

Cooperation Agreement UWV EURES the Netherlands with LTO Arbeidskracht 2021

Introduction:

For many years, UWV EURES the Netherlands has been publishing and promoting its vacancies in the Agricultural Sector in Europe. We connect the demand from Dutch employers with the supply of jobseekers, especially located in Eastern Europe, all based on free and fair mobility. We work in good cooperation with our EURES colleagues and the EURES network shows in this her strength.

The last years the Netherlands had some degrading examples of bad treatment of labour migrants. F.e. small temporary agencies (seem to) want to earn quick money, not considering the position of the labour migrant. Due to these unacceptable examples, the Agricultural Sector received bad publicity. Therefore our government had ordered an independent commission to invest the situation regarding the migrant workers. This commission gave the following recommendations: compulsory certification of temporary agencies, higher standards for housing and improvement of working & living conditions. Exactly the same topics EURES stands for.

Pilot Seasonalwork 2021

Why we started a project in 2021?

Simple... we received requests from Dutch employers to list their vacancies in the EU/EER and we received questions from EURES colleagues as well from European jobseekers about the possibilities in the Agricultural Sector in the Netherlands.

For many years we are cooperating with LTO Arbeidskracht; LTO is the agricultural and horticultural organization in the Netherlands; is a collective advocacy for agricultural entrepreneurs, representing 40.000 agricultural entrepreneurs in the Netherlands. LTO has a good, well-known image in the agricultural sector. And LTO is member of European network COPA. Therefore LTO is a reliable partner.

But, considering the position of the labour migrants; we felt the need to record our appointments in a Service Level Agreement based on free and fair mobility. Not just for us, EURES the Netherlands, LTO or the Dutch employers, but also for the jobseekers and the EURES advisers within our network. If an EURES adviser receives a vacancy from us, he/she will know that this vacancy has been tested against the pillars of fair mobility.

The subjects in our Service Level Agreement include:

- Contract in language of the jobseeker
- Salary according to the Collective Labour Agreement or legal minimum wage
- Certified housing according to the AKF or SNF norms
- Healthcare insurance (obligated) organized by the employer
- Working conditions taking in account the Covid-19 measures.

This Service Level Agreement has been submitted to the lawyers of both UWV EURES and LTO. Both parties have approved the agreement.

How does it works in practice;

We receive a vacancy of LTO and publish it on our national database, with a link to the EURES portal. We send the vacancy with the national reference number to our colleagues in the EURES network. Because of the new privacy law in the Netherlands we've asked our colleagues to send the CV directly to the Dutch employer, with EURES the Netherlands in carbon copy. Our colleagues are thereby the contact persons for the jobseekers but if there are some problems or issues EURES the Netherlands will be in charge.

In November we have an evaluation and hoping to hear how many jobseekers found a job during the season in the Netherlands and discuss if this way of recruitment is workable and could be continued in 2022. Results till now, we've received 18 vacancies and 254 CV's.

Week of Action: Campaign #Rights4AllSeasons

In September we will publish vacancies for staff in the greenhouses. The idea is to interview an employer and a labour migrant (vlog or video). Publicity will mainly take place on our EURES NL Social Media channels. However, given the current situation with the pandemic, the question is whether this can continue. If this is not feasible, we will proceed to additionally promote working in the Agricultural Sector in the Netherlands (in general) via Social Media (storytelling and pictures)

Resume:

Our pilot seasonal work 2021 is a cooperation with the agricultural and horticultural organization LTO and UWV EURES the Netherlands; ratified with the signing of a Service Level Agreement.

Participating countries are:

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia

Campaign #Rights4AllSeasons; generate extra attention to vacancies in the greenhouses via Social Media. Hopefully with video's or vlogs.

