



# “Valuing Skills of Beneficiaries of International Protection”



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Newsletter February 2016

Welcome to the first **Skills2Work** Newsletter. This Newsletter will be published every second month to inform project partners and stakeholders of project progress and to forecast future activities.

On 22 January 2016, a one-day preparation meeting for the **Skills2Work** project took place in London.

Nine IOM focal points and six Co-Beneficiary Partners met to exchange ideas on the project's activities and develop a course of action for the coming 24 months.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Geertrui Lanneau, Regional Thematic Specialist at IOM's Regional Office in Brussels. The project partners presented their ideas and engaged in constructive brainstorm sessions.

The end result was a successful meeting which helped all partners to align their views with regards to the main elements of the project. With the next regional project meeting (in Madrid) fast approaching, project partners

are now well equipped to start project activities. They will now start with the first steps towards the collection of success stories and begin outreach/network building



Studies show that long periods of unemployment for refugees – as for everybody else – often lead to permanent “unemployability” and welfare dependency. Rapid participation in the labour market is the best way forward towards full integration.

Thus, the **Skills2Work** project promotes the validation of formal and non-formal skills and strives for the active participation of the private sector. Current best practices will be shared and promoted to jumpstart labour market integration of refugees.

IOM is proud to lead such an important project whose objectives may be more relevant now than in the recent past.”

Martin Wyss,  
Chief of Mission  
IOM the Netherlands

## Skills2Work

The Skills2Work project aims to promote labour market integration of beneficiaries of international protection through improving early validation of both formal and informal skills and competences.

### Key outcomes from London:

- ✓ Based on the input received in London, blueprints for the
  - 1) national inventories,
  - 2) success stories,
  - 3) national stakeholder consultations and
  - 4) Pathfinder, will be provided for review to all partners.
- ✓ The tentative date for the next partner meeting in Madrid is 21-22 April; Associate Partners are invited to attend.

### Milestones towards Madrid:

- ✓ Partners will provide feedback on the research plan.
- ✓ Partners will launch their country-specific research to identify (potential) national stakeholders, best practices and success stories.
- ✓ Partners will actively pursue co-funding.

### Facts & Figures:

- 9** IOM offices in 9 EU countries - Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom.
- 6** Co-Beneficiary Partners in various participating countries.
- 5** Associate Partners in various participating countries.
- 24** Months duration (Jan 2016 – Dec 2017).
- 4** Regional project meetings in London, Madrid, Bratislava and Brussels.



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