



ICT ENABLED PUBLIC SERVICES FOR MIGRATION

Project Newsletter (October - December 2020)

IMMERSE Platform Life Prototyping

Three week-long Live Prototyping (LP) sessions were conducted in the three pilot countries of the MIICT project: Cyprus, Italy and Spain. Due to the current global Covi-19 pandemic each of the LP sessions adopted a hybrid approach. This meant that some testing of the platform took place in-person at Covid-19 compliant venues whilst some testing took place virtually. Given the logistical constraints the rate of participation was commendable. A total of 71 participants took part in the Cypriot LP sessions where the in-person sessions were held at the offices of the Municipality of Engomi and the Caritas Migrant Center. In Italy, a total of 36 participants took part with the in-person sessions taking place at the Seneca Center in Bologna. As for the Spanish LP sessions, a total of 43 participants took part. The Spanish in-person sessions were held on the premises of the Faculty of Law (University of Granada). Initial feedbacks from the all of the sessions were encouraging and provided in-depth critique of the platform's functional and informational services, which are being used by technical partners of the MIICT project to modify the platform in time for the Sustained Service Delivery, which are scheduled to commence in early 2021.



MIICT Next steps: Sustained Service Delivery (SSD)

The MIICT has reached a phase in which the prototype systems – the **IMMERSE platform** – will soon be tested in an operational environment. The aim is to test together with the relevant stakeholders (migrants, NGOs, service providers and public authorities) whether the system works properly. The next main station of MIICT will be Sustained Service Delivery (SSD) workshops. SSD is mainly about creating plans and drafting suggestions, facilitating the work of consortium partners in Spain, Italy, and Cyprus – who will run in practice all the activities. Naturally, and unfortunately, COVID-19 is affecting many aspects of our everyday life, including the SSD, as it is still uncertain as to how many activities can be implemented in-person, and how many need to be organised online. For that reason, MIICT Consortium partners are working to ensure that all of the procedures followed during the SSD phase will be stress-tested and smoothly delivered, aligned with any relevant legal, ethical and privacy requirements.



Joint Migration Policy Roundtable

Six EU funded projects - **MIICT, REBUILD, NADINE, MICADO, EASYRIGHTS and WELCOME** - under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, organized a **Joint Migration Policy Roundtable** from October 14-16, 2020, to reflect on the future of migrant integration inside the EU, through the development of ICT-enabled solutions and toolkits.



More than 200 individuals in total participated during the 3-day roundtable, stemming from key representatives by each of the projects' Consortia, along with the responsible project officers from the Research Executive Academy, the Expert and Advisory Boards and representatives from the European Commission participated in this 3-day event. During the three days, participants had the chance to discuss with experts of the field – researchers, academics, CSOs and public authorities representatives, legal and IT experts – around the 3 key synergy pillars: the ICT component (1st day of the Roundtable), the co-creation approach (2nd day of the Roundtable) and the role of public authorities and policy makers in the delivery of digital public services to the migrants (3rd day of the Roundtable).

The outcomes of the discussions formed the basis for inputs to the recent public consultation as well as for a consolidated Whitepaper by the 6 EU projects, which is provided to the EC as a strategical input for shaping future migration policy in the EU.

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New Pact on Migration and Asylum and EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion (2021-2027)

On September 23, 2020, the **European Commission**, realizing the complexity of the issues of migration and asylum, launched the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) to better tackle the overburdened asylum systems across the EU, human rights violations and heightened political tensions resulting from the 2015-2016 refugee crisis. The cornerstones of the document are effective management of Schengen and the external borders, effective solidarity, skills and talent, strong international cooperation and partnership, flexibility and resilience, stronger trust through better and more effective procedures. The Pact is envisaged to set the tone for a more unified approach and improved cooperation between the EU Members about migration management challenges. It embraces the notions of proportionate responsibility and solidarity among Members as crucial for a successful common policy on migrant integration, asylum procedures and border management. The Pact builds on the 2016 proposals for reform through which the European Commission had set its goal to improve the Common European Asylum System and introduces new proposals. The Pact also envisions strengthened governance and interoperability of IT systems, as well as the setting up of an expert group which will take migrants' view into consideration on EU migration policies.” Reactions to the Pact from several Member States according to publicly available information by stakeholders and media can be found in our [blog post](#)

Further to the New Pact, the [EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion \(2021-2027\)](#) emphasizes the importance of committing joint efforts to achieve better integration and inclusion into the EU of migrants and individuals with a migrant background, together with the better recognition of their skills and capabilities, as well as dedicated EU funding to achieve these aims. This need for further and more effective action is especially pressing now, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the priorities of the current Action Plan, which is inclusive digitalization of public services, is also an end goal of the MIICT project. Through its Inclusivity Handbook and the development of the **IMMERSE Platform**, built on the principles of co-design and co-creation. MIICT has engaged directly both migrants and public service providers, actively working to bridge the digital divide and make public services inclusive, unbiased, human-centric, easily accessible and adaptive to individual needs through the help of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

MIICT Project at Nicosia Risk Forum 2020



Nicosia Risk Forum took place virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, on the 26th of November 2020.

The forum is an innovative event in regard to the South-Eastern Europe area, which brings together academic, industrial, policy, governmental and other societal stakeholders with a substantial interest in societal safety. This year's theme of Nicosia Risk Forum focused on “Regional Collaboration in Societal Safety”, having also the COVID-19 pandemic and its severe worldwide implications on focus. MIICT project was fully presented by ADDITESS LTD, with information about the aim and objectives as well as the utilization of future outcomes to have been also demonstrated

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