A European Positive Sum Approach towards AI tools in support of Law Enforcement and safeguarding privacy and fundamental rights

D5.1 Initial community building & ecosystem engagement activities plan

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Author	Elena Galifianaki (NCSRD)		
Contributor	Dimitris Kyriazanos (NCSRD)		
Reviewers	Paola Fratantoni (Z&P), Dimitris Kyriazanos, Andreas Oikonomopoulos (NCSRD)		

Executive Summary

This deliverable identifies the initial community building and ecosystem engagement activity plan implemented by the popAI partnership has during the first half of the project. To this end, the framework of activities that have been planned – and a few already implemented – to engage stakeholders in accordance with the popAI dissemination and communication strategy is outlined. The paramount importance of key stakeholders who have been contributing to the success of the project is acknowledged, while the cooperative nature of the contemplated activities with relevant tasks in Work Packages 3 to 5 are discussed.

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List of Terms & Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
Work Package	**WP**
Stakeholder Policy Labs	**SPL**
Law Enforcement Agencies	**LEAs**
Stakeholder Advisory Board	**SAB**
Artificial Intelligence	**AI**
Social Sciences and Humanities	**SSH**

1   Introduction

popAI is to foster a dialogue around Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application to the security domain, while consolidating knowledge, exchanging expertise and raising awareness on the use of such technologies. In achieving this goal, it is paramount to create an ecosystem of the relevant actors involved in this domain, considering its multiple facets. This task focuses on building this ecosystem, thus gathering different types of stakeholders, while coordinating the engagement activities. This task will work closely with T5.2 and T5.3, while taking inputs from T3.1. while aligning its activities with those performed in WP3 and WP4.

To assist in community building, the dissemination and communication activities are aligned with the scope of T5.1 so as to provide appropriate visibility of the project to carefully selected target audiences thus boosting the impact and improving the exploitation potential of popAI.

1.1   Purpose and Scope of this document

This document will act as reference for the popAI partnership as it outlines community building, clustering and ecosystem engagement activities for the first half of the project.

Considering the findings and outputs of deliverable *D3.1 Map of AI in policing innovation ecosystem and stakeholders*, D5.1 also illustrates the activities carried out so far to gather the various stakeholders and coordinate the engagement activities. Task 5.1 will coordinate with the other WP5 tasks (in particular T5.2 and T5.3), WP3 and WP4 activities with the purpose of:

    a)   Raising awareness about the project and its objectives while fostering dialogue between stakeholders

    b)   Exchanging knowledge and best practices between LEAs

    c)   Establishing liaisons and creating synergies with related projects and initiatives in the same area to exchange knowledge and best practices.

1.2   Relationship with other documents and tasks

This deliverable is part of WP5 Dissemination, Communications and Sustainable Community Engagement. The overarching aim of this WP is twofold: it aims to co-ordinate the development of the project ecosystem and platform, as well as to create an inclusive and dynamic community that engages a broad and diverse range of stakeholders on implementation and use of human-centred and socially-driven AI tools in support of Law Enforcement, fostering a European conversation in the area and exchanging best practices between LEAs to feed a continuous learning process that will build trust in AI systems use.

Deliverable 5.1 refers to the community building, clustering and ecosystem engagement activities as well as the development of the popAI platform and it is linked to *D5.2 Final community building, and ecosystem engagement activities plan* to be delivered in M24.

The deliverable falls under the task *T5.1 Community building and ecosystem engagement activities* which are active from M1-M24 and is assisted by all partners.

Task T5.1 is assisted by tasks *T5.2 popAI platform* and *T5.3 Communication and dissemination activities*. Moreover, T5.1 will coordinate with activities under WP3 and WP4 that require the active participation of stakeholders, such as the policy labs (T3.6), the photo competition (T3.5), the policy recommendations and best practices (T4.1, T4.2, T4.3 and T4.4).

1.3   Project Ambition and Vision

The core vision of popAI is to foster trust in AI for the security domain via increased awareness, ongoing social engagement, consolidating distinct spheres of knowledge (including theoretical & empirical knowledge by academics & non-academics) and offering a unified European view across LEAs, and specialised knowledge outputs (recommendations, roadmaps, etc), while creating an ecosystem that will form the structural basis for a sustainable and inclusive European AI hub for Law Enforcement.

popAI takes advantage of the rich knowledge of security practitioners, civil society organisations, and citizens, as well as Social Sciences and Humanities experts to formulate a positive-sum approach when participating in innovation processes related to the intertwined implementation of security and AI starting from idea inception up to product development and application.

