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CentralBaltic "Job Ferry" Newsletter edition No.1 December 2011

Dear Readers,

The first Newsletter presents the "CentralBaltic Job Ferry" (CB Job Ferry) project started in May, 2011, as a part of the Central Baltic INTERREG IVA Programme 2007 - 2013. The project is implemented by the international team consisting of the Lead Partner - the University of Latvia Centre for European and Transition Studies, and project partners - the Nordregio, Nordic Centre for Spatial Development (Stockholm, Sweden), Turku University of Applied Science (Turku, Finland), Institute of Baltic Studies (Tartu, Estonia).

The project aims at establishing the customer-oriented cross-border advice and information platform for job seekers, mobile school leavers, placement officers and regional employers.

The most important events in 2011 were the project kick-off meeting in Riga in August 2011 when the main steps and events during the implementation of the project were discussed, the study visit of project partners to Munich and Weiden in the German - Czech border, and beginning of the research process.

Read about the project partners and their competences, achievements in 2011, as well as about our plans related to the regional labour market research in 2012.

We will keep you informed through regular Project Newsletters on upcoming events and developments within the "CentralBaltic Job Ferry" project. For example, you might be interested in the list of most demanded professions in the Central Baltic region which will be selected by our project team. Please, let us know if you are interested to contribute in the implementation of our project with your advice during the expert interviews which will take place during the first six months of 2012.

We hope you enjoy reading and wish you Happy New Year!
CentralBaltic Job Ferry Team

Season's Greetings from "CentralBaltic Job Ferry"

*Season's
Greetings!*



Your CentralBaltic Job Ferry Team



"CentralBaltic Job Ferry" project for facilitating labour market mobility in the Central Baltic region



Project information:

Programme: Central Baltic Programme

Priority: Economically competitive and innovative region

Direction of support: Optimising the potential of the labour market

Duration: 24 months 05/2011-04/2013

CB Job Ferry project will improve the mobility of labour in cross-border region of Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden which is hindered by several obstacles. These obstacles include limited access or lack of information on job opportunities and labour offices in the neighbouring countries as well as difficulties in recognition of qualifications of foreign job seekers. Cross-border partnerships between economic actors, relevant institutions as well as strategic investments are to be stimulated by offering comparable information on the four labour markets.

Firstly, the project partners will run a research process and analyse collected data locally. On the second stage, research results and data on four labour markets will be compiled into joint study and used for creating a common multilingual information platform on labour-market issues, professional trainings, qualifications and job opportunities in the targeted cross-border area.

We will keep you informed about all upcoming workshops, training courses and project's final conference that will aim at exchange of knowledge and best practices, thus contributing to a better understanding of different national regulations as well as structures and working practices of labour authorities in the neighbouring countries.

See also <http://www.lu.lv/eng/news/t/7168/>



Comprehensive study on four Central Baltic labour markets

Starting from 2012 the CB Job Ferry project team starts the research on labour market trends and challenges in four neighbouring project regions. The research will help to obtain a clear picture on the potential of the cross-border labour market and availability of professional trainings in the target region (e.g. which are the most relevant and growing sectors and the most demanded professions), as well as to identify what kind of information is requested by job seekers abroad and what kind of obstacles to cross-border mobility exist and other related findings.

During the research process statistical data analysis and literature research will be carried out. In order to have a deeper insight into current labour market trends in four project regions each project partner will conduct a number of interviews among target group representatives (employers, employment offices, job seekers, labour unions, etc.), where target group representatives will be invited to share their knowledge and opinion on relevant topics. The next step will include compiling research results and data collected on the level of four regions and creating a common multilingual information platform relevant for cross border labour market issues, professional trainings, qualifications and job opportunities.



CB Job Ferry Study Visit to Munich and Weiden in the German - Czech border region

The delegation representing the CB Job Ferry project partners took part in the Study Visit to Munich and Weiden in the German - Czech border region from 15th to 18th of November, 2011 to exchange experience and to learn from the best European practises in facilitating cross-border labour mobility.

Project partners had a chance to visit the coordination office of the "European JobGuide" platform in Munich where several practises and possible solutions on the development of research concept and web platform were discussed.

They also had an unique opportunity to participate in the Seminar on cross-border European Labour Market Initiative "EURES T Bayern - Tschechien" (Bavaria - Bohemia, DE-CZ) taking place at the German Trade Unions office, district of Bavaria, region Oberpfalz-Nord which provided an opportunity to learn from a practical examples of cross-border mobility between Bavaria and Czech border region.

These meetings and possibility to see applicable results of similar labour market initiatives in the German - Czech cross-border region were very interesting and useful for further implementation of the "CB Job Ferry" project.

For more information:

The cross-border project [European JobGuide](#)

The cross-border European Labour Market Initiative [EURES T Bayern - Tschechien \(DE-CZ\)](#)



"CentralBaltic Job Ferry" project Kick-off meeting

To officially begin the labour market mobility project implementation in Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden, as well as to reach the common understanding among project partners the first Steering Group meeting and the first Partners meeting was held at the University of Latvia on August 29th and 30th, 2011.

