





PROSPER BSR

*Melanie Henke, Hanse Parlament
BSR Integrate NOW @ UBC GC2023*

Palanga

25th October 2023

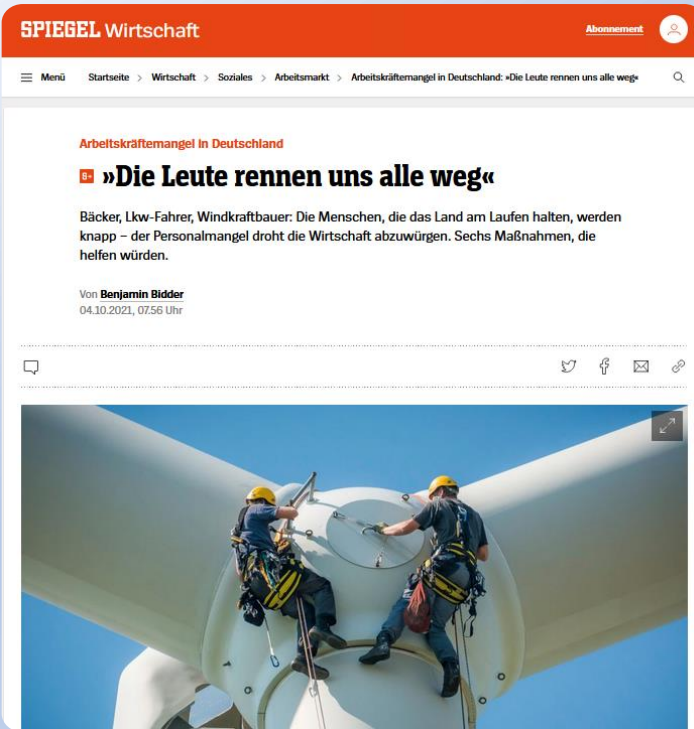


Background: Hanse Parlament

- Since 1994 umbrella organisation of more than 50 Chambers of Commerce, Crafts and Industry and 23 Universities from 13 countries
- Located in Hamburg
- Non-Profit character, overall objective : **promotion of SMEs** by running education & R&D projects with very tangible results for companies
- Main topics :
 - Education for SMEs (permeability between VET and HE, applied research)
 - Green Economy
 - Digitalisation and AI
 - New talents (Generation Z, skills mismatch, **integration of Refugees**)

Future needs of SMEs: Qualified staff

- Biggest challenge for European SMEs: **lack of skilled workforce**
- Growing competition over young talent, increased by demographic development
- In many regions clear mismatch between needs of labor market and graduates: too many academics, not enough apprentices
- Increasing number of job vacancies and growing youth unemployment at the same time



ARBEITSMARKT-EXPERTE SCHLÄGT ALARM

**Wir brauchen 700 000
Einwanderer – pro Jahr!**

Immigrants

- On the other hand, there are thousands of immigrants in Europe who want to work but face bureaucratic hurdles or must wait years in frustration until they are allowed to work
- Instead of contributing quickly to the economic and social system, they are often kept down for years in refugee shelters. This causes costs and social dangers
- This is a human, social and also economic tragedy



In the wake of the wave of refugees in 2015/2016, we have realised various projects for the integration of refugees. The goal at that time was to place them quickly and unbureaucratically in the labour market or to support them as entrepreneurs.

With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, we launched a new project in March 2022 to support refugees from Ukraine by integrating them into the labour market in the Baltic Sea region



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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New Skills for New Entrepreneurs – Attraction and Qualification of Refugees as Successors (New Entrepreneurs)

Project to integrate refugees

A project on the integration of refugees kills two birds with one stone:

1. Firstly, the companies and economies in the Baltic Sea region receive the needed workforce
2. Secondly and more importantly, the refugees are quickly given a perspective. For social, economic and, above all, human reasons, this is the most important result

We believe that a holistic integration of refugees in our societies strengthens social cohesion and shared values among the entire population



PROSPER BSR : INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES INTO THE LABOUR MARKETS

