

D9.3

Stakeholders Database & Report on planned engagement activities

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Abbreviations

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EMT	EUMigraTool
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
UB	Users Board
PWG	Policy Working Group
EAB	Expert Advisory Board

Executive Summary

Deliverable 9.3 sets out the methodology and tools put in place in order to reach a substantial stakeholder engagement in the ITFLOWS project. Describing the steps to follow, it sets out the plan for identifying relevant stakeholders, effective tools to reach these audiences and the monitoring mechanisms to evaluate the impact of stakeholder engagement.

From the outset, ITFLOWS partners have actively engaged with targeted stakeholders and they will continually work on this throughout the project's lifetime in order to ensure real impact. For this reason, ITFLOWS takes a proactive approach to stakeholder engagement and will work to actively reach out to relevant individuals and organisations within all four groups of stakeholders targeted.

ITFLOWS is keenly aware of the dynamic nature of the topics covered by the project's research. The methodology and database prepared in this task is therefore subject to changes and updates during the course of the project. For instance, focused updates will be presented in the periodic reports (months 18 and 36).

1. Introduction

ITFLOWS has been designed –already as from the proposal stage– to actively engage with targeted stakeholders to ensure real impact of the project. Stakeholder engagement is an intrinsic factor for the successful implementation of ITFLOWS.

In order to ensure effective stakeholder engagement, proactive steps and actions need to be carried out to reach out to relevant individuals and organisations within the four groups of stakeholders identified, as well as to ensure their active involvement and participation in the project.

One of the first steps is to build a thorough and comprehensive stakeholders database. This database will serve as the primary tool to identify key recipients of ITFLOWS' dissemination messages and will assist the consortium in matching and targeting key stakeholders with relevant project outputs of interest to them and/or to identify key stakeholders to engage with for certain activities.

This exercise will be done in two stages:

- (i) Mapping the contacts and suggestions of each of the partners, based on their affiliations and extensive networks (including participants of past projects on migration financed by EU research programmes); and
- (ii) Mapping, through desk research and contacts with the scientific advisory board, the possible associations, global and regional conferences and other communication channels that partners shall seek access to in order to promote ITFLOWS.

This internal database will remain confidential; it will serve solely for the purposes of the project and will not be published or shared outside the consortium.

The initial version of the database has been developed until month 6 (February 2021) and will then be constantly updated throughout the project's implementation.

Updates are expected to take place at the end of each project year (months 12, 24 and 36).

The main objective of this task is to:

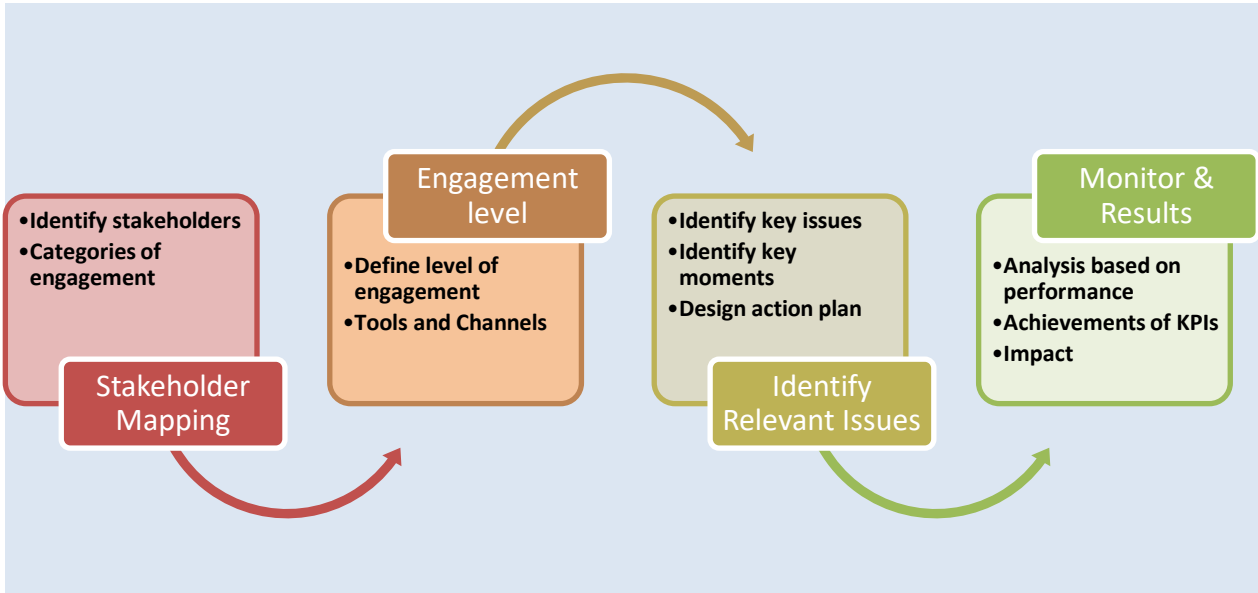
- **Raise awareness** among the key stakeholders (EU, national & local level) about the project and its objectives, its (expected) results and outputs, its benefits, use and applicability;
- **Build relationships with key stakeholders.**
 - To obtain the necessary feedback to tailor research in ITFLOWS to the needs in practice;
 - To foster collaboration with relevant stakeholders to share resources, achieve synergies and exchange information and knowledge.

