

Public consultation on the EU's labour migration policies and the EU Blue Card

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

1

Your Contact Details

*1.1 Name

Himanshu Jain

1.2 Organisation's Name

University of Oxford

1.3 Address

*1.4 Email

1.5 Country of current residence or where your organisation is based:

United Kingdom



2

Your Profile

*2.1 In what capacity are you completing the questionnaire?

- ☐ Employer
- ☐ Employer's organisation
- ☐ Trade Union
- ☐ Executive and Senior-Level Management (Oversees Mid-Level Management and multiple departments; May manage multiple facilities; May manage national or global operations; Manages budgets)
- ☐ Non-EU migrant workers and entrepreneurs already residing -or having previously resided- legally in the European Union
- ☐ Non-EU migrant workers and entrepreneurs currently outside the European Union but considering or having considered to migrate to the EU
- ☐ Public Employment Service
- ☐ Private Employment Service
- ☐ National Ministry
- ☐ Non-Governmental Organisations (support network, assistance, services)
- ☐ Regional Authority
- ☐ Local Authority
- ☐ National Consulate/Embassy
- ☐ National Statistical Office
- ☐ Private Individuals
- ☒ Academia
- ☐ Non-Governmental Organisations (advocacy)
- ☐ Media
- ☐ International organisations
- ☐ Organisations or authorities of the countries of origin
- ☐ Others

3

LABOUR MARKETS

3.7 In order to address labour shortages, a number of policy measures can be taken such as recruiting from other EU Member States, increasing the retirement age and labour market participation rates, or active labour market policies.

Besides such measures, do you consider that it is also necessary to recruit migrant workers, including entrepreneurs, from outside the EU to address labour shortages in particular sectors/occupations in the EU?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

3.8 The EU and the Member States have in place tools to identify labour and skills shortages. Do you think that further initiatives at EU level, in particular with regard to highly skilled jobs, are necessary to improve the effectiveness of these tools?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

3.9 If yes, why?

300 character(s) maximum

"Highly skilled jobs" is a vague term -- carpentry and multi-disciplinary R&D both qualify, yet obviously require very different types skills-sets and background training. For carpentry, you require a specialist, for multi- or inter- disciplinary research, you require a generalist -- (more as reqd).

4

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

4.1 Do you think adequate information on national immigration systems is easily available to:

- potential migrants?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

4.2 - employers?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

4.29 Is adequate information available to employers and potential migrants about recruitment possibilities?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

5

ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE EU

5.1 How would you rate the attractiveness of the EU for labour migrants on the following factors?

	--	-	0	+	++
Level of wages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of getting a work permit	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conditions for family reunification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Welfare and healthcare system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Opportunities for family members (professional, schooling, leisure and other)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Rule of law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Portability of social benefits (e.g. acquired pension rights, sickness insurance...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Personal safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Recognition of foreign qualifications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Language(s) spoken in destination country	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Conditions for permanent residence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Openness of the socio-political environment to immigration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of integration and language assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easy mobility between EU Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of entering and leaving the EU at will as a permit holder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Business friendly environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Innovation friendly environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Quality of life (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5.2 Quality of life: please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Social security, clean air and environment, regular working hours, ease of mobility together make for a much higher quality of life for somebody like me who has experience of such factors in India. However, the lack of social connection, esp. due to language barriers, is a dampner.

5.4 On which of the following issues could the EU do more to improve its attractiveness as a migration destination for highly skilled non-EU migrants?

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☐ Ease of getting a permit
- ☒ Facilitate family reunification
- ☐ Portability of social benefits (eg. acquired pension rights, sickness insurance...)
- ☐ Recognition of foreign qualifications
- ☒ Facilitate access to permanent residence
- ☒ Easy mobility between Member States
- ☐ Ease of entering and leaving the EU at will as a permit holder

5.5 Do you think more should be done, at the EU level, to improve the attractiveness of the EU Member States for highly-skilled migrants?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

5.6 Please explain

600 character(s) maximum

It is rather tricky, even for highly qualified (education wise and professional credentials wise) persons to obtain a job offer in the EU directly from their home countries, eg., India. The age group window (25-35) when most professionals are able to move is also the age group when they are most pressed on the personal front (family, sweet-spot of career), and thus it is often not possible / attractive for them (for the most qualified and therefore the most desirable ones) to pitch for jobs in the EU, when they are not able to compete on their merit, but on their "work permit status".

5.7 In the country/ies in which you are active, do you consider that the system for managing labour migration fully responds to current and long-term needs.

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No, there is more to be done.

