



ICT ENABLED PUBLIC SERVICES FOR MIGRATION

Project Newsletter (January - March 2021)

Uptake of the Whitepaper Policy Recommendations

The Joint Migration Policy Whitepaper “Towards ICT-Enabled Integration of Migrants”, is a result of the Joint Migration Policy Roundtable that took place in the form of an online webinar over a three-day period between 14th - 16th October, 2020. Six EU-funded projects ([MIICT](#), [REBUILD](#), [NADINE](#), [MICADO](#), [EASYRIGHTS](#) and [WELCOME](#)) took part, all pursuing the common goal of developing ICT-enabled solutions and toolkits for the implementation of inclusion policies for migrants and refugees by public administrations and the civil society.



The whitepaper has its foundation in the common priorities between the projects, identified during the Roundtable, which subsequently served to define the specific recommendations within the whitepaper and, where possible, it takes into consideration MIICT findings and research outcomes.

The Policy Whitepaper has been welcomed and promoted by the European Commission as an important strategical input for improving integration and shaping future migration policy ([Link](#)).

Start of the Sustained Service Delivery phase: First results from Spain – FUNDEA



The SSD phase in Spain started on 3rd February 2021. The first SSD Start Up Meeting activities went very well and boasted a high participation rate with a total of 22 volunteers & workers from Red Cross Granada who actively participated as personnel in this online session. The presentation ran smoothly and there was a high level of participation. At the end of the session participants expressed a very high level of interest on the IMMERSE platform and they were really looking forward on proactively using it.

A very interesting debate on the functionalities of the IMMERSE platform was held. Some of the users gave some ideas that were found extremely valuable such as introducing self-employment information or introducing guidelines/tutorials on how to draft a Curriculum Vitae. Currently, participants are answering the questionnaire and they are uploading contents so that migrants will be able to conveniently test the platform during the second half of February. In that regard, by the end of the month Service Providers and Migrants will also participate in ad hoc Start Up meeting sessions.

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Legal and Ethical Considerations



End-users can feel safe to use the IMMERSE Platform as the MIICT project has ensured that it complies with all legal and ethical provisions. This includes a comprehensive data protection impact assessment (DPIA), which was conducted prior to the Live Prototyping (LP) and re-evaluated for the Sustained Service Delivery (SSD).

Additionally, a Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment and an Ethical Impact Assessment were carried out for the SSD phase. The former evaluates whether there are any risks to the fundamental human rights of end-users, while the latter looks into whether the crucial ethical principles for Trustworthy AI are followed.

Last but not least, an Internal Admin Policy for the Platform administrators was created to ensure that the appropriate internal risk assessment and response mechanisms are in place so that undesirable adverse effects of the IMMERSE Platform, as identified and reported by the end-users, are addressed.

Further literature: Assessment List for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (ALTAI) for self assessment by the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, set up by the European Commission ([Link](#)).

COVID-19 and migration to the EU

The Covid-19 pandemic has decreased the number of irregular border crossings to its lowest percentage in the last 6 years and has witnessed a 33% decrease in asylum applications in 2020 in comparison with 2019.

However, major regional variations have been detected. Certain countries, such as Italy, Malta and Spain, have experienced an increase in irregular arrivals, mostly due to a worsened economic situation in their countries of origin. The situation has been further triggered due to the pandemic, which also (combined with other factors) caused decreasing remittances.

Against this background, the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, has urged EU countries towards continuous improvement of their migration management systems and assumption of joint responsibility on matters, related to migration, especially in the current situation.

For further reading, please see: European Commission, 'Migration statistics update: the impact of COVID-19', 29 January 2021 ([Link](#))

For a general overview on migration to Europe, see the migration-statistics page by the European Commission ([Link](#))

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