

# Integration through work 0.0

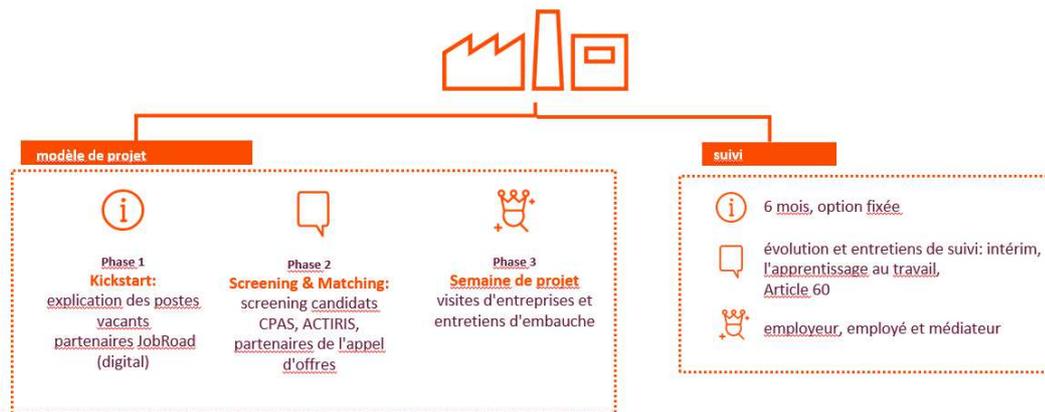
(in collaboration with HIVA and with the support of Fedasil)

## 1. Position JobRoad

JobRoad is an independent asbl and the network organisation for integration through work of people at a greater distance from the labour market. JobRoad serves a dual purpose: to promote the integration of people from this target group through work and to combat the shortage of labour. We focus on three pillars for this: activation, training and awareness-raising.

As a network organisation, we always bring four stakeholders together to achieve this: companies, social service organisations, the temporary employment sector and (supra) local authorities. We work in a phased project model to effectively get disadvantaged groups to work at companies and then offer an aftercare program.

### Project model



## 2. Project Integration through work 0.0

The design of this project was based on two observations: the observation of, on the one hand, a permanent shortage on the labour market for talented employees, on the other hand, an underutilisation of the experience and willingness to work of the target group of applicants for international protection (referred to as asylum seekers, hereinafter referred to as applicants). In 2020, the asylum procedure lasted an average of 369 calendar days as of the submission of the application.<sup>1</sup> This period can be used much better than is currently the case. This period can be used to provide an adapted training offer and/or guidance towards work. The project *Integration through work 0.0* consists of two parts to meet this requirement. Firstly, a study is being conducted in collaboration with HIVA and, secondly, a test case is being set up.

<sup>1</sup> Integraal verslag, *Parl. St., Commissie voor Binnenlandse zaken, veiligheid, migratie en bestuurszaken [Full report, Parl. St. Committee on Internal Affairs, Security, Migration and Administration] 2020-2021, COM 337, p. 21.*

## The study

For the study, we call on the expertise of the HIVA (Higher Institute for Labour of KU Leuven) to conduct neutral scientific research. We want to see various research questions answered in this:

- what is the current training offer for the target group of applicants?
- what is the current activation and employment support offered to applicants?
- to what extent does this offer meet the needs and requirements of the applicants?
- can the JobRoad project model (with or without adaptations) be an answer to the needs of the applicants and the needs of the labour market?

The study is phased in three stages and carried out geographically across Belgium. We focus both on collective centres and on local reception initiatives (LOI), both of which receive applicants who are still in proceedings. The built-in phases are shown in the table below.

	What?	With whom?	When?
<b>Stage 1</b>	Exploratory focus groups	Employees in the reception structures who are responsible for training and guidance towards work	March
<b>Stage 2</b>	Quickscan (survey)	Centre directors and managers LOI	April, May
<b>Stage 3</b>	Focus groups or qualitative interviews	Applicants for international protection	June, July, August

## Test case

The test case will be set up during the months of November and December 2021 according to the JobRoad project model (see situation). The model may or may not be modified, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the study. This will consider setting up one test case in the vicinity of an LOI or a collective centre or both..