

Newsletter

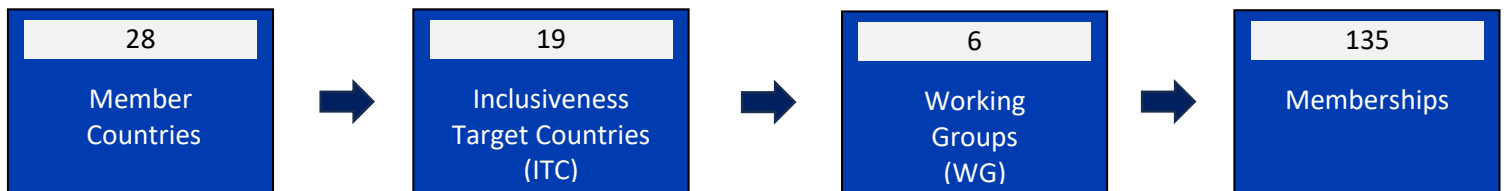
December 2023

Dear Members,

HIDDEN (CA21120) is excited to introduce our newsletter and welcome you to join us on this thrilling adventure. The newsletter will provide updates about HIDDEN's activities and accomplishments in 2023.

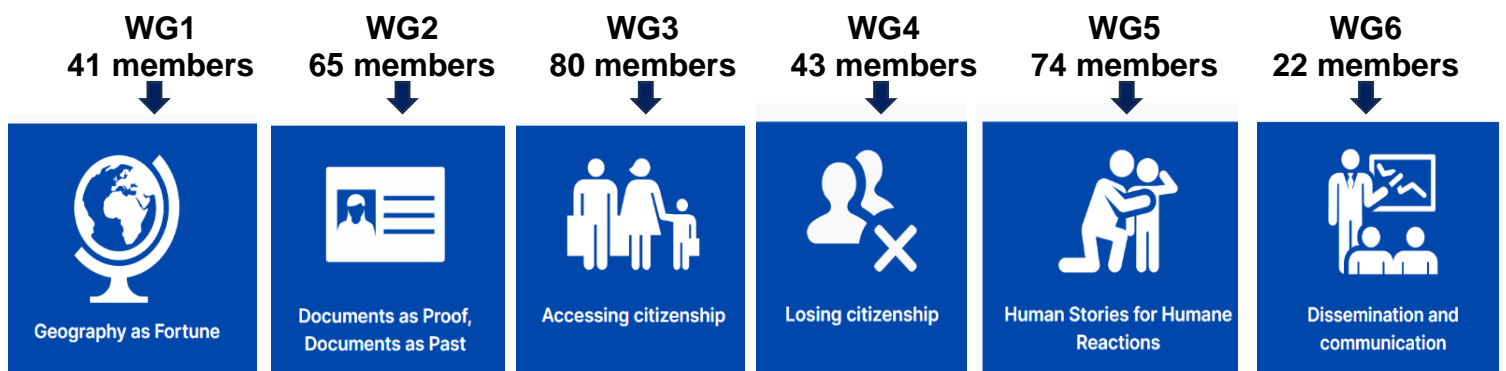
To all newcomers and prospective members, let's first introduce ourselves:

The History of Identity Documentation in European Nations (HIDDEN) COST Action brings together scholars from diverse fields including history, migration studies, geography, sociology, law, linguistics, postcolonial studies, human rights, and more who explore the historical trajectory of identity documentation systems in Europe and beyond. It involves drawing correlations between historical perspectives and present-day realities. Considering the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.9, advocating for universal legal identity by 2030, and the emergence of new biometric digital identification forms like Covid-19 vaccination certificates, there is a pertinent need for an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary examination. Such critical analysis by our members can shed light on the origins of current systems and practices, allowing for a deeper understanding of how these may contribute to societal disparities.



HIDDEN remains committed to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and monitors the Action on an ongoing basis to ensure that we maintain it. ITC make up over two-thirds (69.2%) of proposers in the HIDDEN network and 68% of the present MC members and 62% of the WG members. HIDDEN follows the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy regarding gender and Early career researchers. Gender balance is considered each time a leadership position becomes available. Moreover, Early career researchers hold leadership positions and have been prioritized to receive STSMs.

Working Group (WGs) are comprised of researchers, experts, and professionals from diverse countries and various scientific fields. The groups concentrate on particular subtopics of HIDDEN.





A Recap of 2023 ...

