



IOM THE NETHERLANDS

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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Photo: Busy times at Schiphol airport.

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FOREWORD



From mid-2022, the Covid-19 restrictions were gradually lifted worldwide. Fortunately, this meant we could resume face-to-face meetings again with migrants and our partners on a growing scale and could provide support in a more efficient and pleasant way.

Under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme, celebrating its 30th anniversary in the Netherlands since 1992, we facilitated the voluntary return of more than 1,500 migrants to their countries of origin.

We also assisted 1742 migrants coming to the Netherlands under the auspices of the Dutch refugee resettlement quota, relocation, and family reunification schemes, including 37 Ukrainian refugees who departed from Moldova. These arrivals took place within the context of the European Commission's Solidarity Forum in response to the war in Ukraine. In the context of the security situation in Afghanistan, we also assisted with the safe transfer of 1,366 Afghan Nationals to the Netherlands. Like the previous year, we supported the Dutch government with DNA sample collection for family members of asylum permit holders in the Netherlands for reunification purposes. In this reporting year, 975 samples were collected.

In addition to promoting migrant inclusion approaches in collaboration with various municipalities within the Dutch region Hart van Brabant, we started new projects in the domain of migrant inclusion, such as the Moving the Middle project and LEARN project.

In the current polarized migration debate in the Netherlands, the Moving the Middle project aims at increasing more balanced narratives about migration, which is needed to challenge unsubstantiated biases and prejudices against migrants. The LEARN project brings relevant stakeholders together to discuss ways to improve work-study programmes for permit holders to improve their access to the Dutch labour market.

In the aftermath of pandemic restrictions being progressively lifted, as diaspora experts were allowed to travel to their countries of origin again, we saw an increase in the number of successfully completed physical assignments compared to the previous year. Under the Connecting Diaspora For Development project, they conducted a total of 75 physical and virtual assignments, contributing to the development of their countries of origin.

These results could not have been possible without the close cooperation with all our partner organizations, diplomatic representations, and IOM missions worldwide, for which I would like to express my most sincere gratitude. Thank you very much for your commitment to our joint effort to support people on the move in a dignified and humane fashion.

Antonio Polosa

Chief of Mission IOM The Netherlands

Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration

Field Team

The year 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration (AVRR) activities of IOM in the Netherlands. Since 1992, IOM has been implementing the Return and Emigration Assistance from the Netherlands (REAN) arrangements upon the request of the Dutch government, thereby facilitating the voluntary return of migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the Netherlands to their country of origin or sometimes a country of resettlement. By the end of the year, IOM had assisted 1514 migrants under the REAN programme to 90 different countries worldwide.

Voluntary return starts with making a well-informed decision about the future. To help migrants in their decision-making process and adequately prepare for their return, the team of IOM return counsellors is available throughout the Netherlands for migrants who want to discuss their options openly, without any obligation.

Although the year 2022 started with COVID-19 restrictions worldwide, the gradual lifting of these in the course of the year made the work of IOM's counsellors a lot easier. It was possible again to have counselling hours at all regular locations and meet with partner organizations and migrants for outreach events in the Netherlands. Entry requirements to many destinations became less restrictive, and previously restricted flights (such as to China) became available again. Nevertheless, what appeared to be a 'simple' return could still become complicated, for example, when a migrant tested positive for COVID-19 on the day of departure.

30

30 Years
AVRR



1514
Migrants
assisted



90
Countries
worldwide



Photo: IOM counsellor preparing a migrant for his return to China.



Assistance at Schiphol Airport

At Schiphol Airport, we offer logistic services to various categories of migrants. We support migrants leaving the Netherlands to return home, help resettlement migrants in transit with connecting flights, assist migrants allowed to resettle in the Netherlands or who are being reunited with their families and book flights for experts from the diaspora travelling to countries of origin for short assignments.

At the beginning of 2022, the Netherlands was still in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the Movements unit at Schiphol was still adjusting, as were the missions of our partner countries. Due to fast changes in COVID-19 restrictions, we had to adapt quickly to make travelling easy, predictable, and reliable.

Around spring, most restrictions were lifted, and it became easier to travel to certain countries again, which facilitated an increase in bookings, though some restrictions remained. We had to verify the changes per country on a weekly basis, as the consequences of not having the right documents or apps meant the passengers could not travel.

The next challenge was the extremely hectic airport during the summertime due to personnel shortages, which resulted in massive waiting lines both in and outside the airport, leading to missed flights, lots of missing bags and overall chaos. Our operations continued amidst this turmoil, and luckily, due to our good relations with third parties, such as the border police, airlines and security, we facilitated the process as efficiently as possible.

As the year came to an end, the Movements team at Schiphol successfully assisted approximately 8000 beneficiaries upon their departure, arrival and during their transit in the Netherlands.



1514
Departures



4695
Transits



1742
Arrivals



Photo: IOM assisting with an arrival at Schiphol airport.

Project Coordination and Liaison

In 2022, IOM continued to reach out to diplomatic representations in the Netherlands and Belgium to familiarize them with the services offered by IOM to their nationals. This is key for the referral of migrants in need of return assistance and to support migrants with obtaining (emergency) travel documents. As part of its outreach work, the team organized several visits for diplomatic representatives to the Rotterdam Detention Centre and the project WorldTools of IOM's longstanding partner NGO Stichting Wereldwijd.

