

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

# A Common European Approach to Labour Shortages and Talent Attraction

**One day conference 09.00-16.30**

**08:30** Registration. Coffee and sandwich.

**09:00-09:10** Welcome address by **Anders Hall**,  
State Secretary to the Swedish Minister for Migration

**09:10-10:30** Session: **Initiatives on a European level to attract talent and retain skills**

- ***Europe's competition for talent: focus on skills and innovation***  
**Lisa Andersson**, Labour Market Economist, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Migration Division
- ***Competing for global talent: The original and revised EU Blue Card Directive***  
**Micheline van Riemsdijk**, Professor in Human Geography at Uppsala University
- ***Europe's Talent Puzzle - Fragmented Approaches to Winning the Global Competition for Talent***  
**Jasmijn Slotjes**, Deputy Director, Migration Policy Institute Europe
- ***For a working Sweden***  
**Shawn Mendes**, Director of International Affairs, Swedish Public Employment Service

*Moderated by:* **Bernd Parusel**, Senior Researcher in Political Science, SIEPS – Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

**10:30-11:00** Coffee break and a fruit/a light snack

**11:00-12:30 Session 2: Attracting talent and facilitating labour migration – Examples from EMN Member and Observer Countries**

- ***Labour migration in times of labour shortages: EU-wide and Austrian trends, challenges and opportunities in focus***  
**Leila Hadj Abdou**, Deputy Head, Policy Research and Migration Law Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM) / EMN Austria
- ***Work in Lithuania – A virtual tour***  
**Vydūnas Trapinskas**, Director of Global Talent Attraction Department, "Work in Lithuania" Programme, Invest Lithuania
- ***Introducing Work in Finland – Finland's approach to talent attraction and labour migration collaboration***  
**Santeri Ojala**, Manager, International Operations, Business Finland, Work in Finland
- ***Ways of recruiting skilled workers from non-EU countries – an overview of Germany's policies***  
**Silvia Rager**, Senior Expert, Department for International Relations, German Federal Employment Agency Headquarters

*Moderated by:* **Jonas Hols**, expert, EMN Sweden

**12:30-13:30 LUNCH**

**13:30-13:45** Introduction to break-out sessions and moving the to break-out rooms

**13:45-15:00** Break-out sessions

- **Break-out 1: Ready to employ? Challenges and needs in employing labour migrants.**
  - **Anders Barane**, Senior Advisor, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
  - **Paula Kossack**, Lead Analyst for the Government Assignment "Work in Sweden" at Statistics Sweden

*Moderated by:* **Hanna Geurtsen**, Deputy Head of the Special Focus Area on the Work Permit Process, the Swedish Migration Agency

- Break-out 2: **EU-internal movement of third country nationals – Moving to a new employer**
  - **Eva Englund**, Senior Advisor, Greater Copenhagen
  - **Helena Renström**, Head of Society Expo 2026, Skellefteå municipality, Sweden

*Moderated by:* **Elin Jansson**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice, Sweden

- Break-out 3: **Student and researchers – How can the transition from talented student to valuable employee be facilitated?**
  - **Anna Broeders**, Talent & Community Manager, Switch to Sweden
  - **Therese Lindkvist**, Project Manager, EURAXESS Sweden

*Moderated by:* **Erik Litborn**, National Contact Point for Horizon Europe (HEU), Sweden's Innovation Agency (Vinnova)

**15:00-15:30** Coffee break and return to the joint conference room

**15:30-16:20** Conclusions/Next steps

- **Hanna Geurtsen**, Deputy Head of the Special Focus Area on the Work Permit Process, the Swedish Migration Agency
- **Mats Wessman**, Project Manager for the government assignment "Work in Sweden", the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

**16:20-16:30** Closing remarks by **Anna Lindblad**, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Director-General, Swedish Migration Agency