

Supporting Fair Labour Mobility and Migrant Workers' Rights in Europe

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<https://www.unionmigrantnet.eu/>

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What is UnionMigrantNet?

- The UnionMigrantNet is a European network of contact points providing services to migrants established, managed and supported by trade unions. It is promoted by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) since 2015.
- The main goal of the network is to support fair labour mobility and migration. The services provided by the UnionMigrantNet contact points are aimed at promoting the collective and individual interests and rights of migrants regardless of their status.

Core idea: Mobility must go hand in hand with rights.





Why UnionMigrantNet?

Challenges faced by migrant and mobile workers:

- Lack of information about rights
- Language barriers
- Undeclared work and exploitation
- Social dumping
- Complex cross-border social security rules

 **Rights exist** – but enforcement requires access, support, and cooperation.





What Does UnionMigrantNet Do?

Through national trade unions, the network provides:

- Free counselling and legal advice
- Information on labour law and social security
- Support in cross-border cases
- Assistance with posting of workers issues
- Guidance on residence and working conditions

👉 Services are practical, accessible, and worker-centred.





How the Network Works ?

- National advisory centres across EU countries
- Direct cooperation between trade unions
- Cross-border case handling
- Exchange of expertise and good practices
- Training and capacity building

👉 A European solidarity mechanism in practice.



Added Value at National Level

Being part of UnionMigrantNet enables:

- Stronger advisory capacity
- Access to European expertise
- Shared tools and methodologies
- Better handling of complex cross-border cases
- Increased visibility and trust among migrant workers

👉 It strengthens enforcement through prevention and support.



European Added Value



Direct contacts with trade unions in other countries:

- Faster and more effective cross-border cooperation
- Joint responses to labour mobility challenges
- Contribution to EU-level policy discussions
- Promotion of common standards for fair mobility

👉 No worker is left alone across borders.



Example: UnionMigrantNet & Cities Together for Integration



A project promoting cooperation between:

- Trade unions
- Local authorities
- Municipal services

Objectives:

- Improve migrant integration at local level
- Connect labour rights with social inclusion
- Exchange good practices among European cities



👉 Integration is not only employment – it is community inclusion.



UnionMigrantNet and Cities Together for Integration project (2020 – 2024)



- **Partners** - municipalities and UnionMigrantNet members from Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Slovenia;
- 3 years of good cooperation and exchanges among 18 partners including trade unions, local authorities, employers, associations, research institutes, NGO's:
 - exchange on successful local third country nationals integration practices
 - reach out to other stakeholders such as local and regional authorities active (and non) in the (labour market) integration of third country nationals
 - increase the visibility of the UnionMigrantNet
 - facilitate the access of information and services to migrants (including a presentation of the updated UnionMigrantNet portal)



UnionMigrantNet and Cities Together for Integration project in Bulgaria



- Bulgarian partners – CITUB, Sofia Municipality and "Association for Development of Sofia"
- Activities in Bulgaria:
 - Local Coalition of TU, NGO working with TCN's and the municipality;
 - One-stop service for migrants with free services provided by the local coalition]
 - Research on access to the Bulgarian labour market of third-country nationals;
 - 5 trainings on TCN's labour rights in the cities of Sofia and Harmanli;
 - 3 seminars for employers;
 - 2 campaigns at national level:
 - For information among all categories of TCN's - migrants seeking protection and granted status;
 - For advocacy among employers;
 - Study visits with practical exchange between local authorities and members of UMN - CITUB and FGTB, municipalities of Sofia and Liege;
 - Final conference of the project in Sofia.





Future Perspectives

- Expansion of advisory services
- Stronger cooperation with the European Labour Authority
- Digital tools for counselling
- Deeper partnerships with municipalities
- Sustainable funding mechanisms

Building a stronger European network for fair labour mobility.



Conclusion



UnionMigrantNet is:

- ✓ A practical tool for enforcing labour rights
- ✓ A platform for European trade union solidarity
- ✓ A bridge between workers, unions, and institutions
- ✓ A cornerstone of fair and sustainable labour market integration





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