

## Project for integration of migrants in the European labour market launched in Milan

The European Refugee Integration Action Scheme (ERIAS) project was launched today in Milan (Italy). The project confirms the commitment of the European Chambers to deal with the challenges faced by Third Country Nationals in their access to the labour market, accompanying them and the companies ready to host them through the integration process, matching job seekers and companies job offers.

ERIAS underlines the need for a coordinated approach, starting from the country of origin and continuing through to the point of destination with a multi-stakeholder approach, involving all relevant actors, public authorities at different level, social and economic partners and businesses. It is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, with a total budget of 853.000 Euros. The partners' consortium is led by FORMAPER, the training organisation of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce, and is composed of Chamber and business organizations at national, regional and local level from France, Spain, Greece and Bulgaria, and an Italian trade union organization.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“Even if the migration crisis appears to be over –as the figures of new arrivals to Europe have gone down to pre-2015 levels– we cannot go back to business as usual, and need to continue working for for a successful labour market integration of those who arrived in Europe in the different migration waves. Now the real integration work of these migrants is only starting and will have to continue for the coming years.”*

The ERIAS project advocates a **full integration path**, from the identification of skills and competences over different trainings (language, cultural, legal background, vocational and professional training) to the matching with relevant work opportunities and employment guidance. To achieve this, a multi-stakeholder setting will be developed involving different private and public actors.

The project is also an opportunity for European countries and business to take advantage of the potential skills of the migrants' labour force. According to the last European Parliament of Enterprises™ (organized by EUROCHAMBRES in October 2018), 84% of European entrepreneurs stated that is harder to recruit staff with the right skills now than five years ago.

*“Much more needs to be done to ensure that refugees secure work opportunities and are thus in a position to become socio-economically active. The European Chamber network is ready to provide practical support for the integration of migrants. To do so, ERIAS will allow the business community to play fully its part in converting this humanitarian challenge into a socio-economic opportunity”*, Abruzzini stated.

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