

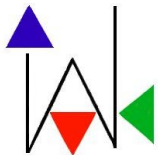
“Monitoring of Regional Labour Markets in Europe”
18th of September 2006 in Brussels, Belgium
Committee of the Regions



- Documentation -

**European Network for the Furthering of
Regional Labour Market Monitoring**

**Frankfurt am Main, Germany
September 2006**



Institut für Wirtschaft,
Arbeit und Kultur

IWAK Frankfurt

European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring

Frankfurt, 25th of September 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

we would like to provide you with a short summary of our workshop on "Monitoring of Regional Labour Markets in Europe" on 18th September 2006 in Brussels. This meeting, considered as the continuation of the conference which took place in Frankfurt last March, was the opportunity for specifying further the subjects and the modes of exchange within the network.

It was intended as a forum for experts from different European countries, who work in the field of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in research, planning and practice and for those interested in this field.

We are convinced that we have made some progress in conceptualising monitoring in more detail, and progress in deepening our exchange of experience and also in establishing a continuous discussion.

Our meeting has shown that labour market monitoring is of growing importance for regions as well as for the European Union, even for the Committee of the Regions (CoR) it is of great interest. Dr. Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the CoR emphasized the importance with his statement at the beginning of our meeting.

We appreciated very much that the Committee of the Regions was so kind to host us at this day, and we have to thank as well Prof. Dr. Patrizio di Nicola, who offered to organise the workshop of the European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring 2007 in Rome. Translake will continue to organise the web site. The working groups started diverse activities. Therefore, we are much looking forward to an ongoing cooperation within the European for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Alfons Schmid
Johann Wolfgang Goethe - University

Dr. Christa Larsen,
Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)

Waldemar Mathejczyk,
Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)

Contents

Programme	03
List of Participants	04
Opening Address	05
Welcome Address	08
Review & Objectives	10
Working Group Members	14
Working Group Results	15
Next Steps	20
Results from Discussion	22
Internet Platform	23
<i>Besides the Workshop:</i>	
The European Network	24
The Anthology	25

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Monday, 18th of September 2006 - Programme

- 09:30 h Registration and Refreshment -

10:30 h Welcome

*Dr. Gerhard Stahl, Committee of the Regions, Secretary General
Prof. Dr. Alfons Schmid, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt*

11:00 h Review and Objectives

Dr. Christa Larsen, Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)

11:30 h Working Group 1 „Regional Forecasting“,

Dr. Frank Cörvers, Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA) / Maastricht University

11:30 h Working Group 2 „Standardisation“,

Prof. Dr. Marco Ricceri, EURISPES, General Secretary

11:30 h Working Group 3 „Communication and Dissemination of Information“,

Jörg Michel, agentur mark

11:30 h Working Group 4 „Specific Target Groups“,

Birgit Steppich, German Pension Insurance

- 13:30 h Lunch Break -

14:15 h Presentation of Results from the Working Groups at Plenary Assembly

- *Speakers of the Working Groups* -

15:15 h Next Steps

Waldemar Mathejczyk, Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)

16:15 h Closing Speech

Prof. Dr. Alfons Schmid, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt

- 16:30 h Coffee Break - 17.00 h End -

18/09/2006 - Network of Regional Labour Monitoring in Europe

BEL 53 - 9.00 - 17.00

This is a meeting of actors (representatives of the regions, scientists, experts of public labour administration and other interested parties) in the field of Regional Labour Market Monitoring from different European countries. The general aim of this meeting is to do the first steps toward creating a European Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring. In the plenary assembly the working groups will present their work programme, participants will assess which subjects should be covered by annual conferences in 2007/2008 and decide on furthering strategies.

Ceci une réunion des acteurs (les représentants des régions, des scientifiques, des experts en travaux publics dans l'administration et d'autres personnes intéressées) présents dans le domaine de l'observation du marché de l'emploi régional de différents pays européens. Le but général de cette réunion est fonder les premières étapes vers la création d'un réseau européen pour la promotion de la surveillance régionale de marché du travail. Dans l'assemblée plénière, les groupes de travail présenteront leur programme de travail, les participants évalueront quels sujets devraient être couverts par des conférences annuelles au cours de 2007 et 2008 et décider de promouvoir des stratégies.

Organisateurs: Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture / Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt;
Prof. Dr. Alfons Schmid, Dr. Christa Larsen, Waldemar Mathejczyk

http://www.cor.europa.eu/de/activities/conferences_expo.htm#september

Participants of the Meeting in Brussels, 18th of Sept. 2006

Mr	Thomas	Behrens	Arbetsmarknadsverket, County Labour Board	Malmö, Sweden	
Mr	Marc	Bittner	Paul Lazarsfeld Society for Social Research	Vienna, Austria	
Mr	Dr	Frank	Cörvers	Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market	Maastricht, Netherlands
Ms	Anna	Constable	Committee of the Regions	Brussels, Belgium	
Mr	Peter	de Bruin	Activa	Enschede, Netherlands	
Ms	Bénédicte	Delneste	C2R Bourgogne	Dijon, France	
Mr	Prof Dr	Patrizio	di Nicola	Universita' di Roma La Sapienza	Roma, Italy
Mr	Bernard	Hillau	CEREQ, Chargé de mission "décentralisation"	Marseille, France	
Ms	Dr	Milada	Horáková	Výzkumný ústav práce a sociálních věcí	Praha, Czech Republic
Mr	Carsten	Kampe	Landesagentur für Struktur und Arbeit (LASA) Brandenburg	Potsdam, Germany	
Ms	Prof Dr	Marina	Kargalova	Institute of Europe RAS	Moscow, Russia
Ms	Dr	Barbara	Kolzarek	agentur mark	Hagen, Germany
Mr	Dr	Uwe	Kühnert	LASA Brandenburg	Potsdam, Germany
Ms	Dr	Christa	Larsen	Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture IWAK	Frankfurt/M, Germany
Mr	Jean-Luc	Malvache	Research Institute Labour, Education, Participation	Recklinghausen, Germany	
Mr	Waldemar	Mathejczyk	Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)	Frankfurt, Germany	
Mr	John	McGrath	FAS Baggot	Dublin, Ireland	
Mr	Jörg	Michel	agentur mark	Hagen, Germany	
Ms	Teresa	Muñoz	Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología en Extremadura	Badajoz, Spain	
Ms	Dr	Katalin	Nagy	Kopint-Datorg Foundation for Economic Research	Budapest, Hungary
Mr	Dr	Olaf	Richter	Privatinstitut für Regional- und Unternehmensentwicklung Chemnitz GmbH	Chemnitz, Germany
Mr	Prof Dr	Marco	Ricceri	EURISPES General Secretary	Roma, Italy
Mr	Prof Dr	Alfons	Schmid	Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University	Frankfurt/M, Germany
Mr	Karsten	Schuldt	PIW	Teltow, Germany	
Mr	Jan	Slodowicz	translake GmbH	Konstanz, Germany	
Mr	Jonathan	Schulz	translake GmbH	Konstanz, Germany	
Mr	Dr	Gerhard	Stahl	Committee of Regions - Secretary General	Brussels, Belgium
Ms	Birgit	Steppich	German Pension Insurance	Berlin, Germany	
Ms	Dr	Monika	Stricker	Internationales Bildungsmanagement Competence Center EUROPA (CCE)	Siegen, Germany
Ms	Olga	Strietska-Ilina	Skillsnet	Brussels, Belgium	
Ms	Dr	Silke	Tönshoff	Committee of Regions	Brussels, Belgium
Mr	Jan	Ulatowski	GSA Gesellschaft für Struktur- und Arbeitsmarktentwicklung mbH	Schwerin, Germany	
Ms	Teresa	Muñoz	Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología en Extremadura	Badajoz, Spain	
Mr	Markus	Weißkopf	translake GmbH	Konstanz, Germany	

European Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring

Opening Address (The spoken word applies.)

- Brussels, 18th of September 2006 -

Committee of the Regions

Dr. Gerhard Stahl

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to address you at this occasion and to welcome you here in the Committee of the Regions.

We are happy to support this initiative of Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

Regional diversity and the functioning of regional labour markets are issues at the very heart of the daily work at the Committee of the Regions.

Regional labour market diversity

Regional statistics provide us with a wide range of unemployment rates in EU 25 for the NUTS 2 level regions between 2.4% in the south-western UK region of Dorset and Somerset and 24.9% in the south-western Polish region of Dolnoslaskie.¹

An unemployment rate below half of the EU-25 level can be observed in 43 regions out of the 250 studied in the EU Labour Force Survey and a rate of over 18,4%, what is twice as high as the overall EU-25 level, can be found in 21 regions.²

There is a considerable range in the level of economic activity between the regions.

Looking at priority or target groups for labour market initiatives, regional diversity continues:

¹ Eurostat, Regional unemployment in the European Union and candidate countries in 2004.

² Eurostat, Regional unemployment in the European Union and candidate countries in 2004.

Female unemployment ranked again lowest in Dorset and Somerset (UK) while it was with 27% highest in the Spanish region of Extremadura. Unemployment among young people (aged 15-24) was lowest with 5.4% in Zeeland (NL) and highest with 49% in Dytiki Makedonia in Greece. - I will stop here with the statistics.

Providing policy makers with analysis and data on current and regional labour market developments is a prerequisite for increasing the effectiveness of employment policies.

Diversity in labour markets starts with the very different institutional features which affect labour and employment policy at the regional level. They include such facts as

- The degree of decentralisation
- The degree of administrative flexibility
- Management by objectives versus management by programmes
- The structure of funding mechanisms
- The role of tripartite arrangements

Labour market monitoring has to pay attention to all these aspects.

Diversity leads to the fact that it is impossible to copy good practices without adapting them to the specific needs of the respective region but careful analysis and adaptation of good practices is necessary and a lot of information has to be gathered on a European-wide level. These are all issues we are working on here at the Committee of the Regions.

The role of the Committee of the Regions

Let me just briefly provide you with an overview on the functions of the Committee of the Regions.

The Committee of the Regions is the voice of local and regional authorities in the European policy-making. Established in 1994, the CoR was set up to address two main issues. *Firstly*, about three quarters of EU legislation is implemented at local or regional level, so it makes sense for local and regional representatives to have a say in the development of new EU laws.

Secondly, there were concerns that the public was being left behind as the EU steamed ahead. Involving the elected level of

government closest to the citizens was one way of closing the gap.

The Treaties oblige the Commission and Council to consult the Committee of the Regions whenever new proposals are made in areas with impact at regional or local level.

To date there are 10 such areas. *Economic and social cohesion and employment and social policy* are among them.

Outside these areas, the Commission, Council and European Parliament have the option to consult the CoR on issues if they see important regional or local implications.

The CoR can also draw up an opinion on its own initiative, which enables it to put issues on the EU agenda.

It also understands its role as a European platform and multiplier for local and regional issues, on the European level but also towards the regions and municipalities.

The upcoming Open Days between 9 and 12 of October are a living example of European governance and of the successful cooperation of European institutions, the Committee of the Regions, the Commission and the European Parliament with regional and local stakeholders: More than 135 offices of regions and cities in Brussels, over 5000 participants from 30 countries are expected to take part in this event.

Why is an exchange on the European level needed? And what can, what do we have to do on the European level?

There is a need to act European-wide, in all respect of regional differences but with a consciousness of the challenges common to all European regional authorities.

- The regional level has to be supported in the development of its social, economic and political framework conditions and responsibilities.
- Regional experiences in labour market initiatives have to have a platform on the European level.

The Committee of the Regions has elaborated in the past years a number of opinions on regional employment aspects and social inclusion and will continue to do so in the next years.

Topics covered in opinions have been of course the employment guidelines, economic migration,³ the development and restructuring of employment⁴, demographic change⁵

We are currently preparing the political debate on the following topics:

- Green Paper on Labour Law⁶
- Flexicurity initiative (foreseen for 2007)
- European year of equal opportunities

But we also engage ourselves very concretely in a monitoring exercise with regard to the regional and local dimension of the Lisbon Strategy.

The CoR Lisbon Monitoring Platform

In March 2005, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union approved the European Commission's proposal for a revised Lisbon Strategy, which is based on a three-year governance cycle (2005-2008).

The need for increased ownership at all levels of government has been recognized as one of the key factors for the Strategy's success.

