

Global Skills Partnerships in the EU

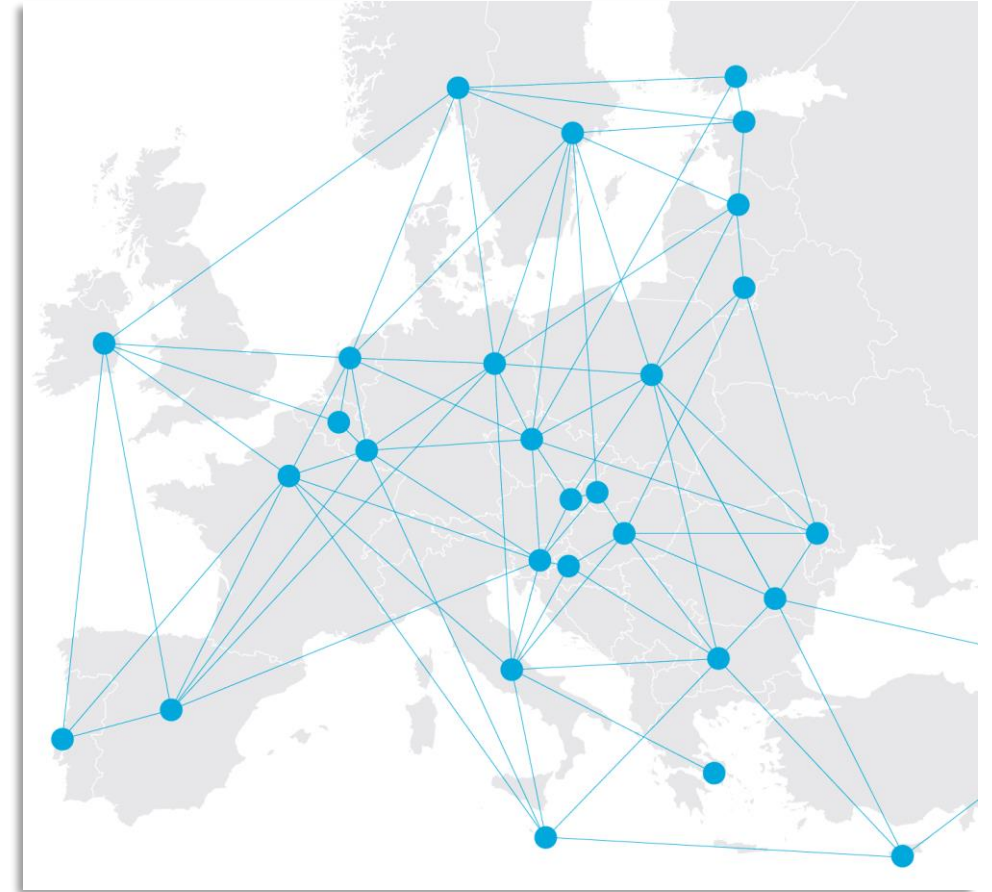
Terminology, Mapping and Outlook

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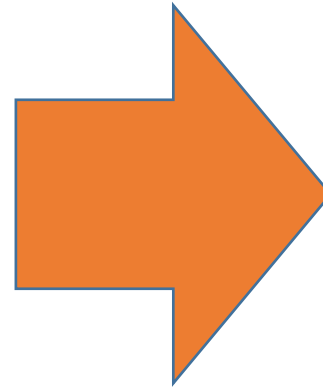
10 April 2022, Vienna

The European Migration Network

- ✳️ Network providing **up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information** on migration and asylum
- ✳️ **Target groups:** policy makers, practitioners, and the general public
- ✳️ IOM Austria serves as the **National Contact Point (NCP) in Austria**



- **GLOBAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS**
- **SKILLS MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS**
- **TALENT PARTNERSHIPS**



**Create a
“Quadruple Win”
Solution**

- **Mapping experiences** with implementing SMPs and similar initiatives in the EU and globally
- Exploring the **main challenges and benefits**
- Form a basis for **further discussion** at EU and national levels.



1. INTRODUCTION

In the context of unprecedented demographic changes, technological development and growing mobility of workers, skills shortages in the EU are becoming more pronounced, and Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs) with third countries are increasingly being considered as part of the solution.¹ SMPs are a relatively new concept promoting a sustainable approach to skilled migration and mobility with the idea of building skills both for the benefit of countries of origin and destination. SMPs are inextricably linked to two other highly similar and often interchangeable concepts – Talent Partnerships (TPs) and Global Skills Partnerships (GSPs).

