

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Strengthening the Partnership between Belgium and Georgia through Temporary Mobility of Entrepreneurs (EMLINK)

About the Project

By designing a pilot temporary mobility scheme for outstanding entrepreneurs, this initiative will strengthen bilateral cooperation between Belgium and Georgia. The scheme will contribute to increased access to new markets and commercial opportunities by encouraging regulated mobility of businessmen and women, all while improving the competitiveness of the private sector, motivating job creation, and attracting foreign investment. As a consequence, the initiative will lead to improved economic and political cooperation between the two countries, as well as a better migration management framework. In addition, this pilot initiative will promote a safe environment for institutional dialogue around professional mobility between Georgia and Belgium paving the way for exploring more avenues for cooperation modalities between the countries in focus.



Partners

This MPF project is implemented by ICMPD on behalf of Belgium.



Countries

Belgium and Georgia



Time frame

September 2023 – February 2025 (18 months)



Budget

EUR 500,000 (from AMIF)

Activities



Cooperation and Exchange

The project envisions the establishment of a stakeholders' cooperation and exchange platform in the forms of networking events, exchange missions and study tours, including representatives from the public and private sectors, to foster trust and understanding of entrepreneurial mobility as a safe channel for temporary migration, with a particular focus on start-ups and entrepreneurs in both Georgia and Belgium. As a result, in addition to improving Georgia's entrepreneurial ecosystem, the project will help to reduce irregular migration from Georgia by prioritising legal migration pathways for private sector development. Furthermore, by supporting such cooperation mechanism as well as the development of entrepreneurial skills and internationalisation of start-ups, the project will assist SMEs in gaining access to new markets and technical breakthroughs, hence encouraging their growth and competitiveness.



Knowledge Products

The project will produce a mapping report, which will serve as a foundation for further policy planning in the case of Georgian institutions and will identify key stakeholders in Georgia (start-up companies) and Belgium (partner accelerators and/or matching start-up companies/businesses) as a foundation for further project planning, tailoring, and implementation. Furthermore, the project intends to create a roadmap for future replication mechanisms that would incorporate all pertinent lessons learned and recommendations to stakeholders on the establishment of a model for start-up mobility in Georgia. In order to ensure sustainability, the project team will use a participative approach wherever feasible to strengthen stakeholder and target group ownership of the project's knowledge products.



Capacity Building

To strengthen Georgian start-ups' potential to develop and assist skill and talent retention, the project will construct the accelerated course curriculum based on the results of the mapping and sectoral analysis report, the conclusions of the networking event, and the findings of the exchange mission. To this aim, training and orientation consultation (up to eight one-day sessions) will be conducted for selected Georgian start-ups with an aspiration to prepare start-up representatives to participate in the accelerated programme in Belgium. The project also entails advice on acceleration funding offered to start-ups that have completed the acceleration course.

Implemented by



The Migration Partnership Facility



This project is implemented 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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