



## Foreword

**Dear readers,**

Each year, more than 600,000 people from the European Union make use of the free movement of workers and come to Germany. Freedom of movement for workers is a precious asset, for it enables EU citizens to live and work in all 28 Member States of the European Union – no matter where they come from.



As the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, I work to ensure that the interests of EU migrants in Germany are considered and that their contribution to society is recognised.

Every EU citizen has the right to work in another EU country under the same conditions as nationals of the host country. This relates to fair working conditions – including issues such as recruitment, pay, advanced vocational training, and dismissal. But it also applies to non-discriminatory access to housing and healthcare.

Together with thousands of staff working in local advice centres, the Office for the Equal Treatment of EU Workers helps EU citizens to better exercise their rights. We will continue to carry out this vital task in future.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Widmann-Mauz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Annette Widmann-Mauz**

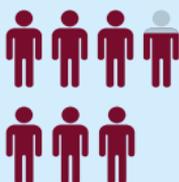
Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor

## Who we are

### Why was the Office for the Equal Treatment of EU Workers set up?

Within the European Union (EU), citizens enjoy the right to freedom of movement for workers, which allows them to live and work in another country. In recent years, there has been a steady increase in migration to Germany from other EU Member States, making it more and more important for information and advice to be provided.

In 2017,  
around



**635,000**

EU citizens migrated  
to Germany.

Today, around

**4.7 million**

EU citizens

live here.

In most cases, migration within the EU functions smoothly. That said, workers from other EU Member States often do not know their rights and face forms of direct and indirect discrimination. For example, they may be cheated of their fair wages, their employment records may not be recognised, or they may live in unacceptable housing conditions. Consequently, the EU adopted a Directive in 2014 on the enforcement of freedom of movement for workers (2014/54/EU). It requires all Member States to set up bodies to promote equal treatment. On 21 May 2016, the “Office for the Equal Treatment of EU Workers” within the office of the Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration took up its work.



## What we do

### What are our tasks?

- We provide EU workers (regardless of whether they are in fixed-term or permanent employment, seasonal workers or cross-border workers) and their family members with clear and up-to-date information about their rights in several EU languages.
- We give EU workers guidance on all matters relating to freedom of movement for workers and help them to find independent legal advice.
- We promote cooperation and information-sharing within the existing advisory structures in Germany and see ourselves as a contact point for all stakeholders active in the context of EU worker mobility.
- We promote links with trade unions and employers' associations, governmental and non-governmental organisations.
- We commission and publish independent studies and reports on the development of freedom of movement for workers in Germany.
- We act as a contact point for equivalent advice centres in other EU Member States.





## Our website



### Information

Information in several languages on all relevant topics for workers.



### Frequently asked questions

A user-friendly collection of questions and answers.



### Finding an advice centre

Help in finding a suitable advice centre.



### Guide to German authorities for EU citizens

Overview of the most important authorities in Germany and their tasks



### Legal framework

Legal bases and court decisions.



### Newsletter

Get the latest information on issues relating to freedom of movement for workers.



## Our services

### What services are offered by the Office for the Equal Treatment of EU Workers?

**Are you an EU citizen working in Germany? Would you like information about living and working conditions in Germany, or do you have specific questions?**

On our website, we offer information on the following subjects in several languages, and help you to find free professional advice:

- Recognition of professional qualifications
- Employee representation
- Looking for work and working conditions in Germany
- Residence law
- Finding the relevant public authority
- Vocational training
- Enforcing your rights
- Social benefits and taxes
- Housing

**Detailed information is available in several languages at:**

**[www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de](http://www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de)**

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