1.4   Project Objectives

The ambitious vision of popAI will be achieved by the following specific objectives:

- Provide a holistic taxonomy mapping of AI functionalities in the Law Enforcement domain, legal, ethical, social and organisational aspects, including inter-correlations through trans-disciplinary analysis;
- Provide a practical Ethics Toolbox for the use of AI by LEAs;
- Engage civil society and raise awareness to the general public for a European positive-sum approach for use of AI in the security domain and safeguarding of fundamental rights;
- Facilitate knowledge exchange, improve and consolidate knowledge among EU LEAs across all relevant aspects;
- Facilitate advances in implementation of human-centered, socially-driven ethical- and secure by design AI in support of Law Enforcement;
- Provide recommendations across stakeholder segments and AI roadmap to 2040 for policymakers, LEAs and the security domain ecosystem stakeholders;
- Ensure and promote gender-diversity for assessment and implementation of AI tools across all aspects in the current and future usage of AI systems in support of Law Enforcement;
- Pave the path for the establishment of an EU AI innovation hub for LEAs and the broader Community.

1.5   The popAI Partnership

The popAI partnership consists of key technology providers, well known research centres, influential industry players, and user partners with international coverage.

The 13 consortium partners stem from eight different EU member states, possessing different cultures, needs and diverse communication infrastructures favouring the exchange of know-how and experiences that are most useful for the successful completion of the project. The list of partners is available on the relevant webpage of the popAI website: https://www.pop-ai.eu/consortium.

2   Defining the popAI Ecosystem and Stakeholders

To achieve popAI goals and objectives, partners have identified key stakeholders who need to be kept up to date with the progress and outcomes of the project. The audiences are generally divided in internal and external; to cater for these inherently diverse audiences that require different types of information, we introduced segmentation. A more detailed outline of the audiences is provided in deliverable *D5.5 Communication and Dissemination plan – Interim* and in deliverable *D3.1 Map of AI in policing innovation ecosystem and stakeholders*. This section outlines the identified stakeholders, the activities and tools created to liaise with them and communicate popAI's outcomes and news.

Internal Audiences: Apart from external audiences, which are the most common recipients of information, it is important to identify the need for information of project partners and their respective organisations and recognise them as internal stakeholders (and members of the project's ecosystem). To cater for this need, the WP5 lead partner has created internal communication tools and channels as early as the project's kick-off meeting. To engage smoothly with this internal ecosystem, and disseminate information easily, the internal communication channels include a dedicated project mailing list, specialised WP-related mailing lists for WP partners to communicate and a project management storage platform (Alfresco) that facilitates exchange and sharing of material (documents, meeting minutes, templates, presentations, deliverables, video recordings, promotional and visual material) among all partners. More information on the tools and material used for internal communication can be found in deliverable *D5.5 Communication and Dissemination plan – Interim*.

External Audiences: Broadly speaking, the target audience of popAI includes stakeholders from the Industry, SMEs, policy makers, citizens, academia, LEAs and the Media. The engagement plan targets all of them thus, identifying interested parties who will disseminate the popAI outcomes, increasing audience participation in the popAI platform and the taking up of project results.

At proposal stage, the popAI consortium had identified four tiers of actors that would be involved throughout the project implementation. These four tiers were to facilitate clustering and networking activities, thus ensuring the popAI actions and results would be conducted in line with other activities and initiatives in the same thematic areas and would address the widest possible target audience. The four tiers are summarised in the table below.

Table 1: Four tiers of popAI's external audiences

Tier	Description	Representatives (the list is not exhaustive)	Tools used to reach audiences
Tier 1 – EU Projects	popAI consortium comes with an extensive portfolio and involvement in very relevant	TRESSPASS, AI4EU, FLYSEC, AIADA, PREVISION, ASGARD	popAI branded multimedia material (.ppt templates, electronic banners, virtual

