Sustainable Practices of Integration

Start date of project: 1st March 2021 Duration: 24 months

D5.1 - SPRING Platform @M4

WP n° and title	WP5 - Communication and Dissemination: creating innovative knowledge exchange tools on sustainable practices of integration
Responsible Author(s)	YM
Contributor(s)	YM, ISMU
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02	06/23/2021	YM	Sections added
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1 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
AB	Advisory Board
EU	European Union
SG	Steering Group
TBC	To be confirmed
WP	Work Package
CMS	Content Management System

2 INTRODUCTION

This document summarises the strategy and actions taken to establish the first footprint of the SPRING project online-platform. The platform represents the communication and engagement hub for the entire SPRING project. It will be set up in two stages, though it is intended to grow constantly during the SPRING project with new functions and content.

3 SPRING Online Platform V1.0

3.1 ANALYSIS

The initial analysis involved many rounds of discussions between WP5 team (YM and ISMU). This also involved a round of bilateral discussions WP1-WP5, WP2-WP5, WP3-WP5, starting from the assumption that WP1-2-3 will be the main content-providers for the platform, therefore the shape of the solution should already take into consideration the structure of the feature content. Bilateral exchanges occurred under the Online Board, a decision-making body created at the suggestion of YM to explore functionalities of the Platforms from a project and user-experience standpoint. The establishment of the Online Board is in line with the decentralized governance underpinning the SPRING project, with different bodies exploring different aspects of implementation and taking technical decisions.

In addition, a round of discussion took place between WP5 and WP4, related to the launch-conference since online communication had to be designed and made available on the Platform also for events from these WPs (e.g. the SPRING Launch Conference).

After gathering the first list of technical needs and feedback, the YM team started working on:

- general web-design
- design for specific sections
- online communication design
- server set-up
- platform set-up
- front-end implementation

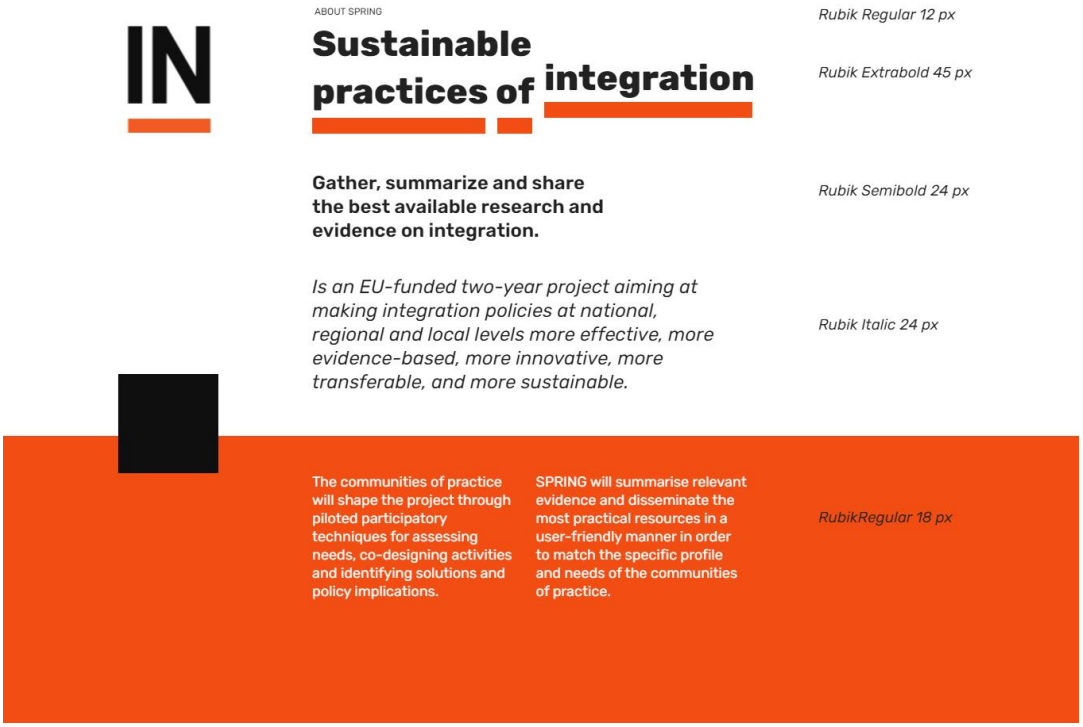
3.2 DESIGN

Design was structured around the findings of the analysis phase and accordingly to YM's regular development process using design thinking and user-centered techniques that guarantee an innovative and seamless experience to all the users such as practitioners, policy makers, academics as well as simple citizens. In this phase YM was guided by the Communication Task Force, another key decision-making body tasked with making the knowledge and tools developed through SPRING - including the Platform – easily accessible to practitioners and other final beneficiaries.