The team is also dedicated to organizing events in cooperation with the diplomatic representations to familiarize their nationals with IOM's services. At the beginning of 2022, IOM sent letters to over 170 embassies highlighting our work and relevant statistics. In 2022, IOM procured travel documents for 357 migrants to return to 57 countries. In the first months of 2022, an increase in resettlement cases to Canada was reported, whereby IOM assisted with procuring the proper travel documents.



170 Letters to
embassies



Travel documents
for 357 migrants



57 Countries



Photo: Diplomatic meeting at the IOM the Netherlands office.



Photo: Flag of the Netherlands, IOM flag, United Nations flag.



Photo: Diplomatic representatives at Stichting Wereldwijd.



Vulnerable Migrants

In the return process, IOM pays particular attention to migrants in vulnerable positions. For migrant children residing in the Netherlands without their parents, IOM provides specialized counselling by dedicated counsellors and family assessments in their country of origin. In 2022, this resulted in the return of five unaccompanied migrant children under the REAN programme and the reunion of two Syrian refugees with their mother in the United Kingdom.

Victims of Human Trafficking

In 2022, IOM noticed an increase in referrals of victims of human trafficking for return assistance, resulting in 19 returns of victims of trafficking. Most referrals were received from shelter organizations in various parts of the Netherlands. Depending on the options available in the country of return, and the needs of the migrants, IOM liaised with its counterparts in the receiving countries to make appropriate return arrangements and referrals to post-return assistance.

Migrants with Health Concerns

The same applies to the return of migrants with health needs, the largest group of migrants in a vulnerable position in IOM's return operations. Depending on the individual situations, assistance to these returnees included, amongst others, checking the availability of medication and treatment after return, translation of medical files, coordination with airlines and other stakeholders, fit-to-fly assessments, (medical) escorts and provision of a budget for medical costs after the return. In total, 202 IOM beneficiaries with health needs were assisted to return.



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**Unaccompanied
migrant
children**



**19 Returns of
victims of
trafficking**



**202 IOM
beneficiaries
with health
needs**



Photo: Teaching with Broeder de Vries to strengthen collaboration of return of migrants with health concerns.

Reintegration Assistance

Lastly, IOM offered post-return reintegration assistance to migrants after their return. This was implemented in coordination with the IOM missions in the country of origin. In total, 811 IOM beneficiaries were entitled to an economic reintegration grant (partially paid in cash upon return and partially paid in kind after return), and 155 migrants were entitled to a medical reintegration grant. In addition, upon request, IOM also distributed reintegration grants upon departure at Schiphol airport and/or after return in the country of origin on behalf of several NGOs active in the field of return in the Netherlands: Stichting Wereldwijd, Stichting ROS, Vluchtelingenwerk Nederland and Stichting Goedwerk. In total, 90 migrants were assisted through these arrangements.



155 Migrants entitled
to medical
reintegration grant



811 IOM beneficiaries
entitled to economic
reintegration grant



Photo: IOM counsellor discussing reintegration of a migrant in country of return.



Photo: IOM study visit to Stichting Wereldwijd.



Labour Mobility, Social Inclusion & Resettlement

Migration and Development

Connecting Diaspora For Development - CD4D2

Connecting Diaspora for Development is a needs-based project which puts diaspora experts at the centre of capacity building of organizations in countries of origin. To do so, IOM the Netherlands facilitates short-term assignments to transfer knowledge to selected institutions in countries of origin: Iraq, Somalia and Nigeria. In 2022, the project was extended by an additional 12 months, meaning that the project runs from 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2023.

Diaspora experts conducted a total of 75 physical and virtual assignments in 2022. As diaspora experts were allowed to travel to their countries of origin again, we saw an increase in the number of physical assignments compared to 2021.

Moreover, two exchange visits from delegations from Iraq and Nigeria took place. For the Iraqi exchange visit, we partnered with Wageningen University & Research to transfer knowledge on agricultural innovations to prepare for a dryer future in Sulaymaniyah. The Nigerian exchange visit was organized together with KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and aimed to contribute to the fight against Tuberculosis in Nigeria. Both assignments were actively followed up on by diaspora experts who went to Iraq and Nigeria to support the implementation of the knowledge gained in the Netherlands.



12 Months extension



75 Physical and virtual assignments



2 Exchange visits



Photos: From the Dutch 'polder' to a farm in Sulaymaniyah.

Besides these implementation-related successes, two monitoring visits to Somalia and Nigeria took place in 2022, allowing the team to get more insights into the CD4D impact on host institutions. We received a warm welcome from colleagues, host institution representatives and diaspora experts on duty, who gave us positive feedback on the project.

The feedback collected was published on the Connecting Diaspora website and LinkedIn page. Furthermore, our presence at events such as Afrikadag and the NIDOE-NL anniversary celebration allowed us to show the public what impressive contributions the diaspora can make to capacity building in countries of origin.



Photo: Visit to NIHORT in Nigeria.



Photo: CD4D Ambassadors at Afrikadag.



