

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In these complex and economically very unstable times the U.S. Economy has, for various reasons, been able to generate a relatively large number of new jobs. The same does not apply to Europe, for reasons such as:

- lack of entrepreneurship
- absence of labour mobility and flexibility
- lack of preparation for 'business' futures
- general attitudes towards jobs and work itself
- social and cultural factors counterproductive in mobility and change.

Over the past 34 years, in the U.S. the number of jobs increased by 77% compared to only 10% in Europe. Over the past 11 years the U.S. has created some 20 million new jobs, whereas Europe lost over 1.5 million. Also, U.S. manufacturing productivity, measured by the average annual change in unit labour costs has improved dramatically compared in most of Western Europe. Economic growth in the U.S. has also been very much stronger than that of Europe, as well as outstripped that of Japan for two years running. Both upheaval in many markets and rapid technological change have given people new opportunities in the U.S. Also, deregulation of transport and telecommunications sectors of the economy have proved to be a boon for many entrepreneurs, as have various tax policy revisions.

Flexibility and mobility of labour are lacking in Europe, whereas resistance to social and technological change is very strong. European workers in declining industries have been far more resistant than their U.S. counterparts to accept retraining and changes. European leaders are loath to try