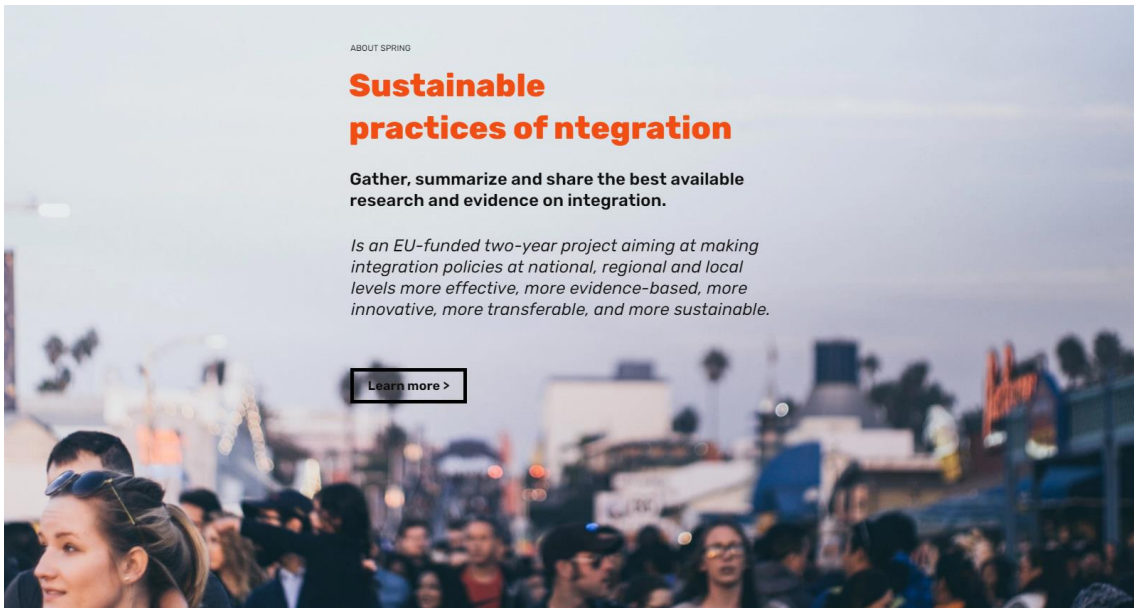
First YM extended the general visual identity of the project to a suitable web-language. Then it created specific general web-bricks, to be used in constructing the layouts. In parallel it also created specific web-templates and guidelines for communication needs (such as communicating the conference).

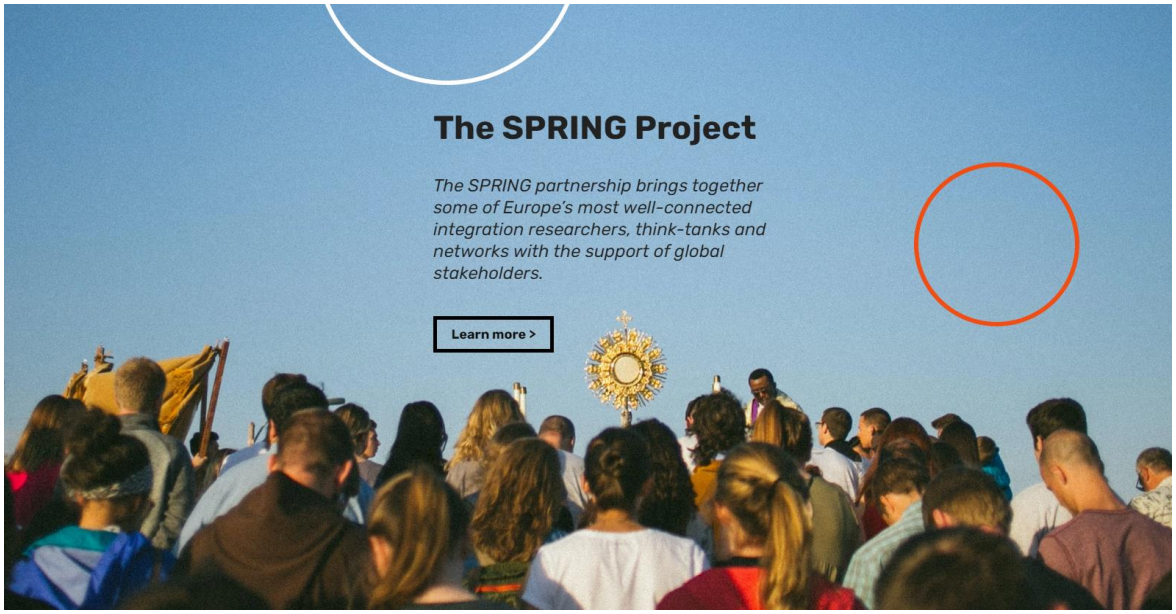
See examples below:

Extending the main project identity to a suitable web-language:

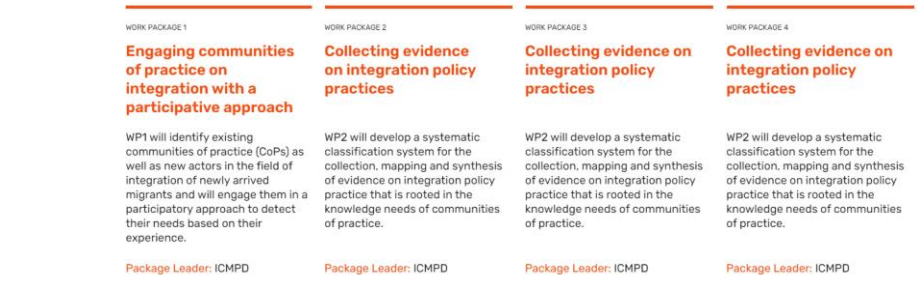


Designing banner-styles (bricks):

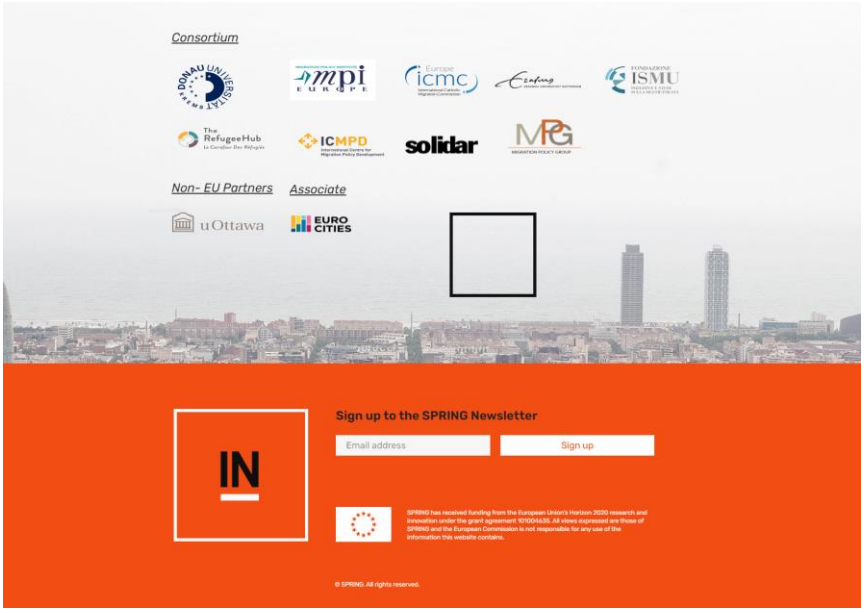




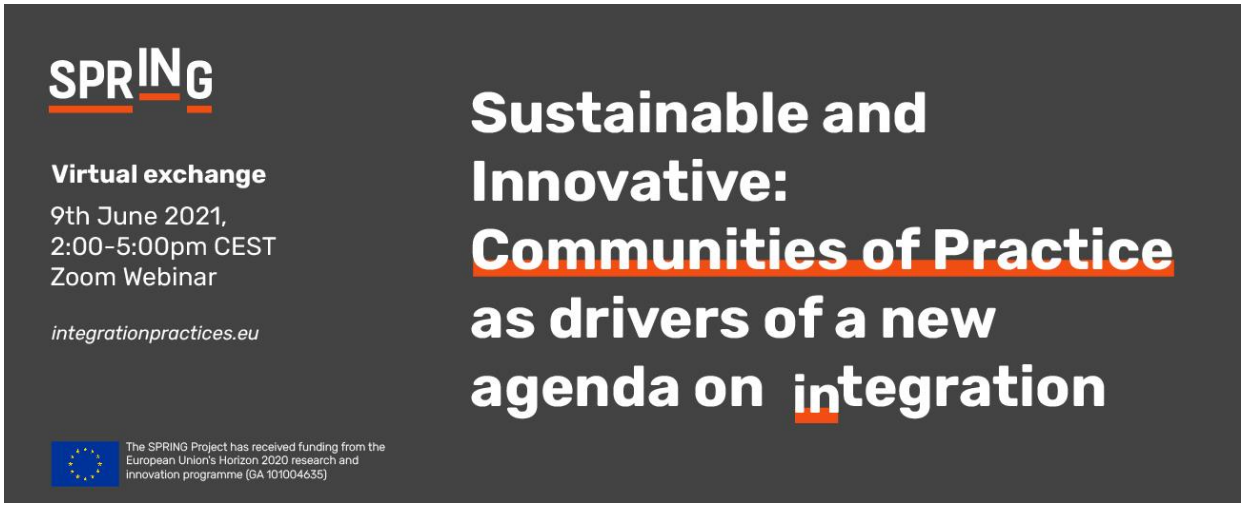
Designing paragraphs and lists (bricks):



Designing the footer of the platform:



Designing online communication:



3.3 FUNCTIONALITIES

According to the specifications and the first round of content, the first functionalities of the platform have been decided:

- main (intro) page – presenting the project at a glance
- deliverables section – bringing together all the deliverables of the project
- the project section – presenting details about the project and the WPs involved
- the privacy policy

The team decided also for a main domain of the project – www.integrationpratices.eu – descriptive, easy to use and to transmit to the stakeholders of the project.

3.4 IMPLEMENTATION

3.4.1 Server setup

The domain has been acquired and linked a server set-up by the YM team. The server setup involved putting up the first version of the infrastructure needed for developing SPRING platform:

- web server, tools and services
- database server
- email server

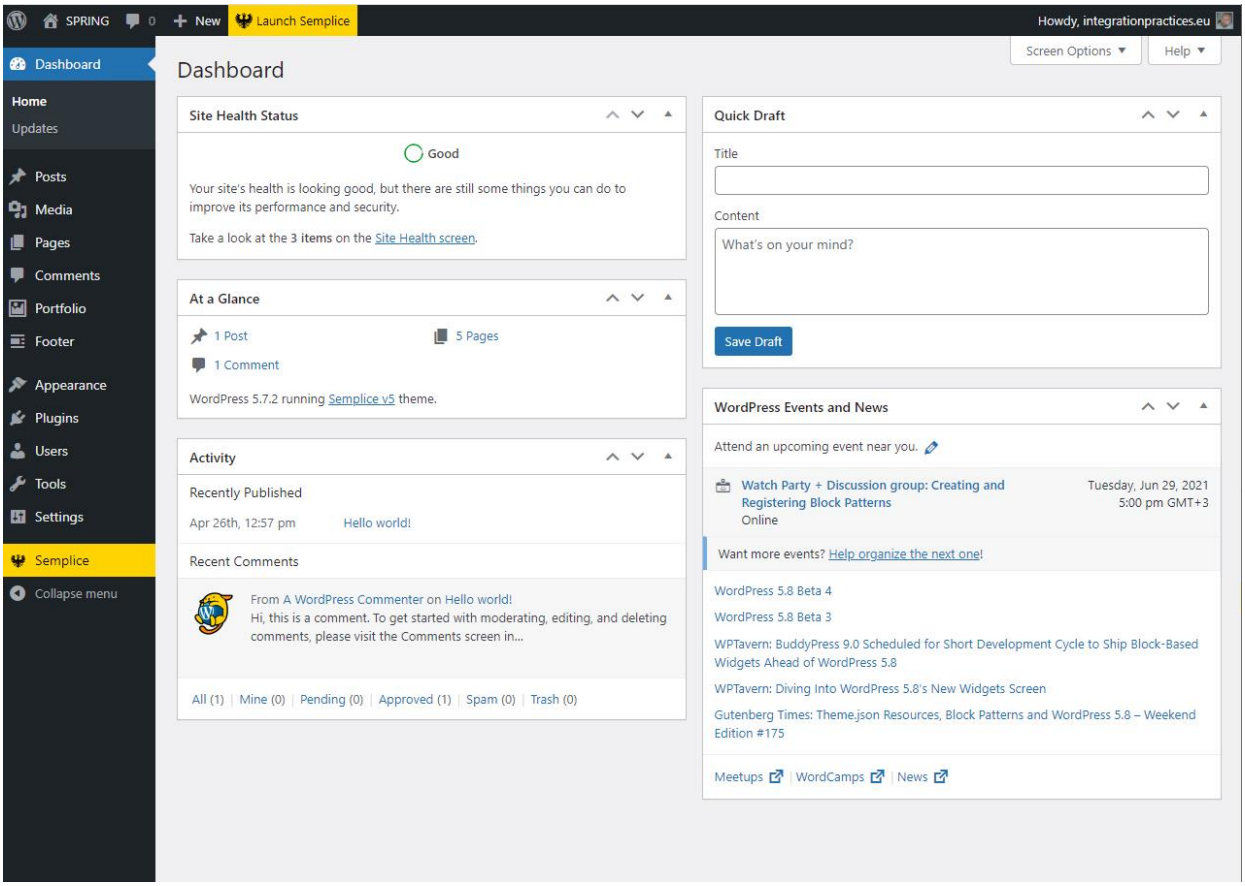
Server-side security measures have been taken:

- Use of secure protocols for data access (SSL, FTPS, SSH, RDP)
- Default configuration settings are the most secure settings possible - complex and unpredictable usernames and passwords, hard to break by brute force, dictionary or phishing
- Minimizing the attack surface - restricting access to sensitive protocols by IP
- Operation with minimum privileges - maintaining access and writing permissions to the minimum necessary
- Security through obscurity - using non-standard settings, difficult to predict by a potential attacker
- Security with simple, clear rules - avoid tangled security settings, with many set points, difficult to manage

3.4.2 Platform setup

On the above-mentioned premises a back-end platform has been set-up. For the first version of the SPRING-hub YM chose a Wordpress, a content management system (CMS) written in PHP[4] and paired with a MySQL database. Features include the plugin architecture and a template system, referred to as Themes.

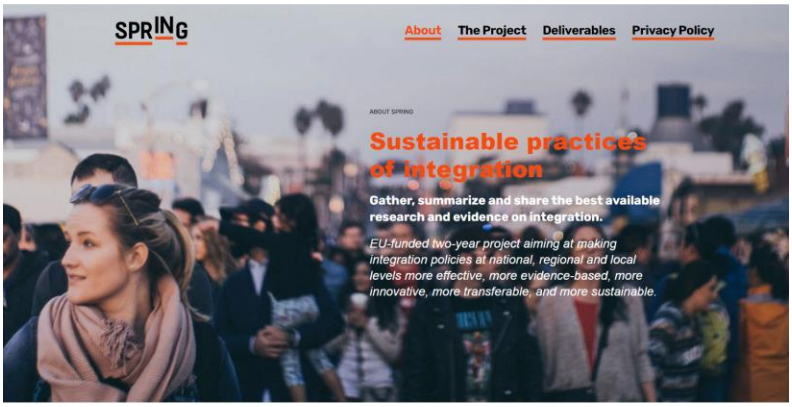
View of the back-end system



3.4.3 Front-end setup

In top of the back-end platform, YM defined the bricks described above (3.2) and using these, implemented the initial list of sections and functionalities:

