



RETHINKING MIGRATION:

ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR INNO- VATION IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

A Conference
of EMN Estonia:
Overview and
Conclusions

Introduction

As trends and patterns of global migration are changing, countries around the world are seeking out innovative ways to manage migration better and to balance the needs of labour markets in ageing societies with long-term goals of social cohesion, social security and humanitarian concerns. Innovative solutions are thus receiving increasing attention across the European Union Member States and are seen as essential for addressing these new challenges and concerns in the field of migration and asylum.

In 2021, European Migration Network launched a series of Informs on Innovation in Migration. In view of the dynamic nature of the migration policy landscape and in the context of the new Pact on Migration

and Asylum¹, this series explores existing trends, innovative methods and approaches in migration management and will be used as a basis for further policy reflection at EU level. These informs explore four areas of interest: new pathways, new technologies, new narratives, and new governance solutions. EMN Estonia's National Conference² in 2022 built upon EMN's research on innovation in the field of migration and the findings of the first two themes³: the creation of innovative migratory pathways and the adoption of new technologies to address the changing realities of migration and asylum. The conference had two sessions: innovative policies and innovative tools. This briefing paper summarises the main messages and takeaways from both sessions.

1 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/newpact-migration-and-asylum_en

2 EMN Estonia Conference was a hybrid event taking place at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences in Tallinn and online via interactive Worksup environment on 27 January 2022. Video recording of the conference is available on EMN Estonia's website: <https://www.emn.ee/en/event/rethinkingmigration/>

3 European Migration Network (2021) Exploring legal pathways to fulfil labour needs: EMN Inform. Brussels: European Migration Network; European Migration Network (2022), The use of digitalisation and artificial intelligence in migration management: Joint EMN-OECD Inform. Brussels: European Migration Network

Key Takeaways

- Innovative migration policies are not just about regulating human cross-border flows but are also used to enhance international relations and business competitiveness.
- There is growing interest in different mobility partnerships. Compared to previous bilateral agreements in the field of labour migration and mobility, these partnerships tend to emphasise the need for comprehensive dialogue and cooperation with partner countries.
- Alongside partnership initiatives, countries are introducing new visa products (e.g. digital nomad visa) to address changing labour market circumstances and needs.
- EU agencies, MSs and third countries are all exploring ways in which new technologies could be used to improve asylum and migration management, motivated to do so by fluctuating and increasing migration flows and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Many countries and organisations are particularly interested in exploring the ways in which Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions could be used to improve migration management.
- The adoption of new technologies is shaped by different barriers and enablers as well as ethical and fundamental rights considerations and regulations.

Session I: Innovative policies

The first session of the conference explored innovative policies in the field of migration, specifically the introduction of different mobility partnerships and other innovative pathways to create a “triple-win situation” for countries of origin, destination, and the migrants themselves. Most countries are looking into possibilities of introducing alternative pathways primarily to fulfil labour needs. Europe’s longstanding concerns over an ageing population and shrinking workforce, alongside skills mismatch, have in recent years become only more critical and an increasing number of policymakers acknowledge that migration must play at least some role in alleviating these problems.

The new Pact on Migration and Asylum⁴ frames developing legal pathways as an important instrument not only in the context of labour migration, skills matching and addressing labour shortages, but also in their potential to contribute to reducing irregular migration. The Pact outlines the concept of **Talent Partnerships** as one possible solution and a ‘form of an enhanced commitment to support legal migration and mobility with key partners.’

Claudia Antonelli (European Commission) presented the European Commission’s vision for such partnerships, stressing that talent partnerships at their core aim to provide a comprehensive EU policy framework to better match labour and skills needs in the EU, boost mutually beneficial mobility as well as being part of the EU’s wider toolbox for engaging partner countries strategically on migration. Talent partnerships are intended to be ‘tailor-made’ and designed via comprehensive dialogues between partner countries to meet their needs. Consequently, talent partnerships may be temporary or

⁴ 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/newpact-migration-and-asylum_en

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EMN ESTONIA
**RETHINKING MIGRATION:
 Addressing the Need for Innovation in the
 Field of Migration and Asylum**

27 January 2022 10.00 – 15.00 (EET)
 Estonian Academy of Security Sciences and Worksup

EMN European Migration Network ESTONIA Co-funded by the European Union

also long-term and circular in nature, focus on specific sectors, skills, or, instead, target specific migrant groups. The final decision lies with national authorities.

Talent Partnerships’ initiative was officially launched in June 2021, but it builds upon prior experience. In 2018, the Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF) was mandated by DG HOME to support a series of pilot projects aiming to test modalities of cooperation in legal migration between EU Member States and priority countries. Pilot projects implemented in the framework of the *EU Pilot Projects on Legal Migration* included also Digital Explorers and Young Generation as Change Agents (YGCA) discussed later in the Session.

Although fully-fledged talent partnerships should seek to move beyond project-based approach, they should retain a degree of adaptability. Not only should each talent partnership be ‘tailor-made’ from the outset to meet involved countries’ needs, but **Claudia Antonelli** stressed the importance of addressing real labour market needs and supplies in all partner countries as they change in time and to continue improving the talent partnerships through sustained comprehensive dialogues between partner countries to manage expectations for everyone involved.

