

5th Meeting of the Advisors for European PES Affairs (AFEPAAs)

Brussels, 20-21 October 2016

Outcomes

Participants: AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK, COM and PES SECRETARIAT.

Absent: CZ

ITEM 1: Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda of the 20-21 October AFEPA meeting and the outcomes of the 10-11 March AFEPA meeting were adopted.

ITEM 2: Follow up of the PES Board meeting Amsterdam

The Secretariat gave a short overview of the key outcomes of the Board meeting.

ITEM 3: PES Network Working Groups

Long-term-unemployed (LTU): Ms Edyta CZARNOCKA (PL) presented the latest activities of the working group (members: Chair PL, UK, FR, BE, BG, CZ, PL, ES, FI, HR, DK, SI and PES Secretariat) including the paper on the quality standards for single points of contacts and job integration agreements, which was presented at the EMCO meeting in September. The presentation can be found on the AFEPA extranet. The working group paper fed into the EPSCO discussion and their endorsement of the quality standards and the quantitative indicator framework of member states measuring the Council recommendation.

Action points and next steps:

COM will ask the EMCO to share the endorsed indicator framework on LTU with the PES Network.

Next steps are the EMCO December review and launching the annual data collection.

Refugees situation: Ms Benedicte Stavnum (NO) reported on the latest activities of the working group (members: Chair NO, AT, BG, DE, FI, ES and PES Secretariat) on behalf of the Chair, Mr Haakon HERTZBERG (NO), who could not attend the meeting.

The working group has submitted a proposal to the Work Programme 2017 for a mutual learning activity on the integration of refugees into the labour market and skills recognition. A next working group upcoming meeting is planned for January 2017.

PES-PrES: **Ms Josefien VERMEERSCH (BE-VDAB)** reported on the latest activities of the working group (members: Chair VDAB, FI, IT and NL) including the proposal for a common view on cooperation between the PES and PrES. The proposal can be found on the AFEPA extranet. During the discussion the need for clarifying the overall purpose and the level of cooperation (national or European) was highlighted.

Action points and next steps:

AFEPAs to submit written comments on the draft by 4 November 2016.

The working group will draft a revised document for the PES Board meeting in December containing overall principles for cooperation between PES and PrES at the European level and a discussion paper with ideas for the future work.

Social Pillar: The **PES Secretariat** presented the latest activities of the working group (members: Chair IE, BE – VDAB, BE – Le Forem, DE, ES, GR, LT, SE and UK). The working group held a meeting in September in Dublin on how the current PES 2020 Vision should be updated in the context of the Social Pillar.

Action points and next steps:

The working group will circulate a draft proposal for a common PES Network input to the consultations on the Social Pillar on 16 November with a deadline for feedback from the AFEPAs on 22 November.

Afterwards the paper will be finalised by written procedure, which will be launched on 24 November with a deadline of 7 December.

PES Secretariat will send the PES Networks common input to the consultation before the deadline 31 December.

COM updated the AFEPAs on the latest activities in relation to the European Pillar of Social Rights. Main areas for the PES include: early activation, skills and social protection for all. There are ongoing consultations with stakeholders and national events in the member states. There will be a concluding conference at the end of January 2017.

ITEM 4: Employers day

PES Secretariat presented the overview table of national activities and the feedback from 19 PES on the future organisation of the event, which can be found on the AFEPA extranet. The feedback suggested a high level of support for the repetition of the European Employers Day (EED), with many AFEPAs suggesting it should be held over a longer period e.g. a month, to give the PES flexibility. Roughly half of those in favour of repeating the EED would like it to be held every year, the other half every two years. A small number of AFEPAs are not in favour of repeating the EED, as it brings limited added value to their existing activity on employers relations.

Action points and next steps:

The AFEPAs of CY, ES, IT agreed to draft a proposal for the December Board meeting.

ITEM 5: PES Network Mutual Learning update

Ms Martina Koscec Peric (HR) presented the outcomes of thematic review workshop on PES and IT in Zagreb, 6-7 July and follow-up visit in Brussels, 22 November. The participants were selected based on the Benchlearning assessment results and which focused on developing strategies and tools which allow for a better use of data.

Mr Kristian Bak (DK) gave a short update on the upcoming thematic review workshop in Copenhagen, 24-25 November on Sustainable Integration into the Labour Market.

The PES Secretariat presented the outcomes of the seminar on Change Management in Brussels, 4 October which covered three main themes: drivers for change, role of staff and how to continuous improvements can be embedded in the organisation.

The PES Secretariat gave a short presentation on the upcoming conference on Making the PES Business Case in Brussels, 17 November (since postponed to 17 January 2017).

ITEM 6: EURES

COM reported on the implementation of the new EURES Regulation which entered into force in May 2016. A number of activities are ongoing in the form of working groups/pilots on the standards for job vacancies and CV's, on indicators and on admission systems.

Action points and next steps:

The next steps will be the COM's preparation of implementing acts. The first act will be on the standards on job vacancies and CV to be shared at European level.

COM will share an indicative time table for the process on the acts with the Member States.

