

Eurofound News



European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Issue 10, November–December 2009

DIRECTOR'S DIARY

In this, the final issue of *Eurofound News* for 2009, it is timely to take a look back at some of Eurofound's achievements over the year. In January, Eurofound launched its new four-year annual work programme, 'Europe at work: Better opportunities for all'. Over the course of the year, substantial progress was made on Eurofound's ongoing pan-European surveys: in March, the descriptive report for the second European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) was launched, while fieldwork was wrapped up for the second European Company Survey (ECS) 2009. At present, as the in-depth analysis reports of the second EQLS are being prepared for publication, Eurofound is preparing to launch the first findings from the ECS.

Assessing the impact of the economic downturn, and investigating practical responses to it, formed an important part of Eurofound's work in 2009. This culminated in the fourth Foundation Forum, held on 5–6 November, in which around 200 participants came together to discuss the theme of 'Global recession: Europe's way out'. At this high-level event, European policymakers, researchers and social partners examined whether there was a specifically European way out of the recession, one that could result in the creation of a more sustainable social model. The Forum also marked the launch of Eurofound's latest resource pack, which addresses the theme of recession and recovery. A conference report detailing the discussions that took place will be available online shortly, as will a number of video interviews with key speakers.

A crucial element in recovery is putting in place the necessary building blocks. The Foundation seminar series, in progress as *Eurofound News* goes to press, seeks to look beyond the current crisis and find ways to maintain levels of employment and skills for the future.

Jorma Karppinen
Director

Fighting recession, facilitating recovery

Younger men, with lower levels of education, working in manufacturing, have suffered most in terms of job loss in the current recession. Moreover, experience of previous recessions indicates that for some countries the likelihood of further increases in unemployment still looms, even as others are showing signs of an economic upturn.

Eurofound's new resource pack, *Sink or swim: recession and recovery in Europe*, launched at the fourth Foundation Forum in November, uses data from its European Restructuring Monitor (ERM) and other sources to present company-, national- and European-level approaches to softening the impact of the downturn and facilitating a timely exit from the recession. Reports and factsheets in the pack outline potential avenues for recovery, analyse the effects upon employment to date and prospects for the future, examine the role of social partnership in finding creative responses and look at how moves to a 'green' economy may also create sustainable jobs.

Read more at www.eurofound.europa.eu/press/eurofoundnews/2009/november/newsletter2.htm

EGF – assisting laid-off workers

The extra assistance in terms of financial and human resources made possible through the European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF) was an 'extremely valuable addition to other funding sources', according to key players involved in the process of assisting workers made redundant in two recent high-profile company restructuring cases.

A case study from Eurofound, *Added value of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: A comparison of experiences in Germany and Finland*, outlines the role that EGF funding played in integrating workers laid off from restructuring in companies in the mobile telephony sector – in BenQ in Germany, and Perlos in Finland. According to the research, a key element of the Fund's success in augmenting national and regional efforts was the extra time it allowed for training and for more individualised and in-depth assistance, especially for more vulnerable groups of workers. Overall, the EGF – in these cases at least – appears to have had a significant impact on the employability and well-being of workers who were made redundant.

Read more at www.eurofound.europa.eu/press/eurofoundnews/2009/november/newsletter3.htm

NEWS IN PICTURES

Debating Europe's exit strategy from recession



Taking part in a plenary debate at the fourth Foundation Forum held in Dublin on 5–6 November are (left to right)

Nicolas Schmit, Luxembourg's Minister for Labour, Employment and Immigration, **Jørgen Rønne**, Chair of Social Affairs Committee, BusinessEurope, **Robert Verrue**, Director General, DG Employment and **John Monks**, General Secretary, ETUC.

