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ENABLING DUAL CAREERS IN THE GLOBAL WORKPLACE

February 2023

"Governments are responding to our proposals – over 30 countries now allow spouses or partners to be employed or self-employed during an international assignment."



Permits Foundation

- Aim

Support international mobility and dual careers by advocating improvement of work permit regulations for the partners of highly-skilled mobile employees worldwide.

Open permission to work

- Make representations to host governments
- Raise awareness and encourage debate
- Co-ordinate support from local networks, employer organisations, home country governments etc.
- Share information and progress

Not-for-profit



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Permits Foundation Sponsors

International employers (private & public) and service providers
Diverse sectors, global operations.



Observer



Patrons

Top level support



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meets quarterly, sets strategy

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Dual careers - A corporate issue

International companies and organisations need skilled, mobile staff to support global operations

- Numbers are small, but essential
- More women in employment
- More dual career couples / dual earners
- Diversity - more nationalities, non-married, same-sex partners



For 78% of partners, their own employment prospects are an important factor in the decision to relocate

Affects men and women of all nationalities working in private and public sectors worldwide

Challenges for mobile partners who want to work

- Look for a new job in unfamiliar location
- Timing dictated by employee's move
- Adapt skills to local employment market
- Learn language, different culture etc.
- Compete with well qualified local staff
- Foreign diplomas recognised?
- Persuade potential employer to apply for work permit and wait until obtained...

Work permit procedures and uncertainty

– a structural hurdle for partner and employer



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Permits Foundation's evidence base:

Regular surveys on mobility and dual careers

Most recent:

- **International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022**
Feedback from global mobility professionals and partners of international employees (global).



Previous surveys:

- | | |
|--|------|
| • HR Managers views on the impact of Brexit (UK) | 2018 |
| • Employees/partners on Tier 2 visas (UK) | 2015 |
| • Organisations employing 7.5 million employees (global) | 2012 |
| • Expat partners private and public sector (global) | 2008 |

Key messages from surveys:

*Key messages for **governments***

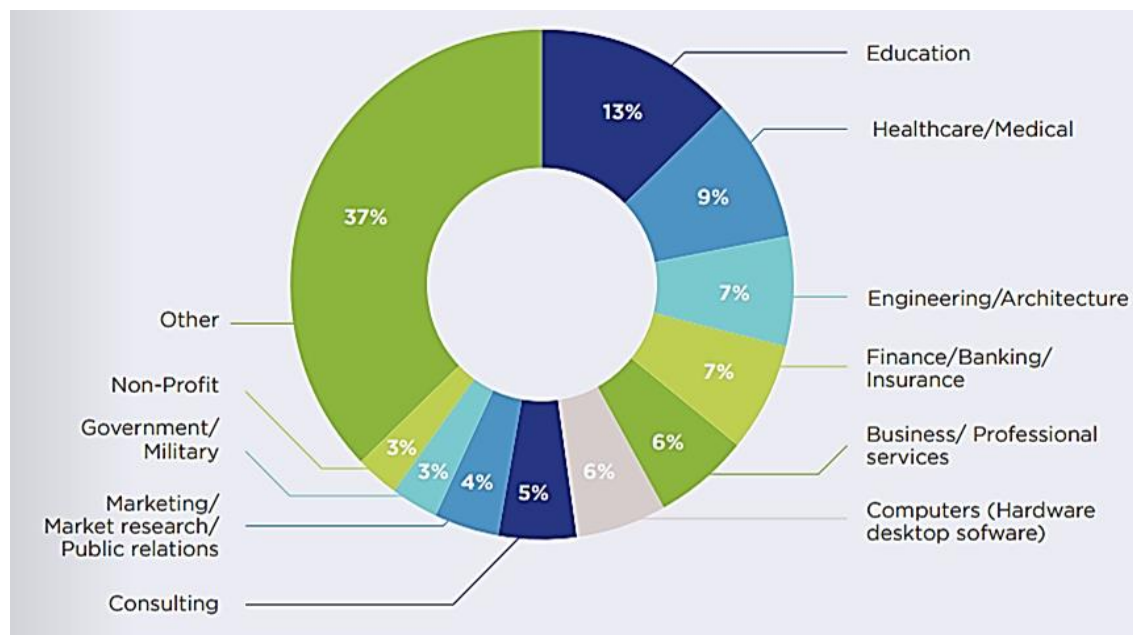
- Work permit restrictions have a negative impact on international business.
- Work permit restrictions for partners seriously impact on employees' willingness to transfer.
- Countries that allow partners to work are more attractive destinations for international business and highly skilled staff.
- Allowing partners to work has positive economic and social impacts.

