LABOR MARKET BRIEFINGS SERIES

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR IN EUROPE
As part of the Labor Market Briefings Series, this report will give an overview of the international development sector in Europe and will provide insight as to how European researchers can begin making their career in the sector. While providing a general overview of the international development sector, this report will focus on the international development sectors in the U.K., France, and Luxembourg. It should be noted that this is a general overview of the international development sector and does not seek to give specific information, rather a glimpse of the sector.
The International development sector engages with economically disadvantaged regions around the world in order to empower people and improve their well-being by addressing issues in their societies. The sector is quite diverse and is involved in governance, healthcare, education, gender, disaster preparedness, infrastructure, economics, human rights, migration, security, conflict, and the environment just to name a few. The majority of International Development work is conducted through national governments, Supra-national organizations such as the U.N. and the World Bank, and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Europe is a major player on the International Development scene and is actually the global leader in development aid contributions. The European Union alone contributes over $91.7bil annually in development annually, which accounts for 57% of global contributions. Additionally, three European countries, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France are in the top five worldwide in terms of development contributions. While the United States and Japan are both significant global contributors, Europe by far leads the world in International Development and it won’t stop there.

The sector in Europe is set on remaining the largest in the world. Within Europe, 23 out of 28 EU members states and the majority of non-EU European nations have been increasing their total net development contributions per-year, with ten EU nations increased their total contributions by 25% alone in 2016. Not only that, but the EU has set a goal of increasing its total contribution to development at .7% of GNI by 2020, .2% above its current .5%. And this is all without development contributions from NGOs which account for over 20% of global contributions making them to a significant player on the International Development scene. It is unclear exactly how many European are employed in the International Development sector as the sector is comprised of government agencies, international bodies, and NGOs.
As mentioned the EU is the largest donor of development aid in the world. Between 2014 and 2020 the EU and its member states set a goal of providing an average of at least €2bil a year in grants to developing countries. This has pushed EU nations to the forefront of the global International Development sector. Therefore, we will examine three European countries with significant International Development contributions they are the U.K., France, and Luxembourg.

The U.K.
The U.K. is the world’s fourth-largest international development contributor, behind only the United States, Germany, and France. The U.K. contributes over €12.1bil annually and in 2016, the UK provided 0.7% of its GNI for development assistance. Making it one of the few countries around the world to meet international U.N. commitments to contributing 0.7% of GNI to development. The UK department most directly involved in this field is the Department for International Development (DFID) with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) also maintaining a prominent position. 81% of all U.K. International Development contributions go through DFID and as such, it is the focal point of the U.K. International Development sector. The majority of U.K. contributions go to Humanitarian Assistance which accounts for 16% of direct U.K. contributions, this is followed by Government & Civil Society (13%) and Health (13%). The countries that receive the largest share of U.K. development contributions are Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan. Besides government offices, the International Development NGO sector is very developed in the U.K. As International NGOs or INGOs in the U.K. contribute nearly £3.5bil a year. U.K. INGOs are some of the world leaders with 5 out of the 11 largest INGOs in the world originating in the U.K. In terms of employment, LinkedIn estimates that 40,000 people work in the sector in the U.K. with about 20,000 (50%) working for INGOs. Overall, the U.K. has a substantial International Development sector and is amongst the world leaders.

France-
In 2016, France devoted 0.38% of GNI to International Development. However, with an amount of around $9.5bil (8.6 billion euros), it is the fifth-largest contributor in the world in value terms, after only the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Hit hard by the global recession, the last couple of years has seen a decline in total French International Development contributions. However, recently, new French president Emmanuel Macron has committed to raising French contributions to 0.55% of GNI by 2022. Therefore, France’s role as a global player seems set for some years to come. Unsurprisingly, the majority of French development contributions go to Africa, which can be attributed to France’s historical relationship with the continent. The three countries receiving the largest share of French development contributions are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, and Cote D’iviore. Similarly, to the U.K., INGOs in France play a significant role in the development sector contributing more than $100mil in development contributions a year. French INGOs account for the third largest development contribution in Europe after only the U.K. and Germany. The number is of French citizens employed in the International Development sector is unknown, but it is thought to be substantial. Overall, while the last couple years may have seen a slight decline in the French International Development sector, France has returned to holding a significant global role in the sector and is poised to retain it for years to come.
Luxembourg - While a small country, Luxembourg is a prominent player on the global International Development scene. While its total global contribution might not be as high as its larger European neighbors it’s relative contributions are the highest in Europe. The U.N. recommends that countries contribute .7% of their GNI to International Development annually. Only a few European nations currently hit this mark, however Luxembourg already hit it in the year 2000. Currently, Luxembourg contributes 1% of its GNI to International Development, or $142bil annually. Interestingly, the majority of Luxembourg's International Development contributions go to Africa with Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Mali receiving the largest shares. The majority of Luxembourg’s contributions go to Infrastructure and Social Services (37%) which includes Education, Health, Water, and Sanitation. 16% of Luxembourg’s total development contributions are administered by the countries INGOs. Due to the countries small size there is not an abundance of INGOs in the country however they are quite powerful and have substantial funding. Specifically, five INGOs in the country comprise the majority of the INGO sector they are the Caritas Luxembourg foundation, Handicap International Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Red Cross, Médecins sans Frontières Luxembourg, and CARE in Luxembourg. Additionally, Luxembourg plays a substantial role in International Development through its development financing. A founder of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the country provides large amounts of capital to development banks every year.