A EURES Committee will be established as part of the process of adopting the acts. Member States will be asked to nominate representatives. The first meeting is provisionally scheduled for March 2017.

Mr Stefan Schießke (DE) presented the draft proposal of the future cooperation with the EURES network, which can be found on the AFEPA extranet. The AFEPA's endorsed the draft proposal for the PES Board meeting in December, with a request to soften the wording on the possible nomination of the AFEPA representative to the ECO.

ITEM 7: PES Board meeting, 1-2 December, Bratislava

Boris Katuscak (SK) presented the draft agenda of the 1-2 December PES Board meeting in Bratislava which can be found on the AFEPA extranet.

Action points:

AFEPA's are asked to submit as soon as possible any suggestions for the agenda to the PES Secretariat.

ITEM 8: Benchlearning – future roadmap

PES Secretariat presented the next steps of the Benchlearning cycle. An update on the Benchlearning project can be found on the AFEPA extranet.

Action points and next steps:

The next cycle of site visits will start in February 2017. PES Secretariat will circulate the visit schedule for 2017 for PES that have been visited in 2015.

The context free indicator values and the design of the second cycle will be finalised at the next Benchlearning working group meeting in November and presented at the PES Board meeting in December.

AFEPAs are asked to organise a meeting with their respective Benchlearning expert and HoPES between the next Benchlearning working group meeting and the PES Board meeting to discuss the results.

AFEPAs are asked to use the presentation on the next cycle to brief HoPES and send suggestions for the further improvements of the next cycle before 15 November.

In terms of additional indicators, ICON has been tasked with identifying to the working group what information is already covered by the LTU indicator framework from EMCO (endorsed by EPSCO) and what additional information is needed to tackle the LTU challenge from an operational perspective.

ITEM 9: PES Capacity questionnaire 2016

ICON presented the main results of the 2016 PES Capacity questionnaire. The presentations can be found on the AFEPA extranet. During the discussion the AFEPAs provided positive feedback on the report results.

Next steps:

The PES will be consulted on the country fiches, and the report will be finalised and circulated.

ITEM 10: PES-ESF Cooperation

Ms Caroline Meyers, ESF-Agency Flanders Teamleader and The ESF Thematic Network (TN) Chair presented the results of the questionnaires. The presentation can be found on the AFEPA extranet.

Action point:

AFEPAs are asked to contact their ESF TN counterparts about the 13-14 December Network meeting in Paris, which aims at producing concrete ideas for cooperation.

The ESF Thematic Network will circulate information about the results of the ESF TN questionnaire, as well as further details about the December meeting.

ITEM 11: AFEPA questionnaire 2016

The PES Secretariat presented the main results. The presentation can be found on the AFEPA extranet.

ITEM 12: Open exchange between AFEPA

Gregorio Gonzalez Roldan (ES) shared reflections on the role of being an AFEPA, and the use of Benchlearning at the regional level.

Action points and next steps:

At the March 2017 meeting the AFEPA's will discuss a draft paper on the role of AFEPA's for possible Board endorsement.

ITEM 13: PES Network Annual Report 2016

The PES Secretariat presented the outline of the PES Network Annual Report 2016. The AFEPA's endorsed the outline.

Action points and next steps:

The PES Secretariat will circulate the draft annual report to the AFEPA for comments. The first draft will not contain the Benchlearning results since they are not yet finalised.

A final draft will be circulated ahead of the Board meeting in December, but after the Benchlearning Working Group meeting 23 November 2016.

ITEM 14: PES Network Work Programme 2017

ICF presented the purpose, characteristics and examples of learning activities, also reflecting on feedback from PES on the Mutual Learning events. The **PES Secretariat** presented the proposed shortlist of Mutual Learning activities for 2017. The AFEPA's endorsed the proposed shortlist.

Action points and next steps:

The PES Secretariat will circulate the full draft 2017 Work Programme to the AFEPA's for comments, ahead of circulation to the Board.

The March AFEPA meeting will include a discussion of the evaluation results and longer-term Mutual Learning strategy.

ITEM 15: Communication from the EC: the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative three years on and European Solidarity Corps (President Juncker's state-of the union speech)

COM presented the recent Commission report on the Youth Guarantee/Youth Employment Initiative and presented the proposal to establish a European Solidarity Corps. The presentation can be found on the AFEPA extranet.

ITEM 16: Employ ID – presentation of the project

The Employ ID project leaders presented this initiative. The aim of the Project is to provide front line PES practitioners with additional skills to face the challenges of assisting clients in a rapidly changing labour market. The technology enables participating counsellors to access an on-line learning platform including sharing experiences with colleagues. Upcoming activities include a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on The Changing World of Work in March 2017.

Representatives from PES Croatia, Slovenia, and UK presented their very positive experiences of piloting the system. The presentation, including contact details, can be found on the AFEPA extranet.

Action points:

AFEPAs were encouraged to follow up directly with the Employ ID project leaders and to keep the PES Secretariat informed.

AOB

Annie GAUVIN (FR) presented a brief update on the activities of the World Association of the PES (WAPES).

The next meeting of the AFEPAs will be in Brussels on 16-17 March 2017.