

POTENTIAL REFUGEE LABOUR PATHWAYS TO AUSTRIA

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO COMPLEMENTARY LABOUR PATHWAYS

Complementary labour pathways can take a **variety of forms**, meaning that they can be designed in line with Member State contexts and priorities, can engage a variety of actors, and can reach refugees with a range of profiles. Approaches to facilitating refugee labour mobility include those that make **current labour pathways more accessible** to refugees generally as well as **targeted initiatives for displaced talent** in certain sectors or geographies.



Selected labour migration channels for third-country nationals that might be considered in a complementary labour pathway scheme.

📍 *With flexibility or adaptations, these could be used by displaced talent.*



Other labour migration initiatives that, while not currently targeting displaced persons, could be expanded or taken as inspiration to reach those in particular countries or occupations.

📍 *Targeted initiatives offer an opportunity to proactively reach displaced talent.*

EU Blue Card

- Combined residence and work permit, issued for **2 years**, entitling the holder to settle and work for a specific employer
- Requirements include a completed **university degree**, a binding **job offer for at least 1 year** corresponding to the qualification, a certain **monthly salary**, and an *Arbeitsmarktservice* (AMS) labour market examination

Red-White-Red Card

- Issued for **2 years**, entitling holders to settlement and employment with a specific employer; after 2 years, holders may be eligible for the Red-White-Red Card plus
- Can be obtained by very highly qualified workers; skilled workers in shortage occupations; specific key workers; graduates of an Austrian university or college of higher education; and regular workers in Tourism, Agriculture, and Forestry (specific conditions for each)
- Uses a **criteria-based model**, under which a minimum number of points must be achieved; most important criteria are the person's qualification level, professional experience, language skills, and age, as well as an adequate job offer and corresponding salary



EU Talent Partnerships

- Aim to facilitate **job matching** and **labour market mobility** that is beneficial for migrants, sending countries, and receiving countries, and could be used to reach refugees in addition to migrants
- Mobility for study, **work**, and **training** purposes
- Focus on **North African countries, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Senegal**

Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Science and Technology

- Collaboration between **Pakistan** and selected **Austrian** and **Chinese Universities**
- Aims to **strengthen technical education infrastructure** so students graduate with skills that align with labour market needs in Pakistan or elsewhere
- Students are awarded a **dual degree**, ensuring that they receive an education comparable to that of graduates from partner universities in Austria and China



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