

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

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### Your Contact Details

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\*1.1 Name

Luca Lixi

1.2 Organisation's Name

1.3 Address

\*1.4 Email

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

United Kingdom



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### Your Profile

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\* 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

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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*

Further initiatives at EU level are necessary to coordinate a common recruitment plan, making it easier for migrants of thinking at the EU as a unit, within which various opportunities arise in different countries. Coordination at union level then can be followed by regional/national actions

## 4

### AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

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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

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

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Level of wages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of getting a work permit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conditions for family reunification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 type="radio"/>
Opportunities for family members (professional, schooling, leisure and other)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rule of law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 type="radio"/>
Personal safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recognition of foreign qualifications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Language(s) spoken in destination country	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conditions for permanent residence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Openness of the socio-political environment to immigration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of integration and language assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easy mobility between EU Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 type="radio"/>
Business friendly environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Innovation friendly environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of life (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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*

If one is of the belief that 28 countries can compete with each other whilst competing with countries like the US/CAN/AUS then no EU work is needed. If one understands that the reality of the current geopolitical global scenario calls for greater synergy across the Union in order to be competitive globally, then further joint action is needed, on which a lot of work is spent by competitors of the EU. Given that displaced people are increasing globally, the EU could think of pioneering on humanitarian visas for skilled people, linking labour shortages with protection, avoiding perilous journeys.

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*

6

EU BLUE CARD

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

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;

6.15 If no, please indicate the specific criteria which you consider should be made more flexible (multiple answers possible):

- ☒ The recognition of foreign qualifications
- ☐ Recognising professional experience instead of educational qualifications
- ☒ The salary threshold of 1,5 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned
- ☐ Other

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*

The EU should start thinking of unifying applications for working in the EU from low skilled to highly skilled. A pool of workers can be then created from which employers and/or national governments can pick from, granting permits.

## 7

### QUALIFICATIONS

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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



7.19 Please explain what would be the advantages of such an initiative (in terms of reducing costs etc.) for you.

*300 character(s) maximum*

Easier and clearer for migrants to approach the EU thinking of it and experiencing it as a unite bloc, and consequently engaging with it and more of its Member States together.

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