*Key messages for **employers***

- Lack of partner employment opportunities adversely affects global mobility of highly skilled international employees.
- Dual careers are becoming more important.
- Communicating with the mobile family unit is key.
- Employers should do more to support.

Accompanying partners – key data 2022

- **76%** of partner respondents - female (85% in 2008).
- **88%** of partner respondents held a bachelor's degree or higher including 53% with a master's degree,



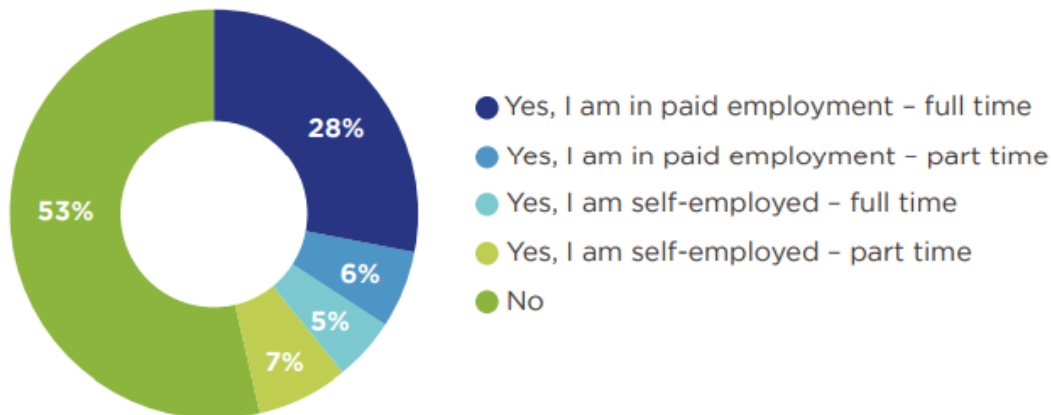
In which occupational field were you working?

(Permits Foundation International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022 – [Part 2](#))

Partner employment falls in host country

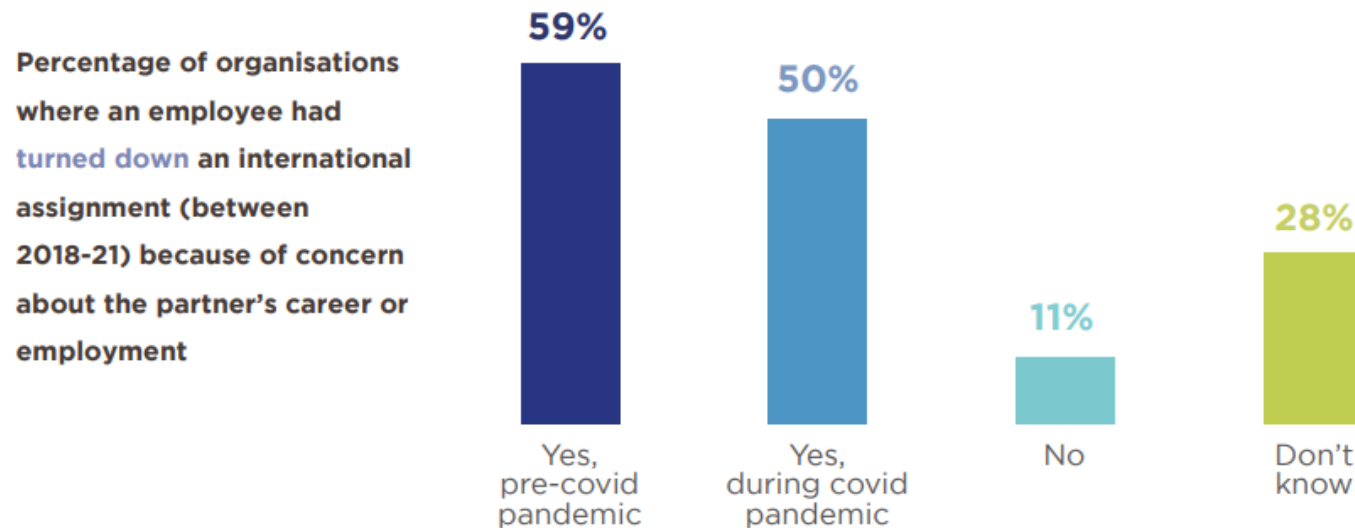
- **90%** of spouses were working before expatriation.
- **53%** were not employed in the host country.
- **84%** of those not working wanted to work.

