



# Moving with the times in Europe

EU citizens – who have the right to go wherever they wish within the European Union – are becoming increasingly mobile, which is leading to enormous socio-economic benefits for Europe, as well as bringing significant demographic changes.

## Facts and figures

Not so long ago, travelling to another country was not such a simple matter. In addition to the high cost of flying and the relative slowness of other forms of transportation, going abroad involved obtaining visas and passing through customs and border crossings.

Nowadays, not only has the cost of flying fallen dramatically, but to all intents and purposes, thanks to the European Union's so-called 'four freedoms' (i.e. the free movement of people, goods, services and capital), national frontiers no longer separate the EU's 27 Member States, making the Union effectively a borderless area for its half a billion citizens. In addition, with the economic and political weight of the EU behind them, it has become easier to travel to other parts of the world, too, and many countries have waived or minimised visa requirements for EU citizens.

Today, EU citizens have become so mobile that they take mobility almost for granted. Europeans travel for a wide variety of reasons: tourism, business, employment, study, cultural interest, personal and family reasons, retirement, and more. To illustrate just how mobile Europeans have become, consider the fact that EU citizens made over a billion holiday trips in 2007, a quarter of which were spent abroad<sup>1</sup>.

Moreover, as many as 3.5 million people each year move to an EU Member State to resettle there longer term<sup>2</sup>. In this respect, the Union's eastward expansion has had quite a significant demographic impact.

The number of citizens from those central and eastern European countries which entered the EU in 2004 who are living in the 15 pre-2004 Member States rose from 900 000 pre-enlargement to about 1.9 million in 2007<sup>3</sup>. Although they joined the EU later, a similar number of Bulgarians and Romanians (almost 1.9 million) live somewhere in the Union outside their home country.

Such mobility has obvious benefits for the individuals concerned but it also has positive social and economic effects for the wider society. For example, greater mobility can create new business opportunities, particularly in the important tourism sector, lead to greater employment, ensure better utilisation of the Union's talent pool, as well as build greater understanding and tolerance between different cultures.

In fact, if utilised to the full, mobility can make a significant dent in the EU's unemployment rate, which currently stands at around 9.7%<sup>4</sup>, by enabling people to move to places where their skills and experiences are required. In the process, this will help to reduce the number of unfilled vacancies (estimated to be some 2.7% of total jobs in 2007<sup>5</sup>), which is good both for European workers and businesses.

## Free movers and shakers

Since 2004, Aurora de Freitas (65), a businesswoman from Portugal who has lived in France for four decades, has been lobbying French authorities to make it easier for Portuguese citizens to be granted residence permits. For her efforts, she won the first-ever Single Market Award in October 2009<sup>6</sup>.

"The work of Ms de Freitas is exemplary and inspiring: it goes to show that the Single Market is primarily about people, not just about rules and regulations," said former Internal Market and Services Commissioner Charlie McCreevy.

The Single Market Award seeks to highlight the importance of the EU's internal market and raise awareness of the 'four freedoms', i.e. the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, within the EU. It also draws attention to the problems that may arise when internal market regulations do not work efficiently in practice.



## Policy milestones

- 1957 – Treaty of Rome allows salaried workers to move freely
- 1986 – Single European Act launches idea of a 'borderless Europe'
- 1992 – Maastricht Treaty introduces concept of European citizenship
- 1997 – Amsterdam Treaty clarifies link between national and European citizenship
- 2000 – Free movement safeguarded by the Charter of Fundamental Rights
- 2003 – Nice Treaty introduces qualified majority voting for EU decisions related to free movement of citizens
- 2004 – Directive to simplify and streamline free movement legislation



## EU policy

Ever since the Treaty of Rome<sup>7</sup> established the European Economic Community in 1957, free movement is a right that citizens of Member States have enjoyed. However, at first, only salaried workers were entitled to free movement within the six original establishing states.

Over the years, this right was expanded to other categories of workers, then to family members, until eventually it reached all categories of citizens. In fact, every European's inalienable right to move freely is now safeguarded by the EU's 2000 Charter of Fundamental Rights<sup>8</sup>.

The Single European Act<sup>9</sup> of 1986 got the ball rolling on the idea of establishing a borderless EU and abolishing checks on people at internal frontiers, irrespective of nationality.

In 1992, the concept of 'EU citizenship' was introduced by the Maastricht Treaty<sup>10</sup>. This conferred on every citizen the fundamental right to move and reside freely everywhere in the Union. This was further strengthened in the 1997 Amsterdam Treaty<sup>11</sup> which clarified the link between national and European citizenship and incorporated the Schengen Agreement<sup>12</sup>.

