

Press Release
September 2022



Flexible and Improved Border-Crossing Experience for Passengers and Authorities

FLEXI-cross kick-off meeting!

Our kick-off meeting for the FLEXI-cross took place virtually on the **12th of September 2022!** **Dr. Giuseppe Vella**, the Project Coordinator chaired the meeting, representing Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A (ENG) in Italy.

FLEXI-cross Concept

FLEXI-cross targets the **deployment and continuous validation of a toolkit of innovative border-checking solutions in real operational environments**. These solutions will **deliver increased security and reliability of border checks for people and goods**, which can be enabled by **innovative technologies** [5G and Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Big Data and Predictive Analytics, Cloud and Edge Computing and more], aiming at enhancing and improving the border management capabilities.

The resulting flexibility and dynamicity of border check planning will offer novel capabilities, such as the **dynamic deployment of checkpoints and support via mobile applications for border personnel** while guaranteeing a high level of security, the privacy of personal data, and the protection of people's fundamental rights. The design and architecture of the implemented solutions will be based on the **analysis of the technical and service requirements of the EU border authorities** (e.g., Frontex) and will **offer seamless integration with existing systems and devices** currently utilised by them.

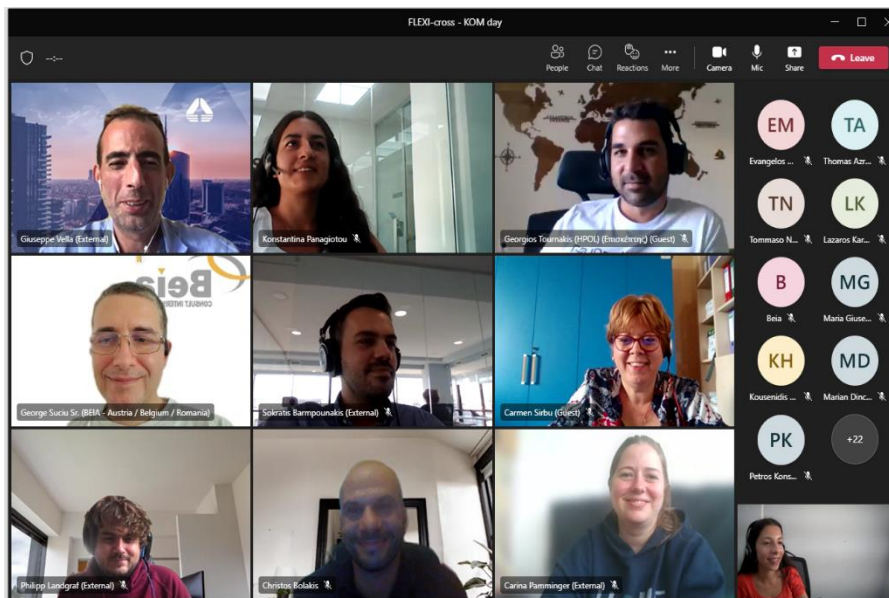
The FLEXI-cross project will instantiate **three representative Use Cases covering road, port and rail-based border-crossing conditions** in three different sites, namely the Danube-based

port of Galati in Romania, the Greek-Bulgarian borders at Ormenio, and the Romanian-Moldovan rail crossing. **More specifically:**