In order to proactively engage with key stakeholders, we need to take into account the following points:

- **Who:** Identify our stakeholders, based on the main target groups of ITFLOWS and build up a consolidated, comprehensive and dynamic database;
- **What:** Set out a strategy for each target group of ITFLOWS, with flexibility to incorporate the needs and/or demands of each target group of ITFLOWS stakeholders for specific information about the project. It is important that they are regularly kept informed about the project and are aware of latest developments;
- **When:** It is important to assess the frequency of the flow of communication with the stakeholder groups to know when to provide them with useful outputs and when there is a need for engagement. It is important to take advantage of key and topical moments to engage with them. This could be related to concrete phases of the project (beginning, middle and end of the project), when new outputs are launched or need to be tested, when research findings are ready for dissemination, as well as to exchange reactions to latest policy/societal developments;
- **How:** ITFLOWS has already identified various tools, activities and materials suitable for engaging with our target groups, such as the project's website, newsletter and social media channels, as well as webinars, conferences, project publications and the EUMigraTool (EMT). These tools will be used to engage with stakeholders based on their needs and the level of engagement that we want with them. For instance, relevant stakeholders will participate

in and validate the three key outcomes of the project: (i) the models, (ii) the EMT and (iii) the policy recommendations.

Figure 1. Stakeholder Engagement Model



2. Stakeholder Mapping - Target audience

The ITFLOWS project aims to comprehensively target the most relevant stakeholders involved in the prediction and adequate management of migration flows and migrant integration in the European Union.

Such relevant stakeholders include national and international policymakers, the scientific community, legal practitioners in the field of migration, civil society actors and other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the field, specialist media as well as the private sector. ITFLOWS will centralize its contacts at national level, mainly in the countries of the partner's institutions, such as Greece, Italy, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania and United Kingdom.

ITFLOWS has identified -since the beginning of the project and indicated in the Grant Agreement- the following four key stakeholder groups:

1) Users Board

Selected practitioners participate in the design of the EMT and will validate this tool in real environments. The Users Board is composed of practitioners in the field of migration and asylum, including users from the ITFLOWS consortium as well as external users, organised according to three types of functions of such practitioners:

a) **First-line practitioners** such as civil society actors, NGOs and municipal institutions – cities - focused on disembarkation and first reception in the coastal territories. They will be the end-users of the “prediction interface” of the EMT, piloting the tool in selected territories. Predictions of migration and asylum flows will help them in identifying the resources, staff and equipment needed and organising themselves accordingly;

b) **Second-line reception practitioners** such as NGOs and institutions that will be testing the EMT. They will obtain predictions on, for example, how many of the migrants arriving in Member States will apply for asylum, to which Member States they are most likely to be relocated, in which places is support needed for the registration and assistance during the asylum

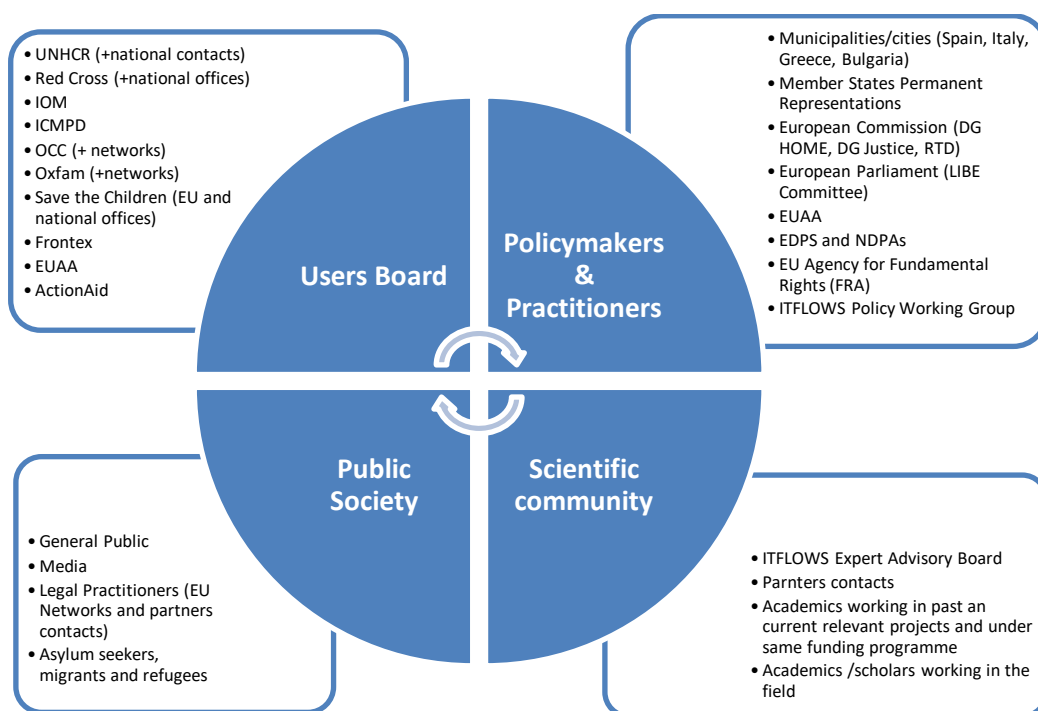
process, and other management actions to facilitate the process that asylum seekers and refugees have to go through;