In this context, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) undertook two major initiatives:

- a survey on the involvement of local and regional authorities in the preparation of the National Reform Programmes (September 2005) and
- an analysis of the local and regional dimensions of the Member States' submitted National Reform Programmes (December 2005).

Both these initiatives raised considerable concern regarding the level of consultation of local and regional authorities in the preparation of the National Reform Programmes and the limited consideration that seemed to be paid to local and regional contributions.

³ CdR 82/2005 fin Green Paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration

⁴ CdR 148/2005 fin ECOS-047 Communication from the Commission – Restructuring and employment – Anticipating and accompanying restructuring in order to develop employment: the role of the European Union

⁵ CdR 152/2005 fin Green Paper on Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations

⁶ Expected for the 18th of October

A combination of the concerning survey and NRP report results (2005) and the 2006 Spring European Council's request for a summary report in support of the Partnership for growth and jobs *prompted* the CoR's commitment to monitor, over the current 2005-2008 governance cycle, the involvement of the regional and local levels in the governance process of the growth and jobs strategy (National Reform Programmes) and of the Cohesion Policy (National Strategic Reference Frameworks and operational programmes).

The CoR Lisbon monitoring platform was launched at the CoR's first Territorial Dialogue on 1 March 2006 and intends to run at least until the end of the first 3-year governance cycle (until 2008).

The CoR contracted a research team⁷ to set up this monitoring system. In order to make a scientific and valid comparison, EU regions were classified into 11 groups⁸ using indicators based on macro-economic micro-economic and employment data.

The platform, primarily electronic in nature, will be accessible through the CoR website. It is expected to be operational in October 2006.

It will serve as a useful operational tool for regional and local authorities across the EU, containing

- detailed regional statistical data,
- a documentation centre and
- interactive forums, through which regional/local representatives will be able to exchange information (best practices, challenges) on Lisbon-related subjects.

State of Play

To date, 140 regional and local authorities have expressed an interest to participate in the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform. 60 local and regional authorities have been selected to participate this year in the Lisbon Monitoring Platform.

⁷ Lacave Allemand & Associés in cooperation with MERIT, United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology

⁸ Manufacturing Platforms, Tertiary-oriented Cohesion, Science & Services, Central Techno, Employability, Experienced and Qualified, Accession, Peripheral & Rural, Government Services, High-Tech, Hubbing Dynamics

What do we aim at with this monitoring exercise?

- Monitoring the progress of the Member States' Implementation of the Growth and Jobs Strategy from the regional and local authorities' perspective;
- Monitoring the involvement of the regional and local level in the governance process of the Cohesion Policy (National Strategic Reference Frameworks and operational programmes);
- Examining the evolving relationship between the Lisbon Strategy and the Cohesion Policy and how this may affect local and regional authorities;
- Identifying specific trends amongst the 11 groups of classified regions and local authorities;
- Identifying the obstacles encountered by regional and local authorities in implementing the Lisbon Strategy, voice these politically and find realistic and valid solutions;
- Mobilising the regional and local level to exchange information (best practices, challenges);
- Creating a productive network of regional and local authorities whose experiences and contributions will feed into CoR Lisbon-related political messages;
- Providing the local and regional level with an argumentative base in their national debates.

How can you as research institutes, experts in public administrations and consultancies cooperate with the Committee of the Regions?

It is a pleasure for me to open this workshop because we here at the Committee of the Regions are aiming at increased contacts with experts in specific policy areas and the academic world and we have designed a number of instruments to provide scientific backing for our consultative function such as research grants for politically relevant topics, framework contracts and the cooperation and participation in specific networks. You can find all this information on our website or you can address my colleagues of the studies unit who will be happy to direct you to the right information. - Thank you very much for your attention. I wish you a very successful day.

**European Network for the Furthering of
Regional Labour Market Monitoring**

Welcome Address (The spoken word applies.)

- Brussels, 18th of September 2006 -

Committee of the Regions

Prof. Dr. Alfons Schmid

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you at the committee of the regions in Brussels again. Most of you already participated in Frankfurt. Some of you are new participants: welcome to our network. In our network of regional labour market monitoring are participants of 17 European countries. Therewith the network has reached a good position to further regional monitoring in Europe.

For the new participants I may shortly introduce myself: My name is Alfons Schmid. I am Professor at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt and I teach Economics at the faculty of social sciences. I am also director of the Institute of Economics, Labour and Culture.

Our second meeting today in Brussels confirms that our topic, establishing and furthering regional labour market monitoring, is of considerable relevance and of growing importance for European regions. It also shows that there is a need for an exchange of experiences concerning methods and concepts of monitoring between European countries and regions. At least it is apparent that a European network of regional labour market monitoring is needed to establish monitoring in European regions.

Before introducing into the topics of our meeting today I would like to thank the committee of the regions, that the meeting of the „European Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring“ can take place in Brussels. Especially we have to thank the Secretary General Mr. Stahl and his colleagues for the organisation of this meeting.

In my opinion there are common interests of the committee and the network to establish labour market monitoring in Europe regions. The increased importance of regions in global competition and in the European community implies to strengthen factors which improve the regional competitiveness; regional labour market monitoring is such a factor. The committee represents the European regions in the European community. The network of regional labour market monitoring further the competitiveness of regions by improving the efficiency of regional labour markets through monitoring.

There are common interests between both institutions. Therefore I believe a continuous cooperation between the Committee of the Regions and the European network of labour market monitoring will have a win-win-situation for both organisations and especially for the European regions. A first step for cooperation is our meeting today.

Now I would like to give you a short introduction into our meeting. In Frankfurt the participants agreed to establish a European network and to prepare this workshop to deepen our discussion on this issue, to identify main fields which should be dealt with in greater detail, to establish a communication system including an own homepage.

At this point here I would to thank 'translake' from Lake Constance Area for establishing and maintaining the homepage of the network.

We agreed that the following points are relevant for our topic:

Improving the functioning of regional labour markets and the efficiency of regional labour market policies

We identified as basic elements of a concept of regional labour market monitoring:

- information
- communication
- forecasting and
- diagnoses.

We agreed that we should specify common features in small work groups and discussing the concept at an annual conference.

We also agreed that we need a theoretical foundation to regional labour market monitoring; information economics is an adequate base for such a concept.

