

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

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PRESS RELEASE

3000 More skilled workers for the Community

The Commission of the European Economic Community has just proposed to the Council of Ministers a joint accelerated training scheme to cope with specific shortages of skilled labour in the Community.

This programme, whose purpose is the training of 3 000 Italian workers willing to move to other Member States, is to be financed by all the countries together at an estimated cost of over 6 million units of account.

The situation on the labour market

Most of the member countries are handicapped at present by severe shortages of workers with the right skills. On the other hand there are still large surpluses of unskilled manpower in one Community country, Italy.

Statistics confirm the persistence in most of the member countries of a high number of unfilled vacancies. For the Community as a whole in 1964 the total was 800 000. On the other hand, unsatisfied applications for employment were extremely few in all the Community countries except Italy, which shows that manpower reserves can be considered as virtually exhausted.

On the other hand, recent estimates of Italian manpower available for employment in the other Member States suggest a figure of 300 000 workers.

These data show that shortages of skilled manpower in the Community are now such as to constitute a threat to the balanced expansion of its economy and are liable to slowdown the improvement of living standards.

They also show that only Italy is in a position to supply surplus manpower suitable for training for jobs in other member countries.

A joint scheme

In view of this situation, the Commission has prepared an accelerated training scheme as part of the common vocational training policy. The "General Principles" of this policy were laid down by the Council in a decision of 2 April 1963.

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A joint scheme seemed to be indicated because of the scale of the problem and its importance for all Member States. It will enable Italian workers wishing to take up employment in another Community country to undergo rapid training so as to acquire the necessary skills.

The scheme, which concerns 3 000 Italian workers in three main industries (see table), should be implemented from 1 October 1965 onwards so as to enable the workers trained to take up their new job in May 1966. The scheme provides that training will be either wholly in Italy or - where this is desirable - partly in Italy and partly in the country to which the worker is to move. Workers participating will qualify for a whole range of allowances to facilitate their attendance at the courses and their settlement in the new country.

Joint financing

Since this is a general scheme of value to all the member countries without distinction, the Commission's proposals provide for joint financing in accordance with the tenth General Principle for the implementation of a common vocational training policy. Total outlay for the organization and administration of the courses is estimated at more than 6 million units of account, a sum for which an appropriation will be provided in the budget of the European Economic Community.

Table

Distribution of workers by industry and by host country

	<u>Building and construction</u>	<u>Metal-working</u>	<u>Hotel industry</u>
Belgium	200	140	
France	500	200	100
Netherlands		200	
Luxembourg			20
Germany	540	900	200

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