



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.C — Green research and innovation
C.1 — Horizon Europe Climate

GRANT AGREEMENT

Project 101112736 — Restore4Life

PREAMBLE

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

on the one part,

the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and

on the other part,

1. 'the coordinator':

UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB), PIC 999603916, established in SOSEAUA PANDURI 90, BUCURESTI 050663, Romania,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. **UNIVERSITAET FUER BODENKULTUR WIEN (BOKU)**, PIC 999987357, established in GREGOR MENDEL STRASSE 33, WIEN 1180, Austria,

3. **INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE PENTRU GEOLOGIE SI GEOECOLOGIE MARINA-GEOECOMAR (GEOECOMAR)**, PIC 999461617, established in DIMITRIE ONCIUL STREET 23-25, BUCHAREST 024053, Romania,

4. **UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI (UGAL)**, PIC 999879784, established in Strada DOMNEASCA nr. 47, GALATI 800008, Romania,

5. **UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU, POLJOPRIVREDNI FAKULTET NOVI SAD (UNSA)**, PIC 986994013, established in TRG DOSITEJA OBRADOVICA 8, NOVI SAD 21000, Serbia,

6. **University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences (UNSPMF)**, PIC 997718624, established in Trg Dositeja Obradovica 3, Novi Sad 21000, Serbia,

7. **SVEUCILISTE JOSIPA JURJA STROSSMAYERA U OSIJEKU (UNIOS)**, PIC 973870204, established in TRG SVETOG TROJSTVA 3, OSIJEK 31000, Croatia,

8. **PRIRODNO MATEMATICKI FAKULTET (FSM)**, PIC 999808392, established in VISEGRADSKA 33, NIS 18 000, Serbia,
9. **ADMINISTRATIA NATIONALA DE METEOROLOGIE R.A. (ANM)**, PIC 999628457, established in SOS. BUCURESTI-PLOIESTI 97, BUCURESTI SECTORUL 1 013686, Romania,
10. **KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITAT EICHSTATT-INGOLSTADT (KUEI)**, PIC 997154666, established in Ostenstrasse 26-28, Eichstätt 85072, Germany,
11. **ASOCIATIA WWF ROMANIA (WWF Romania)**, PIC 959320495, established in BD. TUDOR VLADIMIRESCU 29 SECTOR 5, BUCURESTI 050881, Romania,
12. **KOZEP-TISZA-VIDEKEI VIZUGYI IGAZGATORSAG (KÖTIVIZIG)**, PIC 891679582, established in BOLDOG SANDOR ISTVAN KRT 4, SZOLNOK 5000, Hungary,
13. **INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, public research institution (ILESAS)**, PIC 999903937, established in Stefanikova 3, BRATISLAVA 814 99, Slovakia,
14. **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS GEODESY AND GEOGRAPHY - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (NIGGG BAS)**, PIC 974642324, established in UL. ACAD G BONCHEV BL 3, SOFIA 1113, Bulgaria,
15. **POKRAJINSKI ZAVOD ZA ZASTITU PRIRODE (PZZP)**, PIC 925666345, established in RADNICKA 20A, NOVI SAD 21000, Serbia,
16. **F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED (F6S)**, PIC 900885658, established in 39 FITZWILLIAM PLACE, DUBLIN D02 ND61, Ireland,
17. **ESZAK-MAGYARORSZAGI VIZUGYI IGAZGATOSAG (ÉMVIZIG)**, PIC 885594481, established in VOROSMARTY MIHALY UTCA 77 PF 3, MISKOLC 3501, Hungary,
18. **SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI (UNISOFIA)**, PIC 999887641, established in BUL TZAR OSVOBODITEL 15, SOFIA 1504, Bulgaria,
19. **NEMZETI KOZSZOLGALATI EGYETEM (UPS)**, PIC 943340812, established in LUDOVICA TER 2, BUDAPEST 1083, Hungary,
20. **JAVNA USTANOVA UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE PODGORICA (UOM)**, PIC 999836328, established in CETINJSKA 2, PODGORICA 81000, Montenegro,
21. **UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU (UNSA)**, PIC 995549995, established in OBALA KULINA BANA 7, SARAJEVO 71000, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
22. **FUNDATIA CENTRUL NATIONAL PENTRU DEZVOLTARE DURABILA (CNDD)**, PIC 968018291, established in STR HATMANUL ARBORE NR 21 ET 3 APT 6, BUCHAREST 011601, Romania,
23. **AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (CSIC)**, PIC 999991722, established in CALLE SERRANO 117, MADRID 28006, Spain,
24. **FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN EV (FVB-IGB)**, PIC 999927120, established in RUDOWER CHAUSSEE 17, BERLIN 12489, Germany,

