

# Interim project report

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## Abbreviations

BUL: Brunel University London

CEPS: Centre for European Policy Studies

CERTH: Ethniko Kentro Erevnas kai Technologikis Anaptyxis

CIT: Cork Institute of Technology

CRI: Associazione della Croce Rossa Italiana

CSD: Centre for the Study of Democracy

DMP: Data Management Plan

DPA: Data Protection Advisor

DPO: Data Protection Officer

EASO: European Asylum Support Office

EC: European Commission

EMT: EUMigraTool

EP: European Parliament

EU: European Union

EUI: European University Institute

FIZ Karlsruhe: Fiz Karlsruhe–Leibniz-Institute fur Informationsinfrastruktur GMBH

GA: Grant Agreement

GDPR: General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679

IAI: Instituto Affari Internazionali

IEB: Independent Ethics Board

IFP: Incidental Findings Procedure

IFW: Institut Für Weltwirtschaft

IGC: Independent Gender Committee

IOM: International Organisation for Migration

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

MS: Member States

MTU: Munster Technological University

OCC: Associació Open Cultural Centre

OXFAM: OXFAM Italia

TRC: Terracom AE

UAB: Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

UB: Users Board

WP: Work Package

## 1. Introduction

ITFLOWS (IT tools and methods for managing migration FLOWS) is a 3-year EU-funded project composed of 14 partners and coordinated by the Autonomous University of Barcelona. It officially started on 1 September 2020. Comprising different research institutions and NGOs all around Europe, and including several external boards, the main objectives of the project are:

- To make accurate models and predictions on migration in the EU;
- To create the EMT for municipalities and civil society organisations;
- To provide policy solutions for the management of irregular arrivals and asylum systems in the EU;
- To minimise potential risks of tension and conflict between migrants and EU citizens;
- To provide policy solutions for optimising integration of refugees in the EU.

The Interim Project Report summarises the ITFLOWS Project implementation during the first project period (September 2020 – February 2022). This technical and scientific description provides an understanding of the project's implementation by outlining its various deliverables, milestones and dissemination materials in a logical way. It also provides an explanation of ITFLOWS' impact via several communication and outreach activities, all of which are displayed on our website ([www.itflows.eu](http://www.itflows.eu)).

The main objective of this deliverable is to summarise the work and activities carried out during the first half of the project. In addition, this deliverable serves as an introduction to the technical part of the First Periodic Report, to be submitted to the European Commission (via the Participant Portal) within the next 60 days.

## 2. Amendment

In Month 7 (March 2021) the ITFLOWS Grant Agreement was amended in order to reflect some changes and adjustments made during the first months of the project. In particular, most of the changes included in the amendment did not substantially modify the structure of the project or the commitments the project has made with the European Commission. The changes were relatively minor, requested as a result of preliminary discussions among the partners, and in seeking the best outcomes for the project.

Below is the list of all changes made to the original Grant Agreement. All of their justifications can be found in the new version of the Grant Agreement (Annex 1 – Part B)

- 1) Change Table 3.2.1 regarding Steering Committee members:
  - a) Mehtap Akguç is replaced by Sergio Carrera
  - b) Nikolaus Dimitriou is replaced by Georgios Stavropoulos
  - c) Tobias Stöhr has changed his surname to Heidland
- 2) Change the term DPO (Officer) for DPA (Advisor)
- 3) Change the name of the beneficiary institution from CIT to MTU<sup>1</sup>
- 4) Remove Dr. Eva Brems from the IGC
- 5) Change the total quantity of partner effort in Table 1.3.6 of the GA from 656 to 658
- 6) Update Figure 11 (Gantt chart) to reflect all of the changes made
- 7) Change the leader of D2.1 from UAB to BUL and change the leader of D2.3 from BUL to UAB
- 8) Change the submission date for D2.1 from M3 to M5
- 9) In the description of T2.2, change the labelling of T2.5 for T2.4
- 10) In the description of T2.4, change the labelling of T2.4 for T2.3 & T2.3 for T2.2
- 11) In T3.4, locations for interviews will be the following: Barcelona, Madrid and Málaga in Spain; Polykastro, Thessaloniki and Samos in Greece; and Trapani, Turin, Udine, Gorizia, Milan, Florence, Empoli, Arezzo, San Casciano and Cecina in Italy.
- 12) Correction of partner efforts in Table 1.3.6 of the GA

<sup>1</sup> On the 1st January 2021, our partner, Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and the Institute of Technology Tralee (ITT) merged and became Munster Technological University (MTU), which has since then been an ITFLOWS partner. As mentioned in point 3 (Amendment) this change was duly noted through an amendment process and officially accepted by the EC.

- a) Change FIZ efforts: from 10 PM to 11 PM in conformance with the overall budget assigned
- b) Change OCC efforts: from 11 PM to 9 PM in conformance with the overall budget assigned
- c) Total efforts WP3: Change from 107 PM to 106 PM in conformance with the overall budget assigned

13) Extension of T3.3 from M3–M18 to M3–M24

14) Extension of T3.4 from M6–M18 to M6–M23; change of the interviews period from M7–M11 to M7–M16; change the finalization of interviews transcription from M12 to M17; and change the submission date for D3.5 from M18 to M23

- a) In the description of T3.1, change D3.1 to D3.2
- b) In the description of T3.2, change D3.2 to D3.1
- c) In the description of T3.3, change D3.5 to D3.7
- d) In the description of T3.4, change D3.7 to D3.5

15) Change the leader of D4.1 from CEPS to UAB

16) Change in the title and description of D4.1 to “Reports on (1) outcomes of migrant integration, (2) analysis of member states asylum and refugee law and procedures how integration policies apply”.

17) Change submission date for D4.1 from M10 to M20

18) Extension of T4.3 from M3–M10 to M3–M20

19) Extension of T4.1 from M3–M12 to M3–M17

20) Change submission date of D4.2 from M15 to M17

21) Merge D4.2 (1) and D4.2 (2) in one single report, under the title: “The impact of family migration and family reunification of refugees and other migrants”  
In the description T4.3, change the labelling of D4.3.3 for D4.1

22) Change the leader of D5.1 from IfW to EUI

23) Swap extensions of T5.1 from M3 - M18 to M3 - M12; and T5.2 from M3 - M12 to M12 - M18

24) CERTH-Hosting EMT. Reallocation of the sum of €1600 from Other/Travel to Other/Equipment.

25) Change in Table 1.3.6 GA regarding when WP6 partner efforts

- a) Change CERTH effort: from 40 PM to 42 PM
- b) Change TRC effort: from 10 PM to 13 PM

- c) Change BUL effort: from 35 PM to 34 PM
- d) Total effort WP6: Change from 106 PM to 110 PM

26) Include CERTH as participant in T7.3

27) Partner efforts (Table 3.4a) requires changing CSD effort from 12PM to 11PM

33) Change submission date of D8.1 from M32 to M34

28) Change the Project Logo

29) MTU – Website. Reallocation of the sum of €2280 from OTHER/TRAVEL to OTHER/OTHER G&S to cover additional expenses.

30) Partner effort in P. 1.3.6 WT6 (see Annex 1)

- a) Change OIT effort: from 3 PM to 2 PM
- b) Total effort WP9: Change from 73 PM to 72 PM

### 3. ITFLOWS External Boards

The ITFLOWS project, apart from its 14 partners, includes also an interdisciplinary and international group of stakeholders, which contributes to optimising the research. They participate and validate the three main outcomes of the project: the models, the EUMigrATool and the policy recommendations.

The current -and updated- composition of each board is the following:

**a) Users Board (UB):** This Board includes practitioners working in first response, municipalities and civil society actors focused on the integration of migrants; it mainly contributes via providing validation for and offering feedback on the design of the EMT.

