



We are excited to inaugurate the newsletter of the Horizon Europe project Global Strategy for Skills, Migration and Development (GS4S), reporting on our work that tasked us with exploring the dynamic intersections of skills, migration, and development in the digital, care, and construction industries during a 36-month period.

In light of EU challenges relating to an aging workforce and the energy transition, and the shortages of relevant skills faced by the EU, GS4S seeks to better understand global skills shortages and strengthen evidence-based policies through new evidence on various overlooked global mobility schemes. Uniquely, a business perspective at macro, meso and micro levels is central to our work, juxtaposing local strategies for filling skills shortages of Multinational Enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in global value chains. Moreover, we focus on skilled (migrant) workers' experiences with skilling, upskilling and reskilling in EU and non-EU regional contexts. During the lifespan of the project, we will propose multi-level policies on labour migration governance and alternative ways for addressing these shortages in six regions: EU, EEA, Western Balkan, Middle East and Northern Africa, West Africa, and South/South-East Asia. Using mixed-methods research, the GS4S interdisciplinary consortium aims to provide exploitable datasets and practical tools for policy makers, businesses, and educational institutions in the EU and non-EU countries towards improved matching of skills to address labour market needs. In doing so, the project aims to contribute to a socially sustainable (well-being oriented) global strategy for skills, migration and development.

Since beginning the project in earnest this past January, we have been hard at work, holding regular meetings to keep the project on track. Key milestones include our kick-off consortium meeting in Nijmegen (February 5th-7th) and ongoing monthly Scientific Lab Sessions, where consortium members share research updates and collaborate to ensure seamless knowledge integration.

The GS4S consortium, led by COO Radboud University (NL), consists of fourteen partners from throughout Europe and from Egypt, Bangladesh, and Nigeria:

[Radboud University Centre for Migration Law and Faculty of Management](#), The Netherlands

[Migration Policy Institute Europe](#), Belgium

[European University Institute](#), Italy

[The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies](#), Austria

[SEO Amsterdam Economics](#), The Netherlands

[FIERI Researching Migration and Society](#), Italy

[The American University in Cairo](#), Egypt

[The Nest](#), Nigeria

[OKUP](#), Bangladesh

[University of Groningen](#), The Netherlands

[Centro Studi d'Agliano](#), Italy

[Global Skills Network](#), Estonia

[Univeresité de Genève](#), Switzerland

[ODI](#), United Kingdom



GS4S is one of three sister projects, joining [Link4Skills](#) and [Skills4Justice](#), to the HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01 Initiative. The three projects, grouped around a focus on (regional and global) skills shortages, migration, and (public) policy, will each last three years, which leaves significant room for creating synergies. Thus far, we have organized two coordination meetings under a memorandum of cooperation towards providing a roadmap that explores collaboration in four areas: (i) project management and conceptualization, (ii) data collection, (iii) dissemination and (iv) communication. Additionally, the three sister projects participated in “Skills Horizon – Online” on May 8th, offering an overview and access to more than ten HORIZON research projects focusing on the role of knowledge and skills for social and economic transformations.

GS4S Working Paper Series / Digital Tools



SKILLS-ORIENTED MIGRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The first entry in the GS4S Working Paper Series examines the understudied impact of labour shortages on migration aspirations and destination preferences among individuals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. Authored by Pascal Beckers (Radboud University), Mahdi Ghodsi (WIIW), Ksenija Ivanović (Radboud University), Sandra Leitner (WIIW), Friedrich Poeschel (EUI), and Alireza Sabouniha (WIIW). Working Paper #1 is available in [English](#) and [Serbo-Croatian](#).



THE OVER-EDUCATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN EUROPE

[Working Paper #2](#) explores the overeducation of tertiary-educated migrants in European labour markets and how the findings of the paper underscore the need for policies that better align immigrants’ skills with labour market demands in Europe. Authors: FIERI partners Angela Dalmonte, Tommaso Frattini and Sofia Giorgini.



LOCATING SHORTAGES IN MIGRANTS’ ORIGIN COUNTRIES: A BIG DATA APPROACH

[Working Paper #3](#) documents a data collection on vacancies published online, which is being implemented by web scraping online platforms in selected non-EU countries. The data collection aims at locating labour or skill shortages in important origin countries of migration to the EU, and the paper outlines how the data collection can be transformed into measures of shortages at the level of occupations and skills. Authored by Friedrich Poeschel (EUI).



