



# ▶ TESTING THE EUROPEAN UNION SKILLS PROFILE TOOL FOR TCNs

AN EVALUATION REPORT BASED ON PILOT  
TESTING EXERCISES CONDUCTED IN AUSTRIA  
AND GREECE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
EXPERT GROUP OF SKILLS AND MIGRATION  
OF THE LABOUR INT 2 PROJECT

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# ▶ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Labour market integration is a key facet of the broader issue of social inclusion of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. As shown by an expanding literature, these categories face a specific 'refugee gap' that justifies the concentrated efforts made by the EU institutions in this area.

Given the scarcity of formal qualifications of a significant share of refugee populations in Europe, special attention was given to the identification and recognition of skills and competences acquired outside formal education and training systems. In this framework, the EU Skills Profile Tool<sup>1</sup> created with the Skills Agenda launched in 2016 is still an important component of the New Skills Agenda presented on 1 July 2020.

Against this evolving background, the LABOUR-INT PROJECT 2<sup>2</sup> that started in January 2019 has the evaluation of the implementation of the EU Tool as one of its central goals. The evaluation has been based on ad hoc national testing exercises that have been carried out in specific localities situated in two member states Athens (Greece) and Tyrol (Austria).

More specifically, the EU Tool has been tested with a specific category of beneficiaries, i.e. asylum seekers and refugees by two LABOUR INT 2 partners, i.e. the Tiroler Soziale Dienste GmbH (TSD) and the Centre of Athens Labor Unions (ERGATIKO KENTRO ATHINAS- EKA). FIERI (Forum of International and European Research on Immigration) has been in charge of the evaluation of the testing exercises.

This report presents the evaluation exercise, its methodology and key results. The specific objective of the exercise and of this report has been to answer the following driving questions: "did the intervention work?" and, more specifically, "did things work as expected to produce the desired change/result? And if not, why?".

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/migrantskills/#/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.labour-int.eu/the-labour-int-project-2/>

Moreover, in line with the original LABOUR INT 2 project document, the evaluation had the additional goal of analysing pre-existing local tools for skills assessment (if any) and comparing them with the EU tool also in order to find synergies and margins for amelioration.

The collected data allow us to formulate some reflections concerning the implementation of the EU Tool and some recommendations for its future use and for some possible improvements.

In particular, the analysis of the two national pilot actions has highlighted, on the one hand, the need to make the Tool even more user-friendly and responsive to counsellors' needs. On the other hand, the evaluation has showed the crucial influence of the local context in shaping the implementation and determining the actual impact of the EU Tool.

Since its launch, the Tool was especially meant to provide guidance and support to those local contexts and organisations with less previous experience in the field of skills assessment for migrants and refugees.

Our evaluation exercise demonstrates that successful implementation especially in those less experienced contexts requires targeted accompanying measures. These should be aimed, for instance, at providing training on skills assessment or at fostering coordination with and active involvement of local labour market services (public or private). If integrated in a more systemic approach of this sort, the EU Skills Profile Tool can indeed contribute to an overall improvement of migrant and refugee integration at the local level as well as it can offer an added value in the ongoing epidemic crisis. Being an online tool, it allows to make skill assessment not only in an office but also in open spaces or any other location. Otherwise, the Tool runs the risks of not being able to really improve the situation of its beneficiaries and to fall prey of local structural weaknesses.



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