#### *Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)*

- Network for Children's Rights (<https://ddp.gr/>)
- Federazione delle Chiese Evangeliche in Italia (<https://www.fcei.it/>)
- Danish Refugee Council (<https://drc.ngo/>)
- Red Solidaria de Acogida (<http://redsolidariadeacogida.es/>)
- CVS-Bulgaria (<http://cvs-bg.org/?lang=en>)
- Associazione Iroko (<http://www.associazioneiroko.org/en/>)
- Associazione Multietnica del Mediatori Interculturali (<https://www.mediatoreinterculturale.it/>)
- Associazione Penelope - Coordinamento solidarietà sociale onlus (<http://www.associazionepenelope.it/>)
- Hellenic Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.gr/>)
- Red Cross Málaga (<https://www2.cruzroja.es/>)
- Croce Rossa Italiana (ITFLOWS Partner)
- Oxfam Italia (ITFLOWS Partner)
- Open Cultural Centre (ITFLOWS Partner)
- Centre for Studies and Democracy (ITFLOWS Partner)

#### *Municipalities*

- Municipality of Katerini (<https://katerini.gr/>)
- Municipality of Settimo Torinese (<https://www.comune.settimo-torinese.to.it/it>)

**b) External Advisory Board (EAB):** Members of this Board contribute with key information relating to their areas of expertise and provide advice and suggestions to improve the project's strategic impact and final results.

- Evelien Brouwer (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- Lisa Sight (Georgetown University)
- Andreas Pottakis (Greek Ombudsman)
- Elena Sánchez Montijano (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas)

**c) Independent Ethics Board (IEB):** The aim of the IEB is to ensure that the outcomes of the project comply with all the applicable ethical and legal requirements previously identified by researchers within the tasks described in WP2.

- Marta Poblet (RMIT University's Graduate School of Business and Law - Australia)
- Lilian Mitrou (University of the Aegean - Greece)
- Ruth Fee (Ulster University – United Kingdom)

**d) Data Protection Advisor (DPA):** The main objective of the DPA is to assist and supervise the ITFLOWS Consortium partners in any issues along the lifecycle of the project that may arise as potentially risky from an ethical and legal perspective, as well as to monitor and audit data protection issues related to research activities along the project.

- Jonathan Andrew (Geneva Academy – Switzerland)

**e) Policy Working Group (PWG):** The role of this board is to support ITFLOWS partners in translating their research results into policy, to engage with policy makers to identify key information needs, to identify gaps between knowledge and existing policy, and to validate reports and policy briefs resulting from ITFLOWS.

- Maegan Hendow (Research Officer) and Veronika Bilger (Program Manager) *International Centre for Migration Policy Development - Vienna*
- Juan Carlos Prada Pardal (Adviser) -replacing Vicent Ferrán Beltrán Vilà- *National Security Analysis Unit - National Security Department - Madrid*

- Alender Kjaerum (Global Advisor – Senior Analyst) *Danish Refugee Council - Copenhagen*
- Marzia Rango Data Innovation and Capacity-Building Coordinator - replacing Jasper Tjaden- *IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Center - Berlin*
- Teddy Wilkin (Head of Data Analysis), Constantinos Melachrinos (Researcher) And Simone Russo (Researcher) *European Asylum Support Office - Malta*

**f) Independent Gender Committee (IGC):** This board ensures that gender aspects are considered in all of the WPs and at different stages of the project. The IGC meets throughout the project to discuss gender-related issues arising in the research and compiles guidelines on good practice in addressing gender and sexuality as relates to migration.

- Floya Anthias (University of Roehampton)
- Eleonore Kofman (Middlesex University London)

## 4. Deliverables<sup>2</sup> (submitted)

The ITFLOWS Consortium is committed to submit 43 deliverables along the project. In this first period 26 were already submitted, as listed below.

WP	Deliverable	TITLE	Leader	Month
WP9	D9.1	Project Website & Project Branding	MTU	M3 (Nov 2020)
WP2	D2.1	Report on Legal and Ethical Framework	BUL	M5 (Jan 2021)
WP2	D2.2	Gender Action Plan	BUL	M5 (Jan 2021)
WP10	D10.1	H-Requirement N°2	UAB	M6 (Feb 2021)
WP10	D10.2	H-Requirement N°1	UAB	M6 (Feb 2021)
WP10	D10.3	POPD – Requirement N° 3	UAB	M6 (Feb 2021)
WP2	D2.3	Report on Human Rights, Ethical, Societal and Data protection risks assessments	UAB	M6 (Feb 2021)
WP7	D7.1	Users Board Participatory Feedback Report	CRI	M6 (Feb 2021)
WP1	D1.1	Data Management Plan	UAB	M6 (Feb 2021)
WP9	D9.2	Communication & Dissemination Strategy	MTU	M8 (Apr 2021)
WP6	D6.1	Report on the specifications and architecture of the EMT platform	CERTH	M9 (May 2021)
WP9	D9.3	Stakeholders Database & Report on planned engagement activities	CEPS	M10 (Jun 2021)
WP2	D2.4	Report on the ITFLOWS Regulatory Model	UAB	M10 (Jun 2021)
WP10	D10.4	GEN – Requirement No. 5	UAB	M12 (Aug 2021)
WP5	D5.1	Meta-Analysis of micro and macro level factors affecting attitudes to immigration	EUI	M12 (Aug 2021)
WP3	D3.1	Developments along the route - The role of transit countries in shaping mixed-migration flows to Europe	CEPS	M14 (Oct 2021)
WP3	D3.2	Analysis on migration drivers and trajectories along the Eastern Mediterranean Route (South-Central Asia & Middle East); Central and Western Mediterranean Routes and the Western Africa Route (North, West, & the Horn of Africa), and the Atlantic Route (South-Central America)	IAI	M15 (Nov 2021)
WP4	D4.3	Overview report on relevant socio-economic situation in EU Member States	IFW	M15 (Nov 2021)
WP4	D4.2	Reports on (1) the impact of family migration and family reunification of refugees and other migrants (2) secondary movements within the EU	CEPS	M17 (Jan 2022)
WP3	D3.3	Report describing the dataset used in training ITFLOWS social listening system	MTU	M18 (Feb 2022)

<sup>2</sup> All deliverables included in this list are available in the Participant Portal. As these documents are not yet officially accepted by the EC, they remain unpublished.

		and the methodology used to prepare and annotate it		
WP3	D3.4	Quantitative report on the time structure of forced displacement and annotated dataset on forced displacement	CEPS	M18 (Feb 2022)
WP5	D5.3	Software Prototype Release of Social Media Analysis Tool to monitor public attitudes towards migration including the basic filtering	FIZ	M18 (Feb 2022)
WP5	D5.4	Analysis of the role of contextual factors and dynamics of attitudes on social media, especially hate speech	IFW	M18 (Feb 2022)
WP6	D6.2	Preliminary release of the EMT	CERTH	M18 (Feb 2022)
WP9	D9.4	Preliminary Exploitation Plan	MTU	M18 (Feb 2022)
WP1	D1.2	Interim project report	UAB	M18 (Feb 2022)

Table 1: Deliverables submitted – by date (M1-M18)