While talent partnerships are a new EU-wide approach, Member States have pursued different types of mobility partnerships on their own with third countries for a while now. **Veronika Vasileva** (ICF) presented the findings of two EMN informs on new legal pathways and partnerships to fulfil labour needs in the EU⁵ and noted that most of the Member States have initiatives in place aimed at labour migration, mobility, and skills development. Yet such initiatives are defined broadly and vary in form, modality, and types of stakeholder involvement across Member States. What seems to be a growing trend, however, is the importance assigned to avoiding brain drain and pursuing partnerships that create mutual benefits for both the destination state and the country of origin.

In her presentation, **Veronika Vasileva** focused specifically on increasingly popular **Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs)** in EMN member countries: currently these

⁵ European Migration Network (2021) Exploring legal pathways to fulfil labour needs: EMN Inform. Brussels: European Migration Network; European Migration Network (2022) Skills Mobility Partnerships: Exploring Innovative Approaches to Labour Migration, EMN-OECD Inform. Brussels: European Migration Network



are in use in 9 MSs⁶, but other countries are exploring possibilities to introduce them. SMPs are a relatively new concept promoting a sustainable approach to skilled migration and mobility with the idea of building skills both for the benefit of countries of origin and destination. SMPs typically include the following five components: (1) formalised State cooperation, (2) multi-stakeholder involvement (3) training, (4) skills recognition, (5) migration/mobility.⁷

One of the more active countries in this sphere has been Spain. **Gladys Roy Chicharro** (Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of Spain/EMN Spain) shared the Spanish experiences with different mobility partnerships. For Spain, such partnerships serve a multitude of objectives: (1) the creation of legal pathways (to work or enhance skills); (2) address labour shortage gaps; but also, and perhaps most importantly, (3) to enhance cooperation with third countries in the migration field. The launch of such schemes promotes good relations with partner countries, which in turn paves way for more regular and orderly migration in the future. Not only to Spain, but to Europe.

This has been a particularly important motivation when pursuing projects with Morocco, who is one of the main migrant sending

⁶ AT, BE, BG, FR, DE, IE, LU, ES, NL

⁷ International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Skills Mobility Partnerships, Available at: <https://eea.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1666/files/documents/Skills-Mobility-Partnerships-Infosheet.pdf>

The existing SMPs and closely associated initiatives in Europe can be broadly divided into 3 categories:

- Formal bilateral agreements with third countries on labour market access.
- Partnerships concerning mobility of graduates for the purpose of study of circular mobility of young professionals.
- Partnership programmes and projects to promote mobility of workers from specific nationalities in certain occupations.

countries both for Spain and the European Union more broadly. In recent years, Spain and Morocco have carried out different mobility partnership pilot projects, including YGCA and WAFIRA.



The “Young Generation as Change Agents” (YGCA) project is a legal circular migration scheme between Spain and Morocco for Moroccan university students. During the pilot project, 100 young Moroccan graduates received funding to complete a one-year Master’s degree in Spain. The aim of the partnership was not to keep the talent in Spain and to further contribute to brain drain from Morocco, but to help the country to develop its human capital and to strengthen relations with Morocco in the process. During the project, special steps were taken to ensure that the students’ acquired knowledge was put into practice once they were back in Morocco, especially through entrepreneurship. Students had to draft a business idea during their studies and when they returned to Morocco, this business idea was assessed and students with the best ideas were awarded 10 000 euros of seed capital and given a chance to receive intensive training from Start-up Maroc to launch their own businesses.

Another mobility partnership pilot project launched by Spain with Morocco was “Women As Financially Independent Rural Actors” (WAFIRA). This project grew out of a broader mobility scheme for collective management of hiring in countries of origin, **GECCO** (Gestión Colectiva de las Contrataciones en Origen), which Spain uses to facil-

itate the mobility of seasonal agricultural workers. WAFIRA seeks to maximise the development impact of circular migration between Morocco and Spain – through the sustainable socio-economic reintegration of female Moroccan seasonal workers participating in GECCO. WAFIRA will provide them with the necessary skills during their stay in Spain (entrepreneurship, soft skills and hands-on practical trainings) and financial means to launch their own income generating activities and/or cooperatives upon return to their rural communities of origin in Morocco.

Mobility partnerships are also gaining ground in other parts of Europe. Digital Explorers is a temporary legal labour migration scheme that brings young ICT specialists from Nigeria to Lithuania. **Manté Makuškaitė**, Co-Founder of AfriKo, the leading partner organisation involved in the project, noted that by providing Nigerian ICT specialists with career advancement opportunities through advanced digital skills training and employment or traineeship in Lithuanian ICT companies, as well as support for returning participants in re-establishing themselves back in Nigeria, the program contributes to digital economy development on both sides. Between 2019-2021, Digital Explorers project piloted two different tracks to mobility (see Figure 1).

