Agenda

European Migration Network (EMN)-OECD Roundtable on Digitalisation and AI in Migration Management

10 February 2022, 9:30 –13:00 CET

Centre Albert Borschette, Brussels

Online (webex)

As the world is rapidly becoming more digitalised, policymakers are turning to digital systems and innovative technologies to better support policy-planning, implementation and situational awareness in migration management. The European Digital Strategy fosters the digital transformation of public services in the EU,[1] stressing the importance of a society powered by digital solutions. Digital technologies can be useful, for example, to support asylum, legal migration and return procedures. The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum[2] and the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] emphasise the importance of digitalisation and data management and place specific emphasis on early warning and forecasting of migration flows. From forecasting migration patterns, using video conferencing to conduct remote interviews, providing services using chatbots, and supporting identification processes, policymakers and public services have made wide use of smart digital services. At the same time, safeguarding privacy and ethical standards remains a critical challenge to meet as technology develops. It is widely agreed that AI and digital technologies cannot replace the human factor in decision-making processes, particularly in sensitive and important decisions such as on applications for asylum. These technologies are being used in a supportive manner to help make more accurate, coordinated, and efficient decisions. Blockchains, that allow for a secure transfer of information through a decentralised database structure, which are increasingly viewed as the technology of the future, may offer solutions for these specific challenges in the coordination and security of information transfers.

The **EMN-OECD Roundtable on Digitalisation and AI in Migration Management** builds on new approaches and key outcomes highlighted in past EMN events.[4] In the soon to be released joint EMN-OECD publication on the '**Use of digitalisation and AI in migration management'**, we will bring together different perspectives and will showcase innovative practices in the field of migration policies. The EMN-OECD Roundtable builds on lessons learned from previous migration-related crises that became catalysts for innovation, such as the high-migration flows in 2015/16, challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the crisis in Afghanistan. The Roundtable seeks to stimulate discussion on innovative developments in the field of migration management, with presentations on forward-looking research from practitioners working directly on the development of AI and digital technologies. Finally, the event aims to increase

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[1] European Commission, Shaping Europe's Digital Future (2020), https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication-shaping-europes-digital-future-feb2020_en_4.pdf, last accessed on 16 November 2021.
[2] Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, COM(2020) 609 final, https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/new-pact-migration-and-asylum_en, last accessed on 9 November 2021.
[3] European Commission, Results and Indicators for Development: Digitalisation (2021), https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/results-and-indicators/digitalisation, last accessed on 23 November 2021.
[4] Events hosted by EMN Austria in September 2020, and conferences hosted by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union trio of Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia

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participant awareness of technological innovation in migration management, enhance understanding, and stimulate discussion on future and contemporary tools, including any correlated opportunities and challenges.

The Roundtable brings together European and international stakeholders working in the migration field. The event is open to a wide range of audiences, including policy makers, practitioners, civil society, NGOs, academia, and private sector experts in digitalisation and AI technologies such as migration-oriented start-ups using AI and blockchain technologies. Those who are looking to understand applications of digital systems, AI and blockchain in the field of migration from a non-technical perspective are very welcome to join. The event is planned in a hybrid format; up to 37 participants are welcome to attend in person on invitation, including panellists and moderators.

AGENDA
Moderator of event: Rafael Bärlund, EMN Finland

09:30 – 09:40	**Welcome remarks and introduction** **Mr. Magnus Ovilius**, Head of Sector European Migration Network DG HOME, European Commission.
09:40 – 10:00	**Keynote speech** *The keynote speech lays the ground for discussion about the increased use of technology like artificial intelligence in the migration space. It embeds its opportunities and challenges in a wider socio-technological context that should guide innovators and regulators alike.* **Ms. Jessica Bither,** Senior Expert Migration, Robert Bosch Stiftung and **Ms. Astrid Ziebarth,** Senior Fellow Tech and Society, German Marshall Fund.
10:00 – 11:15	**Panel 1: Digitalisation in migration decision-making processes (in Europe and globally)** *The first panel provides a comprehensive overview of the major findings from the EMN-OECD inform on the use of digitalisation and AI in migration management. Speakers focus on the main policy challenges and on possible innovative technological solutions. Furthermore, the panel discusses opportunities and challenges in the use of digital systems in migration and migration management by providing case study examples on digitalisation in the areas of asylum, citizenship, residence, and return.* **Panel Moderator:** Mr. Rafael Bärlund, EMN Finland ▪ **Which technologies are currently being used and where? Findings from EU Member States, OECD Member Countries and Georgia** – Ms. Anne Sheridan, EMN Ireland and Mr. Jonathan Chaloff, Senior Policy Analyst, International Migration Division, OECD. ▪ **Citizenship and residence: Challenges and solutions to implement E-Gov in the citizenship applications** – Mr. Stavros Piotopoulos, Head of Statistics and IIS Management Department, Hellenic Ministry of Interior. ▪ **Digitalising identification processes in Ukraine** – Mr. Mstyslav Banik, Head of Development of Digital Public Services, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine. Q&A
11:15 – 11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30 – 12:45	**Panel 2: Fostering governance and collaboration in migration management: Is blockchain a solution?** *The second panel focuses first on good practices identified in the application of blockchain in migration management to ensure privacy and ethical standards. It then focuses on how*

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the protection of fundamental rights and ethical standards can be maintained and further developed following digital transformation.

Panel Moderator: Mr. Adolfo Sommarribas, EMN Luxembourg.

- **Challenges and solutions to digital identity and blockchain in migration management for a citizen-centered approach** – Mr. Alexandre Amard, Doctoral Researcher, University of Luxembourg.
- **Considerations made during the implementation of new technologies and the limits of digitalisation: Can we guarantee fundamental rights?** – Dr. Joanna Bryson, Professor of Ethics and Technology, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin.
- **NGO perspectives on the use of blockchain based digital platforms to solve identity crisis** – Mr. Mohammad Noor, co-founder of Rohingya Project.
- **Viewpoints on digital identity initiatives** – Ms. Christine Leong, Global Lead, Blockchain Identity and Biometrics, Accenture.

Q&A
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Closing remarks

Mr. Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head of the International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD
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