Meanwhile these tasks had been specified. Four main topics have been identified in this exchange which are crucial for a regional labour market monitoring and which should be discussed in more detail. These four topics are the main task for this meeting in the four work groups.

I would like to thank the participants of this exchange and especially the speakers of the 4 working groups:

- It is Dr. Frank Cörvers, Frank Cörvers is from Maastricht University, especially from the Research Center for Education and the Labour Market. Working Group “Regional Forecasting”.
- Then it is Professor Ricceri from Rome. Marco Ricceri is General Secretary of EURISPES, EURISPES is also an important network in the field of Labour Market Affairs. Working Group “Standardization”.
- The third speaker is Jörg Michel. Jörg Michel is expert for labour market analysis at the agentur mark. agentur mark is an agency for various innovative projects related to regional developments of labour market in Northrhine-Westfalia. Working Group “Communication and Dissemination Strategies”.
- And last not least, Birgit Steppich from Berlin, from the Deutsche Rentenversicherung (German Pension Insurance) is the speaker of the fourth Working group. She is expert on labour market, and at present conducting a project called “Smart Regions”. Working Group “Specific Target Groups”.

I believe that this workshop will contribute to develop and implement a concept of regional labour market monitoring which is accepted and used in the European regions. I hope and I expect that cooperation with the Committee of the regions will help to achieve this aim.

Thank you for your interest.

Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in European States

Meeting in Brussels - 18th of September 2006

Review and Objectives

Christa Larsen
Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)
Frankfurt a.M., Germany



IWAK Institut für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Kultur - Frankfurt am Main

1

Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in European States

Contents

1. Current Developments and Regional Labour Market Monitoring
2. The Network
3. Benefits for Network Members
4. Review on Activities
5. Objectives of the Meeting
6. The Network beyond Brussels



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2

Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in European States

1. Current Developments and Regional Labour Market Monitoring

- Processes of regionalisation and decentralisation
- Extension of the European Union
- Increasing (cross-border) mobility
- Difficult labour market integration of certain target groups (for example younger and older employees, migrants)

Multiple approaches and concepts of Labour Market Monitoring have the potential to analyse these processes and their consequences for regional labour markets.



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3

1. The Network

- 17 Different European countries
- 38 Research institutions, agencies and administrative bodies
- 120 Members, thereof 40 active members and 80 associates
- 30 Related strategic actors

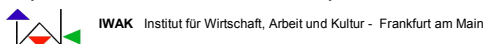
- Founded in March 2006



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2. Benefits for Network Members

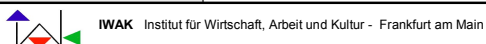
1. Overview on approaches and projects of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in Europe and simplified access for project actors to exchange information and experiences
2. Easy way to find qualified partners for research projects in a variety of European countries
3. Support of conceptual work on relevant topics by combining international, interdisciplinary, theoretical and applied approaches
4. Fast access to new findings and research results in Regional Labour Market Monitoring
5. Raises the importance of the topic through lobbying as a precondition for better acceptance and funding



5

3. Review on Activities

Benefits	Activities (March – September 2006)
Overview on projects	Internet-based virtual forum http://www.lmm.translake.org
Finding research partners	Proposal for the call on ‚Mutual Learning‘ within the framework of the EU-Employment Strategy
Support of conceptual work	Working groups on regional forecasting, standardisation, communication and target group monitoring
Access to new findings	Anthology ‚Monitoring of Regional Labour Markets in European States. Concepts, Experiences and Perspectives‘
Raise the importance	Presentation of the network at the EU-Commission and the Committee of the Regions



6

4. Objectives of the Meeting

General Targets

- Reflection on the current status of the network in a personal exchange among the active network members
- Laying conceptual and organisational groundwork for further establishment of the network



4. Objectives of the Meeting

Conceptual Dimension

- Specifying and deepening the topics of the working groups
- Discussing the subjects covered by annual conferences
- Reflecting on the profile of the network

Organisational Dimension

- Preparing the annual conferences 2007/2008
- Deciding on forums of exchange for the working groups
- Structuring the internal and the external communication
- Developing strategies for funding



5. The Network beyond Brussels

1. Integration and deepening of central topics in concepts and approaches

- Topics: cross-border migration, target-groups, employment structures
- Instruments: virtual forum of the network, trans-national (research) co-operations, working groups

2. Adaptation of concepts and approaches to changes in frameworks of implementation and operation

- Changes of spatial units, policy and decision makers
- Working groups, conferences



Network for the Furthering of Regional Labour Market
Monitoring in European States

5. The Network beyond Brussels

3. Continuity of existing projects and expansion in other European States

- Lobbying in institutions and pressure groups on the EU-level and in the regions
- Extension of the network

4. Stabilisation of the network

- Structures for communication
- Financial Stability



IWAK Institut für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Kultur - Frankfurt am Main

10

Network for Furthering of Regional Labour Market
Monitoring in European States

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IWAK Institut für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Kultur - Frankfurt am Main

