Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Labour Market through a Multistakeholder Approach

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The recent upsurge of migration flows to Europe, consisting particularly of people seeking international protection, has made the need for effective and targeted integration policies ever more urgent. Regarding migrants’ integration into the labour market, a special emphasis is placed on the importance of early identification and validation of skills and qualifications.

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As acknowledged in the policy and academic community, the cornerstone of migrants’ integration process is their fair and successful integration in the labour market: the EU Common Basic Principles of Immigrant Integration state that “Employment is a key part of the integration process and is central to the participation of immigrants, to the contributions that immigrants make to the host society, and to making such contributions visible”. The recent upsurge of migration flows to Europe, consisting particularly of people seeking international protection, has made the need for effective and targeted integration policies ever more urgent. In the Action Plan for Integration of Third Country Nationals launched in June 2016 the European Commission (EC) pledged for more mainstreamed as well as targeted actions to support the integration in training, employment and society in general of recently arrived third country nationals, including refugees.

Regarding migrants’ integration into the labour market, a special emphasis is placed on the importance of early identification and validation of skills and qualifications. Following the Communication on a New Skills Agenda for Europe, of June 2016, the European Commission developed a Skills Profile Tool to support early profiling of the skills of refugees, migrants and other third country nationals.

In this context, even if the main work is to be done on the ground, the EU-level economic and social partners (ETUC, BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEP, UEAPME and EUROCHAMBRES) have already highlighted their readiness to support actions that will help to boost the labour market integration of migrants and refugees: at the Tripartite Social Summit of 16 March 2016 they presented a joint statement on the refugee crisis underlining their commitment and willingness to work with governments and other stakeholders to design and develop policies to support integration. The “LABOUR-INT: Labour Market Integration of Migrants: A multi-stakeholder approach” project represents a first concrete contribution in this direction. This report represents the final output of the work carried out by the Expert Group on Skills and Migration (EGSM) of the LABOUR-INT project between April and September 2017. LABOUR-INT aims to promote multi-layered and multi-stakeholder integration paths for recently arrived migrants and refugees across the EU.