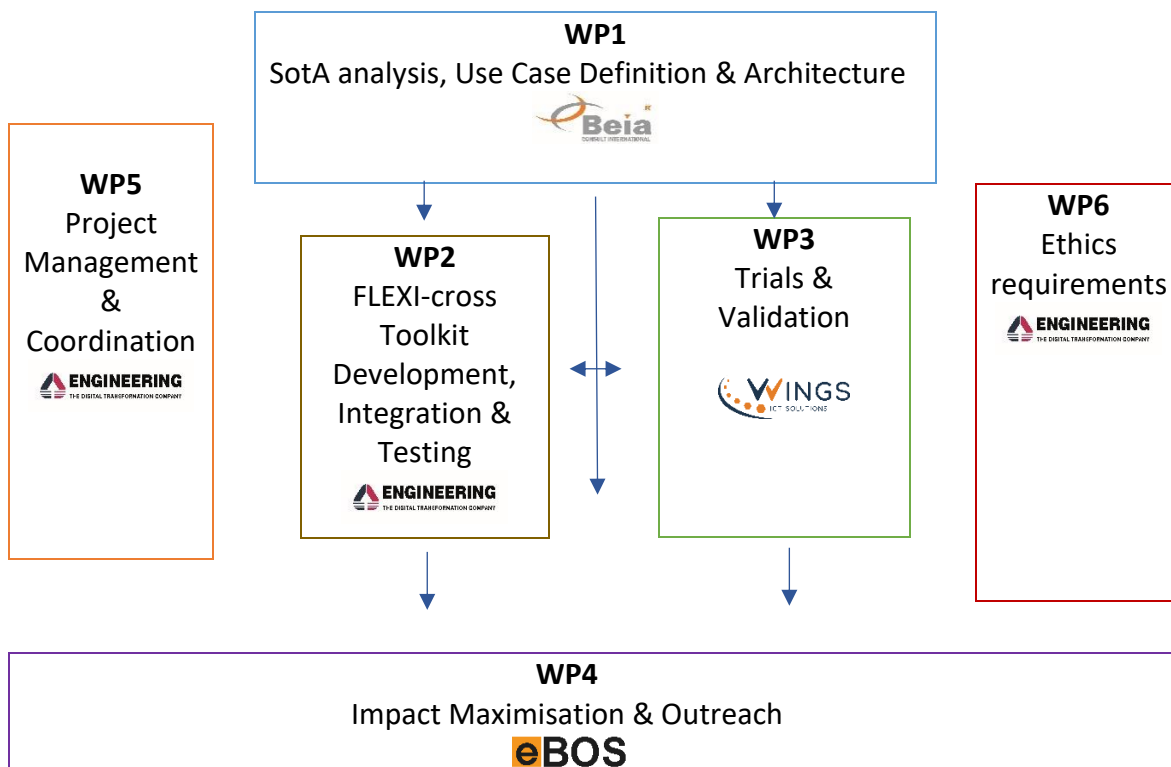
- 1) UC1 (Romania/Galati port): Enhanced protection and biometric checks for European ports;
- 2) UC2 (Greece-Bulgaria borders): Intelligent and dynamic customs procedures for improved border-crossing experience on the road, and;
- 3) UC3 (Romania- Moldova borders): Intelligent, secure and portable border checking system, for the facilitation of rail travel.

FLEXI-cross Project Consortium

FLEXI-cross is consisted of **12 European partners** who are going to collaborate in the 36-month Research and Innovation project, which is funded by Horizon Europe under Grant Agreement No.101073879. The partner organisations who represent the FLEXI-cross project and participated in the kick-off meeting are **ENG, BEIA, eBOS, WINGS, HOLO, ICCS, KEMEA, GIBP, IGPF, TCCFR, ATG, and HPOL**. In addition, **Mr. Bruno Chenard**, Project Officer in the European Research Executive Agency (REA) joined the meeting to highlight European Commission standards and quality assurance procedures, as he holds the role of the Project Officer in the project. Mr. Chenard will be observing the project's progress and ensure that the project's developments, deliverables and activities are aligned with proper security and ethics. More information about his profile can be found by accessing the link [here](#).



The project partners introduced themselves and explained in detail their roles and responsibilities in the project. They shared their knowledge and expertise concerning border-cross checks and discussed possible scenarios and approaches in regard to improved experiences for both passengers and border authorities' staff. Henceforth, they presented their respective **Work Packages (WPs)** and provided **preliminary ideas and action planning**. Their discussions relied on the project's key actions, namely:



The FLEXI-cross consortium analysed various aspects of the project, emphasising on operational, security, ethical and legal requirements of the border authorities, agencies and passengers concerning the project’s use cases and shared some preliminary ideas on the System of Systems (SoS) architecture. They focus their attention on the core tools and technologies for the development of the FLEXI-cross toolkit and trail configuration, as well as on the creation of various synergies and associations that can benefit from the FLEXI-cross solutions.

For more information about the project can be obtained from the project website and social media networks.



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