11

Working Group Members

			A-Z	Working Group No. 1 "Regional Forecasting"
Mr		Thomas	Behrens	County Labour Board
Mr	Dr	Frank	Cörvers	Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA)
Ms		Bénédictte	Delneste	C2R Bourgogne
Mr		Carsten	Kampe	Landesagentur für Struktur und Arbeit (LASA) Brandenburg
Mr	Dr	Ben	Kriechel*	Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA)
Mr	Dr	Uwe	Kühnert	Landesagentur für Struktur und Arbeit (LASA) Brandenburg
Mr		John	McGrath	FAS Baggot
Ms	Dr	Katalin	Nagy	Kopint-Datorg Foundation for Economic Research
Mr	Dr	Olaf	Richter	Privatinstitut für Regional- und Unternehmensentwicklung Chemnitz GmbH
Mr	Prof Dr	Alfons	Schmid	Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University
Mr		Paul	Schatteman*	Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap
Mr		Karsten	Schuldt	PIW
Mr		Jan	Slodowicz	translake GmbH
Ms		Olga	Strietska-Ilina	Skillsnet
Mr		Jan	Ulatowski	GSA Gesellschaft für Struktur- und Arbeitsmarktentwicklung mbH
			13 (15)	*not able to come to Brussels, but participate in working group
			A-Z	Working Group No. 2 "Standardisation"
Mr		Marc	Bittner	Paul Lazarsfeld Society for Social Research
Ms	Dr	Christa	Larsen	Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture IWAK
Mr	Prof Dr	Ronald W.	McQuaid*	Employment Research Institute
Mr	Prof Dr	Marco	Ricceri	EURISPES
Mr		Jonathan	Schulz	translake GmbH
			4 (5)	*not able to come to Brussels, but participate in working group
			A-Z	Working Group No. 3 "Communication/Dissemination"
Ms	Dr	Renate	Dohmen-Burk*	City of Ludwigshafen, Urban Development Department
Ms	Prof Dr	Marina	Kargalova	Institute of Europe RAS
Ms	Dr	Barbara	Kolzarek	agentur mark
Mr		Waldemar	Mathejczyk	Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)
Mr		Jörg	Michel	agentur mark
Mr		Markus	Weißkopf	translake GmbH
			5 (6)	*not able to come to Brussels, but participate in the working group
			A-Z	Working Group No. 4 "Specific Target Groups"
Mr		Peter	de Bruin	Activa
Ms		Anna	Constable	Committee of the Regions
Mr	Prof Dr	Patrizio	di Nicola	Universita' di Roma La Sapienza
Mr		Michael	Gebel*	University of Mannheim / Mannheim Centre for European Social Research
Mr		Bernard	Hillau	CEREQ, Chargé de mission "décentralisation"
Ms	Dr	Milada	Horáková	Výzkumný ústav práce a sociálních věcí
Mr		Jean-Luc	Malvache	Research Institute Labour, Education, Participation (FIAB)
Ms		Mirena	Stavreva*	National Employment Agency
Ms		Birgit	Steppich	German Pension Insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund)
Ms	Dr	Monika	Stricker	bfw Competence Center EUROPA (CCE)
Ms		Teresa	Muñoz	Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología en Extremadura
				*not able to come to Brussels, but participate in working group

Summary of the discussion and conclusions of the working groups

Summary of the discussion and conclusions of the working group nr. 1, on regional forecasting

Dr. Frank Cörvers, Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA) Maastricht University

Current situation

- The participants in the working group have very different background: private institutions, research institutes, universities and governmental bodies.
- What is a forecast? Most participants interpret a forecast as an early warning for the actors on the labour market.
- What is region? In Ireland is a lot of mobility. Therefore there are less differences within Ireland than within the region of e.g. Brandenburg. There is also an example of a region that consists of parts of two countries (Denmark and Sweden for Aarhus and Malmö).
- What regional information should be provided? There are many differences. Short term, medium term and long term forecasts. Macro-economic variables at the regional level, migration flows, available labour force, information from firms surveys (incl. forecasts by employers), etc.
- Top-down or bottom-up modelling? For top-down approach similar models and classifications and one big data set should be used. Is enough consistent information available for all regions? In the bottom-up

approach it is very difficult to compare all regions due different definitions of indicators, classifications, models, questionnaires, stakeholders, etc.

Future of the network with regard to regional forecasting

There are different ideas:

- Start with a simple and flexible forecasting method. A topic for the next workshop could be: exchange of methods.
- Added value of forecasting information is low relative to the costs of building forecasting models. It would be better to focus on the exchange of best practices in regions.
- Do not limit ourselves to forecasting. It would be better to consider regional monitoring including information from surveys.
- Cedefop has done a lot of discussion and research on harmonizing forecasting concepts at the national level. It turns out that it is impossible to harmonize concepts, definitions, data sets, classifications, at least in the short term. See the Cedefop publications.

The overall conclusion is that there is some interest in organising a conference on regional labour market monitoring including forecasting.

To make sure that some benchmarking is possible between regions, start with simple data collection (including case studies) and simple forecasting methods.

Summary of the discussion and conclusions of the working group nr. 2, on standardisation

*Prof. Dr. Marco Ricceri, EURISPES;
Dr. Christa Larsen, Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)*

1. Where is standardisation necessary?

On a regional level: Within single regions one could find a variety of data to describe regional labour markets. The data could however be redundant, inconsistent or simply not suitable to the needs of regional actors. In most cases there is also no chance to use this data to compare regions. Standards related to data, data generation and data analysis as well as to communication would help to improve the regional information situation considerably.

On the Level of the EU: Instruments and concepts for the conduct of Regional Labour Market are very diverse. There is a need to find commonalities among them. Derived from this one could define standards which could be the basis for a European Concept of Regional Labour Market Monitoring. To have such a concept is important when we are looking for acceptance and funding on the EU-Level and also to have some means in hand to support the implementation of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in states which do not have it yet.

The working group agreed that its work should provide some solutions for regions and also some standards which are relevant for the EU-Level.

2. Which is the approach of the working group?

On the example of mobility the exploration and definition of standards should take place. This means that the working group intends to collect data and information and to create standardisation by taking attention to the keywords of the Lisbon strategy.

This subject oriented approach is considered to be a useful bases for finding funding on a short- or midterm perspective. The understanding of Mobility includes cross-border and interregional labour force migration on a temporary or on a permanent level.

3. Which is the structure of the working programme?

First Step: Categories which are relevant for standardisation will be defined in an E-Mail-exchange among the working group members. Marc Bittner will start. Categories could be data, instruments for data generation and analysis, communication, information users etc. Duration should be not longer than 4-6 weeks.

Second Step: All the network members will be ask to give information on if and when yes, how they cover the topic of mobility in their projects and approaches. The information should be structured based on the above defined categories. All the network members will get an E-Mail and will also be informed via the electronic forum which is located at Translake. The information can be put into the virtuell forum. Jonathan Schulz from Translake will develop and provide such a template. The data collection should be finished by the end of 2006.

Third Step: Beginning of 2007 the information will be analysed. The focus will be on where one could already find standards and where one find none.

Fourth Step: The results should be discussed with interested network members and others like economic and social actors (unions, enterprises associations) as well as specialised agencies of the regions on a workshop which could be in Brussels best in early summer 2007.

Fifth Step: The results of the analysis and the workshop discussion will be documented in a small booklet.

Sixth Step: Based on the booklet the working group members will look for funding. Funding should help to conduct a project in which standards in the different categories could be developed. A special focus will be on how standards could be defined for empirical social research.