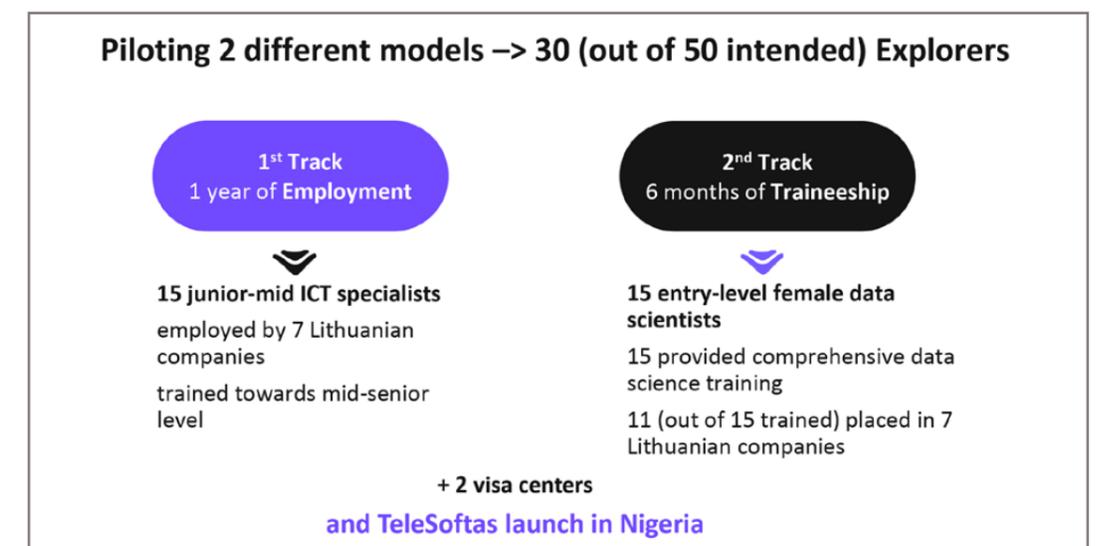


Figure 1. Two different pathways piloted as part of Digital Explorers project

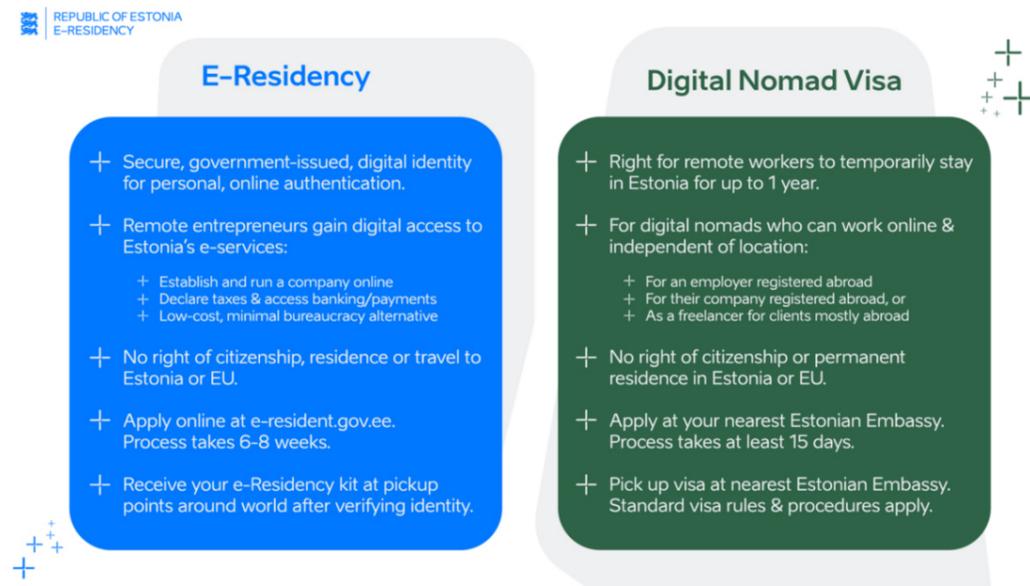


Figure 2. Key elements of e-Residency and Digital Nomad Visa

Similarly to most other mobility partnerships, Digital Explorers project was also divided into different stages: (1) Creating a match (selecting the participants); (2) helping the match to be perfect (through cultural brokerage and workplace support activities); and (3) making it easy to (not) say goodbye. The latter differentiates this project, for instance, from the Spanish initiatives as the aim here is not necessarily to encourage return - if both the company and the foreign worker wish to continue cooperation, the partners involved in the project also consult them on how to do that.

The initial plan was to facilitate the mobility of 50 explorers, but in the end there were 30 participants. This was partly due to the challenges with matching individuals with the companies. Ms Makauskaitė stressed that there is no silver bullet to this issue as companies have different motivations and circumstances, which means that matching the foreign worker with a suitable company can be very challenging. This was made more challenging as ICT companies in Nigeria and Lithuania can have very different expectations regarding employees' skills: Lithuanian companies often expect their employees to be generalists, while the

Nigerian ICT sector companies encourage specialisation. Despite the challenges, the interest in project was significant both in Africa and Europe, which is why the possibility of renewing this and even expanding into other Baltic countries is being currently discussed.

While there is growing interest in different types of mobility partnerships across Europe, innovative policies in the field of migration and mobility go beyond them. Good examples here can be found from Estonia itself: digital nomad visa and e-residency program. These innovative pathways of mobility emerged out of the general digital society developments that have been a priority for Estonia for decades.