Labour Mobility, Social Inclusion & Resettlement

Resettlement & Family Reunification

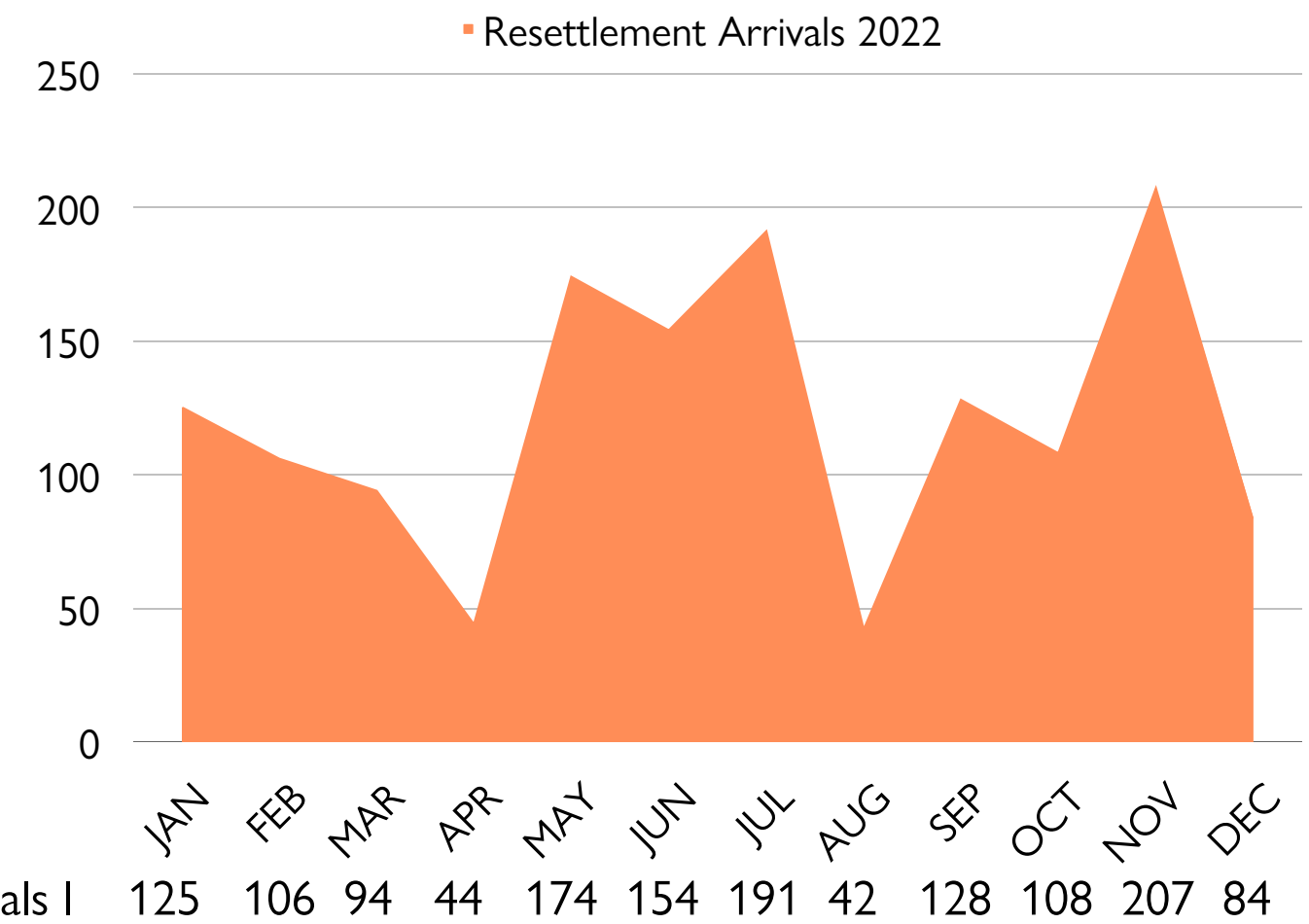
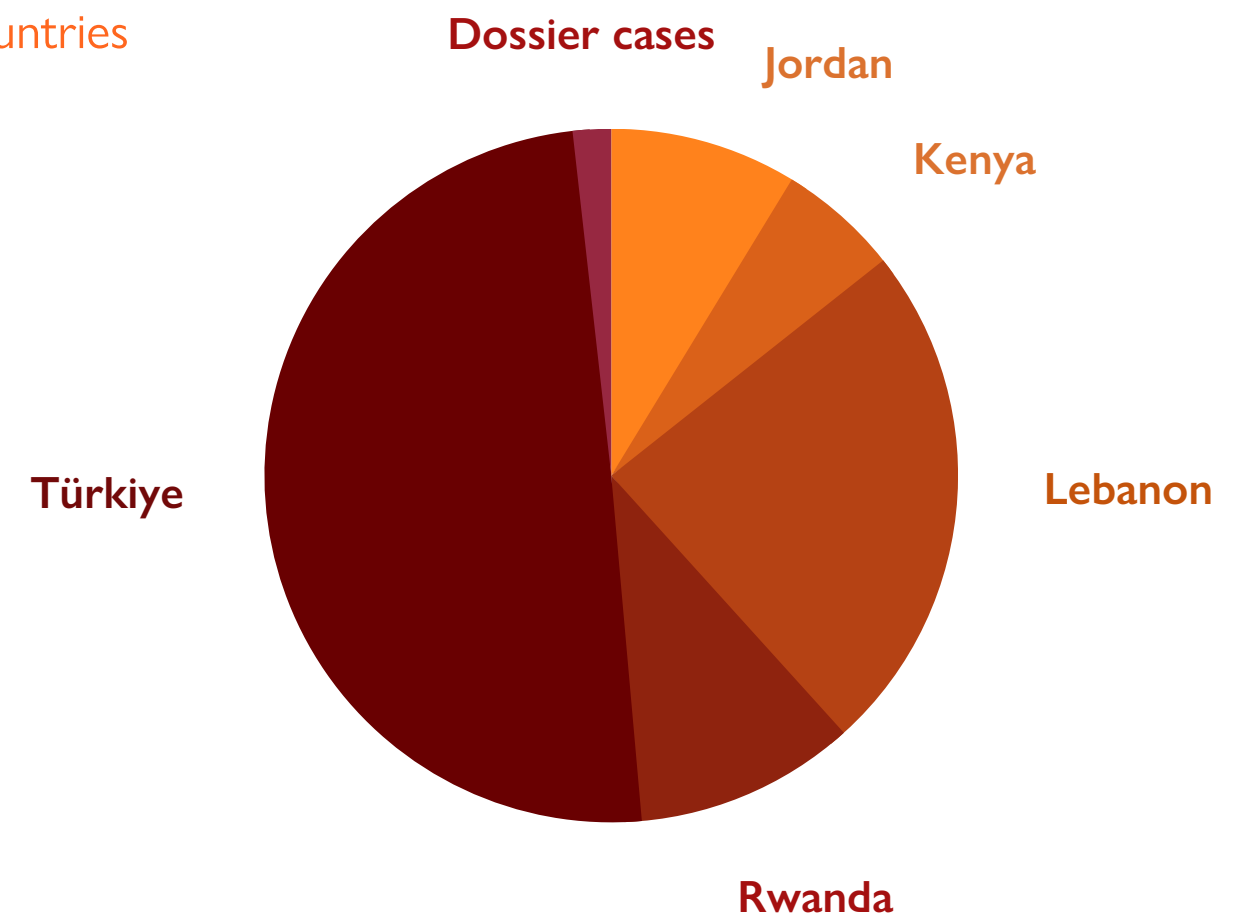
Resettlement