c) Practitioners focused on integration of migrants, which will include NGOs, teachers, social workers, health care workers and local administrations. They will test and validate the EMT for the interface that will map valuable information of the different Member States (economy, labour market, available shelters, etc.). Identifying and mapping public attitudes and tensions will benefit practitioners focused on integration, as they will be able to spot risks of escalating tension between EU citizens and migrants during the integration process of migrants;

2) **Policymakers** at international, European and national/local levels that are responsible for creating policies and adopting laws in the field of migration. ITFLOWS will engage with policymakers throughout the lifetime of the project. Moreover, some of these policymakers are part of the Policy Working Group (PWG), whose role is to support ITFLOWS partners in drafting policy recommendations, to engage with other policymakers to identify key information needs, to identify gaps between knowledge and existing policy, and to validate reports and policy briefs resulting from ITFLOWS.

3) The **scientific community**, including researchers and scholars from different disciplines. They will benefit from the analyses conducted during the project and from the development of the dynamic, multi-causal models for engagement in predicting migration flows. The members of the ITFLOWS Expert Advisory Board (EAB) will also have an active role in the project by providing inputs and reviewing some of the ITFLOWS research findings, participating in the project's activities, providing venues for networking and disseminating the project's results. Furthermore, ITFLOWS organized an academic consultation seminar on 16 November 2021 with interdisciplinary scholars, going beyond the project advisory board, that have participated already in similar projects and studies on predicting migration. Their feedback on lessons learned will be relevant to be taken into account in the feasibility of ITFLOWS Tool.

4) **Public / European society at large.** The ITFLOWS website, consisting of an open access repository, provides useful information for creating awareness regarding the project and, more generally, on the field of migration, in an accessible manner. It also provides information on new developments and policies in the field of migration. Furthermore, the general public will also be approached (if subscribed) by the ITFLOWS Newsletter and will be able to engage and take part in public events.



To start identifying the needs and channels for engaging each of the different target groups, we can group them based on key stages of involvement. These stages would be at:

- a. Knowledge creation (pre-users);
- b. Academic engagement (lead-users);
- c. Dissemination and wider communication (end-users)

Table 1. List of Stakeholders

Target Groups	Profile	Reasons for engagement	Channels for engagement
Pre-users	✓ Actors involved in generating data sources relevant to the	These will be involved in the project as participants, as members of the Expert	• Scientific publications