25. **BRATISLAVSKE REGIONALNE OCHRANARSKEZDRUZENIE (BROZ)**, PIC 893396773, established in NA RIVIERE 7/A, BRATISLAVA 841 04, Slovakia,
26. **INSTITUT ZA VODE REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE (IZVRS)**, PIC 997225185, established in EINSPIELERJEVA ULICA 6, LJUBLJANA 1000, Slovenia,
27. **HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FUR UMWELTFORSCHUNG GMBH - UFZ (UFZ)**, PIC 999994632, established in PERMOSERSTRASSE 15, LEIPZIG 04318, Germany,
28. **INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE DELTA DUNARII (INCDDD)**, PIC 972472240, established in BABADAG ST 165, TULCEA 820112, Romania,
29. **VIA DONAU OSTERREICHISCHE WASSERSTRASSEN GESELLSCHAFT MBH (VIA DONAU)**, PIC 997972764, established in DONAU CITY STRASSE 1, WIEN 1220, Austria,
30. **MINISTERUL MEDIULUI, APELOR SI PADURILOR (MMAPI)**, PIC 891929939, established in BULEVARDUL LIBERTATII 12, BUCURESTI 040129, Romania,
31. **ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITOUTO THALASSIAS PROSTASIAS (AIMC)**, PIC 946984326, established in POTAMI MESOKAMPOU MYTILINIOI 42, SAMOS 83103, Greece,

Unless otherwise specified, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement (‘mono-beneficiary grant’), all provisions referring to the ‘coordinator’ or the ‘beneficiaries’ will be considered — mutatis mutandis — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

- Annex 1 Description of the action¹
- Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action
- Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)
- Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)²
- Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)³
- Annex 4 Model for the financial statements
- Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

¹ Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

² Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

³ Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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DATA SHEET

1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>Restore4Life demonstrates the multiple socio-economic benefits generated by a holistic and transdisciplinary approach for the restoration of freshwater and coastal wetlands in the Danube basin that will contribute to new blue-green infrastructure supporting regional climate change resilience and mitigation. Restore4Life engages in 4 demonstration sites and 6 monitoring sites all across the Danube basin to make evident that increased delivery of key ecosystem services, as water and pollutant retention, carbon sequestration and tourism opportunities as well as improved resilience of water-dependent habitats will produce multiple socio-economic synergies that also provide opportunities for sustainable businesses and investments. Implementation of activities basically aiming to restore lateral connectivity in riverine corridors will be supported by a Restore4Life long term wetland restoration service/ Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator that combines timely integrative wetland management with a novel level of societal engagement. The Accelerator will provide tested indicators, monitoring approaches and decision support to identify adapted and future-oriented restoration goals, techniques and holistic road maps. Citizens and stakeholders will be empowered to engage in the co-design of projects by establishing stakeholder communities of practice, by twinning of similar projects at different realization stage, citizen science, thematic mobile apps and the use of multiple communication channels with special focus on visual, hands-on interactive information flow that promotes emotional links to water shaped environment. The various tools generated by Restore4Life also including handbooks for business audiences and targeted restoration roadmaps will secure the efficient replication of restoration activities in associated regions. In collaboration with similar mission activities, Restore4Life thus efficiently supports integrative social and economic transitions</p>

Keywords: not defined

Project number: 101112736

Project name: Restoration of wetland complexes as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin

Project acronym: Restore4Life

Call: HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01

Topic: HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-02

Type of action: HORIZON Innovation Actions

Granting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Grant managed through EU Funding & Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: first day of the month following the entry into force date

Project end date: starting date + months of duration

Project duration: 48 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

2. Participants

List of participants:

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	UB	UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI	RO	999603916	753 750.00	753 750.00
2	BEN	BOKU	UNIVERSITAET FUER BODENKULTUR WIEN	AT	999987357	510 250.00	510 250.00
3	BEN	GEOECOMAR	INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE PENTRU GEOLOGIE SI GEOECOLOGIE MARINA-GEOECOMAR	RO	999461617	140 000.00	140 000.00
4	BEN	UGAL	UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI	RO	999879784	218 340.00	218 340.00

