



## INITIATIVE NETWORKING REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE

A PROJECT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN NETWORK ON REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET MONITORING

To the representatives of Regional Labour Market Observatories:

In Europe, there are about 300 to 400 Regional Labour Market Observatories that generate data periodically to ensure transparency in the regional labour markets. In addition to information about branches, employees and unemployment; data on key industries and future qualifications are also taken into account. Regional Labour Market Observatories often work very isolated from each other. Thus, resources cannot be shared and it is not possible to find synergies through jointly developing concepts and implementation. Furthermore, differences in data concepts and structures between observatories and regions show up, creating more difficulties in trans-regional comparisons.

In 2009, the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring started the **Initiative Networking Regional Labour Market Observatories in Europe** in order to improve issues of structure, information and communication between observatories. This initiative should help to connect Regional Labour Market Observatories in Europe in a better and more systematic way. Exchange and common developments shall be provided and promoted. Furthermore, there is limited funding to evolve more concepts in most Regional Observatories. Therefore, the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring will provide concepts and findings for Regional Labour Market Observatories all over Europe. These concepts can be considered by the observatories and – if necessary – modified for use in different regions.

The first conceptual idea delivered to the Regional Labour Market Observatories is a **set of indicators** which can be applied in **youth monitoring**. Youth monitoring is now important in many European regions. This has particular relevance after the financial crisis as youth unemployment has increased significantly and employment for young people has become a difficult issue.

If you already have a Youth Monitor, you could evaluate the set of indicators based on your experiences or the set of indicators can also be used for upgrading existing regional monitoring systems with a youth monitor module. You are invited to explore and test, as well as to evaluate, the set of indicators until October 2011. It would be interesting to find out if these indicators are useful or relevant for your purposes and in how far there is adequate data to measure them.

There will be the opportunity for representatives of Regional Labour Market Observatories in Europe to discuss this set of indicators and the experiences with it during a conference. This conference will be held in Luxembourg on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 with experts from the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring and from the statistical and labour offices in Luxembourg. The guiding questions for the conference will be: which indicators are estab-



lished and proven, or which are not? Which problems exist with data and what are the strategies to handle data constraints?

We would be delighted if you would consider this offer and we look forward to hearing from you. Enclosed you will find documentation from the annual meeting of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring. There you will find ideas about youth monitoring and the set of indicators (pages 4 and 5). If you would like to get more information about this topic or if you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

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