	EU and national research projects and activities. The activities carried out within these projects (most of them still running) offer excellent clustering ground and communication network.	ROXANNE, VAST [projects included at proposal phase] TECHETHOS, ETAPAS, CounteR, NOTIONES [added after popAI started]. Additional information in D5.5 and [popAI website]	backgrounds), project website, social media, project videos, eNewsletters, Press releases & news items, Media kit, event participation, brochures, publications, SPLs.
Tier 2 - Link and collaboration with AI sibling projects	Early link establishment with sibling projects, which has received grants under SU-AI01-2020 and SU-AI02-2020 respectively. WP5 is dedicated in establishing and maintaining an active relationship with both projects, while WP$ connects the projects with the recommendation methodology, with a clearly specified strategic relationship on behalf of popAI.	Project ALIGNER (SU-AI01-2020) and project STARLIGHT (SU-AI-02-2020). Additional information about the projects available on popAI website.	popAI branded multimedia material (.ppt templates, electronic banners, virtual backgrounds), project website, social media, project videos, eNewsletters, Press releases & news items, Media kit, event participation, brochures, publications, SPLs.
Tier 3 - EU and international institutions	Already approached some of the relevant partners during proposal preparation phase to raise awareness on popAI objectives. High interest on behalf of EU and international organisations. In communication and coordination with the Project Officer and DG HOME. popAI involves experts from such organisations either through the Stakeholder Advisory Board or dedicated meetings.	INTERPOL, UNCRI, eu-LISA, FRONTEX, EC DGs	popAI branded multimedia material (.ppt templates, electronic banners, virtual backgrounds), project website, social media, project videos, eNewsletters, Press releases & news items, Media kit, event participation, brochures, SPLs.
Tier 4 - Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) and extended popAI Ecosystem	The popAI SAB completes clustering and networking activities approach tiers with a significant pool of interested organisations from all disciplines and domains.	Six letters of support were provided during proposal preparation from LEAs, CSOs, international organisations & SSH experts. The consortium has agreed to establish a	popAI branded multimedia material (.ppt templates, electronic banners, virtual backgrounds), project website, social media, project videos, eNewsletters, Press

including journalists		core group of stakeholders, gathering 8-10 experts representing the four tiers and the nine categories of stakeholders listed in D3.1.	releases & news items, Media kit, event participation, brochures, publications, SPLs, photo competition

Different types of activities have been planned to involve these stakeholders and the wider ecosystem, ranging from joint workshops with sibling projects to the participation of representatives of the four tiers in the different popAI tasks (e.g.: policy labs or recommendations).

2.1   Material produced to reach stakeholders and assist community engagement

To engage with the stakeholders and the wider ecosystem, relevant material (detailed in D5.5) has been produced in the frame of WP5 bearing the popAI branding and showcasing the project's objectives in alignment with the communication strategy as outlined in *D5.5 Communication and Dissemination plan - Interim*. This material assists in creating a unified and consistent brand for popAI when addressing the relevant communities.

2.2   Defining the popAI Ecosystem and its Stakeholders

2.2.1   popAI Stakeholder audiences

The key stakeholders of popAI have been identified extensively at the very beginning of the project and have already been included in *D5.5 Communication and Dissemination plan* and *D3.1 Map of AI in policing innovation ecosystem and stakeholders*.

2.2.2   Sibling EU projects

Since the beginning of the project, popAI has established links with the two sibling projects namely: STARLIGHT and ALIGNER. These projects have received funding from the EC, under calls SU-AI01-2020 and SU-AI02-2020 respectively. Liaising with these projects is of utmost importance to increase awareness on the research carried out at different levels (e.g., innovation, research roadmap, ethics, etc.) while creating a more interconnected European community working on AI and its multiple applications. Tables 2 and 3 below highlight the sibling projects and the engagement activities conducted.

To enhance sibling project collaboration, the coordinators meet online at regular intervals, so as to discuss project progress and upcoming joint activities i.e., workshops and publications.

Table 2: popAI's sibling projects

STARLIGHT	Sustainable Autonomy and Resilience for LEAs using AI against High priority Threats

STARLiGHT	
ALIGNER ALIGNER	Artificial Intelligence Roadmap for Policing and Law Enforcement

Table 3: Engagement activities with sibling projects

Events organised and attended (listed in chronological order)	Date	Location
ALIGNER 1st stakeholder workshop	17 - 18 November 2021	Leuven, Belgium
EC sibling projects cluster meeting	17 December 2021	Online
ALIGNER 2nd workshop	18 - 19 January 2022	Online
1st cluster meeting of EU projects by TechEthos	4 March 2022	Online
2nd cluster meeting of EU projects	23 May 2022	Vienna, Austria
3rd ALIGNER workshop	29 - 30 June 2022	Bonn, Germany
Projects to Policy Seminar (PPS)	30 June - 1 July 2022	Brussels, Belgium

