



ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law

in partnership with Human Rights Research League and CoSME Project

presents:

Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Workshop

*“Advanced Digital Technologies in Migration Management:
A Means to What End?”*

Vilnius (Lithuania), 4 September 2024

– CALL FOR PAPERS –

The Interest Group (IG) on Migration and Refugee Law ([MigRefLaw](#)) of the European Society of International Law (ESIL), in partnership with the [Human Rights Research League](#) and the CoSME Project (Community Sponsorship for Migrants in Europe), is organising a workshop on 4 September 2024 in Vilnius (Lithuania) as a side event of this year's [ESIL Annual Conference](#). The theme of the Conference is technological change and international law, which the IG MigRefLaw workshop will address in the context of international and EU migration and refugee law.

The IG MigRefLaw pre-conference workshop will focus on the goals and purposes of the use of technology in migration management and invite participants to reflect on the (positive or negative) impact of recent technological advances – including Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, automation, and biometrics – on refugee and migration governance and, in particular, on the balancing exercise between administrative sustainability and procedural fairness.

The IG MigRefLaw – acting as the organising committee for this workshop, in collaboration with the Human Rights Research League and the CoSME Project – welcomes presentation proposals that focus on (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- What are the current and emerging practices in the use of advanced digital technologies in migration management, and how can international and EU law regulate them?
- How is the use of advanced digital technologies shaping border/migration control, legal pathways, externalisation practices, mobility and integration processes, pre-arrival settings, readmission and voluntary repatriation, and asylum decision-making?
- How do technologies affect the entry, stay and legal status of migrants and refugees in destination countries, as well as their rights and dignity?
- What is the impact of high-tech matching tools on resettlement and relocation programmes?
- Has the use of advanced digital technology affected refugee status determination at any or all levels of the asylum procedure? And if yes, how?
- How do technologies affect due process and the right to an effective remedy in the EU?
- Are advanced digital technologies and in particular matching tools a useful tool in the management of migration crises? What conclusions can be drawn from the experience of the EU solidarity platform for Ukraine?
- Are advanced digital technologies and in particular matching tools a useful tool to promote community and private sponsorship?
- How do technologies and in particular big data, automation and biometrics affect data protection in the EU?
- How do high-tech migration tools affect the balancing exercise between administrative sustainability and procedural fairness in asylum and return procedures?

The IG MigRefLaw, the Human Rights Research League and the CosME project invite submissions of abstracts, written in English or French, of no more than 300 words. Abstracts should be submitted to the IG conveners at migreflaw@gmail.com by **5 April 2024**, and should also include the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information (e-mail), and whether the applicant is member of ESIL (these details are excluded from the word count). Selected speakers will be notified by 22 April via e-mail. After the selection process, we are aiming for extended abstracts of 3000-3500 words from the selected speakers. The extended abstracts should be sent to the IG conveners by 31 July.

The IG is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL carers grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding. Please check the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

In addition, up to five eligible authors from low-income economies, whose abstracts are selected for presentation, will receive a one-year ESIL membership, including an online subscription to the European Journal of International Law, sponsored by the Human Rights Research League.

All participants at ESIL IG workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just to attend the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

Selected speakers should indicate their interest in being considered for the [ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize](#), if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website. The [ESIL Secretariat](#) must be informed of all selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize [before 30 April 2024](#).

The IG MigRefLaw Coordinating Committee:

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Chiara SCISSA

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The [Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law](#) (MigRefLaw) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law](#). The IG focuses on the law and policy of states and international organisations with regard to people who seek entry to their communities. The movement of people across borders is a defining reality of our time. This IG aims to provide a forum for discussion on the legal principles and processes governing the movement of people as well as their reception in host communities. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in migration and refugee law.