

**ON-THE-MOVE – "The reality of free movement for young European citizens migrating in times of crisis"**

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**MANUAL**

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**Addressing myths and stereotypes among young people on the move**



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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
<b>Part A</b> .....	6
<b>Barriers that young people on the move face: Myths, stereotypes or reality?</b> .....	6
<i><b>Horizontal barriers</b></i> .....	6
Information.....	6
Bureaucracy.....	8
Discrimination & stereotypes.....	10
Language.....	11
<i><b>Sectoral barriers</b></i> .....	13
Employment .....	13
Health care .....	18
Housing.....	19
Welfare System .....	21
<b>Part B</b> .....	22
<b>Country information (A-Z) for young people on the move</b> .....	22
Austria .....	22
Belgium.....	23
Bulgaria.....	24
Cyprus.....	25
Estonia .....	26
France .....	27
Germany.....	29
Greece.....	30
Italy.....	32
Poland.....	34
Portugal .....	36
Romania.....	37
The Netherlands .....	38
Spain .....	40

## Introduction

*The freedom to move and reside freely within the EU allows every European citizen to live and work in another Member State. While EU citizens value highly the freedom of movement, the reality looks more complicated: several barriers occur before, during or after moving and problems are reported in relation to legislation, administrative procedures but also stereotypes and discriminatory practices.*

*The project ON THE MOVE aimed to look into the reality of free movement from the viewpoint of young Europeans (aged 25-35 years) who exercise or plan to exercise this right and:*

- ✓ *Identify real and perceived obstacles and barriers that they face;*
- ✓ *Identify practices that promote or hinder the enjoyment of this right;*
- ✓ *Raise awareness within young people on their rights and within national and EU bodies on barriers and ways to address them;*
- ✓ *Propose solutions (legislative and non-legislative) for making the right to free movement effective.*

*The experiences of young Europeans on the move were recorded through 575 interviews conducted with EU citizens aged 25-35 years old from 15 countries and 68 interviews with experts representing a variety of institutions dealing with matters related to free movement.*

*The manual at hand addresses the main barriers identified in the empirical research and is structured in two parts:*

- *Part I focuses on the main barriers that young movers reported. It includes both barriers that permeate the entire experience of moving freely as well as the main sectors where barriers tend to appear. Quotes are used to illustrate these barriers based on the experiences of young people on the move.*
- *Part II includes country information on legislation, institutions and initiatives that can prove useful to young people exercising their right to move freely.*

*Learn more*

We invite you to visit the project website at <http://euonthemove.eu/>  
and our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/onthemoveProject/>

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## Part A

### Barriers that young people on the move face: Myths, stereotypes or reality?

#### *Horizontal barriers*

##### Information

Lack of information or contradictory information on rights, duties and services at the country of origin and the host country was reported by young movers as a major barrier in their experience of moving. Information was reported to be available only in national languages, to be fragmented between different authorities and thus hard to trace and understand, while specific information on important aspects of life such as welfare or health care was not readily available.

*"I did not look for any information before moving because I did not even know which kind of information I should look for (...) I didn't know that I would had to register or did such kind of things. It just moved without thinking about it too much" (Male, 37 years, returned from Belgium)*

*"I think that there are many young people who wish to move in order to have better life conditions but they are not going because they not have access to the right information" (Male, 20 years, PT national)*



Information on different aspects of exercising the right to free movement can be found at different sources.

**Your Europe** is designed to support EU citizens in moving, living, studying, working, shopping or simply travelling abroad. As an EU national – or national of Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway – you have certain rights in these areas. Your Europe provides also information about residence formalities: [http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/index_en.htm)

Service page of the European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=457>

The experiences of EU movers who took part in the project ON THE MOVE indicated two main facilitators in accessing information required for moving: personal relations in the host country (peers, persons from the same country, connections or friends) and expat communities for those who do not (yet) have personal relations in the chosen country.



Not everybody has personal relations in the destination countries. In some countries, diaspora organizations and circles of movers act as facilitators for accessing information. These include internet forums where people share their experience on moving to another country or groups where they provide advice to others facing similar obstacles. Some expat-portals can be accessed at:

<http://www.expat.com/en/destination/europe/>

<https://www.internations.org/>

Different EU expat communities are also available on facebook, just search for them by entering [members of your country of origin] in [Name of your destination country].

These communities have forums where you can get in touch with peers and get individual exchange or counselling if needed.

## Bureaucracy

Bureaucracy was widely reported by young movers as a major barrier they encountered. Although experiences of bureaucracy vary from individual to individual and from country to country, bureaucracy is a common barrier that cuts across sectors: registration, finding a job, accessing health care, opening a bank account, taxation, social security, recognizing professional qualifications, among many others. Bureaucracy not only causes delays but also leads to disappointment and frustration.

*You really have to come to France (...) **For the tiniest thing that you need to do**, you are required to submit a whole pile of documents.” (BG - male, 30 years, BG national)*

*To find a job you have to have the extract from the judicial record almost since you were born, not only for how long you've been in the United Kingdom (ES - woman, returned from UK)*

*“In the end, the easiest way for me to officially register in Belgium was to sign the [civil union] contract with my girlfriend. So we asked at the Town Hall, ‘OK, this is the situation, what do we need to do?’ And the options were that I basically had to sign the [civil union agreement]; or then the other option was that every year I have to go back and explain what the company does and what is the situation (...) We needed to present to the Town Hall a lot of documents, including proof that with my girlfriend we know each other for a long time... We had to send printouts of old e-mails, Facebook chats. We had to prove that we had been together for at least 45 days somewhere, so we had a lot of old travel documents, like train tickets, that we needed to print- gather, that there were 45 days at least total, and send them. We had to have something done with the apartment that the landlord forgot to do, some kind of an official contract. What else? (BE - male, 30, EE national)*

*To open a bank account (in Portugal ...) no one knows for sure what you really need. For the same issues I was asked for several different things!” (PT12, Female, 28 years, Spanish)*



*"Taxes, knowing more about how to pay contributions in each country is a mess. Sometimes you pay more than you should because you're lacking information" (ES - male, returned from UK).*

*"It seems like you have to have a "master's degree" to figure out the administrative stuff in Germany. A double social security system (public/private), church taxes. They ask you if you're a Catholic or not and depending on your answer you pay extra in your IRPF tax (individual income tax on natural persons). (ES - woman, returned from Germany)*

*"Taxes, knowing more about how to pay contributions in each country is a mess. Sometimes you pay more than you should because you're lacking information" (ES - male, returned from UK).*



To request information on EU procedures or Lodge complaints you can refer to the European Ombudsperson or the National Ombudsperson of the country you are residing

<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/home.faces>

**Since 18 September 2016 all EU citizens have a right to open a basic bank account even if they do not live in the EU country where the bank is located and irrespective of their financial situation.**

**For more information on national taxation systems please see:**[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/national-tax-websites\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/national-tax-websites_en)

**For registration procedure per country please consult the pages of national information in this manual!**

## Discrimination&stereotypes

Discrimination linked to national origin, the financial crisis and stereotypes associated to them emerged from the narratives of young people on the move, especially those moving from countries hit by the crisis to more affluent countries, as an important part of their experience of moving, looking for employment or even looking for housing.