Over the course of 2022, we supported the resettlement of 1.457 refugees to the Netherlands in accordance with the Dutch resettlement programme. Countries of departure followed the priorities set by UNHCR for 2022: Resettlement out of Countries of the Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) roll-out countries, such as Rwanda; Resettlement out of countries along the Central Mediterranean route, including Niger; as well as resettlement out of Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye in the context of the ongoing Syria situation. About 25 refugees were resettled from various countries on a dossier case basis.

To facilitate a safe journey to the Netherlands, beneficiaries received a pre-embarkation check by IOM prior to departure in order to establish fitness to travel. More than 60 refugees with significant medical health conditions were referred to IOM for a Migration Health Assessment (MHA), which consisted of a complete medical history and detailed physical examination of the persons concerned and, if clinically indicated, laboratory and imaging investigations.

Further to organizing departure to the Netherlands, IOM the Netherlands assisted with the arrangements of six selection missions in total: to Kenya, Jordan (twice), Lebanon (twice) and Rwanda. Additionally, support was provided with the arrangements for pre-departure orientation missions in Kenya, Jordan and Lebanon (twice).

Departure Countries



Like previous years, IOM's resettlement assistance was offered in close cooperation with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND), the Bureau Medical Advice (BMA), the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), UNHCR and Embassies in countries of departure. The project was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security.

In addition to the Dutch resettlement programme, a total of 37 Ukrainian nationals who are eligible for temporary protection within the EU departed from Moldova and were provided with arrival assistance by IOM at Schiphol Airport in 2022. These arrivals took place within the context of the European Commission's Solidarity Forum in response to the situation in Ukraine.

Family Reunification

Migrants holding a refugee status may apply for family reunification. Travelling to the Netherlands can be very challenging for a family due to medical conditions, administrative requirements, missing documents, or cases involving unaccompanied migrant children. IOM assists these families by assessing the needs of individual family members, mobilizing logistical arrangements and facilitating a safe journey to the Netherlands.

Through our network of more than 375 offices in over 165 countries, we provide support for Family Reunification applicants who received permission from the IND to join their family members in the Netherlands.

Over the course of 2022, 26 beneficiaries were reunited with family members in the Netherlands with the assistance of IOM. For example, in August, IOM The Netherlands assisted the emotional family reunification of an Eritrean father with his eldest son. In this case, IOM ensured that the boy's travel documents were complete and that he could travel safely to the Netherlands. We ensured that airline assistance for a child travelling alone and support during airport transit was in place.



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**Beneficiaries
reunited with
family in the
Netherlands**



Photo: Together with the younger brother, the Eritrean father waited for the arrival of his eldest son at Schiphol airport.



Transfer of Afghan Nationals

In the context of significant changes to Afghanistan's political and security situation in August 2021, we assisted the MFA with safely transferring 1.366 Afghan Nationals to the Netherlands from Pakistan (1.342 persons) and Iran (24 persons) in 2022. This assistance included the arrangement of the pre-departure preparations for the safe movement to the Netherlands of all persons considered at risk by MFA, which included:

- Logistical arrangements for visa/travel document processing;
- Provision of accommodation with full board, either in IOM centres or accommodation providers with whom IOM has agreements;
- Pre-embarkation sessions for the entire caseload to explain the travel process;
- Provision of airport assistance for departure and transit.

Additionally, we conducted pre-migration health activities for beneficiaries, such as Covid-19 testing, Pre-Embarkation Checks (PEC), and Migration Health Assessments (MHA).

