



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**  
**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

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**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Promoting complementary legal pathways for the displaced  
to prevent smuggling, trafficking and exploitation**

Side event, 22<sup>nd</sup> *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (12h00-13h00) - online

*“Facilitating effective legal migration schemes through fostering multi-stakeholder and regional co-operation, partnerships and dialogue”<sup>1</sup>* provides the essential role of the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA). The Office has acted as a catalyst of comprehensive and gender-sensitive labour mobility as well as effective labour market integration measures with the aim to maximise *“the substantial economic and social contribution that migrants and refugees can make for inclusive growth and sustainable development”<sup>2</sup>*, in line with relevant international commitments<sup>3</sup>.

Large displacements triggered by conflicts, persecutions, man-made or natural disasters, as well as environmental degradation call for renewed efforts towards the establishment of legal pathways that allow individuals to move along safe and regulated migration avenues. Often driven by education and employment opportunities, these viable and legal alternatives generate multiple benefits for the countries of first and final reception, the private sector as well as for the economic empowerment of displaced populations.

By providing the opportunity to access tertiary education and fill labour shortages in hosting countries, complementary legal pathways contribute to prevent irregular movements facilitated by smuggling and trafficking networks while ensuring long-term socioeconomic inclusion of migrants and refugees, preventing de-skilling effects<sup>4</sup>, “brain waste”<sup>5</sup> and labour exploitation. Whereas resettlement remains a primary tool to ensure long-term protection, complementary legal pathways are critical towards *“reducing both migration caused by deep poverty and the supply factors of trafficking”<sup>6</sup>*, contributing to a more equitable sharing of responsibilities among hosting countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Athens Ministerial Council Decision no. 5/09, *Migration management*, <<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/9/40711.pdf>>

<sup>2</sup> Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision no. 3/16, *The OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees*, <<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/5/289491.pdf>>

<sup>3</sup> See among others: - UN Convention on the rights of migrant workers and the members of their families (1990). - The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals no. 4 *Quality education* (target 4) *Expand higher education scholarships*; 5 *Gender equality*; 8 *Decent work and economic growth*; 10 *Reducing inequalities* (target 7) *Facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people*. - The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2016). - The Global Compact on Refugees (2016).

<sup>4</sup> Among others see: *Crushed Hopes*, International Organization for Migration, 2015, <<https://publications.iom.int/books/crushed-hopes-underemployment-and-deskilling-among-skilled-migrant-women>>

<sup>5</sup> “Brain waste” describes the situation of when college graduates – particularly immigrants – cannot fully utilize their skills and education in the workplace despite their high professional qualifications. Among others, see: *Brain waste and credential recognition*, Migration Policy Institute, 2021, <<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/topics/brain-waste-credential-recognition>>

<sup>6</sup> Permanent Council Decision no. 557/03, *OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, IV Prevention of trafficking in human beings*, 3.1, <<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/9/42708.pdf>>

Organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the side event “*Promoting complementary legal pathways for the displaced to prevent smuggling, trafficking and exploitation*” wishes to discuss challenges and opportunities when designing education and employment-based complementary legal pathways. The objective is to raise awareness on how the OSCE, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, can assist the participating States in responding to the needs of displaced populations, considering the growing uncertainty generated by multiple crises, particularly in and around the OSCE region.

## Agenda

Moderator: **Teresa Albano**, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

Introduction: **Mr. Lorenzo Rilasciati**, Deputy Coordinator (a.i.), Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

**Ms. Anna Gekht**, Senior Resettlement & Complementary Pathways Officer, Division of International Protection, United Nations’ High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Geneva

Speakers: **Mr. Marco Borraccetti**, University of Bologna, Italy: “*Universities as sponsors of complementary pathways for displaced people*”

**Ms. Zvezda Vankova**, postdoctoral fellow, Lund University: “*Refugees as Migrant Workers. Labour Migration as Alternative for Refugee Protection*”

**Mr. Chris Richmond**: “*It takes an algorithm. How artificial intelligence can help mapping education and employment-relevant skills towards university and labour market inclusion of displaced populations*”

**Mr. Luca Pianese**, Senior migration and security expert, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

Debate

### **Organizational modalities:**

The side event will take place on-line via Zoom platform. To access the event please, follow the below link and passcode:

When: **06 April 2022**  
**At 12:00-13:00**

### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://osce-org.zoom.us/j/97684101813>

Meeting ID: 976 8410 1813

Passcode: **99804095**