

Investing in people

- Investing in people is crucial to the jobs and growth strategy.
- The European Social Fund is the main instrument here, spending €77 billion between 2007 and 2013 to improve access to employment, increase the adaptability of workers and enterprises and develop institutional capacity in disadvantaged regions.
- The Fund will also be used to help workers who have lost their jobs due to the financial crisis to retrain and find new employment.

The right to mobility

- Main outcomes of the Union's is to insure the free movement of persons.
- To make job mobility easier, the public employment services of all EU countries advertise job vacancies through the EURES websiteone.

The Europe 2020 Strategy

In the coming decade, the priorities will be to increase the level of employment, productivity and social cohesion of the EU countries.

The Commission proposes a series of targets to be achieved by 2020:

- increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to 75 %
- investing 3 % of gross domestic product (GDP) in research and development
- reducing carbon emissions by 20 % (and by 30 % if conditions permit), increasing the share of renewable energies by 20 % and increasing energy efficiency by 20 %
- reducing the school drop out rate to less than 10 % and increasing the proportion of tertiary degrees to 40 %
- reducing the number of people threatened by poverty by 20 million.

Equality between men and women



Equality between women and men is one of the fundamental principles of Community law.

EU objectives on gender equality are:

- to ensure equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women
- to combat any form of discrimination on the grounds of gender.