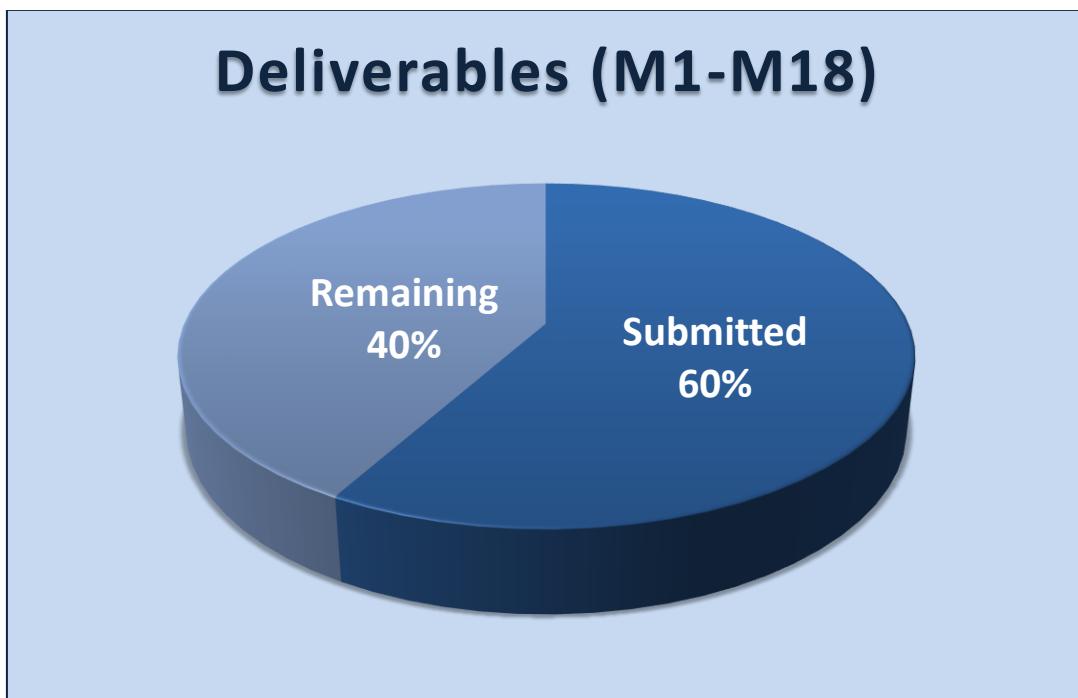


Figure 1: Deliverables submitted and remaining at M18

## 5. Milestones

Within the first eighteen months of the project, 4 milestones have been achieved:

**M1)** Establishment of the EAB and Steering Committee

(<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ITFLOWS-Milestone-1-EAB-SC.pdf>)

**M2)** Workshop on the EMT

(<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ITFLOWS-Milestone-2-EMT-Workshop.pdf>)

**M3)** Conceptual and Analytical Framework: Qualitative study of drivers and trajectories of mixed migration towards the EU

(<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ITFLOWS-Milestone-3-Conceptual-and-analytical-framework.pdf>)

**M4)** Release of the EMT (first version) (<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ITFLOWS-Milestone-4-Release-of-the-EMT-first-version-.pdf>)

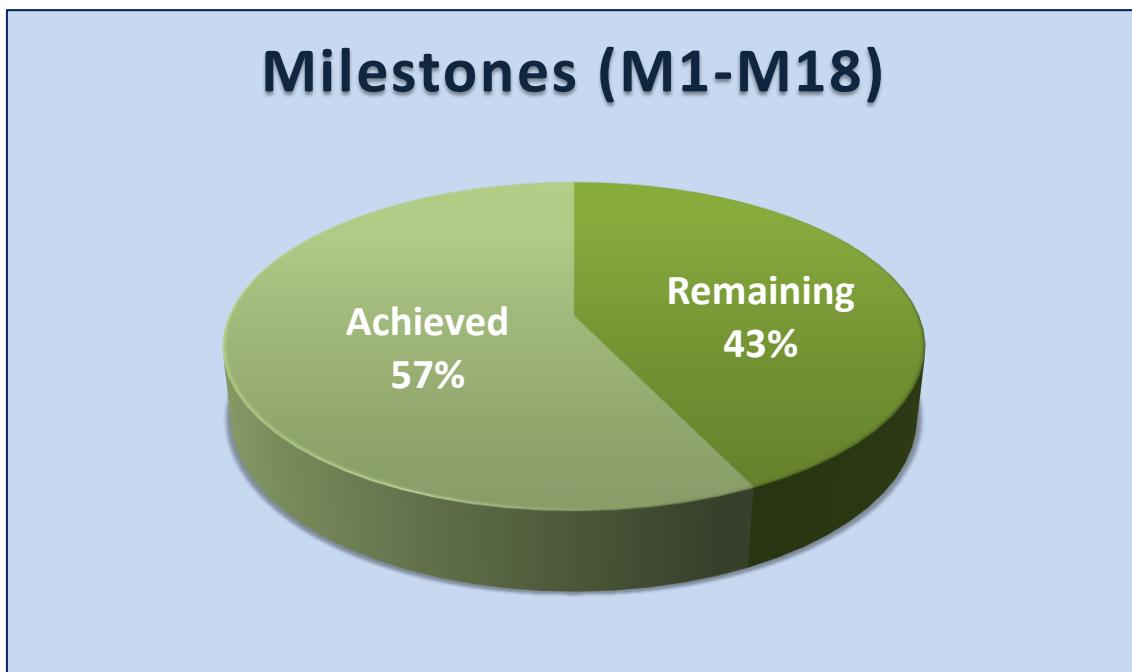


Figure 2: Milestones submitted and remaining at M18

## 6. Dissemination and communication

In order to maximise impacts of the project outputs, the ITFLOWS project developed a communication and dissemination strategy to put in practice during project's life.

Dissemination activities ensures a proper disclosure of the project results, making them readily available to practitioners, municipalities, policy makers, scholars and the general public. The use of communication channels (website, social media, general press, etc.), and enabling open access to scientific publications, publication of regulatory recommendations, testing of the EUMigraTool, is crucial to better disseminate project's outputs

In this regard, below we have listed main tools used for communication and dissemination of results, such as: events, publications, online communication channels and communication visual materials.

### 6.1) Events

#### a) Conferences organised

- ITFLOWS EUMigraTool Symposium Predictive AI technologies for migration governance: An ITFLOWS EUMigraTool Symposium. (M13 -16/09/21)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/02/predictive-ai-technologies-for-migration-governance/>)
- Drivers, patterns and governance of mixed migration in the EU and its wider region. (M13 – 29/09/21)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/22/drivers-patterns-and-governance-of-mixed-migration-in-the-eu-and-its-wider-region/>)
- The EU Pact on Migration (webinar)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/11/10/itflows-policy-webinar-16th-nov-2021-the-eu-pact-on-migration-a-new-framework-for-predicting-and-anticipating-crises/>)

**b) Workshops organised**

- IGC Workshop (M1 - 24/09/20)<sup>3</sup>  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2020/09/24/kick-off-meeting/>)
- Users Board Workshop (M5 - 13/01/21)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/01/13/workshop-with-the-itflows-users-board-on-the-eumigratool/>)
- EMT Workshop (M13 – 16/09/2021)<sup>4</sup>  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/06/itflows-first-annual-meeting/>)
- Workshop on Complex Data (M15 – 18-19/11/2021)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/11/23/itflows-at-the-workshop-on-complex-data-in-the-study-of-politics-and-conflict/>)

**c) ITFLOWS Consortium Meetings**

- ITFLOWS Kick-Off Meeting (M1 – 24/09/20)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2020/09/24/kick-off-meeting/>)
- ITFLOWS First Annual Meeting (M13 – 10/09/21)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/06/itflows-first-annual-meeting/>)

**d) Participation of ITFLOWS partners in Conferences**

- Tobias Heidland (IfW) and Andre Gröger (UAB) participated in the National EMN Conference 2020 (M1 – 29/09/20)  
(<https://www.itflows.eu/2020/09/29/national-emn-conference-2020/>)
- Mr. Andreas Pottakis, Greek Ombudsman and member of the ITFLOWS expert Advisory Board participated in a seminar on the New Pact on Migration and

<sup>3</sup> This workshop took place during the ITFLOWS Kick-off Meeting in September 2020.

