

Private employment service providers have a less significant role in the developing and transition countries. However, even where public employment services exist, private employment agencies often play a crucial role in providing supplementary services, although their role is often not reflected in the available research evidence. The international convention on private employment agencies defines PrEAsas: 'Any natural or legal person, independent of the public authorities, which provides one or more of the following labour market services:

(a) services for matching offers of and applications for employment, without the private employment agency becoming a party to the employment relationships which may arise there from;

(b) services consisting of employing workers with a view to making them available to a third party, who may be a natural or legal person (referred below as a 'user enterprise') which assigns their tasks and supervises the execution of these tasks;

(c) other services related to job seeking, determined by the competent authority after consulting the most representative employers' and workers' organisations, such as the provision of information that do not set out to match specific offers of and applications for employment.' (ILO, 1997, Article 1