Nº	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
5	BEN	UNSFA	UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU, POLJOPRIVREDNI FAKULTET NOVI SAD	RS	986994013	135 000.00	135 000.00
6	BEN	UNSPMF	University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences	RS	997718624	191 080.00	191 080.00
7	BEN	UNIOS	SVEUCILISTE JOSIPA JURJA STROSSMAYERA U OSIJEKU	HR	973870204	71 500.00	71 500.00
8	BEN	FSM	PRIRODNO MATEMATICKI FAKULTET	RS	999808392	398 773.75	398 773.75
9	BEN	ANM	ADMINISTRATIA NATIONALA DE METEOROLOGIE R.A.	RO	999628457	225 000.00	225 000.00
10	BEN	KUEI	KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITAT EICHSTATT-INGOLSTADT	DE	997154666	1 073 375.00	1 073 375.00
11	BEN	WWF Romania	ASOCIATIA WWF ROMANIA	RO	959320495	227 750.00	227 750.00
12	BEN	KÖTIVIZIG	KOZEP-TISZA-VIDEKI VIZUGYI IGAZGATORSAG	HU	891679582	146 625.00	146 625.00
13	BEN	ILESAS	INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, public research institution	SK	999903937	159 375.00	159 375.00
14	BEN	NIGGG BAS	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS GEODESY AND GEOGRAPHY - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	BG	974642324	86 500.00	86 500.00
15	BEN	PZZP	POKRAJINSKI ZAVOD ZA ZASTITU PRIRODE	RS	925666345	58 500.00	58 500.00
16	BEN	F6S	F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED	IE	900885658	408 125.00	285 687.50
17	BEN	ÉMIVIZIG	ESZAK-MAGYARORSZAGI VIZUGYI IGAZGATOSAG	HU	885594481	68 500.00	68 500.00
18	BEN	UNISOFIA	SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI	BG	999887641	92 500.00	92 500.00
19	BEN	UPS	NEMZETI KOZSZOLGALATI EGYETEM	HU	943340812	68 500.00	68 500.00
20	BEN	UOM	JAVNA USTANOVA UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE PODGORICA	ME	999836328	62 500.00	62 500.00
21	BEN	UNSA	UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU	BA	995549995	197 500.00	197 500.00
22	BEN	CNDD	FUNDATIA CENTRUL NATIONAL PENTRU DEZVOLTARE DURABILA	RO	968018291	510 000.00	510 000.00
23	BEN	CSIC	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES	999991722	180 000.00	180 000.00
24	BEN	FVB-IGB	FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN EV	DE	999927120	752 875.00	752 875.00
25	BEN	BROZ	BRATISLAVSKE REGIONALNE OCHRANARSKEZDRUZENIE	SK	893396773	366 750.00	366 750.00
26	BEN	IZVRS	INSTITUT ZA VODE REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE	SI	997225185	122 500.00	122 500.00
27	BEN	UFZ	HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FUR UMWELTFORSCHUNG GMBH - UFZ	DE	999994632	341 250.00	341 250.00
28	BEN	INCDDD	INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE DELTA DUNARII	RO	972472240	511 000.00	511 000.00
29	BEN	VIA DONAU	VIA DONAU OSTERREICHISCHE WASSERSTRASSEN GESELLSCHAFT MBH	AT	997972764	256 250.00	179 375.00
30	BEN	MMAP	MINISTERUL MEDIULUI, APELOR SI PADURILOR	RO	891929939	45 500.00	45 500.00
31	BEN	AIMC	ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITOUTO THALASSIAS PROSTASIAS	EL	946984326	120 385.00	120 385.00
Total						8 499 953.75	8 300 641.25

Coordinator:

– UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB)

3. Grant

Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:

Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Funding rate (%)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
8 499 953.75	100, 70	8 300 641.25	8 300 641.25

Grant form: Budget-based

Grant mode: Action grant

Budget categories/activity types:

- A. Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
 - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment
 - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
 - D.1 Financial support to third parties
 - D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services
- E. Indirect costs

Cost eligibility options:

- In-kind contributions eligible costs
- Parental leave
- Project-based supplementary payments
- Average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)
- Limitation for subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence:
 - Travel: Actual costs
 - Accommodation: Actual costs
 - Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: depreciation only
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 100 000.00)
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 25% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes
- Other ineligible costs

Budget flexibility: Yes (no flexibility cap)