*"As soon as I finished my law degree, I started sending out traineeship applications to law firms... I sent out more than 100 CVs and application forms but received zero calls – and we are speaking about an unpaid internship here, not even about an actual job. I was really frustrated and I decided to put the name of an Italian colleague of mine on all the documents without changing anything else, not even the part with my Bulgarian education. And after applying again for about 10 positions, I got a call from a firm I had previously applied to with the exact same application but under my real name. And this says a lot about how having a foreign name does not give you equal rights ... but only confines you to a certain type of lower-paying jobs." (BG18, male, 35 years, BG national)*

*The first time I went to the country they heard I was Greek and threw a party... the second time, after the crisis has started, they treated me as if I was a burden... (female, 35, GR).*

*I think finding a job abroad is much more difficult than finding a job in Bulgaria. It is especially difficult when you are Bulgarian... I have talked with a lot of friends of mine living abroad and they tell me that it is simply too difficult sometimes for Westerners to accept you and treat you as an equal." (female, 25 years, BG national)*



The Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) prohibits discrimination on the ground of racial or ethnic origin in a broad range of fields, including employment, social protection and social advantages, education, and goods and services available to the public, including housing. The Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC), however, is limited to the field of employment and occupation but covers the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. In the link below you can find the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) in 23 languages:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0043>

All EU countries have designated "National Equality Bodies" which are responsible for the promotion of equal treatment. There you can often report unlawful incidents of discrimination. For more information <http://www.equineteurope.org/>

## Language

Language is a very important aspect of integration. Barriers related to language were reported by young movers in relation to almost all areas of life. Linguistic barriers often intersect with other barriers (eg bureaucracy or the lack of information) and make the experience of moving and the exercise of one's rights difficult.

*"Language was the biggest obstacle. Once that obstacle is overcome there are more possibilities of developing yourself, finding your place; doing some things becomes more feasible. Since I didn't really speak the language, I wasn't able to clarify some matters related to the payment, for instance, of the contracted hours and the overtime (...)"*

Difficulty to learn a new local language was one of the major barriers reported in all countries that took part in the project and one that can lead to loneliness and isolation.

*"if you do not properly speak the language, you will have the impression you aren't part of the society". (RM)*

*"it's really a big-big difference when you are able to speak [the language]. Then you understand the people and you understand the culture and then I think that you are integrated. I think the language is the most important thing" (PT).*

Linguistic barriers can be particularly frustrating when an individual first arrives in a foreign country.

*"The first help... if I had gotten the first help in my mother tongue or in another language that I can understand it would have been a really big help for me just to make the change a little bit softer".*

*"Another thing that annoys me: No company or state authority has a website that is also English except AOK. AOK has its website in all the languages in the EU including Romania, Estonian, and Lithuanian... Come on, those are one Million people. But except them... They are the only ones I found. Besides then... Oh yeah and Deutsche Bank has a... But banking... Sparkasse doesn't have in English. Are you kidding me?" ( male, 33 years, RO)*

Several respondents reported how the fact that civil servants at public authorities use only their national language significantly complicates administrative procedures of registration and settlement, the recognition of documents and certificates from the country of birth and access to information:

*"I recently made the experience of language barriers at the tax authority, where I wanted to declare my tax payments in Austria. I had to provide five documents on wage taxes in Austria and it took two months, because they did not accept the documents. This is surely something, which fails because of the language. Because my documents are in German and at the French tax office they do not know what to do with it – of course. Then I can only explain: ok, that is the required proof. You can believe me or not. I really made the experience: the main problem is language". (AT9, male, 31 years, AT national)*

*"(...) The reason I chose Ireland is because we have family, the culture is rather loose and language is important because I know it. I would not go to Germany for instance as I don't speak the language; I have been to Ireland before and I know what I will face". (CY)*

Linguistic barriers run across sectors and have an impact on the accessibility of welfare or other services. Even when movers have a command of national language, it might be difficult to understand the legal terminology in official documents.

*"(...) I really sat down for many days and tried to find information. I knew that there is nobody whom I can ask, who provides me with information on how to make my move easier. So, I really had the impression that I have to handle everything by myself". (AT7, female, 25 years, AT national)*

Language barriers also seem to be one of the reasons why many young Europeans on the move work in jobs below their qualifications.

*"I didn't even try to find a job on the subject of my studies because...it was impossible to work as a social worker without knowing the language" (GR - interviewee from Romania, living in Greece, who did not use her university degree, and had to take jobs inferior to her qualifications)".*



The European Union has 24 official languages. The European Commission maintains the policy that all EU citizens have the right to access all EU documents in the official language(s) of the Commission, and should be able to write to the Commission and receive a response in their own language.

Learning the language of the host country from the beginning (or even already in the home country) is one of the most important initial steps Europeans on the Move and national institutions should be aware of.

**In many countries there are language lessons for foreigners.  
Please consult the pages of national information in this manual!**

## Sectoral barriers

### Employment

During the financial crisis a large number of young Europeans migrated to seek work and life opportunities in countries that offered better prospects. Besides that, working in another EU country provides young people with the chance to improve their professional skills and can highly contribute to career growth and higher living standard.

The most common difficulties reported by young movers in the field of employment are related to job-seeking, unfair treatment at the workplace and the recognition of their qualifications.

*“There is a great deal of unemployment in Cyprus and I would like to move to another European country to realise my potential. [...] This is the main reason I am considering moving to another country. If this can improve my quality of life because of a higher salary, then yes...” (CY -aged 25, single)*

*“The unemployment rate is very high in Portugal. The wages are too low and there is no support for recent graduates”(PT22, Female, 27 years, PT national)*

*“In Cyprus, there is a quality of life which surely makes the salary seem less important in comparison to what Cyprus has to offer in one’s everyday life. But, one’s professional situation becomes no longer viable, when there is a 24h feeling of employment and professional insecurity, because a lot of employers have used the economic crisis as a pretext to establish precarious and flexible working contracts, with no working rights, and preventing young people from planning their life in the medium or long-term. This, I cannot do this in Cyprus, and this is why I am thinking of moving to work abroad” (CY)*

*“It is not so much the financial aspects of the crisis as with regard to professional depreciation... of the work you are trying to do. Our whole profession is depreciated, so you have to look in order to see how to make use of what you know and what you can do in other areas... You reach a point where you want to capitalize what you have done and have some recognition and instead of this you get the opposite... not just the financial... also the moral part is very important (GR - AGR21, male, 35)*

*“the work there would improve my professional experience on the specific topic and I would then be able to find better opportunities (GR - BGR2, female, 31, returned from Germany)*

## Job-seeking

Looking for employment can be stressful and long periods of unemployment can cause serious economic issues, especially when young people move to another EU country, where they have less knowledge of job-seeking tools. Nevertheless, as EU citizens they can use both EU tools and national ones to search for employment.

*"I had the hope of finding a job very quickly. This job came only after four months and this was terrible for me. I was much troubled with this (...) I never had so much time without work and in a foreign country without family... this gave a lot of anxiety" (Female, 29 years, Romanian)*

*"I searched for a job since my arrival (in Spain), but I could not find. I went to the Embassy, to the Consular Sections, I have watched online, I spent five months looking for anything, I was very hard. I had a bit of luck when my friends found me a translator job, but I left the place two months later, as I could not integrate" (Female, 30 years, Romanian)*



The main EU tool for employment seeking is EURES, a European job network available in 26 languages. EURES' purpose is to provide information on recruitment for beneficiaries of the right of free movement. This job mobility portal puts in contact employers and jobseekers from all over the EU and other countries, including Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. EURES is able to do so because it is the result of the cooperation between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of the EEA MS. From 2016, EURES has set up a digital platform providing self-service tools for employment seeking. The web platform lists all the work vacancies, with general information on them, and provides the possibility to apply for a vacancy of choosing.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/en/homepage>

On national level, government websites usually have a specific webpage providing information on employment for EU citizens. In other countries the employment information webpage for EU citizens can be found on the main government and social services websites. Furthermore, those websites provide general information on the national Labour Bureaus and/or Employment Centers. Since mobile EU workers have the same labour conditions, both national and mobile workers can generally register with the national Labour Bureaus and/or Employment Centers to seek for employment. A file of the person who is looking for employment is created and matched with the available vacancies so that the employment-seeker can choose the most suitable job for himself or herself. **Please consult the pages of national information in this manual!**

## *Fair treatment at the workplace*

Even when a suitable job is found, other issues may arise such as unfair treatment or discrimination – when workers from other EU Member States are treated unfairly with respect to the contractual conditions or differently from the national workers without legal justification. EU citizens can resort to EU and national institutions to report incidents of unfair treatment.

