

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

IOM Belgium and Luxembourg

IOM Belgium and Luxembourg

<https://belgium.iom.int/>

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@iombelgiumandluxembourg

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Staff in 2022

52

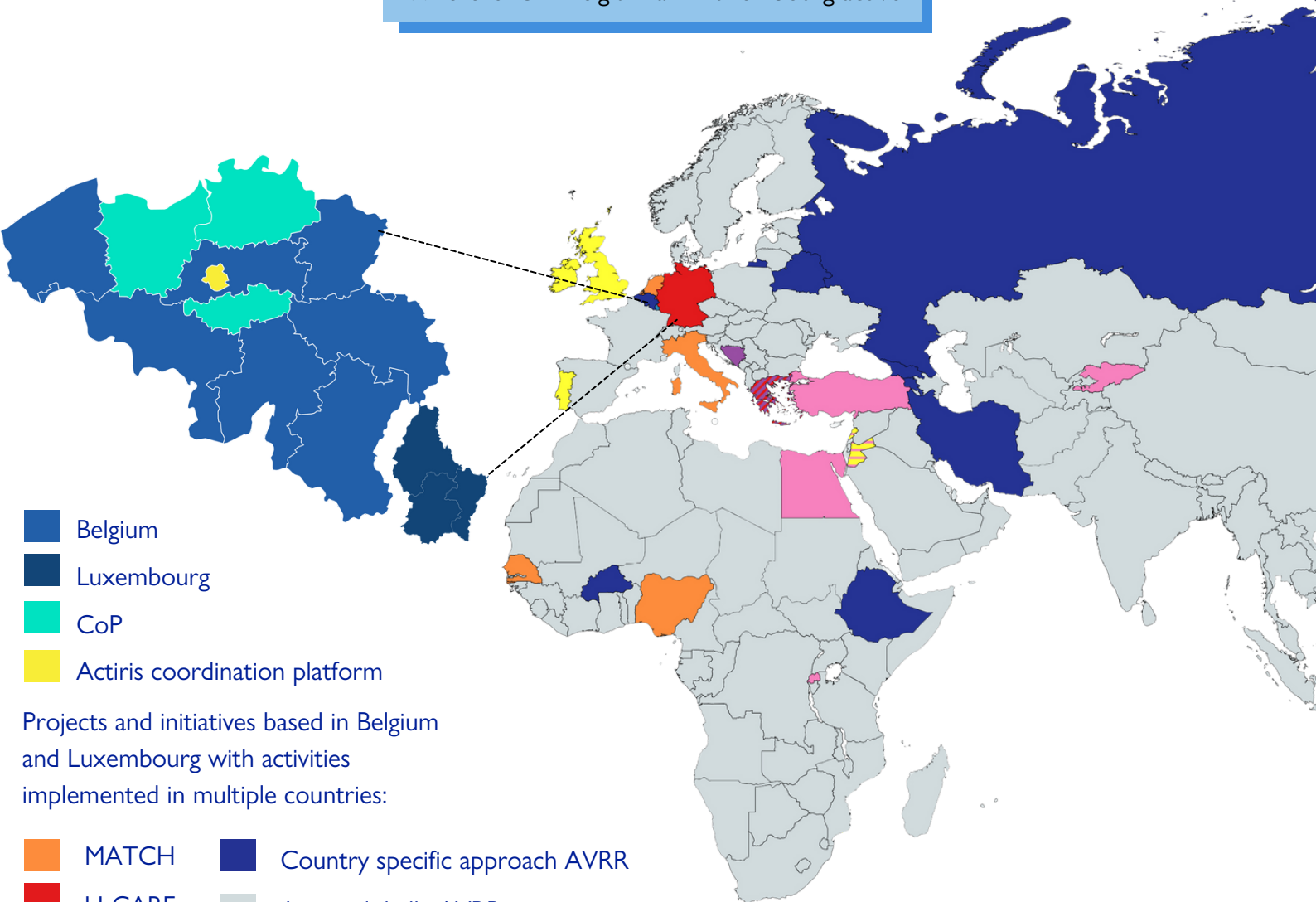
+ **8** **INTERNS**



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Where is IOM Belgium and Luxembourg active?



- Belgium
- Luxembourg
- CoP
- Actiris coordination platform

Projects and initiatives based in Belgium and Luxembourg with activities implemented in multiple countries:

- MATCH
- U-CARE
- DT4E
- Resettlement
- Country specific approach AVRR
- Active globally AVRR

Long-term projects and initiatives

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration from Belgium

Resettlement to Belgium

Assisted Voluntary Return from Luxembourg



Projects active in 2022



MATCH
HIRING AFRICAN TALENTS

MATCH - Hiring African Talents
13 Jan 2020 - 12 Jan 2023



Actiris Coordination Platform Project
18 Jun 2020 - 17 Jun 2022



U-CARE
1 Jan 2021 - 31 Aug 2022



Community Policing without Borders
1 Apr 2021 - 31 Mar 2023



Displaced Talent for Europe (DT4E)
1 Dec 2021 - 30 Nov 2024



Other Talk - Teaching Migration
1 Jan 2021 - 30 Nov 2022



Resettlement and Movement Management

Resettlement to Belgium



Financed by : Fedasil through AMIF
Duration : 12 months
Geographical coverage : Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Zambia
Partners : Fedasil, CGRA/CGWS, Belgian embassies, UNHCR, MoFA
Website : [Click Here](#)
Contact : evermeulen@iom.int



IOM assists the Government of Belgium in organizing migrant **selection interviews**, carried out by the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS).



IOM then assists Fedasil in organizing the **pre-departure orientation sessions**, the delivery of the **travel documents** and the **pre-departure medical screenings**. The transfer is fully in hands of IOM; all beneficiaries travel under the auspices of IOM and are assisted throughout the journey.



41 from Jordan



16 from Egypt



8 from Zambia
(emergency cases)



6 from Lebanon

71

people resettled
in total



IOM also advocates for other complementary pathways, including humanitarian admission programmes, humanitarian visas, labour mobility schemes and family reunification programmes.



While resettlement and relocation remain vital protection tools, there is a widening gap between the number of persons seeking international protection in need of a third country solution and the number of resettlement and relocation places available. In 2022, there were no family reunifications to Belgium and there was no resettlement operational assistance to Luxembourg.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVVR)

From Belgium



Main highlights 2022

Financed by: Fedasil (Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers) and the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Duration: 12 months (Fedasil), 24 months (AMIF)

Geographical coverage: Belgium

Website: [Click Here](#)

Contact:

iombrusselscomigrantassistance@iom.int

2077

migrants were assisted by IOM with an Assisted Voluntary Return from Belgium to

88

destination countries worldwide



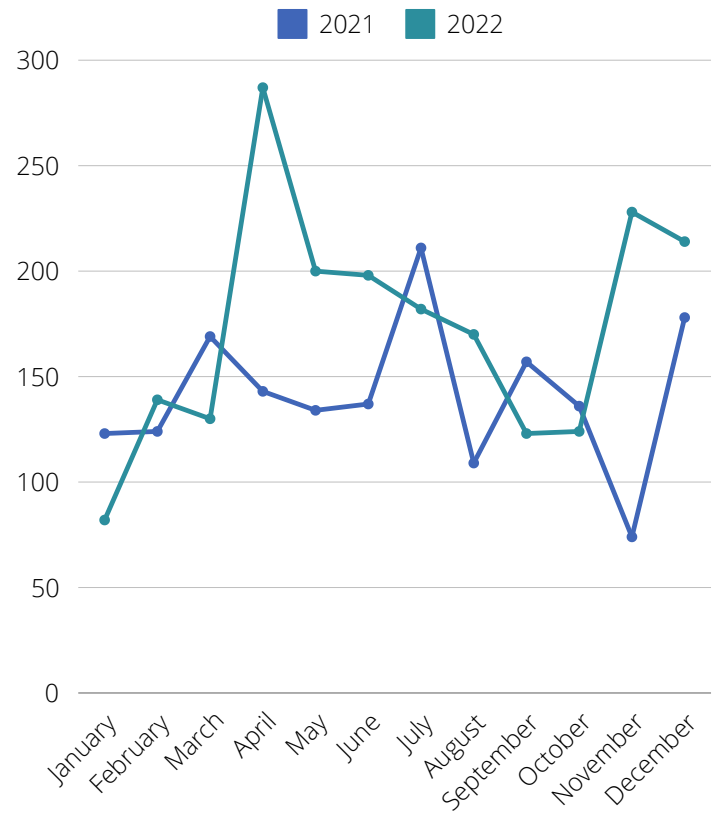
For the third year in a row, we mark an increased number of persons who benefited from reintegration assistance. 45% of the persons who have returned, received tailored and individual reintegration support in their country of origin via IOM.