5.8 Please explain

600 character(s) maximum

As I said above, things for the people you may be most interested in are no longer as "not-nice" as they may have been in the past in their home countries. Plus, they have to give up their social / family network to move abroad, uproot their children, etc. It would be nice if they were assured that their job applications -- which take up a lot of time+effort -- would be considered on the merits, and that their lack of work-permit would not be an automatic disqualifier.

Did you consider or are you considering other destinations besides the EU?

6

EU BLUE CARD

The "EU Blue Card" is a work and residence permit intended to improve the EU's ability to attract highly qualified workers from non-EU countries. For more information, see:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1412351921774&uri=URISERV:l14573>

6.4 Have you ever heard of the EU Blue Card before this survey?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

6.5 If yes, do you consider that:

- ☐ It could be made more attractive
☒ It is sufficiently attractive

The "EU Blue Card" is a work and residence permit intended to improve the EU's ability to attract highly qualified workers from non-EU countries. For more information, see:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1412351921774&uri=URISERV:l14573>

6.14 The Blue Card Directive sets a number of admission conditions which applicants must fulfil to be allowed into the EU: 1) a work contract or binding job offer of at least one year; 2) a salary of at least 1,5 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned; 3) proof of relevant professional qualifications or fulfilling the national legal requirements

Do you consider that the admission conditions of the current EU Blue Card Directive are adequate?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Info: 'higher professional qualifications' means evidence of recognised higher education qualifications or at least five years of relevant professional experience;

6.17 What aspects would be most important for the attractiveness of the EU Blue Card?

Please indicate the factors you consider important (max. three answers possible):

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☐ Fast-track entry procedures
- ☐ A clear, streamlined and uniform scheme across all Member States
- ☒ Unrestricted access to the labour market
- ☐ Extension of its scope to other categories, e.g. entrepreneurs
- ☐ Promotion and information provision on the EU Blue Card
- ☒ Favourable conditions for family reunification
- ☐ Availability of integration support (e.g. language courses, job orientation) for highly qualified workers and family members
- ☐ Allowable absences to return to the country of origin
- ☐ Rights and equal treatment
- ☒ Long-term perspectives (e.g. longer validity of the Blue Card or facilitated access to long-term residence status or naturalisation)
- ☐ Easy intra-EU mobility to take up employment opportunities in other Member States
- ☐ Other (please specify)

6.19 In many Member States national schemes for attracting highly-skilled labour migrants exist in parallel to the EU Blue Card. In your opinion, in order to make the EU as a whole more attractive for highly qualified migrant workers, do you consider that:

- ☒ It is better to opt for one unified and visible EU-wide scheme, such as an improved EU Blue Card without parallel national programmes
- ☐ It is better to keep parallel national programmes for highly qualified migrant workers in addition to the EU Blue Card
- ☐ No opinion

6.20 Why? Please indicate the factors you consider important (multiple answers possible):

- ☐ Having many parallel national schemes results in diminished visibility of the EU on the international scene
- ☒ A unified EU-wide scheme improves the attractiveness of the EU for highly qualified migrants as compared with having many parallel national schemes
- ☒ A unified EU-wide scheme improves the clarity and simplicity for potential highly qualified migrants
- ☒ An EU-wide scheme offers easier mobility between EU Member States for non-EU highly qualified migrants to react to labour market changes
- ☐ Other

6.24 Do you consider that the EU Blue Card scheme could be more attractive if its scope were to be expanded to certain additional categories of highly-qualified workers?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

6.25 Please indicate the specific categories/cases (multiple answers possible):

- ☐ Entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs in any area (upon fulfilment of specific conditions)
☐ Entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs in high-tech sectors likely to create high-growth employment
☐ Self-employed workers (upon fulfilment of specific conditions)
☒ Facilitation for international students (graduates from third countries who obtained a higher education degree in the EU)
☒ A job seeking permit for highly-skilled non EU nationals
☒ A job seeking permit for non EU nationals for sectors where labour shortages are identified
☐ Other (please specify)

6.27 Do you have further comments on how the EU can be made more attractive for highly qualified workers (in particular in relation to the Blue Card directive)?

300 character(s) maximum

All I should like to add is that I offer my apologies if anything that I have said here was out of order. I love Europe and UK in particular like I do India, so my comments were meant in that spirit! Take care!

7

QUALIFICATIONS

7.1 Do you consider the current procedures for the recognition of non-EU qualifications adequate?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ I do not know

7.18 In the field of recognition of qualifications obtained outside the EU, which of the following initiatives would you welcome the most?

- ☐ An easier system of recognition of qualifications at EU level for non-EU qualifications
☐ Increased cooperation between national accreditation systems
☐ Increased transparency on national procedures
☐ A better use of the qualifications frameworks to support recognition (where these exist)
☒ No further action
☐ Other