Outside of the six steps the working group will do two other projects. Firstly, it will prepare a documentation which gives an overview on how regional labour market monitoring is performed by public administration in the different European States. With this it should be

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shown that there is a 'chaotic' situation and that there is a need for standardisation. The results will be documented and be used for providing decision makers with the awareness that research has to be done in the area of standardisation. Secondly, there is work already in progress. It is an background study in which the real complexity and the entity of the chaos in the field of standardisation (with negative effects on previsions, programmes and actions) is analysed. The results will be documented and be addressed to the EU-Authorities. Marco Ricceri will be leading both projects.

4. Which strategic contacts should be built?

Central actors on the EU-Level should be informed about the work on standardisation within the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring. Firstly, there will be made a contact with Euro-Stat. Christa Larsen from IWAK will do this. It is planned that all members of the working group will spread in their circles, especially to the organisations which operate on the EU-Level, the information about the working group on standardisation etc.

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Summary of the discussion and conclusions of the working group nr. 3, on dissemination of information from labour market monitoring systems

Jörg Michel, agentur mark

Idea:

Survey - Overview analysing the dissemination strategies of the network members

Goals:

- Identify good practice,
- Identify common problems,
- Starting point for further research and analysis

Instrument: *Questionnaire*

Categories for the questionnaire with examples:

Methodological frame

- Supply- or demand-side oriented
- Data from own survey or processing of secondary data
- Quantitative or qualitative approach
- Constantly gathered and processed data
- Panel
- Oriented on branches or clusters or special target groups

Type of Region/Level

- State
- Administrative district (e.g. district of labour market agency)
- Municipality
- Cross-border region

Kind of users/recipients

- Politicians / political bodies
- Regional labour market players / decision makers or councils
- Institutions from educational and vocational training
- Companies / employers
- Employees or unemployed people
- The public
- Investors / stakeholders
- Not-Investors / Not-Stakeholders

Kind of information

- Data
- Thesis
- Recommendation for concrete action

Instruments

- Reports
- Homepage
- (Press-, Media) Publications
- Presentations (bilateral, workshops, round-tables)

Objectives of Labour Market Monitoring and dissemination of Labour Market Monitoring -Information

- Influence on long-term strategies
- Improve/initiate projects, measures (short-term)

Feed back process

- Constant feed-back from investors and users for continuous improvement and adjustment of information
- No feed back
- Dealing with feed-back

Time Schedule:

The questionnaire will be developed by members of the working group until to the end of 2006.

Summary of the discussion and conclusions of the working group nr. 4, Specific target groups

Birgit Steppich, Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund (German Pension Insurance Federal Institution)

Current situation

- The participants in the working group have a very different background: private institutions, research institutes, universities and governmental bodies.
- Also the chosen target groups within the project works of the members are different as well as the chosen regional level / unit of intervention and implementation.
- Despite of that there are quite different statistical systems and backgrounds/ frameworks (unemployment rate or political systems) in the nation states.
- Projects / implementation processes are in / at totally different stages.

Because of the variety of backgrounds and factors, the time was quite short for the very interesting discussion of the specific targets groups. We started with the presentations of our work experiences and the different target groups as planned. Because of the shortness of time we decided to exchange these experiences more detailed after the meeting via e-mail and concentrated more on possible ways of collaboration.

Roadmap and future activities / steps

It was difficult to come to “quick” conclusions, because the specific of the working group is that we deal with many different target groups; for example: older employees, young people or some focus more gender aspects. We came up, that we want to use the complete information and knowledge of the members of the working group and therefore we need more time to exchange information.

The second difficulty is that the members work is based on different levels. Some are view / build up on macro-economic facts / figures and some are more micro-economic orientated. We agreed that we want to find ways of concrete collaboration after we changed and analysed our experiences. Therefore every member will work out a structured table including a) national / regional situation and problems b) focussed target groups and c) experienced measures and good practice.

Basing on these findings we start to identify the fields of interest step by step in order to be able to compare the situation of the specific target groups. To find out successful indicators in order to make efforts for example concerning the field of unemployment of the specific target groups and in order to identify successful measures we want to develop a “toolbox” of good practice strategies and / or instruments.

We concluded that we want to start with 2-3 selected target groups on which we want to concentrate in a first step. After that we try to find funding possibilities to keep the work alive and generate more detailed information.

Next Steps (Organisational Tasks)

Waldemar Mathejczyk gave a short introduction to the points that had to be discussed. From his point of view there are four main topics. Annual meetings, Working Groups, Communication Form - that was connected with the question of a Network Coordinator - and Financial Resources.

Annual meetings

In Frankfurt we decided to organise a workshop nearby to the institutions of the European Union in Brussels. Now, the network members had to decide, whether they want to have a meeting in 2007.

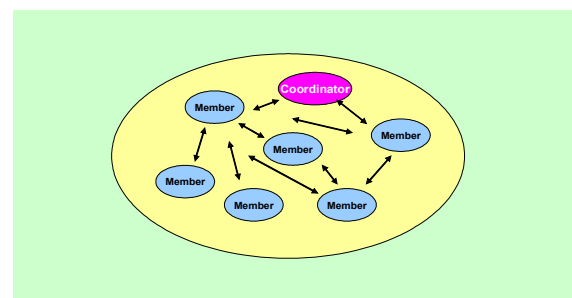
The structure of this annual meeting can be as it was in Brussels, with a plenary assembly at the beginning, followed by some space for the working groups, and a plenary assembly at the end. It also can be a short plenary assembly at the beginning, and a lot of time for the working groups, or just the opposite, as a large plenary assembly and less space for the working groups. It is also possible to take one main aspect from one working group as a focus for the conference, for example "Regional Forecasting – New Instruments and Methods".



Working groups

At present, the structure of the working groups is now like that: There is one speaker of the working group that is responsible for the working group until now, but the speaker of working group could become the coordinator of the working group, for a certain time, for example for 6 months or for one year, until to the next annual meeting. Than the next one can overtake this role.

The job of the coordinator of the working group is to keep the group together and to guarantee a certain amount of results. A further task of the coordinator of the working group is to organize an exchange with the other working groups, and in the context of the annual meeting, the coordinator of the working group should give an Input from the group. The working groups have to decide whether they want to meet again or not, but there are some aspects more they can decide on: Each working group can decide in what way they want continue their discussion that already started. Each working group can decide to have a meeting apart from the annual conferences, and what is the agenda like.



