ReSOMA:  
Research Social platform On Migration and Asylum

Start date of project: 1st February 2018  
Duration: 24 months

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>DoA</td>
<td>Description of Action</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<td>H2020</td>
<td>Horizon 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>KO</td>
<td>Kick-Off (Meeting)</td>
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<td>CEAS</td>
<td>Common European Asylum System</td>
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<td>AMI</td>
<td>Asylum, Migration &amp; Integration</td>
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<td>SG</td>
<td>Steering Group</td>
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2 INTRODUCTION

The EU Launch Event (henceforth “the Launch Event”) is a key output of ReSOMA as it aims at disseminating mid-term project results among a diverse target audience, with particular attention given to academics and stakeholders. To ensure that ReSOMA puts together and promote research and stakeholder evidence throughout the project implementation, this event is to focus on the paths to reform on asylum, migration and integration resulting from Y1 participatory activities (WP1, 2 and 3).
3 THE EU LAUNCH EVENT @M12

3.1 PRELIMINARY TALKS ON THE EU LAUNCH EVENT

Talks on the EU Launch events started at the beginning of Y1 when partners debated over who should be targeted. At the 3rd SG Meeting (29/05/2018) partners expressed their wish to make the Launch Event as flexible and open to different actors as possible, in opposition to the more policy-makers-oriented Presidency Workshop (see D5.14). It was not until the 7th SG Meeting (21/09/2018), however, that the event started taking shape, with CEPS tabling the proposal to have all events from WP5 (Y1) framed under its annual “IdeasLab” flagship conference in Brussels.

At the 8th SG Meeting (17/10/2018) partners started considering the idea of breaking down the Launch Event into different events with the objective of reaching out as many target audiences as possible also plugging into existing events already gathering the desired audience. While centring the Launch Event around multiple opportunities had the advantage of ensuring broader and better dissemination of project results among high-level participants, it also took a long time and dispersed resources. As a result, partners agreed that the Launch Event in Y2 would be organised as one single event.

By the end of 2018 partners had identified four different opportunities to disseminate the preliminary results of ReSOMA. Each event featured different target audiences or, in some cases, multiple audiences at the same time:

1. **The 98th Meeting of the European Migration Network (EMN) (29/01/2019).** At the end of 2018 EMN staff reached out to ISMU and proposed to pitch ReSOMA in the framework of their periodic meeting in Brussels. EMN gathers organisations and institutions that are tasked with providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum with a view to supporting policymaking in the EU. The EMN also aims to inform the general public on migration and asylum. Given the role and diverse composition of EMN, with academics, stakeholders and policy-makers being represented, partners decided to take this opportunity to disseminate preliminary results.

2. **The CEPS IdeasLab (22/02/2019).** CEPS offered to have the Launch Event as part of their annual IdeasLab in Brussels (21-22/02/2019). The IdeasLab is CEPS’s 2-day flagship conference, which gathered more than 1000 high level policy makers, academics and civil society every year. Based on the first outline of the event made by CEPS partners grew convinced that the event would be a key opportunity to disseminate the preliminary results of ReSOMA and reach out to new potential members of the expert database.

3. **The IMISCOE Spring Conference in Liège (28/02/2019).** To ensure sustainability of ReSOMA beyond its conclusion, partners enhanced coordination with the IMISCOE academic network across a number of aspects such as the possible integration of ReSOMA and its twin H2020 project CrossMigration and their respective databases. In this perspective, partners agreed to organise a side networking event where ReSOMA and results from Y1 would be presented and where member organisations of the Consortium’s stakeholder platforms would be matched with relevant academics from IMISCOE board of directors.

4. **The Lunch Time Seminar at the European Commission (5/04/2019).** Partners originally envisioned a series of small event to be held at the European Commission, at the European Parliament and at the Council of the EU. While the events at the Parliament and the Council were eventually dropped due to the political timing, the event at the Commission was successfully set up as a comprehensive event gathering staff from multiple Commission units and DGs. The
3.2 **The EU launch events**

All four launch events successfully took place between January 2018 and April 2018 thus closing the series of WP5 dissemination events foreseen in Y1. It should be noted that the spill-over of the event organisation in Y2 was not due to the delays incurred in WP2 and WP3 but was due to the most attractive opportunities for dissemination taking place in the first months of 2019. In addition, the timing of events in Y1 had no impact on the beginning of Y2.