*“I would say that they treat Romanians better than Bulgarians, at least this is my impression from the agricultural sector. They always put Romanians at much better positions than us, even if they speak zero English. So there is definitely a barrier for Bulgarian citizens”  
(BG9, female, 34 years, BG national)*

*“On paper I am maintenance; if something is broke, water or television. But I am also cleaner, I am whatever. You see here customers are coming, I have to take them to their rooms. I am here 24 hours and they pay me 900 euro and a house to stay. I must be here all the time” (CY)*

*“I feel discriminated even now, although I work in a French institution, I do not own an office, though I am the only French guy here, my office is in a library. And although I work for the state, my contract is on determined period, while in private business this job is on indefinite term”  
(RO2, male, 38 years, FR national)*



Some of the main EU tools for solving problems related to unfair treatment and discrimination are Europe Direct, Your Europe Advice and SOLVIT. Europe Direct provides general information on the EU, but does not provide legal advice or information on specific EU laws. Your Europe Advice, on the other hand, acts as information and advice provider on practical issues related to living, studying, working, shopping, and travelling within the EU. Currently, Your Europe Advice has appointed the European Citizen Action Service to provide legal information. Furthermore, concerning legal aid, Your Europe Advice works closely with SOLVIT, an EU problem solving tool focused on issues between individuals or companies and the authorities in another EU country, in situations of misapplication of the EU norms. SOLVIT provides information on working abroad, family benefits, unemployment benefits, pension rights and on other work related subjects. This tool is mainly an online service but it has centers in every EU country and aims to find practical solutions to the problems within just 10 days.

<http://europa.eu/youreurope/advice/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/>

EU mobile workers can benefit from national tools to solve the barriers of unfair treatment or discrimination. For instance, they can join a trade union just like the national workers can. Most of the unions existing in the EU MS offer legal consultations in cases of unfair treatment or discrimination. In addition, the national labour legislation applies both to EU mobile workers and national ones. Therefore, mobile workers can file a complaint and pursue the right of fair treatment. Legal action can also be pursued through a national court and formal complaints can be made to EU institutions.



## Recognition of qualifications

Recognition of qualifications and degrees gained abroad was reported as an important barrier especially for those who tried to find a job that matched their studies and skills. Negative experiences were associated to poor cooperation with authorities, bureaucratic procedures, costly procedures etc.

One aspect of this barrier related to the shock that free movers experience on basic recognition of qualifications:

*"That I am unemployable with my qualification hit me totally unexpected. I thought all doors are open to me and I can start wherever I want. But in the course of all these job applications, it turned out that this is not the case. Also, this was very, very unexpected for me, that my [basic] education is not recognized and I really hoped until the last stamp, that they'd recognize it after all, but that was not the case." (AT3, female, 33 years, Austrian national returning from Germany)*

Other aspects of this barrier are linked to the lack of clarity in the process of recognition of qualifications, the complicated information, the cost and time required.

*"There's no information about all the standardization and recognition of diplomas, no one knows how to do it. I'm a teacher and to me it was absolutely essential to fulfil the education requirements, becoming a collegiate member; and no one knew how to do so. I've had a lot of trouble with that. They want to charge you for recognizing your diploma and they take a lot of advantage of your ignorance." (ES41, female, 30-35, Spanish national returned from France)*

*"Information is there but is dispersed, you really have to go around in circles to clarify some procedures (...). The procedures should be simplified and made less expensive. You can spend one or two years just to pay for a piece of paper. Not all of us have that economic level and you have to advance little by little, so that stretches out the process." (ES40, female, 30-35, also Spanish national returning from France)*

Some movers resorted to appeals to the Ombudsman and to the competent ministry involved to have their diploma recognised:

*"I had to complain to the Ombudsman because it took 2 years to standardize my diploma. I also complained to the Ministry. Initially I had no problem because I came thanks to the Leonardo scholarship, but when it comes to work standardization, it is very difficult". (PT30, female, 30-35, Portuguese national living in Spain)*



Difficulties related to the recognition of qualifications were reported to have a significant impact on the integration of free movers and their capacity to look for a suitable job.

*“For [the] Spanish it is easy because it is a global language, so every country teaches Spanish... The market is very big. (...)I thought I would find a job very soon; but the reality was completely the opposite; and this is why I became a little bit annoyed.(...) I [would] be a perfect candidate – a native [speaker], just finished a Master [in teaching Spanish], so, perfect.(...)But when I arrived here, I found that they didn’t want a native[speaker] – I mean they wanted a native[speaker], but only with all the papers ready. And with that I mean that all my diplomas would be [in compliance] with the Belgian system. And I said, ‘Yeah, but my Master is a European Master’, like the Bologna plan, you know, the European credit transfer system. So I say, ‘automatically’. But no nono, because you need to pass by the [National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC)] in Brussels, and for that you need to translate, by an official translator, so, pay, pay, pay, wait, wait, wait.(...)And I had a problem, because they didn’t recognize my Master’s thesis, because they thought ‘oh, a Spanish Master’s [thesis]doesn’t count’(...) because it is a new system.”“So at the end, when I went to finally update they told me, ‘sorry, well, we like you, because you’re nice, but the law says that you cannot work officially here because you didn’t have this, this and this; and one of these papers was a decent level of Dutch (...) to teach Spanish in Spanish(...)I didn’t understand in the beginning, so it was very annoying, because I said ‘I am – like I am a good candidate, and you didn’t allow me, because I don’t have the papers. So at the end it’s papers. In the end it’s bureaucratic things.” (ES2, male, 30-35, Spanish national living in Belgium)*

On the other hand, the recognition of diplomas and other qualifications in some cases can instead be a driver of free movement for people otherwise inclined to stay at home:

*“[I would leave] only for professional reasons. There are no prospects in my field in Cyprus; neither prospects, nor recognition in my sector. In Cyprus rarely do they pick up on positive elements on someone to further their career. There is neither recognition, nor promotion or prospects. There is no innovation; They may have heard of it, and nothing else. If I go abroad I will find serious laboratories in my sector. (...)In Cyprus, there are no career prospects for people with this kind of qualifications. On the contrary, in the Western European countries and especially the Netherlands, England, Ireland, in the Scandinavian countries, Germany, one can find them there.” (CY)*



**Everything you need to know about the recognition of professional qualifications:**<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/15032?locale=en>

**More information here:** [https://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications_en)

**To learn more about the rules that apply in your case, contact the national authority responsible for access to your profession in your host country.**

<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/#contacts>

## Healthcare

Access to health and the performance of the healthcare system work both as push and pull mechanisms for EU citizens on the move. For movers, deficiencies in public health systems (eg lack of accessibility and low quality of services) push them to choose a destination country with a 'good' health system. For people returning, access to health might be a problem, taking into account the difficulty to restore their health benefits.

Each EU country has its own organisation of the healthcare system, thus making it difficult for movers to understand how the system work, how to get registered, the types of insurances available, the taxes to be payed, the services to be received under an insurance etc. Although common approaches of the EU healthcare systems already exist – see the European health card - their development in practice is not efficient for the final beneficiary. For example, **the validity of the European health card is most of the times shorter than the time needed for a foreigner to get registered in the host country system.**

*"We don't know our rights 100% sure. It would be important having more information at the administration level, for example: knowing the types of medical insurance coverage besides having the health insurance card if you have to go to another country" (BG, male, 30-35)*

At the same time, the availability of information regarding access to health is poor in both national or another language of wide use (like English) is fragmented between several sources and sometimes outdated, unclear or contradictory.

**Bureaucracy** in accessing healthcare is another barrier commonly reported. The administrative procedures to get registered are complicated and time consuming, so in some countries accessing the health benefits might involve excessive administrative burden for the mover.