In 2016 alone, the country provided over €22bil to the World Bank and IMF and over €9bil to regional development banks, which is quite remarkable for a country of its size. The exact number of Luxembourgers employed in the sector is unknown but is thought to be relatively low. However, while the country may not have a large number of employees in the sector both the countries national development institutions and INGOs have significant clout due to their relatively large asset pools. Overall, the International Development sector in Luxembourg is quite substantial and looks to remain so for years to come.
As mentioned more and more money is going into the International Development sector than ever before. This is especially true in Europe, where the EU is increasingly pushing its member states to increase their annual development contributions. As such, employment in the sector is expanding as more projects are funded and more money goes into development activities. However, competition in the sector is quite intense, as there is substantial demand for employment in the sector. As a result, having experience is a must in the sector. It is almost impossible to get an entry-level position without some prior experience. Even more so the sector requires that employees have a master’s degree or above to find even basic employment in the sector. Despite this, many workers, especially young workers, are still drawn to the sector. This could be because employees in the sector cite high levels of satisfaction and fulfillment in their employment. Salaries in the sector are quite diverse, as there are significant differences between the salary when working in a national office or when working for a small INGO. However, salaries in the sector are by and large relatively low and are comparable to wages in the charity sector. Lastly, travel is an essential part of employment in the sector and anyone looking to pursue a career in the sector should be ready for a lot of travel and a lot of time spent abroad.

Some of the largest European International Development agencies and INGOs are:

**Agency**

**Europe**
GIZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

**The U.K.**
DFID- Department for International Development

**France**
AFD- Agence française de développement

**Luxembourg**
DCHA- Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

**INGOs**

**Europe**
Mdecins Sans Frontires, Danish Refugee Council, and Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe

**The U.K.**
Oxfam International, World Vision, and Tearfund

**France**
Action contre la Faim, Médecins du Monde, and ACTED.

**Luxembourg**
the Caritas Luxembourg foundation, Handicap International Luxembourg, and the Luxembourg Red Cross.
As general employment is growing in the International Development sector so are positions for researchers in the sector. The International Development field is a large employer of researchers as all three types of International Development organizations, government agencies, international bodies, and NGOs require a number of researchers. Researchers fill a number of roles in the sector, some examples of which are policy research, project planning, and scientific research. Specifically, development consultancies, government agencies, development foundations, and policy institutes are great potential landing spots for researchers. While there are a large number of potential positions for researchers in the sector, demand for research positions is quite competitive. Furthermore, experience is at a premium and is often valued above anything else. Therefore, researchers looking to break into the sector should begin some low paying or volunteer work in the sector before the end of their studies or gain experience in a different sector and transition into the sector. Additionally, employers often require proficiency in at least two languages and some international experience. In terms of degrees required in the sector, almost any degree can find a place in the sector. International Development is involved in a number of fields and as such almost any degree can be relevant. However, degrees in economics, social policy, public administration, law, engineering, medicine, and of course International Development experience high applicability in a number of different fields within the sector. Some of the skills required of researchers looking to work in the sector are communication, problem-solving, interpersonal, management, organizational awareness, organizational, determination, cross-cultural sensitivity, patience, flexibility, language, and decision-making skills.
Overall, the European International Development is the largest in the world and is growing fast. The U.K., France, and Luxembourg are all global leaders in International Development. With the U.K. and France being in the top five globally. As more money is set to flow into the sector employment in the sector should see substantial gains. However, getting a job in the sector isn’t easy and experience is highly valued. Researchers can find a large number of potential positions in the sector but also face high competition and need for previous experience. Overall, the International Development sector is an excellent and fulfilling sector to work in, if you can get a job.

Other useful sources of information and links

International Development Sector Overview
http://guides.careers.sussex.ac.uk/internationaldevelopment/sector

The Commitment to Development Index 2017-
https://www.cgdev.org/commitment-development-index-2017

U.K. International Development-

U.K. INGOs-

FRENCH Development- OECD
https://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/OECD%20France_ENGLISH%20version%20onlineFINAL.pdf?TSPD_101_R0=ed4d716fd3c41a25b52c28e195478b0aqtE000000000000000000000005a955b5300bd639d6c

Luxembourg Development-