D2.5 Responsible Research and Responsible Innovation Recommendations - Summary

This final deliverable of Work Package 2 of the BODEGA project entitled "Responsible Research and Responsible Innovation Recommendations" brings together the insights developed and acquired through the deployment of the research project in its different activities. It engages with the RRI framework that has been put in place throughout the research and further deepens it by providing an in-depth analysis of the socio-political implications of the changing nature of EU border controls through automation and digitalisation.

To do so, it starts by identifying more closely the key role of the social sciences to better grasp technological innovations in general and at the border more precisely (Chapter 2). It then provides an overview of today's transformation of EU borders in relation to their automation and digitalisation and particularly highlights the implications of these changes in terms of the very nature of the border and the expanded capacity to control that it implies (Chapter 3). On the basis of this overview, it introduces and describes four potentially emerging risks and vulnerabilities that this transformation brings about for travellers, citizens, and the EU more at large as well as its image on the global scene (Chapter 4). Finally, it proposes a series of recommendations (5) in order to mitigate the identified risks as much as possible (Chapter 5).

The key input of this deliverable is the need for an in-depth and rigorous socio-political analysis in relation to the changing nature of EU borders in order to make sure that this transformation actually serves the ends that it seeks to achieve. Indeed, the objectives driving the evolution of EU borders, in particular the fight against terrorism and the management of migration, are highly sensitive subjects in the EU today and often lead to overheated perspectives disconnected from the actual reality of these phenomena. This makes it challenging to address them in an appropriate and efficient manner. Furthermore, the dominant approach to technological automation as seen as simply improving processes (faster, safer, better) by removing the human element in it, further contributes to a socio-political naivety in relation to the changing nature of EU borders. These are the main reasons why this deliverable presents and calls for socio-political analysis of the transformation of borders and the objectives this transformation seeks to achieve. Furthermore, considering the constantly evolving nature of social reality, it is essential to continuously renew this analysis.

Finally, Annex A consists of a study focused on the investigation and analysis of how new border technologies can impact travellers' fundamental rights, specifically the right of non-discrimination. The study is presented in a master's thesis format; it includes both qualitative and quantitative data analysis of the responses given to the BODEGA Travellers Survey' questionnaire. In addition, it presents the analysis of the responses given to a public consultation on the Smart Borders, which was organized by European Commission, and counted with the participation of public authorities and organizations. Study findings demonstrate the potential of new border technologies to reduce the likelihood of some discriminatory practices occurrence, but also the potential to increase the likelihood of others. Moreover, it is possible to perceive the capability to reconcile security and humanitarian aspects in the performance of its common tasks, as one of the main challenges faced by the EU border management system currently.





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