Digital Nomad Visa allows remote workers to live in Estonia and legally work for their employer or their own company registered abroad. **Maren Krimmer** (e-Residency program of Estonia) noted that while Estonia was the first country in the world to launch it, then in some ways it was not necessarily 'innovative', but 'reactionary' policy-making. Remote work had become increasingly common already before the Covid-19 pandemic, yet digital nomads and

E-residents by citizenship

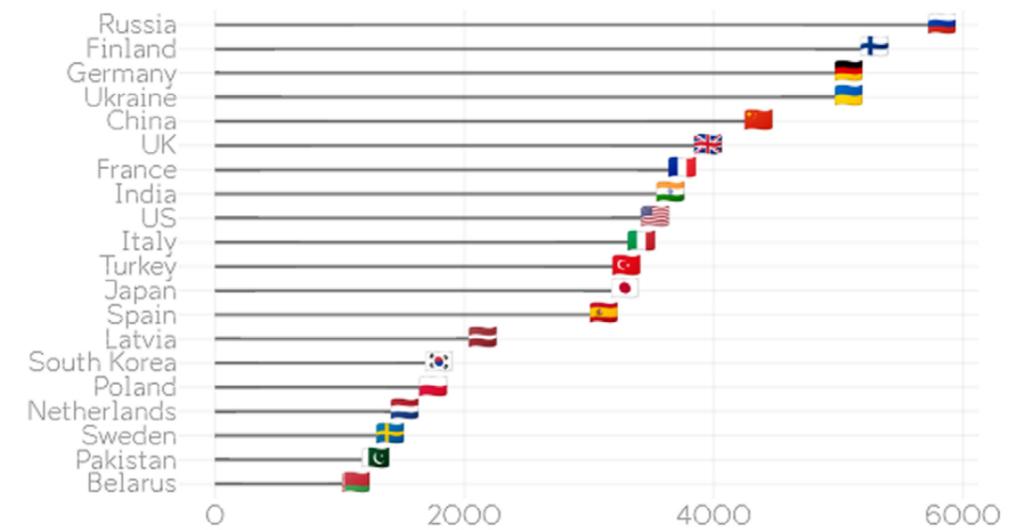


Figure 3. E-residents by citizenship as of January 2022

remote workers often faced ambiguity when working while they travel, often skirting the law by working while visiting a country with a tourist visa. Digital nomad visa was created to create a legal framework for practices that were already widespread and normalised yet deemed illegal in the eyes of Migration Law.

Digital Nomad Visa program is complemented by the older **e-Residency program**, which was not originally intended to be a migration pathway, yet with increasing international mobility and remote work provides the necessary infrastructure for foreign entrepreneurs to relocate their companies to Estonia. E-resident entrepreneurs from all over the world can start an EU-based company and manage business from anywhere, entirely online and benefitting from Estonia's e-services. The aim of e-residency program has been to attract business activities and entrepreneurial individuals to Estonia. To date, Estonia has welcomed nearly 90,000 e-residents who have established around 20,000 new companies and in 2021 Estonia got over 12,000 new e-residents, which is similar to the number of babies born in Estonia the same year.

Session II: Innovative tools

The second session of the conference focused on the possibilities of using digitalisation and AI in migration management. Alongside policy innovations, there have been significant changes in the tools used in migration management. The use of new technologies has been growing substantially over the last decades, altering nearly every sphere of human life, including migration and asylum management.

The unprecedented inflows of migrants coming into Europe in 2015 and its aftermath encouraged many Member States invest in digitalising their operations in migration and asylum management. The global Covid-19 pandemic further accelerated the speed of digital transformations in the field of migration and asylum globally. In the context of extensive global lockdowns and social distancing, Immigration and Asylum offices in Member States had to provide their services by using and optimizing pre-existing IT tools or by introducing new systems.

RESEARCH STUDY - SELECTED USE CASES

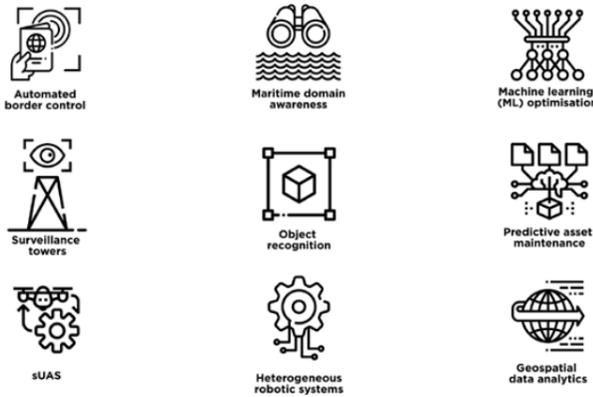


Figure 4. AI-based use cases studied by Frontex for feasibility and impact

GENERAL INFLUENCING FACTORS FOR AI ADOPTION



Figure 5. General influencing factors for AI adoption

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one area that has attracted increasing interest from law enforcement and border security agencies in relation to enhancing existing capabilities to address border security challenges. According to **Darek Saunders** (Frontex), this prompted Frontex to carry out a large-scale study to determine feasible AI-based use cases and capabilities for the European Border and Coast Guard. The focus in the study was on nine tangible use cases⁸ (see

⁸ Frontex (2021) Artificial Intelligence-based capabilities for the European Border and Coast Guard. Final Report. Frontex – European Border and Coast Guard Agency: Warsaw. Available here: https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Research/Frontex_AI_Research_

Figure 4).