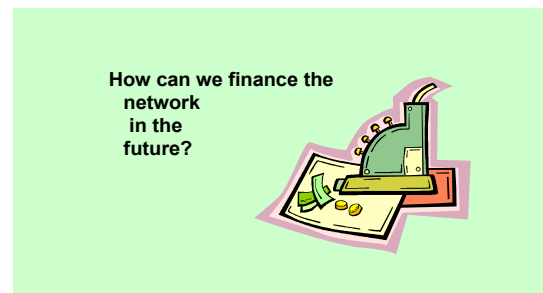
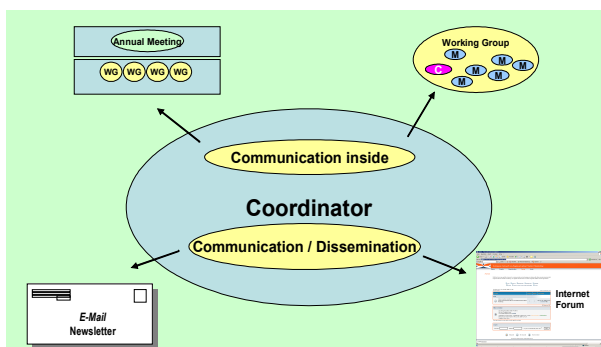
Communication

The third point is about communication and communication forms. The network has all sorts of communication forms, and mainly the communication inside the network is basing on E-Mails and telephone calls but also on having meetings with face to face communication (annual meetings), and an internet platform.

Generally, communications has two aspects: on the one hand communication inside the network and on the other hand communication from the network to the interested parties, persons and institutions. This includes dissemination of information about our activities and results of our work and information about the members institutions as a part of the network.

Regarding communication, until to now the network had one person (of the IWAK) for various things. On the long run, it is possible that

- the organizer of the annual meeting will take some tasks of communication
- the coordinator of the working group will take some tasks of communication
- the internet provider will take some tasks of communication,
- and one person (so called network coordinator) puts it all together.



Financial resources

Regarding financial resources it was pointed out that the network does not want to make profit for itself. Talking about financial resources means costs of the network means to organize meetings and exchange according to the objectives of the network. - There are three alternatives:

- The first alternative is that the network members finance the network activities from the resources of each institution. That is the way we did it until to now: IWAK invested into the organisation, and personal costs preparing the network. The network members invested time and travel costs.
- The second alternative is that the network members - or at least some of the network members - apply for projects in the field on Regional Labour Market Monitoring.
- The third alternative is that the network members try to get money for the network activities – or for certain network activities (conference, publication) – from e.g. a foundation, an institution or a ministry.

Results from discussions regarding organisational tasks

Annual Meeting

At the beginning the discussion was related to the annual meeting. Most of the members expressed their interest in having a further meeting in 2007. Prof. Dr. Patrizio di Nicola offered to organize the next meeting in Rome at the university (probably in the second week of September 2007). He asked the members for support concerning the structure of the meeting. Therefore, it was discussed that there could be some support concerning results from discussion in the working groups. Moreover there can be some support concerning information flow within the network by the network coordinator (see point 3).

Working Groups

The next questions were about the working groups. The working groups 2, 3 and 4 want to continue their discussions. In the working group 1 was some interest in organising a meeting (apart of the annual meeting) on regional labour market monitoring including forecasting.

The speakers Professor Dr. Marco Ricceri (2), Jörg Michel (3), and Birgit Stepich (4) will coordinate the working group until to the end of this year. Because of changes in their jobs they can not do it until to the next meeting. They will look for someone of the group to carry on the work. Dr. Frank Cörvers (1) will discuss with his colleagues at ROA, if it is possible to continue the working group. All working groups will organise themselves as a virtual working group. That means that they communicate via E-Mail and telephone.

Communication

The next questions were related to the forms of communication. As a result from discussion, IWAK will organise the communication inside and outside the network. Dr. Christa Larsen (or a colleague in the team of Prof. Dr. Alfons Schmid) will be the "network coordinator" until to the next meeting. This network coordinator will organize the communication with a) the working groups (see point 2), b) the internet provider, and c) the organizer of the annual meeting (see point 1) towards (1) the network members and (2) interested parties outside the network.

Translake will be the internet provider and organize the internet platform until to the next meeting. The speakers of the working groups (see point 2) will organize the communication within their working group by themselves.

Finances

The next question was related to the finances. There were no ideas about gaining money for the network at the moment, but there were some suggestions to develop a long term strategy.

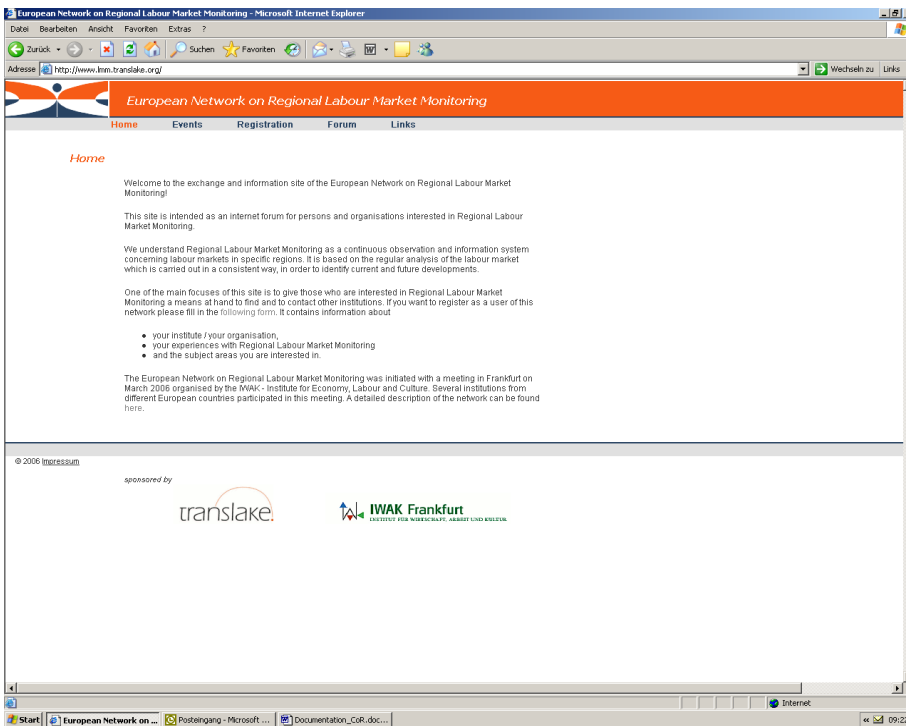
It was suggested that the network should have a formal structure, for instance by a declaration signed by each member institution. Prof. Dr. Marco Ricceri will propose a kind of statute. The long-term objective is that the network (or a part of it) will become a EU research group.