<sup>4</sup> This workshop took place as a part of the 1st Annual Meeting in September 2021.

Asylum (M3 – 5/11/20) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2020/11/05/new-pact-on-migration-and-asylum/>)

- FIZ presented ITFLOWS results at ISWC 2020 conference (M3 – 9/11/20) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2020/11/09/fiz-presents-itflows-results-at-iswc-2020-conference/>)
- ITFLOWS Scientific Coordinator, Cristina Blasi (UAB), participated in the Nicosia Risk Forum 2020 (M3 – 20/11/20) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2020/11/20/nicosia-risk-forum-2020/>)
- Lenka Dražanová participated in an IPW Lecture speaking about factors affecting attitudes to immigration (M7 – 19/3/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/03/19/lenka-drazanova-participates-in-an-ipw-lecture-speaking-about-factors-affecting-attitudes-to-immigration/>)
- ITFLOWS participated in the “Project to policy kick off seminar” P2PKOS (M7 - 23/3/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/03/23/itflows-participated-in-p2pkos/>)
- ITFLOWS participated in the 113th EMN-NCP Meeting (M7 – 24/3/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/03/24/itflows-at-the-113th-emn-ncp-meeting/>)
- Cristina Blasi (UAB) presented ITFLOWS at the Museu Nacional d'art de Catalunya (M9 – 27/5/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/05/27/cristina-blasi-uab-presenting-itflows-at-the-museu-nacional-dart-de-catalunya/>)
- CEPS organised the session called “The role of essential migrant workers in the EU's recovery: Why gender matters?” within the *Ideas Lab 2021* (M10 - 04/06/21) (<https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-events/ceps-ideas-lab-2021/>)

- Participation of UAB Researchers Colleen Boland & Elena Sánchez at the IMISCOE 2021 Annual Conference (M11 – 07/07/2021) (<https://www.imiscoe.org/events/imiscoe-events/925-18th-imiscoe-annual-conference-luxembourg-july-7-9-2021>)
- ITFLOWS Researchers participated in the Global Borderlands conference (M13 – 14/9/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/14/itflows-researchers-will-participate-in-global-borderlands-conference/>)
- ITFLOWS Partners participated at the ECPR General Conference (M13 – 17/9/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/17/itflows-partners-at-the-ecpr-general-conference/>)

**e) Participation of ITFLOWS partners in an Event other than a Conference or a Workshop:**

- Andreas Pottakis participated in the Webinar “Deportation Union: the role of Frontex” (M3 – 28/11/20) <https://www.itflows.eu/2020/11/28/andreas-pottakis-participates-on-the-webinar-deportation-union-the-role-of-frontex/>
- Lina EC Vosyliute participated in a closed-door consultation on legal migration schemes. (M8 - 20/04/2021) *-no records available-*
- Lenka Drazanova and Jerome Gonnot (EUI) participated in a Migration Policy Centre webinar on attitudes towards immigration and immigrants. (M9 – 19/5/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/05/11/migration-policy-centre-webinar-on-attitudes-towards-immigration-and-immigrants/>)
- ITFLOWS Coordinator participated in the Horizon Europe Week 2021 (M9 – 13/5/21) <https://www.itflows.eu/2021/05/13/itflows-coordinator-will-participate-in-the-horizon-europe-week-2021/>

- ITFLOWS Scientific Coordinator participated in the Border Management Community of CERIS (M10 - 17/6/21)  
<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/06/17/dr-cristina-biasi-participated-in-a-ceris-event/>
- Cristina Blasi participates in the Peer Learning of the Working Group on Alternatives to Detention (ATD) within the United Nations Network for Migration (UNNM) (M10 - 29/6/21)  
<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/06/29/cristina-biasi-participates-in-the-peer-learning-of-the-working-group-on-alternatives-to-detention-atd-within-the-united-nations-network-for-migration-unnm/>
- Cristina Blasi participated in the UAB information session on Horizon Europe framework programme. (M11 - 7/7/21)  
<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/07/07/cristina-biasi-participated-in-the-uab-information-session-on-horizon-europe-framework-programme/>
- Gergana Tzvetkova (CSD) presented the ITFLOWS project at the Integration Working Group (M11 - 27/7/21)  
<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/07/27/gergana-tzvetkova-csd-presented-the-itflows-project-at-the-integration-working-group/>
- ITFLOWS Researcher Rosalina Todorova (CSD), presented the project at the Seminar for Young Policy Professionals (M13 - 16/9/21)  
<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/09/16/itflows-researchers-participated-in-seminar-for-young-policy-professionals/>
- ITFLOWS Project Coordinator participated in a seminar organised by COMPAS, University of Oxford (M17 - 24/01/2022)  
<https://www.itflows.eu/2022/01/24/itflows-project-coordinator-participated-in-a-seminar-organised-by-compas-university-of-oxford/>

**f) Participation in activities organised jointly with other EU projects**

- Cristina Blasi (Project Coordinator) represented ITFLOWS at the BES Cluster first meeting (M9 - 20/5/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/05/20/bes-cluster-first-meeting/>)
- ITFLOWS participated in a Workshop organised by FRONTEX (M9 - 21/5/21) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/05/21/itflows-participated-in-a-workshop-organised-by-frontex/>)
- ITFLOWS Project Coordinator Dr. Cristina Blasi presented the ITFLOWS project at the eu-LISA Industry Roundtable (M15 - 04/11/2021) (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/12/06/itflows-presented-at-roundtable-with-eu-agency-for-operational-management-of-large-scale-it-systems-eu-lisa/>)
- Dr. Cristina Blasi participated in the Mirror Conference 2021 "Migration in Focus: Addressing Informational Challenges in Humanitarian Actions", hosted by the MIRROR project (M16 - 15/12/2021) <https://www.itflows.eu/2021/12/15/itflows-researcher-participates-in-mirror-conference-2021/>

**6.2) Publications**

- Searching for a better life: Predicting International Migration with Online Search Keywords. Böhme M, Gröger A, Stöhr T (IfW) (2020). ([https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SFBL\\_public\\_postprint.pdf](https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SFBL_public_postprint.pdf))
- MigrAnalytics: Entity-based Analytics of Migration Tweets. Mehwish Alam, Genet Asefa Gesese, Zahra Rezaie and Harald Sack (FIZ) 2020. (<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-Alam-Gesese-Rezaie-Sack-ISWC-PD-MigrAnalytics-Entity-based-Analytic.pdf>)

- A generalized simulation development approach for predicting refugee destinations. Diana Suleimenova, David Bell, and Derek Groen (BUL) (2017). Sci Rep 7, 13377 (2017). (<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/s41598-017-13828-9.pdf>)
- How Policy Decisions Affect Refugee Journeys in South Sudan. Diana Suleimenova and Derek Groen (BUL), Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation 23(1) 2, 2020. (<https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FullText.pdf>)
- COVID-19 Implications for migrant care workers. Colleen Boland, Eva Vilà Sánchez and Linda Cottone (UAB) Dec. 2020. <https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Gender-policy-brief-final.pdf>
- Fundamental Rights Implications of Interconnecting Migration and Policing Databases in the EU. Cristina Blasi Casagran (UAB). Human Rights Law Review, Feb 2021. <https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ART-OA-CRISTINA.pdf>
- Generalised push-back practices in Europe: The right to seek asylum is a fundamental right, not a crime. Madalina Moraru (BUL) Feb. 2021 <https://www.itflows.eu/documents/generalised-push-back-practices-in-europe/>
- Predicting international migratory movements using Google searches. André Gröger (UAB), Tobias Heidland (IfW) and Marcus H. Böhme (German Federal Ministry of Finance) Feb. 2021. <https://www.itflows.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Predicting-international-migratory-movements-using-Google-searches-Observatori-Social-de-la-Caixa.pdf>
- Border Management Systems: How Can They Help Against Pandemics. Georgios Stavropoulos, Dimitra Triantafyllou, Elpiniki Makri, Zoltán Székely, Dimitrios Tzovaras.. In: Yildirim Yayilgan S., Bajwa I.S., Sanfilippo F. (eds)

