

# EUROPEAN LABOUR MOBILITY

## Background

In his legendary 1981 book, the U.S. population economist Julian Simon claimed that humans and human capital are – in his words – “the ultimate resource”. He was also a strong proponent of open and free labour markets. While Simon died much too young in 1998, his vision is still very much alive. Indeed, in this age of information and knowledge capitalism, human capital has become the key driver of economic growth. And - here is the important point to remember - it can be optimized globally through migration if and when it is well-conceptualized and not badly managed.

Today, with the inescapable progress of globalization, and in particular given the advances in human mobility, labour markets are bound to become more integrated. In fact, approximately 8.1 million EU citizens work and live in another member state today, representing 3.3% of the total EU labour force. And 80% of the total EU workers is somehow a traveler (everyday commuters, posted workers, or permanently moved).

However, moving for working purposes is still not easy. EU moving workers often face difficulties in:

- obtaining information about their rights and lack assistance with their enforcement.
- obtaining information about living and working conditions
- having a smooth social integration
- a number of other important issues such as finding accommodation, finding a school, taxes, cost of living, health, social legislation, comparability of qualifications, etc.

## Challenge

“How might we increase labour mobility within EU by supporting the workers with useful and actionable information, drawn from big data?”

## Resources

- European portal for mobility:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/en/homepage>
- Impact of ERASMUS program: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-1025\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1025_en.htm) and  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/study/2014/erasmus-impact\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/study/2014/erasmus-impact_en.pdf)
- Report on free movement in Europe: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-12-552\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-552_en.htm)

## Society connection / Context expert in big data and

- Iconconsulting (Italian company engaged in solving complex problems with good data and right technologies, [www.iconconsulting.biz/](http://www.iconconsulting.biz/))
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