


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 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The points system aims to attract highly qualified immigrants who meet the needs of the Canadian labour marketDivision 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 provincesRegular adjustments to accommodate changing labour market
Outcome of Canadas measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Global model for immigration policy since the introduction in 1967The points-based system attracts skilled immigrants, with 58% selected through the systemChallenge in recognizing foreign qualifications, influenced by federalism and varying standards across provinces in Canada

Germany's status
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 GermanyCritics: Bureaucratic hurdles, limited appeal due to temporary permits, and missing alignment of criteria with employers' needs
Policy recommendations for Germany
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduced bureaucracy for the opportunity card, aim to enhance its attractivenessFacilitate recognition of foreign qualifications to better address industry-specific demands
Possible Scenario
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Objective: Achieve a 30% annual increase in individuals entering the country via opportunity card compared to the forecastImpact: Nearly 100'000 immigrating workers per yearCosts: 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
Implementation in Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian points system is recognized as a successful best practice in immigration The system goes beyond technical job market requirements, emphasizing the skills and motivation for successful integration into Canadian society Clear categories and regularly updated criteria ensure flexibility and responsiveness to changing labour market needs The system reflects a holistic approach to immigration policy, measuring success and integration for both short-term and long-term positive impacts
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian points-based system has made Canada one of the most preferred destinations for skilled immigrants The system contributes to Canada's economic development by attracting highly qualified professionals who drive innovation and growth 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 Canada boasts one of the highest per capita immigration rates globally due to the success of the points system
Germany's status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The German "Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz 2023" introduces the opportunity card, an alternative pathway for skilled workers from non-EU states 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 Successful candidates receive a one-year residency to actively search for employment in Germany Bureaucratic requirements for qualification validation pose challenges to the practicality and appeal of the opportunity card 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

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Object	Additional information
Policy recommendations for Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany needs to streamline and reduce bureaucratic hurdles in the immigration process to enhance its attractiveness to skilled professionals Like Canada, Germany should explore the possibility of offering a permanent residence permit to certain opportunity card applicants, making the process more appealing Implementing a highly modern system for recognizing professional qualifications can enhance the effectiveness of opportunity cards, aligning them better with the needs of companies 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 Aligning the opportunity card system with the demand for skilled workers in specific industries can provide a more targeted and effective solution
Possible scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany aims to attract 75,000 immigrants annually through the revised "Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz" using the opportunity card 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 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