We stress out that movers working and paying your taxes (or for whom the employer is paying), have the same right to benefit from health services like any other national. If the mover is denied the access to healthcare, it is important to know that in several EU member states there are NGOs that could set up a group to support the mover and to negotiate with a health professional the help to be received.

## Housing

Finding a place to live is one of the first and most fundamental parts of moving abroad. For some movers it was reported as one of the most difficult parts of their experience. In fact, finding accommodation emerged as one of the more unexpected challenges for young movers. The research shows a number of challenges reported when looking for accommodation:

- Cost of housing
- Quality of housing
- Availability of housing
- Responding to landlords' requirements, e.g. concerning the provision of recommendations, guarantors or minimum income thresholds.

These challenges differ strongly between countries, and even within countries: you are most likely to encounter challenges in the capitals and large urban centers of North-Western EU member states, e.g. London, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam. When moving to Eastern European member states, access to housing is much less of a challenge.

*"It is difficult to rent a house (in France), more difficult than in Greece. You have to prove your income... Some might ask for recommendations... and in some cases their expectations are quite high, your income must be three or four times bigger than the*

Although most of the challenges faced by movers in the area of housing (scarcity, expense, low quality) are the same issues that local citizens have to deal with.



As an EU citizen, you have most of the same rights in relation to housing in other EU countries as you do in your own country. That means that in principle, your nationality should not be a relevant factor in your search for accommodation.

When it comes to private landlords, several practices such as these reported below may constitute unlawful discrimination:

- Additional requirements for EU citizens, e.g. extra high deposit, additional recommendations, nationality requirements for recommendations or guarantors;
- Exclusion of EU citizens from renting (e.g. not being allowed to be main tenant, only allowing subletting)
- Additional charges, e.g. for furniture, or penalties for general 'misconduct'

*"I've also witnessed landlords just putting in their ads 'We do not accept foreigners'... I understood their perspectives at the beginning but at some point I became too tired of all this and perhaps too disappointed"*



Though finding housing can be more difficult than expected, most movers in the end manage to find a place to live. A combination of realistic expectations, patience and perseverance is the best recipe for success.

- In order to increase your chances of finding accommodation, take the following tips on board:
- Reconsider your options and wishes: looking for housing in the centre of the capital city of your destination country may be unrealistic for anyone, including you. Look into other regions and living outside of the main cities. Living in shared housing may be a good way to start and also a normal way for locals to live.
- Take the same approach as locals: look for housing options through letting agencies, use social media, and ask your network of family and friends.
- Look for temporary options and take it from there: for the first few weeks of your stay, it may be advisable (and less expensive) to stay in a private hostel. Alternatively, there may be temporary expat housing on offer in the country of your choice. Consult the expat information desk, where it exists.
- Ask your employer for help in finding accommodation.
- Be aware of the possibility of discrimination and do not accept it. In clear cases of discrimination, seek help from local equality bodies or NGOs.

If you are facing any of these difficulties, get in touch with authorities or support agencies before agreeing to any dubious conditions.

Most of all: be patient and do not give up. For many, finding accommodation is the first step in setting up a new life in another EU member state.

## Welfare System

Each EU member state has their own welfare system that provides state assistance to individuals in need. Each welfare system functions under different rules and conditions for providing assistance either in the form of a service or welfare benefit.

Young movers reported a lack of available information regarding the organization and arrangement of different welfare systems. What is more, **a lack of data exchange and communication between the authorities in different EU states** was another barrier that affects the provision of social benefits young people are entitled to and the transferability of **their welfare entitlements**. The transferability of unemployment payments (for three months) is important for young unemployed people since this money can support them while they are looking for a job in a new country.

*“So I am really keeping an eye on how the communication between Estonia and Latvia is developing because at the moment it is pretty much not. I have been calling to the tax department in Latvia and they don’t see any kind of taxes I have paid. It is pretty risky for me. With age this kind of information I am starting to follow up because 10 years, it is a decade” (EE8, female, 31 years, LV national).*

**Issues related to the access to information and transfer of social benefits are often exacerbated by the language barrier**, e.g. documents issued in one language might not be accepted in another country. This has an impact on young Europeans’ chances for successfully settling in a new country **as they may be deprived of state assistance when it is needed, in particular because they cannot obtain the necessary documents to prove their status.**

*“Now, I have a couple, who has been living together for 7 years in Italy, but not married. They move to Austria, he has a residence registration certificate, she applied for it. So, the first problem is, we cannot co-insure her, because they have not been living together for 10 months in Austria. The second problem is, his income is about 3,000 net – it is sufficient for two I would say – but his income is not recognized for her residence registration certificate. This is why she will not receive a residence registration certificate. But without residence registration certificate, she will not get any support in accessing the Austrian labour market and without job; she will not get the residence registration certificate” (AT28, female, counselling for migrants/movers).*



To find out about your pension rights, unemployment benefits, family benefits and other social security rights please follow the link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=858>

## Part B

### Country information (A-Z) for young people on the move

Austria
<p><b>General information and useful services:</b></p> <p>Basic information (for travelers): <a href="http://www.austria.info/us">http://www.austria.info/us</a> (English)</p> <p>Governmental services (including information on legislation): <a href="https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/en">https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/en</a> (English)</p> <p>AT embassy information: <a href="https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/los-angeles/service-for-citizens/moving-to-austria/">https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/los-angeles/service-for-citizens/moving-to-austria/</a></p> <p>Basic information Upper Austria: <a href="http://innviertel.at/wirtschaft-standort/welcome-center-innviertel/wissenswertes-good-to-know/use-of-cars-with-foreign-licence-plates-in-austria/">http://innviertel.at/wirtschaft-standort/welcome-center-innviertel/wissenswertes-good-to-know/use-of-cars-with-foreign-licence-plates-in-austria/</a> (English)</p> <p>START WIEN Start Coaching for newly arrived movers (and TCN) of the City of Vienna: <a href="http://www.startwien.at/en-eu/startcoaching">http://www.startwien.at/en-eu/startcoaching</a></p> <p>CINT Centre of Excellence for Expatriates and their Families: <a href="http://de.cint.at/">http://de.cint.at/</a> (information and counselling on different areas of life for movers and their relatives)</p>
<p><b>1. Settlement</b></p> <p>Needed by those, who aim at staying for more than 3 months (application at the settlement authority of main residence): <a href="https://www.wien.gv.at/english/e-government/documents/index.html">https://www.wien.gv.at/english/e-government/documents/index.html</a> (English)</p>
<p><b>2. Health</b></p> <p>Umbrella Organization of Public Health Insurances: <a href="http://www.hauptverband.at/portal27/hvbportal/content?contentid=10007.693756&amp;viewmode=content">http://www.hauptverband.at/portal27/hvbportal/content?contentid=10007.693756&amp;viewmode=content</a> (German)</p>
<p><b>3. Work</b></p> <p>Public Employment Service Austria: <a href="http://www.ams.at/english.html">http://www.ams.at/english.html</a> (English)</p>
<p><b>4. Social Welfare</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.wien.gv.at/english/e-government/social-welfare/">https://www.wien.gv.at/english/e-government/social-welfare/</a> (child care, education, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Registration of children for school:</b> <a href="https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/11/Seite.110031.html">https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/11/Seite.110031.html</a> (German)</p>

## Belgium

### Main legislation

For recent information on legal issues follow the link:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL\\_STU\(2016\)556969](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU(2016)556969)

### Main sources of information

For free movers into Belgium, see the main sources of information links below:

The Brussels reception agency for integration <http://bon.be/en>

Expat Welcome Desk (EWD) offers a personalised administrative assistance service to all those who come to work in Brussels <http://www.commissioner.brussels/i-am-an-expat>

Guide for expat in Brussels <https://expatsinbrussels.be/en>

Platform for Free Movement and Against Expulsions <http://www.europe4people.org/en/about-us/>