Intelligent Technologies and Applications. INTAP 2020. March 2021. Communications in Computer and Information Science, vol 1382. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-71711-7\\_27](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-71711-7_27)

- European Muslim Youth and Gender (in)Equality Discourse: Towards a More Critical Academic Inquiry. Colleen Boland (UAB). Boland, Colleen. April 2021. Social Sciences 10: 133. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10040133>
- Temporal Evolution of the Migration-related Topics on Social Media? Yiyi Chen, Genet Asefa Gesese, Harald Sack, and Mehwish Alam. 1 FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure, Germany. 2021. <https://www.fiz-karlsruhe.de/sites/default/files/FIZ/Dokumente/Forschung/ISE/Publications/Conferences-Workshops/paper375.pdf>
- The Role of Emerging Predicting IT Tools in Effective Migration Governance. Blasi Casagran, Cristina; Boland, Colleen; Sánchez Montijano, Elena; Vilà Sánchez, Eva (2021), *Politics & Governance*, Volume 9, Issue 4, <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v9i4.4436>

### 6.3) Online channels

Having a website allows the project to have a strong presence online, maximising the impact of all project's outputs. This is complemented by having different other online channels via social networks.

The ITFLOWS website provides not only useful information -in particular- for creating awareness regarding the project, but also on the field of migration in general. In addition, our website is a critical supporting tool for facilitating ITFLOWS activities. The website was officially launched on the 10th November 2020 (M3).

The EUMigraTool, as one of the main outputs of this project, has an independent website ([www.emt.itflows.eu](http://www.emt.itflows.eu)) which hosts the prediction tool. This site is in permanent review not only by our technical partners, but also by the members of the Users Board. Main sections of the EMT website can be found under the

“Dashboards” menu, where the submenus “Predictions” and “Attitudes” are displayed.

On the other hand, a number of social media platforms have been developed in order to ensure that ITFLOWS project activities and results achieve a wide reach. ITFLOWS social media accounts have been established within relevant professional and mainstream portals like Twitter (@ITFLOWS1) and LinkedIn. ITFLOWS videos are shared via UAB’s dedicated YouTube page, under the Institute of European Studies (UAB) channel.

### a) Websites

ITFLOWS Main site ([www.itflows.eu](http://www.itflows.eu))



Figure 3: ITFLOWS Website Homepage

EUMigraTool Website ([www.emt.itflows.eu](http://www.emt.itflows.eu))

Figure 4: EMT Website Homepage

## b) Social Media channels

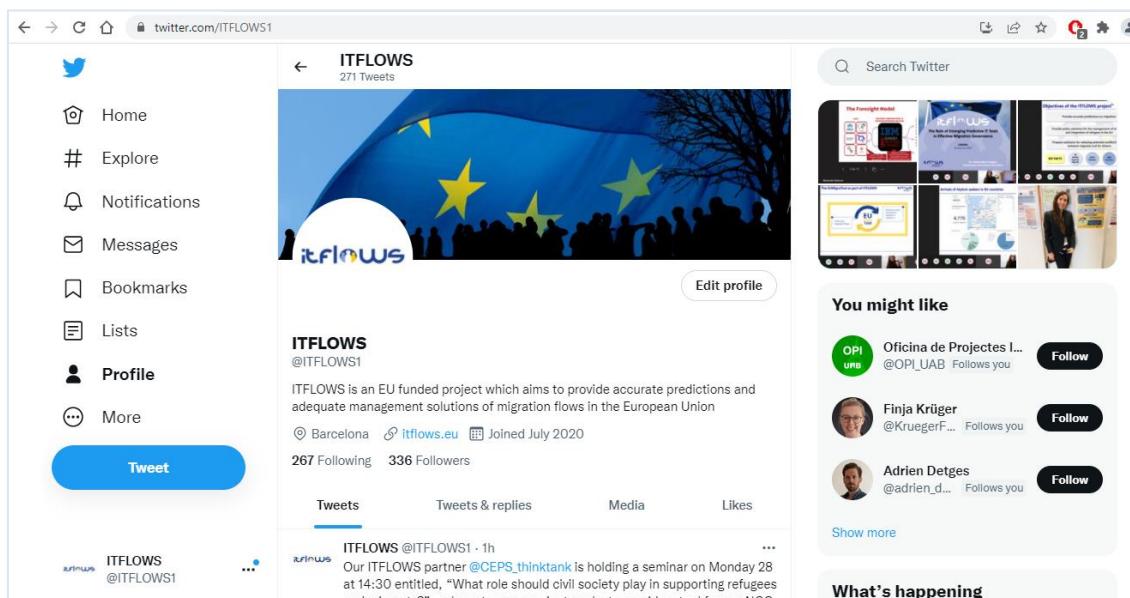
Twitter – 336 Followers (<https://twitter.com/ITFLOWS1/>)

Figure 5: ITFLOWS Twitter profile

## LinkedIn – 221 Followers (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/itflowseu/>)

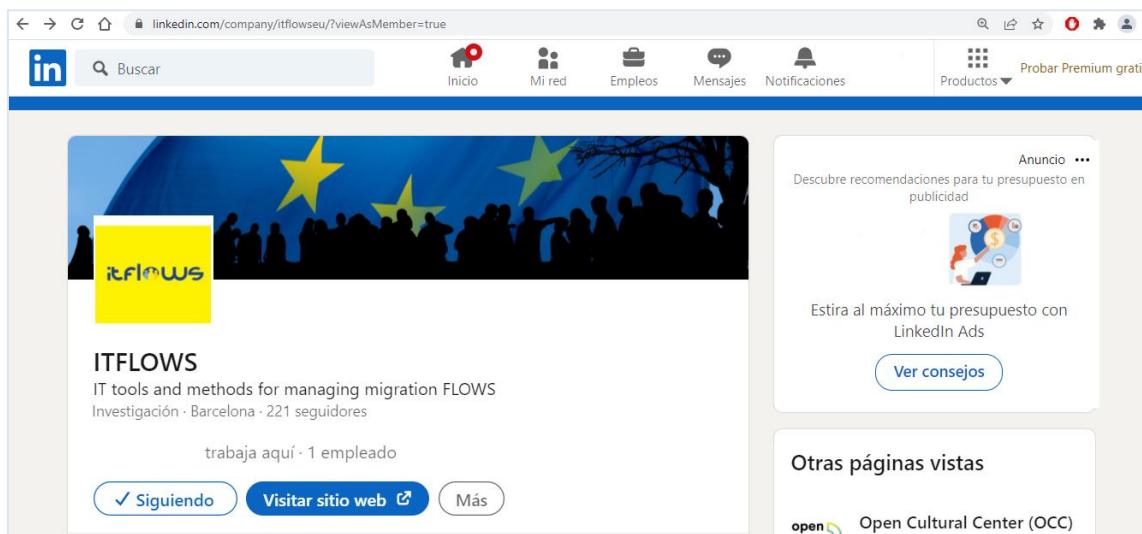


Figure 6: ITFLOWS LinkedIn profile

**YouTube** - total visualisations 1337 (Including 14 Videos of “Meet the Partners” series + 1 ITFLOWS video with English, Spanish, Italian and Greek subtitles) ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON7koT03G0g&list=PLpnUs4qzuueMj7vd\\_8b1Iqr3gZr0xskYv](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON7koT03G0g&list=PLpnUs4qzuueMj7vd_8b1Iqr3gZr0xskYv))

