DATE	11/2015
		PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	06/2016
		PLANNING CALENDAR	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm</a>
<b>This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change.</b>			

A. Purpose
(A.1) Purpose
<p>Established in 1993, EURES is the European network of employment services of the EEA Member States in order to facilitate labour mobility. Switzerland also participates in EURES.</p> <p>The purpose of EURES is to provide information, advice and recruitment, matching, placement and post-placement services for the benefit of workers and employers as well as any citizen wishing to benefit from the principle of free movement of workers.</p> <p>The purpose of this evaluation Staff Working Document is to assess the use of EU funds by beneficiaries of grant agreements financed under call for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 and their implementation of activities in the EURES network.</p> <p>The evaluation will assess the use of EU funds in terms of effectiveness and efficiency for the management of intra-EU mobility, at presenting the outcomes of the activities of the EURES network in the period 2009-2013 and at capturing lessons learnt and best practices that can be incorporated to the current functioning of the network insofar as they are relevant for a network that has undergone a process of reform starting with the entry into force of Commission implementing decision 2012/733/EU on 1st January 2014 .</p> <p>An external study supporting this evaluation was carried out in 2015.</p>
(A.2) Justification
<p>The ex-post evaluation aims to comply with the legal requirement of the Financial Regulation (art.30) and its Rules of Application (art. 18) and with the legal requirement of article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 that foresees a report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the implementation of Chapter II (clearance of vacancies and applications for employment) of the above mentioned regulation.</p>

B. Content and subject of the evaluation
(B.1) Subject area
Employment policy, free movement of workers and intra-EU/EEA worker mobility.

The free movement of persons is one of the four fundamental rights of the single market, guaranteed to all European citizens by the Treaties. This includes the right of free movement of workers and the right to work in another Member State. EURES facilitates the exercise of this right by providing transparency in the European labour market and support services to employers and jobseekers

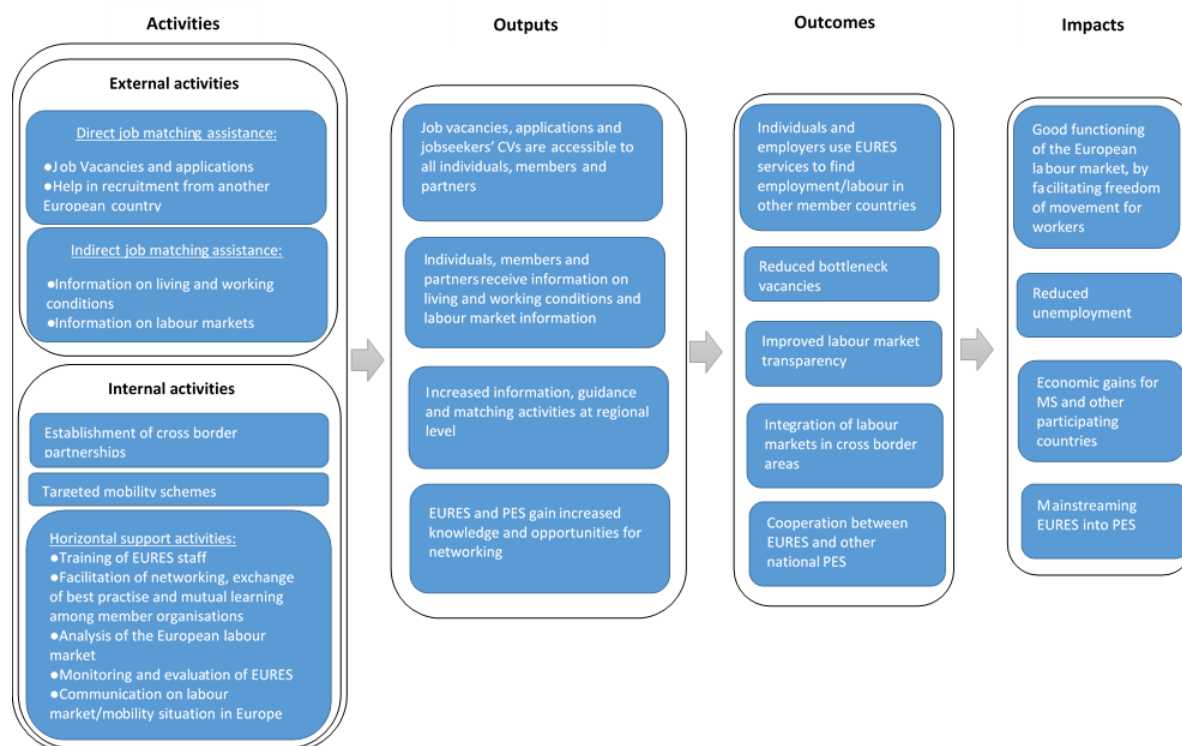
(B.2) Original objectives of the intervention