<http://www.integratie-inburgering.be/>(No english)

<http://www.migreren.inburgering.be/>(No english)

### Main institutions of reference for young people in Belgium

For youth interested in moving to another EU member state, a good reference source for social security rights when moving abroad is the following:

<http://www.leavingbelgium.be/>

## Bulgaria

### Main legislation

Law on Entering, Residence and Leaving the Republic of Bulgaria by the Citizens of the European Union, Who Are Not Bulgarian Citizens, and Members of Their Families (in Bulgarian) - <http://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135535758>

Law on Health Insurance (in Bulgarian) - <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134412800>

Social Security Code (in Bulgarian) - <http://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/1597824512>

Law on Recognising Professional Qualifications (in Bulgarian) - <http://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135579101>

Law on Labour Migration and Labour Mobility (in Bulgarian) - <http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2136803084>

### Main sources of information

EURES Portal for Bulgaria - <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/bg/homepage>

Labour and Social Services with Bulgarian embassies abroad - <https://www.mlsp.government.bg/index.php?section=POLICIES&P=549>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Travelling, Living and Working in Bulgaria - <http://www.mfa.bg/en/pages/109/index.html>

Tuk Tam NGO for Bulgarians having studied and worked abroad - <https://tuk-tam.bg/>

Free Sofia Tour - <http://www.freesofiatour.com/>

Official Tourist Portal of Bulgaria - <http://bulgariatravel.org/>

### Main institutions

Employment Agency - <https://www.az.government.bg/>

National Health Insurance Fund - <http://www.en.nhif.bg/web/guest/home>

National Center for Information and Documentation (recognition of diplomas) - <http://nacid.bg/en/>

State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad - <http://www.aba.government.bg/?show=english>

Migration Directorate, Ministry of the Interior - <http://migration.mvr.bg/default.htm>



## Cyprus

### Sources of information

#### The Eures National Coordination Office

Department of Labour

[www.eures.gov.cy/mlsi/dl/eures/eures.nsf/page21\\_en/page21\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.eures.gov.cy/mlsi/dl/eures/eures.nsf/page21_en/page21_en?OpenDocument)

#### Public Employment Service

The online system of the Department of Labour which assists job seekers, including EU nationals, in their search for employment.

[http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/dl/dl.nsf/dmlprocedure\\_en/dmlprocedure\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/dl/dl.nsf/dmlprocedure_en/dmlprocedure_en?OpenDocument)

#### Nicosia District Labour Office

<http://www.pescps.dl.mlsi.gov.cy/CPSWeb/f001w.jsp>

#### Human Resource Development Authority

The Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) does not provide information regarding moving to or working in Cyprus but offers several short term placement schemes every year for young unemployed persons up to the age of 35. The schemes mainly consist of the payment of a fixed monthly amount to the persons selected for a fixed period of time, usually ranging between six months and two years, in order for these persons to acquire professional experience. The schemes are open to EUNs.

[www.anad.org.cy/el/katartisi/anergoineoeiserxomenoi](http://www.anad.org.cy/el/katartisi/anergoineoeiserxomenoi)

### Europdirect

In Cyprus, the Europe Direct Network consists of four Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs) and two European Documentation Centres (EDCs) who information and answer questions on all kind of European matters. There are EuropeDirect offices in all cities:

**Europe Direct Larnaca** <http://www.eudirectlarnaca.eu>

**Europe Direct Limassol** <http://europedirect.cut.ac.cy>

**Europe Direct Nicosia**

<https://ednetwork.ec.europa.eu/www.http%3A//europedirectnicosia.eu/>

**Europe Direct Pafos** <http://www.pafoseuropedirect.eu>

### Workers' trade unions

Panyprian Federation of Labour (PEO) [www.peo.org.cy/en/](http://www.peo.org.cy/en/)

Cyprus Workers Confederation (SEK) [www.sek.org.cy/index.php](http://www.sek.org.cy/index.php)

Cyprus Democratic Labour Federation (DEOK) [www.deok.org.cy/el/](http://www.deok.org.cy/el/)

## Estonia

### Main legislation

In Estonia, the rights and obligations of EU citizens on the move are governed by the **Citizen of the European Union Act**. The act governs principal aspects of entry to and residence in Estonia of citizens of the European Union and their family members and provides the grounds for imposing the obligation to leave Estonia and the prohibition of entry to Estonia on the citizens of the European Union and their family members.

### Main sources of information

**Estonia.eu** is an official website of Estonia where relevant information is provided about Estonia. Estonia.eu refers to other relevant webpages, where detailed information can be found relevant to different target groups:

- **Visit Estonia** (<http://visitestonia.com>)
- **Work in Estonia** (<http://workinestonia.com>)
- **Study in Estonia** (<http://studyinestonia.ee>)
- **Invest in Estonia** (<http://investinestonia.com>)
- **Trade with Estonia** (<http://tradewithestonia.com>)
- **Research in Estonia** (<http://researchinestonia.eu>)
- **Settle in Estonia** (<http://settleinestonia.ee>)

On the Work in Estonia page, a **relocation process guide** is provided, where a newcomer can define his/of her interests for moving to Estonia and then follow a step-by-step guide to successfully move to Estonia.

When already in Estonia, the foreigners can enter the **Welcoming programme** (<http://settleinestonia.ee>) which supports the adaption of newly arrived foreigners. The programme provides information on the functioning of the Estonian state and society, and the daily life, working, studying and family matters. It is also possible to learn Estonian, as the programme offers basic language training at A1 level. Participation in the programme is free. In addition, the foreigners as well as returnees can get counselling by the **Integration Foundation** (*IntegratsiooniSihtasutus*). The counsellors provide information, advice and guidelines on moving and living in Estonia. The counsellors can be contacted by email, via phone, or in the counselling centres in Tallinn and Narva. The counselling service is free of cost.

Information about applying for the Estonian identity documents, the registration process as well as the registering the stay-away from Estonia is found on the Police and Border Guard Board's (*Politsei-ja Piirvalveamet*) webpage: [www.politsei.ee/en](http://www.politsei.ee/en). Since 2017 the Police and Border Guard Board offer a **migration advice service** ([www.migrationadvice.ee](http://www.migrationadvice.ee)) for foreigners, where legal advice is given regarding the right of residence in Estonia and the necessary documentation for people coming to study and work here. The free counselling service is available via phone, email, Skype or by appointment.

## France

### Main sources of information

Any citizen of the European Union carrying an identity card or a valid passport is allowed into France, provided that their presence does not constitute a threat to law and order.

EU citizens have the right to remain in France for a duration of more than three months, except if their presence constitutes a threat to law and order, if:

1° they work in France; or 2° they have sufficient resources in order not to become a burden for the social welfare system, as well as medical insurance; or 3° they study in France and have medical insurance as well as sufficient resources; or 4° they are the direct descendant under twenty one years old or dependent, or a direct dependent ascendant, direct ascendant or descendant dependent on the spouse, accompanying or joining a national who satisfies the conditions laid out in 1 or 2; or 5° they are the spouse or a dependent child accompanying or joining a national who satisfies the conditions laid out in 3.

European Union nationals who wish to establish their usual residence in France must register themselves with the mayor of their commune of residence in the three months following their arrival. Unless their presence constitutes a threat to law and order, a European national who has resided in a legal and uninterrupted way in France for the five previous years acquires a right to permanent stay on the whole of the French territory.