During the first project meeting in Riga partners discussed issues related to implementation of project, its administration and financing, Project communication Plan, Work Plan, researches related to cross-border labour markets and Professional qualifications of labour force.

Project partners agreed on the project Work Plan for the two year period and partners' cooperation model. During the implementation of the project a mutually comparable information on four cross-border labour markets will be collected and analysed to improve mobility of the labour markets as well as to simplify the

access to qualified labour force for promoting development in cross-border areas.

There was also a Press Conference held in relation with the project Kick-off meeting at the University of Latvia on August 30, 2011 during which wide media coverage was received (3 TV stations, radio, newspapers and internet media) which emphasizes the importance of the project for society.

[See more](#)

[See also photo reportage of "CentralBaltic Job Ferry" press conference](#)



The University of Latvia, Centre for European and Transition Studies - Lead partner from Latvia

The University of Latvia (UL) Centre for European and Transition Studies (CETS) is the Lead Partner of CB Job Ferry project. The main role of the CETS is to ensure the CB Job Ferry project implementation and coordination in a good quality and timely manner, including the elaboration of web platform (Integrative web platform, data base administration, technical support) where data about job profiles/trainings will be provided as well as to make the results of project available for public.

CETS is a structural unit of UL established to promote and support multidisciplinary teaching for EU and non-EU students, academic and applied research in European Studies primarily encompassing economics, political science, law, public administration and regional science. It hosts Jean Monnet and Marie Curies projects, provides advice to public institutions on the economic and social development in the European integration context. CETS has cooperation with leading think tanks in Europe, and cooperation with many universities in Europe and Canadian European Studies network. Since 2001 CETS actively participates in projects funded by the European Commission (5th framework program, Socrates program, ACE program, Interreg, and others).

The University of Latvia with its 17,000 students, 13 faculties and more than 20 research institutes is one of the largest comprehensive and leading research universities in the Baltic States. The University offers more than 150 state-accredited academic and professional study programmes. The University of Latvia is renowned for its research on material science, information/communication technologies, process simulation and socio-economic as well as environmental and health problems

For more information:

www.lu.lv/cets

www.lu.lv



Nordregio - project partner from Sweden

As one of the project partners, Nordregio will be responsible for research of professions and analysis of cross-border labour markets, including the following:

- . analysis of major trends and developments on the cross-border labour markets,
- . research on regionally specific businesses,
- . research on vocational trainings and demand of training, and
- . Producing information for the web platform.

Nordregio is a leading international Nordic research institute in the broad field of regional studies. It undertakes a strategic research with the aim of producing reliable and relevant material for decision-makers at the international, national and regional levels. Nordregio specialises in international comparative and collaborative research. Using its leading-edge skills, the Nordregio carries out quantitative and qualitative analyses on many different geographic scales.

Regional development, urban and rural systems, demography, governance and gender, innovation and knowledge, green growth, international energy policy, global climate change and local adaptation are among Nordregio's major areas of interest. Its research competencies include the production of high-quality maps and the development of state of the art statistical databases.

For more information:

<http://www.nordregio.se>

<http://www.nordregio.se/en/Nordregio-Research/Centralbaltic-Job-Ferry/>



Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS) - project partner from Finland

The second project partner is Turku University of Applied Sciences in Finland. The main role of TUAS during the CB Job Ferry project implementation is to organize workshops and training courses with a focus on Cross-border transfer of knowledge/ experience between labour market experts, educational institutions and social partners.

Turku University of Applied Sciences is a multi-branch educational community of around 9500 students and 800 experts. TUAS offers education that develops working life and entrepreneurship, research and development services (R&D) and holistic development of organizations. Operational area is Southwest Finland. Most of TUAS students come from the area, and also find work in the province. Around 1500 professionals graduate TUAS annually.

Mission: to offer multidisciplinary higher education and conduct applied research and development to meet the needs of working life and businesses in South-West Finland.

Vision: to be a higher education institution that supports innovation, has an international recognition of high quality, and increases the competitiveness and well-being of South-West Finland.

Values: customer orientation, professionalism, result orientation community

orientation and impact.

For more information:
<http://www.tuas.fi>

The Institute of Baltic Studies - project partner from Estonia



Institute of Baltic Studies (IBS) will mainly focus on the project's research activities, contributing to the partnership with an analysis of Estonian labour market situation, mapping of job profiles thus identifying a surplus or shortage of workforce, and proposing solutions to overcome obstacles for cross-border mobility together with other partners. IBS also contributes to the project's marketing and network development activities as well as to setting up web-based information portal for the project target groups.

The Institute of Baltic Studies is an independent non-profit research and development centre that is acting as public policy "think tank" and is focused on three main areas: regional development, social cohesion policies (including labour market issues), policy and programme evaluation. With its activities, IBS aims at contributing to increase of knowledge and understanding of the development challenges and opportunities facing Estonia in particular and Baltic Sea Region in general.

Further information: www.ibs.ee/en

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In cooperation with our partners:

Turku University of Applied Sciences
Nordregio
Institute of Baltic Studies