All these use cases were assessed for ‘feasibility of implementation’ and ‘expected impact’. Highest feasibility was linked to ‘predictive asset management’, partly as it had been in the market for the longest, but the expected impact was believed to be highest with the ‘heterogeneous robotic systems’. More important for Frontex, however, was the combined effect of ‘feasibility of implementation’ and ‘expected impact’, where the highest results were achieved by ‘maritime domain awareness’, ‘object recognition’ and ‘automated border control’. As part of the research, technology adoption roadmaps for different use cases were created, considering different factors influencing AI adoption (see Figure 5).

While ethical considerations, the protection of human rights and different regulations are often framed as the main barrier to the adoption of new technologies and AI-based solutions, then Darek Saunders argued that in many ways they act, instead, as enablers. Clear regulations from governments often make it much easier to develop new products and capabilities that can be used in the field, because then AI experts can focus on developing the best product and are not expected to pass judgment also on ethical and human rights considerations. Therefore, he believes that the European Commission’s proposed AI regulation can make AI adoption in the future easier and not more challenging.

[Study_2020_final_report.pdf](#)

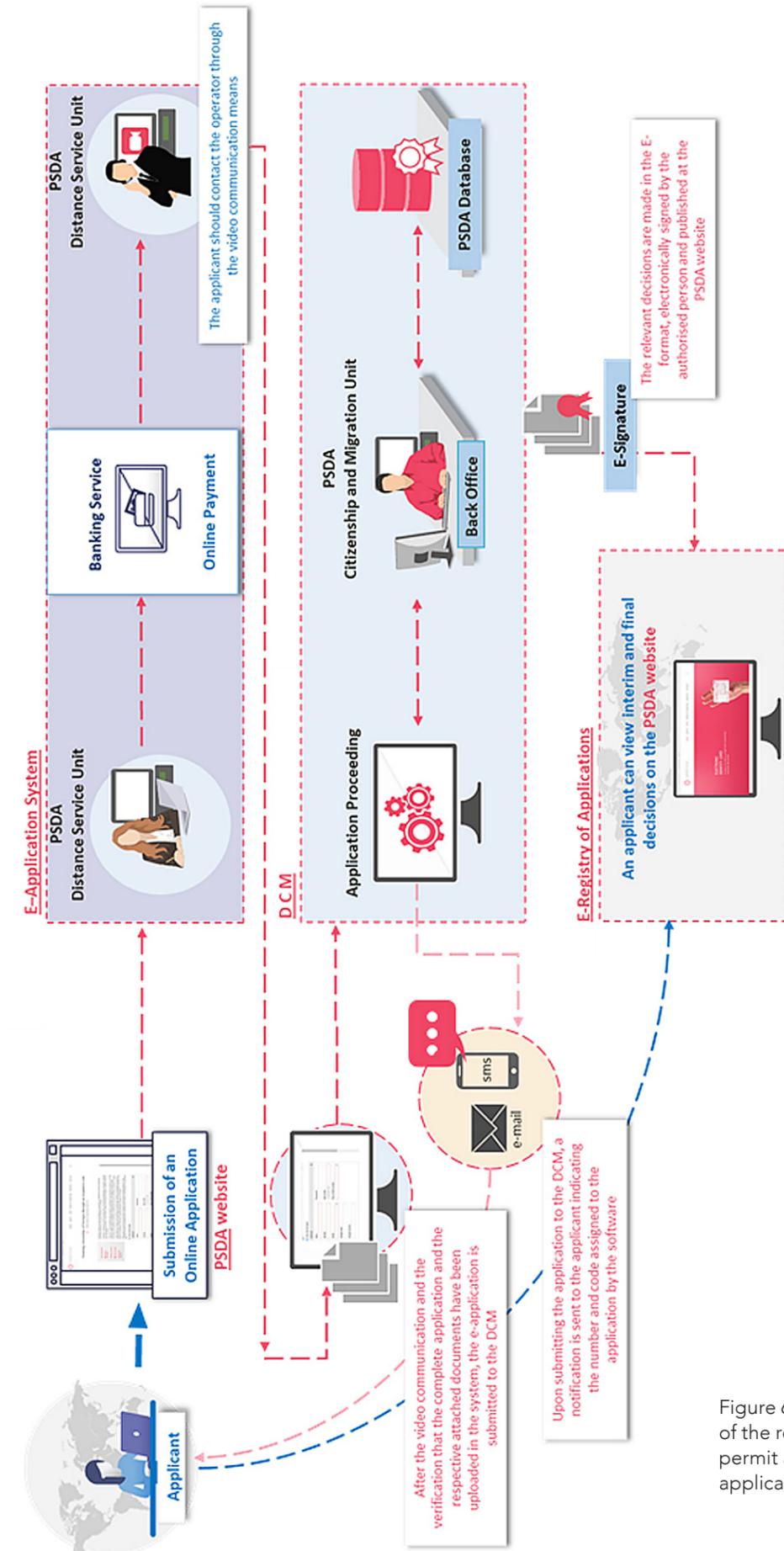


Figure 6. E-administration of the residence permit and citizenship applications in Georgia

Despite several benefits it may bring to border security and definite plans to integrate to the day-to-day work of the European Border and Coast Guard, Mr Saunders stressed that **AI is not a solution to all challenges** – sometimes there are easier solutions that can and should be utilised first. AI should be seen simply as one of many tools for strengthening border security on EU's external borders, not the end goal.