	Destination country	Total departures
1	Brazil	621
2	Mongolia	342
3	Moldova	134
4	El Salvador	125
5	Belarus	71
6	Romania	68
7	Georgia	64
8	Colombia	52
9	Slovakia	34
10	Morocco	33

2021-2022



Monthly departures comparison 2021-2022

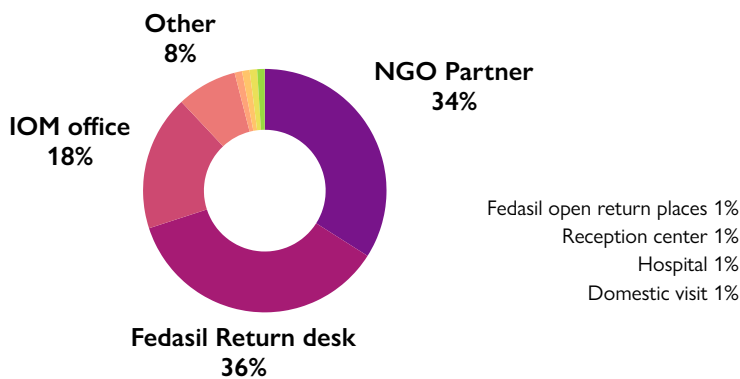


Main trends & numbers

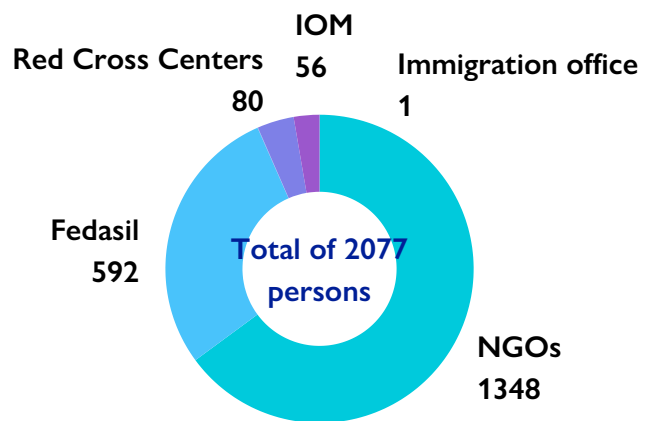
To perform the AVRR activities and ensure the possibility of migrants to easily access the programme at each stage of their stay in Belgium, IOM manages since 1984 an extensive network of partners covering the whole territory of Belgium.

The voluntary return network consists of a combination of NGOs, local authorities (cities and communes), governmental structures for reception of asylum seekers such as Fedasil and the Red Cross reception centers (Flemish Red Cross, French-speaking Red Cross), migrant associations and the Immigration Office. This network is crucial to inform and orient migrants needing assistance to IOM and the Belgian AVRR programme.

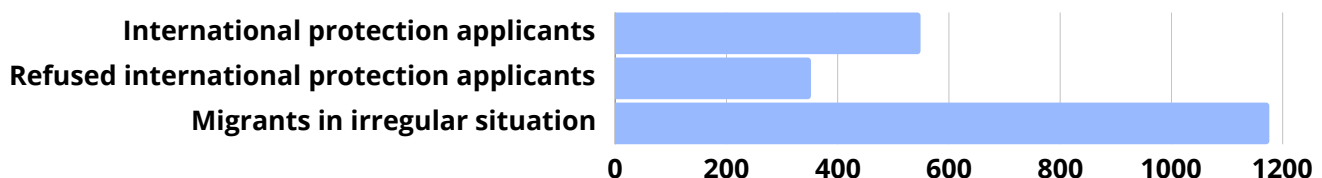
Where does IOM offer their return counseling services?



Number of people referred by our partners



Migrant type per classification



In 2022, IOM’s Return Counselling Toolkit was published.



A capacity-building instrument aimed at providing a harmonized and coherent approach to return counselling based on key migrant-centred principles. Accompanied by operational tools that can facilitate the work of return counsellors, the toolkit is conceived to address the capacity-building needs of return counsellors, as well as to strengthen the knowledge of other return stakeholders, including national and local authorities and civil society.

Reintegration assistance



To ensure that migrants make an independent and well-informed decision, pre-departure return, and reintegration counselling is provided by IOM and its partners. In addition, IOM counsellors with a regional or thematic specialization provide additional reintegration counselling to assess vulnerabilities, discuss reintegration plans, provide accurate information, and prepare migrants for their effective reintegration after return. Most of the counselling takes place at NGO partners’ premises, at the Fedasil return desks or in the IOM office, while the IOM team is available to provide counselling in the field as well (hospitals, reception centres, domestic visits, etc.).

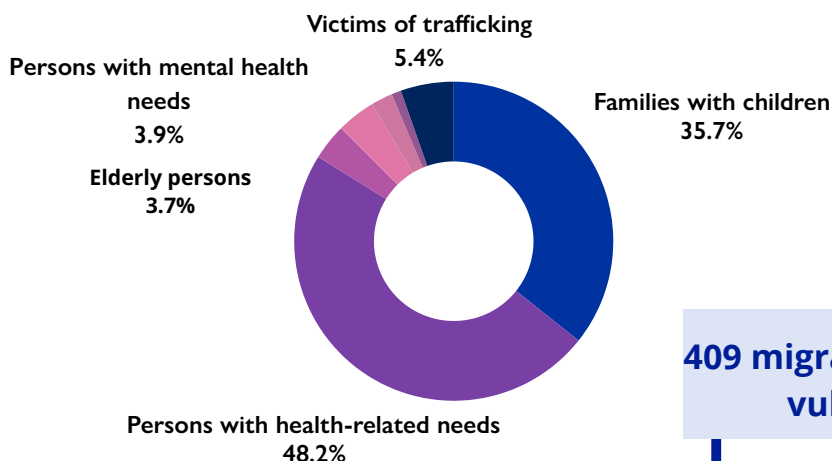
Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants



Migrants in vulnerable situations are migrants who are unable to effectively enjoy their human rights, are at increased risk of violations and abuse and who, accordingly, are entitled to call on a duty bearer’s heightened duty of care.

