



Press release

Brussels, April 13th 2016

EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS' DAY – Let`s talk jobs!

The first EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS' DAY is taking place in all EU Member States, Iceland and Norway from 4th-15th April 2016. More than 150 000 employers in 30 European countries are being contacted by this dedicated action, which is being organised by the European Network of Public Employment Services (PES) and by the local PES in each country. The aims of the initiative are to make contact with a large number of employers, to foster dialogue between public employment services and employers and to create awareness of employment-related issues.

Employers throughout Europe are being contacted by Public Employment Services within all Member States with the message:

Let`s talk jobs!

The importance of employers as a primary target group for PES is being highlighted by this initiative. The European PES are organising personal, telephone and online contacts, job fairs, seminars, workshops, and employers' breakfasts. These activities involve partners and stakeholders such as employers' organisations and civil society.

PES are at the forefront of helping job-seekers, including the long-term and young unemployed to prepare for and find jobs. The European Network of PES chose to organise this joint employers' day because PES in different countries may face similar challenges in making employers aware of the services that they provide to both employers and jobseekers. Many national PES are organising an employers' day for the first time ever, due to this European initiative, which will reach 150 000 employers across Europe.

To find more information about the European Employers' Day please visit:

www.employersday.eu

Marianne Thyssen

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, congratulated the European PES Network:

"For the first time ever the European Employers' Day will take place in all 28 EU Member States. Thanks to the European Network of Public Employment Services, more than 150 000 on the ground contacts between local public employment services and employers will be organized across Europe. These contacts are essential to ensure that employers can fill their vacancies with the right staff, and jobseekers get the support they need."

Frank-J. Weise

Director General of the German Federal Employment Agency and Chair of the Board European Public Employment Services, stressed the particular value of a good relationship between employers and the public employment services:

"If we don't know about the staff requirements and the special needs of employers, we have no possibility to integrate unemployed people into the labour market. Therefore, employers are our main target group and we need to intensify our relations not only with big enterprises but especially with small and medium-sized enterprises which are in most countries a key pillar for a well-functioning labour market. In every country in Europe, we cope with different challenges on the labour market and we need the support of our stakeholders and employers. I believe that the European Employers' Day will have a long term impact and a unique outcome: the European PES reach more than 150.000 employers in Europe by this dedicated action!"

Bruno Bruins

Chairman of Board of Directors Dutch Public Employment Service (UWV) and 2nd Vice Chair of the Board European Public Employment Services, on behalf of the Dutch EU Presidency

"Building a more inclusive labour market by employing disabled workers in regular jobs is a key objective of the Dutch government and a central theme during the European Employers' Days in The Netherlands. An encouraging example of a public-private initiative to increase employability is a cooperation project between the biggest Dutch supermarket chain Albert Heijn and UWV. Albert Heijn employs over a thousand disabled workers in their stores, carving jobs and helping these workers in their day to day work via a buddy system. Due to this successful approach, Albert Heijn now wants to double the number of disabled workers. UWV contributes to this ambition by meeting the specific needs of this employer, by for instance, pre-selecting the candidates. So let's talk jobs, especially for all vulnerable and disadvantaged job seekers in Europe!"

Background

The European Network of Public Employment Services brings together the public employment services (PES) of all Member States, Norway and Iceland and the European Commission. Its objective is to reinforce PES capacity, effectiveness and efficiency through providing a platform for comparing their performance at European level, identifying good practices and establishing a mutual learning system. The network was created following a Decision of the European Parliament and Council "on enhanced co-operation between Public Employment Services", adopted in June 2014¹.

Public Employment Services are fundamental players in fighting unemployment in Europe and in ensuring the success of the EU 2020 Strategy for jobs, and smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. It is the quality of their services which largely determines the impact of employment policies on the ground. However, there are big differences in the performance of PES between Member States and PES face many challenges due to changes in the way the labour market functions, budgetary constraints, and the increased expectations from European citizens. The Network supports cooperation and sharing of knowledge between PES to help them increase their performance and adapt their business model to changing circumstances and clients' needs.

¹ DECISION No 573/2014/EU