

## Interview with the German stakeholder „Evangelische Auslandsberatung e.V.“

[www.ev-auslandsberatung.de](http://www.ev-auslandsberatung.de)

1. Do you have contact with free movers?  
Yes, we gave advice to around 3000 people in the year 2011 and about 350 of them wanted to go abroad.
2. What kind of tools and services do you offer? Which of them are the most popular/effective?  
We offer information and advice on the following topics:
  - Emigration: German emigrants (worldwide) and people working abroad temporarily.
  - Marriage: advice for binational couples about marriage at home and abroad; advice for German couples about marriage.
  - EURES: Living and working in the European Economic Area and in Switzerland; advice about looking for work through the European Employment Services.
  - EU social counselling: for people coming from EU countries to Germany who need help.
  - German repatriates: Support for people who have lived abroad for some time and want to return to Germany.
3. What is missing from your experience? What would you like to add?  
We don't offer any training or personal coaching, we only give advice and provide information. Furthermore we don't provide any legal advice services but people often ask for that. If people would like to prepare their application documents we give some feedback or general information but we don't write i.e. a CV together with them.
4. What tendencies do you see regarding the topic?  
We don't see any tendencies.
5. What do you think is necessary if somebody would like to work abroad?  
It is absolutely necessary to learn the language. Even if English is enough in the workplace, it is of course helpful to learn the local language for social integration. Additionally, one should inform oneself about cultural differences and respect these. And social security is a very important issue that is frequently disregarded.
6. Do you cooperate with other stakeholders?  
Depending on subject matter we send people on to other organisations such as the Foreign Office, the German Chamber of Commerce in the relevant country, or the International Placement Services (ZAV). Additionally, we also pass on information about German-speaking Protestant communities abroad on request.
7. What kind of obstacles/problems do you face?  
Many people underestimate the starting difficulties. Particularly the beginning can be very difficult, when one has little or no social contacts and one has to take care of everything at once. Here, careful preparation is indispensable. In some countries the bureaucracy seems particularly difficult to navigate. Occasionally we also hear of cases where immigrants are bamboozled because they don't speak the language and don't know who to turn to.
8. Which are the most common countries where people would like to go?  
About 10 years ago Spain was very popular but nowadays it is difficult to say. Among families the Scandinavian countries are very attractive due to their good educational system. Singles or couples prefer countries with a warmer climate.