The Treaty of Nice<sup>13</sup>, which entered into force in 2003, helped streamline the European legislative process in the area of free movement of citizens by introducing qualified majority voting<sup>14</sup> – instead of the former unanimity – for EU decision-making in this area.

## Healthcare on the move

When on holiday or travelling for business or other short stays in other EU Member States, EU citizens and permanent residents are entitled to public healthcare if and when they need it. To ensure that you receive the healthcare you are entitled to while travelling, it is a good idea to obtain a European Health Insurance Card<sup>20</sup>.

The card saves its holder time, hassle and money by ensuring that you will get the same access to public sector healthcare (such as visiting a doctor, a hospital or a medical centre) as nationals of the country you are visiting. If a card holder needs medical attention in a country that charges for healthcare, he or she will be reimbursed either immediately, or after they return home.

The European Health Insurance Card does not extend to private treatment nor does it cover healthcare costs incurred to obtain treatment for a pre-existing illness or injury. Subject to certain conditions, this kind of cross-border healthcare is available to European citizens in cases where there is a long waiting list at home or certain specialised treatment is required that is not available at home<sup>21</sup>.

When travelling within the EU, it is also worth remembering the single European emergency number 112<sup>22</sup>.





## ► Passport to career mobility

The principle of mobility is great in theory, but those seeking to move to another country to study or work soon learn that there are a number of practical hurdles to overcome. One of these is proving your qualifications and presenting them in a way that is understandable to interested parties in other countries.

For that reason, the EU has developed what it calls the Europass<sup>23</sup>, which enables Europeans to make their qualifications clearly understood, whether they are applying for a job, seeking to enrol in an educational establishment, or looking to gain experience abroad.

Europass consists of five documents. Two of these – the Europass CV<sup>24</sup> and the Europass Language Passport<sup>25</sup> – are filled in by the candidates themselves. The remaining three – the Europass Certificate Supplement<sup>26</sup>, the Europass Diploma Supplement<sup>27</sup> and Europass Mobility<sup>28</sup> – are issued by competent organisations.

The scheme is supported by a network of national Europass centres<sup>29</sup>.



Based on all these evolutions, EU citizens now have the right to enter, reside and remain in the territory of any other Member State for a period of up to three months simply by presenting a valid passport or national identity card<sup>15</sup>. If they wish to stay longer, they must obtain a residence permit, the requirements for which vary depending on the employment status of the citizen (in work, student, retired or inactive)<sup>16</sup>.

Any EU citizen can take up an economic activity in another Member State, simply by presenting an identity document and proof of employment or self-employment. For newer members of the Union, certain temporary transitional arrangements may be in place for the first few years of membership<sup>17</sup>. Those who wish to resettle in another Member State without working must furnish proof that they can support themselves financially. Family members, regardless of whether they are EU citizens or not, have the right to resettle with a European citizen who is residing in the territory of another Member State.

Non-EU nationals with long-term resident permits may move to another Member State for a period exceeding three months if they comply with certain conditions<sup>18</sup>. In general, the second Member State may refuse applications for residence only where there is an actual threat to public policy, security or health.

Despite all these advances, certain confusion arises from the fact that the rights of EU citizens to move freely across the Union were spread across a large number of treaties and legal instruments. To overcome this challenge, EU leaders agreed a 2004 Directive<sup>19</sup> which sought to replace all the disparate laws with a single legal text, and to simplify the formalities associated with the exercise of the right to free movement to, and residence in, other Member States.

## ► Did you know that ...?

- EU citizens made some 250 million holiday trips abroad in 2007
- 3.5 million people immigrated to an EU Member State in 2006
- As many as 3.8 million people from the central and eastern European Member States live elsewhere in the EU (2007 figures)



## Further information

- Useful services related to free movement of citizens<sup>30</sup>
- The European Job Mobility Portal (EURES)<sup>31</sup>
- Quick links for job-seekers<sup>32</sup>
- Formalities when moving between Member States<sup>33</sup>
- The free movement of workers<sup>34</sup>
- Your Europe information on education across the EU<sup>35</sup>
- Your Europe information on travelling in the EU<sup>36</sup>
- Your Europe information on residence in the EU<sup>37</sup>
- Ploteus (Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European Space)<sup>38</sup>
- National contact points for education<sup>39</sup>
- Citizens' signpost service<sup>40</sup>
- Solvit brochure<sup>41</sup>