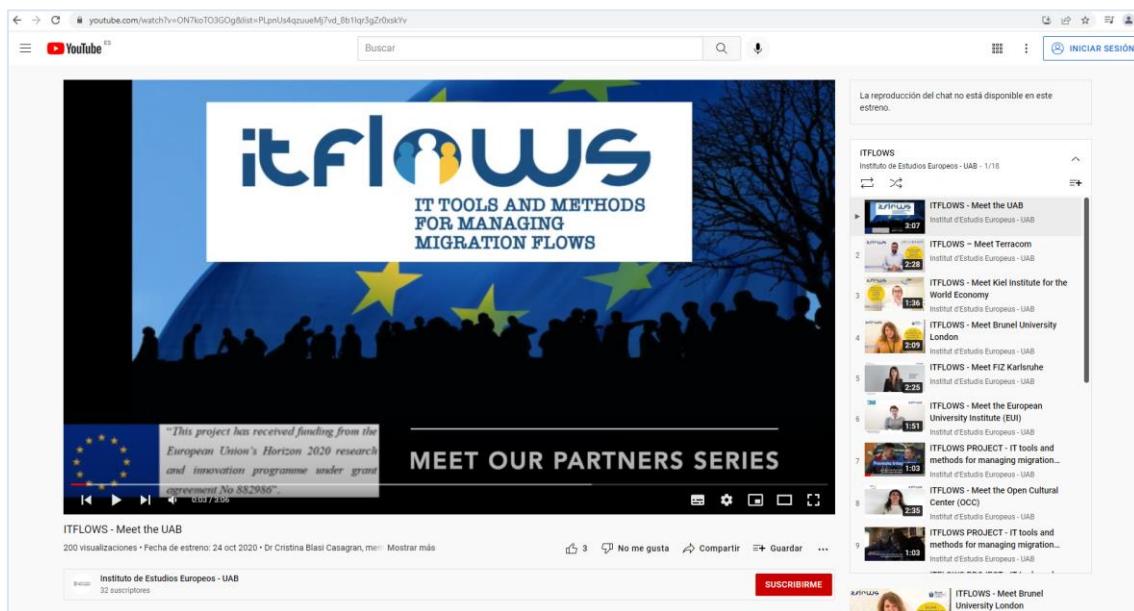


Figure 7: ITFLOWS Youtube channel (Home)

## **6.4) Visual materials**

### **a) Newsletters**

ITFLOWS develops and publishes a biannual electronic newsletter. MTU is responsible for creating the newsletter and inputs are gathered from all partners. The newsletter is sent through MailChimp to a list of 112 ITFLOWS subscribers and to -around- 1700 contacts included in CEPS database on Migration & Asylum. ITFLOWS newsletter is a useful instrument to update all stakeholders on what ITFLOWS has achieved over a 6 month period. It aims to inform stakeholders on future events and contributions that are related to ITFLOWS.

Sections included in each Newsletter are not fixed, but it always includes –at least– our past events, relevant publications, researchers of the semester and latest news on migration.

So far, two Newsletters have been already circulated.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The third Newsletter is expected to be launched on the first week of March 2022.



## Newsletter #1

### February 2021

## Welcome

Dear readers,

We, the ITFLOWS Consortium, are very excited to share some initial findings on the prediction and management of migration flows in the EU. The ITFLOWS Newsletter is released biannually. We think it is a useful instrument to update you on what we have achieved during the past 6 months, as well as to inform you about future relevant events and contributions related to ITFLOWS.



ITFLOWS started in September 2020 in the middle of a pandemic. That was indeed a challenging environment to begin developing some of the envisaged tasks and events. At the same time, this is not the only "crisis" we are facing: The overall objective of our project is to improve the still ongoing "migration crisis", creating better mechanisms and tools for all stages of the migrant journey. The EU still faces a challenge in providing the most adequate policies and regulations that to remedy the current divergences in assisting and protecting migrants among the different Member States – and we are committed to contribute in this mission!

The first six months of ITFLOWS have been particularly exciting for all of us. All researchers have met virtually, established firm links among the different work packages. We have built a robust ethical and gender framework for the project. This has been a crucial milestone, considering that the project is focused on (and also involves) vulnerable groups, i.e., migrants and asylum seekers. We have also engaged with the members of the Policy Working Group and the Users Board. Interaction with them has been, and will continue to be, fundamental in implementing the different outcomes of the project. Further, we recently held our first Steering Committee meeting. Through this Committee, we are going to continue monitoring and ensuring the quality of ITFLOWS over the lifetime of the project.

We appreciate the confidence that all of you have placed in us and in our work. We hope that this Newsletter helps keep you informed on our latest news and results with respect to the prediction and management of migration flows in the EU.

Sincerely,  
Dr Cristina Blasi Casagran  
ITFLOWS Coordinator  
Universidad Autónoma de  
Barcelona

1



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 882986

Figure 8: ITFLOWS Newsletter #1 cover page (page 1/6)



The image shows the cover page of the ITFLOWS Newsletter #2, dated September 2021. The page features the ITFLOWS logo (blue text with a stylized 'i' and 'f' icon) and tagline 'IT TOOLS AND METHODS FOR MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS'. To the right, the text 'Newsletter #2' and 'September 2021' is displayed. Below this, a blue banner contains the heading 'Update from ITFLOWS coordinator,' followed by 'Dr Cristina Blasi Casagran, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB)'. To the right of the banner is a portrait photo of Dr. Cristina Blasi Casagran, a woman with long brown hair and glasses, smiling. The main content area is titled 'MAKING PROGRESS' and contains a 'Message from the Coordinator'. The text discusses the project's goals, challenges (COVID-19), and achievements, including setting up an ethical framework, establishing core requirements, and completing deliverables. It also expresses gratitude to partner institutions and looks forward to the next year. At the bottom, there is a logo for the European Commission and a statement about funding from the Horizon 2020 programme.

**Newsletter #2**  
**September 2021**

**Update from ITFLOWS coordinator,**  
**Dr Cristina Blasi Casagran,**  
**Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB)**

**MAKING PROGRESS**

**A Message from the Coordinator**

*ITFLOWS is an ambitious 3-year project which seeks to model and predict migration flows to EU member states and provide tools for the successful integration of migrants into our societies. It has been a busy and eventful year since ITFLOWS started. Working against the challenging backdrop of COVID, we have come together and accomplished many important milestones within the project. Most importantly, we have set up the ethical framework which underpins much of the data handling within the project. This is a crucial in creating a technological tool that complies with robust data protection and ethical standards. Additionally, we have actively engaged end-users of the tool from multiple NGOs and municipalities to establish core requirements early, as well as actively set out a detailed Gender Action Plan describing the gender-specific policies which must be considered as part of the project. Conducting the project during the pandemic has not been easy. We have had to adapt our approach to interviews with migrants and on-site meetings, utilising virtual tools where possible, but we overall managed to deliver committed results on time and to a high quality. I would like to particularly thank the members of our 14 Partner Institutions for their excellent teamwork and ongoing commitment. It has been a pleasure to see them come together, many working together for the first time, to complete our 15 year one deliverables - all of them peer-reviewed by internal and external committees prior to their submission. We look forward to the next year and continued success of the project.*

1

 European Commission | This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 882986

Figure 9: ITFLOWS Newsletter #2 cover page (page 1/10)

## b) Infographics

An infographic is a visual representation of any kind of information or data. In the case of ITFLOWS we decided to create one infographic including general data about the project and another one specifically dedicated to the EMT.