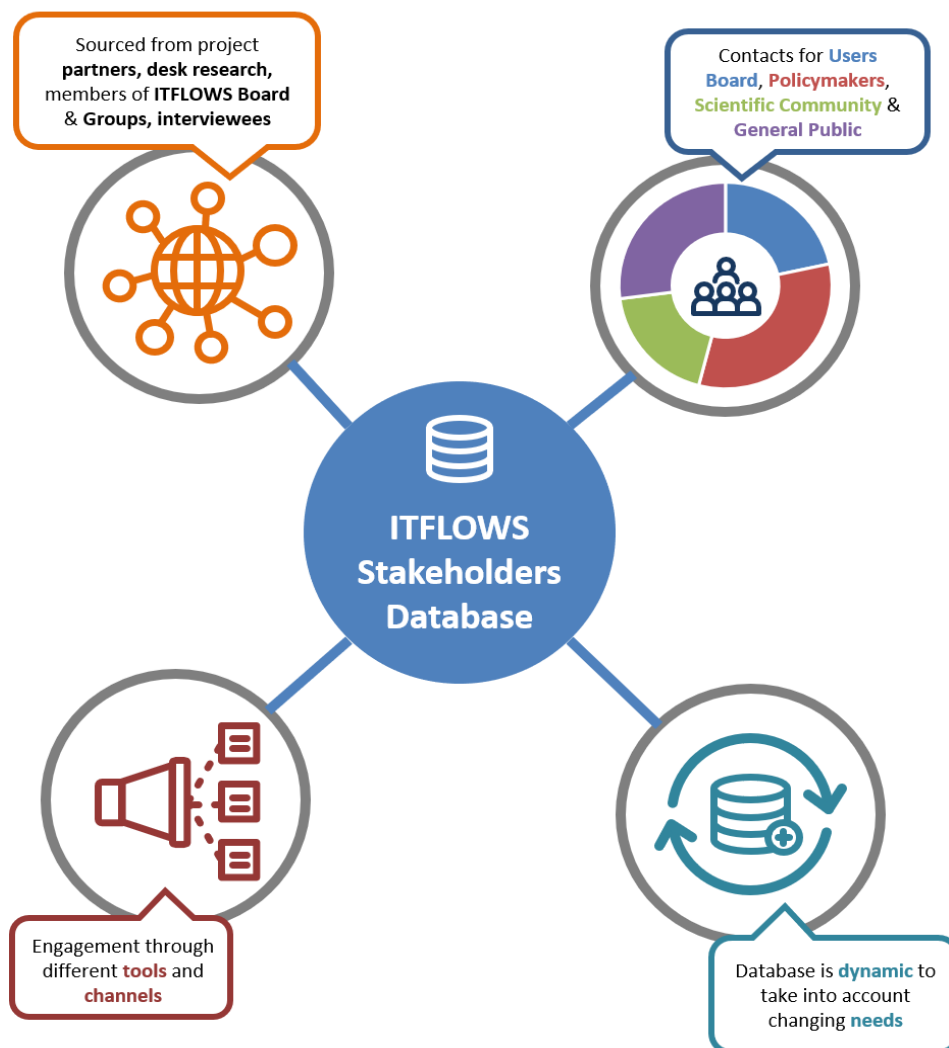
Target Groups	Profile	Reasons for engagement	Channels for engagement
	<p>projects' research domains</p>	<p>Advisory Board and Users Board (including civil society actors, international organisations, institutions, etc.), as participants in the workshops, focus groups and conferences to be organised, or as participants in surveys and interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repositories (e.g. Zenodo) • Emails • Interviews • Conferences • Call for papers • Focus Groups • Website • Twitter • Newsletter • LinkedIn
<p>Lead-users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scientific community that are directly interested to participate in ITFLOWS' research ✓ Broader scientific community within the EU ✓ Actors involved in fostering the ecosystem supporting the European Research Area 	<p>These users will be targeted by the ITFLOWS project in various ways: participation to our various academic initiatives, Call for papers; by involving them as peer review of key ITFLOWS academic publications; by providing comments on the EUMigraTool and by inviting them as discussants in the workshops, webinars and annual conferences that will be organised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific publications • Repositories (e.g. Zenodo) • Policy Briefs • Email • Calls for papers • Conference Calls • Workshops • Website • Twitter • Newsletter • LinkedIn
<p>End-users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EU and national policymakers and other actors in the implementation processes of the GCR ✓ European Commission DG RTD, Policy Officers ✓ Civil Society Organisations and International Organizations working on the ITFLOWS fields 	<p>These will be involved as end-users of the project's outputs, being able to directly benefit from the knowledge created and disseminated in the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific publications • Repositories (e.g. Zenodo) • Press Releases • Policy Briefs/Papers • Videos • Email • Website • Twitter • Newsletter

Target Groups	Profile	Reasons for engagement	Channels for engagement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Academic community, students and Think Tanks ✓ Legal practitioners in the field of migration ✓ Peers from other EU-funded projects (e.g. sister projects and related) ✓ Specialist media ✓ Private sector ✓ General Public 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferences • Focus Groups • LinkedIn

To ensure the wider reach of the target groups and to start identifying their needs and level of engagement, ITFLOWS is also building up an internal database, gathering the names and basic contact details (name, surname, organisation, position & email) of policymakers, practitioners, academics, representatives from NGOs, CSOs and agencies/institutions working directly on the areas of research covered by the project.

This database will remain confidential and solely accessible by the ITFLOWS partners. The contacts in the database will not be shared or published outside the consortium and will be used solely for the strict purposes of the project. Those contacts that express their consent to be kept informed and be part of the database (by registering online) will receive the Newsletter and information related to the project’s activities.

The database is currently composed by more than 900 entries, with 300 policy makers identified, 100 practitioners, 300 academics, 20 media representatives, and 180 representatives from NGOs and CSOs. The database will keep on growing and being updated during the course of the project.



Once the project is ended and no more work will be required in relation to the project, the gathered contact details will be deleted.

ITFLOWS partners would be able to consult the database for the purposes of identifying the most relevant actors to participate in events, provide peer-review or to be consulted.

The ITFLOWS Ethics Board will be contacted in order to make sure the all the provisions comply with data management and there are no ethical issues raised.

