

What's new in SALAM?

March
2025

SALAM in Stuttgart

From 23-24 January, Stuttgart became a hub for innovation in migrant integration, as the SALAM project partners held their latest partnership meeting. The gathering aimed to create a space for the partners to share strategies and best practices for integrating migrants into the labour market, focusing on key challenges such as language barriers, qualification recognition, and access to childcare. Experts from various organisations, including the European Commission, shared examples from their work and contributed to set a solid foundation for sharing valuable policy solutions on getting the best out of migrations in Europe.

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Spotlight on Stuttgart's sustainable migrant integration good practices

During the meeting, **Tobias Diemer**, Director at Volkshochschulverband Baden-Württemberg, emphasised the potential of tapping into a diverse workforce. Representatives from the city of Stuttgart, including **Ayse Özbacan**, Deputy of Unity Integration Policy, reiterated their commitment to empowering migrants as integral members of society.

Participants visited **Kolping Bildungswerk** to learn about childcare training programs and job creation, then toured the Welcome Centre Stuttgart to see services for newcomers. The second day at the **Ministry of Education Baden-Württemberg** focused on immigrant educational and career guidance, introducing the **Alliance for Lifelong Learning and the LN WBB network**, which supports immigrants through over 200 offices.

[City of Stuttgart migration policies](#)



SALAM Conference, Stuttgart 23-24 January:

Ayse Özbacan
City of Stuttgart

What is the approach of the
City of Stuttgart on migration
policies?

interreg Europe Co-funded by
the European Union

SALAM

Interreg Europe: Let's Cooperate Conference

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The SALAM team had the opportunity to participate in the 11th edition of the Europe, Let's Cooperate Interregional Cooperation Forum, which took place on 19-20 March 2025 in Krakow, Poland. This year's event was special as it marked the ten-year anniversary of the Policy Learning Platform, a key initiative designed to support interregional cooperation and policy learning across Europe.

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Regional Partners Discuss Priorities for Migrant Integration

On 17 December 2024, SALAM gathered the project's regional partners for a discussion on advancing migrant integration policies. Taking place one day before [International Migrants Day](#), the meeting underscored the importance of fostering inclusivity and innovation across Europe to create pathways for migrants to thrive.

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Stakeholders involvement

Centre-Val de Loire Stakeholders meet to Discuss SALAM

On 18 December 2024, the [Région Centre – Val de Loire's](#) stakeholders met to collaborate and coordinate on activities impacted by the SALAM project. This meeting brought about 50 partners coming from local training facilities and from different public authorities managing policies on training opportunities and welcoming migrant populations.

[Read more](#)

Tuscany Region Collaborates to Boost Migrant Integration

In July 2024, the Permanent Tripartite Regional Commission was introduced to the SALAM project by Minister Alessandra Nardini, emphasizing interregional cooperation for migrant integration. From September to December 2024, the Tuscany Region held stakeholder meetings to assess the situation and explore entrepreneurship policies for migrants.

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The University of Florence Brings SALAM to the classroom

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The University of Florence has kicked off an important conversation on the topic of migrant integration in the EU with Bachelor students in Sciences of Education during the first term. In her General Pedagogy course, prof. Francesca Torlone, initiated discussions on migrant education, exploring how regional and local services can either support or hinder their integration. This conversation will continue in upcoming lectures, involving students from health and workplace security disciplines. Looking ahead, future discussions will expand to include topics related to prison and gender issues, along with ongoing research in collaboration with several companies.



Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform cooperates with SALAM

The Policy Learning Platform, part of the Interreg Europe programme, reached out to SALAM to collect and showcase good practices for an upcoming webinar scheduled for April 2025. This webinar will follow up on the [December 2024 session](#), which focused on improving the labour market integration of young people and shared key learnings from various initiatives.

SALAM contributed 7 best practices from the following partners:

- Khotyn City Council (Ukraine)
- Mark Municipality (Sweden)
- Tuscany Regional Government (Italy)
- Västra Götaland Region (Sweden)
- Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

These practices cover vital areas such as childcare, housing, language, cultural adaptation, and psychological support for migrants, and will be featured in the April webinar. SALAM's involvement with the PLP now includes not only contributing to webinars but also cooperating on events and sharing peer-reviewed papers on integration.



What's new in the EU?

Union of Skills Initiative

In early March 2025, the European Commission introduced the "Union of Skills" initiative, aiming to empower individuals across the EU with the competencies needed for educational and professional success. This initiative seeks to build skills for quality jobs, upskill and reskill an agile workforce, and facilitate the circulation of skills across the EU. By addressing gender imbalances and helping European businesses find the workers they need, it aims to make the EU more competitive and inclusive.

Skills Portability Initiative

As part of the Union of Skills, the Skills Portability Initiative set to launch in 2026, will address the bureaucratic challenges related to cross-border diploma and skill recognition. Looking ahead, initiatives such as the European Degree and European Universities Alliances. The Commission will also work towards a potential European VET diploma for vocational education and training.

2025 EU Budget Allocation

Reflecting its commitment to migration management and integration, the EU's 2025 budget includes a substantial allocation of €2.1 billion specifically for migration-related expenses. This funding supports the union's enduring values of solidarity and human rights, emphasizing the EU's role in assisting migrants and asylum seekers. It reflects the union's dual commitment to managing migratory flows responsibly while fostering inclusive integration, creating a system where member states can better respond to diverse migratory pressures.

What's new in the EU Member States?

Portugal: New platform to promote migrant labour market integration

Lisbon City Council (CML) is developing a pioneering new digital platform to facilitate the integration of migrants into the city's labour market, by matching the skills that migrants have to offer with the needs of local companies. [Read more](#)

Czech Republic: Implementation of 2025 migrant integration policy

In this publication the Czech government outlines its plan for the implementation of its 2025 integration policy. Several major areas in which the integration policy should be applied are identified, concrete measures for doing so are defined, and the respective authorities responsible are designated. [Read more](#)

Finland's Integration Act Reforms

Effective from January 2025, Finland's updated Integration Act mandates municipalities to provide multilingual civic orientation courses. These courses are part of a comprehensive integration program designed to support newcomers' early integration and participation in the workforce. [Read more](#)

Spain's GECCO Order 2025

Implemented in January 2025, this order facilitates structured and secure employment opportunities for migrants through circular migration programs. It allows temporary modifications of employment contracts and supports both seasonal and stable migration, aiding migrants in acquiring valuable skills and experience. [Read more](#)