Respondents in employment or self-employment in host country:



Talent attraction and retention

- **26%** of partner respondents were considering leaving the host country due to work access restrictions.
- **In 44% of** organisations, employees had **returned home early** from an international assignment in the past 3 years due to concerns about the partner's employment.
- **In over 50%** of organisations employees had **turned down** an international assignment because of concerns about the partner's employment.



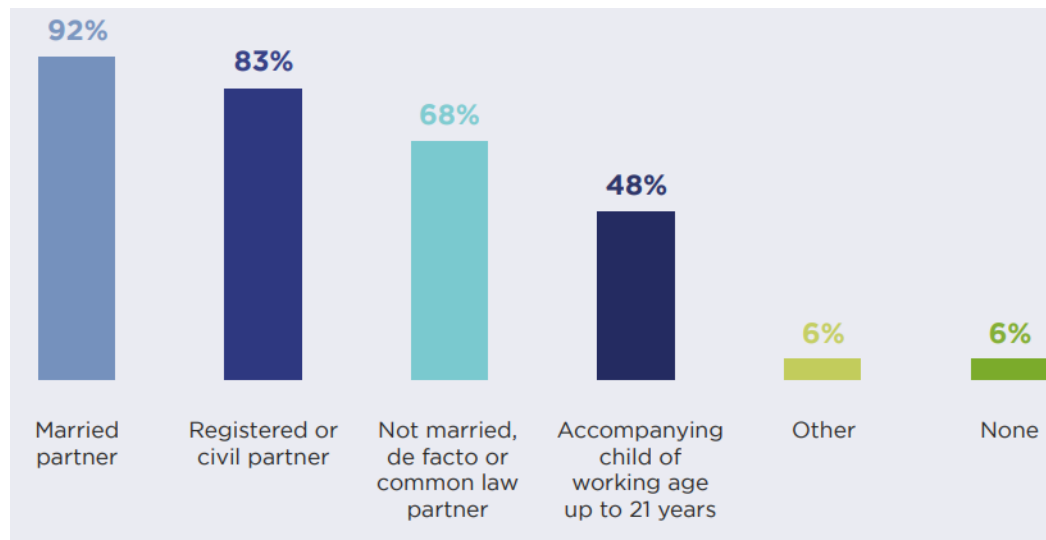
Source: Permits Foundation International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022



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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- **94%** of global mobility professionals said that family members should be authorised to work in the host country directly upon recognition of their dependant status.
- **78%** of global mobility professionals said that where partners can work, the effectiveness of the organisation's overall diversity, equity and inclusion policy increases.
- **22%** of HR respondents said that the importance of supporting dual careers in the global workplace did not feature at all in their organisation's DE&I materials.



Which family members of an international employee should be authorised to work in the host country directly upon recognition of their dependant status?

(Permits Foundation International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022 – [Part 1](#))

Health and Integration

- Partners of international employees who were not working were more likely to report a negative impact on their adjustment to the host country, family relationships, general health or well-being.
- **56%** of partner respondents said that not working had negatively impacted their mental health.
- **67%** of partners cited the need for a dual-income as important or very important.

Remote/virtual working

- **60%** of global mobility professional respondents had been asked by international employees about the right of their partner to work virtually.
- **30%** of partner respondents said they would like to work remotely for an employer based in another country.

Source: Permits Foundation International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022

Country perspective

Where host countries allow direct work access for partners of international employees:

- **80%** of employers said that the host country's reputation as a fair, equal opportunity society as well as the country's reputation for doing business, increases as a result.
- **94%** of partners said that where countries allow spouses and partners to work easily, these countries are viewed as attractive or very attractive future relocation destinations.
- **The United States, China and India** topped the list of countries where organisations would like to see legislative change to facilitate partner work access.

Source: Permits Foundation International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022

The importance of partner support

- **61%** of global mobility professionals said that dual career and partner issues were becoming more important to their organisation.
- Only **20%** of partner respondents had been given an opportunity to communicate their employment and career concerns with their partner's organisation.