Different AI-based solutions and other new technologies are being actively developed and adopted in different EU Member States. Adolfo Sommarribas (University of Luxembourg/EMN Luxembourg) presented the preliminary findings of the EMN-OECD inform on AI and digitalisation⁹ that explored the role of new digital technologies in the management of migration and asylum in EMN and OECD member countries. The inform focuses on three main thematic areas: digitalisation, blockchain and artificial intelligence in migration management. The publication also addresses the implications of using these types of technologies on fundamental rights.

The inform highlighted that countries have increased their use of digital technology in the migration and asylum areas in recent years, motivated to do so by fluctuating and increasing migration flows and the COVID-19 pandemic. Today most EU Member States and Georgia make use of online systems to support application processes for residence permits and citizenship. Such systems are mostly used to allow applicants to make an appointment online with relevant authorities. Yet nearly half of EU Member States and Georgia (see Figure 6) offer more sophisticated digital services, such as lodging online applications and tracking progress remotely. Overall, more countries use digital systems to manage residence permit applications than citizenship applications.

⁹ European Migration Network (2022). The use of digitalisation and artificial intelligence in migration management: Joint EMN-OECD Inform. Brussels: European Migration Network.

Three EU Member States – Estonia, Germany and Portugal – currently use blockchain technology for migration management. In these Member States, blockchain technology is used to enable exchanges of highly sensitive information, to connect different services and systems, and to improve information flows between authorities involved in migration management. Interest in implementing this technology is also high in other countries.

AI-based solutions are currently being used or tested for migration management in six EU Member States: Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and the Netherlands. It is used for the purpose of language identification and assessment; for identity fraud detection purposes; for case management; and for interacting with clients. Yet there is a lot of interest in expanding capabilities in this sphere and ten EMN member countries reported on specific pilot projects and planned initiatives using AI for chatbots, migration forecasting, tracing documentary fraud and other activities.

While agreeing that clear regulations are important facilitators of adoption when it comes to all new technologies, Mr Sommarribas noted that the continuous protection of fundamental rights needs to be on the forefront even with centralised regulations. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in its 2020 report on artificial intelligence and fundamental rights, identified several fundamental rights in addition to data protection and privacy which may be affected by the use of AI, such as human dignity, equality and non-discrimination, access to justice and the right to good administration. These threats often derive from programming biases (i.e., biases included unconsciously in the algorithms developed that may lead to unequal treatment) and digital divide (in the case of migration management, migrants do not always have the same access to technology and their digital literacy may be low) among other factors. Due to these limitations, it is important to continuously monitor and evaluate the outcomes of

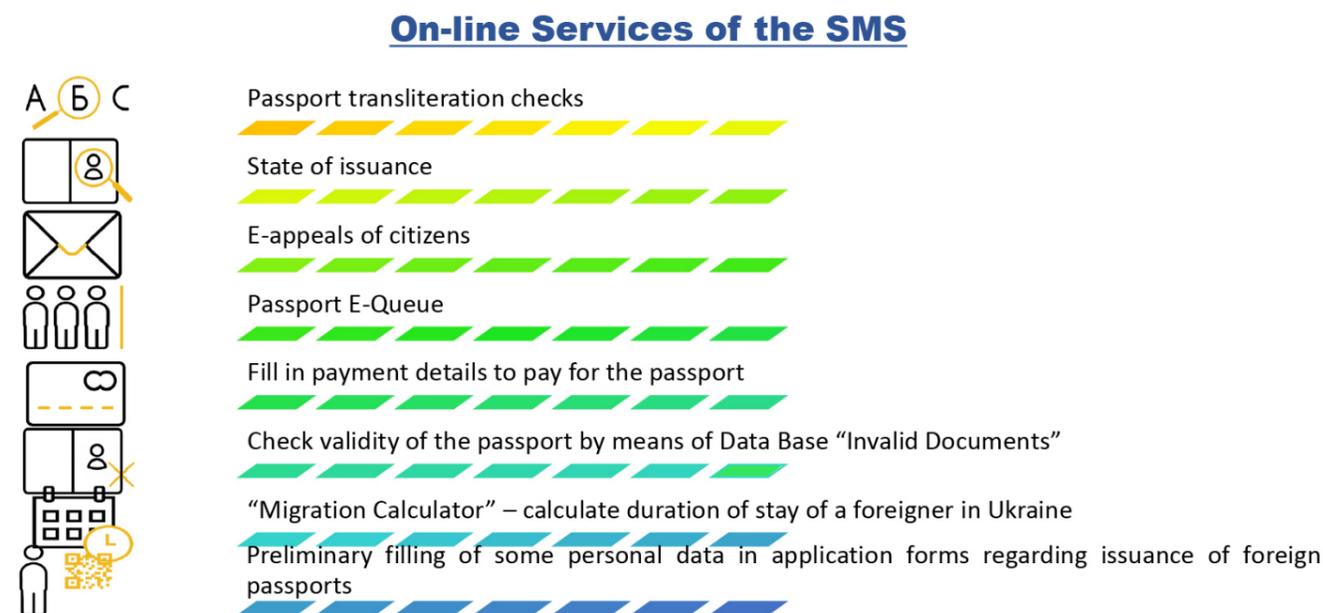


Figure 7. Online services offered by the State Migration Service of Ukraine

digital solutions, build in correction mechanisms and maintain a high level of human control and awareness, as well as a human redress mechanism.

