**Information Paper about the Working Groups of Priority Area 9 linked to Labour Market (WG 2, 6, 7 and 8)**

**Working Group 2 „To foster cooperation between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies in order to develop learning regions and environments”**

The 2nd meeting of working group 2 will be organised by Croatia. It will take place in the East of the Republic of Croatia in March or April 2013 and is intended to show good practices within the thematic field of this working group, cooperations between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies.

**Working Group 6 „To improve cross sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges“**

The meeting of working group 6 took place in Belgrade, Serbia in November 2012. The meeting was hosted by the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Department for Employment. The rapporteur of the meeting was Ms. Tanja Dedovic (IOM), the meeting was moderated by Mr. Jörg Leitner (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria).

*Results and Outcomes*

* The participants agreed that they would like to establish the working group as a platform for dialogue and exchange of information
* Future working group meetings should have a thematic focus, so that all participants can prepare presentations on a specific topic; the topic for the next meeting shall be “Youth employment in the context of labor migration”
* The next working group meeting will take place again in Vienna in May 2013
* To increase participation from other Danube region countries, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection of Austria will send invitations to candidates who will be proposed to them. Working group members will reach out to other interested stakeholders who could participate in the upcoming thematic workshops

**Working Group 7 “To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalised communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities”**

The 2nd meeting of working group 7 took place in Budapest in November 2012. The meeting was hosted by the European Commission. The participants of the meeting were mostly from non-governmental organisations.

*Results and Outcomes*

* The Working Group decided to apply for a transnational project within an Austrian ESF call – more information coming soon
* To increase participation, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection of Austria will send invitations to potential participants

**Working Group 8 “To promote gender equality on the labour market, especially in payment”**

The 2nd meeting of working group 8 will be organised by Austria and will take place in spring 2013. It is intended to have a closer exchange about national gender equality strategies and policies, particularly in the areas of parental leave schemes and working time arrangements.