2.2.3   Collaboration with related research initiatives and projects

The popAI partnership invests heavily in creating strong bonds with the ecosystem that aims to be part of the Artificial Intelligence and Law Enforcement domains. For this purpose, the partners researched the ecosystem in the beginning of the project identifying key players and making efforts to directly engage them via email, social media and virtual meetings. The list of new projects and initiatives will be continuously updated until the end of the project to delineate a comprehensive mapping of the ecosystem. The identified ecosystem is available in *D5.5 Communication and Dissemination plan – Interim* (section 5.11, Table 6, p.29).

3 Community building and ecosystem engagement activities

A variety of activities are being implemented to achieve the objective of creating a concrete community around the popAI project.

3.1 Stakeholder Policy Labs (SPLs)

popAI envisages the organisation of six (6) Stakeholder Policy Labs to facilitate exchange between relevant LEAs and related experts. The goal is to develop ideas for smart policies and test the solutions to identified controversies in experimental models.

The first five Labs will be single day virtual events in the five countries represented by popAI LEA partners in order to engage their existing networks. Each policy lab will provide the local perspective of the five analysed countries by bringing together relevant stakeholders from each region. Each policy lab addresses a specific controversy. The sixth (and final SPL) will be organised in Brussels, Belgium, with the aim to physically bring together cross-regional stakeholders who participated virtually in the previous five labs to assess recommendation paths at EU level. The outputs from this closing event will include both region-specific and EU-wide recommendations. The current scheduling of the six SPLs appears in Figure 1 below.
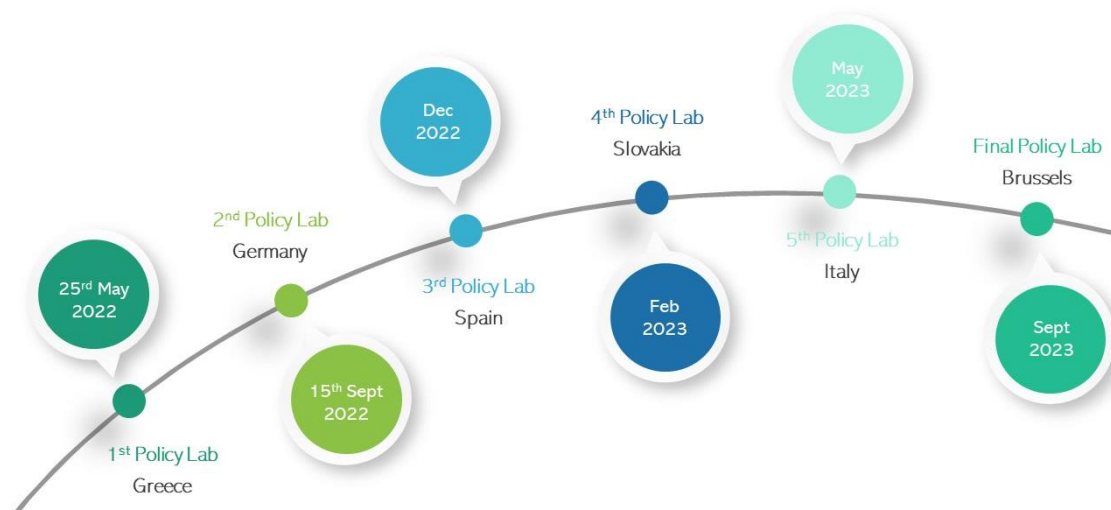

Figure 1: popAI Stakeholder Policy Labs

The SPLs are addressed to experts from different sectors, including designers, policymakers, NGOs (e.g., human rights watch, privacy international, algorithm watch, justice league) from each region. During the labs, the popAI LEAs will engage their existing networks and expand the list of participants to further relevant stakeholders.

Each lab will cover policy needs in relation to human rights, liabilities, proportionality, gender and diversity (building on T2.2 and T2.4). They will also cover more organisational challenges around issues like automation bias, data preparedness, reporting practices, and gender and diversity in the workplace (building on T2.5).

Each policy lab will be held following a specfic methodology, detailed ahead of the implementation of the first event. This methodology is based on four pillars:

1. Identification of best practices that can be shared with other actors throughout the EU;
2. development of ideas to overcome controversies;
3. testing the outcome of such development processes in an experimental setting; and
4. assessment whether, or not, public policy change is needed in order to ensure smart innovation.

