



International  
Labour  
Organization



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Global Skills Partnership for Migration

## Key messages from partners

**Opportunity:** Migration is an ever-growing phenomenon. With over 164 million international migrant workers globally, there are significant opportunities to foster development in countries of origin, transit and destination, improve livelihoods, develop skills, spark innovation, match talents, fill skills shortages and allow for mutual learning

**Challenge:** For safe, orderly and regular labour migration, related policy and legislation need to be based on international human and labour rights, be coherent and correspond to interests and priorities of all relevant stakeholders. Migrants at all skills levels, particularly at medium and lower, are often vulnerable to labour exploitation and lack of protection. Labour market integration and career development are key factors in improving productivity, social cohesion and sustainability. Skills can be an asset for migrants' integration, and to reap the potential benefits and advantages, migrants' learnings and qualifications achieved before and after migration have to be recognized, valued and further developed in countries of destination and origin. Steps need to be taken to improve the process through which qualifications and competencies at all levels and prior learning are recognized.

**Response:** Therefore, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Employers Organization (IOE), and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) are joining forces to forge a Global Skills Partnership. This will mobilise their constituencies, pool their expertise, build platforms to assist national and migrant workers, including those who return, maximize synergies and leverage comparative advantages. The Global Skills Partnership will pay particular attention to low- and medium-skilled migrants and will be underpinned by skills partnerships at local, national, sub-regional and regional level.

**Objective:** The Global Skills Partnership (GSP) launched initially as an initiative among ILO, IOM, UNESCO, IOE and ITUC aims to mobilize technical expertise of the three organizations towards supporting governments, employers, workers and their organizations, educational institutions and training providers, and other stakeholders to develop and recognize the skills of migrant workers with a particular focus on women and youth. It thus aims to contribute to:

- Successful as well as sustainable labour market outcomes and integration in countries of origin and destination and progressive career development and well-being of migrant workers;
- Regular labour migration, including in the framework of bilateral and multilateral labour arrangements, based on skills demand and relevant, quality training provisions for potential and return migrant workers;
- Improved productivity and retention of migrant workers leading to better economic outcomes and performance of enterprises.

### Skills partnerships respond to Goal 4, 8 and 10 of the SDGs:

**Goal 8.8** calls on member states to “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”. **Goal 4.3** calls for “equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university”, **goal 4.4** for increasing “the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”. **Goal 4.7** promotes education and training for “sustainable development, (...) a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”. Finally, **goal 10.7** stresses that “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” should be facilitated to reduce inequality between countries.

**Mandate:** Skills partnerships, including the role of social partners therein, are an innovative mechanism for sharing the benefits of migration for both countries of origin and destination, as well as migrant workers themselves. The urgency of a Global Skills Partnership on migration has been recognized in intergovernmental consultations that led to the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Global Compact devotes objective 18 to the issue of investing in skills development and facilitating recognition of skills, qualifications and competences, calling for the establishment of skills partnerships.