3. Engagement level and Awareness

3.1. Level of Engagement

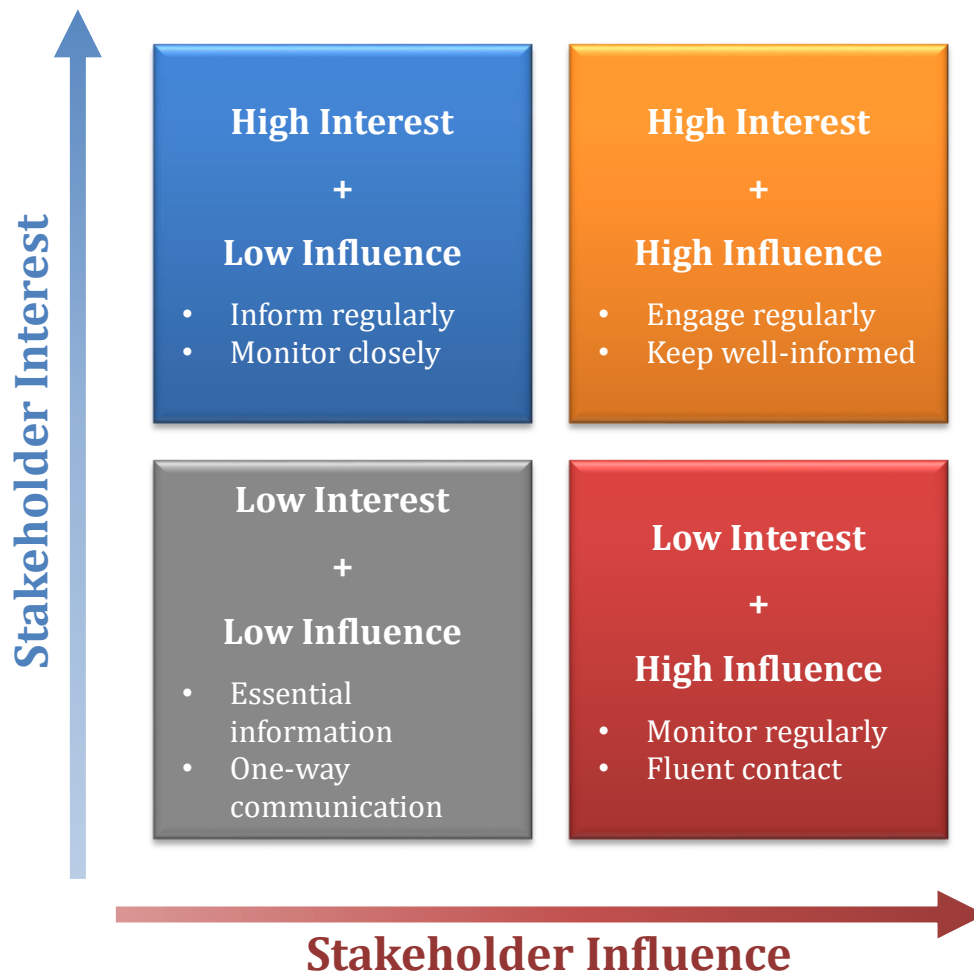
The tools identified in Table 1 above will assist in engaging with users in different ways. In particular, ITFLOWS events aim at involving all categories of **users** in the shaping and implementation of the project, whereas social media presence and newsletters are aimed at strengthening the **public** engagement and awareness dimensions of the ITFLOWS project.

In addition, thanks to the ITFLOWS consortium, consisting of universities with long-standing expertise in the topic of research, high-level academics, members of the Users Board and the Policy Working Group, the ITFLOWS partners will be able to interact and engage directly with our targeted end-users. The establishment of the various boards and groups within ITFLOWS has been a first step to engage these key groups in the overall development of the project.

To ensure an active and effective engagement of key stakeholders, it is important to identify their level of interest and influence based on their roles and position within the topics of study. Based on this identification, we will be able to provide stakeholders with targeted information on project's outcomes of interest and use to them as well as to publications and events of particular interest to them based on the type of audience, influence and impact.

This customisation will also serve to keep target audiences aware of the project's developments and results, as well as to engage them closely with the project.