SKILL WASTE ACROSS EU MEMBER STATES

Housed at the European Migration Observatory website created by Tommaso Frattini and Irene Solmone of GS4S partner Centro Studi d'Agliano, the dashboard is an interactive, easily accessible and up-to-date tool of reference regarding the size, characteristics, and relative economic performance of immigrants in EU countries. Access the dashboard [here](#) and select GS4S Overeducation from the navigation bar.

GS4S Social & Scientific Advisory Board



The first SSAB Annual Meeting took place in September 19th, when members received guidelines outlining information about the project and their involvement as a unique opportunity to take part and engage with the project's research objectives. Bringing together leading experts in labour markets, skills development, and migration, this team of experienced researchers will provide guidance and support to GS4S, helping conduct and disseminate research. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to GS4S SSAB members for their invaluable contributions to our research on skills, migration, and development:

- * Dr. Ibrahim Awad, [American University in Cairo](#)
- * Thessa Bagu, [Commercium Africa](#)
- * Dr. Aradhna Aggarwal, [Copenhagen Business School](#)
- * Aurora Marsye, [Lumina Indonesia](#)
- * Dr. Mariella Falkenhain, [Institute for Employment Research](#)
- * Peter Bosch, [Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations](#)
- * Jennifer Tangney, [Migration Partnership Facility, ICMPD](#)
- * Rimma Abadjan, [Migration Partnership Facility, ICMPD](#)
- * Jo Antoons, [Fragomen Global LLP](#)
- * Ciprian Panzaru, [European Network on Regional Labor Market Monitoring](#)
- * Dr. Izabela Grabowska, [Kozminski University](#)
- * Dr. Vidmantas Tütlys, [Vytautas Magnus University](#)
- * Margaret Walton-Roberts, [Wilfrid Laurier University](#)
- * Dr. Felicitas Hillmann, [University of Berlin](#)

Learn more about the GS4S team and the interdisciplinary organizations involved by visiting our website: <https://gs4s.eu/team-2/>.

Sharing GS4S Research Results



GS4S team members Dr. Dina Abdel Fattah (American University in Cairo) and Prof. Tesseltje de Lange (Radboud University) presented “Circular Migration Partnerships” at the annual UACES conference in the University of Trento on circular migration and care worker mobility. Read more [here](#).

Other opportunities to disseminate research results took place in:

- Lugano, Switzerland where GS4S PI Prof. Tesseltje de Lange (Radboud University) and partner team member Dr. Friedrich Poeschel (EUI) joined a list of distinguished speakers at The European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring on September 5, 2024.

Responding to Public Policy



GS4S PI Prof. Tesseltje de Lange response to “The Recast Single Permit Directive: Moving Forward, but not on More Legal Migration Pathways” contributes to the public policy dialogue on the Single Permit Directive. Read full response [here](#).

In the Works...



- “Evaluating the Impact of Reskilling/Upskilling on Local Development of Country of Origin” case studies on Egypt, Bangladesh and Nigeria. Debuting soon.
- Working Paper Series; Policy Briefs; Comparative Reports; Trade Agreements, Shortages, Business and Cross-National Comparative Databases; Dashboard and Decision-making Tools; Skills Waste Dashboard
- Podcasts

Stay tuned!

SAVE THE DATE - GS4S Webinar



On **July 8 2024**, the European Commission launched the program “[Supporting a Talent Partnership with Bangladesh](#)” to promote mutually beneficial, regular, and safe mobility and legal migration pathways to the EU, as well as reduce illegal migration, and risks that come with it.

On **August 5th**, Bangladesh experienced an important political shift.

What happens next? With this question as a starting point, experts from **the Horizon Europe project GS4S ‘[Global Strategy for Skills, Migration and Development](#)’** and the European Commission embrace the uncertainty to explore: (i) the current situation in Bangladesh and the role of migration, (ii) the potential and drawbacks of Bangladesh’s bilateral relations, with a focus on migration corridor between Bangladesh and Italy, and (iii) insights for EU policy.

The webinar will take place on **November 12, 2024, between 14:00 and 15:00 CET**. Participants include:

- Moderator: Dr. Jasmijn Slootjes, Migration Policy Institute Europe
- Prof. Tesseltje de Lange, GS4S PI/Radboud University Centre for Migration Law
- Shakirul Islam, OKUP
- Dr. Ferruccio Pastore, FIERI
- Dr. Jessica Hagen-Zanker, ODI
- Michalis Maschovakos, Policy Officer on the fields of Research and Innovation at the European Commission

To attend, please [register here](#).



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