Of the 1.366 Afghan nationals transferred to the Netherlands, 285 persons travelled with flights organized by IOM from Islamabad (273) and Teheran (12).

Thanks to IOM's longstanding experience with resettlement operations, we swiftly set up an operational process together with IOM missions in departure countries to support MFA with the safe and timely transfer of persons considered at risk to the Netherlands.



**Transfer of 1.366
Afghan nationals to
the Netherlands**

DNA Sample Collection

Since 2021, IOM has supported the Dutch government with DNA sample collection for family members of asylum permit holders in the Netherlands to verify family relations for reunification purposes. IOM facilitates appointments, conducts DNA sampling with applicants at local IOM medical centres, manages the processing of samples with diplomatic posts and reports to partners.

In close cooperation with the IND and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), including Dutch embassies, IOM collected 975 DNA samples in 2022 (top 3: Türkiye, Sudan, Ethiopia). In 2022 these activities took place in Greece, Türkiye, Sudan, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Iraq, Russia, Iran and Uganda.



**975 DNA
samples
collected**



**Top 3 countries:
Türkiye, Sudan,
Ethiopia**



**Greece, Türkiye,
Sudan, Lebanon,
Ethiopia, Iraq, Russia,
Iran, Uganda**

Labour Mobility, Social Inclusion & Resettlement

Migrant Inclusion, Social Cohesion & Labour Mobility

MATCH

In 2022 we worked on the final year of the MATCH project. MATCH is a demand-driven circular labour migration project which is financed by the European Commission. While MATCH is implemented in 4 countries, in the Netherlands, we worked with the Netherlands-Africa Business Council (NABC). The project promoted legal pathways for highly skilled job seekers from Nigeria and Senegal to work for Dutch companies temporarily. These companies are operating in sectors where labour shortages are high. During the project, valuable lessons were learned on the effective set-up of an African-EU mobility scheme, such as how to ensure mutual benefits and a whole-of-society approach on both the receiving and sending side and the importance of the active involvement of the private sector. While the project dealt with several challenges, including COVID-19 and the subsequent recruitment freeze of many companies, close to 600 CVs were examined, more than 118 talents were preselected, and 7 successful recruitments were made.



583 CVs examined



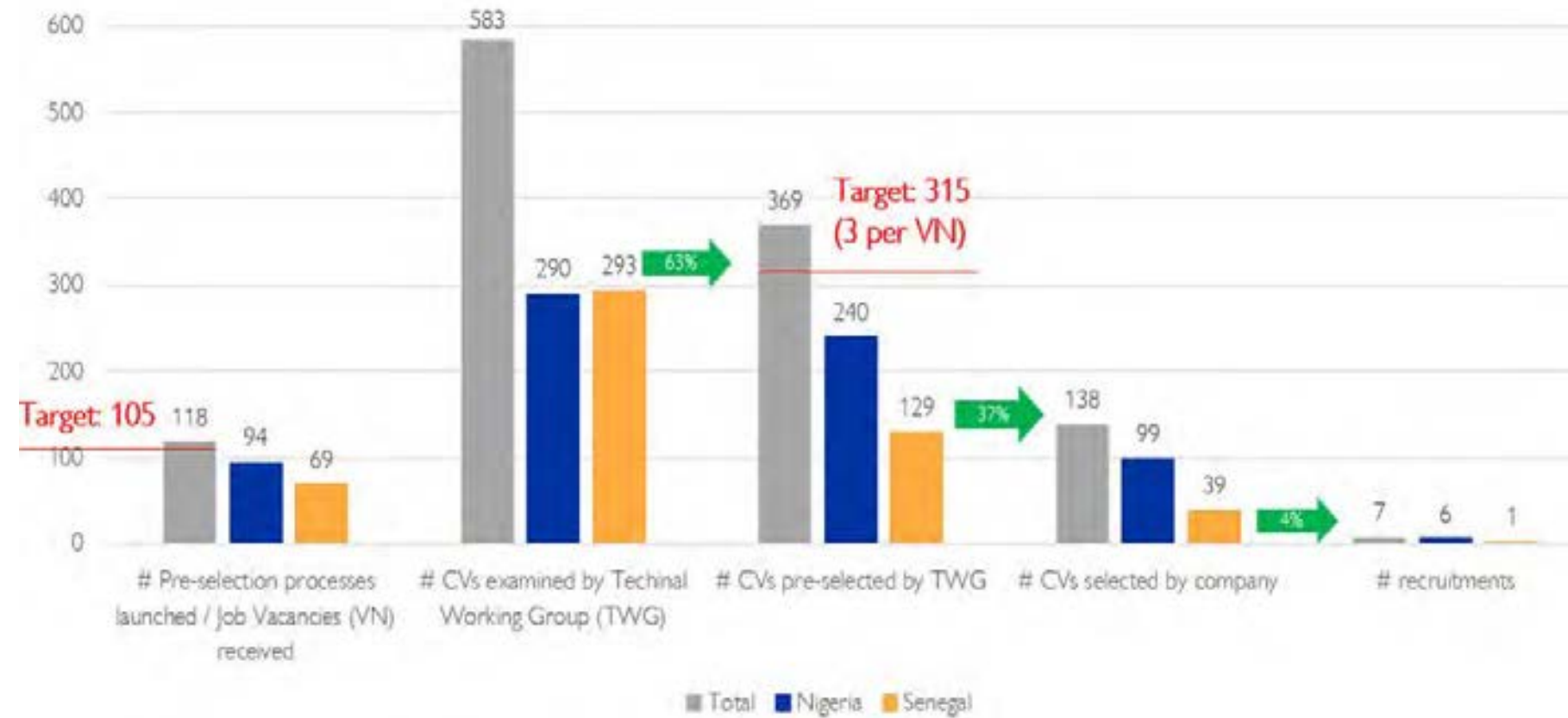
118 Talents preselected



7 Recruitments



Photo: Speaker during the MATCH Final Conference in November 2022.