Figure 2. Level of Engagement *



**Source: SME Strategy (<https://www.smestrategy.net/>)*

3.2. Tools and Channels

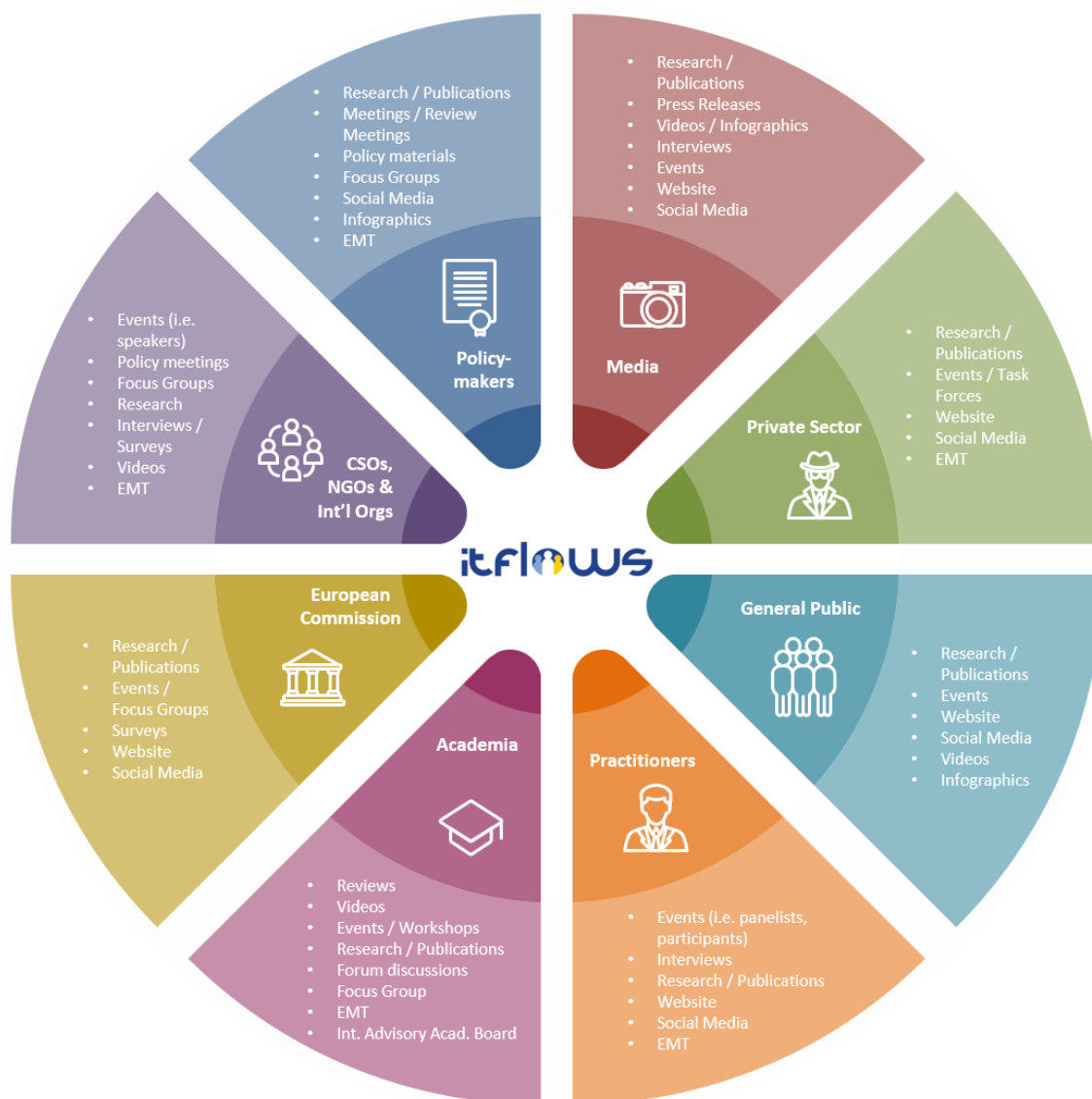
ITFLOWS aims at an overall engagement with all four target groups identified. Overall engagement will be achieved through a regular flow of information, with the latest project outcomes and activities in a language accessible to all groups and to reach a wider audience. Moreover, for those stakeholders identified as having a high interest in the project, more tailored tools will be put into place to ensure their engagement in the project.

For instance, a wide range of potential tools and channels envisaged for each of the target audiences is provided below:

1. Academia: ITFLOWS will provide them with quality evidence-based research publications. They will be invited to provide peer-review, participate in Calls for papers, participate in project's event, to comment / participate on scientific outputs, blogs, interviews, provide lectures, etc.;
2. Policymakers, members of the European Commission/institutions: ITFLOWS will provide them with policy materials (i.e. policy briefs, policy papers with policy recommendations). They will be invited to provide comments and test the policy recommendations and potentially the use of the EMT, participate in project's events, policy meetings, keep informed on the latest outputs, engagement via social media, blogs, interviews, videos, etc. Furthermore, the project has also allocated a Work package (WP8) specially focused on Policy reach and recommendations. With the special involvement of the members of the ITFLOWS Policy Working Group, the partners will provide venues for dialogue with policy makers to present and assess the project results, as well as to produce a series of policy briefs. One of the key tools to engage with them will be the organization of 5 Policy Workshops (May/June 2022, Brussels) that will be followed by five policy briefs on the topics of: a) Drivers of migration in origin and transit countries b) Root causes and factors contributing to possible tensions between migrants and EU citizens c) Effective relocation policies in light of social and economic realities EU-Member States d) Effective policies for the socio-economic integration of immigrants to the EU e) Good practices and asylum policy commitments according to human rights.
3. Potential end-users of the EMT, data providers (i.e. statistical agencies of member states), practitioners, private sector, and social partners: ITFLOWS will engage them in project's events, focus groups, policy meetings, exchanges. They will be invited to provide comments on the EMT and test it, to comment / participate on various outputs, blogs, interviews, etc., and;
4. General public and media: They will be informed on the overall ITFLOWS' outcomes. They will participate in the project's events, engaged via the social media channels, receive videos, infographics. They will be informed on the scientific outputs in an accessible manner (i.e. providing a video, blogpost, executive summary, etc.). ITFLOWS will also engage closely with media by

providing interviews, elaborating press-releases, target emailing and reactions/commentaries to topical issues.