Source: Permits Foundation International Dual Careers Survey Report 2022

Global overview partner work permits*

January 2023

Once family member residence permit issued

- * Simplified illustration: may apply to specific employee permits
- * Increasing recognition of unmarried partners; and work permission for children (of working age)

Authorised to work on dependant's permit / Open work permit

- Can work for any employer
- Or be self-employed

Work permit linked to employer

- Simple process or letter of consent
- No employment market test
- Procedure < 4 weeks

Work permit linked to employer

- Skills, salary, quota, employment market test; May need to return to home country
- Procedure > 4 weeks

Non-EU citizens in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland (via CSEP), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK. Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Greenland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Peru, USA (L, E visas). Europeans in EU/EEA

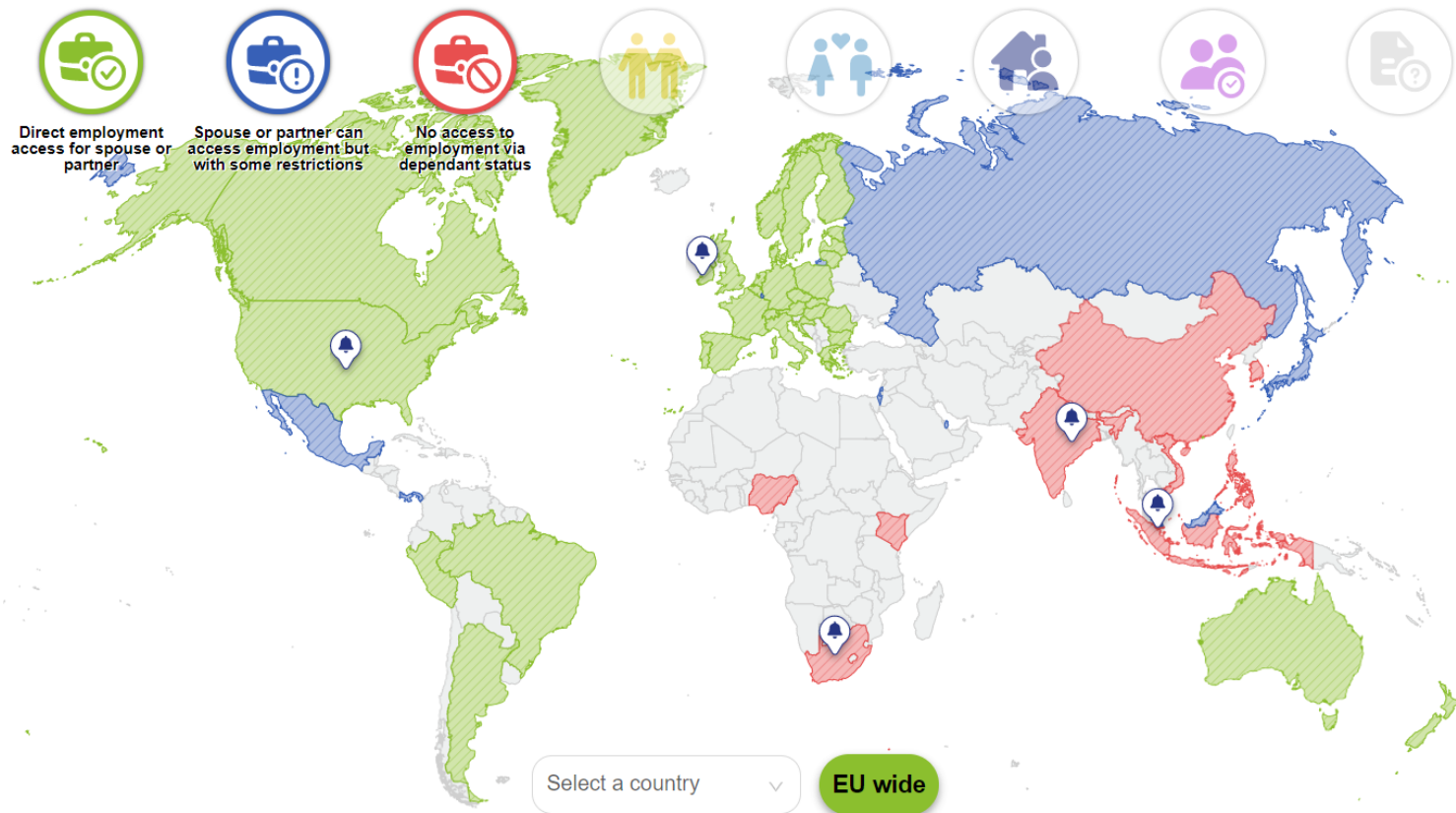
Luxembourg (conditions in 1st year), Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, USA (certain H4 visas)


Brunei, China, Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA (most H4, O visas), Vietnam



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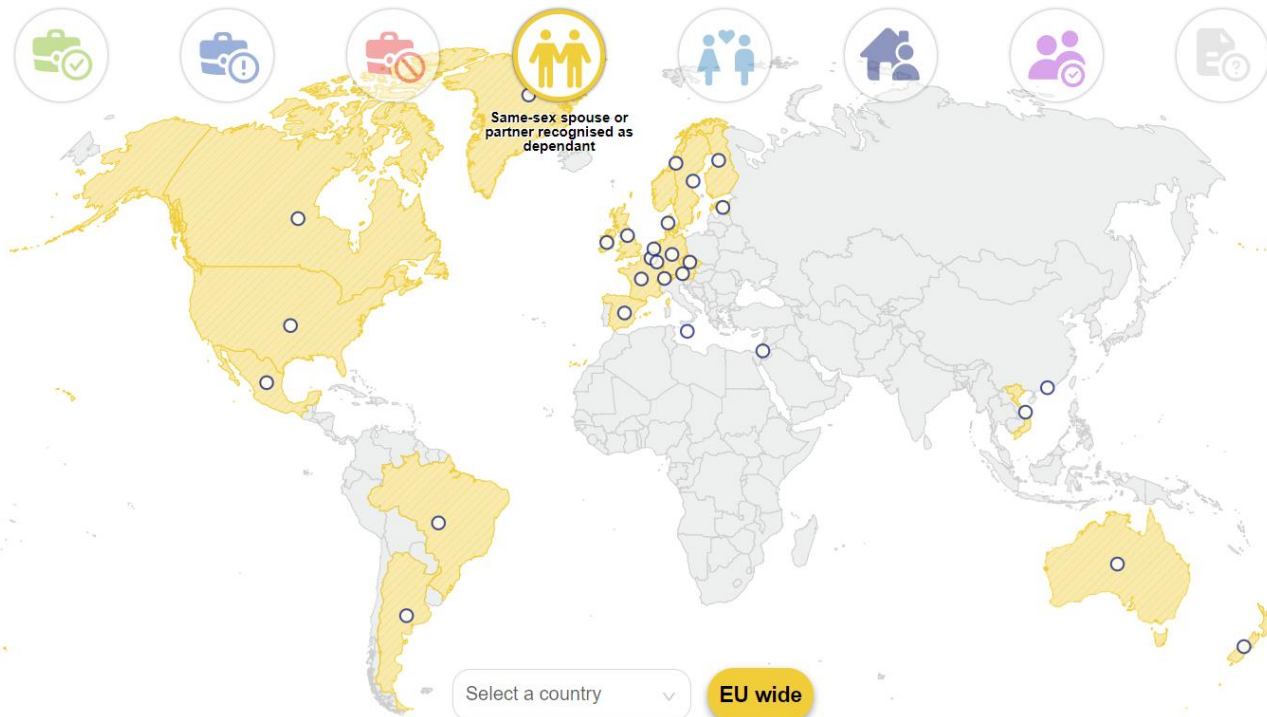
Permits Foundation world map of partner work authorisation: over 30 countries enable direct access to employment



Permits Foundation 2023 priority countries for advocacy 

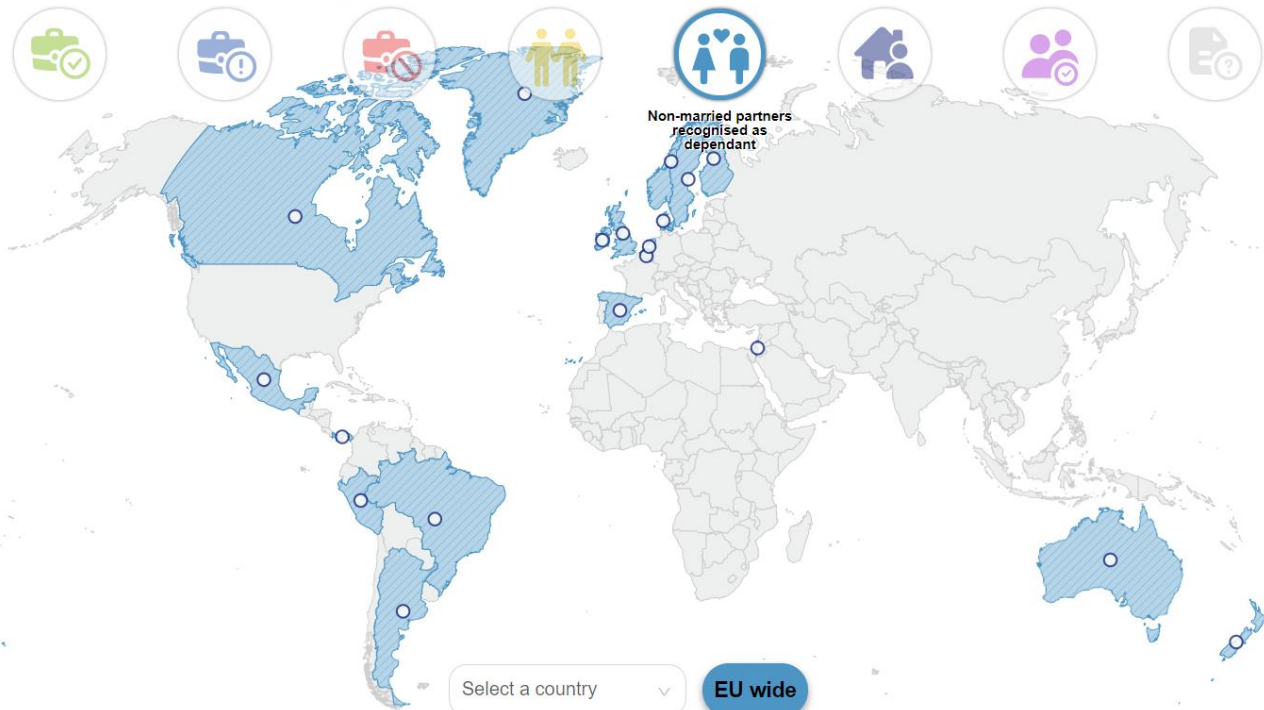
Same-sex spouse or partner recognised as dependant

World map of mobile spouse and partner work authorisation



Non-married partners recognised as dependant

World map of mobile spouse and partner work authorisation



Highlights

Over 30 countries now allow spouses or partners to work for any employer or be self-employed

European Union

Member States allow recognised family members to work freely, under EU Blue Card (revised 2022) AND EU intra-corporate transfer (fully implemented 2019), or other national schemes.

- Partner recognition growing. Children of working age allowed to work too.
- Belgium and Ireland (CSEP Holders) added to “best practice” category 2019.

USA

Spouses of intra-company transfers & treaty traders (L/E visas), eligible for employment authorization incident to dependants status as of Nov. 2021. Proposal to rescind H4 EAD withdrawn in January 2021.

- Currently lengthy processing times for spousal employment access
- Same-sex marriage recognised; unmarried partners not yet recognised.

India

Spouses of Employment visa holders can apply locally for E visa. (1st step recognition.) Permits Foundation supported proposal for a specific ICT visa - implemented in 2018. Lobby on-going for ICT spouse direct work authorisation.

Brazil

Government decree on the legal status of foreigners effected in 2016 included clause that the partners of temporary work visa holders can work in Brazil.

Canada

From January 2023, (for next 2 years) eligibility to work in Canada extended to spouses, partners and working-age children of workers at all skill levels.



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Best practice model:

Spouse/partner has 'open' permission to work



Advantages

- Full access to employment market once resident visa or permit is issued.
- Facilitates temporary project work, self-employment.
- Reduced bureaucracy for the authorities.
- Helps employers fill urgent or temporary vacancies.
- Attractive destination for mobile families.
- Attractive investment climate for employers with highly skilled international staff.

Permits strategy

- Provide evidence, promote best practice, build on examples of success
- International organisation with impressive sponsor support base and local networks
- Show the global perspective
- Seek opportunity for change e.g. where immigration policy is in review
- Focus on countries that are:
 - important to business/international organisations
 - role models/trend setters in their region

Country plan development 2023

Organisations highlighted over 50 important business destinations where spouses/partners do not yet have 'open' permission to work (for all the key employee permits)

Top Priorities - Country Level

- China
- India
- Ireland
- Singapore
- South Africa
- USA

Multilateral Level:

- Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD),
- United Nations Global Compact on Migration and SDGs
- European Union: monitoring ICT Directive, EU Blue Card implementation in practice

Others:

Europe UK, France, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Austria

Russia

Americas

Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Asia

Japan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

Middle East

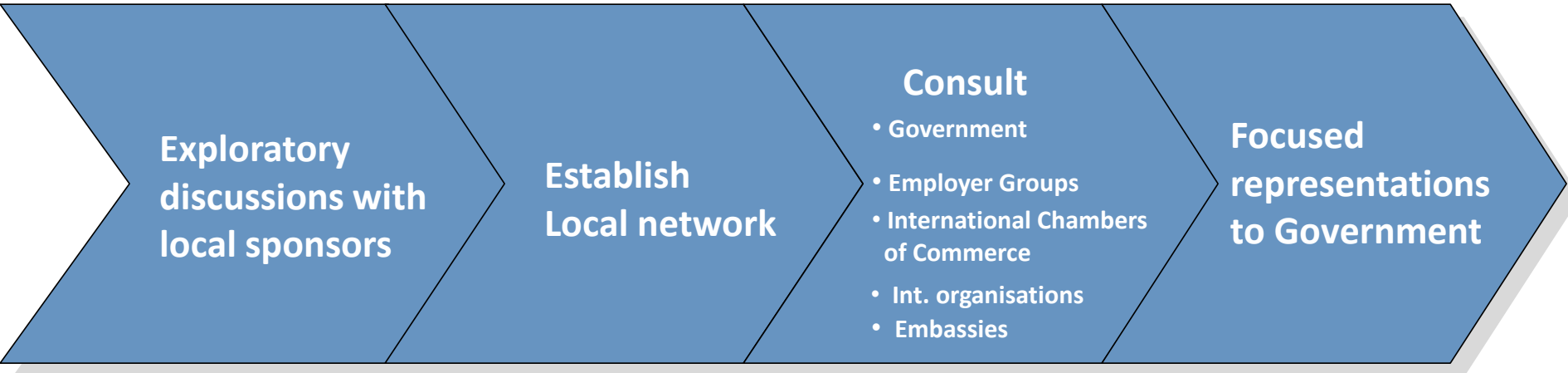
Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE

Africa

Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia.