### How to find a job in France?

- PôleEmploi (French employment agency) offices exist in all towns: [www.pole-emploi.fr](http://www.pole-emploi.fr)
- APEC (Managerial Staff Employment Association): [www.apec.fr](http://www.apec.fr)
- EURES (European Employment Services) network dedicated to the international market: [www.eures.europa.eu](http://www.eures.europa.eu)
- Temporary employment agencies, for example - Hays: [www.hays.fr](http://www.hays.fr)
- Specialized websites, for example - Villagede la justice for lawyers : [www.village-justice.com/articles/](http://www.village-justice.com/articles/) or Jobfinance for financial sector: [www.jobfinance.com/recherche\\_emploi.php](http://www.jobfinance.com/recherche_emploi.php)
- Job fairs organized by universities

### How to find an apartment in France?

- The website “De particulier à particulier” publishes advertisements of private individuals: [www.pap.fr](http://www.pap.fr)
- The website “Se loger” publishes advertisements of agencies
- Real estate agents : [www.fnaim.fr](http://www.fnaim.fr)
- Think to ask your employer if its pays the “1% logement” contribution, you may be able enjoying access to apartments at lower rents: [www.dossierfamilial.com/immobilier/locataire/locataires-comment-beneficier-du-1-logement-56465](http://www.dossierfamilial.com/immobilier/locataire/locataires-comment-beneficier-du-1-logement-56465)
- Think to submit your application for social housing here: [www.demande-logement-social.gouv.fr/index.do](http://www.demande-logement-social.gouv.fr/index.do), if you fulfil certain conditions: [www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F869](http://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F869)

How can I learn French for free?

- Exchange language courses at the library of the CitéUniversitaire
- Using several websites: [www.bonjourdefrance.com/](http://www.bonjourdefrance.com/);  
[www.lepointdufle.net/p/apprendre\\_le\\_francais.htm](http://www.lepointdufle.net/p/apprendre_le_francais.htm)

How can I receive social allowances?

- Family and housing allowances: [www.caf.fr/](http://www.caf.fr/)
- Health insurance: [www.cmu.fr/cmu\\_de\\_base.php](http://www.cmu.fr/cmu_de_base.php)

## Germany

### Main legislation

#### **Act on the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens Freedom of Movement Act/EU (Gesetz über die allgemeine Freizügigkeit von Unionsbürgern/FreizügG/EU).**

The FreizügG/EU Act regulates the right to entrance and residence of EU movers and their family members in Germany. It is an independent and conclusive regulation for this group of movers.

link: [https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch\\_freiz\\_gg\\_eu/index.html](https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_freiz_gg_eu/index.html) (English)

#### **General Administrative Regulation on the Freedom of Movement Law (Allgemeine Verwaltungsvorschrift zum Freizügigkeitsgesetz/EU)**

General Administrative Regulations are designed to ensure uniform application of the law across the country. They are directed at the relevant public authorities and cannot as such be directly appealed to by the citizens concerned. However, since public authorities are obliged to apply General Administrative Regulations, they may in some cases still be of legal relevance to citizens.

link: [http://www.verwaltungsvorschriften-im-internet.de/bsvwvbund\\_03022016\\_MI12100972.htm](http://www.verwaltungsvorschriften-im-internet.de/bsvwvbund_03022016_MI12100972.htm) (only in German)

#### **Federal Registration Act (Bundesmeldegesetz, BMG)**

§17 Registration and deregistration: Each person renting an apartment in Germany is obliged to register within two weeks at the registration office (this also applies to German citizens).

<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bmg/> (only available in German)

#### **General Act on equal treatment (Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG)**

The AGG is the implementation of the European non-discrimination and equal treatment directives. The main focus lies on the protection of employees against discrimination.

[http://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/publikationen/AGG/agg\\_in\\_englischer\\_Sprache.html](http://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/publikationen/AGG/agg_in_englischer_Sprache.html) (English)

### Main institutions

#### **Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Innern, BMI)**

The Ministry of the Interior defines and coordinates domestic politics in Germany. As a constitutional and communal ministry it is not only responsible for the modernisation of the state and administration but also for key issues regarding state and federal orders, e.g. voting rights. It is furthermore in charge of internal security, social cohesion, Migration and Integration (e.g. European integration politics, for example the responsibility for the Freedom of Movement Act) and oversees a variety of agencies, such as the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (*Bundesamt für Flüchtlinge und Migration, BAMF*).

link: [http://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/Topics/Migration-Integration/Law-Foreigners/freedom-of-movement/freedom-of-movement\\_node.html](http://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/Topics/Migration-Integration/Law-Foreigners/freedom-of-movement/freedom-of-movement_node.html) (English)

#### **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Flüchtlinge und Migration, BAMF).**

On behalf of the BMI, the BAMF, as a higher federal authority (*Bundesoberbehörde*), is responsible for a wide range of duties regarding migration and integration in Germany. Young person's on the move will find here information on languages courses, integration projects, regional advice offices, advice centres and immigration offices. It also provides an information hotline concerning questions on working and living in Germany.

link: <http://www.bamf.de/EN/Startseite/startseite-node.html> (English)

**Main legislation**

Directive 2004/38/EC of 29 April is transposed in the Greek legal order by Presidential Decree 106/2007 titled "Free movement and residence in Greek territory of citizens of the European Union and their family members" (Official Journal A/135/2007-06-21 as amended by article 42 of the law 4071/2012 (OJ 85 A')).

The Decree regulates the conditions concerning the exercise of the right of citizens of the European Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the Greek territory, their right of permanent residence, the limits placed on these rights on grounds of public policy, public security and public health (art. 1). It applies to all Union citizens and their family members, regardless of nationality, and to EEA and Switzerland citizens who move or reside to Greece and do not have Greek nationality.

Presidential Decree 106/2007 (in Greek) <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/librarydoc/presidential-decree-106/2007>

**Main institutions**

The **Greek Police** is responsible for issues related to the free movement of EU citizens and members of their families who are Union citizens. The Aliens' Departments in the regions of Attiki and Thessaloniki and Security Subdivisions, Security Departments and Police Departments which handle affairs of foreigners in the rest of Greece are responsible for:

- Registration Certificate for paid employment – freedom to provide services
- Registration Certificate to undertake paid activity
- Registration Certificate for Union citizens family members who are also Union citizens
- Registration Certificate for study purposes
- Registration Certificate other reasons
- Certification of permanent residence

For Union citizens who stay in the country for a period longer than three months a registration certificate is required and they have the obligation to appear before competent police departments in person after the expiration of the three months period.

EU nationals intending to work in Greece must have medical insurance or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and a Social Insurance Number (AMKA).

Anyone who is a resident in Greece or who owns property in the country needs to apply for a Tax Identification Number (AFM – ΑΦΜ). The AFM number can be obtained from the local Tax Office/Internal Revenue Services (Εφορία), either in the place of residence or in the area where the property is being bought. Anyone with an AFM number is registered with the Greek authorities and must file an annual tax return.

**European Employment Services – EURES** (<https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/el/homepage>)

Greece participates in the EURES network (European Employment Services). The Manpower Employment Organization is the competent authority. There are 44 EURES points in Greece, operating in 28 cities.

EURES advisers have knowledge of the job market and their mandate is to help those seeking work in European Union or wishing to recruit. Also, exist an assistant advisers network which supports the work of EURES advisers and contributes to the provision of services information.

**Citizen Service Centres (KEP)**

There are over 1,000 Citizen Service Centres in Greece. These are one-stop-shops for a number of administrative formalities,

Citizen Service Centres (in Greek)<http://www.kep.gov.gr/portal/page/portal/kep>

#### **Youth Information Centers**

Youth Information Centers operate under the responsibility of local authorities in each prefecture. Their main goal is to promote contact of young people with the new information and communication technologies. They also organize joint activities and events. The Centers provide information on European programs for young people and offer access to information material.

#### **Manpower Employment Organization (OAED)**

The Manpower Employment Organization is the competent body for the promotion of employment, unemployment insurance and social protection of maternity and family, vocational education and training.

Manpower Employment Organization (in Greek)<http://www.oaed.gr/>

### **Main legislation**

*“European Union citizens have the right to move freely and live in another EU country, subject to any conditions set out in the EU’s treaties. This free movement of people is one of the EU’s fundamental principles.”*

#### 1.1 Right of movement

The main legislative referment is Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 which is about the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States.

