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territory than towards follow-up and personalised support to help job-seekers find work.

The French-German framework cooperation agreement for job placement<sup>108</sup> signed on 26 February 2013 develops a cross-border job placement service that focuses on follow-up and personalised support to help job-seekers find work. It is a textbook example of operational cross-border governance.

## EQUIVALENCE OF DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

**For workers to have the incentive to cross the border, they have to be able to find jobs with equivalent skill and wage levels in the neighbouring country.**

However, the lack of clarity regarding equivalences of diplomas and professional certificates acquired on one side of the border deters members of certain professions from working across the border.

A two-pronged action is required: efforts to achieve legal recognition of diplomas and qualifications and to promote workers' and employers' awareness of these equivalences.

- ✎ **The 2005/36/EC Directive of 7 May 2005** consolidated and updated procedures for the recognition of qualifications for the practice of professions regulated in the EU, but did not establish a system for the automatic recognition of diplomas.
- ✎ **In France, the ENIC-NARIC centre** is charged with recognising foreign diplomas (by establishing certificates of comparability) and informing their holders. It also assists French workers with formalities abroad. If needed, there may be cooperation between the ENIC-NARIC centre and equivalent agencies in the neighbouring countries. Such collaboration exists with the compulsory education services of the General Administration for Scientific Education and Research of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

The recognition of diplomas and qualifications is an issue addressed at the European and transnational levels; however, cross-border territories are a focal point for this issue and have become testing grounds for dealing with it.

- ✎ **The EURES-T networks** strive to improve communication on these tools and INTERREG projects help to draw up standard guidelines for vocational training, mostly for professions where there are shortages in the cross-border territory, together with systems for the validation of prior experience ("Multiform" for the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme, "Formation professionnelle sans frontières" for the Upper Rhine programme, "Modularisation de l'offre de formation transfrontalière", "Plateforme transfrontalière de formation professionnelle" and "VAE en zone frontalière" for the France-Switzerland programme, etc.). These systems are also intended for less skilled workers, who are increasingly vulnerable given the rising level of employer requirements.

<sup>108</sup> The Project Factsheet page 101.