Throughout the year, the working groups actively engaged in various activities to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange. These efforts included regular online meetings, informative webinars, workshops designed for in-depth discussions, and valuable in-person visits. These diverse formats allowed members to interact, share insights, and advance their collective understanding of matters related to the HIDDEN initiative.



Keynote speakers



DR EVE HAYES DE KALAF

*Research Fellow at the Institute of
Historical Research,
University of London*



**PROF ANNA
TRIANDAFYLIDOU**

*Canada Excellence Research Chair
in Migration and Integration,
Toronto Metropolitan University
(formerly Ryerson University)*

HIDDEN's **first conference** was organized by Dr. Jennifer Redmond, the HIDDEN COST Action Chair, at Maynooth University from June 21 to June 22, 2023. The event gathered over 70 participants and featured enlightening keynote speakers, interactive sessions within the working groups, a productive management committee meeting, and compelling panel presentations showcasing the diverse expertise of our working groups.

The conference commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Jennifer Redmond, followed by an address by Professor Dr. Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University.

Dr. Eve Hayes de Kalaf captivated attendees with an insightful discussion titled "Is Digital Identity for All Really Achievable? Emerging Trends, Debates, and Controversies," shedding light on pertinent issues shaping the digital identity landscape. Further enriching the discourse, Prof. Anna Triandafylidou presented "Pandemic Nationalisms," offering thought-provoking insights into the emergence and implications of nationalistic trends amid the pandemic.

The conference facilitated simultaneous Working Group and Management Committee Meetings. Therefore, the conference provided a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and strategic planning within the HIDDEN community. The event's success underscored the HIDDEN members' commitment to advancing discourse on critical themes within the scope of the HIDDEN Cost Action.



Dr. Jennifer Redmond, the HIDDEN COST Action Chair, took part in the **Cost Academy training session** designed specifically for COST Action Chairs on October 5, 2023. The key focus of this session was to network, stimulate discussions, encourage peer sharing, and involve participants in practical exercises. This assembly served as an outstanding platform for these leaders to collaborate and exchange effective strategies for coordinating Action networks.

Online workshops/webinars included:



ITS Arolsen Archives workshop:



Dr. Aisling Shalvey, the HIDDEN's Vice-Chair and WG2 Leader, coordinated the ITS Arolsen Archives workshop, which took place on March 21, 2023. Ms. Christiane Weber delivered a detailed presentation covering ITS Arolsen Archives and their ongoing projects. International center on Nazi Persecution - Arolsen Archives serve as the primary global hub for Nazi persecution history, housing the most extensive repository worldwide documenting the victims and survivors of National Socialism. It contains details on approximately 17.5 million individuals and belongs to

UNESCO's Memory of the World. It encompasses documentation relating to diverse victim groups subjected to the Nazi regime, constituting a significant informational resource relevant to contemporary society.

Publishing with Open Research Europe Webinar:



Ms. Katerina Klimoska, Scientific Communication Officer and WG6 Leader, coordinated the Open Research Europe Webinar. During her presentation titled "Publishing with Open Research Europe," Dr. Georgina Durowoju, serving as the Commissioning Editor, shared invaluable insights about the platform with the HIDDEN members. She explained the platform's crucial role in providing an open-access pathway for researchers funded by the European Commission in diverse fields, emphasizing there are no

author fees associated with publication.

Additionally, Dr. Durowoju underscored several other advantages, including the platform's dedication to prompt publication, transparent peer review processes, and inclusion in esteemed databases like Scopus and PubMed. The webinar effectively highlighted Open Research Europe as a significant channel for scholarly dissemination and optimizing research impact.

International Scientific Cooperation in COST Actions Webinar:



HIDDEN members attended the COST Academy's **webinar on international scientific collaboration within COST Actions**, which was held on October 20, 2023. Dr. Ronald de Bruin, the Director of the COST association, extended a warm welcome to online attendees. Ms. Katalin Alföldi, the Policy Officer of the COST Association, explored the realm of COST Global networking. The webinar also featured insightful presentations on successful examples of COST Action international scientific cooperation by Prof. Chrysi

Laspidou, serving as the Action Chair of CA20138 NEXUSNET, and Dr. Antonio Urquizar-Herrera, who leads as the Action Chair of CA18129 ISLE. More than 30 HIDDEN members took part in the webinar.



Working Groups' In-Person Meetings and Visits

Tailored Visit to the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, September 6, 2023.