Figure 3. Engagement with stakeholders & End-users

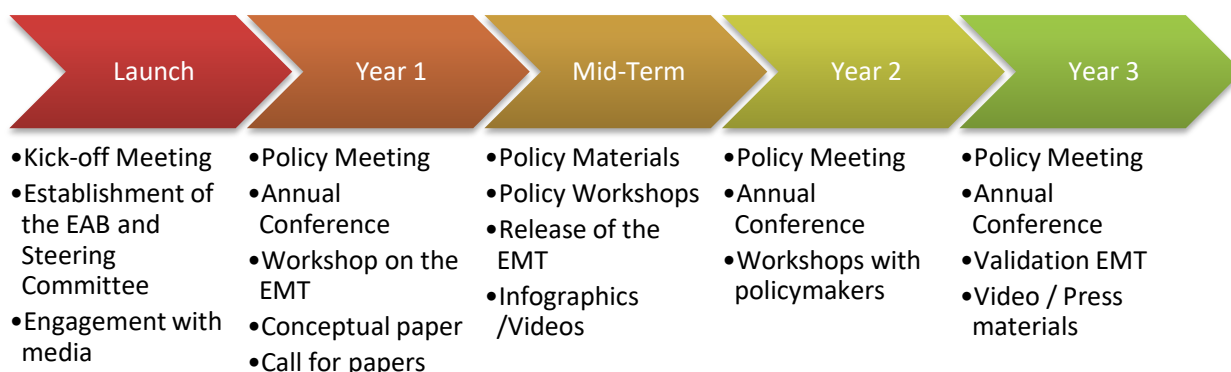


3.3. Identify relevant issues

ITFLOWS works to *create knowledge and evidence-based support to policy developments, with fitness for purpose validated by policymakers and by practitioners and in cooperation with civil-society organisations* (ITFLOWS Grant Agreement, Impact 1).

It is therefore important to keep these relevant stakeholders closely engaged at key stages of the project, such as when key outputs will be released, launched or presented. ITFLOWS will therefore follow a timeline with these periods clearly identifiable, so that the participation of the target stakeholders can be ensured.

Figure 4. General Timeline with key phases



Linked to the project’s timeline, it is also important to target major venues and key events that will take place during the course of the project. The presence of ITFLOWS in these key events will help to promote the project, provide key networking opportunities, establish new connections with the scientific community and other projects, as well as to expand the visibility of ITFLOWS.

Table 2: Example of targeted conferences for research

Conferences	Estimated date/venue
National EMN Conference 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/european-migration-network_en	September 2020 (Austria)

International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC) 2020 https://iswc2020.semanticweb.org/	November 2020 Online
Nicosia Risk Forum 2020 https://cerides.euc.ac.cy/wp-content/uploads/pericleslc/2020/08/3-annual-forum-cerides-program-2020.pdf	November 2020 Online
Webinar, entitled “Deportation Union: the role of Frontex”, organised by Statewatch and the Transnational Institute (TNI) https://www.tni.org/en/webinar/deportation-union-the-role-of-frontex	December 2020 Online
Second annual “Project to policy kick off seminar” (P2PKOS) for security research, organized by the European Commission https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/project-policy-kick-seminar-security-research	March 2021 Online
113th meeting of the Member States’ National Contact Points of the European Migration Network (EMN) https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/authorities_en	May 2021 Online
Border and External Security (BES) Cluster meeting, organized by FRONTEX https://www.itflows.eu/2021/05/20/bes-cluster-first-meeting/	May 2021 Online
Border Management (BM) Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS) Working Groups. https://www.securityresearch-cou.eu/home	June 2021 Online
Working Group Meeting on the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Global Online Peer Learning Exchange Case Management for Case Resolution: Scaling Up Alternatives to Detention https://migrationnetwork.un.org/thematic-working-group-2-alternatives-detention	June 2021 Online

International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion https://www.imiscoe.org/	2022
Conference on Migration in Barcelona https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/call-for-papers---9thconference-on-migration-in-barcelona	2020, 2021, 2022 Online/Barcelona (Spain)
Vienna Migration Conference https://www.icmpd.org/about-us/vienna-migration-conference/	2022 Vienna (Austria)
CEPS Ideas Lab http://ideaslab.ceps.eu/	June 2021, 2022 Online / Brussels

ITFLOWS is not static in nature; it aims to remain topical and to deliver outputs and materials of relevance for those key stakeholders working in the field and on ITFLOWS portfolios. For this, the project is ready to react and propose new outcomes when necessary, in order to ensure a strong visibility and to keep its audience well informed and engaged.

