

## **SESSION 4: Building tools for Labour INT.**

### **GROUP 4: Transnational aspects of labour market integration of refugees.**

**How can our project improve cross-border movements of workers?**

**Background note (drafted by**  **EUROCHAMBRES )**

European societies are, and will continue to become, increasingly diverse. There are currently some 20 million non-EU nationals residing in the EU who make up 4% of its total population. Human mobility, in varying degrees and for a variety of different reasons, will be an inherent feature of the 21st century for Europe as well as globally.

Against that background, different factors relating to the transnational aspects of labour integration of refugees are to be considered.

The main factors are the management of migration flows and creating the right framework conditions for the successful integration of refugees/migrants in the labour markets of the countries they will reside in.

In terms of management of migration flows, at European level, a series of emergency measures relating to the resettlement of refugees across Member States was taken in order to alleviate the pressure that the massive influx of refugees is putting on the EU arrival countries (mostly Italy and Greece, to a lesser degree Bulgaria). The European Commission in its tenth report on relocation and resettlement (Com(2017)202 final) states that *“although there has been a progressive increase in the pace of relocations with 13,546 persons relocated as of 28 February (9,610 from Greece and 3,936 from Italy), this represents less than 14% of the legal obligation so far allocated by the Council (106,000 for both Italy and Greece). At the current pace, the total number of people relocated will be far from the obligations set for September 2017.”*

The picture in terms of relocation is scattered, with some Member States fulfilling their obligations and others partly or not at all.

In terms of resettlement, according to the report *“significant progress has been achieved so far on resettlement, with well beyond half of the 22,504 resettlements agreed under the Conclusions of 20 July 2015 already completed...As of 27 February 2017, 14,422 people have been resettled to 21 States.”* Still the figures are below target, and the Commission in its report calls on Member States to speed up the process and fulfil their obligations in that field.

The creation of the right framework conditions for the successful integration of refugees/migrants in the labour market is a sine qua non condition for tackling the question from an economic as well as social perspective.

The different aspects of those framework conditions are the following:

- 1) Identification and assessment of migrants/refugees' skills
- 2) Verification of available documentation, and/or establishment of first level reference documentation
- 3) Analysis of the job market in terms of needs and availability
- 4) Identification of refugees/migrants' training needs
- 5) Provision of training
- 6) Matching with companies looking for workers/employees

At European level, different initiatives are being launched/ are in place to respond to the above-mentioned challenges:

- Development of a skills assessment tool for migrants by DG Employment
- EURES portal
- CEDEFOP – development of a pilot project in the framework of the relocation mechanism to test how skill strategies could support asylum applicants eligible for relocation but not in the category of vulnerable groups, and those with family and social ties in EU countries. In the frame of this project, Cedefop will make the most of existing experiences and initiatives including the skills-profiling tool for third country nationals (i.e. toolkit) the European Commission has been working on.

With the assistance of the different stakeholders and through its pilot actions, Labour-Int will contribute to materializing those aspects at national and regional level.

Besides, the Labour-Int working group on skills and migration is going to deal with skills related questions with the objective to set tools to profile skills of asylum-seekers and refugees along the entire integration chain which may include language learning, civic education, social assistance, VET, balance of competences, labour market active participation, having as a output a CV that is recognised by the local labour market and used for skill matching.

Participants to the session are invited to reflect how the project can contribute to improving the cross-border movements of workers.