Several innovations in Member States were linked to the use of AI-based technologies for language identification and assessment. **Jānis Reiniks** (Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of Latvia) explained how an AI-based automatic speech recognition tool is being used in the citizenship procedure to verify knowledge and language proficiency. One part of the citizenship test requires applicants to perform Latvia's national anthem either in written form or, using the tool, vocally. The system was developed as a free self-check e-tool for citizenship applicants and it went live in July 2021. It has been accessed more than 27.3k times since it was launched.

The Tilde Speech Recognition System there transforms spoken Latvian from a pre-recorded audio/video file into text. The system is developed by focusing on two components: speech and acoustic models. The acoustic model transforms the audio signal into graphic signs, while the speech

model creates words and sentences, making sure that the sentences are reliable from a language point of view in the specific area.

Mr Reiniks noted that **AI training is a complex and time-consuming process** that is not possible without diverse high-quality data. A significant number of audio recordings (5 000 to 10 000 hours) is required to achieve a good result, because the system needs to learn to be able to handle different dialects, dictions, timbres and accents. Before launching the system, 130 audio recordings from non-native speakers were collected through a targeted campaign. Specific industry texts, terminology, dictionaries, etc. were used to train the speech model. To comprehensively develop this algorithm, text files containing at least 10-20 million words are required.

Major digitalisation efforts and the adoption of new technologies in the field of migration management is not, however, restricted to the EU and OECD countries. Ukraine has set digital transformation as a public sector wide policy priority, which has prompted the introduction of many new technologies and approaches also in migration and asylum

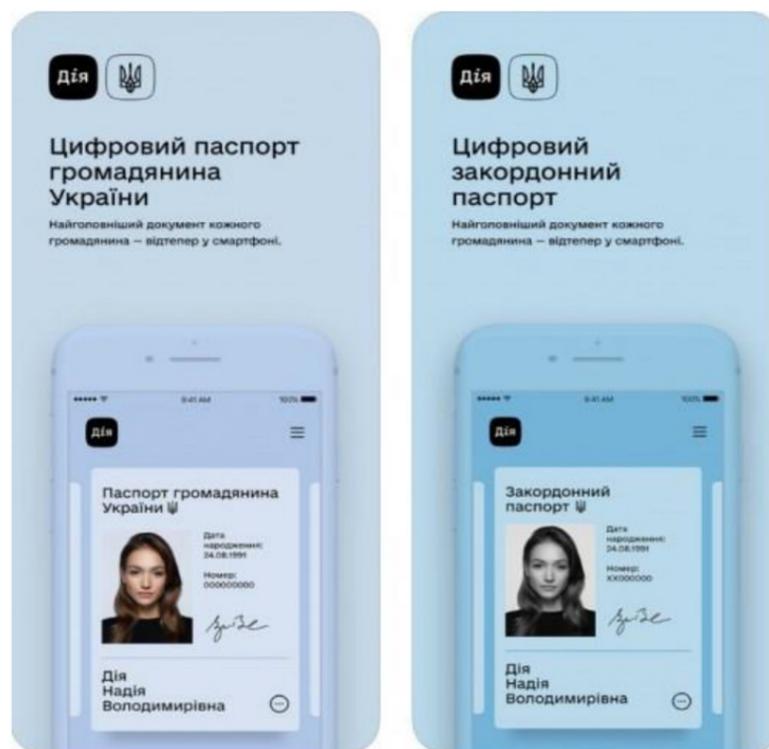


Figure 8. Diia app in Ukraine

management. According to **Ivan Dvoilenko** (State Migration Service of Ukraine), the country is currently in midst of a major migration sphere reform that among other things includes widespread digitalisation efforts, significant identification system reforms (including replacing previous identity documents with contactless biometric documents with digital signature capabilities) and increasing the availability of digital services (see Figure 7 for currently available services).

Diia is the largest-scale digital project in Ukraine today. Launched in 2020, the Diia app allows Ukrainian citizens to use digital documents in their smartphones instead of physical ones for identification and sharing purposes. The app forms unique QR-code that allows to verify authenticity of electronic document and use them to access different services. There are more than 3.6 million users of the Diia portal and over 50 government services are available online. The app allows individuals to access 9 digital documents (ID card, foreign biometric

passport, student card, driver's license, vehicle registration certificate, vehicle insurance policy, tax number, birth certificate, IDP certificate) and 12 services in total.

Another key actor shaping the digitalisation of Justice and Home Affairs policy area (including migration and asylum) in Europe is eu-LISA. The agency safeguards the EU's internal security and helps to improve the efficiency of migration and asylum management through EU large-scale IT systems (Eurodac, SIS, VIS, EES, ETIAS, ECRIS-TCN¹⁰) and their interoperability. These systems often act as an essential infrastructure for different EU-level and national digitalisation efforts.

¹⁰ Currently operating systems are European Asylum Dactyloscopy database (Eurodac), Schengen Information System (SIS) and Visa Information System (VIS). Currently under development are Entry/Exit System (EES), European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS) and European Criminal Records Information System – Third Country Nationals (ECRIS-TCN).