[Read more.](#)

Assistance to vulnerable migrants per profile

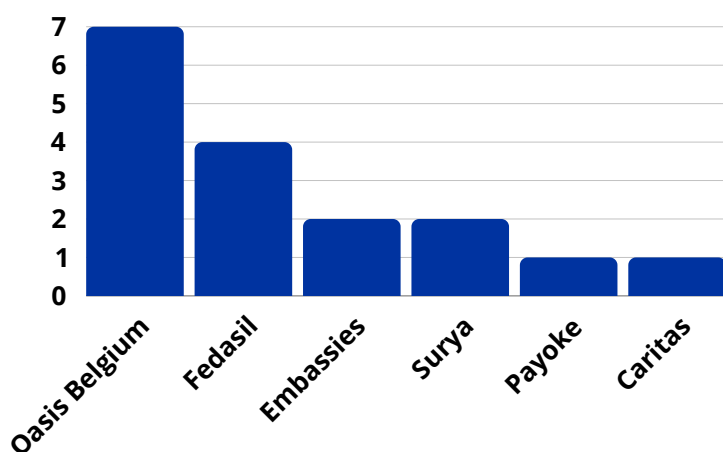


409 migrants assisted with vulnerabilities

Counter-trafficking and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking



Referrals per partner



In 2022, IOM provided information on AVRR to 22 Victims of Trafficking (VoT). 16 of them returned to their country of origin and all benefitted from individual reintegration assistance (including 8 women and 1 UMC). The close cooperation with IOM's partners Payoke, Pag-Asa, Surya, but also police services, embassies, and the IOM colleagues in the countries of origin is crucial in order to ensure the protection and safety of the beneficiaries upon return.

Unaccompanied Minor Children

In 2021, IOM organized the voluntary return of 4 aged-out UMCs and 9 Unaccompanied Minor Children (UMC), among whom one was also a Victim of Trafficking. This included five girls and eight boys. This was possible thanks to the good cooperation between all actors involved.

All of the minors and youngsters benefited from reintegration support in their country of return. Before every return of a UMC, a family assessment is conducted by the IOM Mission in the country of return to make sure that the voluntary return is in the best interest of the child. IOM Belgium regularly conducts family assessments in Countries of Origin in order to give a better view to legal guardians on the family situation so that this can be taken into account during the Best Interest Determination (BID).

Persons with health-related needs and Adapted Medical Assistance After Return (AMAAR)

In 2022, IOM managed to organize the return and reintegration of 197 migrants with a health-condition, among whom 6 beneficiaries benefited from the AMAAR project. Additionally, IOM deployed 17 escorting missions for migrants with significant medical conditions, including important mobility problems and/or psychological needs.



Increased sustainability of the reintegration support through combined and tailored interventions (AMIF) Project



Co-funded by the European Union

Project duration: 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023

Website: [Click Here](#)

Contact: iombrusselscomigrantassistance@iom.int

The BE INCREASE project, funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) – Belgium National Actions and co-funded by Fedasil, aims to develop an integrated approach towards reintegration within the Belgian Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme. This is achieved through initiatives focusing on sustainable socio-economic reintegration, responding to the psychosocial and family-inclusive needs of returned migrants. Such initiatives prove to positively impact the overall sustainability of the reintegration process.



In 2022, a total of 725 beneficiaries, who returned to 74 different countries of origin, benefitted from activities and funds allocated under this project. Most returned to the following 5 countries: Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Belarus, Brazil and El Salvador.



15 priority countries



Armenia



Brazil



Colombia



El Salvador



Georgia



Ghana



Iraq



Mongolia



Morocco



North Macedonia



The Philippines



Russian federation



Somalia



Sudan



Republic of Türkiye

Administrative support Balkans

The Administrative Assistance project was developed in 2019 as an alternative assistance channel for vulnerable migrants returning voluntarily to the Western Balkan countries.

As these beneficiaries receive limited reintegration support (due to the visa free regime of most of these countries/areas), a specific supporting mechanism provides administrative assistance to obtain personal documents, school enrolment, guidance and referral for job seeking, referral to local (social) services, housing, etc.

74
migrants have been assisted in 2022

Administrative Support	
Destination country	Migrants assisted
Albania	27
North Macedonia	19
Serbia	18
Kosovo*	6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4
Grand total	74

*References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Job Placement and Country Specific Activities

Since 2016, IOM is running the Job Placement and Country Specific Activities component to support returning migrants as they reintegrate socio-economically into their country of origin. A selected number of IOM missions is developing partnerships with different local actors such as local governments, employment agencies, the private sector, development agencies, etc.



GEORGIA

20 persons received tailored counselling for job search and employment opportunities in Georgia

1 focus group discussion on sharing experiences on reintegration and job related challenges

3 mapping of training and internship services in 3 regions



MONGOLIA

220 returnee migrants were supported through briefing sessions on accessing essential public services (health, education, employment)

12 514 persons followed online job training modules on computer literacy, cleaning service business, coffee shop business, job hunting skills, sewing business, canteen and food business and grocery business.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring Missions

Georgia

In April, a delegation of IOM and Fedasil representatives conducted a [monitoring mission to Georgia](#). The visit was meant to assess the different Assisted voluntary return and reintegration services that are provided. It was a good opportunity to see IOM's activities related to job placement support and get insights into the challenges that returned migrants face in their socio-economic reintegration in Georgia.



Mongolia

In September, IOM and Fedasil conducted a [monitoring mission to Mongolia](#). The delegation members met several reintegration beneficiaries and listened to their experiences. Meetings were also held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The delegation also visited the one-stop-shop from the Ulaanbaatar municipality, where returning migrants can receive information from different services (employment, social services, civil affairs etc.). IOM Mongolia currently conducts briefing sessions to returnees in these premises, to provide information on reintegration opportunities and to immediately refer returnees to the needed governmental services.



El Salvador

In November, a delegation of IOM and Fedasil representatives conducted a [monitoring mission to El Salvador](#). The visit aimed to collect testimonies of returned migrants in different regions. The delegation also visited the Guatemalan border and migration checkpoint Las Chinamas. They were able to meet with GAMI (Gerencia de Atención al Migrante), a governmental program involved in the reception and follow-up of returned Salvadorians. CAIPEM (Centro de Atención Integral para Personas Migrantes) was also highlighted with their accommodation and support activities for migrants in irregular stay.



From Luxembourg



87 **MIGRANTS ASSISTED**
WITH RETURNING IN 2022

♂ **62%**
identifying as a man

♀ **38%**
identifying as a woman

2
operational escorts

1
Unaccompanied minor child

4
medical cases

Top 5 destination countries



Serbia



Albania



Brazil



Colombia



Belarus

IOM works in partnership with the Immigration Directorate of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Luxembourg for the implementation of AVRR. The daily close collaboration with the Red-Cross, Caritas Luxembourg, Médecins du Monde and other social services on the ground, as well as with the Embassies and the IOM missions in the country of return, is crucial for the effective and comprehensive assistance IOM aims to offer in the AVRR programme.

In the context of a possible return of a Unaccompanied Minor Child, but also more generally in the framework of IOM's continuous collaboration with the Immigration Directorate, a family assessment is conducted by the IOM mission in the country of origin to support the responsible services in determining the best interest of the child. The aim is to provide detailed information on the socio-economic and family context of the UMC in the country of origin.



Towards a more integrated migration policy, made possible by the AMIF



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et européennes

Direction de l'immigration



Partnerships: the CONEX project



Incentive fund

In 2022, IOM Belgium and Luxembourg launched the Incentive fund. Local organizations were invited to submit a small-scale project proposal and receive a grant for community-based activities around migrant protection and assistance tools such as assisted voluntary return and reintegration. Four organizations received a grant between 3000 and 6000 EUR.



Steunpunt Asiel en
Migratie Mechelen



ACM and city pirates



CAW Halle-Vilvoorde



Oasis Belgium

Organized activities ranged from psychosocial interventions for social workers, a socially engaged youth football tournament, AVRR info sessions for guardians, to women's rights workshops and awareness raising on human trafficking.

Partner meeting & Conference on Cities and Migration

On the 13th of December, 47 partners attended the 2022 morning partner meeting, which consisted of a year overview of the AVRR activities of IOM and a presentation with statistics from Koen van Rompaey, head of voluntary return of Fedasil. The Conex project of IOM was highlighted with special recognition towards the successful community-based activities that local organizations managed to roll out with the financial support of the Incentive fund. The morning session concluded with a workshop on the role of the counsellor and the return counselling process.



