ILEAnet

Innovation by Law Enforcement Agencies networking

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Public report on the ILEAnet findings n°6

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Public Report on ILEAnet findings n°6

Description

Based on contributions from WP1-WP4, public report summarising the main results from ILEAnet: practitioner challenges and needs, recommendations for uptake of RDI results, best practice exchange, standardization, future RDI activities.

Executive Summary

This public report aims to give an insight to the work performed within ILEAnet from month 31 to 36. The COVID-19 crisis that impacted the world at the beginning of the year also affected ILEAnet activities, that were necessarily adapted to the teleworking approach.

ILEAnet's goal to build an *online* community of practitioners and researchers had more incidence given the global sanitary situation. Virtual activities and development of the platform's tools were a big success.

The ILEAnet Community continued to live and now counts 213 members. New partnerships are being developed.

One of the great accomplishments that showed its importance in these teleworking times was the implementation and improvement of the Knowledge Factory developed as a research tool to find useful information on specific RDI (more than 400 references).

A methodology was experimented after the second ILEAnet Public Workshop to support the uptake of existing innovative solutions: the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP). Based on the process developed, ILEAnet works concretely with some identified projects to tackle the obstacles and barriers to the implementation of research project results, exploring concrete opportunities to achieve one of the main goals assigned by the European Commission: monitor research and innovation projects and recommend the industrialisation.

One of the tools explored in the IPUP process is the webinar: it gives an opportunity to project holders to exchange with the ILEAnet Community on the solution they offer and has revealed an excellent way to create a bridge between researchers and practitioners and to explore opportunities for future uptake of the project results into market and/or routine LEA's practice.

The third ILEAnet Public Workshop (PW3), initially scheduled in May, is now a virtual conference moved to November 2020 due to the global sanitary situation. It will focus on supporting "the identification and control of irregular migration through modern technologies".

A detailed description of the activities performed in each of the three technical WPs is provided in this report, and structured as follows:

- Report of the general activities
- Strategy for the next six months

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Introduction

The ILEAnet project

ILEAnet is a European project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and launched on 1 June 2017 for 5 years duration. The overall objective of ILEAnet is to build and develop a sustainable organizational Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) practitioners' network focused on Research, Development and Innovation (RDI). ILEAnet addresses LEA challenges, together with a community of individuals, including practitioners and experts from academia and industry, interesting in exchanging and collaborating in this area.

Detailed information about the project is available in the Public report on the ILEAnet findings n°1, available online (www.ileanet.eu).

The ILEAnet Network and Community have been created adopting a two-way perspective: top-down and bottom-up.

🌐 Top-down:

ILEAnet functions as a network of organisations. It is aligned with existing institutional structures respecting the corresponding institutional mandates and operational set-ups.

🌐 Bottom-up:

In addition, ILEAnet functions as a community of people who are interested in innovation-centred collaboration. Thereby, innovation is facilitated, and key LEA challenges are addressed.

The effective iterative interaction between these two approaches helps to identify needs and opportunities and prioritise suggestions with respect to future LEA-relevant RDI in the EU and national programmes, policies and standardization efforts.

Figure 1: ILEAnet involved countries

21 partners from 17 countries are involved in the project. Most of them are practitioners, together with research centers and institutes.

Organisation	Country
French Ministry of Interior	**France**
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Police	**France**
Federal Ministry of the Interior	**Austria**
Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei	**Germany**
Hungarian National police	**Hungary**
Italian Public Safety Department, Ministry of Interior	**Italy**
Police Service of Northern Ireland	**United Kingdom**
ISEM INSTITUTE	**Slovakia**
Unitad Central Intelligencia Criminal	**Spain**
ARTTIC	**France**
University College Dublin, Centre for Cybersecurity & Cybercrime Investigation	**Ireland**
State Police of Latvia	**Latvia**
European Forensic Initiatives Centre	**Poland**
Ministry of Public Security	**Israel**
Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	**Estonia**
Ministry of Interior – Bulgaria	**Bulgaria**
Cyprus Police	**Cyprus**
Police of the Czech Republic	**Czech Republic**
Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs	**Romania**
Slovakian Criminal Police, Ministry of Interior	**Slovakia**
Police Academy in Szczytno	**Poland**

Figure 2: ILEAnet Consortium

The ILEAnet Online Platform

A collaborative space, encouraging discussions between European LEAs and researchers has been created. The ILEAnet Online Platform, hosted in the Community Management Tool (CMT), allows an exchange between ILEAnet contributors. The ILEAnet Online Platform is structured with respect to the main topics raised by European practitioners. The interactions are monitored by several members of the ILEAnet team: the coordination team, the ILEAnet National Contacts, the Community manager and the Scientific coordination.

