

# Digital transformation in migration

## EMN Annual Conference

Friday, 30 April 2021 – *Online* from Lisbon, 09.30-16.00 GMT  
+ 1 (Lisbon time)

Digital transformation transversally influences the whole programme of the trio of Presidencies of the EU Council (Germany, Portugal and Slovenia). In the management of migration, digital transformation is also omnipresent, and refers to the adoption of digital technology to transform services and processes, from the use of online application forms for asylum seekers, to automated decision support in asylum and return procedures. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is also becoming an increasingly important tool, for example in the fields of border management, as well as migration and asylum procedures. The European Commission's new Pact on Migration and Asylum gives Digital Transformation due attention, referring to the need for effective screening and efficient asylum procedures, alongside integrated and modern border management.

The closure of the EU's internal and external borders and borders all around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic has presented a setback to the ongoing processes of globalisation and the movement of people. This new reality has posed challenges in all areas of human life and has acted in some cases as a catalyst for the widespread use of new information and communication technologies. In the context of migration management, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the advantages of digitalised processes, while arguably accelerating the digital transition process already underway in some countries.

This virtual conference will bring together European and national stakeholders in the migration field, as well as experts in digital transformation and AI technologies to consider the risks and opportunities for more digitalisation of migration processes and the technologies envisaged for the future. The conference aims to provide participants with an overview of recent policy developments at EU and national level, as well as practical examples and lessons learnt from implementing digitalisation processes. The conference is an opportunity to learn about innovative examples of how digital tools can support migration management, including the use of AI and will also reflect on how to ensure proper digital safeguards and ethical standards are respected.

### AGENDA

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| 09.30 – 09.35 | <b>Introduction to the Conference</b><br><b>António Mateus</b> , Journalist – overall conference moderator |
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| 09.35 – 10.20 | <p><b>Opening speeches</b></p> <p><b>Eduardo Cabrita</b>, Portuguese Minister for Home Affairs – Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p><b>Ylva Johansson</b>, European Commissioner for Home Affairs (pre-recorded video message)</p> <p><b>António Vitorino</b>, Director General of IOM</p> <p><b>Angel Gurría</b>, Secretary General of OECD</p>   |
| 10.20 – 11.20 | <p><b>Panel discussion 1: Opportunities for digital technologies to improve migration management</b></p> <p>This session will explore the digitisation of migration management processes and the potential for creating interoperable data systems at national and EU level that can feed into management processes. It will consist of short presentations followed by an interactive panel discussion.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p><b>Ricardo Carrilho</b>, Deputy Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <p><b>José Barão</b>, Deputy National Director of SEF (Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service) – <i>SEF 360°</i></p> <p><b>André Vasconcelos</b>, Project Manager for ID.GOV, a leading innovation AMA (Portuguese Administrative Modernization Agency) project – <i>How to prepare nationally to international challenges?</i></p> <p><b>Remko van der Burght</b>, EMN Netherlands – <i>Presentation of national practice</i></p> |
| 11.20 – 11.30 | Coffee break   |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | <p><b>Panel discussion 2: Use of AI in migration management</b></p> <p>This session will explore the potential of AI to provide innovative solutions to migration management processes.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p><b>Ana Beduschi</b>, Associate Professor in Law, University of Exeter, UK</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <p><b>Bruno Pereira</b>, Director of the Official Publications Unit and <b>Prof. Carlos Gonçalves</b>, Researcher of INCM Lab and responsible for IA projects, The Portuguese Mint and Official Printing Office (INCM) – <i>IA at the service of the citizen for a better understanding of legal rights</i></p> <p><b>Zsuzsanna Felkai-Janssen</b>, Head of Sector for Migration (DG Home) and DG Coordinator for Artificial Intelligence European Commission - <i>New</i></p>   |

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|               | <p><i>technologies to manage migration and to support policy and decision-making</i></p> <p><b>Kausi Munsik</b>, Chief Technology Officer, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany – presentation of national practice</p> <p><b>Frank Laczko</b>, Director of IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), and <b>Marzia Rango</b>, Data Innovation and Capacity-Building Coordinator of IOM GMDAC - <i>AI and Migration Statistics: Risks and Opportunities</i></p>  |
| 12.30 – 13.45 | Lunch   |
| 13.45 – 14.45 | <p><b>Panel discussion 3: Risks and risk mitigation in managing digital migration processes</b></p> <p>Speakers will provide short interventions regarding the risks of digital migration processes and how to mitigate these. What safeguards have to be put in place to ensure fundamental rights principles and ethical standards?</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p><b>Petra Molnar</b>, Associate Director, Refugee Law Lab, York University</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <p><b>Bruno Fragoso</b>, Head of the Information Systems Department of SEF (Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service) – <i>Project Asylum 360°</i></p> <p><b>Ward Lutin</b>, Head of the Asylum Knowledge Centre of EASO – <i>Confidentiality, security, and data protection – key challenges of remote interviewing and digital case- management in asylum procedure</i></p> <p><b>Julia Behrens</b>, Project Manager - Asylum and Migration Technical Assistance &amp; Capacity Building, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights – <i>Ensuring privacy and safety of migrants in digital devices and procedures</i></p> |
| 14.45 – 15.45 | <p><b>Panel discussion 4: Lessons learnt and new practices following the Covid-19 pandemic</b></p> <p>Speakers will provide key insights from selected practices implemented in the EU as well as a look at lessons learnt from practices emerging outside the EU.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p><b>Magnus Ovilius</b>, Head of Agencies and Networks Coordination Sector and Chair of the EMN, DG HOME, European Commission</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <p><b>Anne Sheridan</b>, Senior Policy Officer, EMN Ireland, Economic and Social Research Institute, and <b>Adolfo Sommarribas</b>, Senior Legal Advisor, Coordinator of the EMN Platform on Statelessness and Legal Migration Expert, EMN Luxembourg, University of Luxembourg, <i>Impact of the Covid-</i></p>   |

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|               | <p><i>19 pandemic in the mobility of third-country nationals in the EU : challenges and good practices</i></p> <p><b>Jean-Christophe Dumont</b>, Head of the International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD – <i>Insights into lessons learnt and new practices from non-EU OECD countries</i></p> <p><b>Alvaro Belloio Avaria</b>, Head of the Department of Foreigners and Migration within the Ministry of Interior and Public Security of Chile, and Chair of the OECD Working Party on Migration, <i>Presentation of national practice</i></p> |
| 15.45 – 16.00 | <p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p><b>Luís Botelho Miguel</b>, National Director of SEF (Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service)</p>   |

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