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

Prosper BSR



Project Partners

No.	LP/PP	Organisation (English)	Organisation (Original)	Country	Type of partner
1	LP	Hanse-Parlament	Hanse-Parlament e.V.	DE	Business support organisation
2	PP	DANMAR COMPUTERS SP ZOO	DANMAR COMPUTERS SP ZOO	PL	Small and medium enterprise
3	PP	Chamber of Commerce Poland	KRAJOWA IZBA GOSPODARCZA	PL	Business support organisation
4	PP	Vilnius Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts	Vilniaus Prekybos, Pramonės ir Amatų Rūmai	LT	Business support organisation
5	PP	Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Latvijas Tirdzniecības un Rūpniecības kamera	LV	Business support organisation

Small scale project for two years

Overall Goal of the project

Integration of refugees into the labour markets

- Activity 1: Networks
- Activity 2: Capacity Building
- Activity 3: App

Activity 1: Networking

Create local/regional networks

Networking

Chambers and other business support organisations have solid contacts to their (member-) companies, but so far no or little contact with NGOs in their regions. In this first step, networks are built. Each partner will sign 5 Memorandum of Understandings in their region.



The background of the slide features a conceptual diagram for 'Capacity Building'. At the center is a large, glowing blue box with the text 'CAPACITY BUILDING' in white. This central box is connected by thin blue lines to eight surrounding blue boxes, each containing a related term: 'LEARN' (top), 'KNOWLEDGE' (top right), 'TRAINING' (top left), 'COACH' (right), 'SKILLS' (left), 'DEVELOPMENT' (bottom left), 'PLANNING' (bottom right), and 'SUPPORT' (bottom). The diagram is overlaid on a dark background showing a person's hands in a suit jacket, with various icons like a group of people, a gear, and a bar chart scattered around.

Activity 2: Capacity Building

Coaching Program for staff of chambers to consult and mediate between refugees and companies

Capacity Building

Most staff at the business support organizations have no professional experience in the placement and support of refugees in jobs in the local economy.

A targeted program is being developed to train the employees of the chamber of commerce, to reduce fears, create networks, see advantages and thus also to consider the interests of the member companies.



Activity 3: App

Share the information in an app, that will include contacts of the regional networks, information, training program



App

By the end of the project, the collected information will be presented in a multilingual app, providing information on business support organisations in the BSR that work with refugees, showcasing best practices of successful integration examples, informing about entrepreneurship possibilities etc.



Lessons learned



→ Asylum seekers too often do not have a job - this is also due to bureaucracy and prohibitions.

→ Association of Towns and Municipalities in Germany are now calling for an immediate work permit.

80% of Ukrainian refugees in Germany jobless – Die Welt

By NewsRescue - September 9, 2023

The integration of Ukrainians into the German labor market has been “sluggish” in comparison to neighboring Poland and the Czech Republic, where nearly two-thirds of migrants have work, according to a Thursday piece in the publication.

According to Die Welt, one of the key reasons for the gap is the significant financial aid granted by German authorities. Ukrainians can receive €502 (\$537) each month indefinitely.

In Poland, the monthly benefits for refugees are just €66, with those living in collective accommodation being asked to cover half of the costs after four months. The Czech authorities offer financial aid of €200, which drops to €130 after five months.

The paper clarified that Ukrainians in Poland and the Czech Republic primarily work in low-wage jobs, whereas Germany employs “a different strategy” of sending the refugees, three-quarters of whom have university degrees, on six-month language and integration courses in order for them to find employment that matches their qualifications.

Die Welt, on the other hand, reported that Berlin’s plan “doesn’t seem to be working.” According to data from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation think tank, the number of working refugees has increased by only 1% since October 2022.

According to Die Welt, “burdensome German bureaucracy” should also be blamed for delaying the entry of Ukrainians on the employment market. While other EU nations have quickly removed legal barriers for persons fleeing the crisis, Berlin insists on lengthy security checks.

