

Other useful websites:

- Social Security In Europe www.cleiss.fr and in France www.ameli.fr
- To rent a flat or assess its cost, you will find ads on the estate agent association's site: www.fnaim.fr
- To find accomodation, restaurants and so on, the association of French tourist offices: www.tourisme.fr
- The French administration portal: www.service-public.fr
- More generally, to find an address: www.pagesjaunes.fr

MAKING MOBILITY A REALITY

<http://eures.europa.eu>



Living and Working in France



www.pole-emploi.fr

October 2010



Living and Working in France

Your project

Working in France, why not?

You should ask yourself a few questions:

- What are your motivations? Your professional skills?
- Are they in line with the reality of the French labour market?
- What do you know about living conditions in France?

Depending on the answers, you will see if your project is realistic or not. Motivations and skills can be assessed by an EURES advisor in your country.

Consult the website : www.eures.europa.eu

What do French employers expect?

To find out, consult job offers in your specialist field. You will see the labour needs in your sector. They also contain information about the professional skills required.

You will find job vacancies on the French public employment service **Pôle emploi** : www.pole-emploi.fr. It is in French... but you need to know that to work in France, knowledge of French connected to the job sought is essential.

Other useful job search sites

www.apec.fr for management positions (executive), "cadres" as they are known in France.

www.cadremploi.fr or www.cadresonline.fr features links to the main recruitment agencies.

www.prisme.eu will allow you to find a temporary job.

USEFUL INFORMATION

To avoid any problems linked to cultural differences, find out as much as you can about French culture.

For an initial approach, consult "Vivre et Travailler" (Living and Working) on the EURES website : www.eures.europa.eu.

Your application

Now that your project is validated, it is important to adapt your application to French recruitment culture.

Your Curriculum Vitae (CV)

French employers mainly look at your training and your professional experience. Try to make these understandable for them.

Your application letter

It should particularly describe your motivation for the job and knowledge you have of the company. Whenever possible, refer to its website.

You can find advice in drafting CVs and application letters in the practical guide entitled "Préparer sa recherche d'emploi: les bons outils" (Preparing your job search : the right tools)

Your application has been selected, get ready for your job interview.

Your recruitment interview

A recruitment interview is often very formal. Pay great attention to your look. It should be classic and match the type of job you apply for.

The recruitment process can comprise several interviews.

For more information, consult the practical guide "Réussir l'entretien d'embauche" for a successful job interview on www.pole-emploi.fr

A job in France

French companies have a highly hierarchical operating mode. Within this framework, relations can be very formal. It is recommended to be attentive to the company's habits by observing your environment and adapting to it.

Two types of work contract

The **CDI** (contrat à durée indéterminée or open-ended contract) and the **CDD** (contrat à durée déterminée - fixed-term contract).

In France, the SMIC is the minimum wage beneath which it is forbidden to pay an employee

Since 1st January, 2010, it amounts to **€8.86 gross per hour** i.e. **€1,343.80 gross monthly for 35 working hours per week**.

The only deductions taken from salary are **social contributions**, the salary is not taxed at source. The employee is required to submit an income tax return each year. The **difference** between the **gross salary** and **net salary** is around 22 %.

Legal weekly work hours

These are 35 hours in companies in general. The employee benefits from **2 and a half working days' leave per month worked**, i.e. **5 weeks of paid leave per year**.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.legifrance.gouv.fr
www.travail-solidarite.gouv.fr
www.service-public.fr
www.impot.gouv.fr