

Executive Training

Building effective engagement between research, policy and practice: a strategic approach to impactful migration research in the world of policy

24-25 November 2025

Theatre - Badia Fiesolana - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific organiser: **Andrew Geddes** | European University Institute

Introduction

There is no lack of scientific evidence or information about migration. In fact, the EU and other organisations have invested heavily in enhancing the evidence base. However, several gaps between research and policymaking remain. Often, research outcomes are sidelined, not fully considered, or misunderstood due to communication gaps, political pressures, or misalignment with real-world needs.

For researchers in this field, it is not enough to conduct rigorous research and produce evidence-based findings. A key challenge and opportunity for migration researchers is ensuring that research insights are useful, practical, and applicable to address and respond to today's migration challenges. This requires integrating research insights into policy formulation and implementation and making research accessible and contextualised at local, national, and international levels of governance.

Based on the successful experience of the first edition in March 2025, this two-day executive training will develop and strengthen participants' skills in effective research to policy engagement around migration. Run by the Horizon Europe-funded INNOVATE project's [Migration to Research Policy Co-Lab](#), this flagship training will help participants know how to identify factors that help build strong connections and collaboration with research users and effectively disseminate and communicate research findings and outcomes. By focusing on the unique challenges of engaging with non-academic stakeholders, this training will empower participants to maximise the impact of their work.

The training will combine the practical experiences and perspectives of academic researchers with the experience of policymakers and advisors working for governments and civil society organisations. Participants will work together to identify and understand some of the key challenges and good engagement practices between research, policies, and practices.



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Programme

24 November

- 09.30 - 10.00 Welcome and introductions
Andrew Geddes and **Eleonora Milazzo** | European University Institute
- 10.00 - 11.00 Building bridges between migration research, policies and practices
Andrew Geddes | European University Institute
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 13.00 How to write something people will read (and use)
Part I
Stephanie Acker and **Imogen Bayley** | European University Institute
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 15.30 Strategies for building engagement: what works and why? Lessons from the INNOVATE project
Eleonora Milazzo | European University Institute
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee
- 16.00 - 18.00 Knowledge production and use in the European Commission
Nina Kajander | KCMD

25 November

- 09.30 - 11.00 Engaging with high level policy making
Jean-Louis de Brouwer | Egmont Institute
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 13.00 Engagement between evidence, policy and practice in Africa
Amanda Bisong | European University Institute
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 16.00 How to write something people will read (and use)
Part II
Stephanie Acker and **Imogen Bayley** | European University Institute
- 16.00 - 16.30 Coffee
- 16.30 - 17.30 Closing session: lessons learned and evaluation
Andrew Geddes and **Eleonora Milazzo** | European University Institute