



“Valuing Skills of Beneficiaries of International Protection”



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Bashar's Story



Private sector organizations are taking an increasingly important role in the integration success of migrants. Bashar Al Katrib is a Syrian refugee who participated in a joint private sector job-matching initiative in the Netherlands. He now volunteers for a Dutch NGO, a position he obtained through personal networking efforts. “At this stage, I aim at becoming again a productive member in the society by finding a job that helps me stop receiving social aid,” Mr. Al Katrib says.

Bashar Al Katrib was one of several beneficiaries of the joint job-matching pilot initiative, which was delivered by the Central Agency for the reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) and Randstad - a leading Dutch multinational recruitment agency. The pilot initiative aimed to equip and prepare permit holders for the labour market and to guide them towards employment. Mr. Al Katrib benefitted from advice and support that he received during the pilot initiative to better navigate the Dutch labour market. Although already an experienced professional in the communications field in Syria, Mr. Al Katrib quickly recognized the need to adjust his profile to suit the Dutch context, ensuring that his CV was relevant and desirable to the local labour market.

Offering some final thoughts, Mr. Al Katrib remarked, “I am thrilled to hear every day about new Dutch organizations or even initiatives that help the refugees to regain their high spirits and to integrate more, bringing them back to the professional circles, and to encourage them to be productive members again in the society”. More stories of success like Mr. Al Katrib's, is expected to be published by the Skills2Work project toward the end of 2016.

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.

Skills2Work Project Timeframe Highlights

Feb 2016 – Dec 2016

National stakeholder consultations with local networks of migrant support groups, employers, public institutions and local authorities.

Nov 2016:

Publication of Success Stories from employers and beneficiaries of international protection

Dec 2016

Introducing best practice Guidelines for early stage skills, knowledge, and competency recognition, as well as for the recruitment and retention of beneficiaries of international protection.

Skills2Work Pathfinder

The Pathfinder is an interactive, online directory; designed to assist employers, local service providers and beneficiaries of international protection in navigating early, successful and sustained labour market integration. The Pathfinder website will contain information on existing services, organisations, projects and initiatives (in sum ‘mechanisms’) that support the identification of skills, knowledge and competencies of beneficiaries of international protection in nine EU member states.

In addition to information provision, the Pathfinder will display employment success stories from each participating member state.

The Pathfinder will be officially launched at the beginning of 2017.



International Organization for Migration

For more information about **Skills2Work**: NLintegration@iom.int

+31 70 318 1500