



# Report on the 27th Meeting of the Contact Persons of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF)

*Online, 14 June 2022*

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*This document provides a concise summary of the meeting. The presentations are available on the EGF website.*

### **1. Introduction and welcome by Ms Ruth Paserman - Director Directorate G "Funds: Programming and Implementation", DG EMPL, and adoption of the agenda**

#### **2. Update on EGF since the last Contact Persons meeting**

The Commission presented the state of play of EGF final reports, closures, recoveries, and applications received.

Member States were then asked to inform about their planned applications and share their experience from the implementation of EGF cases during the pandemic.

Some Member States mentioned that there were some difficulties in the implementation of the cases during the pandemic, while others had not experienced notable challenges.

Representative from Greece explained that the high recovery rate of the case EGF/2018/003/EL/Attica publishing was mainly due to the reluctance to start new businesses during the pandemic.

Belgium informed about two new planned EGF applications in the logistics sector, currently under preparation.

#### **3. EGF Advisory committee**

The Commission briefly presented the state of play of the EGF advisory committee.

Designation of members to the committee have been received from all but two Member States. The first meeting of the committee will be organised, when the first draft implementing act is ready to be submitted to the committee, following a four week feedback period on the Commission website.

The committee will be asked to give its opinion on the draft implementing act(s), which the Commission intends to adopt.

#### **4. SFC 2021 – updates**

The Commission presented an update of the SFC 2021 tool. New functionalities of the tool include updated validation rules, and notification of the adoption and of the applicable deadlines for the case. Further developments will be implemented later, including a module for the final report.

Participants were also reminded about a user guide available via a link in SFC.

## **5. Impact of the pandemic on the labour market – presentation by EUROFOUND**

EUROFOUND delivered a presentation on the impact of the pandemic on the labour market.

The presentation focused on the sectoral impact of COVID, key elements of the policy response, recovery of the labour market, and changes in labour market post-COVID.

The impact of COVID has been very different between different sectors. The sectors most affected by the pandemic were accommodation, food and beverage service activities, sports, amusement and recreation, travel, and other customer service sectors, impacting mainly low-paid jobs, while the impact on IT sector and other high-paid jobs requiring high qualification was much more limited.

As a response to the impact of the pandemic on employment, short-time working schemes were introduced in all Member States, and they were very successful in supporting the labour market. Three quarters of Member States also introduced income support schemes for the self-employed to prevent business failure.

While teleworking increased significantly, the possibility to telework varies strongly between different types of jobs: teleworking is commonly possible in high-paid occupations requiring higher education level, but very rarely possible in lower paid occupations. Even if teleworking increased significantly in most Member States, the potential for teleworking is still much higher.

Employment levels in EU recovered to pre-COVID levels in late 2021, i.e. within two years, to be compared to the eight years needed after the financial crisis. The unemployment levels in April 2022 are lowest in over 20 years, and the employment rate is record high.

The full presentation is available on the EGF website.

## **6. Communication**

### **6.1 EC communication updates**

The Commission informed that the FAQs post-2020 are available online in all EU languages, except Irish, which will be published as soon as the translation is available. FAQ 10.2 has been updated with links to the EU emblem and to the guidelines on the correct use of the emblem.

## **6.2 Member States' communication activities and planned events**

To promote the EGF, the French Ministry of labour has organised two webinars and prepared a promotional video about EGF, which is available online.

The participants were reminded that one requirement for those benefitting from EGF is to promote the Fund and the results from the projects.

## **6.3 Next EGF Contact Persons Meeting and Networking Seminar**

The next EGF Contact Persons Meeting and Networking Seminar will be held in Brussels or online in November 2022, depending on the Covid-19 situation.

A back-to-back meeting of the EGF advisory committee is also possible in the same period.

## **7. Q&A session and AOB**

There were no further questions or any other business raised.

## **8. Wrap-up of the meeting**

The Commission thanked all participants for the participation in the meeting.