

Public consultation on the EU Blue Card and the EU's labour migration policies

Explanatory text

Europe's high-quality workforce has traditionally been one of its key economic assets. In today's highly competitive globalised economy, it is crucial for Europe to retain this competitive edge. Securing a flexible, highly qualified workforce that can adapt to demographic and economic changes as they unfold represents a key priority for Europe. This is why the Commission has adopted a 'European Agenda on Migration', which proposes *inter alia* a new approach to legal migration, enabling the EU to become a more attractive destination for talents and skills.

Highly qualified migrants deserve specific attention as international competition for those is particularly fierce. Although economic crises can lower total labour demand, shortages can and do persist in specific sectors or occupations. Combined with measures such as retraining existing workers, active labour market policies and enhanced intra-EU mobility of workers, well-managed labour migration from non-EU countries can become part of the solution to these challenges.

Among various policy initiatives in this area, the EU Blue Card Directive stands out as a key tool. Adopted in 2009, its goal is to equip the EU to compete with global competitors in attracting the talent that is invaluable and essential for growth, complementing local human capital. This scheme is directed at non-EU nationals with higher professional qualifications, acquired through higher education or professional experience. The EU Blue Card is designed to facilitate the admission and mobility of these highly qualified migrants and their family members by harmonising entry and residence conditions throughout the EU and providing for a legal status and a set of rights. In a report adopted on 22 May 2014, the European Commission identified a number of issues that may affect the effectiveness of the Blue Card and hamper the attractiveness of the EU in the global competition for highly skilled workers.

This public consultation is addressed to the broadest public possible, as it is important to get views and input from all stakeholders (employers, migrants, governmental organisations, trade unions, NGOs, employment agencies, etc.). The questions seek to elicit your opinions and thoughts on a range of issues relating to economic migration, such as how employers can find the workers they need, how migrants find out about jobs, procedures for migrants entering the EU, how quickly and easily migrants' qualifications are recognised, etc. Input on these issues will help promote an effective EU policy approach on economic migration that contributes to the EU's employment goals. In addition, this consultation includes a specific section on the EU Blue Card scheme.

You don't have to respond to all the questions, but in order for your response to be taken into account, please answer all those under 'Your Profile'. If you have any questions about this consultation, please don't hesitate to e-mail us at: Home-Notifications-B1@ec.europa.eu.

Disclaimer and data protection

The objective of this consultation is to receive the views of stakeholders or people concerned by the topic of the consultation and potentially to publish these views on the Internet. The questions do not reflect any official position of the European Commission and in no way prejudice its future decisions, if any, on the framework for labour migration. As this online service collects and further processes personal data, Regulation (EC) 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data, is applicable. Please read the specific privacy statement.