

## One step at a time and never alone: Giorgia's path to Germany with EURES support

### In search of healthy living and working conditions

Sometimes it takes more than just the desire for professional change – sometimes it is also the clear will to fundamentally improve one's life. For Giorgia Cappellina, 29, from Padua in northern Italy, this was the driving force. Her home region is one of the most polluted in Italy, which influenced her decision. It was about more than air quality.

For her, Germany stood for quality of life, green mobility, many parks and nature in the cities, a greater sensitivity to sustainability – things she did not know from the highly industrialised environment of her origin. Better working conditions and work-life balance also played a role. In advance, she informed herself in detail: She spoke with friends who already lived here and researched online about work culture, application standards and everyday organization in Germany.

*"I considered other European places, but this one was closer to my family and allowed me a lot of flexibility in terms of working from abroad (if I need or want to visit them). I also value a lot the great work-life balance that German companies have. "Nothing similar to what I knew in my hometown," she says.*



With an impressive academic background – Bachelor's in Literature and Communication and two Master's degrees in Philosophy & Communication and Marketing – she was specifically looking for perspectives in Germany, especially in the areas of marketing, social media and content management. She had no knowledge of German at the time.

### How Giorgia became aware of EURES...

After more than a year of unsuccessful applications on her own, she came across EURES via social media in autumn 2024. Giorgia followed an Italian career consultant on Instagram and LinkedIn, where she read one of her posts on European mobility programme 'EURES TMS'. Getting started with professional support was just a click away.

### ... and a first contact that set a lot in motion

Through the **EURES portal**, Giorgia requested **EURES advice** in the desired target region – in her case – from Kim Prade, EURES adviser at International and Specialized Services (ZAV, Nuremberg). It should be a special, common process for both sides: Giorgia was Prade's first client after her parental leave – the advice was trustworthy and goal-oriented right from the start.

#### **i EURES Portal**

EURES portal is a job platform for workers and employers in the EU and the EEA.

Here you will find job offers from all over Europe, information on working and living conditions as well as contact with EURES advisers who support cross-border job placement.

[Check EURES Portal](#)

### Learning from "no" - turning rejections into meaningful feedback

But the road to it was not self-sufficient. The many cancellations were frustrating for Giorgia at first. Often, there was a lack of knowledge of German or employers expected that she had already moved to Germany. Kim Prade encouraged her to proactively ask questions and learn from feedback. This change of perspective helped: Anonymous cancellations resulted in usable hints for the next applications. In addition, Giorgia received an official letter of reference from the Federal Employment Agency and participated in a **ZAV application workshop** to further strengthen her position vis-à-vis potential employers.

## Breakthrough: the first interview

The node burst on 13 February 2025: Giorgia was invited to her first interview in Germany in English. Travel could be supported through the **EURES TMS** travel support. A few weeks later, the promise followed. Giorgia's stamina, coupled with targeted support from EURES services, paid off.

## The long wait and why emotional support matters

In retrospect, Giorgia describes the longest phase of her life. Mobility trip as the most difficult: "The *biggest hurdle was definitely the amount of time needed for finding a job. It took time and it was difficult to stay positive.*"

This is where EURES made the difference for them: Funding options, language support, structured advice and, above all, a personal contact person at your side: "Kim's support was determined, not only for the information she gave me but most importantly for her emotional support. She always had a nice word for me and seemed truly invested."

## Moving to Munich – quick decisions, smart compromises



With this commitment, the challenging search for accommodation in Munich began. But here, too, she was not discouraged:

*"The relocation is a bit stressful, especially because finding an affordable apartment is a challenge – but I take one step at a time!"*

A local provider of temporary furnished accommodation helped her find a temporary solution at short notice. At the same time, she was looking for more favorable long-term options.

Her tip for others: Who can, should also ask the future employer for support or ask colleagues for recommendations and platform tips. One month before her planned start of work, she was then able to move into her new apartment, supported by **EURES-TMS** relocation assistance.

Kim Prade also helped with administrative challenges and questions (including reporting to the new place of residence). Even during the salary negotiations, she assisted Giorgia with practical tools such as the [BA's Pay Atlas](#). "I am deeply grateful for the support that this project is giving me, and most importantly for your kind, fast and precise help." (quote Giorgia)

## First days on the job – feeling heard and supported

On May 1, 2025, Giorgia took up her new position as Content Manager in an internationally oriented Munich-based company. The working language is English, but the company actively encourages her to develop their knowledge of German.

"I like my job because it is dynamic and creative.", she says, and "I have a lot to do and [...] it is going really fast [...] I feel heard and I love the flexibility (smart working, working from abroad)". She is currently attending a **EURES-TMS**-funded German course (Level A2) – an important building block for long-term and sustainable integration.

### **i** ZAV application workshop

The format 'Successfully Apply' is an online service (German & English) of the ZAV and is carried out for registered customers of the ZAV. Participants receive free tips on application documents, job interviews, cultural peculiarities and frequent stumbling blocks.

Contact your EURES adviser or the [ZAV Customer Center](#).

### **i** EURES TMS

The EURES-Targeted Mobility Scheme (TMS) supports cross-border professional mobility within Europe with financial grants and personal advice.

There are support modules for both job seekers and employers.

[Information on EURES TMS](#)

## Everyday life and setting in socially – one step at a time

True friendships usually develop slowly and steadily. *"I don't think I have real friends yet, unfortunately!"* says Giorgia openly. *"But my colleagues are great, welcoming and supportive."*

At the same time, she is looking for local activities to establish her own contacts. Administration, housing situation, bank account, health insurance – all this needs to be regulated in parallel. Her motto: One step at a time.

## Munich & Germany through Giorgia's eyes



What excites her? A lot of things.

The vibrancy of the city, the proximity to the Alps, countless parks, organic supermarkets, vegan options and: *"[...] something I really liked doing since I relocated, is eating Japanese food. [...] These are my favourite Japanese restaurants and caffè in Munich".* *"I have also found a silly picture of me in a Manga store, i.e. in Munich".*

Giorgia was also impressed by the international atmosphere and the high awareness of education and nature. This change means a noticeable quality of life for them: City life with a connection to nature. The botanical garden is one of her favorite places.

### An example of European labour mobility

Giorgia's story shows: Self-initiative, diligence and professional advice lead to success.

*"Hello Kim! Yes, everything is fine here! I have been warmly welcomed and I couldn't be more happy! I am really grateful."* (quote Giorgia)



What started with a 'simple' EURES consultation request became a real success story: For Giorgia the departure into a new life, for Kim Prade an example of successful individual consultation in the EURES context.

## Last but not least: Giorgia's practical tips for other European jobseekers

- **Have patience.** Recruitment processes are ongoing – it is worthwhile to stick to them.
- **Negotiate confidently.** Be self-assured when it comes to salary expectations and housing searches.
- **Learn German early.** Ideally, before or in parallel with the application process.
- **Choosing internationally active, growing companies** – often more open to international profiles.
- Take advantage of support offers like **EURES advisory** & ask for **EURES funding programmes**, online workshops and potential employers if there is a lack of feedback on applications.

**Dear Giorgia, we wish you all the best on your further journey in Germany!**