During the lunch, participants could visit the info stands of different organizations. The afternoon Conference on Cities and Migration was open for public and 81 persons attended. An opening debate took place with the State Secretary for Asylum and Migration, Nicole de Moor, Councilwoman on Diversity in Mechelen and IOM Chief of Mission, Marise Habib. They spoke about the linkages between international, national and local initiatives related to migration.

Partnerships: the CONEX project

After the debate, two sessions of workshops took place. Topics included: research on private accommodation of Ukrainian displaced persons by Odisee Hogeschool; Buddy systems & mentoring schemes by City of Mechelen, Flanders & IOM; reaching out to and informing migrants in irregular and precarious situations by Fedasil; local integration actions by the city of Liège; fostering inclusion and protection of vulnerable migrants by building capacity of local frontline services by Equalcity and IOM and support to newcomers and organizations from the city of Antwerp by Atlas Antwerpen.



The second session of workshops consisted of round-table discussions on the complex realities of hyperdiversity by author and journalist Hans Vandecandelaere; city cooperation between Oostende and Banjul (the Gambia) on sustainable city development; the reception and integration model of the city of Ghent for displaced Ukrainians by the City of Ghent and IOM and the identification of victims of human trafficking by Pag-Asa.

In the evening, as part of the Global Migration Film Festival in light of International Migrants day on 18 December, IOM organized a debate and film screening together with Filmhuis Mechelen. The opening debate convened the chef de cabinet of the State Secretary of Asylum and Migration; journalist and filmmaker, Majd Khalifeh; Parissa Heydari; councilwomen of the city of Mechelen, Rina Rabau Nkandu and Jana Kerremans as moderator.

Afterwards the film R.M.N. of filmmaker Christian Mungiu was screened. The film touches upon the theme of polarisation of migration and xenophobia towards migrants. We got an insight into the life of a Romanian man who returns to Romania after being confronted with racism in Germany.

Intervisions

IOM holds intervisions to increase engagement with both traditional and new partners on migrant protection and assistance activities. In 2022, 3 regional intervisions were organized: Antwerp, Brussels and East and West Flanders together. In each intervision, different stakeholders – specialized NGOs, training centres, the local CAWs specialized in welfare of migrants but also Fedasil and city representatives - are together around the table.

IOM, in coordination with Fedasil, facilitates these sessions, to ensure partners can share their unique expertise concerning victims of trafficking/smuggling, unaccompanied migrant children, psychosocial care and AVRR. Operational issues are openly discussed between all stakeholders, challenges are identified together, and new trends or opportunities are shared with everyone.



Displaced Talent for Europe (DT4E)



Displaced Talent for Europe



Financed by: the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Duration: December 2021 - December 2024

Geographical coverage: Jordan and Lebanon (source countries), Belgium, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom (destination countries)

Partners: IOM country offices, Talent Beyond Boundaries, Fragomen, Fedasil, Alto Comissariado para as Migrações

Website : [Click Here](#)

Contact: dt4e@iom.int



DT4E is designed to create an innovative regular mobility pathway by connecting displaced people in need of international protection in Jordan and Lebanon with employers in Belgium, Ireland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. The aim is to answer the critical labour shortages on the EU labour market while providing displaced persons with a Durable Solution.



“Refugees have skills, but lack opportunities”

The project provides employers with access to an untapped international talent pool with more than 60,000 profiles in all types of sectors. IOM and its partners collaborate to provide the necessary support and resources to make displaced talent mobility a viable solution for the participating countries. In addition to the official partners, the project also engages a vast network of public and private sector organisations such as chambers of commerce, business associations, sector federations, as well as higher education and health care organisations.

Source countries
Destination countries



Demand-driven

The DT4E mobility scheme is led by high-needs sectors and acknowledges that employers are the best judge of suitability for employment and should be responsible for sourcing talent



Beneficiary-centered

Displaced talents are actively engaged in the design, monitoring and evaluation of the DT4E mobility scheme to ensure the accessibility and suitability



Whole-of-society approach

The entire society is engaged in order to make the project a success story



Key achievements

- Progress in the visa advocacy process, identifying potential obstacles and solutions for setting up a specific legal mobility pathway for displaced talents
- Discussions with the government regarding the inclusion of specific protection safeguards and flexibility as regards the required documentation for the single permit request, taking into consideration the specific case of displaced talent



Events

- Stakeholder dialogues around potential obstacles such as language, employer outreach and skills/diploma recognition
 - Aim: gather all relevant stakeholders around the table to learn from their experience, to share good practices, and to agree on the strategy and way forward on these topics in the framework of DT4E
- UK-Belgium virtual study tour (8-9 December): showcase the displaced talent mobility scheme run in the UK by the National Health Service (NHS), in partnership with TBB and IOM, to Belgian stakeholders
 - 1) Raise awareness on the general potential of displaced talent mobility
 - 2) Exchange knowledge and expertise and discuss common obstacles
 - 2) Inform Belgian employers (in the health sector) about the benefits of hiring displaced talents



Upcoming ambitions for 2023

- Focus on employer outreach, identifying vacancies and facilitating the matching and transfer of talents
- Continue efforts in streamlining skill recognition procedures, language learning, pre-departure orientation for employers and talents
- Exchange of good practices between stakeholders in Belgium and across the EU

Community Policing without Borders (COP)



Financed by: the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

Duration: April 2021 - March 2023

Geographical coverage: Belgium

Partners: Police zones Antwerp, Ghent, Charleroi, Brussels North, Capital Ixelles and Unia, Uit De Marge and Levl

Website : [Click Here](#)

Contact: anaser@iom.int



The project focuses on inspiring the Belgian local police to tackle cases of racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance within the Belgian police zones as well as between the Belgian police and migrant communities.



Objectives

1

Improve the Police's Human Resources policy and processes

- Aim: increase migrant representation in police corps and retain police officers with a migration background
- Methods: mapping good practices, initiating focus groups to share experiences, drafting practical guidelines, piloting initiatives in the police zones and creating thematic toolboxes

2

Improve the existing complaint mechanisms

- Aim: increase the accessibility of complaint mechanisms to victims of racist and xenophobic acts
- Methods: mapping good practices, initiating focus groups to share experiences, drafting practical guidelines, piloting initiatives in the police zones and creating thematic toolboxes

3

Improve community policing and trust between migrant communities and the police

- Aim: reduce racial bias, xenophobia and intolerance
- Methods: mapping good practices, drafting practical guidelines, creating CoPmittees (Committees of community representatives and stakeholders, including the police and migrant groups), setting up community policing engagement initiatives and creating thematic toolboxes

4

Facilitate transnational exchange among stakeholders on local, national and European levels

- Methods: organising study visits, setting up an awareness raising campaign, advocating project results and the organisation of a closing conference



2022 kicked off with the implementation of the practical guidelines in several police zones through a variety of activities.

Some of the events and activities in 2022



29th of March 2022: Buitenspeeldag with the police of Ghent



8th of October 2022: With Politie Antwerpen, young people had the opportunity to see through the eyes of the police with VR glasses.



22nd of May 2022: The last Friday of the month of Ramadan was launched with an iftar in St Joseph's Church, featuring workshops organised by Uit De Marge and the Ghent police



24-28th of October 2022: Police zone Charleroi and young people worked together to create two short films



7th of June 2022: The police zone Charleroi organised a world cuisinge workshop where young people and police officers had an exchange opportunity.



Board games for young people from Neder-Over-Heembeek/Haren with police zone capital-Elsene



21st of October 2022: Interview with Oulad Khlie Abdelkamal, the first police officer with Moroccan roots in the Ghent police zone.



