

Federation Chamber of Commerce  
Region Flanders

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## 15 Chambers Local

Mission :

Offer Chambers a Platform for Training,  
Exchange of experience and Networking for their  
members

(8+5+1+1)

## 32 Chambers Bilateral

Vision :

Partners of choice for the international and  
sustainable development of Belgian business

## Main tasks :

- Export documents
- Strengthen sustainable entrepreneurship
  - Learning networks
  - Corporate Social Responsibility
  - Sustainable actionplans
  - ...
- International entrepreneurship
- Business and network events
- Business services :
  - CV services,
  - posting job offers,
  - domiciliation & administration for expats , ...
- ...

GLOBALISATION = One of the MAIN CHALLENGE for the Chamber

Consequences :

- = Flexibel Businesses/entepries
- = Migration
- = New foreign employers
- = Braindrain
- = ...

Solution : New Service for matching employees/job seekers with employers

DIFFICULTIES

- Legal restriction (brochure)
  - EU
  - NON EU
  - Employers brought by companies
  - Labour force came in through other countries
  - Cross-border employers
  - ...
- Cultural barriers
- Language barriers
- Education dont match engagement criteria
- Restrictions in companies due to Labor Unions that are reluctant to changes
- ...

## FACTS...

Free movement of people within EEU

BUT : Migrants across EU falling through a gap between...

a) ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY : those responsible for economic and business development

= opinion : entrepreneurship is primarily the reserve of the more educated and technologically advanced members of the society

b) EMPLOYEMENT POLICIES : Those concerned with social inclusion and employment

= feel that the way to combat exclusion is through employment

## ***Chamber of Commerce philosophy :***

- people from disadvantaged groups can help create their own future... rather than hope that decent jobs trickle down from high technology, high growth sector
- Widening participation in the entrepreneurial world, can enable more people to benefit from Europe's enterprise culture & EU policy towards 2020

### ➤ **SETTING UP PROJECTS**

➤ **EU Structural funds** : Financial Instruments of EU regional policy

- ERDF :
  - support for e.g. ... encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation in order to boost job creation and strengthen economic structures
- ESF :
  - contribution to integration into working life of the unemployed and disadvantaged sections of the population
  - Promoting entrepreneurial and organisational culture

➤ **Cohesion Fund** : speeding up economic, social and territorial convergence of the least developed regions

➤ **COSME** : EU Programme for ...

- Supporting the Competitiveness of Enterprises
- Supporting entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises in starting/setting up a business, access to finance, international business
- supports governments to make the entrepreneurial environment more pleasant and cranking the economic growth in the EU

➤ **EVTA**

Calls for project proposals from ...

➤ **DG ENTERPRISE**

➤ **DG TOURISM**

➤ **DG EMPL**

➤ ...





## Flanders level

- Flanders Agency of Entrepreneurship
- Department of Education
- Ministry of Economic
- Ministry of Employment
- ERASMUS+
- Other Flemish Funding NGO's (cf. King Boudewijn Foundation)

## Short overview actual projects

### 1. **BRYO :**

Idea of a scientist, engineer or IT specialist.. Assist that idea result in a product or project that the market can conquer. Special approach for newly arrived people... (Special agreements with countries like India, Spain, Greece,... for STEM professions to bring over to Flanders)

### 2. **STEM – Academy : Target group 8-16**

Special approach for children (8-16) of migrant & newly arrived/diaspora...

### 3. **Senior Entrepreneurship**

People +50 (Migrants!) with technical background within  
outplacement procedure helping to set up an own business/enterprise

### 4. **Linking Nationalities**

Adapted measures in company level for better employability for technical skilled migrants with low or non knowledge of the language

### 5. **Job channel**

- specific approach for migrants with low knowledge of Dutch  
- knowledge acquired elsewhere (SERV databank with +500 job descriptions)

### 6. **Ethnic Minorities Entrepreneurial Platform**

Migrants that in collaboration with local entities create a platform in cities as knowledge and information exchange centers

### 7. **TalentPOOL**

employing 45 + seasonal workers amongst ethnic minorities in various sectors based on their talents, knowledge, dexterity

### 8. **ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs**

Idea for setting up actions for young starters with foreign background (have advantage of knowledge of culture in own country...)

### 9. **Workplace training with sector : providing up to date training**

## Projects from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties...

- SYNTRA Flanders : institute for entrepreneurial training
  - Accreditation of SME-advisors
  - Language and Learning coaches in training centers
  - ...
- UNIZO/Markant  
Migrant women entrepreneurship
- Collaboration intention Chamber with University of Leuven - 2014  
United colors of Nurses
- **Challenges** : Belgium is complex and chaotic political structure = 5 political regions with own approach and actions towards migrants
  - Setting up migrant network platforms that help people of their own ethnic background
  - Creation of would be ethnic minorities' chamber of commerce that has a voice towards politicians (cf. USA)
  - No culture of total free movement of people within EU, and surely not out the EU
  - Variety of action plans that are not complementary to one another