

## Refugee labour market integration: a must for long term economic growth

The partners of the [ERIAS](#) project consortium today met virtually to evaluate the outcomes of the 3 years long project and look to the future. They agreed that the successful integration of refugees and more widely third country nationals into the European labour market is a must for Europe's mid to long term economic growth.

In the frame of the project, the ERIAS methodology was implemented in 4 European countries (BG, ES, IT, GR). The integration path went from initial skills assessments for refugees, over different training paths, to meeting with potential employers or starting a company. At the same time, practical guidance was offered to employers for hiring refugees in the form of an 'Integration Check List'.

*"Considering the skills gaps and mismatches in our labour markets, it is very important for European businesses to be in the position to tap into the employment potential offered by third country nationals", commented Ben Butters, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES. "At the same time, more needs to be done to counter the negative perception that is often associated with the word migrant. With the Vademecum of positive integration practices developed under ERIAS, we want to help create a much more positive narrative."*

Despite the adverse conditions generated by covid19, the partners brought the project activities to a successful conclusion, training over 350 third country nationals and reaching out to several hundred potential employers in their respective countries. The local and regional stakeholder networks developed throughout the project help lay the ground for future third country nationals labour market integration activities.

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