30th of November 2022: First edition of 'coffee with a cop' with the police of Brussels North



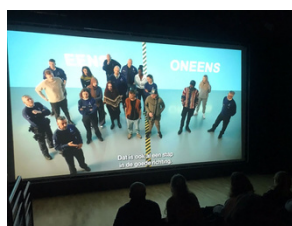
9th of December 2022: Brussels youth and police officers from police zone capital-Ixelles learned various Brasilian jiu-jitsu as well as police training techniques.



10th of December 2022: the Ghent police and youth from vzw Jong exercised in Dok-Noord



24th of November 2022: the Diversity team of police zone Antwerp organised an activity with VR glasses for the young people of Safe Space vzw on professional profiling



15th of December 2022: Screening of FRAMED fragments from the police zone Ghent for young people, in collaboration with vzw Jong en vzw Kubat

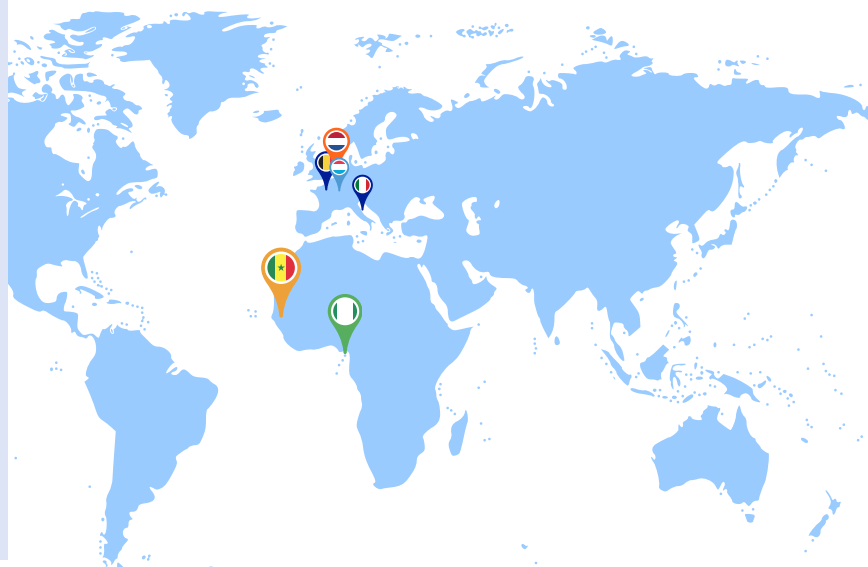
Migration of African Talents through Capacity building and Hiring (MATCH)



MATCH
HIRING AFRICAN TALENTS



Financed by: European Union (AMIF)
Duration: January 2020 - December 2022
Geographical coverage: Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Netherlands, Nigeria and Senegal
Partners: IOM country offices, Agoria, NABC, Unioncamere Piemonte, Voka, VDAB
Website : [Click Here](#)
Contact: match@iom.int



MATCH is a 39-month initiative funded by the European Commission aiming to provide skilled talents to European private sector companies whose needs for qualified staff could not be satisfied by the offer available on the EU labour market. It aims to enable the European private sector to explore the diversity and high quality of the talent pools in Senegal and in Nigeria. Attracting and keeping international talent is essential to foster growth and to meet growing needs for workforce. The MATCH project is a cross-sectoral initiative and open to all skill levels. IOM is working with a large range of companies working in different economic sectors, such as ICT, the agri-food industry and transport.

2021
2022



378

Pre-selected CVs



118

Vacancies



140

Invitations for an interview or test



37%

Pre-selection success rate

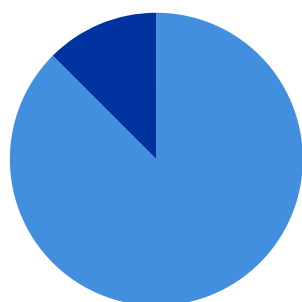


8

Placements of African talents

Senegalese talent

1

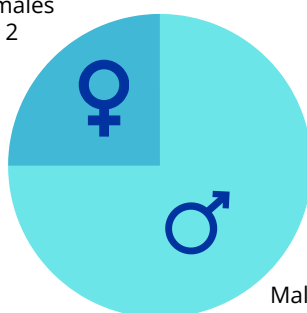


Nigerian talents

7

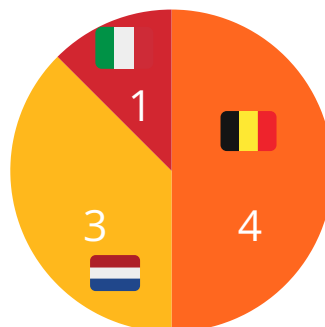
Females

2



Males

6



Companies

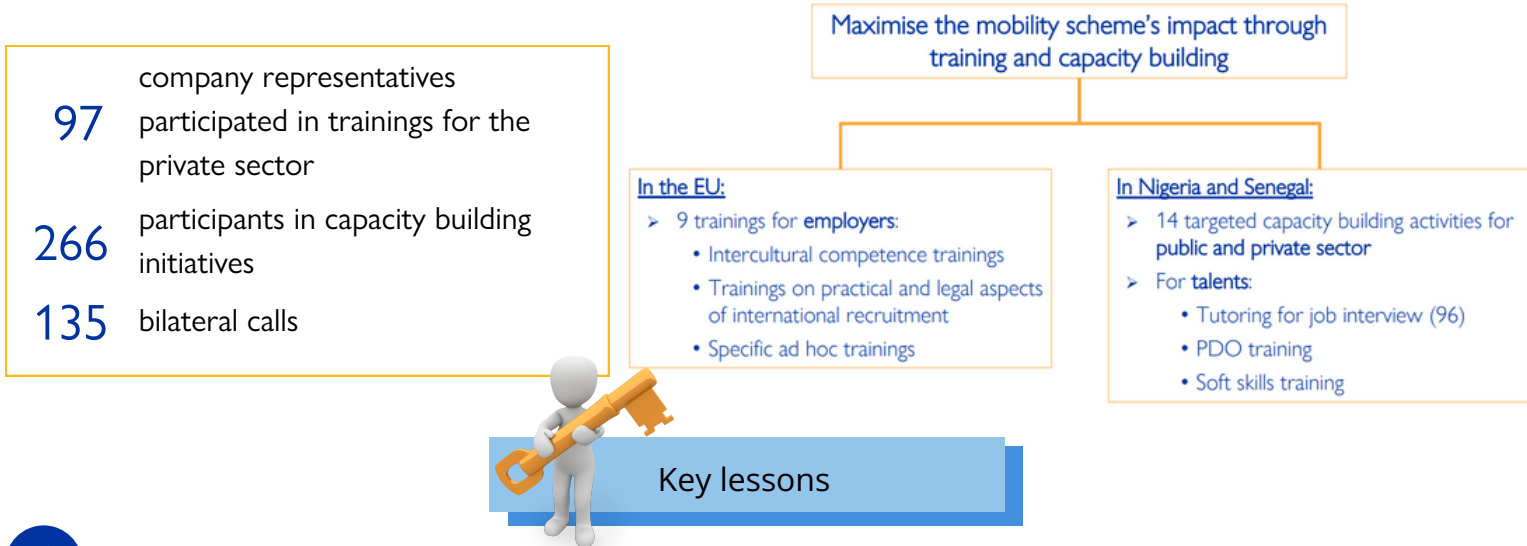
2 ICT

2 Agrifood

2 Automotive and construction

1 Chemical

1 Construction/consultancy



- 1 An enabling environment as a starting point**

 - Adequate legal framework to ensure the portability of rights, to facilitate the recognition of skills/diplomas; optimise labour migration procedures and trigger intra-EU mobility
 - Improve operational modalities with lean and digital immigration processes to fast-track work permit/visa applications
 - Expat desks as one stop-shops for both international talents and employers
- 2 Establishing a whole-of-society approach**

