



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Europe 2020: Employment Policies  
**Skills, Labour Mobility, Employment Services**

Brussels, 22 January 2013  
DG EMPL C-3 (2013)

### **Operational conclusions**

**31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of PES  
11-12 December 2012, Limassol, Cyprus**

#### **ITEM 2. Annual Growth Survey 2013 including Joint Employment Report and its implications for the PES network**

The Commission introduced the Annual Growth Survey underlining the important role for PES both directly and indirectly. The main topics addressed in the discussion that followed revolved around PES capacities in times of high / increasing numbers of jobseekers, the need of increasing cost-effectiveness, the potential for digitalisation and close cooperation with employers. There was a consensus in that the case needs to be made more forcefully and politically on the 'Importance of investing in PES'. To this end, the EC will undertake a study on 'PES return on investment' planned for the first half of 2013 within the PES to PES Dialogue. The findings could then be brought to the attention of the policy level.

The Commission informed the network also about the Commissions' work programme 2013 including the proposal for setting up of a formal European network of Public Employment Services with a view to help develop and implement a European Action Plan for modernisation and strengthening of PES.

#### **ITEM 3. Youth Employment Package**

The Commission presented the main aspects of relevance for PES from the Youth Employment Package launched on 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2012. The main point for discussion here was the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on establishing a Youth Guarantee. HoPES brought up the following points for consideration in this respect (different national starting points; context and conditions in the Member States regarding the implementation, outreach strategies and capacities, number of months until intervention, definition of quality offer, role of education and training to ensure a fit with the requirements of the labour market, deadweight effects of such a scheme; financing implications particularly in countries with severe budget restrictions for additional expenditure).

The Network was reminded that information on the role and developments within PES in relation to the implementation of the Youth Guarantee scheme will be monitored annually through the Commission questionnaire 'PES adjustment to the crisis'.

#### **ITEM 5. Universal Credit (UC) system in the UK**

JobCentre Plus presented the new integrated system that will be implemented until 2017 starting with a pilot in spring 2013 going hand in hand with the development of online-services for payment.

#### **ITEM 6. PES Working Group Europe 2020: 1. Amendment of the mandate of the Working Group 2. National testimonials on follow-up activities to PES strategy EU 2020 (B-point)**

The chair of the Working Group (VDAB) presented a summary of activities for 2012 and outlined some of the work ahead for 2013: to develop a handbook with illustrative measures being developed by the PES to integrate the 2020 vision in their organisations, a strategic action plan for PES 2020 and to contribute to the development of a formal structure for its implementation and monitoring. PES Belgium (VDAB), Germany and Hungary informed the network about their approaches to implement a PES strategy 2020 based upon the strategic output paper produced by the working group. The continuation of the PES 2020 Working Group as part of the HoPES Work Programme 2013 was endorsed by the network on the basis of an updated mandate to produce the Action Plan PES 2020 and potential synthesis papers on specific topics related to its work. The first meeting of the Working Group will take place in early 2013 to advance the work of the Action Plan with a view to presenting this at the HoPES in Dublin or Vilnius, depending on progress made.

#### **ITEM 7. PES Bench learning and PES Benchmarking Project after 2013**

Following the Council conclusions from 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 asking for '*enhanced cooperation among PES*' the German delegation presented the idea of a potential bench-learning initiative to be formalised at EU level encompassing all PES. After a rich discussion on considerations and implications of such an initiative, the Network gave the Commission and the German delegation a mandate to work together on a proposal to submit to the EPSCO Informal on 7-8 February 2013 in Dublin. An initial draft is to be circulated to the Network in early January to gather comments and suggestions for changes. These will then be considered and the note consolidated before submitting to the Irish Presidency in the form of a Joint Proposal for Discussion by the European Network of HoPES and the European Commission. Depending on the outcome of discussions in EPSCO the Commission could envisage setting up an ad-hoc group to consider how benchmarking can feed into the wider concept of bench-learning.

Given the increasing importance of PES cooperation, performance measurement and benchmarking the European Commission will study all options to see how the current project might be extended for 12-18 months in its current form.