The ILEAnet Online Platform is continuously adjusted to the needs of the ILEAnet members, who provide feedback on their own user experience in regular manner.

Figure 3: ILEAnet Online Platform Landing page

The ILEAnet Workflow: "the annual cycle"

In order to:

1. Define the practitioners Challenges and Needs,
2. Monitor, collect and organise the current state of the art and existing or recent research initiatives
3. Identify gaps, requirements, opportunities and priorities
4. Provide recommendations and feed them back to the Consortium

ILEAnet is processing an annual cycle, based on a close cooperation between inter-related workpackages.
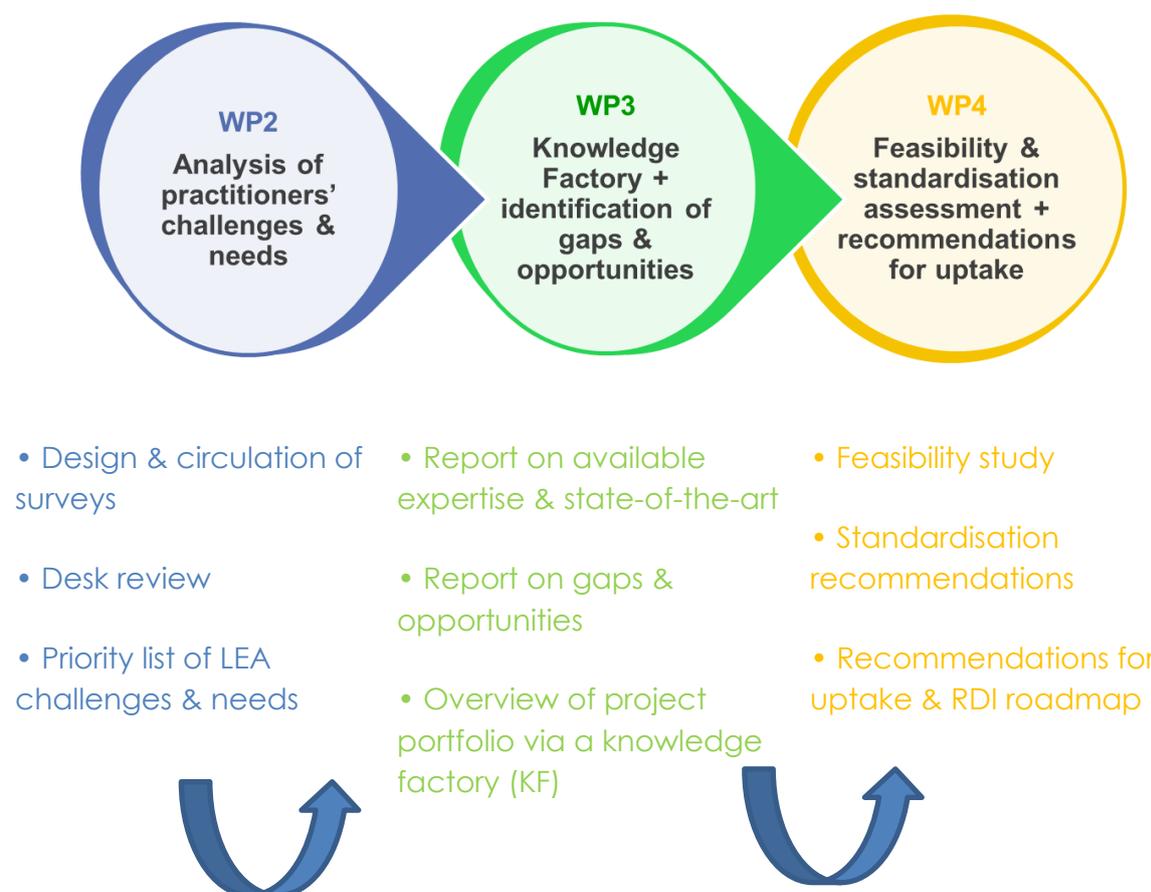
WP2 — Analysis of practitioners' challenges & needs

WP3 — Knowledge Factory + identification of gaps & opportunities

WP4 — Feasibility & standardisation assessment + recommendations for uptake

• Design & circulation of surveys

• Desk review

• Priority list of LEA challenges & needs

• Report on available expertise & state-of-the-art

• Report on gaps & opportunities

• Overview of project portfolio via a knowledge factory (KF)