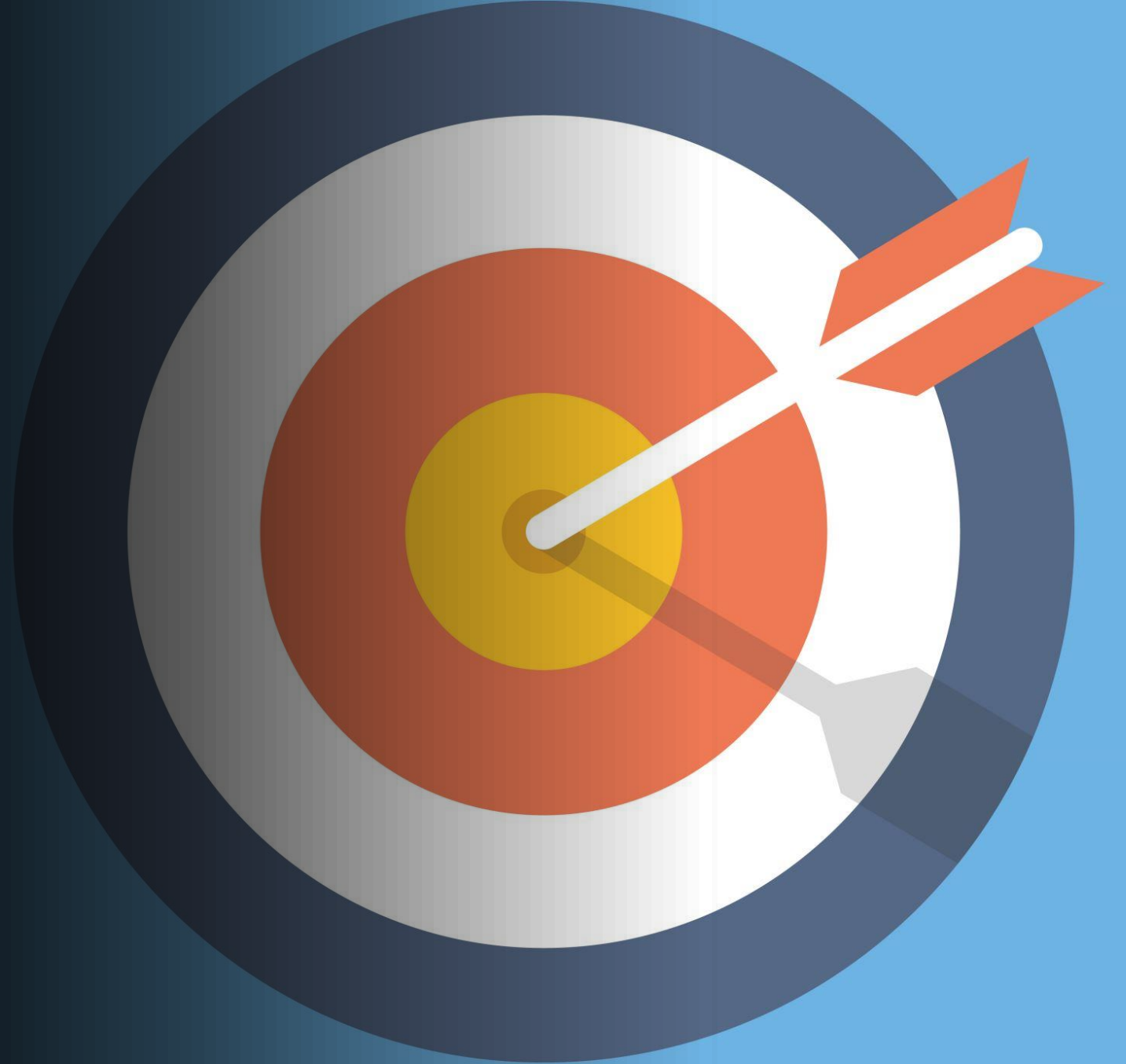


The screenshot shows a ZDF news article. The main headline is "Viele Asylbewerber ohne Arbeit: Wie Geflüchtete schneller einen Job bekommen". The author is Nils Metzger, and the article was published on 30.09.2023 at 16:10 Uhr. A sub-headline reads: "Asylbewerber haben zu oft keinen Job - das liegt auch an Bürokratie und Verboten. Der Städte- und Gemeindebund fordert jetzt eine sofortige Arbeitserlaubnis. Was kann das bringen?". Below the text, there are two video thumbnails showing people's faces.

<https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/politik/fluechtlinge-asylbewerber-arbeit-suche-erlaubnis-migration-100.html>

<https://newsrescue.com/80-of-ukrainian-refugees-in-germany-jobless-die-welt/>

Our goal with Prosper BSR is to support access to the labour market, as far as possible without bureaucratic hurdles and in a very timely manner.





Thank you for
your attention!

Any questions? 😊