

Final Conference in Rome, Italy in September 2025



## Framework for a Migrant Talent Pipeline between Pakistan and Italy

Roma  
25 Settembre 2025



# Building the foundations for partnership using a holistic mobility approach

“Strengthening Circular Legal and Skilled Migration Through Cooperation Between Italy and Pakistan (SkillNet)” laid the groundwork for understanding the operational feasibility of legal migration pathways between the two countries through research, institutional cooperation and skills alignment. The project aimed to create an enabling environment for mutually beneficial labour migration, with a specific focus on the Northern Italian region of Piedmont. Its three objectives focused on establishing a jointly agreed Talent Migrant Pipeline based on sectoral research, developing the capacity of Pakistani institutions to support labour mobility and fostering cooperation aligned with the EU’s Talent Partnerships approach.

# Knowledge transfer, practical understanding



Project Manager,  
Paolo Pozzo

Grounded in national and regional research, the webinars drew directly on findings that identified **four priority sectors**: mechanics, tourism, construction and textile. It was concluded that these sectors reflect both Italian labour needs and Pakistani training strengths.

*"I remember that curriculum alignment was initially perceived as a major challenge, but after multiple technical meetings, it was concluded that Pakistani curricula are largely at par with Italian/EU standards, requiring only minor adjustments." (Pakistani stakeholder)*

***"I would rate webinars as highly effective.***

*These webinars allowed participants to understand Italian systems and procedures, to compare assessment and qualification frameworks and to identify gaps and similarities in vocational training systems." (Italian stakeholder)*

Each webinar was designed with a clear purpose, bringing together the individuals best positioned to share essential expertise. These eight targeted sessions created focused, dynamic spaces for effective knowledge transfer and practical understanding.

# Conferences for cooperation

*“Partnership was very successful with the government institutions.” (International stakeholder)*

The three SkillNet conferences, held in Turin (December 2024), Islamabad (July 2025) and Rome (September 2025), were an essential compliment to the knowledge-sharing webinars for strengthening cooperation. **Each event brought together the key institutions and decision makers needed to advance labour mobility discussions, creating space for direct dialogue and joint reflection.** Meeting in person allowed stakeholders to engage deeply with the project’s research findings, align priorities and build the relationships necessary for sustained collaboration.



## Delivering an enabling environment

*“I would say yes, the project created an enabling environment. The core areas defined to us—the competencies—were the same; however, the nomenclature/structures were different on both sides. We did an effort to align the similar subjects/courses available here.” (Pakistani stakeholder)*

**SkillNet’s enabling environment emerged from a holistic process that stakeholders consistently valued:** mapping institutions, conducting national and regional research, and openly discussing opportunities and challenges throughout the three conferences. This work culminated in the Migrant Talent Pipeline roadmap, which translates evidence and dialogue into a practical guide for future mobility. By grounding decisions in data and collective insight, the project created a solid, credible foundation for sustainable labour migration pathways.

# Between Pakistan and Italy

An initiative of the SkillNet project



H.E. Marilina Armellin, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan,  
at the Conference in Islamabad in July 2025

# Contributing to EU Talent Partnership

The SkillNet project has **contributed to the EU Talent Partnership with Pakistan** through the knowledge products developed on the alignment of curricula for the four chosen sectors, as well as building institutional relations and alignment of thematic priorities which will form the basis of any next initiative involving the two countries. This advances bilateral cooperation between Italy and Pakistan, as well as more broadly between the EU and Pakistan.

## About the MPF

This grant project is part of the EU-funded Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), managed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) to support the external dimension of the EU's migration policy. MPF funds projects that promote dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between EU Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

## About the project

Strengthening Circular Legal and Skilled Migration Through Cooperation Between Italy and Pakistan (SkillNet) aimed to create an enabling environment for enhanced labour mobility between Pakistan and Italy, with a particular focus on the Piedmont region. The project developed a practical framework for a talent mobility pathway on the basis of project-generated research and facilitated knowledge sharing with Pakistani institutions for aligning curricula. SkillNet was implemented by ANOLF Piemonte in partnership with ISCOS and CISL Piemonte.

## About the evaluation

Testimonies and evidence used in this document were gathered as part of a final evaluation of SkillNet, conducted in 2025-2026. The evaluation was led by Blomeyer & Sanz, who leads a consortium of six consultancies and NGOs, namely Blomeyer & Sanz, Diversity Development Group, Migration Policy Group, Policy Impact Lab, Samuel Hall and Tandans.



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