

WORKSHOP "INTERCHANGING DATA AMONG ASSOCIATIONS" SUMMARY

PARTICIPANTS: Poland, Portugal, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Finland, Italy, Estonia, France, Iceland, Switzerland

CHAIR: Spain

Two fields of possible interchange were suggested, considering that one of EUFASA's purposes is interchanging information and experience among Associations and that we can thus provide our associates with a wider range of information and possibilities: Post reports and job data base.

Post reports:

- As soon as the discussion started, the working group realized that most probably this job could be done by the future European coordinator.
- Participants agreed that the existing post report template agreed upon in the Helsinki Conference should be simplified, the Belgian delegate offered as an example the copy of the post report template used in his country.
- It was pointed out that not all countries use the EUFASA template and that some associations have opted to include practical information in the MFA post report instead of having a separate post report, but not all associations have access to the MFA post report.
- Concerning post reports of EUFASA countries, it was suggested that each association should take care of preparing the post report of their own country to be written in English and updated yearly. This post report should be uploaded on the EUFASA website for the benefit of all member associations. It has been advised that each association should take into account the different post reports available in the embassies of EUFASA member states.
- It was also suggested to use EUFASA as a forum to ask for post reports of a given country. For this purpose each EUFASA member association should upload on the Eufasa website a full list of post reports they have to offer.

Job data base:

- It was agreed that EUFASA should take up contact with the UN Coordinator in order to explore the possibility of access to their job data base.
- Participants agreed to create a new item in the EUFASA website called "job data base" where each association could upload information of private enterprises present in foreign countries. The information should be very simple, i.e. only company name, address, telephone and e-mail address. This would not require associations to forward CVs or advertise job offers, since we acknowledge that most associations do not have this capability for the time being, but would still provide all associates with a wider range of chances of employment abroad.

In the discussion that followed the workshop report, it was suggested that the existing EUFASA Directory Job Database should be enlarged to countries outside Europe, since it seems to be more effective to send CVs through local placement agencies instead of direct contact with enterprises.