 1. Involvement of all relevant actors, public and private, in both countries of origin and destination
 2. Build an inception phase in order to build mutual trust and cooperation
 3. Agile management: establish strategic advisory committees in each participating country
- 3 Building sustainable and mutually beneficial Learning Management Systems (LMS)**

 1. Co-design LMS in close cooperation with countries of origin to ensure sustainable development impact
 2. Empower migrants and ensure legal protection and integration prospects of international talents along the migration continuum
 3. Focus on sectors that are mutually beneficial (labour surplus) for all the parties involved
- 4 Securing the participation of employers**

 1. Raise awareness all throughout the project
 2. Develop an all-inclusive approach
 3. Ensure flexibility in the types of mobility and recruitments
 4. Align with business and job opportunities in countries of origin
 5. Optimise cost sharing with the private sector and embed a skills development component in the design of the scheme
- 5 Maximising the impact and the sustainability**

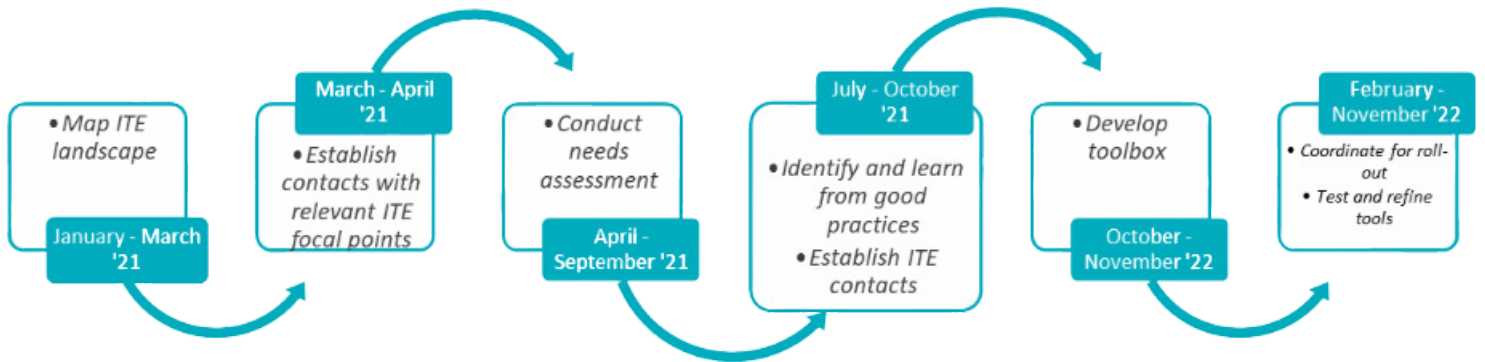
 - Build long-term partnerships with local stakeholders in the countries of origin through technical assistance and operational support
 - Involve the diaspora communities
 - Structural support for employers and talents in a continuum (pre-departure and post-arrival)
 - Change the narrative and promote awareness and promote awareness about the quality of the labour supply (talent pools)



Duration: January 2021 - November 2022
Geographical coverage: Belgium
Partners: Caritas International Belgium
Website: [Click Here](#)
Contact: vdocx@iom.int



The overall objective of the Other Talk project was to contribute to a society with less polarisation on topics regarding diversity and migration. The project consists of a set of tools and methodologies designed to provide teachers with the skills they need to show their students how to cope with these challenges, and to help them develop a critical eye for information about migrants and refugees. Additionally, this project also aimed to support teachers through networking and peer learning.



143 people received project information and link to the survey at the final event of the professionalisation trajectory

216 student teachers, teachers and teacher trainers were reached during additional needs assessment exercises

100+ teacher trainers contacted directly by IOM

15 teacher trainers from different education institutions in Flanders part of an expert panel composed by IOM

125 students reached during the piloting phase of the tools involving student-teachers in the second half of 2022



Between October 2021 and November 2022, five tools were designed based on the needs assessment and bilateral conversations:



TOOL 1: DECOLONIZE YOUR MIND in cooperation with UCLL



TOOL 2: INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES IN THE CLASSROOM in coop. with Howest



TOOL 3: CULTURALLY SENSITIVE APPROACH in cooperation with UAntwerpen



TOOL 4: GUEST SPEAKERS in cooperation with Teacher trainers



TOOL 5: INTERCULTURAL GAMES in cooperation with Vives

- Tool 1 was piloted twice, one time in December 2021 at the university college UCLL in Leuven, and one time in November 2022 at the University of Hassel
- Tool 2 was piloted in September 2021 in university college Howest in Bruges
- Tool 3 was piloted in October 2022 in the University of Hasselt and University of Antwerp
- Tool 4 did not lend itself to a pilot
- Tool 5 was piloted in June 2022 at college university Vives, Kortrijk



Achievements

- 1) The development of a vast network and set-up of an expert panel to validate the tools
- 2) The tools developed through a one-on-one approach with teacher trainings and therefore tailor-made to their needs
- 3) Mainstreaming of the tools with Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes through extensive piloting and dissemination activities



Lessons learned

- 1) Challenging to identify the movable middle in the target audience
- 2) The invaluable role of education: educators are in an excellent place to support and inspire youngsters to increase their knowledge on a topic and eventually shape their attitudes
- 3) The importance of sustainability of the project



Unaccompanied Children in Alternative Residence (U-CARE)

Unaccompanied Children in Alternative Residence (U-CARE)



Financed by: the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Duration: January 2021 – August 2022

Geographical coverage: Belgium, Greece and Germany

Partners: IOM Offices in Belgium, Germany and Greece, Pleegzorg Vlaanderen (Belgium), ARSIS (Greece)

Website: [Click Here](#)

Contact: avandevelde@iom.int



The U-CARE project contributes to the development and improvement of alternative non-institutionalised care systems for Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) in Belgium, Germany and Greece. Through an inclusive child-centered approach and the exchange of good practices, knowledge and experiences, existing systems and tools are strengthened.



The project targets primarily UMC by exploring, strengthening and considering alternative care options as a more suitable response to their specific needs. To respect children's views and to ensure that the envisioned tools respond to the actual needs, UMC were invited throughout the project to share their opinions.

2022 in numbers

6,434 UMC in Belgium

3,175 asylum applications by UMC in Greece

1,277 asylum applications by UMC in Germany








4 main areas of activity

- 1 Recruitment of foster care providers to respond to the needs of mainly younger UMC, with a focus on foster care providers with a migrant background
- 2 Development of alternative care prototypes for older UMC, through the creation of user guides
- 3 Training and capacity building of foster care providers and professionals on caring for UMC
- 4 Awareness-raising and (trans-)national exchange on the topic of alternative care for UMC, through national stakeholder dialogues, thematic workshops and awareness raising sessions



