Roadmap & factsheet for the recognition of qualifications for highly demanded professions: two practical documents for first line support and citizens

The Territory

The pilot project spans over the border region of the Netherlands with Belgium and Germany. The Dutch border region with its neighbouring countries covers 1.053 km of border, 478 km with Belgium and 575 alongside Germany. In light of the competences on education, the project comprises the Netherlands, Belgium with its Flemish, French and German-speaking Communities, and the German *Bundesländer* North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony.

The Identified Obstacle

Procedures concerning recognition of qualifications are often accused of being non-transparent, complex, time-consuming and sometimes even discourage mobility. Citizens as well as first line supporters are often faced with a lack of clarity as regards the recognition of qualifications for regulated professions. Well-running recognition procedures are important to facilitate cross-border employment. If a recognition decision does not come through in time, this may result in the loss of a job opportunity or a decision to abandon cross-border work.

The Proposed Solution

This project strives to develop two practical guidance documents for first line supporters and citizens: a roadmap and a factsheet for the recognition of qualifications concerning highly demanded professions. The pilot strives to go beyond the information that is readily available online or via first line support services. The documents will reveal how competent authorities evaluate qualifications on both sides of the border: the aim is to boost cross-border mobility and employability by improving recognition.

The creation of the roadmap for the recognition of qualifications and the factsheet recognition consists of a three-step process. First, the identification and selection of highly demanded professions. Secondly, the creation of the roadmap and factsheet documents. Finally, replicability of the project will be applied. Upon conclusion of the *b-solutions* initiative, the roadmap and factsheet method will continue to be fine-tuned, as the partners involved in this application seek to continue cooperation on this project.