

SKILLS AND MIGRATION

RECOGNITION OF
QUALIFICATIONS

VALIDATION OF
SKILLS

LEGAL MIGRATION

Context

The European Training Foundation (ETF) works with 29 partner countries outside the EU, in South Eastern Europe and Turkey, Eastern Europe, the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asia.

Through helping to design, implement and evaluate policies and programmes to promote social mobility and inclusion and economic competitiveness, and reform education and skills training programmes, the ETF contributes to socio-economic development in the wider EU Neighbourhood.

Many of the partner countries the ETF works with have been long-term sources of migrants to the EU, with people moving to work, study or join family members.

Supporting the development of measures to ensure legal labour migration offers mutual benefits to both sending and receiving countries, and migrants themselves, is part of the ETF's mission. In 2019, the EU Member States saw flows of 32 million migrants, with a third arriving from five ETF partner countries: [Morocco](#), [Turkey](#), [Russia](#), [Algeria](#) and [Ukraine](#).

Focus

Migration today is a multifaceted issue that encompasses emigration, immigration, transit through territories, and the relationship of the labour market and skills development is key to ensure legal migration pathways.

The ETF's key focus on human capital development uses an evidence-based approach to policy development, giving it an edge in analysing the crucial links between migration, labour markets and skills development.

By focusing on areas that include the recognition of qualifications, the validation of skills and competences, skills profiling of migrants and addressing the root causes for migration – both 'push' and 'pull' factors – the ETF can champion policies that improve the use of migrants' skills, benefitting countries of origin, destination and the migrants themselves.

Analysis of best practice in supporting migrants' access to education, training and labour markets is a key tool the ETF uses to identify success factors that can be scaled-up at system level.



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Support for EU services

The ETF supports EU policies on promoting legal migration. The European Commission's September 2020 proposal for a [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), involving a wide range of EU bodies and agencies and the European Member States, will prompt further work on the skills-related dimensions of the new pact.

New initiatives where the ETF is contributing include the establishment of Talent Partnerships with third-party countries, starting with the EU Neighbourhood, the Western Balkans and Africa, that support better job opportunities at home and legal routes to the EU.

Current activities

- A study on how migration, skills and labour markets interact in the Western Balkans, covering [Albania](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Kosovo](#)¹, [Montenegro](#), [North Macedonia](#) and [Serbia](#).

- New analyses on trends, policies and projects on skills and migration have been developed as part of the ETF's human capital development systems assessment for [Georgia](#), [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#), [Moldova](#), [Morocco](#), [Tunisia](#) and [Ukraine](#).
- Analyses of migrant support measures from an employment and skills perspective (MISMES) for policy recommendations cover [Armenia](#), [Georgia](#), [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#), [Moldova](#), [Morocco](#) and [Tunisia](#).
- Developing an approach to recognition and validation of skills and qualifications of refugees.
- Since 2019, the ETF, the ITC-ILO and the ILO have jointly developed a new [training course on the skills dimensions of migration](#).

All reports are available at www.etf.europa.eu.

ETF MIGRATION TEAM

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¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.