



European  
Commission



# What's in it for me?

EU action on employment,  
social affairs and inclusion

*Social Europe*



*Nina, 31 years old, Sweden*

*"After a spell of unemployment, I launched a travel app start-up but struggled to find employees with the right skills. The EURES job portal enabled me to recruit skilled people from all over Europe. Another thing that really helped was a microloan I received through the Employment and Social Innovation programme. That was a godsend in the early days!"*

**The Employment and Social Innovation programme** promotes the modernisation of employment across the EU and supports labour mobility using the **EURES job portal**. If you own a small business, you can apply for microcredit or financing for social enterprises.

 [ec.europa.eu/eures](https://ec.europa.eu/eures) (jobseekers and employers)

 [ec.europa.eu/social/easi](https://ec.europa.eu/social/easi)



**Tomasz, 19 years old, Poland**

*"After high school I had problems finding a job. I registered with the Youth Guarantee and my careers advisor helped me enrol in an apprenticeship scheme to become a graphic designer. Today I have a permanent contract with the same company. I heard that some of my friends recently signed up to the European Solidarity Corps, an initiative allowing young people to work in solidarity projects across Europe for 2-12 months."*

The **Youth Guarantee** ensures all young people in EU countries under the age of 25 receive an offer of a job, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education. Your employment service in your country will be able to explain the opportunities open to you.

 [ec.europa.eu/social/youthguarantee](https://ec.europa.eu/social/youthguarantee)

The **European Solidarity Corps** invites young people between 18 and 30 years to volunteer, work or do a traineeship in their own country or abroad for the benefit of communities and people around Europe. Interested? Please register at:

 [europa.eu/youth/solidarity](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity)



*Jeanne (52 years old) talking about her son Daniel (20 years old), France*

*"When my autistic son Daniel turned 18, I was very concerned about his chances of leading a more independent life as an adult. Thanks to a project funded by the European Social Fund, Daniel joined an organisation that assessed his skills and found him an internship with an employer who knows about the specifics of autism. This experience boosted Daniel's confidence and he now has the possibility of being offered a job in the same or another similar company."*

For 60 years now, the **European Social Fund** has helped millions of people from all walks of life to retrain or find a job for the first time. The Fund particularly targets those at risk of social exclusion and gives them opportunities to get back into work. The ESF also invests in better education opportunities and supports the improvement of public services for the benefit of job seekers, workers and companies alike.

 [ec.europa.eu/esf](https://ec.europa.eu/esf)

 **Europass: create your CV and language passport**  
[europass.cedefop.europa.eu](https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu)

“As an EU citizen **you are protected by EU rules** and you have access to rights, tools and support when looking for a job, moving abroad or starting a new career or business. Unemployment is falling in Europe today – but there is still more to do. That’s why **the EU is increasing investment in people and businesses** and has launched initiatives like the **European Alliance for Apprenticeships** which has mobilized the offer of around 500 000 apprenticeship opportunities, and the **Youth Guarantee** which has already helped 9 million young people into work, education or training.”



**Marianne Thyssen**

European Commissioner for Employment,  
Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility



[ec.europa.eu/social](https://ec.europa.eu/social)



**Social Europe**



**@EU\_Social**



**Europe Direct: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

# The EU in your daily life

**Workers' rights guaranteed:** EU employment legislation protects the health and safety of workers and stops discrimination in the workplace.

**Social security wherever you are:** EU rules coordinate national social security systems to ensure your rights are preserved when moving within Europe.

**Healthcare on the move:** Citizens enjoy free emergency healthcare while abroad in Europe thanks to the European Health Insurance Card.

**Improved chances on the labour market:** Every year, the European Social Fund helps some 15 million people into work, or to improve their skills so that they can find work in the future. The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund supports projects that help workers made redundant as a result of globalization to find another job or start a business.

**Better skills for those who need them most:** The Upskilling Pathways initiative helps adults to acquire a minimum level of reading, writing and digital skills, as well as the ability to work with and understand numbers, and to progress towards a qualification that can enhance their job prospects.

**A boost for small entrepreneurs:** The EU backs-up microloans (up to EUR 25 000) to help microenterprises and self-employed people.

**Full and equal participation for people with disabilities:** For example, the EU parking card is used all over Europe by motorists with mobility difficulties. EU law also requires that public services make online content accessible to citizens with disabilities.

**Relieving poverty and promoting social inclusion:** The European Social Fund and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived finance projects to tackle poverty and social exclusion in Europe.



Investing in people  
European Social Fund

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