

## **Press release – January 2018**

**ACF statistics 2017 – ACF (Swiss Association of Personal & Organizational Change Firms), the industry association for outplacement services, has once again published its current statistics for 2017. Over the past year, job seekers under ACF's care found new employment after an average of just 8.1 months, with unemployed people aged over 50 finding jobs after nine months. Demand for outplacement programs is increasing, with reintegration programs evening out at an average duration of three to six months.**

Industry association for outplacement services ACF has been collecting key reintegration data from the Swiss job seekers under its care since it was founded in 2003. The results for 2017 have proven positive and show that support is helpful when it comes to finding employment. Overall demand for individual coaching after loss of employment has increased in recent years. On average, job seekers complete outplacement programs lasting between three and six months. This is shorter than in previous years.

### **A new job after just 8.1 months – only fractionally longer for over 50s**

Last year, job seekers were able to find new employment after around 8.1 months. The period of time before reintegration into work was slightly higher than the previous year. It also became clear that it only took job seekers aged over 50 less than a month longer to be reintegrated into the world of work, with the average period remaining at nine months.

### **Personal networking remains the most important success factor in job hunting**

Networking is still the most important factor for reintegration into the world of work, increasing once again to over 46%, followed by advertisements and the internet as tools (29%). Social media channels such as LinkedIn and Xing (4%) and unsolicited applications (2%) were of negligible and reducing importance.

### **Higher education does not prevent unemployment**

The percentage of job seekers with university or college degrees was as high as in previous years, at over 48%. Higher education does not seem to provide protection against losing your job.

### **Sector mix – trends are remaining stable**

Around half of those seeking employment came from the industrial sector, followed by the services sector (42.58%). The number of administrative job seekers decreased. Just 38% of job seekers from the industrial sector were able to find employment in the same field, with the majority moving over to the service sector – a trend which has been continuing for several years. More than 9% of all job seekers took the plunge of becoming self-employed, a higher proportion than the previous year.

There was an observable general increase in the confidence shown in outplacement programs, despite increasing pressure on budgets. In this field, it is important that outplacement companies offer programs which are specifically targeted in terms of duration, orientation, and quality.

(Data from ACF Switzerland 2017 statistics)

See attached chart.

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## **ACF**

Switzerland's Association of Personal & Organizational Change Firms (ACF) – founded in 2003 – brings together the country's leading career development and organizational change companies. The companies in this field offer the following services:

- Outplacement programs
- Career assessment and development
- HR consultancy and development