• Feasibility study

• Standardisation recommendations

• Recommendations for uptake & RDI roadmap

Figure 4: ILEAnet Annual Cycle

- For LEA practitioners who face daily challenges, identifying existing solutions from research field and finding time and space to assess them, may be a challenge in itself. Consequently, the ILEAnet team has developed a vision more focused on the network. ILEAnet growing ambition is to provide a **highly conducive environment for security research and innovation** up to the deployment of practical solutions by LEAs

- ILEAnet is concerned with **enhancing its practitioner network** and **facilitating their involvement into research activities**: from identification of challenges and needs informing research topics, to the uptake of research projects' solutions into practice

🌐 Concretely experiment the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP) and initiate incubating process

The interactions between workpackages are represented schematically below.

| LEA challenges & needs identification (WP2) | Solutions & expertise identification (WP3) | Discussion facilitation between project holders and LEAs (Scientific Coordination) | Recommendation elaboration (WP4) |

Step 1 (performed in WP2): Collecting data through desk-reviews and surveys either related to the preidentified four focus topics: migration, cybercrime, terrorism and serious organised crime, or to any specific topic identified by the network.

Step 2 (performed in WP3): Focusing on specific topic identified in step 1, finding promising projects or solutions related to the abovementioned topics.

Step 3 (performed by Scientific Coordination): if solutions are found, organise a dialogue with the solution providers (EU funded research projects or national projects) and end-users who could use them, firstly through online meeting (webinars) or ad hoc workshops convening a limited audience and focusing on uptake-related- issues and finally, constructing a structured dialogue between end users and solutions providers.

Step 4 (performed in WP4): Elaborating recommendation, for instance for standardisation.

In practice, this process aims at performing the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP) whose goal is to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of security research projects' outputs.

Main findings

WP1: ILEAnet networking, including INC role and contribution to topic strands

WP1 aims to provide the resources to and inputs from the ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs) and their respective national networks of practitioners, academia, industry and other stakeholders.

The ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs)

As a reminder, ILEAnet is organised around ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs), who are dedicated ILEAnet consortium members or Law Enforcement Agency representatives from all involved member states. They are responsible for the functioning of their "national networks". Together with the Scientific Coordination, they ensure good quality of the online exchanges. They act as a hub for the ILEAnet bottom-up and top-down oriented activities.

Organisation	Country	INC
French Ministry of Interior	France	Thomas Fressin
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Police	France	NA
BMI- Ministry of the Interior	Austria	Caroline Schmidt
Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei	Germany	Sven-Eric Fikensher
Hungarian National police, bomb unit	Hungary	Balázs Horváth
Italian Public Safety Department, Ministry of Interior	Italy	Gabriele Casini Massimo Coleschi
Police Service of Northern Ireland	United Kingdom	Graham Kissock
ISEM INSTITUTE	Slovakia	Alena Dikosova
Unitad Central Intelligencia Criminal	Spain	Sandra Cerrato Moreno
University College Dublin, Centre for Cybersecurity & Cybercrime Investigation	reland	Cheryl Baker
Latvian Police, International Department	Latvia	Inese Voloseviča Līga Peisniece
European Forensic Initiatives Centre	Poland	Monika Pawelec
Ministry of Public Security	Israel	Tibby Roth
Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	Estonia	Raul Savimaa Hannes Jarvine
Ministry of Interior – Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Aleksandrina Aleksandrova
Cyprus Police	Cyprus	Chryso Angeli
Police of the Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Veronika Bouchalova

Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs - Directorate General Logistics	Romania	Claudiu Chiriac
Slovakian Police Criminal, Ministry of Interior	Slovakia	Zuzana Zachova
Institute for Research and Development of the Police Academy in Szczytno	Poland	Jakub Muraszko

Report of general activities

The WP1 activities for this six-month period can be summarised as follows:

🌐 Coordination of the ILEAnet national networks by the INCs in their respective countries:
Like the previous reporting periods, interactions between INCs and ILEAnet team were supported by teleconferences.
INCs went on raising awareness about ILEAnet activities nationally.
Their role was significant to enlarge the audience during webinars as they invited national experts in participating in the discussions and Public Workshops.

🌐 Facilitation of the contributions from the national networks to ILEAnet:
The INCs facilitated the contributions from the national networks by collecting the input to the surveys which were part of the WP2 tasks.
The INCs will play an important role in the identification of the relevant experts to be invited to the third ILEAnet Public Workshop, that was postponed in November 2020 due to COVID-19.
Finally, the INCs contributed to inviting practitioners to a number of follow-up activities like uptake-related webinars.