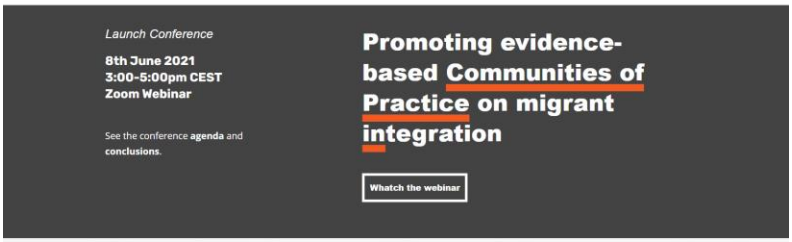
Main page - https://integrationpractices.eu/

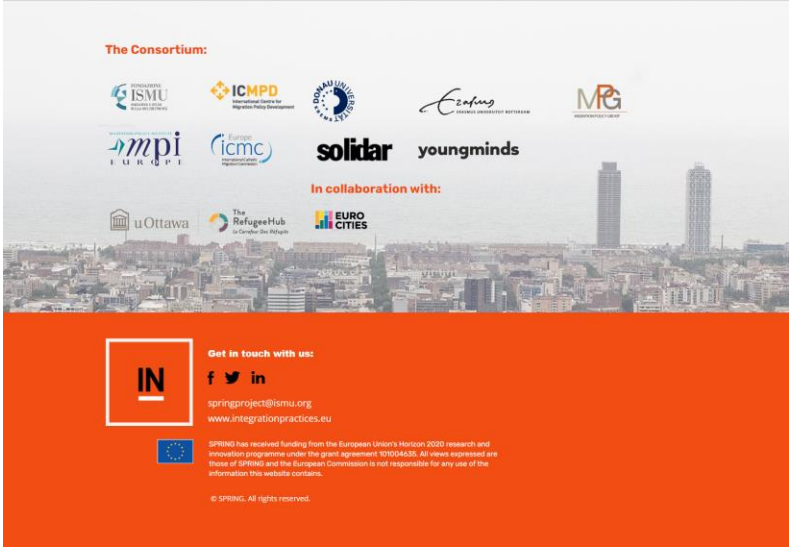


SPRING will summarise relevant evidence and disseminate the most practical resources in a user-friendly manner in order to match the specific profile and needs of the communities of practice.