On September 6, 2023, a group of 15 HIDDEN members travelled to Brussels for a series of meetings and visit to the European Commission. Among these meetings was one featuring Mr. Ridvan Yildiz, the Project Manager and representative from the European Migrant Platform (EMP). During this session, Mr. Yildiz discussed various projects, such as Culinary Ode to Diversity and Intercultural Learning Online. Ms.

Rossella Magli, the Scientific Officer, participated in the meetings. Lastly, the group visited the EU Commission, where Ms. Liesbeth De Buysser introduced her colleague, Mr. Hugo Keise, who provided an informative presentation titled "The EU in a Nutshell." Mr. Mikko Hakkarainen delivered a presentation titled "Identity and Documentation in Europe: Evolving from Material Artifacts to Digital Realms" while Mr. Jan Rohde-Stadler delved into "Documenting EU Citizenship."

Citizenship and Its Legacies: Identity Documentation, Bureaucratisation and Rights

London, the United Kingdom, September 15, 2023.



The HIDDEN members gathered at the University of London's Institute of Historical Research, the UK's national centre for history, for a day-long series of presentations on citizenship and its legacies. The event was organized by Dr. Eve Hayes de Kalaf, co-leader of WG3 "Accessing Citizenship." Dr. Jennifer Redmond, the HIDDEN Action Chair, and Prof. Michael J. Geary, co-leader of WG3, extended a warm welcome to the

participants and introduced the speakers: Dr. Natalie Brinham from the University of Bristol, Dr. Marcelo Carvalho-Loureiro from the University of Leicester, Dr. Bronwen Manby from the London School of Economics, and Dr. Juanita Cox from the University of London. The conference ended with a highly informative presentation and tour of the IHR's library facilities. This was the first WG3 event that shed light of the multidisciplinary approach to the working group's theme and the long colonial legacy on citizenship rights. For more information, please visit our website: [Citizenship and Its Legacies: Identity Documentation, Bureaucratisation and Rights - HIDDEN Cost Action \(hidden-costaction.eu\)](https://hidden-costaction.eu)

A Brewery as Assemblage of Various Identity Documents: A Collaborative Writing Workshop at the University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czechia, November 15-16, 2023.



Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino and Dr. Rebeka Mesarić-Žabčić, co-leaders of WG1, along with WG1 members and their hosts Dr. Petr Krcal, Dr. Vladimír Naxera, and PhD Candidate Natalija Mochernak from the University of Western Bohemia, successfully organized the workshop. The Pilsen workshop had a twofold objective: allowing WG1 members to pinpoint shared research themes by exchanging their varied disciplinary backgrounds in migration and documentation and initiating collaborative work on a joint paper.



Network Node - Belgrade at the Intersection of European National Documentation Practices in the 20th century, Belgrade, Serbia, December 7-8, 2023.



The Historical Archives of Belgrade hosted the COST Action HIDDEN 21120 "History of Identity Documentation in European Nations" WG2 Workshop. This workshop provided an insightful exploration of the historical practices of identity documentation across various European nationalities during the 20th century. The workshop commenced with a warm welcome and comprehensive introductory remarks from the Deputy

Director, Mr. Slobodan Mandić. Attendees were engaged in an illuminating session highlighting the Historical Archives' background, including its rich history and a special introduction to its digital collections.

Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

Short-Term Scientific Mission is a funding mechanism within the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Actions framework, which supports researchers' mobility and exchange visits. STSMs empower researchers engaged in a COST Action to visit institutions or organizations in other COST member countries. The purpose is cultivating collaboration, exchanging expertise, and engaging in collaborative research endeavours. These visits usually span from 5 days to 3 months. If you are interested, please apply.

The newsletter provides brief descriptions of STSMs. We encourage you to visit HIDDEN's website for detailed information on each STSM. During 2023, five Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) were completed:

STSM #1: Cross-Border Interdisciplinary Study of ID Regimes in the Iberian Peninsula

Grantee: Dr. Ana Belén Martínez García

Lisbon, Portugal, May 15 – May 20, 2023.



