

## **2. 4. Working Group on “Establishing links with the private sector”**

Chair: Portugal

Working group members: France, Italy and Switzerland

### **Follow-up on the recommendations on “Establishing links with the private sector” presented at the 2011 Budapest Conference (presented by France)**

A questionnaire was sent out in March 2012 to the 23 members of EUFASA and 15 responses were received.

France, Portugal established employment committees and Switzerland and Sweden are taking measures, which are helping members of families to find jobs. In the case of France, the MFA also helps to find placements in foreign countries. France has initiated training sessions on how to start your own business in a foreign country. Several countries recommended using the Associations to exchange information about job vacancies, for example by advertising job opportunities in the Association newsletters. All associations supported the idea of helping family members to adjust to local markets, where they could be employed.

### **Employment page on the internal EUFASA website (presented by Italy)**

One of the recommendations of the 2011 Budapest conference was to gather all the tips, tools and practical information related to employment which has been gathered within EUFASA over the past years and to compile them all in one space in the internal website. The Employment working group has pursued this task and an “employment” section **is now** available on the EUFASA internal website. The material posted on the EUFASA website contains all reports, summaries and best practices, which took place in the last 10 years.

### **Employment “start kits” – designed to help finding your way in new countries (presented by Portugal)**

Arriving in a new country can be intimidating; finding a job in a new country can be daunting. Where does one look for a job when one does not speak the language of the country? And does not have any contacts? Where to begin the job search?

The “employment start kits” are meant to answer some of these questions. The experience of the members of this working group is that international organisations are always looking for short and mid-term employees that speak English and other languages too. Local social networks and “business groups” can be of help to newcomers and should be explored.

Our idea was to have a quick reference tool by country where the “entry points” to employment are listed. This information will of course be shared with the “European Welcome Teams”. The kits will include:

- Bilateral agreements – which agreements exist in which country.
- Media outlets – the main newspapers that offer job for expats
- Employment agencies – which ones are the best

- Expat networks, professional associations – how many exist in each country and how they function. They help you if you don't know anybody in the country.
- International organisations – they are always looking for temporary stuff and it's quite easy to find a job there.
- Translation / interpretation – very popular for expats to work in that field
- Voluntary work
- International schools are also looking for some teachers
- Multinational companies in different countries. They need qualified workers for specific projects.

**Recommendations:**

- Associations should make the material posted on the employment page of the internal EUFASA website available to their members
- Associations should fill in the "employment start kits" for their countries by April 2013, so that they can be distributed within EUFASA and used by the "European Welcome Teams"
- An "employment working group" should be a permanent working group within EUFASA

Additional comments and suggestions made during the discussion:

- In France, we are trying to set up an agreement between French MFA and a group of multinational companies, so that spouses and partners could be supported when they leave for a posting and they could return to their jobs when they come back. It would be great if such agreements were fixed in all European countries.
- Many diplomat spouses are developing their own businesses and the EUFASA member associations should support these initiatives as a network cooperating together.
- National association website can replicate the information available on the EUFASA website. The EUFASA website remains essential, as a number of member countries do not have their own website.
- The employment working group should consider developing a have a kit on how to set up your own business.