

**LEGAL MIGRATION AND LABOUR MOBILITY**

# Strengthening Circular Legal and Skilled Migration Through Cooperation Between Italy and Pakistan (SkillNet)

 Project completed

## About the Project

SkillNet sought to create an enabling environment for enhanced labour migration between Pakistan and Italy, with a focus on the Piedmont region in northern Italy. To achieve this, the project developed a conceptual framework providing practical guidance for establishing a talent mobility pathway between the two countries. Furthermore, the initiative increased Pakistani stakeholders' understanding of the skills required for the entry of skilled workers into the Italian labour market, delivered research and knowledge products aligned with the European Union Talent Partnerships, and strengthened dialogue and cooperation between Italy and Pakistan on legal migration and labour mobility.



### Partners

This MPF project was implemented by National Association Beyond the Borders, Piedmont – ANOLF Piemonte (Italy), in collaboration with Trade Union Institute for Development Cooperation - ISCOS (Italy) and Confederation of Italian Trade Unions - USR CISL Piemonte (Italy).



### Countries

Italy, Pakistan



### Time frame

**February 2024 – September 2025** (19.5 months)



### Budget

**EUR 315,739.26** (94% from AMIF)

## Activities



### Research and Knowledge Production

The project analysed professional needs within the Italian labour market and examined specific occupational profiles in the Piedmont region. By identifying mismatches and gaps in skills classification across the countries concerned, the initiative sought to better align local, national, and international practices for recognising professional qualifications, thereby enhancing employment prospects of Pakistani workers and their access to the Italian labour market.

A series of knowledge products and publications formed a core component of the project's deliverables, each designed to deepen understanding of legal and labour migration issues among key stakeholders. These included the "Report on the professional needs of companies in relation to Italian legislation on labour migration", which identified sectors and occupations with a high demand for foreign workers, and a publication titled "Professional Needs, Training, and Skills Classification Systems: An Analysis of Piedmont and Pakistan". Drawing on two comprehensive research studies conducted at both national and regional levels - including a targeted analysis of the Pakistani context - the project identified **mechanics, tourism, construction, and textile** as the four priority sectors. These sectors were selected based on strong labour market demand and the potential for effective qualification alignment between the two countries. In addition, the project produced a conceptual framework on legal migration and labour mobility between Italy and Pakistan. This methodological proposal provides a significant contribution to mapping international practices for the recognition of skills and qualifications and offers a model for matching labour supply and demand in line with the Italian and broader European frameworks.



*SkillNet Workshop in Rome, September 2025*



### Stakeholder Engagement

Through stakeholder mapping and engagement strategies in Italy and Pakistan, SkillNet identified and collaborated with key actors across governmental bodies, employer organisations, vocational education and training providers, and civil society to ensure broad participation. The initiative also received formal endorsement from the government of Piedmont region, confirming strong regional ownership. Ultimately, by fostering a shared approach to the recognition of professional qualifications and promoting the exchange of best practices, the project laid a solid foundation for sustained cooperation between the two countries.







## Capacity Building

Through **three workshops** held in Turin (December 2024), Islamabad (July 2025), and Rome (September 2025), SkillNet brought together participants from ministries, training institutions, social actors, private sector representatives, and EU stakeholders. These events served as key platforms for presenting research findings, promoting dialogue on migration governance, and fostering cooperation. They also marked SkillNet's transition from research to action, showcasing tangible progress toward the operationalisation of talent partnerships.

Additionally, the project organised **nine webinars** from May to July 2025, which contributed to the development of a conceptual framework for talent mobility between Italy and Pakistan. The webinar series engaged **65 participants** from **23 institutions** across both countries, including ministries, regional authorities, training providers, universities, and international partners. Designed as an interactive and practice-oriented process, the webinars enhanced mutual understanding of vocational education and training systems and helped identify feasible pathways for skills recognition and ethical labour mobility.

## More online resources on SkillNet:

-  [SkillNet webpage](#)
-  [ANOLF Piemonte LinkedIn page](#)
-  [ANOLF Piemonte Facebook page](#)
-  [Publication on the closing event](#)

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## The 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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