

Accelerating Refugee Integration? Evidence from Germany's Fast-Track Employment Initiative

Tuesday, 8 April, 14:00–15:15, RFBerlin Office at Gormannstraße 22, 10119 Berlin

The **RFBerlin Applied Economics Seminar** series, organized by the ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin, brings distinguished researchers in labor economics and applied microeconomics to Berlin to share their work and engage in discussion.

We warmly invite you to a **seminar with Moritz Marbach on 8 April**, where he will present his study "*Accelerating Refugee Integration? Evidence from Germany's Fast-Track Employment Initiative*"

Moritz Marbach

Associate Professor at UCL,
affiliated with the Immigration Policy Lab at
Stanford and ETH Zurich.



1:1 Sessions reservation via nuudel:

<https://nuudel.digitalcourage.de/36uJXFipWiLS3pJo>

Abstract

Governments around the world continue to face persistent challenges in integrating refugees into the labor market. This study examines the effects of the Job-Turbo, a large-scale labor market initiative launched by the German government in 2023 to accelerate the employment of refugees—primarily those from Ukraine and eight other major origin countries. Using monthly administrative panel data from Germany's nationwide network of local job centers and difference-in-differences estimators, we show that the Job-Turbo substantially increased both the frequency of caseworker-refugee interactions and monthly job placements. Among Ukrainian refugees, the program nearly doubled the exit-to-job rate, while other refugee groups experienced meaningful, though smaller, gains. These effects are broad-based across regions, age groups, skill levels, and local labor market conditions, and are concentrated in exits into regular, unsubsidized employment. We find limited evidence of resource reallocation or displacement effects among non-refugee job seekers, suggesting that the gains for refugees did not come at a significant cost to others. Our findings highlight the potential of intensified job search assistance – consistent with a hybrid approach that combines work-first and qualification-based strategies – to improve refugee labor market outcomes and offer a scalable model for integration policy in other high-income countries.