

**LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY**

# Digital Explorers - Iraq Edition

✓ Project completed

## About the Project

Digital Explorers - Iraq Edition aimed to create an enabling environment for digital talent development and to build a strong skills enhancement and mobility partnership between Lithuania and Iraq. Building on the knowledge from the 2019 project with Nigeria, the Iraq Edition took a more exploratory and dialogue-oriented approach. It sought to assess and enhance digital skills of a selected group of young Iraqis, while also helping to strengthen Iraq's digital economy. The project also contributed to improving the relationship between the ICT sectors of both countries, as well as to exposing employers to the field of data analytics.



### Partners

This MPF project was implemented by VšĮ OSMOS Global Partnerships (Lithuania).



### Countries

Lithuania, Iraq



### Time frame

**September 2023 – June 2025** (22 months)



### Budget

**EUR 399,458.02** (95% from AMIF)

## Activities



### Skills Enhancement

As part of the project, 20 young Iraqis benefitted from a six-month data analytics online course with a Lithuanian EdTech startup, Turing College, and 85% of them successfully completed the training with high scores. To maintain engagement throughout the project, together with a local entrepreneurship support hub Five One Labs, regular community events were held in Baghdad, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah, fostering a strong sense of connection among participants. This created a strong bond that helped encourage active participation. This network remains active today, with alumni continuing to share professional updates and opportunities. The project also organised two job fairs in Baghdad and Erbil, providing participants with a platform to showcase their skills to company representatives.



*Job fair event, Erbil, Iraq, December 2024*



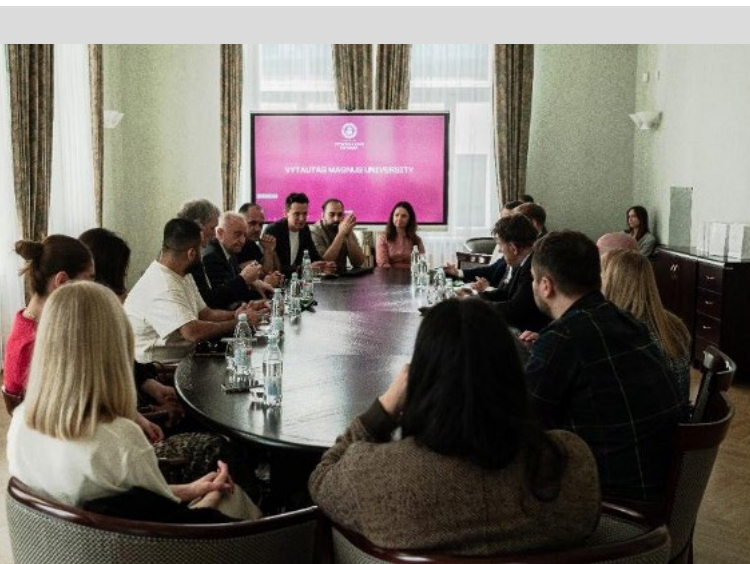
### Curriculum Review

The project aimed to create a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries by focusing on a detailed understanding of Iraq's digital economy. This was achieved by analysing and building relationships with various stakeholders, including universities, training providers, tech hubs, and government authorities. The analysis focused on two main areas: reviewing a selected ICT course curriculum and educational structures and identifying the needs and interests for capacity building and modernising the infrastructure of public institutions responsible for employment policies. Meaningful progress was made building an academic partnership with Sulaimani Polytechnic University (SPU), where experts from Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) provided recommendations for SPU's new Data Science programme.



## Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange

By creating a new space for dialogue, the project facilitated bilateral engagement between Lithuanian and Iraqi officials on topics ranging from migration policy to the opportunities presented by the digital economy. Knowledge exchange events served as a good introduction to Lithuania's best practices in public data management and set the stage for continued collaboration. A five-day field visit to Vilnius and Kaunas was organised for a delegation of seven Iraqi officials, who met with a wide range of public and private institutions, including ministries, startup accelerators, and universities.






Meeting at Vytautas Magnus University during delegation visit, Kaunas, Lithuania, April 2024



## Knowledge Products

Several reports were produced to guide the initiative and inform future cooperation. A benchmarking study, created in partnership with Middle East Minds, analysed digital policy in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan. Towards the end of the project, the team produced two additional reports: "Bridging Digital Skills and Opportunity: Next Steps in Lithuania-Iraq-KRI Cooperation" and "Strengthening Bilateral Ties Through Technology: A Blueprint for Lithuania, Iraq and the KRI": one explored opportunities for talent development and mobility partnerships between Iraq, Lithuania, and the wider EU; the other provided a roadmap that outlined the needs of partner Iraqi institutions for capacity building and digital solutions.

## More online sources on Digital Explorers – Iraq Edition:

-  [Digital Explorers website](#)
-  [Publication about the project on LRT \(Lithuanian National Broadcaster\)](#)
-  [Publication on the project's knowledge exchange events on Kurdistan Chronicle](#)

Implemented by:



## The Migration Partnership Facility



Migration Partnership Facility

This project was 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



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