



Online meeting of the Advisers for European PES Affairs (AFEPAs)

30 March 2022– 10:00 – 11:30

Draft outcomes

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

Absent: BE-ADG, BE_VDAB, CZ, LI

ITEM 1: Introduction

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

ITEM 2: Update from the European Commission

Denis Genton (Head of Unit E1: Labour mobility, Public Employment Services, ELA) presented an update on initiatives and measures to support people affected by the situation in Ukraine with reference to the [Council implementing decision EU\(2022\)/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of mass influx of displaced people from UA \(...\) and having effect of introducing temporary protection](#). This decision provides to these people a legal right to stay in the EU and also enables access to education, training, labour market, healthcare, housing and social welfare. It also establishes a solidarity platform, with the participation of representatives from all Member States. The discussion so far has focused on emergency measures, the possibility for EU funding and cooperation mechanisms to help those most exposed Member States. The CARE and CARE+ funding initiatives were presented. These proposals should be adopted next week by the European Parliament and Council. In addition, the Commission adopted yesterday an indicative list of eligible activities per EU Fund (AMIF, ISF-Borders and Visa, ESF, FEAD, ERDF 2014-2020).

COM also presented the main points of the communication "[Welcoming those fleeing war in Ukraine: Readyng Europe to meet the needs](#)" adopted on 23rd March. This communication contains additional guidance on both the regulatory and funding aspects. It also contains a section on "access to job" with a reference to the PES and the PES network. Work is initiated in co-operation with the European Labour Authority, in particular in relation to tackling undeclared work.

Finally, COM informed about the initiatives taken in the areas of skills and recognition of qualifications. On 18th March, the Commission published a version in Ukrainian of the skills profile tool for third country nationals. The Commission will soon publish guidance on the recognition of professional qualifications and is also working together with the European Training Foundation (ETF) to compare the European qualification framework and the UA national qualification framework. Also with the support of the ETF, Europass / eportfolio and ESCO will be translated in Ukrainian.



In reply to the questions from the Afepas, COM confirmed that the Structural Funds managing authorities will be the contact points for any questions related to the CARE/CARE+ initiatives.

The PES secretariat will inform the PES network of any forthcoming initiatives, in particular those related to skills & recognition of qualifications, and share the link to COM new guidance to use of EU funds, including list of eligible expenditures per EU Fund.

ITEM 3: Update on developments in PES and highlights from the questionnaire on the Ukraine situation

PES secretariat presented the main results from the questionnaire on the Ukraine situation. PL presented a specific branch for Ukrainian citizens established by the local labour office in Warsaw and experiences so far. Afepas updated on the situation in their countries, and exchanged experiences.

ITEM 4: Follow-up and exchange on possible PES Network activities

The PES secretariat informed about an extra Jour Fixe for Heads of PES on the Ukrainian situation on 10 May about challenges, practices and possible co-operation (11.00-12.30).

The PES secretariat presented a few ideas about measures and initiatives that can be useful for PES to meet the new labour market challenges. This will be input to the Jour Fixe 10 May, possible PES Network activities or possible follow up by COM.

Afepas contributed with proposals and priorities. Particularly, regular exchange and updates through Afepa meetings, the questionnaire and/or a new collaborative platform (WikiPES) was highlighted.

The PES secretariat will launch an update of the questionnaire with deadline mid April. Afepas will be informed when the WikiPES is open.

Afepas were invited to send links relevant websites from their PES to a dedicated EU landing page by 1 April.