First findings of ECS to be launched

The first findings from Eurofound's *European Company Survey 2009* (ECS) are being launched at an event hosted by Eurofound on 15 December in Stockholm. The event, 'Company practices in the face of economic downturn', will outline findings from the survey of over 27,000 establishments in 30 European countries. Representatives of management and, where possible, employee representatives were interviewed in order to document company practices in working time arrangements, flexibility strategies, pay, and the role played by social dialogue. In addition to looking at the findings of the ECS, participants will also discuss such issues as the contribution that social dialogue can make to delivering change, the appropriate flexibility strategies for companies in a time of crisis, and whether so-called 'high performance' workplaces represent a path for future success.

For more information on the ECS, visit www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/companysurvey/2009/index.htm

Calling all providers of research services

Eurofound has launched a call for expressions of interest (CEI) from the providers of research services. The topics to be researched are 'employment growth and demand and supply of labour', 'more and better jobs and higher productivity through partnership', 'promoting social inclusion and sustainable social protection' and 'monitoring and survey research activities'. On the basis of the CEI, Eurofound will create a shortlist of candidates, who may be invited at a future date to supply a proposal for a specific procurement procedure; this shortlist may be used for a range of different procurement procedures over a three-year period.

Full details are available at www.eurofound.europa.eu/about/procurement/cei.htm

Childcare workshop in Brussels

Early childhood services can provide vital support – both educational and social – to parents. Eurofound is hosting a workshop on 27 November in Brussels to look at the role that such services play, and discuss how they can contribute to more effective parenting. The workshop will hear from policymakers and experts working in the field, who will present and discuss examples of good practice.

For more information, visit www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/2009/childhoodscs/index.htm

Dataset from second EQLS available online

Datasets derived from Eurofound's second European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) are now available for use from the UK Data Archive, on the University of Essex's website. This is part of Eurofound's ongoing policy to make datasets and documentation from its pan-European surveys available for third-party use (following its own publication of the main analytical reports). Also available on the site are datasets from the previous EQLS, as well as Eurofound's European Working Conditions Surveys and its first company survey.

You can register at www.esds.ac.uk/support/newuser.asp and access the datasets at www.esds.ac.uk/international/access/I33365.asp

'Living and Working' exhibition travels to Dublin

Eurofound's 'Living and Working in Europe' exhibition, first held in the European Parliament in Brussels in December 2008, travels to the offices of the European Commission Representation in Ireland in Dublin. The exhibition, which runs from 23–27 November, is accompanied by the report, *Living and working in Europe*, and a supplement looking in greater detail at the Irish situation. Read the full report at www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0890.htm, and the Irish supplement at www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0946.htm

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Swedish Presidency conference on family policy and children's rights
20 November, Stockholm, Sweden
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Workshop of the EU network of experts on family policies – Supporting families in times of economic crisis
26 November, Brussels, Belgium
European Commission

CLIP conference: 'Intercultural approaches to community-building and cohesion in European cities'
30 November–1 December, Brussels, Belgium
Eurofound own event

Round table and dialogue on urbanisation and refugees
8 December, Geneva, Switzerland
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

PUBLICATIONS

Added value of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: A comparison of experiences in Germany and Finland
www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0970.htm

Insolvency and restructuring in the Spanish real estate and construction sector: Martinsa-Fadesa
www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0992.htm

Restructurer en temps de récession – Rapport 2009 de l'ERM (résumé)
www.http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef09731_fr.htm

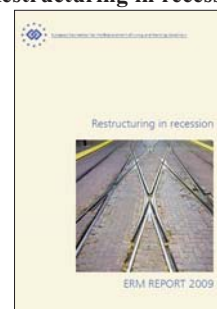
Tööttingimused ja sotsiaalne dialoog: Tähelepanekud, riiklikud raamistikud ja ettevõtte tasandi hea tava (Kommenteeritud kokkuvõte)
www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef09431_et.htm

Umstrukturierungen in der Rezession – ERM-Bericht 2009 (Zusammenfassung)
www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef09731_de.htm

Working conditions in the European Union: Working time and work intensity
www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0927.htm

Publication of the month

ERM report 2009: Restructuring in recession



www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0973.htm