🌐 Expert contributions from the INCs to ILEAnet

The INCs function not only as facilitators of their national networks but also as experts participating in discussions themselves, asking questions, sharing knowledge and interacting with the members in the ILEAnet Online Platform.
Furthermore, some INCs were crucial in drafting the tender documentation.

Strategy for the next six months

Once again, last months have shown how much the INCs play a key role in building and enlarging the network.

The effort will focus on increasing the number of members (LEAs, Academia and end-users) and hiring greater practitioners by enhancing the involvement of the national experts.

Furthermore, it is important to continue spreading information about ILEAnet activities and events.

WP2 Law Enforcement Challenges and Needs

WP2 aims to collect contemporary challenges and needs for Law Enforcement Authorities at national and EU level in order to facilitate the solving of these challenges through research and development activities. WP2 outputs then feed into WP3 and WP4 to determine the focus in WP3 for identification best practices and state of the art in the topic areas and in this way direct in-depth analysis and feasibility study of opportunities for WP4.

Report of general activities

The WP2 is designed to collect and analyze the needs and challenges for LEA practitioners. Its collection of data was performed using three approaches:

- Top-down, by suggesting topics based on analysis of policy, strategic documents and strategic research agendas,
- Bottom-up, by collecting inputs in open surveys and non-directed interviews,
- Based on analysis of surveys and observation of the activities in the ILEAnet network (ILEAnet community, ILEAnet network and ILEAnet practitioners' network).

The previous step of WP2 consisted in the review of the strategic and policy documents about "Support to the identification and control of irregular migration through modern technologies" and the analysis of results of an ILEAnet Survey on this topic.

Activity from months 31 to 36 have consisted in a desk review for the "Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination" topic, the preparation of the related practitioner survey and the preparation of the Public Workshop 3 (PW3).

Review of strategic and policy documents about "Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination"

As a reminder, this focus topic emerged as resulting from the real needs of Law Enforcement Agencies' practitioners and was decided within ILEAnet Steering Committee. It is connected to the 2 previous studies related to migration ("Migration" and "Support the control of irregular migration through modern technologies"). The topic was also chosen as one of the main topics at ILEAnet Public Workshop 3. The current study is wider than just for migration control purposes and is aimed to support LEAs in different police activities.

A significant number of documents was reviewed and analyzed during the desk review. 9 main challenges (and 34 related needs) were identified:

- Lack of awareness concerning child migrants' rights
- Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations
- Identifying and supporting migrant children who come to the attention of LEAs that are 'missing' or victims of migrant smuggling or human trafficking
- A child-centric, child-sensitive and child-rights approach to age assessments and age determination
- Lack of effective, consistent and timely procedures for age determination and age assessments within and between Member States
- Accuracy and reliability of age assessment techniques
- Availability of qualified, trained and independent guardians to be swiftly appointed for unaccompanied and separated children to represent them throughout the age determination process

- Duplication of effort by Member States in repeating age determination procedures with the same individual
- Better and more accommodation and reception facilities for all migrant children

Those challenges and needs all show the complexity and significant impacts of the age determination. The topic is important and valuable for LEAs for multiple policing areas (not only migration, also investigation, border management etc). A holistic approach should be taken for age determination thanks to a multi-disciplinary task force and complimentary and coordinated age assessment methodologies. Furthermore, age assessments should be based on a consideration of physical, psychological, developmental, environmental and socio-cultural factors. In order to balance these different factors, professionals from different disciplines need to participate or be consulted in the assessment, particularly professionals with expertise in child development.

Survey design about "Identifying the challenges and needs of Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Age Determination"

The detected challenges will be used as inputs for the survey that will be conducted among LEA practitioners on the focus area. The questionnaire has been designed but not disseminated yet, because of the COVID-19 situation. It is expected to be published in September 2020 and results analyzed in Autumn/Winter.

Preparation of the PW3
WP2 intensively participated in the preparation of PW3, although the latter was postponed because of COVID-19. Several suggestions were accepted for the PW3:

- FRONTEX participation to the PW3
- Format of the event (sessions, activities etc)

A dozen of projects was already identified as interesting projects for the workshop.

General conclusions

This semester was unusual for the project as there was an outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic disease, and this influenced process routines as well as organizing the Public Workshop 3. However, the desk review was provided to WP3 and WP4 to move on the topic.