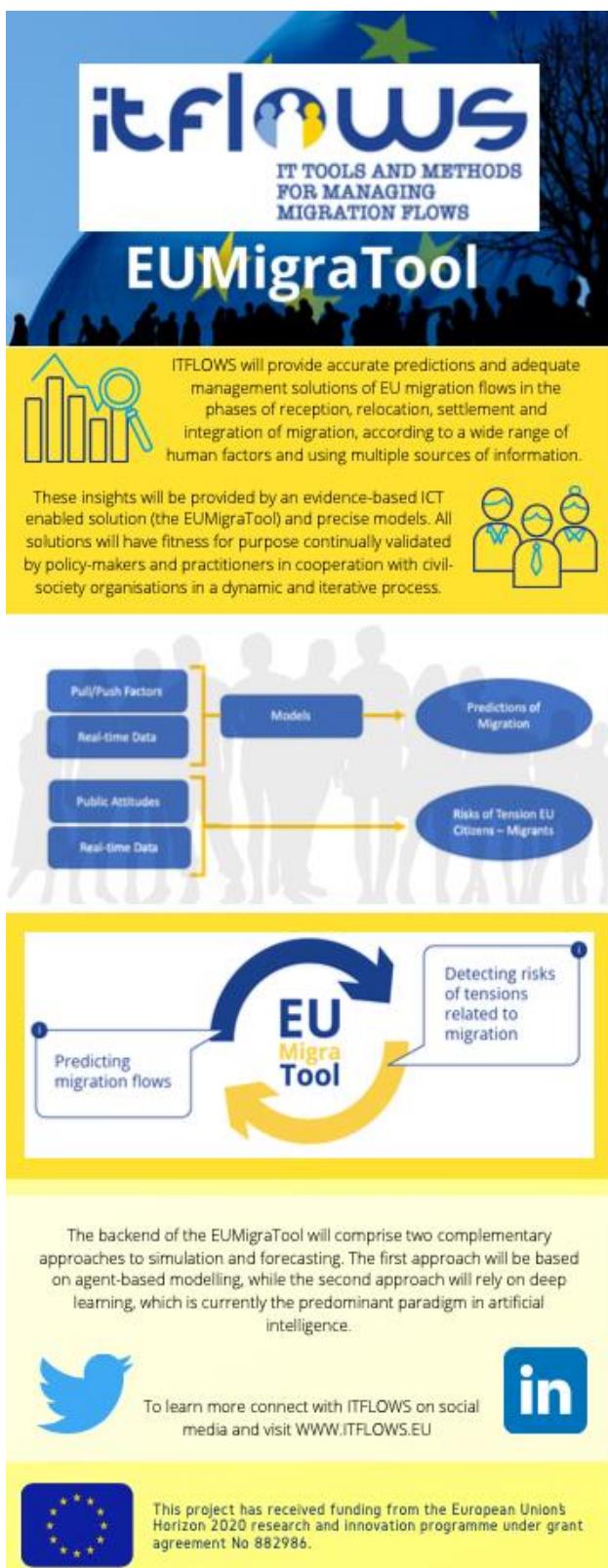


Figure 10: EMT Infographic



Figure 11: ITTOOLS Project Infographic

### c) Poster

This poster was created specifically for the conference of the “Spanish Association of Teachers of International Law and International Relations (AEPDIRI)” held in Tarragona on December 15, 16, 17, where the ITFLOWS Coordinator -Dr Cristina Blasi- participated. (<https://www.itflows.eu/2021/12/23/cristina-blasi-participates-in-the-aepdiri-annual-conference/>)

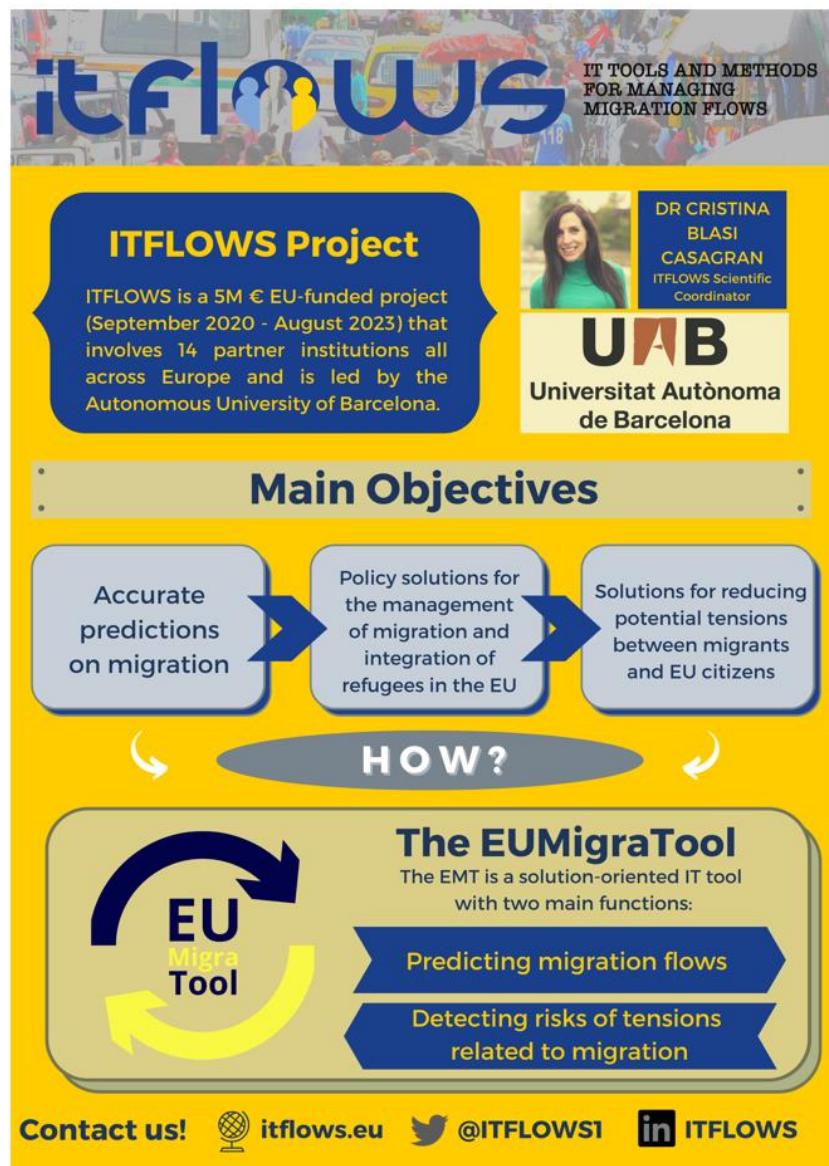


Figure 12: ITFLOWS Poster

## 6.5) KPI's table

A key performance indicator (KPI) is a measurable value that demonstrates how the project is performing, and they are useful tools to evaluate success at reaching targets.

As shown below, already in M18 ITFLOWS has met the 50% of possible KPIs foreseen in Grant Agreement, taking into account the current stage of the project. In other words, we did not count the cluster of policy briefs to be developed at the end of the project and the rest of newsletters to be sent during the lifecycle of the project.

In addition, we are very close to reach the number of web unique visitors (less than 300), which will be achieved in the following months.

