EU Labour Mobility Practitioners' Network (EU LMPN) In-Person Conference

Beyond policy: Making EU labour mobility work in practice

13-14 October 2026
Sofitel Brussels Europe
Pl. Jourdan 1, 1040 Bruxelles

Draft Agenda

13 October 2026	
09:00 - 09:30 **(30 min)**	**Welcome coffee and registrations**
09:30 – 10:00 **(30 min)**	**[Opening]** ***Welcoming remarks*** • Mr. Ralph Genetzke, Director of the Brussels Mission, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) ***Keynote speech*** • Ms. Anita Vella, Head of Unit for Legal Pathways and Mobility, Directorate General for Home Affairs and Migration (DG HOME C2)
10:00 – 11:00 **(60 min)**	**[Session 1] A reality check: Evolving labour needs and (new) EU tools to address them** ***Format: Expert panel*** • Prof. Tesseltje de Lange, Prof. EU Migration Law, Radboud University Nijmegen • Ms. Cinzia Conti, Senior Researcher, Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) • Ms. Bianka Debussche Valkovicova, Policy Coordinator, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) • Mr. Shawn Mendes, Head of Information and EURES Unit, European Labour Authority (ELA) **Discussion (45 min) and Q&A (15 min)** **Moderation**: Mr. Oleg Chirita, Deputy Head of ICMPD Brussels Mission, Head of Global Initiatives, ICMPD *This session will set the stage for the Conference, examine current labour market needs and assess whether existing and emerging EU tools are adequately equipped to respond to labour shortages and skills gaps across Europe.*
11:00-11:30 **(30 min)**	**Coffee break**
11:30 – 12:30 **(60 min)**	**[Session 2] From demand to delivery: Understanding employers' needs and wants** ***Format: Expert panel***

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	• Mr. Heinz Rittman, Deputy CEO, Bauverbände NRW/North-Rhine Westphalian Construction Federation • Ms. Elicia Carmicheal, Director of Financial Solutions and Corporate Partnerships, Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP) • Ms. Mirela Coca, Business Unit Manager International Recruitment, Accent Jobs • Representative of TUI Group (TBC) **Discussion (45 min) and Q&A (15 min)** **Moderation**: Ms. Rimma Abadjan, Labour Mobility Speciality, Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), ICMPD *This session will explore labour mobility from the employer perspective, focusing on workforce needs, recruitment realities, and the practical conditions required to make international recruitment a scalable and sustainable response to labour shortages.*
12:30 – 14:00 **(90 min)**	**Seated lunch**
14:00 – 15:00 **(60 min)**	**[Session 3] From incubation to implementation: What makes labour mobility projects work?** ***Format: Fishbowl conversation*** **Moderation**: Ms. Cecilia Coccia, Grants Manager, MPF, ICMPD **First round speakers:** • Ms. Ainara Dorremochea Fernández, Deputy Director General of Legal Affairs, Spanish State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) • Mr. Søren Kjærsgaard Høfler, Chefkonsulent, Dansk Industri • Ms. Lucia Santuccione, Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Morocco • Mr. Benjamin Minard, General Manager, EU Affairs at VFS Global *This interactive discussion will explore what makes labour mobility projects successful in practice, drawing on lessons learned from project design and implementation. By identifying the key ingredients of effective labour mobility pathways, the session will set the scene for the subsequent Practice Labs, where participants will examine specific stages of the mobility cycle in greater detail.*
15:00 – 17:00 **(120 min including 30 min coffee break)**	**[Session 4] The ingredients of successful labour mobility projects: 3 Practice Labs** ***Format: Parallel Practice Labs*** • **Practice Lab I: Preparing employable candidates** Moderation: Ms. Sarah Schlaeger, Senior Lead Policy and Liaison, ICMPD

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	This lab will focus on how candidates can be effectively prepared for international employment through skills development, recognition, certification, language preparation, and workplace readiness. • **Practice Lab II: Matching & selection** Moderation: Ms. Maybritt Hennig, Grants Officer, MPF, ICMPD *This lab will focus on how employers and candidates can be successfully connected through effective matching, selection processes, and stakeholder coordination.* • **Practice Lab III: Onboarding & retention** Moderation: Ms. Caitlin Katsiaficas, Policy Analyst, ICMPD *This lab will focus on how international workers can be successfully integrated and retained through onboarding, mentoring, and support mechanisms.*
17:00 - 19:00	**Closing & standing dinner/cocktails**

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09:00 - 09:30 (30 min)	**Welcome coffee**
09:30 – 10:30 **(60 min)**	**[Session 1] Turning qualifications into opportunities: Skills that travel across borders** ***Format: Expert panel*** • Dr. Mona Ayoub, Director of the Competence Center for Skills and Training, German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Egypt) • Dr. Vasileios Symeonidis, Expert on Qualifications and Credentials, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) • Mr. William O'Keeffe, Policy Officer, DG EMPL • Dr. Eng. Eurico Assunção, Deputy Director, European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting (EWF) **Discussion (45 min) and Q&A (15 min)** **Moderation:** Dr. Jennifer Tangney, Senior Programme Coordinator, MPF, ICMPD *This session will explore how skills and qualifications can be recognised, validated, and communicated across borders, and how they can be effectively translated into labour mobility and employment opportunities.*

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10:30 - 11:30 **(60 min)**	**[Session 2] Care under pressure: How can labour mobility fill the gaps?** ***Format: Expert panel*** • Mr. Salvatore Petronella, Associate Director over Policy and Public Affairs, LaMP • Dr. Raffaella Greco Tonegutti, Coordinator Human Mobility, ENABEL, the Belgian agency for international cooperation • Mr. Joseph Musgrave, CEO, Home & Community Care Ireland (HCCI) **Discussion (45 min) and Q&A (15 min)** **Moderation:** Ms. Eden Alemayehu, Programme Specialist Labour Mobility, MPF, ICMPD *This session will explore how labour mobility can help address workforce shortages in the health and long-term care sector, focusing on the practical conditions needed to build effective and sustainable mobility pathways.*
11:30 – 12:00 **(30 min)**	**Coffee break**
12:00 – 13:00 **(60 min)**	**[Session 3] Making circular pathways work: Balancing commercial and ethical interests** ***Format: Expert panel*** • Dr. Marco Mogiani, Researcher, ICMPD • Ms. Eleni Takou, Senior Policy and Research Officer, Mediterranean Migration and Asylum Policy Hub (MedMA) • Ms. Saskia Hoermann, Case Handler Manager and Policy Officer, DG HOME • Ms. Johanna Moreno Michels, SOC-SAT Almeria **Discussion (45 min) and Q&A (15 min)** **Moderation**: Ms. Justyna Segeš Frelak, Head of Policy, ICMPD *This session will explore how circular and seasonal labour mobility pathways can be designed to meet labour market needs while remaining fair, sustainable, and beneficial for all parties involved.*
13:00 - 13:30 **(30 min)**	**[Session 4] Conference closing, EU LMPN Highlights & Key words from Practice Labs** **Moderation:** Ms. Laura Zorrilla Fernández, Knowledge Management and Communications Specialist, MPF, ICMPD *The Conference will conclude with a reflection on key lessons learned, practical recommendations from the practice labs, and priorities for future labour mobility initiatives.*
13:30 -14:30	**Networking lunch**

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