This project is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Moving the Middle

IOM works on projects to foster social inclusion and open attitudes toward migrants. In the current polarized migration debate in the Netherlands, more balanced narratives about migration are needed to combat biases and prejudices against migrants. To address the prevailing negative narratives and views on migration, the Moving the Middle project aims to improve our understanding of who belongs to the Movable Middle (defined as individuals who are unsure or have conflicting opinions about migration) in the Netherlands and how they can best be reached to provide a more nuanced view on migration.

The first part of the project implemented a three-phase research plan to collect more information on this middle group and how best to communicate with them about migration, consisting of a national survey, focus groups with the Movable Middle, and a test campaign on social media. Based on the findings of Moving the Middle I, the second phase of the project, Moving the Middle II, will design and implement a national campaign and local campaign activities to further foster inter-cultural communication between different social groups and to provide more balanced narratives about migration to reduce biases and prejudices about migrants and ultimately, to foster a more inclusive and open Dutch society.



Survey
1045 responses



2 Focus group
sessions



6 Weeks test campaign
on social media



Photo: Migrant Ambassador Advisory Board meeting discussing the project.



Photo: Jordan Scott on Unsplash.



Includ-EU

IOM promotes the participation and inclusion of people with a migrant background. The EU-funded project Includ-EU aims to enhance the integration of third-country nationals in Europe. We assist cities in the Netherlands with their migrant inclusion activities and their efforts to create more cohesive societies. We do this by offering needs-based training and exchanging good practices at EU-level. Includ-EU is implemented with the municipality of Tilburg and focuses on inclusion practices in the Hart van Brabant region, in particular, promoting active citizenship and participation through supporting the refugee advisory board, which provides advice and feedback on regional and local policies relevant to integration and citizenship.

In 2022, the project supported and expanded the refugee advisory board, aided in organizing the quarterly regional network gathering for relevant stakeholders in the Hart van Brabant to discuss best practices, challenges, and practical solutions within the integration schemes, and hosted a virtual regional study visit to host European partners to foster knowledge exchange between European actors on the topic of the integration of third country nationals.

Participating project partners:

- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Assembly of European Regions (AER);
- Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani Toscana (ANCI);
- City of Tilburg;
- Department of Equality and Feminisms of the Catalan Government;
- Region of Crete