During the STSM, Prof. Ana Belén Martínez García and other HIDDEN colleagues shared strategies that Portuguese and Spanish city councils employed concerning interventions and ethical challenges related to mediating vulnerability and sharing personal life stories with the hosts. A series of meetings took place, including the meeting at Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at Universidade NOVA de Lisboa and the first-ever Lisbon Exploratory Meeting, which was held at FLUL, the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Lisbon. This deeply engaging and

stimulating gathering identified mutual interests and exchanged a wide array of methodologies. These encompassed diverse approaches such as oral history, ethnography, the anthropology of the state, narrative interviews, shadowing, social work initiatives, pedagogical activities (including materials addressing misinformation), surveys, focus groups, narrative empathetic techniques, online/offline media analysis, and close reading of life narratives. For more information, please visit: <https://hidden-costaction.eu/hidden-blog/>

STSM #2: A Legal Identity for All? Learning from the Citizen Gap Project

Grantee: **Dr. Eve Hayes de Kalaf**

Amsterdam/Rotterdam, Netherlands



During her STSM, Dr. Eve Hayes de Kalaf visited the recently established offices of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) in Rotterdam. Here, she engaged in discussions with Vera Karanika, the Programme and Education Officer, and Stefania Tantimonaco, a Programme Assistant. Their conversation focused on ISI's ongoing initiatives affiliated with the United Nations, entailing engagements with stakeholders in Geneva and New York. They also delved into the institute's active collaborations with local NGOs and activists, particularly addressing concerns related to

statelessness and nationality issues within specific countries. Additionally, Dr. Hayes de Kalaf met with Dr. Frederiek de Vlaming, a criminologist specializing in international criminal law and transitional justice. Dr. Vlaming is currently involved in projects concerning Suriname migrants. Furthermore, Dr. Hayes de Kalaf reached out to the Dutch NGO ASKV Refugee Support team, an organization based in Amsterdam that extends legal and social assistance to individuals facing challenges with their refugee status applications. Concluding her visit, the Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) at the University of Amsterdam invited Dr. Hayes de Kalaf to deliver a lecture on the Windrush Scandal. This lecture was for PhD students actively researching topics related to citizenship, migration, and identification issues.

STSM #3: (Self)Identification and Archival Research: Thoughts from My Research Stay

Grantee: **Katarina Beširević**

Budapest, Hungary, July 3-7, 2023.



Katarina Beširević, PhD Candidate, conducted research at the Open Society Archives (OSA) in Budapest, Hungary. During the STSM, she examined the archival collections preserved at the OSA. Ms. Beširević extensively reviewed the records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute and Open Media Research Institute in search for an answer to a broad question: How do Yugoslav emigrants in the US identify themselves? For more information, please visit the HIDDEN website: [\(Self\)Identification and Archival Research: Thoughts from My Research Stay - HIDDEN Cost Action \(hidden-costaction.eu\)](https://www.hidden-costaction.eu)

STSM #4: Interaction between Contested Dynamics of Migrant Integration, ID Regimes and Irregular Migration

Grantee: **Dr. Ayselin Yildiz**

Paris, France, July 2023.



For her STSM, Dr. Yildiz visited SciencesPo's Centre for International Studies (CERI), where she explored the nexus between "integration" and "protection" policies intertwined with identity documentation (ID) regimes. This part of the research has often been overlooked. The research explored how these policies influence migrants' decision-making processes, determining whether they stay in a particular location or continue their journey to alternate destinations. IDs and authentic and counterfeit documents play a central role. The diverse ID regimes are closely linked to the rights associated with these IDs or statuses granted to migrants.



STSM #5: Access to educational opportunities: A Comparison of the Situation of Ukrainian Migrants in Poland and Afghan Migrants in Turkey
Grantee: Dr. Seyithan Demirdağ

Wroclaw, Poland, September 10 – September 14, 2023



The STSM explored critical factors related to educational access and hurdles encountered by migrant communities in Poland and Turkey. It highlighted disparities and similarities in educational opportunities, resources, and obstacles faced by distinct migrant groups across various host nations. Additionally, Dr. Seyithan Demirdağ and Prof. Jerzy Kochanowicz exchanged insights regarding the diverse research methodology used in the research. For more information, please visit the website: [Access to educational opportunities: A comparison of the](https://hidden-costaction.eu)

[situation of Ukrainian migrants in Poland and Afghan migrants in Turkey - HIDDEN Cost Action \(hidden-costaction.eu\)](https://hidden-costaction.eu)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Hidden-COST-Action/100090352184917/>

Twitter: [HIDDEN \(@HIDDEN CA21120\) / X \(twitter.com\)](https://twitter.com/HIDDEN_CA21120)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@HIDDENCOSTAction/featured>

We extend our deepest gratitude to COST, our partners, and all members for their support and active engagement in HIDDEN!

Season's greetings and best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We look forward to 2024 and everything HIDDEN has planned.

Stay tuned! We have exciting plans for 2024! 🎁