

# PRESS RELEASE

## AI to Simplify Rights for EU Migrants

**easyRights** - a new European initiative will deliver personalised, contextualised services for (im)migrants through innovative new technologies.



Brussels - On a daily basis hundreds of people fleeing from oppression, war, and poverty are risking their lives to travel to Europe to build a safer, more prosperous life. Upon reaching their destination, however, the better life they dreamt off is still a world away. Challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences, bureaucratic complexity and a lack of knowledge of their basic rights means migrants, and even immigrants, often feel not accepted by their host communities and as a result they struggle to integrate into work, society and civic life and are left feeling lost and isolated.

**easyRights**, a new project led by Politecnico di Milano and universities, NGOs, public administrations and SMEs from Greece, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Austria and the UK, aims to make it easier for both regular and irregular migrants to integrate into their new home communities. The project, funded by the European Commission H2020 program, combines new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing

(NLP), with hackathon methodologies, to simplify the access to complex administrative services in a way that mediates, within a co-creation approach, between migrants and the public administration to help those newly arrived to more easily exercise their rights, whilst improving language skills.

EU studies reveal that refugees integrate very slowly compared to immigrants, taking between eleven to twenty years to reach parity. With an estimated 4.8 million irregular migrants in Europe (Pew Research Centre, 2019) the need for innovative projects like **easyRights** is high. By improving the current personalisation and contextualisation levels of existing services to better match migrants' backgrounds and needs, this figure could be significantly reduced and society across Europe could benefit far quicker from their integration. A win-win situation for all involved.

**easyRights** will initially trial its approach by focusing on different service needs in the cities of Birmingham, UK, Larissa, Greece, Malaga, Spain and Palermo in Italy.

At the launch of the initiative in Brussels, Project Coordinator, Grazia Concillio, Associate Professor from Politecnico Milan said "This project and collaboration is critically important to ensure that migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants are able to understand the rights available to them so they can become valued contributing members of society. Collectively governments, civil society and communities will only achieve safer, happy, healthier and prosperous communities if no-one is left behind."

#### **Notes to Editors:**

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Project website is at [www.easyrights.eu](http://www.easyrights.eu)

easyRights launched January 2020 and is a 30 month project.

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4.8 Million irregular migrants figure comes from [Pew Research Center Study](#)

11 - 20 years parity figure from International Monetary Foundation research.