It was recommended that the contact to the National delegations of the Committee of the Regions should be intensified.

A contact should be made from the network to the 'European Foundation' in Dublin.

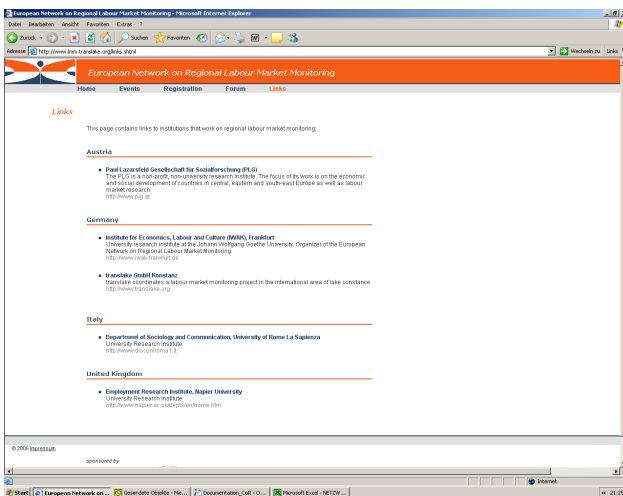
The Network in the Internet

Further Information:
Jonathan Schulz, *translake GmbH*
www.translake.org

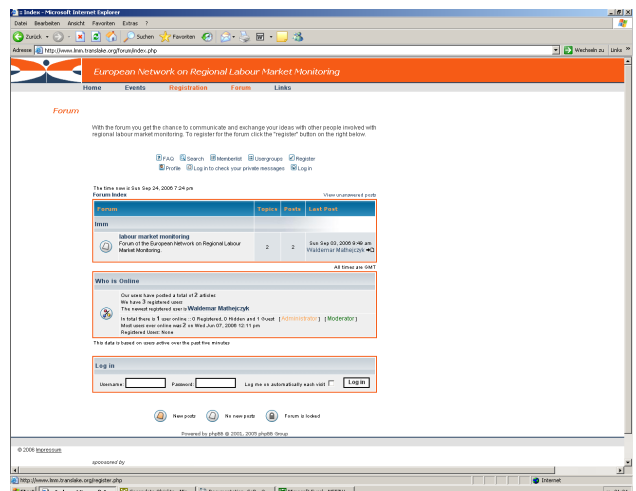


www.imm.translake.org

Registration: List of Network Members



Communication: Internet Forum



The European Network of Regional Labour Market Monitoring - A Brief Introduction -

Regional factors are crucial for the position of enterprises in highly competitive and turbulent markets. A major precondition for the functioning of regional labour markets is adequate information for all actors involved. Respective data have to be current, future-related, fitting the needs of both actors and decision-makers. **Regional Labour Market Monitoring** as an on-going practice can be seen as an approach to meet these requirements.



A variety of projects in this area have been set up in several European countries. Their purpose is to develop and implement sets of indicators for current and prospective regional employment, methods of data gathering and validation and instruments of reporting and dissemination. Although some of these approaches seem to be well-developed, there is obviously a lack of interconnection and cooperation between them. **There is no systematic exchange of concepts and experiences.**

Through a systematic and a continuous cooperation of actors from different projects considerable synergies among the approaches could be created. The dissemination of methods, concepts and know-how can be improved tremendously which would support the further establishment of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in European countries. **A continuous cooperation can be best achieved by a Regional Labour Market Monitoring network of involved and interested actors.**

The kick-off for building such a network was on **8th and 9th of March 2006** at the workshop 'Monitoring of Regional Labour Markets in Europe' at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University in **Frankfurt a.M. in Germany**. Around 80 participants from 17 different European countries discussed specific approaches of Regional Labour Market Monitoring in individual countries. Some basic features could be already identified as a starting point for the development of a European (meta) concept. **Many of the participants expressed their interest in a permanent network.**

The network members met again in **Brussels, Belgium** on **18th of September 2006** - at the Committee of the Regions - to decide on the further working programme of the network. More than 30 participants from 15 different European countries discussed specific topics of Regional Labour Market Monitoring. Four groups of experts worked on topics of Regional Forecast, Standardisation, Communication Strategies, and Specific Target Groups.

The building of this network is an ongoing process. One of the first activities necessary was to identify who of the interested persons will become actively involved in working groups or organisational tasks and will be an active network member. There is also the option to become an associate to the network who can receive the results which will be generated within the network.

The next meeting of the network will be in **Rome, Italy**, in **September 2007**, to discuss results of working groups and to prepare proposals for strategies towards political actors.

The network fulfills **three major functions**: Firstly, it supports the further development of methods and concepts by bringing scientists from different countries together. Secondly, it provides a space for the exchange of experiences from actors with different backgrounds, leading to transnational cooperations with a special focus on labour force migration within Europe. And thirdly, European standards in theory, methods, data generation and processing and the spread of information can be developed. This would ease transnational comparisons and benchmarking on one hand and set on the other hand the framework of a common European concept for conducting Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

These objectives would be achieved through various activities like **subject-specific small working groups, larger annual conferences and an internet platform**.

The working groups help to deepen the knowledge on specific topics, whereas the annual conferences provide an overview on the activities in the field.

The internet forum is the knowledge base of the network - it contains information on the regional monitoring activities in each European country, obtains contacts and allows short term and selective exchange.

The Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University and the Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK) both in Frankfurt a.M. are responsible for the coordination and communication in the network.

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Monitoring of Regional Labour Markets in European States

Concepts, Experiences and Perspectives

Rainer Hampp Verlag

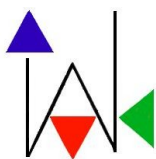
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