

BEYOND POLICY: MAKING EU LABOUR MOBILITY WORK IN PRACTICE

13/10
09:30

CONFERENCE OPENING

Opening remarks by the European Commission and ICMPD

13/10
10:00

A REALITY CHECK: EVOLVING LABOUR NEEDS AND (NEW) EU TOOLS TO ADDRESS THEM

Expert panel with European Commission, academia and EU MS public body

13/10
11:30

FROM DEMAND TO DELIVERY: UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYERS' NEEDS AND WANTS

Expert panel with representatives from private sector companies and employers' federations

13/10
14:00

THE INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESSFUL LABOUR MOBILITY PROJECTS: 3 PRACTICE LABS

Parallel practice labs aimed to developing practical, actionable approaches on selected steps of the mobility cycle

**REGISTER
NOW!**



5TH IN-PERSON CONFERENCE

**13-14 OCTOBER 2026
SOFITEL BRUSSELS EUROPE
PL. JOURDAN 1, 1040
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

For More Information :
LMPN@icmpd.org

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TURNING QUALIFICATIONS INTO OPPORTUNITIES: SKILLS THAT TRAVEL ACROSS BORDERS

Expert panel with EU
Commission, EU agencies and
Chamber of commerce

14/10
10:30

CARE UNDER PRESSURE: HOW CAN LABOUR MOBILITY FILL THE GAPS?

Sectoral focused panel with MPF
project implementors and
employer association

14/10
12:00

MAKING CIRCULAR PATHWAYS WORK: BALANCING COMMERCIAL AND ETHICAL INTERESTS

Expert panel with research
experts, EU Commission and EU
MS governments

14/10
13:00

CONFERENCE CLOSING EU LMPN: Recap of the past 5 years and future outlook Practice Labs: Key Insights and Highlights

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EU LABOUR MOBILITY PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK 5TH IN-PERSON CONFERENCE

13-14 OCTOBER 2026

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Across the European Union (EU), labour shortages are structural and widespread, with the Cedefop Labour and Skills Shortage Index highlighting persistent gaps across EU Member States (MS). In response, a number of established and more recent EU initiatives and instruments, including Talent Partnerships, the EU Talent Pool, and the Skills Portability Initiative aim to facilitate labour mobility to the EU and improve access to international talent for European businesses. Yet, a 2026 Eurobarometer survey stresses that only around one in seven SMEs has attempted to recruit workers from outside the EU, citing administrative complexity, limited information, and procedural barriers. This points to a **disconnect between policy ambition and operational reality**.

Over the past five years, the EU labour mobility landscape has evolved considerably, with new frameworks, instruments, and partnerships expanding the toolbox available to policymakers and practitioners. Since its establishment in 2022, the **EU Labour Mobility Practitioners' Network (EU LMPN)** has both accompanied and contributed to this evolution. As both the policy framework and the Network have matured, the challenge has increasingly shifted from developing new instruments to ensuring that existing ones can be effectively implemented, scaled, and sustained. Marking the fifth edition of the EU LMPN In-Person Conference, this year's theme, "**Beyond Policy: Making EU labour mobility work in practice**", reflects this transition and places a clear focus on the next phase of the discussion: moving from policy ambition to operational delivery.

While labour market analysis, demographic trends, and policy developments will provide the foundation for discussion, the **emphasis will be on implementation**: understanding employer needs, identifying operational bottlenecks, and examining what is required to make labour mobility work in practice. Through dedicated practice labs, participants will explore the core building blocks of labour mobility schemes, including the pre-departure phase, matching and selection, and onboarding and retention. The Conference will also examine priority themes such as skills recognition, sector-specific pathway models, and the longer-term sustainability of labour mobility initiatives.

For More Information :
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