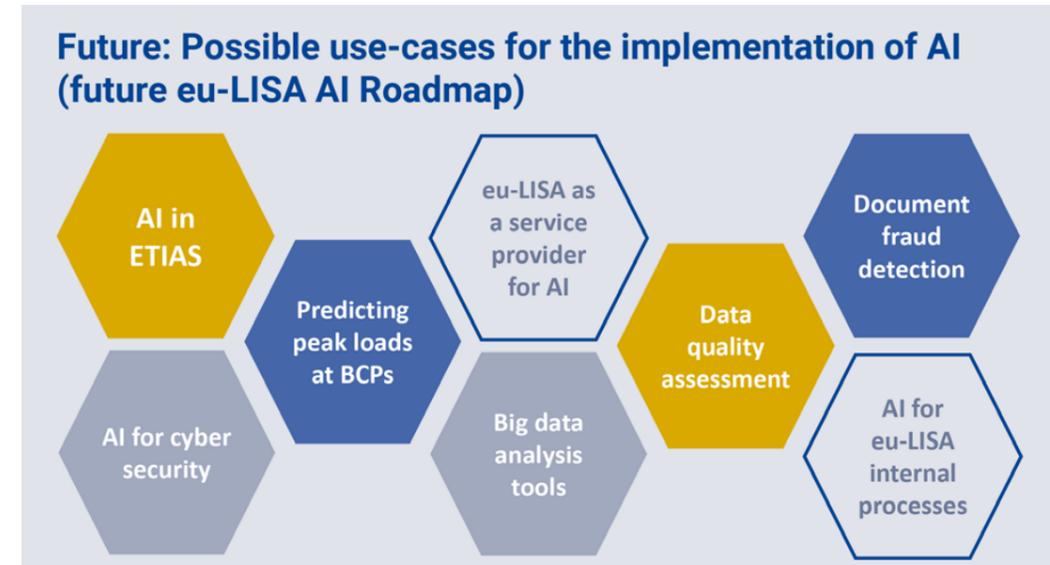


Figure 9. Possible use-cases for the implementation of AI at eu-LISA

In the coming years, eu-LISA continues to contribute through working towards application of new technologies in its systems, designing new tools (e.g. digital visa platform), implementing AI components in the systems in the future, and taking steps towards further standardisation and automation to support MS.

Currently eu-LISA is in the process of developing several new databases, which will contribute even further to more efficient asylum and migration management. Ave Poom (eu-LISA) focused in her presentation on EES (expected to go live in September 2022), ETIAS (planned for May 2023) and Interoperability (entry-into-operation in October 2023).

Entry/Exit System (EES) will electronically register the time and place of entry and exit of third country nationals and calculate the duration of their authorised stay. It will replace the obligation to stamp the passports of third country nationals – something has been the norm in international travel and migration for centuries! It will also make it easier to identify overstayers in Europe and provide the MSs with the information. Meanwhile the European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS) will be a pre-travel authorisation system for visa-ex-

empt travellers. Its key function is to verify whether a third country national meets entry requirements before travelling to the Schengen Area. This system will be operated by Frontex.

Ms Poom noted that one of the biggest projects at the eu-LISA is the development of interoperability of EU information systems. Systems interoperability will ensure information availability, improve the effectiveness of service delivery while reducing costs and ensure improved identity management across eu-LISA IT systems.

Similarly to other EU and national institutions, eu-LISA is also exploring new use cases for AI in the work of the agency and drafting a roadmap for its adoption (see Figure 9). AI possibilities are explored in a range of cases, but a lot of potential is being seen in the sphere of big data analysis tools. The agency has a significant amount of data available in the existing (and new) databases, which could be used to improve forecasting and analysis capabilities in all EU Member States. These developments would allow the agency further support national authorities in the constant exchange of information across Europe whilst applying the latest principles of data protection and information security.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:20 **Opening remarks**

- **Kristian Jaani**, Minister of the Interior of Estonia
- **Magnus Ovilius**, European Commission

10:20 – 12:00 **Session I: Innovative policies**

- **EU vision for the talent partnerships – Claudia Antonelli**, European Commission
- **Exploring new legal pathways and partnerships to fulfil labour needs in the EU – Veronika Vasileva**, EMN (ICF)
- **Innovative migration schemes as a tool to promote relations with non-EU countries – Gladys Roy Chicharro**, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of Spain
- **What can the Baltic States gain from talent partnerships: Digital Explorers Project – Mantė Makauskaitė**, Co-Founder of AfriKo
- **Other innovative pathways: Digital nomad visas and e-residency – Maren Krimmer**, e-Residency program of Estonia

13:00-14:40 **Session II: Innovative tools**

- **Artificial Intelligence and Border Security – Darek Saunders**, Frontex
- **Recent developments in the EU based on the EMN Inform on digitalisation – Adolfo Sommarribas**, EMN Luxembourg
- **Latvia's free self-check e-tool for citizenship applicants – Jānis Reiniks**, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of Latvia
- **Electronic services as a way to facilitate mobility and migration management: Ukraine's experience – Ivan Dvoilenko**, State Migration Service of Ukraine
- **Future outlook: improving the efficiency of migration and asylum management through EU large-scale IT systems and their interoperability – Ave Poom**, eu-LISA

14:40 – 15:00 **Closing remarks**

- **Barbara Orloff**, EMN Estonia



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The European Migration Network (EMN), established by the Council of the European Union in 2008 and coordinated by the European Commission, is a network for information collection and exchange on migration and asylum issues, comprised of National Contact Points and national networks of relevant stakeholder organisations. The EMN plays a key role in providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum topics to policy makers (at EU and Member State level) and the general public.

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