In order to improve mobility in the European labour market, and to strengthen the integration of employment services of the Member States as a means to achieve this goal, the European Employment Services (EURES) was established in 1993. EURES was preceded by the European System for the International Clearing of Vacancies and Applications for Employment (SEDOC), established in 1972. EURES was given the objective of developing the exchange of information and cooperation between employment services as stipulated in Part II of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68. EURES strengthened the focus on training of staff and cooperation between PES, but also contributed to increasing the exchange of vacancies across Europe – mainly through the digital revolution.

(B.3) How the objectives were to be achieved

The intervention logic is as follows: EURES’ objectives were defined in the Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68, which stipulated that: "the central employment services of the Member States shall cooperate closely with each other and with the Commission with a view to acting jointly as regards the clearing of vacancies and applications for employment within the Union and the resultant placing of workers in employment". Thus, the purpose of EURES is to provide information, advice and recruitment, matching and placement services for the benefit of workers and employers, as well as any citizen wishing to benefit from the principle of the free movement of workers.

The figure below presents the intervention logic of how EURES functions and what it is meant to achieve



## C. Scope of the evaluation/FC

### (C.1) Topics covered

The evaluation covers the activities of all the grant beneficiaries for the period 1/4/2009 to 31/05/2013 in the EU and EEA countries. It involves the analysis and processing of information received through the evaluation reports of the EURES grants recipients combined with interviews with stakeholders and grant beneficiaries. These activities included among others: training and awareness raising activities, development of infrastructures for providing services and customer relationship management, services to employers, jobseekers and job changers, development of "mobility packages" for jobseekers including pre and post-recruitment assistance, development of "mobility packages" for employers, organization of the European Job Days, coordination of EURES activities with stakeholders at European, national, regional and local level, cooperation mechanisms with other EU networks, collection of data for identifying and anticipating surpluses, shortages and bottlenecks on labour markets, facilitating job matching on the cross-border labour market, monitoring mobility obstacles in the cross-border region.

### (C.2) Issues to be examined

The evaluation will provide answers to the following evaluation questions:

#### *Effectiveness:*

1. To what extent have the grants provided to the three categories of grant beneficiaries through the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 contributed to the improvement of the labour market transparency (supply and demand of labour, career pathways) for job-seekers, workers and employers in the EU?
2. To what extent have the grants provided to the three categories of grant beneficiaries through the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 contributed to the clearing of vacancies and applications for employment within the EU and the resulting placement of workers in employment?

#### *Efficiency:*

3. To what extent have the grants provided to the three categories of grant beneficiaries through the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 contributed to an increase in capacity in the EURES network for facilitating matching, recruitment and placement across Europe?
4. What is the scope to increase the efficiency of the delivery of EURES activities through EU grants?
5. *Utility:*
6. What were the main changes that the EURES activity funded through the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 has brought about and to what degree did such changes have a lasting impact and/or multiplier effect?
7. What was the result of EURES activity in terms of actual increase and/or improved quality as regards:

- a) job-matching services across Europe, including where available a breakdown by skill level
- b) information on living and working conditions in the EU/EEA
- c) information about labour markets in the EU, in particular information on labour demand, shortage occupations and skills gaps/surpluses
- d) assessment of obstacles to intra-EU labour mobility
- e) cooperation between PES in the EU/EEA
- f) cooperation at cross border level in order to improve the local labour market and facilitate intra-EU labour mobility between border regions
- g) the use of other EU tools available to help job seekers with job search and career transition, such as the Ploteus portal and EUROPASS.

