Migration Partnership Facility

LEGAL MIGRATION AND LABOUR MOBILITY

Labour Pathways for Crafts & Trade SMEs: Training to Hire

About the Project

The 'Labour Pathways for Crafts & Trade SMEs: Training to Hire' initiative aims to address labour shortages in key craft and trade sectors in Italy and Spain while strengthening skills development and employability in Egypt. Led by CNA, the National Confederation of Italian Craft and SMEs, the project adopts an employer-driven approach, bringing together employer associations, SMEs, public authorities, training institutions, and civil society actors to support the recruitment, upskilling, and labour market integration of skilled Egyptian workers in sectors such as manufacturing, electrical and thermo-hydraulic systems, food production, tourism, and fashion. The project will support 400 Egyptian talents, facilitating employment in Italy, Spain and Egypt through training, employer engagement and skills matching, while developing a scalable labour mobility model that benefits both origin and destination countries.

Partners

This MPF project is implemented by the National Confederation of Italian Craft and SMEs – CNA, in collaboration with the Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations - CEEBA, CNA Emilia-Romagna, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of Catalonia – PIMEC, Fundación Ibn Battuta and the Italian Centre for Salesian Women's Works and Vocational Training – Fondazione CIOFS-FP ETS.

Countries

Italy, Spain, Egypt

Time frame

15 September 2026 – 31 December 2028
(27,5 months)

Budget

EUR 3,274,946.33 (80% from AMIF)

Activities

Pre-Departure

A comprehensive assessment of skills needs, labour market demand, and vocational training systems in Egypt, Italy, and Spain will inform the development of training programmes aligned with European labour market requirements and employer expectations, while strengthening cooperation between Egyptian TVET institutions and European employers. The project will also develop a multilingual digital platform and training materials to support high-quality and accessible learning opportunities. Through dedicated outreach and awareness-raising campaigns, 400 Egyptian participants will be selected, with particular attention to youth and women. Selected participants will receive comprehensive vocational training, language training, civic orientation, occupational health and safety modules, and employability support. Online and in-person job matching activities and employer engagement initiatives such as job fairs will further facilitate the identification of candidates who meet the requirements of hiring companies in Egypt, Italy and Spain.

Mobility

The project will facilitate safe and regular labour mobility pathways for **200 Egyptian workers**, including **approximately 150 placements in Italy and 50 in Spain**. Selected participants will receive support throughout the recruitment and relocation process, including preparation for administrative procedures, documentation requirements, and employer onboarding processes. Prior to departure, candidates will receive targeted preparation aimed at facilitating successful integration into the workplace and host community. Following arrival in the EU, participants will benefit from structured integration support, including mentoring, workplace orientation, language reinforcement and legal and administrative guidance. These measures are intended to support long-term employment outcomes and facilitate the successful integration of workers into European labour markets.

Cross-Cutting Activities

Stakeholder engagement will be established through advisory boards, working groups, and dialogue fora. These consultation mechanisms will ensure close coordination with national authorities and relevant EU initiatives, and alignment with ongoing TVET labour mobility frameworks. Particular emphasis will be placed on establishing and operationalising bilateral cooperation agreements between employer associations, SMEs, TVET institutions, and relevant authorities in Egypt, Italy, and Spain. By formalising cooperation mechanisms and mutual commitments between sending and destination-country stakeholders, the project will strengthen public-private partnerships and create a sustainable governance structure for future mobility schemes that can also serve as a basis for replication of the model and future expansion to additional sectors, regions, and EU Member States.

Implemented by

CNA · Ceeba The Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations · CNA Emilia Romagna · Fundació Ibn Battuta · pimec · CIOFS-FP ETS

The Migration Partnership Facility

MPF Migration Partnership Facility

This project is awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union

Implemented by ICMPD

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ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development