Strategy for the next six months

The results of the desk review highlighted the importance of the "Age determination" topic and the need for additional information for LEAs.

Consequently, this topic was suggested and accepted as the theme of the ILEAnet PW3. To get additional findings and research outcomes on the topic, a survey will be launched to obtain more responses.

One of the other important activities of the next reporting period concerns the preparation and support of the PW3.

WP3 ILEAnet Knowledge Factory

The Work Package 3 has four main tasks:

- Enhancement and analysis of the online profiles of the ILEAnet community members
- Identification and coordination of specific best practice and state-of-the-art/technology reports
- Initial gaps and opportunities analysis
- Development and management of the ILEAnet wiki (ILEAnet Knowledge Factory)

Report of general activities

- Enhancement and analysis of the online profiles of the ILEAnet community members

A significant amount of work was performed to improve the online members profile during the previous reporting period. No other actions were undertaken to enhance member profiles and the task is considered concluded.

- Initial gaps and opportunities analysis and Identification and Coordination of Specific Best Practices and State of the Art/Technology Reports

This task consists in initiating the state-of-the-art commissioning process to identify cross cutting needs/solutions/gaps. This decision comes from the mapping of solutions to the needs highlighted in the results of the challenges and need survey (WP2).

After the analysis of the results of the desk review for the topic called "Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies", three specific challenges were selected. A bottom-up practitioner survey about migration control revealed that more than ¾ of respondents were not familiar with the EU projects related to migration.

The 'call for solutions' searching for expertise within the ILEAnet community led to a low participation rate and no expertise

identification, as expected after the results of the bottom-up survey with practitioners.

Thus, WP3 explored alternative ways to map expertise. In particular, it was agreed that PW3 would support this task, thanks to interactive sessions between researchers and LEAs.

ILEAnet and FRONTEX, which agreed on participating in the PW3, selected 11 H2020 projects for follow up. Those projects have been invited by ILEAnet team to be part of the IPUP (ILEAnet Project Uptake Process). For those interested in moving forward with ILEAnet, they will be asked to complete the TELOS survey and provide a scenario.

The **scenario** is a new tool being developed by ILEAnet for the IPUP and will play a key role in understanding how the project outputs can be used in LEAs' daily activities or operations.

The PW3 was delayed by COVID-19 and the event is being planned for November 2020, with virtual meetings.

- Development and management of the ILEAnet wiki (ILEAnet Knowledge Factory)

The Knowledge Factory is filled with information on relevant academic publications, white papers, national and international research projects and official documents. All users are encouraged to contribute to the body knowledge with their own expertise or experiences, add value and applicability to the information by evaluating knowledge, and search the Knowledge Factory to find ideas, solutions, events, collaboration opportunities in Europe and internationally.

Despite the encouragement of individuals outside the Steering Committee, the tool feeding is only performed by WP3 contributors, the ILEAnet Scientific Coordination and the ILEAnet Community management. There are now more than 400

references of information available in the Knowledge Factory, at the disposal of ILEAnet Community but only very few submitted by the INCs themselves.

To continue populating the Knowledge Factory, a 'push' rather than a 'pull' approach has been adopted. Every month, an information Digest will be pushed on all ILEAnet communication channels (CMT, Twitter, LinkedIn etc) and will offer an information set related to a defined topic. WP partners will be responsible for sourcing the relevant information instead of the overall ILEAnet community and will compile it before circulating it. Four 'Covid' Knowledge Factory Digests have been pushed, with a list of links related to law enforcement on the 'Covid'

topic: it was a gread success and interested a lot the practitioners!

Strategy for the next six months

The following tasks have been targeted for completion during the next months:

- Refine the IPUP
- Go on with the IPUP, thanks to online events
- Encourage the participation of INCs and practitioner community to detect expertise and spotlight knowledge, by adopting a 'push' rather than a 'pull' strategy
- Formalize and put in place the Knowledge Factory Digest process

WP4 ILEAnet Scouting activities

The purpose of this section is to provide a status update on the main areas of work related to the WP4 for month 31 to 36, which are as follow:

- Cooperation with other WPs on defining areas for further in-depth analysis;
- Support for ILEAnet work cycles through the preparation to the procurement procedure to select experts;
- Making the connection with other projects through participation in external or internal events;

The actions undertaken in the last six months in the above-mentioned areas contribute to the achievement of the following specific objectives:

- To perform an analysis of opportunities identified in WP3 and assess feasibility of the most promising ones;
- To define the areas of most common interest for future standardization;
- To connect with relevant initiatives and RDI projects.
- To elaborate recommendations for uptake of solutions by LEA practitioners and RDI roadmaps.

