

The breakfast includes presentations from:

- HOPE;
- EUROFEDOP
- European Commission (EUROSTAT);
- MEPs;
- Health care professionals, Lithuania and Hungary.



EUROFEDOP and HOPE are willing to raise awareness and to contribute to launch the debate at the European level on the eve of a new enlargement.

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present
a working breakfast on

The migration of health care professionals in Europe



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European Parliament
Salon des Membres

Wednesday 22 November 2006
Brussels
08.00 - 09.15

* Krieger, H and Fernandez, E. (2006)

Too much or too little long-distance mobility in Europe?

EU policies to promote and restrict mobility.

(European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions).

MIGRATION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

The EU encourages mobility of workers between Member States; the year 2006 was even designated the year for 'workers' mobility' and the freedom of movement is one of the basic principles of the EU.

However, geographical mobility also poses a policy challenge for Europe as the mobility is not always equally spread.

“2% of the working population actually lives in another EU Member State.

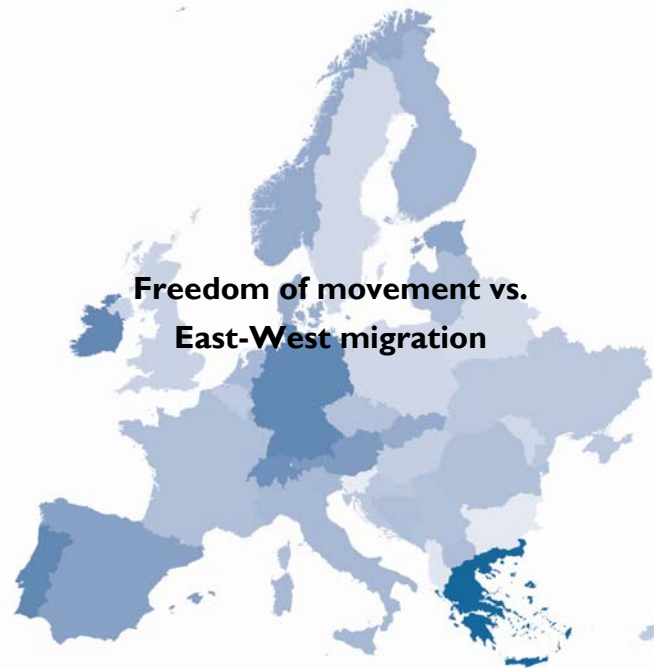
This has not changed the past 30 years.” *

What we can observe is not a balanced trend of mobility throughout Europe, but migration from some new Member States into Western (and Northern) EU15 countries.

It is this paradox of the freedom of movement versus East-West migration in Europe that we want to address during our working breakfast.

Authorities in the region of Central and Eastern Europe report on problems concerning labour migration. Major problems occur in some sectors due to the departure of the most active, highly skilled and qualified people.

Brain and youth drain.



“Almost 1 in 5 Poles between 24 and 34 are likely to move to another EU Member State.” *

Unfortunately, an illustrative example is the health care sector, in which the shortages of nursing staff increase because these nurses leave their country. This happens mainly for economic reasons. Not only do we see health care professionals migrating to other EU countries, also within the country mobility of health care professionals is widespread.

This results in dramatic situations in hospitals, particularly in rural areas, when for example surgical interventions need to be postponed or even cancelled due to a lack of health care professionals. In some hospitals there are no reserves of nurses and the financial situation does not allow any salary increases.

As a result, the remaining personnel is overworked, stressed and probably even less motivated to stay in the country. This of course, results in a reduced quality of medical services for the ones counting on the health care services most: the patients.

During our working breakfast on the migration of health care professionals, discussions should help us identifying the issues as well as possible solutions.