### 3.2.1 The 98th Meeting of the European Migration Network (EMN)

At the invitation of the EMN staff ReSOMA Project Coordinator Guia Gilardoni (ISMU) and ReSOMA Research Coordinator Thomas Huddleston (MPG) pitched ReSOMA at the 98th EMN Meeting in Brussels (29/01/2019). Their presentation focused on the networking promoted by ReSOMA and the participatory approach the project adopts with regard to evidence gathering in order to better inform EU and national policies.

The ReSOMA Twitter account covered the event online.

![Tweet on the presentation of ReSOMA at the 98th EMN Meeting in Brussels](image)

### 3.2.2 The CEPS IdeasLab

The thematic session of the CEPS IdeasLab took place on 22/02/2019 and focused on the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance, which is both one of the 9 topics of ReSOMA (Y1) and one of the three cross-cutting themes that underpinned WP2 and WP3 consultations with stakeholders and policy-makers (Y1). The panel best mirrored the diversity of ReSOMA’s target audiences, with one researcher, one EU policy-maker and two stakeholders (one from the UN level and one from the national level) listed as speakers.
The acknowledgement of both ReSOMA and the EU funding was integrated in the online and printed version of the programme and in coherence with the other projects featured in the general agenda.

Figure 2 – Programme of the EU Launch Event organised under the CEPS IdeasLab

The ReSOMA Twitter account covered the event with one general tweet as no specific content could be shared under the Chatham House Rule that governed all small events at the CEPS IdeasLab.
3.2.3 The IMISCOE Spring Conference in Liège

The networking event between NGOs and academics from the IMISCOE Board of Directors took place on 28/02 in Liège. ReSOMA was first pitched in front of IMISCOE members, with Research Coordinator Thomas Huddleston (MPG) stressing the shared interests of academics and stakeholders from civil society and calling for more cooperation between the two target groups to better inform EU and national policies on asylum, migration and integration. Representatives of Brussels-based NGOs then took the floor and presented their respective activities where evidence was needed, such as advocacy campaigns. The presentation was then followed by free small discussions between ReSOMA Consortium members, NGOs and IMISCOE academics.
Figure 4 – ReSOMA Research Coordinator Thomas Huddleston (MPG) pitching ReSOMA
Figure 5 – IMISCOE members and ReSOMA consortium members listening to the pitch. From left to right: Jan-Paul Brekke, Norwegian Institute for Social Research; Giulia Mezzetti, PhD Representative of the IMISCOE PhD Network; María Lucinda Fonseca, IGOT Lisbon; Ilke Adam Institute for European Studies; Sarah Spencer, Chair of the IMISCOE Board of Directors/COMPAS Oxford.

The event was disseminated online through the ReSOMA Twitter account.

Figure 6 – Tweet on the networking event organised during the IMISCOE Spring Conference in Liège
3.2.4 The Lunch Time Seminar at the European Commission

Ending the series of WP5 events from Y1, the Lunch Time Seminar took place at the European Commission (Falcone Borsellino room, DG HOME-JUST). The majority of Commission representatives were from DG Home with some other participation from DG EMPL and DG Research, more specifically, of the following units:

DG HOME:

- Unit B1 Legal Migration and Integration;
- Unit B2 Visa Policy and Document Security;
- Unit C1 Irregular Migration and Return Policy;
- Unit C3 Asylum;
- Unit E1 Union Actions;
- Unit E2 National programmes for South and East Europe, AMIF/ISF Committee.

DG EMPL:

- Unit E4: Skills – Italy, Denmark, Sweden

The ReSOMA Policy Officer attended the event and give an opening speech. Before the event partners disseminated relevant ReSOMA publications from WP2, while flyers were distributed during the event. It is worth noting that an event on anti-smuggling policy will be organised during Y2 under the existing exchange frameworks between the European Commission, namely Unit C1 Irregular Migration and Return Policy, and civil society organisations.

