

New EU Guidelines Aim to Open Green Jobs to Migrant Talent

POWGEN project recommends governments to recognise migrants' experience, fund paid green skills training, improve employers' engagement and take action to remove social barriers such as language, childcare, housing and unstable employment

Brussels, September 15, 2026.- The **European Committee of the Regions (CoR)** hosted the final conference of the European project [POWGEN](#). Under the title of [Turning Inclusion On – Labour Market Integration of Migrant People in the Renewable Energy Transition](#), [ABD Group](#) and [CPMR](#) (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) brought together more than 70 representatives from the project partners, European institutions, regional and local authorities, civil society organisations, employment services, and renewable energy stakeholders.

Introduced by **Octavio Caraballo Vice-Minister of the Presidency of the Government of the Canary Islands** and Vice-Chair of the Migration Task Force of CPMR, the session included the participation of members from the **European Committee of the Regions**, the **European Commission's DG HOME** and **DG ENERGY**, [MedCities](#), [Regione Campania](#), [ALDA Migration Hub](#), [FAMSI](#), [New Women Connectors \(NWC\)](#), the [Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy \(IEECP\)](#), and other stakeholders to discuss how migration policies, labour market inclusion and the green transition can be better connected to open green jobs to migrant talent.

Funded by the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**, [POWGEN](#) has worked over the past two years to improve the employability of migrant people in the renewable energy and refurbishment sectors. The project has implemented **five pilot initiatives** across Spain, Portugal, Germany and Italy, testing practical solutions that respond simultaneously to labour shortages in green sectors and the inclusion needs of third-country nationals.

Over 200 people have taken part in the POWGEN training pathway, in a collaborative work between public administrations, migrant-led organizations and sector employers, resulting in stronger employability, closer employer engagement, real skills development, better cooperation between public employment services and private actors, and genuine social inclusion for people with a migrant background.

The **conference** has been a unique opportunity to exchange experiences, discover innovative practices and contribute to the development of policies that ensure the green transition becomes an opportunity for everyone. It reinforced something we all instinctively know but rarely see demonstrated so clearly: the need for a **horizontal dialogue** among

sectoral stakeholders to create more inclusive labour market pathways from specific skill needs to the sector

Inclusive Empowergen Guidelines

The event served to present the project guidelines to support **local and regional governments** across the EU in advancing a socially inclusive green transition, focusing on the **labour market inclusion of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) in the construction and renewable energy (RE) sectors**.

[Inclusive Empowergen](#) sets out **10 high-level political recommendations** and a **practical five-step pathway** for local and regional authorities.

Key recommendations include:

- **Broadening funding networks** among local, regional, and cross-border actors to move beyond volatile public funding cycles.
- Taking a **regional lead in defining green job certifications and curricula**.
- **Recognize** migrant people **previous skills and experience**, develop **European qualification and competency standards** and promote **blended training, micro-credentials, and relevant EU tools**.
- Addressing **people-based needs** (anti-harassment policies, housing support, childcare, fair wages, diversity training) and **place-based realities** (urban–rural divide, renewable energy communities, transport).
- Tackling the **lack of intra-EU mobility for TCNs**, to solve the sector’s cross-border labour needs.

[Learn more about Inclusive Empowergen guidelines.](#)

ABOUT POWGEN

[POWGEN](#) (power generation) project aims to improve labour inclusion opportunities for migrant people, promote their professional growth in key areas for the sustainable future of society, and contribute to the creation of more inclusive work environments. Run from April 2024 to September 2026 in Spain, Portugal, Germany, and Italy. It is coordinated by [ABD Group](#) with partner organisations [Ecoserveis](#), [CIDIS](#), [CRESCER](#), [Regione Campania](#), [Pro Arbeit](#), and [CPMR](#).



POWGEN final conference in the CoR on september 15th, 2026



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