

The reform of EURES and its opening to the employment industry

The EU job mobility scheme EURES has been fundamentally reformed in 2015, opening it to the employment and recruitment industry, which can now become EURES members and partners, contributing to cross-border job placements, to the pool of vacancies and to providing services to job seekers and companies.

This briefing provides in condensed format an overview on the main strengths and weaknesses of the reform.

Strength	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of EURES to private employment services • Private employment services are able to become EURES Members and Partners (following amendments compared to Commission proposal) • Social partner organisations may become part of the EURES network as EURES Members or Partners. EU Social Partners to attend meetings of the Coordination Group and regular dialogue with European Coordination office • EURES based on a partnership approach between public and private employment services • Applicable rules on data protection will be fully respected (following changes compared to the Commission proposal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National accreditation system for EURES Members and Partners could lead to Member States blocking the involvement of private employment services (Article 8) • No appeal procedure in case a EURES Member or Partner is rejected by national authorities • It is not clarified which social partners shall be involved (cross-industry / sectoral, European / national)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use EURES to promote fair and voluntary labour mobility • Improved exchange of vacancies, leading to more labour market transparency and a better matching of demand and supply • Opportunities for private employment services to develop their transnational placement and matching services • Opportunity to contribute to the pool of vacancies, job applications and CVs and to provide services to workers and employers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries with little or no partnerships between public and private employment services (especially most of southern European EU Member States and Eastern Europe) might not use the opportunities linked to opening up EURES to private employment services