Below is the agenda of the event:
**RESEARCH SOCIAL PLATFORM ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM**

*Evidence base for policymakers on asylum, migration and integration*

*Where: HOME-JUST MEETING ROOM FALCONE BORSELLINO*

*On the 5th of April 2019 from 12.30 to 14.00*

*Speakers: Researchers from CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies), ISMU (Istituto per lo Studio della Multietnicità) and MPG (Migration Policy Group), PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants).*

European Commission: Introduction – linking policy-making with past, on-going and future research (5 min)

Guia Gilardoni: ReSOMA as a Research Social Platform (10 min)

Thomas Huddleston: Collection and use of evidence from researchers and stakeholders in EU policy debates – ReSOMA’s collaboration in migration, asylum and integration & lessons learnt (15 min)

Michele Levoy: Collecting evidence and informing EU policy debates – the ReSOMA stakeholder perspective (10 min)

Roberto Cortinovis: Collection and use of evidence from researchers and stakeholders in EU policy debates – lessons learned in the ReSOMA topic responsibility sharing in EU asylum policy (10 min)

Alexandher Wolffhardt: Collection and use of evidence from researchers and stakeholders in EU policy debates – lessons learned in the ReSOMA topic future EU funding support for integration (10 min)

*Questions, answers & debate on lessons learnt*
The event turned out to be a good opportunity for disseminating ReSOMA and its preliminary results within the European Commission, specifically DG Home, and fine tuning the project to the needs of policy-makers, who are meant to be the ultimate users of the evidence gathered through the Platform. In the opening speech, the Project Officer pointed out the importance of working across DGs and across Commission units to foster evidence-based policy making not only in relation to upcoming policy proposals, but more generally as a default daily exercise within the Commission.

A central issue that came up during discussions was the need to provide reliable evidence at the right time, which ReSOMA addresses as part of its objectives. However, as the relevance of evidence can also impact its final integration (or missed adoption) in the policy output, a central issue is also how evidence fits into the policy frame from a relevance perspective.

While echoing the need to get proper evidence in policy making, a number of participants said that getting evidence from the ground, especially from direct beneficiaries of stakeholders working with them, is key to assessing the impact of policies. This was particularly felt in the area of funding. Working with a wide array of stakeholders at the grass-root level would also help address the patchy implementation of integration programmes, where impact is hard to assess as beneficiaries often do not complete the whole cycles of activities. A good approach would be to have a first evidence basis that would then be deepened through beneficiaries’ input.

Participants discussed over the importance to deliver evidence in a smart way among policy-makers to maximise influence on their legislative work. DG Research is working on techniques to mainstream evidence across DGs in the best targeted way to ensure proper follow-up. Some participants suggested collecting evidence based on the geographical scope, which is often the way many Commission civil servants structure their work. This, however, raised the issue of how to best assess the country-relevance in programmes.

The event was disseminated online through the ReSOMA Twitter account.
4 CONCLUSIONS

Because the EU Launch Event aimed at disseminating mid-term project results among a diverse target audience, with particular attention given to academics and stakeholders, by the end of 2018 partners had identified four different opportunities to disseminate the preliminary results of ReSOMA. Each event featured different target audiences or, in some cases, multiple audiences at the same time. The 98th Meeting of the European Migration Network (EMN) (29/01/2019) enabled partners to pitch ReSOMA among a community of organisations and institutions that are tasked with providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum with a view to supporting policymaking in the EU. The CEPS IdeasLab (22/02/2019) enabled partners to disseminate the preliminary results of ReSOMA and reach out to new potential members of the expert database. The IMISCOE Spring Conference in Liège (28/02/2019) strengthened partners’ work on making ReSOMA sustainable beyond its conclusion by liaising with the IMISCOE network in view of the possible integration of ReSOMA and its twin H2020 project CrossMigration and their respective databases. The Lunch Time Seminar at the European Commission (5/04/2019) helped partners understand the challenges policy-makers face in accessing reliable and timely knowledge in their daily work and paved the way for stronger cooperation with the Commission in Y2.