

Third Regional Partners Meeting Takes Place in Bratislava

In January 2017, Skills2Work IOM focal points and project partners celebrated the one year anniversary of the project launch in Bratislava, with the third regional project meeting.

Several guest speakers and guest participants joined the meeting which focused on labour market integration, including the Flemish Public Employment Service ([VDAB](#)), the municipality of [Tilburg](#) (the Netherlands), the [Swedish Employment Office](#), the municipality of [Gothenburg](#) (Sweden) and the [Artesmisszió Foundation](#) (Hungary).

The group of thirty participants attended workshops and presentations on key themes relevant to the Skills2Work activities, such as the role of municipalities in facilitating labour market integration, good practices regarding skills recognition and validation, PTSD as an obstacle to participation in the labour market, EU migration trends and private sector engagement.

The participants received a sneak preview of the **Pathfinder** - the interactive, online directory designed to assist employers, local service providers and beneficiaries of international protection in navigating early, successful and sustained labour market integration. Feedback gathered at the meeting will be used to improve the final version of the platform. The Pathfinder will be officially launched during the first half of 2017.



Attendees at the third regional meeting in Bratislava.

This year, Skills2Work partner [Pontis Foundation](#) (Slovakia) will celebrate their 20 year anniversary Since 1997, Pontis has focused on strengthening the non-governmental sector, corporate and individual philanthropy, corporate responsibility through their work on more than 50 large-scale projects a year to address social challenges in Slovakia and abroad. Of particular relevance to the Skills2Work project is their long term experience in the field of awareness raising and social development. Pontis promotes the employment of Beneficiaries of International Protection in Slovakia through private sector engagement and by supporting corporate social responsibility. Recently Pontis became the co-ordinator of a working group of companies in order to create the [Diversity Charter](#) for Slovakia. This is a strategic document where employers can publicly commit to diversity principles and initiate particular projects to strengthen diversity on workplace.

Skills2Work

The Skills2Work project aims to promote labour market integration of beneficiaries of international protection through improving early validation of formal and informal skills and competences.



Colleagues from IOM the Netherlands with Syrian refugees at the IOM office earlier this month.

IOM the Netherlands organizes interactive feedback sessions with migrants

Seven beneficiaries of international protection from Syria joined IOM to discuss their experiences on (labour market) integration in the Netherlands and the challenges they face. The group also explored the **Pathfinder** website (please see above for more information) and its possibilities. This session was an opportunity for IOM to receive valuable, first-hand insights from the target group. Their input will be used to improve the accessibility of the Pathfinder and provide better targeted information that is specifically designed for beneficiaries of international protection.