## Communicator's toolkit

- Eures: working in another country (brochure)<sup>42</sup>
- Citizens' guide to applying for jobs in another EU country<sup>43</sup>
- Video clip on European health insurance card<sup>44</sup>
- Leaflet on travelling in Europe<sup>45</sup>
- Europarl TV on the question of how free is the free movement of workers from eastern Europe<sup>46</sup>
- Travelling in Europe brochure<sup>47</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Tourism\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Tourism_statistics)

<sup>2</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF)

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?type=0&policyArea=0&subCategory=0&country=0&year=2009&advSearchKey=transitional+arrangements&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en>

<sup>4</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics)

<sup>5</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Job\\_vacancy\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Job_vacancy_statistics)

<sup>6</sup> <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1522&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<sup>7</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/treaties/treaties\\_eec\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_eec_en.htm)

<sup>8</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/human\\_rights/fundamental\\_rights\\_within\\_european\\_union/l33501\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/human_rights/fundamental_rights_within_european_union/l33501_en.htm)

<sup>9</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/treaties/treaties\\_singleact\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_singleact_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/economic\\_and\\_monetary\\_affairs/institutional\\_and\\_economic\\_framework/treaties\\_maastricht\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/economic_and_monetary_affairs/institutional_and_economic_framework/treaties_maastricht_en.htm)

<sup>11</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/treaties/amsterdam\\_treaty/a12000\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/amsterdam_treaty/a12000_en.htm)

<sup>12</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/justice\\_freedom\\_security/free\\_movement\\_of\\_persons\\_asylum\\_immigration/l33020\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l33020_en.htm)

<sup>13</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/treaties/nice\\_treaty/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/nice_treaty/index_en.htm)

<sup>14</sup> [http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/qualified\\_majority\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/qualified_majority_en.htm)

<sup>15</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/index\\_en.htm?profile=0](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/index_en.htm?profile=0)

<sup>16</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/index_en.htm)

<sup>17</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?&countryId=&accessing=0&content=1&restrictions=0&step=0&acro=free&lang=en>

<sup>18</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/justice\\_freedom\\_security/free\\_movement\\_of\\_persons\\_asylum\\_immigration/l23034\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l23034_en.htm)

<sup>19</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004L0038:en:NOT>

<sup>20</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=509&langId=en>

<sup>21</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/news/streaming/crossborder/crossborder\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/news/streaming/crossborder/crossborder_en.htm)

<sup>22</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil\\_protection/civil/rote/112/112\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/rote/112/112_en.htm)

<sup>23</sup> [http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/hornav/Introduction.csp?loc=en\\_GB](http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/hornav/Introduction.csp?loc=en_GB)

<sup>24</sup> <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/Europass+Documents/Europass+CV.csp>

<sup>25</sup> <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/Europass+Documents/Europass+Language+Passport.csp>

<sup>26</sup> <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/InformationOn/EuropassCertificateSupplement.csp>

<sup>27</sup> <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/InformationOn/EuropassDiplomaSupplement.csp>

<sup>28</sup> <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/InformationOn/EuropassMobility.csp>

<sup>29</sup> <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/Information+and++Support/National+Europass+Centres.csp>

<sup>30</sup> [http://europa.eu/eu-life/rights-advice/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/eu-life/rights-advice/index_en.htm)

<sup>31</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/>

<sup>32</sup> [http://europa.eu/quick-links/job-seekers/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/quick-links/job-seekers/index_en.htm)

<sup>33</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/nav/en/citizens/living/before-moving/index.html>

<sup>34</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/internal\\_market/living\\_and\\_working\\_in\\_the\\_internal\\_market/free\\_movement\\_of\\_workers/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/internal_market/living_and_working_in_the_internal_market/free_movement_of_workers/index_en.htm)

<sup>35</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/education/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/education/index_en.htm)

<sup>36</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/index_en.htm)

<sup>37</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/index_en.htm)

<sup>38</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/qualifications/docs/guide/users\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/docs/guide/users_guide_en.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/education/contact/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/education/contact/index_en.htm)

<sup>40</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/citizensrights/front\\_end/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizensrights/front_end/index_en.htm)

<sup>41</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/site/docs/brochures/web\\_km7606296\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/site/docs/brochures/web_km7606296_en.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=25&langId=en&pubId=64&type=2&furtherPubs=yes>

<sup>43</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=25&langId=en&pubId=307&type=2&furtherPubs=yes>

<sup>44</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en&furtherVideos=yes>

<sup>45</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu\\_glance/86/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu_glance/86/index_en.htm)

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.europarl.tv.europa.eu/YourParliament.aspx?action=viewVideo&packagId=2f7f8da9-d83f-42fa-a595-4f63045a255c>

<sup>47</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu\\_glance/86/en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu_glance/86/en.pdf)