Project results

 BELGIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a culture-sensitive toolbox, focusing on culture-sensitive care, tackling racism and breaking taboos to complement existing “caring for UMC” training manual • 45 foster care professionals and 34 foster parents were trained on culture-sensitive care • A recruitment campaign was rolled out specifically targeting foster families with a migration background, using a recruitment video, info leaflets and the U-CARE Guidelines on recruiting foster families (with a migration background) • 7 foster families were recruited
 GERMANY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three alternative care prototypes were developed to better support UMC’s transition to adulthood: Holistic Housing, Self Advocacy, Mentorship • More than 40 social workers, child protection experts and (aged-out) UMC were successfully involved in the development and piloting of the prototypes • “Caring for UMC” training manual was adapted to the German context • The City of Bonn pledged the implementation of the Holistic Housing prototype
 GREECE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Caring for UMC” training manual was adapted to the Greek context and complemented with additional Country of Origin leaflets • Relevant Greek stakeholders were brought together in dialogues, working groups, etc. on the topics of foster care and alternative care for UMC • The National Registry System was adapted to allow the registration of young UMC (-12 years old) for foster care • A social media recruitment campaign for foster care was successfully rolled out, reaching a very large public (+150 000 views) • 59 foster care professionals & 22 foster parents trained, 30 foster families recruited
 EUROPEAN LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant efforts to contribute to the development and improvement of alternative care systems for UMC • Capacity-building trainings in different EU Member States (Belgium, Germany, Greece and Romania, Poland and Portugal in the future) • Thematic workshops and closing conference reached stakeholders in 16 different EU Member States • High accessibility and applicability of the tools is ensured as most of them come with clear guidelines and a step-by-step approach and are translated in various languages
 INTERNATIONAL LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International reach at the thematic workshops and closing conference by welcoming participants from 8 non-EU Member States (Chile, Egypt, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) • Tools were distributed further at different events (e.g. two global webinars organised by IOM on the occasion of World Children’s Day, a Summer School on children in migration in Tunisia and a Child Protection Symposium in Egypt) • IOM missions active in the Middle East, North Africa, the United Kingdom, South Africa and South American region, as well as other international organisations, have also expressed their interest in the U-Care activities and tools



✓ Adopt a “whole of society approach”:

engage diaspora, migrant communities, neighborhoods, authorities, civil society organizations and children or care leavers themselves from the start.

✓ Start from the bottom:

a bottom-up approach (with sufficient room for gap and needs assessments and consultations of UMC and professionals is needed to develop and use tools in a more efficient and effective way.

✓ Assistance to unaccompanied minors and youngsters should ideally be provided based on their needs and wishes, regardless of their age. Therefore, it is important to allow for children to participate in the development of policies and systems.

✓ Diversify the alternative care options:

this allows for the needs of the diverse target group to be better covered. This includes diversifying the pool of foster families, to meet the culture-sensitive needs some UMC may have.

✓ Adapt trainings to the local context and background of the participants:

investigating in advance the level and basic knowledge of participants, as well as their specific cultural and institutional background, can help to adapt and tailor trainings accordingly.

✓ Put sufficient time and resources in culture-sensitive recruitment and complement this with culture-sensitive screening and selection procedures:

having at least one staff member dedicated to exploring, setting up and maintaining key figure networks and building the screening and selection processes on the positive effects yielded by culture-sensitive recruitment efforts. It is not sufficient to diversify recruitment efforts, but also the processes that follow (i.e., screening and selection) should become culture-sensitive.

✓ Develop complementary thematic trainings:

feedback from various training participants showcase the need for additional trainings. While the U-CARE culture-sensitive training toolbox caters to the request for more intercultural knowledge, other trainings on the topics of mental health, dealing with micro-aggressions, creating safe spaces, caring for extra vulnerable groups, etc. should also be considered.

✓ Foresee institutionalization and continuation of alternative care programs by authorities on (inter)national, regional and local (governmental) level:

the continuation of these programs and the implementation of an institutional and legal framework for alternative care systems should be a key responsibility of state actors. Alternative care structures are advised to invest in cross-border or cross-regional partnerships to learn from each other and to exchange on good practices or new developments.

Actiris Coordination Platform Project



With the Actiris project, IOM provides technical support to Actiris, the Brussels regional employment agency, to improve coordination between stakeholders active in the field of labour market integration of newcomers in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR). We believe that better coordination between stakeholders will ultimately lead to a better labour market participation rate among newcomers. To achieve that objective, the project works towards the establishment and implementation of a coordination platform that will remain an added value for the stakeholders in the long run.



Financed by: the European Union via the Structural Reform Support Programme
Duration: June 2020 - June 2022
Geographical coverage: Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium
Partners: Actiris
Website: [Click Here](#)
Contact : iombrussels@iom.int

JUNE 2020

01

THEMATIC COMMITTEES CONSOLIDATION

- Coaching and Mentorship (10th of February 2022)
- Female Newcomers (15th of February 2022)
- Trainings (hard and soft skills) (22nd of March 2022)
- Language Training (24th of May 2022)
- Skills Validation (June 2022)
- Legal Support and Vulnerable Newcomers (end of 2022)

DECEMBER 2021

02

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- Last Steering Committee Report
- Update Social Media
- Publications linked to deliverables and/or project

03

IN-PERSON ACTIVITY: LAUNCHING EVENT

04

DIGITAL COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

- Standalone webpage incorporated within the Actiris webpage
- Postponed to 2023, LinkedIn page as a temporary alternative

05

JUNE 2022



When Actiris informed the IOM project team and DG REFORM that the development of the digital component would not take place in 2022 due to budget cuts, a dedicated Actiris LinkedIn group was set up as a temporary alternative. The LinkedIn Group serves as a space to inform interested stakeholders about the progress and next steps in the framework of the Actiris Coordination Platform. In addition, members are encouraged to share any relevant information with their peers in the Group.

BE With U



Financed by: the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument

Duration: June 2022 - September 2023

Geographical coverage: Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium

Partners: Federal Public Service Social Security (FPS SS), Public Planning service Social Integration (PPS SI), Service Public de Wallonie Intérieur et Action

Website: [Click Here](#)

Contact : avandevelde@iom.int and eledroit@iom.int



The BE with U project “Technical Support to Public Services in Belgium for the Welcoming and Integration of Persons Displaced by the Crisis in Ukraine” has the objective of improving the capacity, coordination and implementation of actions for the welcoming and integration of displaced people from Ukraine. It aims to achieve this objective by providing technical support to public services in Belgium on two streams: public services on a federal and regional level and local integration actors in the Walloon region.

What the project wants to achieve

Start: 30 June 2022

① FPS - PPS

② SPW-IAS

Improved data collection and information sharing between stakeholders

Improved and increased coordination capacity on various institutional level

Public services in Belgium improved coordination capacity for the welcoming and integration of people displaced by the crisis in Ukraine

Enhanced access to services for people displaced from Ukraine

Getting an overview of the integration network of persons displaced from Ukraine

Improved and increased coordination capacity in the Walloon region

End: 30 September 2023

STREAM 1



In Stream 1 of the project, IOM supports the FPS SS and the PPS SI for the establishment of a data coordination mechanism for stakeholders in Belgium, who are providing socio-economic support and protection to displaced persons at different institutional levels.

During the research phase of the project, the following steps were taken:

- Mapping and assessment of stakeholders and existing coordination mechanisms in Belgium;
- Needs analysis (survey) and consultation rounds with key stakeholders in the reception and integration sector in Belgium;
- Mapping and benchmark of good practices in Belgium and other EU Member States.

STREAM 2



In Stream 2 of the project, IOM supports the SPW IAS in improving and increasing the coordination capacity for the reception and integration of displaced persons from Ukraine. In 2022, we developed a comprehensive overview of the integration landscape in the Walloon region by establishing a mapping of relevant actors in the sector of reception and integration in Ukraine and conducted a needs assessment through a survey and bilateral meetings.

2023

- Stream 1: development of the data coordination mechanism’s design, launch of a piloting phase to test the mechanism’s parameters, bringing together various federal, regional and civil society actors and monitoring and evaluation of the data coordination mechanism
- Stream 2: optimisation of the existing coordination mechanism through co-creation rounds with relevant stakeholders and piloting of the coordination mechanism with members to refine its elements, provide operational recommendations and identify funding options to ensure long-term sustainability



Financed by:

Duration: June 2022 -

Geographical coverage: Ghent

Partners: Stad Gent, HOGENT

Contact: iombrusselsco_ghent@iom.int



This project formulates a response to the local context of Ghent, where displaced families and people from Ukraine are in need of a temporary housing solutions and further support in their integration. As part of an integrated approach to support these displaced persons from Ukraine, IOM Belgium and Luxembourg provides direct assistance by supporting the management of accommodation centres for Ukrainian families opened by the City of Ghent.

