



*Are you a local official, practitioner, labour-market institution, or stakeholder interested in reaping the full potential of newcomers' skills for your city or region? Then join us in the webinar:*

## **Welcoming talent, locally: practices and partnerships to maximise skilled immigrants' contribution to local economies**

Many of the world's more advanced economies are facing growing skill gaps, due to demographic decline, shrinking labour forces, and labour market mismatches. With these bottlenecks affecting a growing number of key sectors, from STEM to health care, securing a sufficient pool of talent will be a central factor for future competitiveness and prosperity — and many countries across the world are increasingly looking at skilled immigration as part of the answer.

National governments play an important role in attracting foreign talent, but action at the local level is often key to ensuring this potential comes to fruition. Offering guidance and upskilling opportunities, optimising the coordination between service providers, and engaging employers are only some examples of how local authorities and stakeholders can help skilled migrants express their full potential. In turn, the lack of adequate support can hamper professional trajectories, resulting in frustration and skill waste.

This webinar will offer local decision-makers, institutional partners, service providers, and community organisations concrete insights into how to build stakeholder partnerships that help newcomers put their skills to the best use, for the benefit of local economies and communities. Participants will learn about two successful initiatives in North America and reflect on their lessons for the European context:

- **WES Global Talent Bridge**, a programme dedicated to enabling skilled immigrants fully utilise their talents and education in the United States and Canada;
- **Hire Immigrants**, a Canadian initiative that helps employers take concrete action to tap into migrant and refugee talents.

The webinar is hosted by the **Network IQ** (Integration through Qualification), Germany's flagship programme to promote the integration of migrants into the labour market.

**Key questions will include:**

- What are common barriers to the economic inclusion of skilled immigrants in countries of destination? How can these barriers be addressed through actions at the local/regional level, and what are the advantages of doing so?
- What are concrete examples of successful initiatives to help newcomers put their skills to the best use in local labour markets, especially through multi-stakeholder partnerships?
- How to secure buy-in from employers, especially small and medium-sized enterprises?

**Speakers:**

- *Katherine Gebremedhin, Director of Partnerships and Program Development, WES Global Talent Bridge, USA*
- *Devon Franklin, Project Manager, Hire Immigrants, Kanada*

**Moderator:**

- *Liam Patuzzi, Policy Analyst, MPI Europe, Belgium, previously Project Officer, IQ Dissemination Project/ebb GmbH, Germany*

**Please register via mail by 16 June 2019 and indicate your name, your organisation and project:**

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**The webinar will take place 18 June 2019 at 10:00 am (EST).**