3.2 Ecosystem mapping

To better plan the popAI engagement activities, WP5 with partner assistance have created a mapping of the project's ecosystem to align the dissemination, communication and engagement activities of popAI targeting the identified stakeholders. This activity entailed a wide search for closely relevant stakeholders i.e., organisations, research projects, research centres, governmental bodies and local authorities etc. (Figure 2).
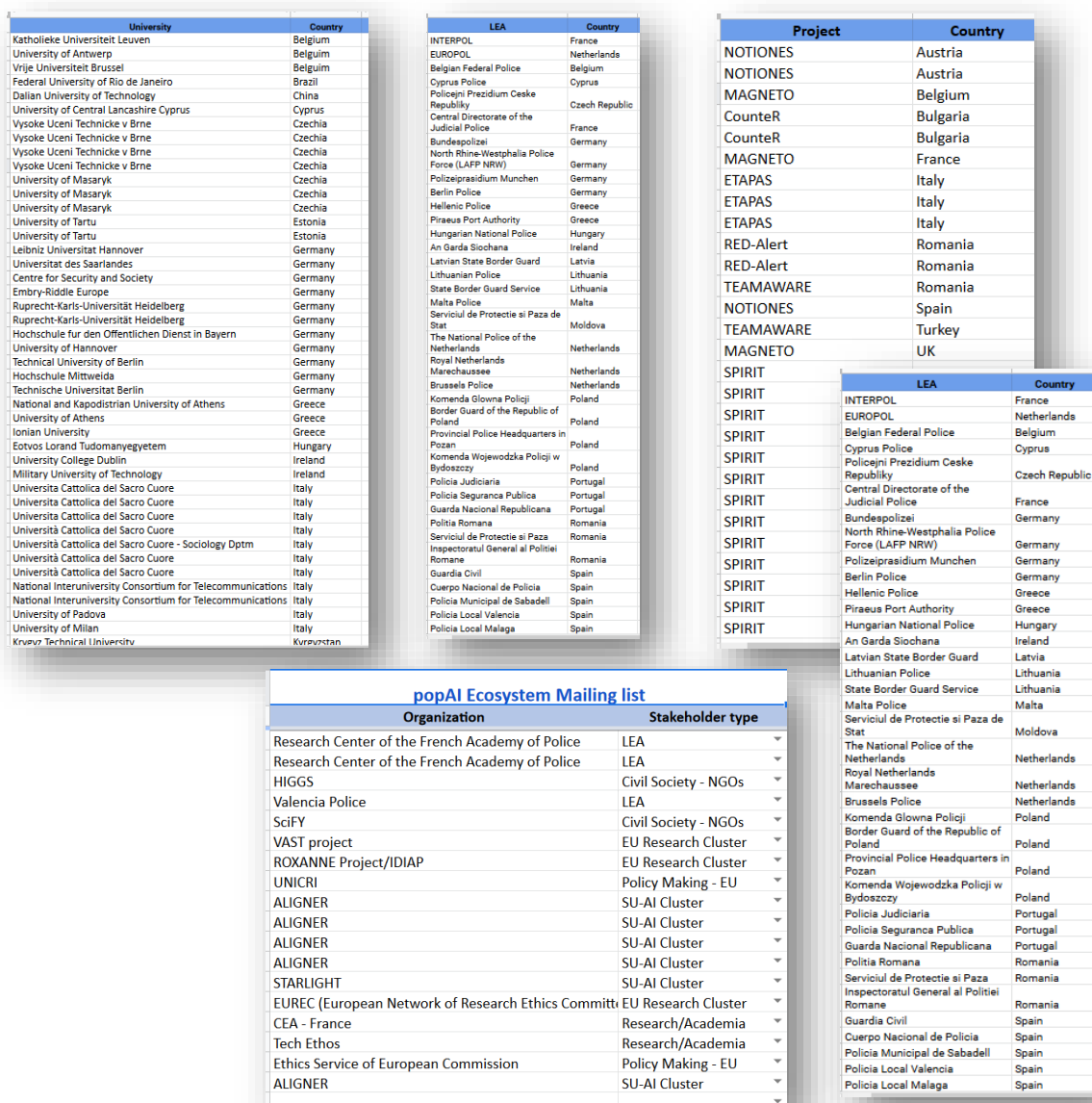

