



## NETWORK ANTHOLOGY 2011

### **“MEASURING GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET MONITORING”**

#### ***Call for Articles***

The topic on which network activities will focus in 2011 is how labour mobility, especially cross-border mobility can be measured, and how these measures can be implemented, in approaches of Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

#### **Rationale for the Selection of the Topic**

Geographical labour mobility within Europe is still very low; estimates range from 1 to 3 per cent of the total labour force. Therefore, the topic is of high relevance for actors on the European and the national level. The Commission, for example, is very much concerned with initiatives to support the mobility of different target groups such as youth (YOUTH ON THE MOVE), highly qualified labour and experts. As there is currently, and even more in the near future, a deficit of skilled labour in most states, numerous national stakeholders are now very interested in attracting skilled labour from other states to compensate for their national deficits. In 2011, it will be especially interesting to follow the opening of the labour market borders in Germany and Austria for persons from new member states and to explore if this could accelerate mobility within western and central Europe. In the discourses on mobility, regions are rarely present although geographical mobility is relevant for regions and localities. For example, structurally weak areas very often face a strong out-migration, especially of young and skilled labour. To develop adequate measures for convincing people to stay in the region or to move to specific localities, it requires transparency on mobility behaviour. Such transparency could be provided with Regional Labour Market Monitoring. However, conceptualising and measuring geographical mobility is not well established in most regional monitoring systems. Most experienced are actors who conduct cross-border monitoring; most often in EURES-regions, such as in the Greater Region of Luxembourg-Germany-France-Belgium, the Lake Constance Area, the Oresund Region and the Vienna-Bratislava Area. They have to face the additional challenge of combining public data based on different national taxonomies.



## Articles for the Anthology

Against this background, the topic of measuring geographical mobility within Regional Labour Market Monitoring should be, in general, explored in the articles of the anthology. These articles will provide an overview on concepts, data and experiences with its applications in approaches of Regional Labour Market Monitoring. Thus, the guiding questions for the articles could be: (1.) how can geographical mobility be conceptualised and (2.) how can it be measured? This includes questions of what data is available or what data should be generated and who could be the potential users of such information? These questions could be differentiated by looking at various types of mobility like intra- and interregional, trans-regional or cross border mobility. Also a differentiation between groups like skilled, unskilled, youth, older employees and unemployed, migrants, women and men could provide further insights. All Network members who would like to contribute an article to the anthology on this theme are invited to contact the Network Coordinator, Ruth Hasberg, by the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2010. In March 2011, all interested parties will be provided with more information concerning the structure of the articles and the deadline for delivering the articles. If you know other persons who could provide an interesting input for the anthology, please feel free to distribute this information. In case there are further questions, please get in touch with Ruth Hasberg. Contact: Ruth Hasberg, IWAK (Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture, Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt/Main) [Hasberg@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:Hasberg@em.uni-frankfurt.de).