

## **Rebooting migration? The role of technology and digital tools in migration**

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### **Abstract**

Digital tools have been transforming migration systems, with pilot projects and innovations impacting different stages of the migration journey. These technologies hold the promise to make systems more efficient, improve service delivery, and free up staff capacity. Amidst increasing arrivals and with conflict at Europe's doorstep, the stakes could not be higher. Yet, they also bring risks, such as biases engrained in algorithms, risks to data security, and overreliance on tech providers, which could harm the rights of migrants. A lack of technical know-how among policymakers and scattered efforts in this area exacerbate these risks.

This presentation explores the potential benefits of the increasing use of digital technology in different stages of migration processes as well as key legal and ethical considerations that need to be addressed, including concerns about data privacy and opaque decision-making. This presentation will reflect on how policymakers could deliver on the promise of digitalization while mitigating these risks through mapping policy developments, technological advancements, risks and opportunities, and lessons for policymakers, while assessing how these may impact the decision-making processes of migrants.

### **Biography**

**Jasmijn Slootjes** is an Associate Director with MPI Europe. At MPI Europe, Jasmijn led work on, for example, the SPRING Horizon project on evidence-informed integration policies, digitalization in migration processes, and is currently leading work on the MIRREM Horizon project on measuring irregular migration, the PACES Horizon project on how policies shape the decision-making processes of migrants, and the Global Strategy for Skills Horizon project on tackling skills shortages. Before joining MPI Europe, Dr. Slootjes was Executive Director of the Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative (BIMI) at the University of California, Berkeley. In this role, she worked on spatial inequality in migrants' access to services and organized the Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods. Before joining BIMI, she completed her PhD research on how migrants overcome health problems as obstacles to labor market integration. During her PhD, she was the coordinator of the Migration Diversity Centre and a Pat Cox Fellow at the Migration Policy Group. Previously, she studied the impact of budget cuts on integration courses at the Municipality of Utrecht, the Netherlands. Dr. Slootjes holds a PhD in migration studies from VU University Amsterdam, a Master of Science in migration studies from Utrecht University, and a BA in political science and international relations from Utrecht University.