Figure 2: popAI Ecosystem mapping

3.3   The popAI crowdsourcing platform

Within the popAI mission to create trust and awareness around the use of artificial intelligence in the security domain, the consortium is committed to investigate doubts, challenges and concerns related to the use of AI-based applications by police authorities and LEAs. Consequently, it becomes crucial to understand the perspectives from different actors and societal sectors. Active social engagement is, hence, encouraged to achieve a twofold aim: i) understanding perspectives, challenges and opportunities in other sectors; ii) bringing together consolidated spheres of knowledge from theoretical and empirical levels.

The popAI Crowdsourcing Platform (Figure 3), created by partner ECAS, contributes to achieving this aim. Indeed, the open source Crowdsourcing Platform creates a space for the wider public to engage with the content discussed in the project thus, safely collecting ideas, thoughts and views on a specific topic. It also includes voting mechanisms so that users can decide on the best answers (Figure 4).

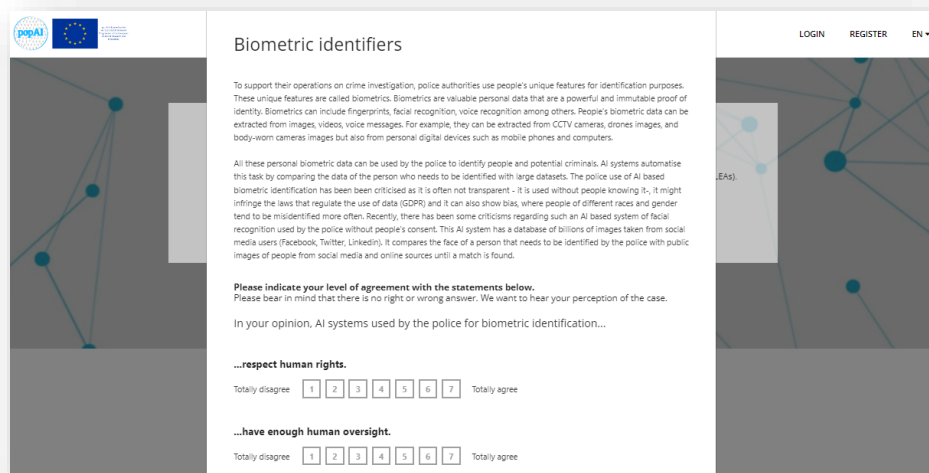*Figure 3: popAI Crowdsourcing Platform by partner ECAS*

Figure 4: Survey via the popAI Crowdsourcing Platform

The login to the platform is possible with a specific account for this platform or via third-party logins (Facebook, Twitter). The platform is available in seven languages (Dutch, English, German, Greek, Italian, Slovak, and Spanish). It also includes some gamification elements to motivate users to respond and invite others to do so.

The crowdsourcing platform, hence, allows to:

- share input on the main controversies and experiences (step 1),
- put forward solutions (step 2), and
- vote on the ideas proposed (step 3).

The questionnaire and platform are hosted by the project partner ECAS and it is expected to reach at 500 active users providing input during the implementation of the activity.

3.4 Photo competition

Amongst the tools used by popAI to raise awareness and engage with the specific target audience of young citizens, is the use of a *Student Photo & Caption Competition* for University students. Partner Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) will organise and realise the competition and communicate it in collaboration with WP5, through a campaign hosted on the project website and through social media. The photo competition is available on the popAI project website: https://www.pop-ai.eu/photo-competition/. Extended information is available in D5.5 on pages 27 - 29.

3.5 Social Media channels

Dedicated social media channels have been created for the project to support activities as outlined in the dissemination and communication plan in D5.5.

The two chosen social media channels are Twitter (https://twitter.com/popaiproject @popaiproject) and LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/company/popai-project) through which project updates are shared. Both channels are yet another tool in building a wider community around the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Law Enforcement. By sharing public body/governmental reports and resources, insights, and news of other relevant bodies, audiences will be keen to follow our account and share our posts. Additionally, this augmented community will be more interested to find out about our project news (such as conference participation and published papers) and thus, it will be easier to reach out all targeted user groups. These channels will also assist in promoting the surveys performed via the Crowdsourcing Platform as well as the photographic competition.