KPI Description	KPI Target at M36	Achieved to date (M18)
<b>Scientific publications in journals relevant for ITFLOWS</b>	At least 3 journals and 6 conference papers	<p><b>4 publications in journals</b></p> <p><a href="#">Fundamental Rights Implications of Interconnecting Migration and Policing Databases in the EU. Cristina Blasi Casagran (UAB). Human Rights Law Review, Feb 2021.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Border Management Systems: How Can They Help Against Pandemics. Georgios Stavropoulos, Dimitra Triantafyllou, Elpiniki Makri, Zoltán Székely, Dimitrios Tzovaras.. In: Yildirim Yayilgan S., Bajwa I.S., Sanfilippo F. (eds) Intelligent Technologies and Applications. INTAP 2020. March 2021. Communications in Computer and Information Science, vol 1382. Springer, Cham.</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Muslim Youth and Gender (in)Equality Discourse: Towards a More Critical Academic Inquiry.</a></p>

		<p><a href="#">Colleen Boland (UAB), Boland, Colleen, April 2021. Social Sciences 10: 133.</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Role of Emerging Predicting IT Tools in Effective Migration Governance. Blasi Casagran, Cristina; Boland, Colleen; Sánchez Montijano, Elena; Vilà Sánchez, Eva (2021). Politics &amp; Governance, Vol 9, Issue 4.</a></p> <p><b>2 conference papers</b></p> <p><a href="#">Predicting international migratory movements using Google searches. André Gröger (UAB), Tobias Heidland (IfW) and Marcus H. Böhme (German Federal Ministry of Finance) Feb. 2021.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Temporal Evolution of the Migration-related Topics on Social Media? Yiyi Chen, Genet Asefa Gesese, Harald Sack, and Mehwish Alam. 1 FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure, Germany. 2021.</a></p>
<b>Number of workshops organised / attended</b>	At least 5	<p><b>Organised</b></p> <p><a href="#">IGC Workshop</a> (24/09/20)<sup>6</sup></p> <p><a href="#">Users Board Workshop</a> (13/01/21)</p> <p><a href="#">EMT Workshop</a> (16/09/2021)<sup>7</sup></p> <p><a href="#">Workshop on Complex Data</a> (18-19/11/2021)</p> <p><b>Attended</b></p> <p><a href="#">FRONTEX Workshop</a> (21/5/21)</p>
<b>Percentage of ISI indexed journal</b>	80%	75% (3 out of 4)
<b>Ranking of conferences</b>	50% must belong to tier 1 or tier 2 conferences	100%

<sup>6</sup> This workshop took place during the ITFLOWS Kick-off Meeting in September 2020

<sup>7</sup> This workshop took place as a part of the 1st Annual Meeting in September 2021

<b>Website hits</b>	12,000	14,012
<b>Website unique visitors</b>	4,000	3,759
<b>Newsletters</b>	6	3
<b>Social media interaction and members</b>	<p><b>Twitter:</b> Weekly updates; 500 followers, 500 tweets</p> <p><b>YouTube:</b> 15 short clips; 3000 views in total</p>	<p><b>Twitter:</b> 336 followers, 152 tweets (not including re-tweets)</p> <p><b>YouTube:</b> 15 short clips, 1337 views in total</p> <p><b>LinkedIn:</b> 221 followers</p>
<b>Speaking engagements (academic)</b>	10	14
<b>Speaking engagements (policy)</b>	5	7
<b>Policy briefs</b>	5	1) <a href="#">COVID-19 Implications for migrant care workers</a> (Dec/2020) 2) <a href="#">Generalised push-back practices in Europe</a> (Feb/2021)
<b>Desired number of participants for training</b>	At least 10	16

Table 2: KPI's M1-M18

## 7. Work Plan (M19-M36)

For the second period of the project, there will be 16 deliverables to be submitted and 3 milestones to be achieved, which we expect to complete in due time.

In the tables below, there is a summary of deliverables, milestones and meetings for the ITFLOWS project in the next 18 months.

DELIVERABLES M19 – M36 (by date)					
Number	Title	Leader	Type	Dissemination	Date
D7.2	EMT Training Strategy Report	MTU	Report	Public	M19 /Mar 22
D4.1	Reports on (1) outcomes of migrant integration, (2) analysis of member states asylum and refugee law and procedures how integration policies apply	CEPS	Report	Public	M20 /Apr 21
D6.3	Report of migration modelling and simulation	BUL	Report	Public	M22 /Jun 22
D2.5	Report on the Legal, Societal Impact and Ethical Monitoring of the ITFLOWS	UAB	Report	Public	M23 /Jul 22
D3.5	Qualitative report: Migration intentions, trajectories and outcomes: The role of agency	IAI	Report	Public	M23 /Jul 22
D3.6	Quantitative report: predicting bilateral migration flows using Google Trends data	UAB	Report	Public	M24 /Aug 22
D3.7	Prototypical implementation of methods to extract frequent patterns from tweets representing migration drivers	FIZ	Website, patents filing, etc.	Public	M24 /Aug 22

D7.3	EMT User Guide	MTU	Report	Public	M24 /Aug 22
D10.1	GEN - Requirement N°6	UAB	Ethics	Public	M24 /Aug 22
D6.4	Report EMT Software release with documentation	CERTH	Other	Public	M28 /Dec 22
D7.4	EMT Test and Validation Report	MTU	Report	Public	M32 /Apr 23
D8.1	Five thematic policy briefs in the field of migration	BUL	Report	Public	M34 /Jun 23
D1.3	Final project report	UAB	Demonstrator	Public	M36 /Aug 23
D1.4	Open Research Data Pilot	UAB	ORPD	Public	M36 /Aug 23
D7.5	Final EMT Analysis Report	UAB	Report	Public	M36 /Aug 23
D9.5	Final Exploitation plan	TRC	Report	Public	M36 /Aug 23

Table 3: Deliverables M19-M36

MILSTONES M19 – M36				
Number	Title	Leader	Date	Means of verification
MS5	Material for the five EU Policy Workshops	CSD	M20 / Apr 22	Before the workshops, all attendees will receive material integrating and summarising the research findings emerging from the WPs 2,3,4,5 and translating them into a preliminary set of policy implications. These would be then presented and discussed with the policy workshop participants in order to get their feedback and verification in terms of priority and feasibility.
MS6	Workshops with policy makers	CEPS	M22 / Jun 22	There will be 5 workshops held on the following topics: a) Drivers of migration in origin and transit; 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 of the Member States; d) Effective policies for the socio-economic integration of immigrants to the EU; and e) Asylum policy commitments according to human rights. In order to achieve the maximum level of audience among policy makers at both national and EU level, the workshops will run consecutively in a 3-day conference in Brussels (M22). CSD & CEPS will organise the conference, and each specific workshop will be managed by the partner that leads that task in WP2, WP3, WP4 & WP5 respectively (BUL, IAI, IfW, EUI).
MS7	Validation is finalised	MTU	M32 / Apr 23	The EMT will be validated for a TRL6, that is, in real and relevant environments provided by the UB members. Validated versions are published in Deliverable 7.5

Table 4: Milestones M19-M36

MEETINGS M19 – M36		
Title	Date	Place
Review Meeting #1	M20 / Apr.22	Online
Policy Workshop	M22 / Jun 22	Online / BXL
Annual Meeting #2	M25 / Sep 22	Barcelona
Steering Committee #4	M25 / Sep 22	Barcelona
Steering Committee #5	M30 / Feb 23	Florence
Annual Meeting #3	M36 /Aug 23	Brussels
Review Meeting #2	M36 /Aug 23	Brussels
Steering Committee #6	M36 /Aug 23	Brussels

Table 5: Meetings M19-M36