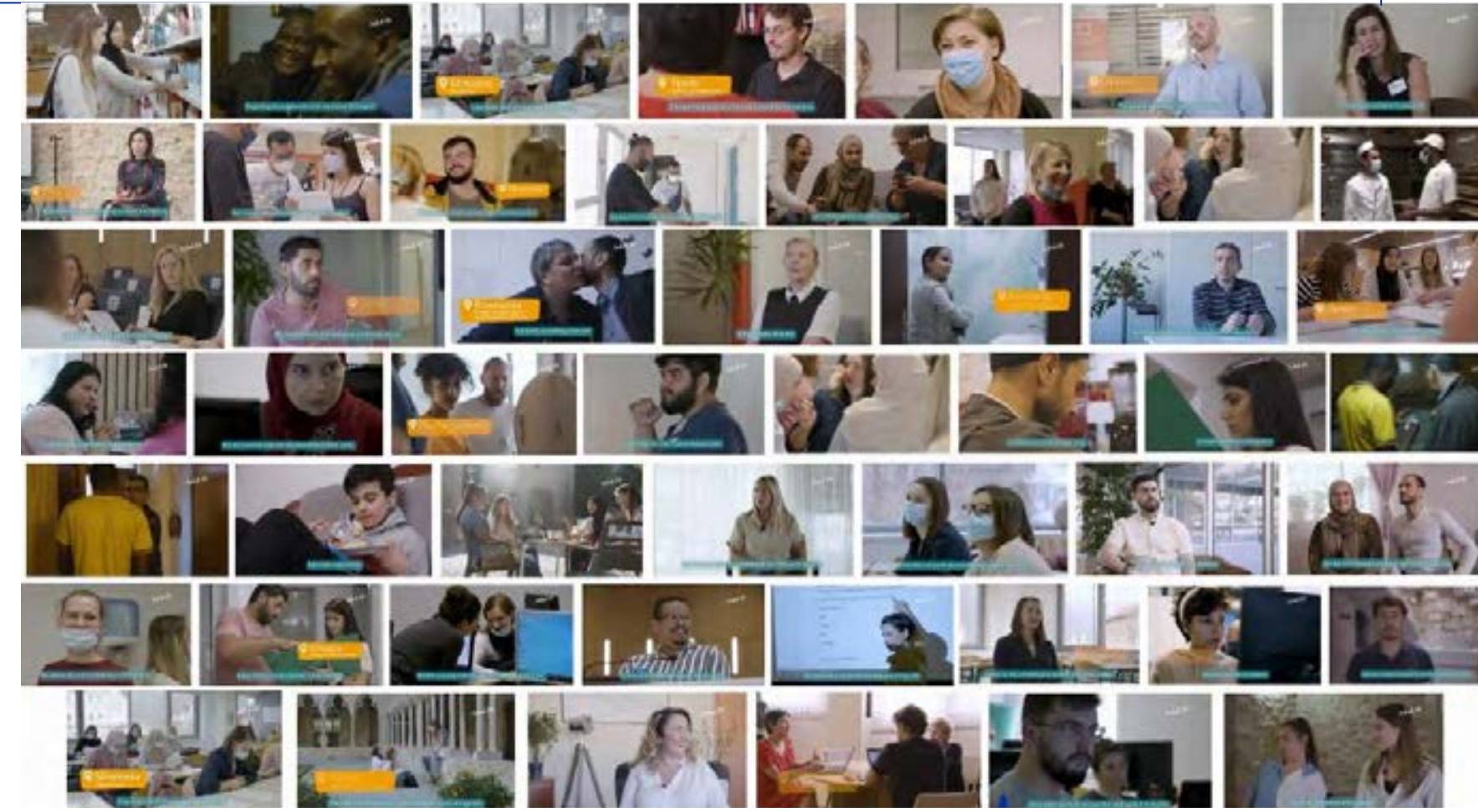


Photo: Includ-EU.



Click on the photo to find out more.

Photo: The Refugee Advisory Board meeting in Tilburg.



LEARN

Permit holders lag in their participation in the Dutch labour market. After five years in the Netherlands, 42 per cent of all permit holders between 18 and 65 are employed. In contrast, the employment level of the general population is 96,4 per cent as of January 2023.¹

To close this gap and ensure the sustainable inclusion of permit holders in the labour market, the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (SZW) initiated the VIA programme (Verdere Inclusie op de Arbeidsmarkt - Further Inclusion in the Labour Market). As part of this programme, the SZW has set up a Learning Network, Learning and Working for Permit Holders, which focuses specifically on the scaling up of work-study programmes for permit holders. The network consists of implementers of effective labour market interventions for permit holders, and interventions often consist of work and study combinations.

Within this context of VIA, project LEARN was created. LEARN is funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument and brings members of the Learning Network together to discuss ways to improve work-study programmes for permit holders so that their access to the labour market is improved.

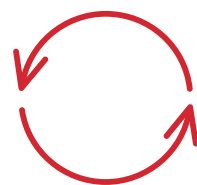
Through LEARN, IOM the Netherlands, in cooperation with the European Commission (DG REFORM), provides content support for the meetings and workshops attended by members of the Learning Network. LEARN started in June 2022 and ends in March 2024. In 2022, the Learning Network activities for 2023 were consolidated, including 12 workshops, work visits or input meetings and a final conference.



