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FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS
IN TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

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Economic downturn and mobility – where are we?

- The need for mobility is lower but………..
  lots of job vacancies and unemployment.
- A tendency towards a negative attitude to foreign workers.
  -"UK jobs for UK workers"
  -"Social dumping" is used for protectionism
- There are no national jobs and things will get better!

Facts and figures regarding mobility

- Intra-EU-mobility around 2,1 %
- Transitional arrangements result in illegal migrants and part of the black economy.
- Transitional arrangements for "new" MS are slowly being phased out.
- Around 7 % are third-country nationals – migration is more important than mobility.

Economic downturn and migration

1. **Policy plan on migration adopted 2005**

   - "**blue card" proposal:** directive on highly skilled adopted in 2009

   - **seasonal workers and intra-corporate transferees:** postponed but proposals for directives will – hopefully - be presented in 2009.

2. **Pact on Asylum and integration adopted October 2008**
   - legal migration
   - illegal migration,
   - border controls
   - a Europe of asylum
   - partnership with countries of origin

   Political link opening up for legal migration - fight of illegal migration.

Why is mobility in a good thing?

1. Economic reasons:
   - better matching of employer labour demand and individual supply of skills.

2. Political reasons:
   - contributes to European identity and integration.

3. Legal reasons:
   - free movement is a fundamental legal right

Advantages of mobility for employees

1. Greater individual labour force partcicpation.
2. Higher individual employment rate.
3. Higher degree of permanent contracts.
4. Better upward job mobility
5. Higher wages.
6. Getting to know new working methods.

Is mobility the solution to the economic downturn?

- Is more mobility "better" mobility?

   YES! But……..

- Mobility - and migration - is only a contribution to the solution but not **the** solution.