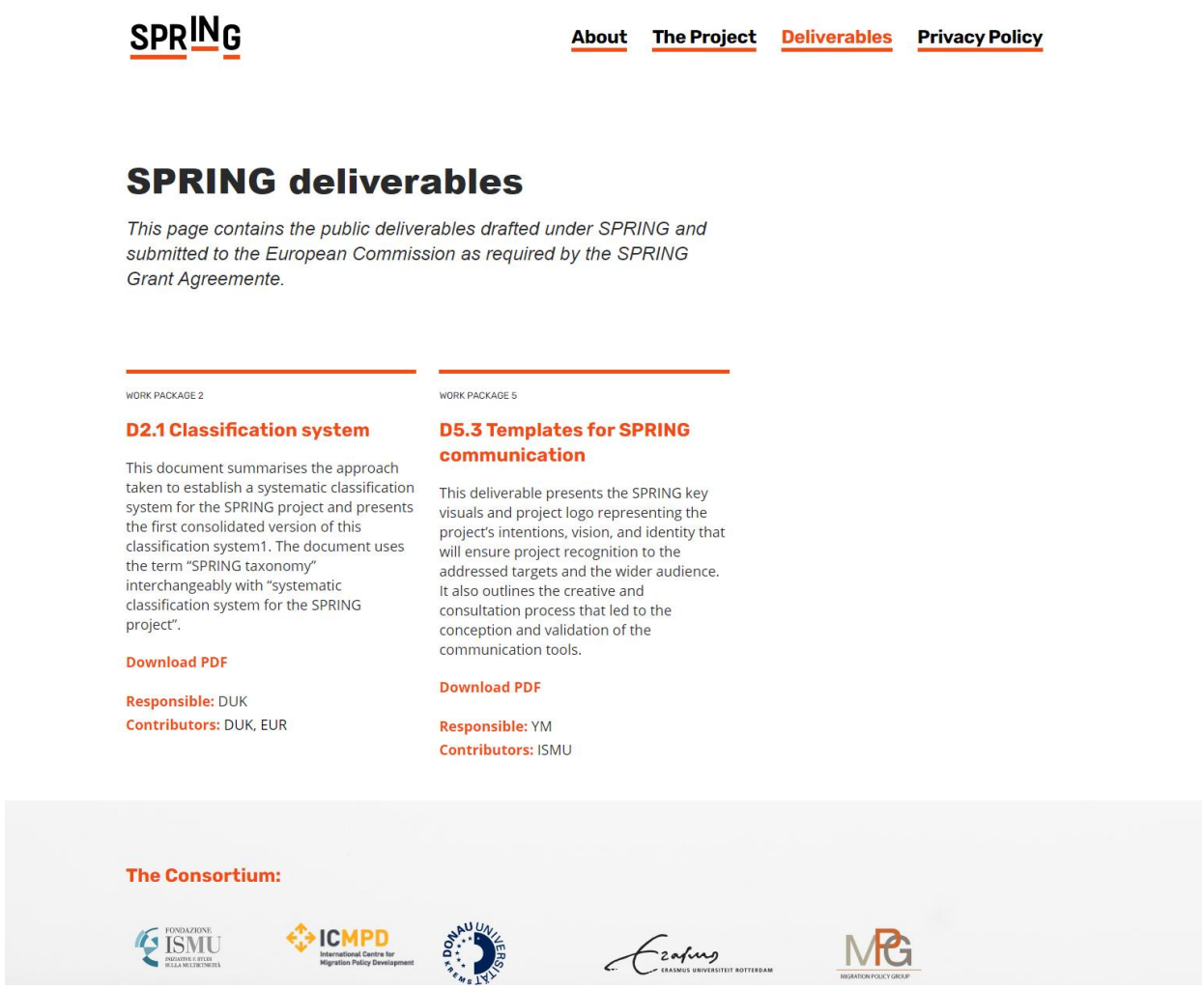
- Mapping and engaging with relevant stakeholders around communities of practice
- Mobilising significant evidence that matches stakeholders' knowledge needs
- Identifying successful and sustainable practices for the integration of newly arrived migrants
- Promoting an evidence culture in integration policy and building a dialogue with national and local policy makers, public sector, NGOs, businesses and grassroots initiatives creating innovative tools for transferring knowledge

The communities of practice will shape the project through piloted participatory techniques for assessing needs, co-designing activities and identifying solutions and policy implications.





Deliverbles page - https://integrationpractices.eu/deliverables



SPRING

About The Project Deliverables Privacy Policy

SPRING deliverables

This page contains the public deliverables drafted under SPRING and submitted to the European Commission as required by the SPRING Grant Agreemente.

WORK PACKAGE 2

D2.1 Classification system

This document summarises the approach taken to establish a systematic classification system for the SPRING project and presents the first consolidated version of this classification system1. The document uses the term "SPRING taxonomy" interchangeably with "systematic classification system for the SPRING project".

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Responsible: DUK
Contributors: DUK, EUR

WORK PACKAGE 5

D5.3 Templates for SPRING communication

This deliverable presents the SPRING key visuals and project logo representing the project's intentions, vision, and identity that will ensure project recognition to the addressed targets and the wider audience. It also outlines the creative and consultation process that led to the conception and validation of the communication tools.

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Responsible: YM
Contributors: ISMU

The Consortium:

FONDAZIONE ISMU INIZIATIVE E STUDI SULLA MULTIETNICITÀ
ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development
DONAU UNIVERSITÄT KREMS
Erasmus ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM
MPG MIGRATION POLICY GROUP

Project details page - https://integrationpractices.eu/deliverables

CONCLUSIONS

The platform represents the communication and engagement hub for the entire SPRING project. It is being set up in two stages, though it is intended to grow constantly during the SPRING project with new functions and content. An initial analysis was conducted through many rounds of discussions between WP5 team (YM and ISMU). This also involved a round of bilateral discussions between YM and representatives of different WPs to allow for the development design of functionalities based on the different outputs coming from the WPs. Bilateral exchanges occurred under the Online Board, a decision-making body created at the suggestion of YM to explore functionalities of the Platforms from a project and user-experience standpoint.

After gathering the first list of technical needs and feedback, the YM team started working on general web-design, design for specific sections, online communication design, server set-up, platform set-up, and front-end implementation.