



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

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Minister Kevin Humphreys to open Midlands Jobs Fair in Athlone

**Career advice and Jobs will be available at the event to be held in Radisson Blu
Hotel**

Kevin Humphreys, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection with special responsibility for Employment, Community and Social Support, will officially open the Midlands Jobs and Advice Fair, in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, on Tuesday, 3 November 2015. The Fair will be free of charge and open to the public from 10am to 4pm.

The event is aimed at Irish and EU jobseekers already in Ireland who are looking for jobs locally, nationally and throughout Europe. It will be attended by local and national employers and locally based employment advice agencies. On the day there will be some 35 stands representing employers, training and advice providers, where jobseekers can make enquiries on a vast range of employment related topics. There will also be a CV Workshop available throughout the day to assist jobseekers with CV preparation, offering them an objective critique of their CV including constructive feedback on content, format and structure.

Speaking ahead of the event, Minister Humphreys urged jobseekers in Athlone and surrounding areas to avail of the opportunity to visit the Midlands Jobs and Advice Fair: **“I am looking forward to visiting Athlone, to open this Jobs Fair which is an ideal opportunity for people of all ages who are seeking work either here or in another European country to check out what’s available to them. It is encouraging that so many local and national employers will be participating in the event and providing a walk-in facility for anyone wishing to find work. Staff from the Department of Social Protection, will be available on the day to provide their excellent free recruitment and career advice, to both jobseekers and employers. I would like to thank the Department’s Midlands Region and EURES Ireland for organising and hosting this event.”**

Irish companies including Moss Vision Inc Ltd., Engage Education Ireland, Quality Tractor Parts Ltd., Translation.ie, FIT Ltd., Innis Ree Lodge, Communicare Healthcare, Home Instead Senior Care, AXA Assistance Ireland, PhoneWatch, Hodson Bay Hotel Group, Matrix Recruitment Group, among others will be in attendance. They will be recruiting for vacancies in the following areas; Teaching, Quality Controller, Manufacturing, Stock Controller, Interpreters, ICT, Sales, Customer Service, Healthcare, and many roles in Hospitality; there will be something for everyone at the Jobs Fair.

Minister Humphreys added: **“I would encourage employers in the Midlands to contact my Department to check out the range of services available to employers, helping them with recruitment and informing them of innovative schemes such as JobsPlus. With JobsPlus, my Department pays an incentive of €7,500 to employers for each person recruited who has been unemployed for more than 12 months and €10,000**

for each person recruited who has been unemployed for more than 24 months. Employers can also find more information on this and other services at the Jobs fair from our staff or by visiting www.welfare.ie.”

The Department of Social Protection is committed to working closely with other state agencies and organisations to provide the most effective integrated service to individuals who are seeking to explore their future career options.

European Employment Advisers, who are specialists in international recruitment, from European Member States including Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovakia and Estonia will be at the event to advise those interested in employment and career development options in these countries. EURES Advisers are trained specialists who provide information and guidance to jobseekers and employers interested in the European Labour Market. The EURES service is free of charge, and further information contact your local EURES Adviser or visit www.eures.europa.eu.

Midlands Jobs and Advice Fair will be held in the Radisson Blue Hotel, Althlone on the 3rd November 2015 from 10am to 4pm is free of charge and open to the public.

ENDS

Note for Editors

EURES (European Employment Service) is a European-wide initiative that has been in place since 1993 and assists jobseekers take up employment within the EU. It is a network of all the public employment services in the European Union and the European Economic Area. Through EURES, public employment services share their employment vacancies and services with each other.

The labour market in Europe (EU) is a single market and all vacancies in every Member State are available to all citizens in every Member State. There is a legal obligation on the Department of Social Protection to make every European vacancy available to Irish citizens. In the same way every Irish vacancy is available on an equal basis to every European citizen.

Any such employment opportunities brought to the attention of jobseekers by the Department of Social Protection outside of Ireland are completely voluntary and people who do not avail of any such opportunities will not lose their social welfare entitlements here. It is an opportunity for jobseekers in Ireland to seek work in other EU countries in the wider European market and equally, it provides jobseekers abroad with an opportunity to find work with companies based here in Ireland where such vacancies cannot be filled by jobseekers in Ireland.

The role of EURES is to provide information and advice on job opportunities in the EU/EEA. By providing information and advice to clients prior to departure, we ensure that all those interested in taking employment outside of Ireland have appropriate information on job opportunities abroad before they leave.