Although SMPs may vary in form, modality and type of stakeholder involvement, they all place skills development, mobility and mutual benefit of countries of origin and

destination at the heart of their efforts.² Furthermore, as highlighted by a recent report by the European Parliament,³ providing vocational training in the countries of origin can be a central element of SMPs. SMPs aim to create a “quadruple win” solution for countries of origin, destination, migrant workers as well as employers and the private sector, thus enhancing the positive effects of migration on development.⁴

SMPs typically include the following five components: (1) formalised state cooperation, (2) multi-stakeholder involvement, (3) training, (4) skills recognition, and (5) migratory mobility.⁵ SMPs can among other things include (vocational) training in the origin or destination country, internships in the destination country, or scholarships.⁶

2. METHODOLOGY

This Inform presents experiences with implementing SMPs and similar initiatives in the EU and globally, exploring the main challenges and benefits. Due to the diversity of related initiatives and multitude of actors involved, this Inform does not aim to provide an exhaustive mapping of SMPs and SMP-related initiatives, but rather aims to provide an initial overview of the types of initiatives

implemented. In doing so, it highlights not only experiences by EU Member States, but also draws on experiences from other countries and international organisations. Thus, the Inform aims to form a basis for further discussion at EU and national levels.

The analysis was prepared on the basis of contributions from 23 EU Member States⁷ and the Organisation for

¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM), ‘Skills Mobility Partnerships’, available at https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/2021/02/20210221_SKMPs.pdf, last accessed 22 February 2022. See also OECD, ‘What would make skills partnerships work in practice?’, 2018, available at <https://www.oecd.org/migration/migration-policy/4630e115.pdf>, last accessed 22 February 2022.

² Ibid.

³ European Parliamentary Research Service, ‘Legal migration policy and law: European added value assessment’, 2021, available at [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-observatory/2021/09/04/21/09/RSR_STU\(2021\)00421_1_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-observatory/2021/09/04/21/09/RSR_STU(2021)00421_1_EN.pdf), last accessed 22 February 2022.

⁴ International Organization for Migration (IOM), ‘Skills Mobility Partnerships’, available at https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/2021/02/20210221_SKMPs.pdf, last accessed 22 February 2022.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The following Member States provided responses to the Ad-hoc query 2022-144 ‘Skills mobility partnerships’: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. Ad-hoc queries are a tool for the EMN National Contact Points and the European Commission to collect comparative information on asylum and migration matters of relevance to policy development in Member States.

“The experiences among Member States differ significantly”

- 23 Member States responded: **8 Member States have SMPs**
- Diverse in terms of **focus, objectives and implementation modes**
- **Focus:** Youth exchanges, mobility of young, qualified professionals or graduates as well as circular migration in the field of higher education
- **Implementation:** Bilateral agreements, programmes and pilot projects
- **No specific regional focus**

- **EU-Level Programmes:** MENTOR II, DIGI TALENTS, IOM-MATCH-project
- **Country Level:**
 - **AUSTRIA:** Africa-UniNet
 - **GERMANY:** Global Skills Partnerships Nursing, Hand in Hand for International Talents
 - **IRELAND:** International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI)
 - **SPAIN:** GECCO Programme
- **Non-EU Examples:** Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC), Korean Employment Permit System (EPS)



- SMPs are not a wide-spread policy tool in the EU, but a few Member States are increasingly interested
- SMPs are usually not part of the overall labour migration or development assistance strategy or policy
- Majority of SMPs are relatively new (some in pilot stages) and most had not yet been evaluated



- SMPs are no short-term intervention, but rather a long-term tool and forward-looking investment
- To scale up: the use or development of appropriate legal migration channels and the ability to meet employers' needs.
- Creation of a “Clearing House” and a “Talent Pool”
- A need for continuous evaluation

Thank you for your attention!

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Funded by
the European Union

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Interior

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The European Migration Network (EMN) is coordinated by the European Commission with National Contact Points (NCPs) established in each EU Member State (except Denmark) plus Norway, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. The National Contact Point Austria in the EMN is financially supported by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.