Migration Partnership Facility

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY



Digital Explorers II

About the Project

Digital Explorers II aims to build mutually beneficial and sustainable digital talent development partnerships among Baltic States, namely Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, and partner countries, Nigeria, Kenya and Armenia. Through an expanded scope and geography from its predecessor project Digital Explorers I, this new phase will capitalise on existing experience to implement a multi-country, multi-track mobility programme to upskill young ICT specialists and increase cooperation with digital ecosystem representatives. The project will seek to contribute to the creation of a financially self-sustainable ICT talent mobility partnership through the institutional knowledge produced and exchanged.

Partners

This MPF project is implemented by VšĮ OSMOS Global Partnerships (Lithuania) in collaboration with Estonian Centre for International Development "ESTDEV" (Estonia) and Latvian Startup Association "Startin.LV" (Latvia).

Countries

Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Nigeria, Kenya and Armenia

Time frame

01 March 2023 – 30 April 2027 (50 months)

Budget

EUR 3,472,437.71 (95% from AMIF)

Activities

Pre-departure

The pre-departure phase will cover the design of key Action stages, which include the development of migration models relevant for partner countries and tailor-made trainings that will add to the effectiveness of the schemes. Awareness building among key public and private stakeholders will also take place to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement. The pre-departure phase will also entail one hackathon (or bootcamp) event in Nigeria, Kenya and Armenia, which would significantly boost the practical experience of the participants. The procedures, tools and activities developed during this stage will be documented and integrated within the plans to turn the Action into a financially sustainable social enterprise.

Skills Enhancement and Career Support

The project will benefit 150 participants, of whom up to 110 will receive specialised training programme(s), 75 will be part of a mobility scheme in one of the three Baltic States and 65 will be offered internship opportunities in the partner countries. Accordingly, the Digital Explorers II training programme will consist of customised practical skills enhancement, which will be tailored to the specific needs of each country and the expectations of the talent pool and employers, complementing existing training and filling gaps in ICT-oriented education. A career development plan will be put in place to ensure that trainees selected for the programme are supported and guided in their short-term (for the duration of the project) and long-term career aspirations. Upon completion of the mobility phase, participants will be assisted regarding their career path through specific activities, such as career counselling and online job fairs.

Multi-Track, Multi-Country Mobility Phase

The project will have three different mobility tracks: the Professional, Trainee and Ambassador track. First, the Professional track will focus on matching experienced professionals with companies for work migration (open-ended contracts) to the Baltics and will be implemented on an ongoing basis. Second, the Trainee track will allow for 4-6 month internship opportunities in the Baltic States. To complement the mobility route and to create benefits for a wider pool of ICT talent, the project will also seek to generate local internship opportunities in the partner countries. To support the integration of ICT professionals and trainees into the European host companies, the project will offer on-the-job mentoring, training in soft and intercultural skills, and community and networking events. Third, the Ambassador track will be designed to build mutual trust and networks between the participating countries. In this context, techpreneurs and civil servants will be matched with Baltic host organisations for 1–3-week study visits.

Institutional Knowledge Production and Exchange

With the future-oriented prospect to promote digital talent development through knowledge generation and exchange, a gap-analysis report on Kenyan, Nigerian and Armenian ICT higher education will be prepared. Two interactive knowledge exchange sessions/events will be organised to disseminate findings and recommendations of the produced knowledge for representatives of participating countries. During this phase, two other studies will be conducted: 1) a benchmarking study on Baltic policies and practices in talent & startups attraction; 2) a feasibility study on Baltic involvement in Talent Partnerships. The Action team will organise two additional sessions/events to share the gathered knowledge with the aim of facilitating institutional learning and exchanges between participating countries on these topics.

Implemented by

osmos

ESTDEV Estonian Centre for International Development

startin.lv Go Global.

The 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



Contracted by ICMPD

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