ITFLOWS will also monitor, via desk research or via the members of its Boards and networks, events organised by key actors and institutions in order to ensure participation of the project.

4. Process for engagement, results and impact

Once the audiences and the tools are defined and put in place, it is important to assess whether the level of engagement has been reached and whether the envisaged impact/result has been achieved.

For this, it is important to have a close follow-up with those target audiences that can provide a higher influence or impact, in order to ascertain their needs, whether the tools put in place have been of relevance for them and to analyse the final impact.

We can assess whether the engagement have been effective or whether there is a need to apply more efforts or to think about new tools, by having in mind the following points and questions:

Table 3. Assessment process

Process	Key questions & Points
Assess the audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have all the target groups been properly reached? • Which groups need a closer follow up?
Effectiveness of tools put in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the defined tools provide the foreseen results? • Are the tools adequate to reach the expected impact? • Are the tools useful for the target groups? • Do they reach the right audience? • Do we need to include new tools? • Do we have to allocate more efforts? • Are the tools put in place in a timely manner are they still relevant?
Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide venues for two-way dialogue • Engage key stakeholders in the review of outputs & to provide feedback • Test certain outputs with those relevant groups
Evaluation of the impact & engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the tools & research outputs been used or useful for the target groups? – Via feedback or questionnaires • Have there been quotes of the research? • Have the outputs been in the media?

Another useful tool to assess the success of the implementation of the tools and engagement of/with the identified target groups is to observe whether ITFLOWS has achieved the foreseen Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

During the course of the project, ITFLOWS will monitor the performance and achievements of the KPIs with the aim to reach and raise the envisaged KPIs and at the same time analysing the impact of its performance.

Table 4. ITFLOWS Dissemination KPI targets *

KPI Description	KPI Target at M36	Achieved to date (M10)
<p align="center">Scientific publications in journals relevant for ITFLOWS</p>	<p align="center">At least 3 journals and 6 conference papers</p>	<p>1) <i>Fundamental Rights Implications of Interconnecting Migrations and Policing Databases in the EU – Human Rights Law Review</i> (Cristina Blasi -UAB)</p> <p>2) <i>The Role of Emerging Predictive IT Tools in Effective Migration Governance – Politics and Governance</i> (Cristina Blasi; Colleen Boland, Eva Vilà; Elena Sánchez – UAB)</p> <p>3) <i>European Muslim Youth and Gender(in)Equality Discourse: Towards a More Critical Academic Inquiry - Social Sciences</i> (Colleen Boland – UAB)</p>
<p align="center">Number of workshops attended / organised</p>	<p align="center">At least 5</p>	<p>1) IGC Workshop (24/09/2020)</p> <p>2) UB Workshop (20/01/2021)</p>

Percentage of ISI indexed journal	80%	Nothing yet to report
Ranking of conferences	50% must belong to tier 1 or tier 2 conferences	Nothing yet to report
Website hits	12,000	5,181
Website unique visitors	4,000	1,286
Newsletters	6	1
Social media interaction and members	<p>Twitter: Weekly updates; 500 followers, 500 tweets</p> <p>YouTube: 15 short clips; 3000 views in total</p>	<p>Twitter: 269 followers, 86 tweets (not including re-tweets)</p> <p>YouTube: 16 short clips, 779 views</p> <p>LinkedIn: 197 followers</p>
Speaking engagements (academic)	10	5
Speaking engagements (policy)	5	3
Policy briefs	5	<p>1) COVID-19 Implications for migrant care workers (Dec/2020)</p> <p>2) Generalised push-back practices in Europe (Feb/2021)</p>
Desired number of participants for training	At least 10	Nothing yet to report

* Based on ITFLOWS Dissemination KPI targets – D9.2 Dissemination & Communication Plan

ITFLOWS it is aware that the subjects of research can rapidly develop, change or provide new challenges. For this reason, the project remains dynamic in nature and will also follow-up on whether the needs of the target audiences have changed or new actions are required.

As the main partner leading this task and involved in the communication and dissemination activities, CEPS will have bilateral meetings with the coordination team as well as ITFLOWS partners to evaluate the impact of the research outcomes. CEPS may also propose actions to ensure the engagement with key target groups and will also organise events and meetings to reach this objective.

This document will be made available to all ITFLOWS partners for their consideration, as well as to apply the steps and methodology described. The steps and tools to be applied may be updated during the course of the project in order to ensure its relevance.

ITFLOWS will follow a “bottom-up” approach in order to ensure a strong engagement with our stakeholders, to ensure that project objectives are reached, and to ensure that the project can provide a strong impact and useful tools for our audiences grounded on solid evidence-based research (accessible to all public).

Figure 5. Process for engagement