8. What (if any) were undesirable or negative effects?

9. To what extent have the EURES activities addressed the needs of specific target groups beyond the general categories of workers and employers, e.g. young people, and what lessons can be learnt that relate to the objectives of the EaSI programme?<sup>1</sup>

*Sustainability:*

10. To what extent has the EURES activity funded through calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 produced positive effects that are lasting beyond the end of the grant period and that are likely to continue without European Union financial support, in particular in the crossborder cooperation?

*EU added value:*

11. Has the EURES network produced net positive benefits in intra-EU labour mobility through the financial support following the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 compared to the results obtained at national level through other sources of funding and if so, in which domain?

12. To what extent have the crossborder partnerships funded under the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 produced net positive benefits in intra-EU labour mobility as compared to the results obtained by bilateral or multilateral Member State cooperation in this area?

13. To what extent have the grants provided to the PES and the crossborder partnerships funded under the calls for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 contributed to an improvement in the cooperation at Member State level between the EURES network and other European networks or services such as SOLVIT, ENIC-NARIC, Europe Direct, ECAS, Euroguidance network, EURAXESS etc.?

(C.3) Other tasks

**D. Evidence base**

<sup>1</sup> Although the EURES activities subject to this evaluation were funded and implemented before the adoption of the EaSI programme, some of the lessons learnt from EURES activity in the period covered by this evaluation can be applicable for the implementation of the EURES axis of the EaSI programme

(D.1) Evidence from monitoring
<p>Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 foresees a report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the implementation of Chapter II (clearance of vacancies and applications for employment) of the above mentioned regulation.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of grant agreements financed under call for proposals VP/2008/019 and VP/2009/008 present final technical implementation reports at the end of the action</p>
(D.2) Previous evaluations and other reports
<p>Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament - EURES Activity Report 2000 - 2001 presented by the Commission in accordance with Article 19 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68: "Towards an integrated European labour market: the contribution of EURES"</p> <p>Report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - EURES Activity Report 2002 – 2003 presented by the Commission in accordance with Article 19 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 "Towards a single European labour market: the contribution of EURES"</p> <p>Ex-post evaluation of EURES covering the period 2000-2004</p> <p>Ex-post evaluation of EURES covering the period 2006-08</p> <p>Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Mobility, an instrument for more and better jobs: The European Job Mobility Action Plan (2007-2010)</p> <p>Ex-post evaluation carried out in 2015, particularly looking at the specific objectives defined in art. 4 (1) of Regulation 1296/2013 in as far as they are relevant for the subject of the evaluation and at the specific objectives of the EURES axis defined in art. 20 of the EaSI Regulation.</p>
(D.3) Evidence from assessing the implementation and application of legislation (complaints, infringement procedures)
Not applicable
(D.4) Consultation
<p>The main stakeholders of EURES are the members of the network: EURES national coordination offices, EURES partners and associated partners, public and private employment services, social partners, third sector organisations and other actors active in the labour market at national, regional or cross-border level.</p> <p>To support the evaluation, a comprehensive stakeholder consultation strategy has been carried out to support the external study, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a workshop with all the EURES National Coordination Offices (June 2015). The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the findings of the external evaluation study, focussing in particular on .... key evaluation questions and gather information from the relevant authorities in Member States responsible for the management of EURES activities in the period subject to evaluation regarding the outcomes of the grants, long-lasting effects, best practices and recommendations for the future.</li> <li>- interviews with 40 different stakeholders: the EURES European Coordination Office, grant beneficiaries, social partners at European and national level, ESF managing authorities and other European networks.</li> <li>- peer reviewing of the external study by EURES National Coordination Offices for a final round of</li> </ul>

feedback and complimentary information was carried out in November 2015.

A public open consultation will not be carried out for this evaluation since the consultation strategy described above was comprehensive and covered all the main actors.

(D.5) Further evidence to be gathered

Not applicable

### **E. Other relevant information/ remarks**

The external study supporting the evaluation SWD was concluded in 2015 (EX POST EVALUATION OF EURES COVERING THE PERIOD 2009-2013, November 2015) and will be published at the same time then the evaluation SWD.: