

# Strengthening the Chance Card: Streamlining bureaucracy and introducing incentives to boost skilled labour immigration

### Objective

Facilitating migration through an enhanced opportunity card to attract qualified professionals effectively

#### Implementation in Canada 📥

- The points system aims to attract highly qualified immigrants who meet the needs of the Canadian labour market
- Division into key categories such as language proficiency, education, work experience, and adaptability, with additional points for various factors such as family relationships, French language proficiency, and nominations by provinces
- Regular adjustments to accommodate changing labour market

#### **Outcome of Canadas measures**

- Global model for immigration policy since the introduction in 1967
- The points-based system attracts skilled immigrants, with 58% selected through the system
- Challenge in recognizing foreign qualifications, influenced by federalism and varying standards across provinces in Canada

#### Germany's status

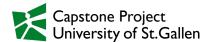
- Opportunity card introduced with
  "Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz 2023" which utilizes a points
  system to grant a one-year permit based on language skills, work
  experience, age, and ties to Germany
- Critics: **Bureaucratic hurdles**, limited appeal due to **temporary permits**, and missing alignment of criteria with employers' needs

## Policy recommendations for Germany

- Reduced bureaucracy for the opportunity card, aim to enhance its attractiveness
- Facilitate recognition of foreign qualifications to better address industry-specific demands

#### **Possible Scenario**

- **Objective:** Achieve a 30% annual increase in individuals entering the country via opportunity card compared to the forecast
- Impact: Nearly 100'000 immigrating workers per year
- Costs: Most costs in this initiative arise from implementing a digital system to expedite the recognition process, with overall expenses estimated in the low eight-figure range



# Background information about: Facilitating skilled labour migration through an enhanced opportunity card to attract qualified professionals effectively

Object	Additional information
Implemen tation in Canada	<ul> <li>The Canadian points system is recognized as a successful best practice in immigration</li> <li>The system goes beyond technical job market requirements, emphasizing the skills and motivation for successful integration into Canadian society</li> <li>Clear categories and regularly updated criteria ensure flexibility and responsiveness to changing labour market needs</li> <li>The system reflects a holistic approach to immigration policy, measuring success and integration for both short-term and long-term positive impacts</li> </ul>
Outcome	<ul> <li>The Canadian points-based system has made Canada one of the most preferred destinations for skilled immigrants</li> <li>The system contributes to Canada's economic development by attracting highly qualified professionals who drive innovation and growth</li> <li>In 2019, 341,000 immigrants were admitted to Canada, with 58% selected based on their skills and experiences aligning with the needs of the Canadian labour market</li> <li>Canada boasts one of the highest per capita immigration rates globally due to the success of the points system</li> </ul>
Germany 's status	<ul> <li>The German "Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz 2023" introduces the opportunity card, an alternative pathway for skilled workers from non-EU states</li> <li>Eligibility for the opportunity card involves a points-based evaluation, considering factors such as proficiency in German and English, work experience, age, and personal connection to Germany</li> <li>Successful candidates receive a one-year residency to actively search for employment in Germany</li> <li>Bureaucratic requirements for qualification validation pose challenges to the practicality and appeal of the opportunity card</li> <li>The application process for the opportunity card can be lengthy and challenging, potentially making opportunity cards from other countries more appealing to potential skilled professionals seeking immigration</li> </ul>



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Object	Additional information
Policy recomme ndations for Germany	<ul> <li>Germany needs to streamline and reduce bureaucratic hurdles in the immigration process to enhance its attractiveness to skilled professionals</li> <li>Like Canada, Germany should explore the possibility of offering a permanent residence permit to certain opportunity card applicants, making the process more appealing</li> <li>Implementing a highly modern system for recognizing professional qualifications can enhance the effectiveness of opportunity cards, aligning them better with the needs of companies</li> <li>The system should be refined to ensure more precise and effective distribution of opportunity cards, considering the specific demand for skilled workers in various industries</li> <li>Aligning the opportunity card system with the demand for skilled workers in specific industries can provide a more targeted and effective solution</li> </ul>
Possible scenario	<ul> <li>Germany aims to attract 75,000 immigrants annually through the revised "Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz" using the opportunity card</li> <li>A realistic goal for enhancing attractiveness could result in a 30% increase, leading to 97,500 skilled professional immigrants, equivalent to an additional 22,500</li> <li>Costs are challenging to precisely define due to various levers involved in the transition. Estimates suggest that reducing bureaucratic efforts and implementing a detailed examination of chance card applications for issuing permanent residency permits could incur expenditures in the low eight-figure range</li> </ul>