The centres' community-based approach aims to welcome families on a small scale and provide facilities where they can come together in a kitchen, living or outside garden area.

Most families referred to the centres first stayed with host families in Ghent and then as part of the next phase of their integration were offered to move to the centres made available by the City of Ghent. IOM creates a safe space which allows for different needs of the families to be met. The aim is to create an environment where they can be independent and look for housing and jobs, while advancing their Dutch. IOM tries to connect the residents to the many socio-economic, psychosocial and cultural initiatives already in place in Ghent.

OBJECTIVES



IOM's objective is to contribute to a reduction of the vulnerability of displaced persons from Ukraine by creating safe spaces from which the affected population can further look for sustainable options, by integrating into the regular housing market and finding income generating activities for the duration that temporary protection remains granted.



Furthermore, IOM staff members make referrals to local networks for access to education for children, language courses, volunteering, leisure activities, health support, mental health support, etc. In those centres, IOM staff ensure that displaced persons from Ukraine can report safely on issues, concerns, and suggestions.

ACTIVITIES



Jobday



Cooking with Gent Solidair



Christmas celebrations

i With over 20 years of experience, IOM Belgium and Luxembourg is aware of the importance to establish links and to engage with diaspora members and communities as powerful actors of development and change. The expertise, commitment, knowledge and skills of diasporas make it essential for our office to give diasporas a prominent place by including them in the development and implementation of all of our projects. Our Country Office will therefore continue to establish links and engage with the various diaspora communities in Belgium and Luxembourg through IOM's 3E strategy (Engage, Empower, Enable). Moreover, diaspora engagement has been included as one of the main pillars of our Country Office's national strategy.

PROJECTS IN 2022

Rwandan Diaspora Engagement Project



Financed by: Government of Belgium and the IOM Development Fund

Duration: 2019 - May 2022 (TVET)/August 2022 (Health)

Geographical coverage: Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium

Partners: MINAFFET (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), MINEDUC (Ministry of Education), Ministry of Health (MoH), Rwanda Polytechnic (RP)

Website: [Click Here](#)

Contact : avandevelde@iom.int

i The Rwandan Diaspora Engagement Projects aim to address the needs of the Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) and Health Sector in Rwanda through the engagement of highly skilled diaspora professionals residing in Europe. Through Trainings of Trainers (ToT), the Rwandan diaspora individuals will build the capacity of TVET professors and students in priority courses of the Rwanda Polytechnic's host institutions (IPRCs) across the country.



Diaspora Insights Podcast series



Tino Chibebe

Member of the Zimbabwean diaspora, venture capital and tech enthusiast, and author of the book "The Black Opportunity". We talk about his book, (the lack of) black representation within venture capital and tech entrepreneurship, and the role of diaspora peer support.



Celestina Jorge

In celebration of the World Book Day on April 23, we recorded a podcast with Celestina Jorge, owner of Pépité Blues, a bookstore in Brussels focusing on African and Diaspora literature. In the podcast, Celestina talks about her motives behind opening a bookshop and the remarkable meaning behind Pépité Blues' name.



Jimmy Nzally

Member of the Gambian diaspora, PhD student, activist and founder of the VUB Africa Student Community (ASCOM). We talk about ASCOM and the role it plays in African students' lives in Belgium, and about the important role of diaspora as actors of change in their home countries.



Hanan Challouki

As an inclusive communication expert, she helps organisations and companies to reach a more diverse audience. Hanan talks about MVSLIM and What She Wants as she highlights the importance of networking and representation for young entrepreneurs.

Mariam Harutyunyan

As part of the Armenian diaspora, Mariam loves to include her culture in her work. She talks about her brand KinArmat, through which she wants to empower women and foster dialogue, and as executive director of A Seat At The Table, she highlights the importance of claiming your spot in society.



Désiré Nzengou

As part of the Rwandan diaspora project, Désiré Nzengou travelled to Rwanda. In this episode of our Diaspora Insights Podcast, Désiré talks about this experience and the importance of skills development through the diaspora.



Diaspora Advisory Board

The Diaspora Advisory Board (DAB) is a place of cooperation and co-creation between diaspora members and IOM Belgium and Luxembourg. Members can connect, learn and engage in relevant diaspora-related activities with IOM, diaspora organizations and other stakeholders while working towards the materialization of (project) ideas. The DAB's work is guided by four principles, exchange, cooperation, co-creation and effective action.

16/03/2022

First Diaspora Advisory Board: Introduction and discussion of the future possibilities and directions of the DAB



From this meeting onwards, the DAB will meet bi-annually during ad-hoc thematic meetings

Albanian Diaspora Engagement Project - ARISE-ALL



Belgium

partner in development



Financed by: European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2014-2020)

Duration: 2021 - 2022 (24 months)

Geographical coverage: 12 regions in Albania, Belgium, Netherlands

Partners: SPF Interieur Belgium, Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands

More information: [Click Here](#)

Coordinator: IOM Albania



The project contributes to influencing the change of behaviour of the groups with high potential to migrate irregularly as well as key 'enablers' in Albania. The project raises awareness among Albanian citizens considering irregular migration to Europe on the risks of irregular migration and provides information on existing economic and educational opportunities in Albania and the regular migration channels to Europe.



The network establishes an 'influencers' network with personal migration experience, who sensitise the population through events, social networks, mini projects, awareness raising, video messages etc. and engage two celebrities to endorse the campaign and distribute its messages.



Awareness raising and exchange

Awareness Raising initiatives using traditional and social media, celebrity endorsers and peer to peer sensitisation through local and diaspora 'influencers'. The campaign reached 200,000 people and 10,000 who interact with the Mobile Application.



Training and capacity building

Capacity building of public institutions and CSOs that work in the field of migration at national and local level to actively engage in the prevention of irregular migration, promotion of available educational and economic opportunities in Albania, as well as regular migration opportunities in the EU.

O-REMIT



Financed by: Government of Belgium
Duration: January 2023- June 2024
Geographical coverage: Belgium
Partners: Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs, National Bank of Belgium, ZidiCircle
Website: [Click Here](#)
Contact : anaser@iom.int, ddeketele@iom.int



The O-REMIT project aims to offer cost-effective alternatives for remittances and opportunities to invest savings in countries of origin. Data will be analysed on the remittance flows to the 14 partner countries of Belgium, along with their transaction costs with the aim of supporting diasporas in Belgium to make meaningful investments in their country of origin.

Implementation through 3 streams:

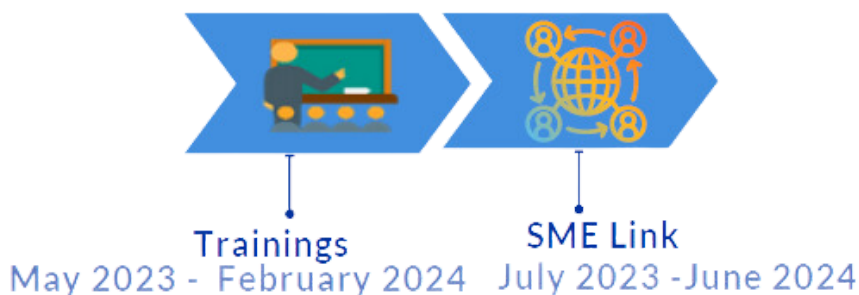
1 Gain insights into remittance flows and behaviors from Belgium



2 Gain insights into remittance flows and behaviors from Belgium



3 Engage diaspora to become investors



Thank you for reading!

The IOM Belgium and Luxembourg Team



IOM Belgium and Luxembourg



IOM Belgium and Luxembourg



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