3.6 Ecosystem engagement through event participation

In 2021, when the popAI project kicked off, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to bring changes in the way business is conducted. At first, all travel was halted leading various events to be held virtually. Notwithstanding, in the first twelve months of the project, popAI has participated, physically, in several events at European level, while the partners intend to participate physically in

conferences and workshops presenting their scientific work and engaging with the research community.

For better planning purposes, partners created a list of online and physical dissemination and communication opportunities where the project has been showcased at while a number of future events have already been identified and listed (Table 5).

Table 4: Ecosystem engagement through event participation

Events organised & attended (listed in chronological order)	Date	Location
CERIS FCT - Fight against Crime and Terrorism	21-22 September 2021	Online
ALIGNER 1st stakeholder workshop	17-18 November 2021	KU Leuven, Belgium
TRAIF2021 - The Responsible AI Forum	6-8 December 2021	Munich, Germany
EC sibling projects cluster meeting	17 December 2021	Online
ICCSAI 2021: 15. International Conference on Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence	30-31 December 2021	Paris, France
ALIGNER 2nd stakeholder workshop	18-19 January 2022	Online
1st cluster meeting of EU projects by TechEthos	4 March 2022	Online
Webinar on AI in support of Civil Security	15 March 2022	Online (organisation)
State of the Union Citizens' Rights 2022: Reinventing EU Citizenship post-COVID-19 conference	29 March 2022	Online
CERIS: Community for European Research and Innovation for Security	7 April 2022	Brussels, Belgium
ETAPAS - Towards Trustworthy AI Adoption in the European Public Administrations	5 May 2022	Online
2nd cluster meeting of EU projects	23 May 2022	Vienna, Austria
1st popAI Policy Lab in Greek	15 September 2022	Online (organisation)
EAFS - European Forensic Science Event	30 May - 3 June 2022	Stockholm, Sweden
popAI & Starlight Joint workshop and exhibition booth at EAFS	30 May - 3 June 2022	Stockholm, Sweden
9th biennial Surveillance & Society conference	1-3 June 2022	Rotterdam, The Netherlands
ETAPAS workshop on the RDT framework	10 June 2022	Online
3rd ALIGNER workshop	29 - 30 June 2022	Bonn, Germany
Projects to Policy Seminar (PPS)	30 June - 1 July 2022	Brussels, Belgium
2nd popAI Policy Lab in German	15 September 2022	Online (organisation)
Future events identified	**Date**	**Location**
ETAPAS - Tools for ethical & trustworthy adoption of AI in the service of public administration	12 October 2022	Online
ICCSAI 2022 - International Conference on Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence	30-31 December 2022	Paris, France
Regulating AI: A Comparative View with Christian Djeffal	8 November 2022	Munich. Germany
CPDP 2023 - Computers, Privacy and Data Protection	24 - 26 May 2023	Brussels, Belgium

3.7   Ecosystem collaboration on Policy Papers

In the frame of popAI's reach out activities to the ecosystem, a variety of activities for collaboration are being planned. The discussions conducted with the ecosystem revealed not only the scope for aligning dissemination and communication activities but also the need to boost project impact by collaborating on policy-related matters. Deliverable *D1.6 Policy Brief* (Figure 4) produced by the project provides initial, evidence-based policy recommendations as they emerged from work in popAI.

Figure 5: popAI Policy Brief

Introducing this work into the ecosystem will accommodate the production of joint policy papers with other projects. As a follow up to this work, popAI is in discussions with the Ethical Technology Adoption in Public Administrations Services project (ETAPAS) for a joint policy publication. More specifically, ETAPAS has shared their produced documents on Code of Conduct, Risk Framework and Legal Framework to be reviewed by popAI and start working on the policy topic for collaboration.

4 Conclusion

The aim of this document has been to outline the initial community building and ecosystem engagement activity plan that has been devised for the popAI project. Several engagement activities which have already been conducted, during the first year of the project, have been outlined. The partners involved in WP5 have produced a variety of material so as to effectively reach all identified target audiences. Project partners have been active in reaching out to the ecosystem by organising and participating in, online as well as physical, activities ranging from policy conferences, presentations in workshops and exhibitions, round table discussions and Stakeholder Policy Labs to name a few. The active collaboration and joint participation at events with sibling projects show promising signs of high impact on the wider ecosystem.

Finally, the discussions which are underway with ETAPAS, aim to produce a joint policy publication which can be an important addition to the wider community.