12 Workshops, work visits and input meetings



1 Final conference



21 Months

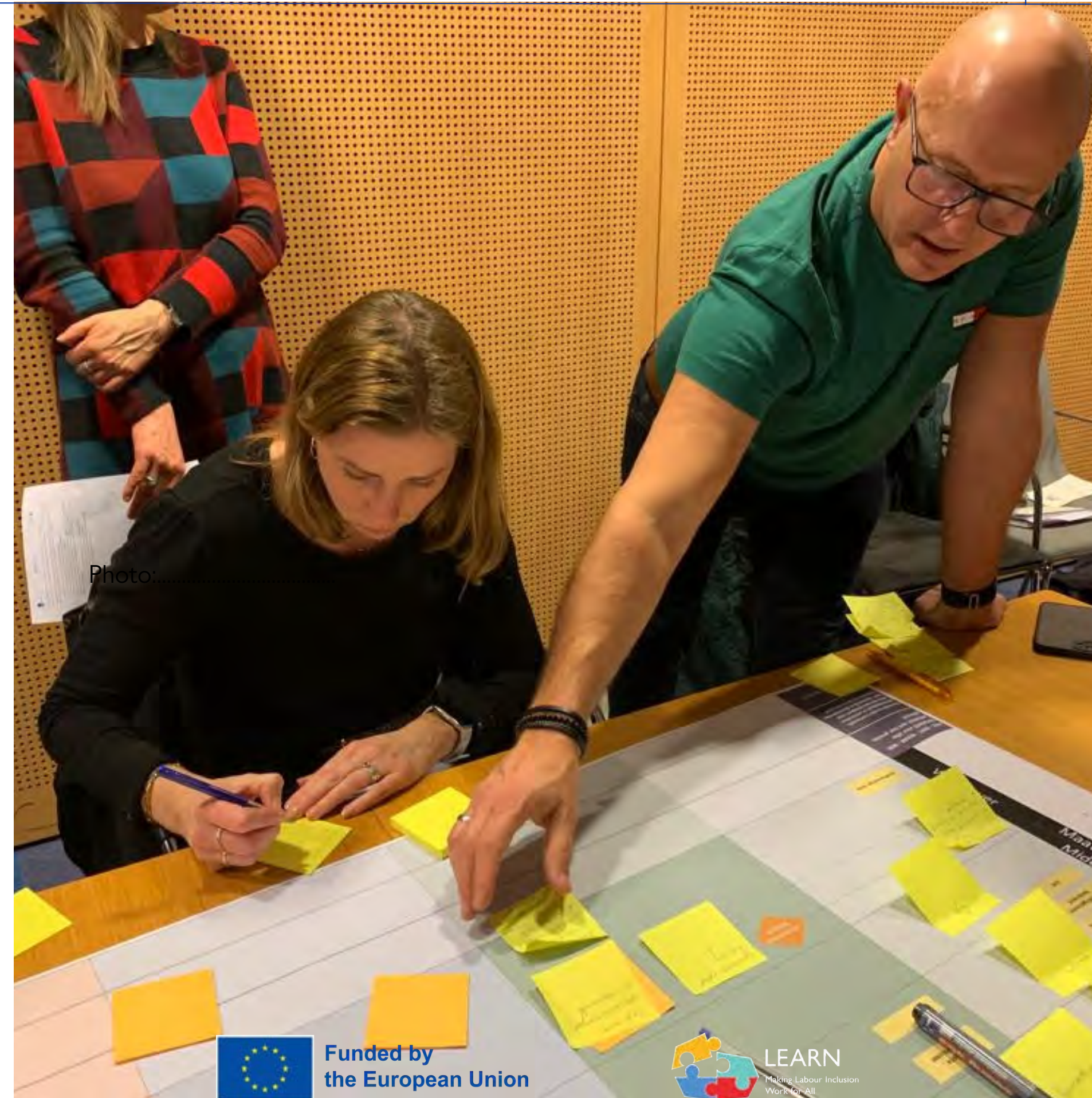


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Funded by the European Union



¹ SER - Werk en Onderwijs, 2022.



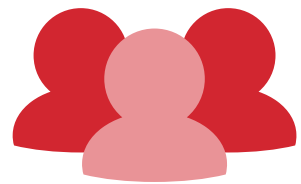
Photo: Employers, educational institutions, municipalities, and associations discussing the inclusion of permit holders.

SAMEN

The SAMEN – Strengthened Assistance to Migrant Empowerment in the Netherlands - project was launched in September 2022. SAMEN aims to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence experienced by migrant communities in the Netherlands. To do so, IOM and Doctors of the World improve access to healthcare services for migrants, offer psychosocial counselling, strengthen the healthcare sector in the Netherlands and promote knowledge exchange and partnerships between Dutch organizations in the field. SAMEN fosters a cultural sensitivity in the healthcare sector by connecting Migrant Ambassadors from diverse backgrounds to Dutch healthcare professionals. The Migrant Ambassadors bridge cultural and language gaps for the benefit of victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

In 2022, we started with the first phase of the project, during which we trained Migrant Ambassadors and Medical Volunteers at Doctors of the World about migrant-specific issues related to sexual and gender-based violence.

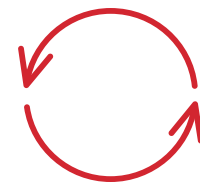
SAMEN is funded by the European Commission, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and Rotterdam Municipality.



Aims to provide 500 adults with a migration background access to psychosocial support



In 6 Dutch cities: Amsterdam, Arnhem, Den Haag, Nijmegen, Rotterdam en Utrecht



24 Months



Co-funded by the European Union



Photo: The first training session for Migrant Ambassadors.



IOM Inclusion & Diversity

IOM recognizes that a person's sex, gender, gender identity, personal history and sexual orientation can shape every stage of the migration experience. These factors can influence why a person decides to migrate, how they migrate, and the services and opportunities available to them. To support migrants and to address the risks and vulnerabilities that come with migration, IOM the Netherlands has an active Diversity and Inclusion Group. Comprising staff members from different units within the organization, the Diversity and Inclusion Group represents the interests and concerns of both staff and migrant beneficiaries.

In 2022, the Diversity and Inclusion Group of IOM the Netherlands:

- Had a special focus on the topics of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and SOGIESC (Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and Sex characteristics)
- Gave special attention to migrants from the LGBTQI+ community in AVRR consultation hours to understand concerns, improve the organization's work and inform local partners of their needs;
- Attended meetings at local and national to communicate migrant-related interests;
- Equipped all IOM locations in the Netherlands with IOM Pride flags and stickers to display all year round;
- Raised the IOM Pride flag in front of the office on nine days and two consecutive periods that carry symbolic importance to the LGBTQI+ community;
- Launched a new project called SAMEN together with our project partner, Doctors of the World.
- Advocated for a more inclusive society and safe space for women on social media.



Photo: LGBTQ+ flag outside the IOM the Netherlands office.

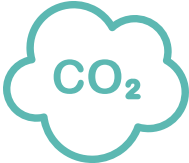


IOM Goes Green

In 2022, IOM Goes Green continued the cooperation with Climate Neutral Group for the offsetting of CO2 emissions of flights of both the AVRR and Resettlement project. Through this scheme, un-avoidable emissions are compensated through a Gold Standard certified offsetting programme and invested in forest protection projects in Brazil.

Furthermore, IOM organized a trash cleanup event together with the Worldhouse in The Hague and the organization Trashpackers, in a busy neighbourhood in The Hague. Participants of the event were visitors of the Worldhouse (including migrants in an irregular situation and migrants enrolled in the AVRR programme) from various nationalities, as well as network partners. Together they collected more than 40 garbage bags.

Finally, IOM Goes Green focused on internal awareness raising on environmental issues through its quarterly newsletter, 'the Greenspiration'.



Offsetting of CO2 emissions of flights



1 Trash cleanup event



4 quarterly newsletters



Photo: Trash cleanup with Worldhouse and Trashpackers.





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