

Scalabrinian Model

**on Employment, Entrepreneurship
and Social Innovation
for Migrants and Refugees©**

OVERVIEW

SIMN works in 39 countries on five continents — Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mozambique, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Taiwan, Province of China, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam. SIMN promotes durable solutions through employment and job-creation programs for migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) and advocates for partnerships between governments, international cooperation agencies, faith-based and civil society organizations, and the private sector. During the last decade, the Scalabrinians have designed, proved, and scaled an innovative solution tailored specifically to address the real needs of people on the move, aiming to support job placement, entrepreneurship, and social innovation. The Scalabrinian model has proven successful and is currently implemented and accomplished in thirteen countries and numerous cities in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. SIMN's model increases opportunities, expand social innovation, and catalyzes systemic change of migration governance in countries of origin, transit, and destination.

GOAL

Encourage governments and the private sector, including migrant entrepreneurs, to adopt/support a social innovation, employment, and entrepreneurship model as a concrete solution to improve the integration of migrants, refugees, and IDPs and tackle the root causes of forced migration.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The EESI model is a comprehensive problem-solving innovation that recognizes the skills of migrants and refugees and promotes their access to formal labor markets through the supply-demand connection and generation of self-employment. It works together with governments, international NGOs, the private sector, and civil society organizations, including migrant organizations, for the integration of migrants, refugees, and IDPs. The program is developed at the Scalabrini Integrated Centers in four main stages:

1. **Training and skill certification:** this stage entails intensive technical training, including developing entrepreneurial and soft skills, and concludes with formal certification granted by specialized and recognized governmental bodies and agencies.
2. **Document regularization and work authorization:** in this stage, undocumented migrants, deportees, asylum seekers, and refugees are supported with legal and administrative guidance and referred to government agencies to regularize their migratory status and work authorization according to national laws.
3. **Employment referrals and micro-entrepreneurship:** in this stage, future workers and entrepreneurs in possession of their certificates and work permits, can opt for two programs: first, an employment (job placement) program with referrals to responsible and registered employers; and second, an entrepreneurship program (job creation) that allows the design and implementation of a business plan and access to micro-loans for start-ups.
4. **Technical Support:** in this stage, there is a comprehensive accompaniment for monitoring holistically the challenges and commitments acquired in the employment and entrepreneurship programs. This stage offers entrepreneurs technical follow-up and individual sessions for the sustainability of the micro-business. While the newly hired are followed up directly with employees and partner employers to support job stability and protect their rights in the new job.



IMPACT

The EESI Model has already been successfully implemented and replicated at SIMN centers in the following countries: Argentina (Buenos Aires), Brazil (São Paulo, Manaus, Cuiabá, and Porto Alegre), Bolivia (La Paz), Chile (Santiago), Colombia (Bogotá, Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario), Guatemala (Guatemala City and Tecún Umán), Mexico (Tapachula, Tijuana, Guadalajara, and Mexico), Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay in Latin America, as well as in Italy (Rome and Siponto), South Africa (Cape Town) and the Philippines (Manila). All these centers have proven an efficient and scalable model by placing more than 15,000 people a year in permanent jobs.

Due to this model's success, SIMN continues expanding it to new missions and diverse contexts and encouraging the addition of more committed key stakeholders in the 39 countries mentioned above. The model has made possible collaborative alliances between the Scalabrinian Congregation and some international corporations, such as Microsoft and Cisco Systems, and consolidated ties with international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Within the framework of the United Nations and through the participation of SIMN in the negotiation process of the Global Compacts, this model profoundly influenced the final wording of Objective #18 of the United Nations Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018), being also recognized as good practice by the UNHCR.

In addition to the economic benefits it brings, both to the direct beneficiaries of the program, their families, and communities, it is clear that this counteracts the narratives that fuel anti-immigrant reactions, as migrants stopped being perceived as mere recipients of aid but as agents of growth and development in the host communities, which facilitates their integration and increased trust in authorities and host communities.

The Scalabrinian missionaries are convinced that if other countries replicate the model, these success rates will increase exponentially, providing enormous benefits not only to migrants, refugees, returnees, and their families but also to the host societies, in both the short and long-term.