

SUSTAINING AND SCALING PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT TO PROTECT MIGRANT WORKERS IN EUROPE

BACKGROUND

Migrant workers face significant risks throughout the migration process and at work, including exposure to poor working conditions and exploitation that can amount to trafficking in human beings and forced labour. In recent years, reports have increasingly focused on the ill-treatment of migrant workers in global supply chains, identifying exploitative conditions in a variety of sectors and linked to a range of consumer products and commodity goods.

IOM is actively engaged in global initiatives, including with key multinational corporations (MNCs) to promote the protection of migrant workers throughout the migration process - from ethical recruitment to employment - and to combat trafficking for labour exploitation. To further these exchanges and scale engagement in Europe, the project will capitalize on IOM's [IRIS](#) initiative to promote Ethical Recruitment and the [CREST](#) program to support Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking.



OBJECTIVES

The **overall objective** of this project is to strengthen IOM's capacity in the EEA region to engage the private sector in view of protecting migrant workers in supply-chains and to contribute to policy development in this area. To achieve this, the project will **a)** develop the capacity of IOM staff to appropriately engage with the private sector in view of protecting migrant workers **b)** build the private sectors' understanding of protection risks faced by migrant workers in supply-chain contexts and their capacity to address them; and finally, to **c)** foster transnational policy and practice exchange among European stakeholders - including policy makers and corporate stakeholders - to protect migrant workers in European supply chains. This engagement should also lead to stronger supply-chain management and human rights due diligence of MNCs vis-à-vis migrant workers

The project purports to accelerate the achievement of the SDG Goal 8 and GCM Objective 6, in alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the ILO International Labour Standards. It also comes at a timely moment as the EU is undertaking a series of legislative actions to improve the protection of migrant workers in Europe, including through the revision of the Employers' Sanctions Directive, the EU Anti Trafficking strategy and plans to draft a Directive on Sustainable Corporate Governance.

SECTORAL FOCUS

The regional mapping and other project components will focus on the following **key economic sectors** in which **the risk of labour exploitation is high**. Within these sectors, IOM will support the development of evidence and knowledge needed by the private sector to understand and address the protection risks faced by migrant workers in supply-chain contexts.



KEY ACTIVITIES

- Development of a Private Sector Engagement Strategy (PSES) for IOM Country offices in the region.
- Training on labour migration, ethical recruitment, the protection of migrant workers in supply chain-contexts, and trafficking in human-beings for labour exploitation.
- Development of 4 regional mappings of sector-specific risks to migrant workers in European supply-chain contexts.
- Development of an Employer Toolkit to support awareness rising and training of corporate stakeholders.
- Development of a Thematical Policy Brief on the protection of migrant workers in supply chain contexts.
- Exchange of good practice and foster exchange among policy makers and corporate stakeholders.