#### 1.2 Study mobility

Many European movers are university students. Who decide to study abroad must have recognized his previous academic degrees asking for an equipollence certificate; to obtain it must refer to ENIC/NARIC centre of the country of which he/she desire the certification.

#### 1.3 Work mobility

For periods less than 3 months abroad in a member state, just valid identity card or passport is needed. After this time, some countries can ask the declaration of presence on national territory. For all the Member States is valid the principle of equitable treatment: each European citizen has the same rights in terms of social welfare than national citizens.

### **Main institutions**

#### 2.1 Eurodesk network

Eurodesk is a non-profit organisation created in 1990, in order to support the Erasmus program. As an European-wide network, Eurodesk centres are presents in 34 countries. It aims to provide free access to learning mobility information for young people, and then to encourage mobility opportunities.

#### 2.2 University

Universities play a key role in the promotion of the European programs for youth mobility. The Erasmus + program permit the constitution of a dense university network that facilitate the student mobility within the EU, and thus, strengthen the EU citizens’ right of free movement.

### **Main sources of information**

In both cases, whether young movers are students or workers, they found the main information about migration in their personal relation networks. Friends and relatives that have already been abroad are the main sources of information about the condition and life in the foreign country. At the same time embassies and consulates are always a reference point for bureaucratic procedures and for the acquirement of information too.



## 1. References

- Eur-Lex website (see note 1)
- **European Youth Portal**, [http://europa.eu/youth/Eu\\_en](http://europa.eu/youth/Eu_en), visited the 09/06/2017.
- **EuroguidanceItaly**, Rete Nazionale di Diffusione del Centro nazionale EUROGUIDANCE ITALY, <http://www.isfol.it/euroguidance/brochure-eg/rete-nazionale>, visited the 09/06/2017.
- **Eurodesk**, <http://www.eurodesk.it/>, “Il punto di incontro dei giovani con l’Europa), visited the 09/06/2017.
- **Erasmus + program**, <http://www.erasmusplus.it/>, visited the 09/06/2017.
- **Farnesina, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale**, <http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/ministero/servizi/italiani/rappresentanze>, List of embassies and consulates, visited the 09/06/2017.

## Poland

### Main legislation

The Directive was transposed to the Polish legal system on the basis of the **Law of 14 July 2006 on entering the territory of the Republic of Poland, residence and departure from this territory by citizens of the EU Member States and their family members** (Dz. U. No. 144, item 1043, as amended, in force since 26 August 2006)

### Main Institutions

#### Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy

Programmes for young people:

*Work for youths:* <https://www.mpips.gov.pl/praca/program-praca-dla-mlodych/>;

*Guarantees for youths:* <http://gdm.praca.gov.pl/>;

*Young people on labour market:* <http://bit.ly/2sGviTA> ;

Strategy Europa 2020, i.a.: *First business – assistance at start* (financial assistance for the young unemployed and recent graduates): <http://www.wsparciewstarcie.info/>;

Monitoring of the mobility of the workers from EEC in Poland <http://bit.ly/2sDBsmj>,

EURES network and services in Poland: <https://eures.praca.gov.pl/>;

Participation in Euroguidance network (lifelong guidance on education, training and employment for youths): <http://euroguidance.pl/>.

#### Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Department of International Cooperation: issues of foreign students in Poland, recognition of foreign diplomas and qualifications, ENIC-NARIC national information centre (recognition of academic and professional qualifications): <http://www.enic-naric.net/poland.aspx>;

#### Department of Innovation and Development: programs Erasmus and Horizon 2020;

Strategy Europa 2020 – Mobile youth program: <http://www.nauka.gov.pl/strategia-europa-2020/>; Mobility Plus program for Young scientists: <http://www.nauka.gov.pl/mobilnosc-plus/>; Scientific grants for outstanding young scientists: <http://www.nauka.gov.pl/stypendia-dla-mlodych-naukowcow/>; Council of Young Scientists– advisory body: <http://rmn.org.pl/>.

#### Ministry of National Education

Department of International Strategy and Cooperation – broad competences on youth issues, incl. Eurodesk, strategy Europa 2020: <http://bit.ly/2tB2VCA>.

#### Ministry of Development

Department of European Issues: SOLVIT national centre (assistance in case of a breach of the EU rights by public authorities): [http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/contact/index\\_pl.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/contact/index_pl.htm).

**Foundation for the Development of Education System in Warsaw** – National Agency for Erasmus+ Programme – coordination of the Eurodesk Poland (network for youths, persons working with youths and youth associations, European Youth Portal), Europass Poland, etc.: <http://www.frse.org.pl/>.

**Polish Agency for Enterprise Development** – program East Poland 2014-2020, incl. *Start-up platforms for new ideas* – assistance for young people aiming to start a business in Poland, Enterprise Europe Network – consultancy point: <http://www.parp.gov.pl/>.

**Voluntary Labour Corps** – state-run organisational unit working to prevent the social exclusion of young people: <https://ohp.pl/>.

**EuropeDirect Warsaw – European Information Point** – information about EU, its institutions, law and programs, including for youths: <http://www.europedirect.um.warszawa.pl/punkty-europe-direct-w-polsce>.

**Polish Youth Council in Warsaw**(represents 36 Polish youth organizations, partner of Foundation for the Development of Education System in Warsaw – National Agency for Erasmus+Programme):<http://prom.info.pl/>.

## Portugal

### Main legislation

- **Directive 2004/38/EC of 29 April** was transposed to Portuguese law by Law 37/2006 of 9 August. . (Portugal, Law 37/2006 of 9 August (Rules on the right of European Union citizens and respective family members to move and reside freely within national territory, and transposes Directive 2004/38/EC to Portuguese law. Available in Portuguese and English at: [http://www.sef.pt/portal/v10/PT/asp/legislacao/legislacao\\_detalhe.aspx?id\\_linha=4559](http://www.sef.pt/portal/v10/PT/asp/legislacao/legislacao_detalhe.aspx?id_linha=4559)) According to this Law, any European Union citizen is allowed to enter into Portugal by simply showing his/her valid identity card or passport without any need for an entry visa or similar official document.

- **Law 9/2009 of 4 March, amended by Law 41/2012 of 28 August<sup>1</sup>**, transposed into the Portuguese legal system the Directive 2005/36/EC of 7 September. This Law lays down the system applicable in Portugal whereby recognition is granted to the professional qualifications obtained in another Member State of the European Union by a citizen of that Member State who would like to pursue an occupation as a self-employed or as an employee. Portugal, Law 9/2009 of 4 March, amended by Law 41/2012 of 28 August (Transposing into the Portuguese legal system, Directive 2005/36/EC of the Parliament and Council, of 7 September, pertaining to the recognition of professional qualifications, amended by Directive 2006/100/EC of 20 November which adapted certain directives in the sphere of the freedom of movement of people, having regard to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania):

[http://www.oern.pt/documentos/legislacao/L9\\_2009.pdf](http://www.oern.pt/documentos/legislacao/L9_2009.pdf).

and also:

[http://www.fpf.pt/Portals/0/Documentos/Centro%20Documentacao/LegislacaoDesporto/Trinadores/Lei\\_41\\_2012.pdf](http://www.fpf.pt/Portals/0/Documentos/Centro%20Documentacao/LegislacaoDesporto/Trinadores/Lei_41_2012.pdf).

### Main sources of information and main institutions

- Gabinete de Apoio ao Emigrante (Emigrant Support Office):  
<https://www.portaldascomunidades.mne.pt/pt/gabinete-de-apoio-ao-emigrante-gae>.

- Centros Nacionais de Apoio ao Imigrante (CNAI) (National Immigrant Support Centres):  
<https://www.portaldocidadao.pt/web/alto-comissariado-para-as-migracoes/centros-nacionais-de-apoio-ao-imigrante-cnai>.