Local networks / steering groups

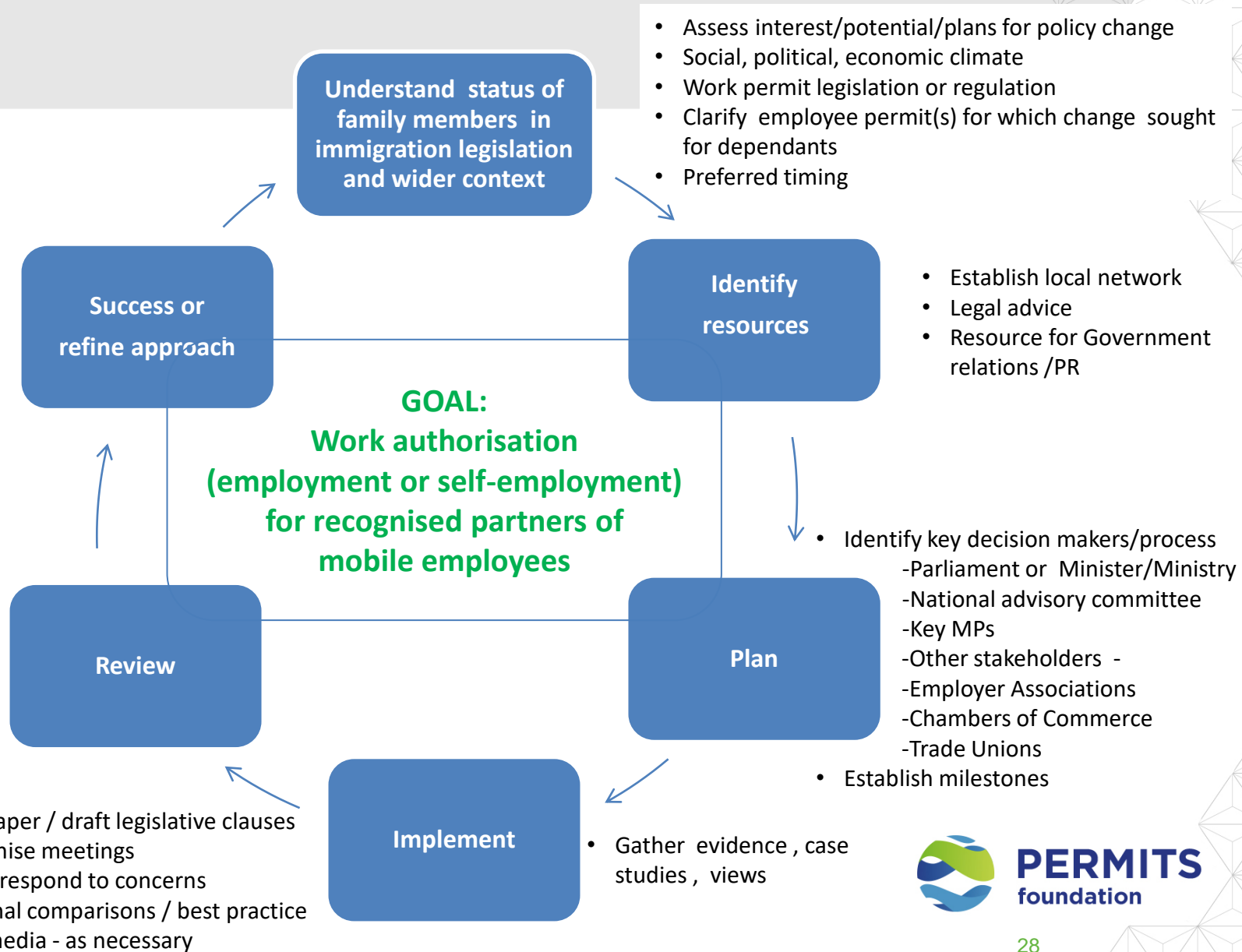
How we work on the ground



Visits and support by Permits Foundation

- international perspective, evidence from global surveys
- examples of best practice legislation in other countries
- experience of successful process in other countries
- contribution to network costs

Key steps in a local campaign



How to take part

Being a sponsor does not need a lot of your time

Become sponsor

- Annual recommended donation € 7,500
- Indicate priority countries → Country activity plan, key issues
- Nominate a focal point → We keep you up to date on progress via newsletter, country feedback, networking events, Conference

Use our resources

In your outreach e.g. to colleagues in DE&I/ briefing package for relocating families, make a link to our website, share our world map tool and survey findings, spread the news

Take part more actively

- Nominate board member or patron
- Share ideas and contacts, local “champions” and opinion leaders
- Help us plan and shape local lobby
- Take part in local networks (your local rep)

The business case for change

- 'triple win'

International employers

- Reduce cost of assignment refusal or early return
- Attract / retain mobile talent
- Show “we care” social responsibility and contribute to DE&I
- Enhance HR brand

Host countries

- Attractive climate for skills, talent
- Supports trade & investment
- Helps integration
- Enhance country brand

Mobile families

- Partner works - maintains and develops skills
- Easier to return to work in home country
- Enables dual income - increasingly a necessity
- Mobile family, motivated, happy, work/life balance

Our values support

- International mobility
- Equal opportunity, inclusion and diversity
- People of all nationalities

Visit www.permitsfoundation.com

➤ Follow us on Twitter @permitslobby and LinkedIn

- Resources for HR staff, families and governments
- Evidence for policy makers
- Country info on work authorisation for spouse/partner/family members
- Links to work permit regulations
- Links to dual career resources
- Latest news
- Discussion groups

WELCOME TO PERMITS FOUNDATION

We are an independent, not-for-profit organisation campaigning globally to improve work permit regulations so that partners of international employees may directly access employment while in the country.

Since our start-up in 2001, we have been progressively successful in influencing change throughout European Union, as well as in the USA, Asia (India, Japan, Hong Kong) and Latin America (Brazil and Peru). **Over 30 countries** now allow accompanying spouses or partners to work. We continue to promote best practice and monitor legislative improvements in all these countries, as well as setting up new projects (for example, in South Africa and China) in our global campaign.

Our surveys show that governments that allow partners to work attract highly skilled employees associated with international business, investment and development; creating a 'triple win' for host countries, employers and families alike.



HOST COUNTRIES:
"Family members should be allowed to work throughout the assignment. This will make the EU more attractive to highly skilled foreign workers and improve equality in our society."



EMPLOYERS:
"Convincing governments to relax work permit regulations for partners will help to attract the best international employees. That's good for families, good for business and good for host countries."



FAMILIES:
"It's important to have choice to work. Even if I decided to focus on my spouse's career, it is very important for us not to neglect my own career."
— Expat partner, Permits Foundation Global Survey

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