Report of general activities

Preparing the tender about "Information Sharing"

The work carried out within WP4 during the reporting period is mostly related to the decision taken by the Steering Committee in July 2019 to concentrate the joint efforts on the subcontracting activities.

As a reminder, the survey and Call for Solutions carried out by WP3 highlighted a cross-cutting issue in all priority areas (migration, terrorism, cybercrime, organized crime): the need for more common processes and frameworks for the sharing of information, and data, in order to achieve more cooperation and collaboration in these areas. Therefore, it was proposed by WP3 that a state-of-the-art investigation on the needs of practitioners for more effective information sharing processes should be commissioned.

Consequently, the work in the current ILEAnet Cycle focused on organizing and preparing the documentation for a procurement procedure. This preparation phase is heavy and required a very long time.

The tender will support the selection of external experts to support the WP3 and WP4 activities related to the annual cycles' findings. The concrete role of the experts will be manifold:

- To help the Network in having an objective and current state regarding the information sharing in the 4 mentioned areas
- To identify barriers, best practices, trends and possible solutions to enhance coordination in information sharing
- To exchange knowledge regarding the existing information exchange tools
- To assess the level of engagement between LEAs and the industry, identifying any needs, joint approaches, good practices and barriers
- To identify obstacles and enablers to RDI uptake by LEAs

The tender deliverables will support the ILEAnet Steering Committee for further discussion, project development and definition of the areas of future standardization (if applicable).

Getting contact with the externs

The activities performed by WP4 in this area were mostly tied to the ILEAnet Public Workshop 3 (PW3). WP4 succeeded in onboarding FRONTEX to this event. The PW3 should have been held in Warsaw, Poland and was prepared for that but due to COVID-19 epidemic, the event was delayed. It will be held virtually in November 2020.

In addition to that, during the last six months, ILEAnet Community Management team organised 1 webinar dedicated to the uptake of a promising project.

Webinars are an excellent opportunity to create a bridge between researchers and practitioners and to recognise the chances and opportunities for future uptake of the project results into market and/or routine LEA's practice.

In addition, WP4 participated in the few online meetings with other projects but here again, COVID-19 crisis slowed down the initial contacts and collaboration.

Strategy for the next six months

In the reporting period, the WP4 activities were mostly focused on preparing the documentation for the subcontracting.

The next six months will be dedicated to the publication and launch of the tender and selection of the experts.

In parallel, the ILEAnet network will continue its work on strengthening ILEAnet capacity, particularly the IPUP. It will keep on initiating contact with practitioners, academia and industry partners at the same pace and intensity as before.

Conclusion

ILEAnet's first mission is to build and develop a sustainable LEA practitioner's network focused on research and innovation addressing LEA's challenges together with a community of individuals. ILEAnet's role happened to be even more crucial in the COVID-19 crisis that imposed teleworking and virtual meetings. ILEAnet proved its resiliency by adapting and digitising information in the most effective way.

It resulted in:

- New products designed to feed the knowledge factory and increase the platform's visibility, which was largely commended by the community;
- The first experimentation of the IPUP with the a promising project;
- The preparation of the subcontracting activities' documents;
- Successful webinars with a large LEA audience, thanks to the involvement of the INCs and their national networks.

The ultimate goal is to enhance ILEAnet's legitimacy and visibility among academics and LEA end-users, to develop a conducive environment for innovation and facilitate practitioners' involvement into research activities.

The concrete activities developed in ILEAnet since the beginning of the project have increased the LEAs' motivation to join the Community and participate to the discussions online.

The next steps will be focused on:

- Pursuing the experimentation of the IPUP by a follow-up of project's ownership by LEAs

- Holding the Public Workshop 3 on November 2020, with virtual discussion sessions, to refine practitioners needs on specific topics and stimulate cooperation and discussion;
- Encouraging the INC network to feed the platform with research development and innovation activities and make their national network grow continuously;
- Launching the subcontracting activities and use its outputs to elaborate recommendation;
- Fostering the collaboration between LEAs and academics, taking advantage of ILEAnet workshops, subcontracting activities and the online community
- Adopting a proactive strategy in looking for projects;
- Starting to work on standardization activities as planned in WP4;
- Developing the e-reputation of ILEAnet through a clear digital identity and regular newsletters and digests on the platform.

Feel free to contact your national INC and join the ILEAnet Community!