- On-line Brochure "Informe-se antes de partir" (Inform yourself before leaving):  
[http://www.seq-social.pt/documents/10152/4352066/brochura\\_trabalhar\\_estrangeiro/7845d77d-bbc3-4757-9ceb-11b643189452](http://www.seq-social.pt/documents/10152/4352066/brochura_trabalhar_estrangeiro/7845d77d-bbc3-4757-9ceb-11b643189452)

## Romania

### Main legislation

Free movement is stipulated in the Romanian Constitution, in Chapter II on Fundamental rights and freedoms, Art. 25: „(1) The right to free movement within the country and abroad is guaranteed. (2) Every citizen has the right to establish its domicile or residence in any city of the country, the right to emigrate, and the right to return to the country”.

The Directive 2004/38/EC is transposed in the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 102/2005 on free movement of citizens from member states of the European Union, European Economic Area and Swiss Confederation, and in the Law no. 248/2005 regarding the free movement of Romanian citizens abroad.

### Main institutions

The authority competent for free movement is the *Ministry of Interior* through:

- *Passports General Directorate* (makes verifications and inserts mentions into the records with regard to the (re)setting of the domicile in Romania of Romanian citizens domiciled abroad and the solving the applications, requests and petitions with regard to the limitation of exercise for the Romanian citizens' right of free traveling abroad)
- *General Inspectorate for Immigration* (implements Romanian policies in the fields of migration, asylum, and foreigners' integration and the relevant legislation in these fields)
- *General Inspectorate of the Border Police* (performs investigation and research activities of serious acts of organized crime, illegal migration and cross-border crime committed in its territory).

Other relevant national authorities are: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (offers important information for movers on the conditions for entering and staying in Romania, internal transport, health insurance, custom regulations), and *The Department Policies for Relations with Romanians Abroad* of the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (elaborate and implement the strategy for relations with diaspora, in accordance with the major objectives of Romania's foreign policy and the Government Programme), *Youth and Sports Ministry*. To them we can add international organisms, like *International Organization for Migration*.

### Main sources of information

The main sources of (official) information in Romania regarding free movement are the authorities mentioned earlier. To them we can add:

EURES (European Employment Services) - a cooperation network formed by public employment services, and coordinated by the National Agency for Employment. EURES targets both job-seekers interested in moving to another country to work or to study, and employers wishing to recruit from abroad.

- <http://www.eures.anofm.ro/> and <http://www.anofm.ro>

EUROPE DIRECT is an information network designed to answer all the citizens' needs concerning the EU, offering information on all sorts of subjects, from rights and opportunities as an EU citizen to issues concerning the European inner market. In Romania, there are 30 Information Centers, 14 Documentation Centers and 25 policy experts in the Team Europe.

- [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/meet-us/romania\\_ro](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/meet-us/romania_ro)

In terms of informal sources of information, Internet is the primary source of documentation for those who want to leave. It is followed closely by personal experience and the experience of friends or relatives. Mass-media takes the third place, while educational institutions and workplaces are rarely mentioned.

## The Netherlands

### National government

The national government has an English language website with information for new arrivals in the Netherlands, accessible at: [www.government.nl](http://www.government.nl).

This website contains information brochures in English, German, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish about the Municipal Personal Records Database. These brochures, useful for questions regarding registration, are accessible at: <https://www.government.nl/topics/identification-documents/contents/the-municipal-personal-records-database>

The website also provides information on the Citizen Service Number, accessible here: <https://www.government.nl/topics/identification-documents/contents/the-citizen-service-number>

### Immigration and naturalisation service (IND)

The Immigration and naturalisation service has published a brochure for new arrivals on the duties and responsibilities when arriving in the Netherlands. This brochure is available in English, and can be accessed here: <https://ind.nl/en/Forms/8005.pdf>

### Municipalities

The first thing new arrivals should do when settling in the Netherlands, is register their residence at the municipality. This usually has to be done in person at the municipal office. Municipalities all have their own websites, usually accessible at [www.\\*nameofmunicipality\\*.nl](http://www.*nameofmunicipality*.nl).

Some municipalities, such as the municipality of Amsterdam, have specific information provision targeted at new arrivals, both from the EU and from other countries. This can be a welcoming centre, an expat desk, but can differ from municipality to municipality. Searching on Google for 'Living and working in \*name of municipality\*' will usually bring you to the right point of information. Some examples:

- The municipality of Amsterdam has an extensive internet service for EU citizens, accessible here: [www.iamsterdam.com/en/local/official-matters/eu-citizens](http://www.iamsterdam.com/en/local/official-matters/eu-citizens)
- Rotterdam has an expat centre, accessible here: [www.rotterdam.nl/english/expat-centre/](http://www.rotterdam.nl/english/expat-centre/)
- The Hague has the The Hague International Centre: [www.denhaag.nl/en/residents/to/The-Hague-International-Centre.htm](http://www.denhaag.nl/en/residents/to/The-Hague-International-Centre.htm)

### Tax service

The international website of the Tax Service contains information on taxes, health insurance, social security, cars, property and other issues. It can be accessed at: [www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/individuals](http://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/individuals).

The sub-site "I am moving to the Netherlands" contains the most important questions and answers for new arrivals. This can be accessed here: [www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/benefits/moving\\_to\\_the\\_netherlands/moving\\_to\\_the\\_netherlands](http://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/benefits/moving_to_the_netherlands/moving_to_the_netherlands)

**Employment**

Aside from EURES (Dutch site here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/nl/homepage>), the website [www.werk.nl](http://www.werk.nl) is the best way to start finding information about work and employment in the Netherlands. It is run by the national employment service UWV.

**Social support**

There are countless Facebook groups and fora of EU nationals in the Netherlands. Just search Google. Other ways to get in touch with young people. Other (international) communities that are active in the Netherlands Meetup (<https://www.meetup.com/nl-NL/>), and Couchsurfing (including for social activities).

## Spain

### Main legislation

#### GENERAL REGULATIONS

- <http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/normativa/nacional/index.html>(Régimen General de Extranjería)
- **Organic Law 4/2000** (Reformed by LO 8/2000, LO 14/2003, LO 2/2009, LO 10/2011, y RDL 16/2012).

### EU Regulations

- **Directive 2004/38/EC on free movement** incorporated into national legislation by **Royal Decree 240/2007**
- **Royal Decree 240/2007**: regulates the conditions concerning the enjoyment of the rights of entry and exit, free movement, stay, residence, permanent residence and work in Spain by the citizens in EU Member States and The States, other than the Member States, which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.
- **Order PRE/1490/2012, establishing regulations for the application of Article 7 of the Royal Decree 240/2007, which includes the new conditions** required for EU citizens to enjoy the right of residence for a period longer than three months. The contents of the Directive 2004/38/EC have been transposed literally into this norm. [https://www.boe.es/diario\\_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2012-9218](https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2012-9218)
- **Royal Decree 967/2014, of 21 November**: recognition of diplomas.

### Main sources of information

- General Secretariat for Immigration and Emigration of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security (plus INEM)

<http://www.interior.gob.es/web/servicios-al-ciudadano/extranjeria>

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/SErVICIOSAlCiudadano/Paginas/EmbajadasConsulados.aspx>

- Dirección General de la Policía– Ministry of Interior <http://www.interior.gob.es/el-ministerio/directorio/servicios-perifericos/direccion-general-de-la-policia2>
- Consejo de Coordinación Universitaria- Ministry of Education and Science

<https://www.mecd.gob.es/portada-mecd/en/>

- Oficina Estadística (<http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/Estadisticas/>)

### Main institutions

**Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security** (<http://www.empleo.gob.es/es/index.htm>)

**Ministry of the Interior** (<http://www.interior.gob.es/>)

**Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality**

(<http://www.msssi.gob.es/organizacion/ministerio/home.htm>)

**National Agency for Evaluation of Quality and Accreditation (ANECA)**

(<http://www.aneca.es/ANECA>)