4. Reporting, payments and recoveries

4.1 Continuous reporting (art 21)

Deliverables: see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

4.2 Periodic reporting and payments

Reporting and payment schedule (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date – whichever is the latest
					Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
					Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
					Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Prefinancing payment	
Type	Amount
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	4 426 731.98

Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): Yes

MIM contribution: 5% of the maximum grant amount (415 032.06), retained from the initial prefinancing

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call conditions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

Exception for revenues: Yes

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

RO53RNCB0076010452620227

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

4.3 Certificates (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: only at final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs \geq EUR 430 000.00

Special threshold for beneficiaries with a systems and process audit(see Article 24): financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs \geq EUR 725 000.00

4.4 Recoveries (art 22)**First-line liability for recoveries:**

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Each beneficiary for their own debt

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):

Individual financial responsibility: Each beneficiary is liable only for its own debts (and those of its affiliated entities, if any)

5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum**Suspension and termination:**

Additional suspension grounds (art 31)

Additional termination grounds (art 32)

Applicable law (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

Dispute settlement forum (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

6. Other**Specific rules (Annex 5):** Yes**Standard time-limits after project end:**

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)



Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 2

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 2

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 2

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Actions — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

EU grants — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

Participants — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Affiliated entities (AE) — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046⁴ which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

⁴ For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): "**affiliated entities** [are]:

- (a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
- (b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

Fraud — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371⁵ and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995⁶, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Irregularities — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95⁷.

Grave professional misconduct — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Applicable EU, international and national law — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

Portal — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

CHAPTER 2 ACTION

ARTICLE 3 — ACTION

The grant is awarded for the action **101112736 — Restore4Life** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

CHAPTER 3 GRANT

ARTICLE 5 — GRANT

5.1 Form of grant

The grant is an action grant⁸ which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a

⁵ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

⁶ OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

⁷ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

⁸ For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: '**action grant**' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 100% of the eligible costs for beneficiaries that are non-profit legal entities⁹ and 70% of the eligible costs for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)¹⁰ to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

⁹ For the definition, see Article XX of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) XXX: ‘**non-profit legal entity**’ means a legal entity which by its legal form is non-profit-making or which has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members.

¹⁰ See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2
- flexibility caps: not applicable.

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

- (a) for actual costs:
 - (i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary
 - (ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
 - (iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
 - (iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation
 - (v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices
 - (vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and
 - (vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency
- (b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):
 - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
 - (ii) the units must:
 - be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
 - be necessary for the implementation of the action and
 - (iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

(c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):

- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
- (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
 - be eligible
 - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)

(d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):

- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
- (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
- (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)

(e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):

- (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
- (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding

(f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

In-kind contributions provided by third parties free of charge may be declared as eligible direct costs by the beneficiaries which use them (under the same conditions as if they were their own, provided that they concern only direct costs and that the third parties and their in-kind contributions are set out in Annex 1 (or approved ex post in the periodic report, if their use does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; ‘simplified approval procedure’).

6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

Direct costs

A. Personnel costs

A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries (including net payments during parental leave), social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

{daily rate for the person
multiplied by
number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person
divided by
215}.

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The actual time spent on parental leave by a person assigned to the action may be deducted from the 215 days indicated in the above formula.

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215, minus time spent on parental leave (if any).

For personnel which receives supplementary payments for work in projects (project-based remuneration), the personnel costs must be calculated at a rate which:

- corresponds to the actual remuneration costs paid by the beneficiary for the time worked by the person in the action over the reporting period
- does not exceed the remuneration costs paid by the beneficiary for work in similar projects funded by national schemes ('national projects reference')
- is defined based on objective criteria allowing to determine the amount to which the person is entitled

and

- reflects the usual practice of the beneficiary to pay consistently bonuses or supplementary payments for work in projects funded by national schemes.

The national projects reference is the remuneration defined in national law, collective labour agreement or written internal rules of the beneficiary applicable to work in projects funded by national schemes.

If there is no such national law, collective labour agreement or written internal rules or if the project-

based remuneration is not based on objective criteria, the national project reference will be the average remuneration of the person in the last full calendar year covered by the reporting period, excluding remuneration paid for work in EU actions.

If the beneficiary uses average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices), the personnel costs must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the daily rate must be calculated:

- using the actual personnel costs recorded in the beneficiary's accounts and excluding any costs which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual personnel costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the personnel costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

A.2 and A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

- (a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and
- (b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

A.4 The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises¹¹ not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

B. Subcontracting costs

Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis

¹¹ For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and
- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

C. Purchase costs

Purchase costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

C.1 Travel and subsistence

Purchases for **travel, accommodation and subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel .

C.2 Equipment

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** used for the action must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices.

Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account.

Costs for **renting or leasing** equipment, infrastructure or other assets are also eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

C.3 Other goods, works and services

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

D. Other cost categories

D.1 Financial support to third parties

Costs for providing financial support to third parties (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

(a) for grants (or similar):

- (i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority
- (ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
- (iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
- (iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and
- (v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support

(b) for prizes (or similar):

- (i) the eligibility and award criteria
- (ii) the amount of the prize and
- (iii) the payment arrangements.

This cost will not be taken into account for the indirect cost flat-rate.

D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services

Costs for internally invoiced goods and services directly used for the action may be declared as unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the amount per unit is calculated:

- using the actual costs for the good or service recorded in the beneficiary's accounts, attributed either by direct measurement or on the basis of cost drivers, and excluding any cost which

are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

‘Internally invoiced goods and services’ means goods or services which are provided within the beneficiary’s organisation directly for the action and which the beneficiary values on the basis of its usual cost accounting practices.

This cost will not be taken into account for the indirect cost flat-rate.

Indirect costs

E. Indirect costs

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 25% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Contributions

Not applicable

6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
 - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary
 - (ii) debt and debt service charges
 - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
 - (iv) interest owed
 - (v) currency exchange losses
 - (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary’s bank for transfers from the granting authority
 - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
 - (viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
 - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)

- (x) in-kind contributions by third parties: not applicable
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
 - (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
 - (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant¹² running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other :
 - (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable
 - (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other

¹² For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: ‘**operating grant**’ means an EU grant to finance “the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy”.

participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

(a) Each beneficiary must:

- (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)
- (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
- (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
 - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
 - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
 - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
 - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
- (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.

(b) The coordinator must:

- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
- (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:
 - submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
 - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
 - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority

- inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with ‘authorisation to administer’ which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’¹³ (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

Not applicable

ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION

9.1 Associated partners

¹³ For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”

Not applicable

9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge) if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action, but the costs for the in-kind contributions are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries which use them, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries' costs.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the third parties giving in-kind contributions.

9.3 Subcontractors

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries' costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS

10.1 Non-EU participants

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC¹⁴
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.2 Participants which are international organisations

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

‘Pillar-assessment’ means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

¹⁴ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
 - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
 - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part
- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)
- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant's internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)
- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds
- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do

purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding

the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

11.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
- (c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444¹⁵ and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

¹⁵ Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES

14.1 Ethics

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.2 Values

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION

15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725¹⁶.

15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679¹⁷).

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS

19.1 Information requests

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

19.2 Participant Register data updates

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
 - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)
 - (ii) linked action information: not applicable
- (b) **circumstances** affecting:
 - (i) the decision to award the grant or
 - (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

19.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
 - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared
 - (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
 - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1
- (d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

- (e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance
- (f) additional record-keeping rules: not applicable

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)

- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE

22.1 Payments and payment arrangements

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

22.2 Recoveries

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

Each beneficiary's financial responsibility in case of recovery is in principle limited to their own debt and undue amounts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4), affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries, if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

22.3 Amounts due

22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing

payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

The contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the prefinancing payments (at the rate and in accordance with the modalities set out in the Data Sheet, see Point 4.2) and transferred to the Mechanism.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ &\text{minus} \\ &\{\text{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)}\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

If payment is not made to the coordinator by the date specified in the confirmation letter, the granting authority may call on the Mutual Insurance Mechanism to intervene, if continuation of the action is guaranteed and the conditions set out in the rules governing the Mechanism are met.

In this case, it will send a **beneficiary recovery letter**, together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

The debit note for the beneficiary will include the amount calculated for the affiliated entities which also had to end their participation (if any).

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action's revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

‘Revenue’ is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities (— with the exception of income generated by the exploitation of results, which are not considered as revenues).

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\text{final grant amount} \\ &\text{minus} \\ &\{\text{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)}\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The amount retained for the Mutual Insurance Mechanism (see above) will be released and **paid** to the coordinator (in accordance with the rules governing the Mechanism).

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries’ consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If — despite the release of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism contribution — the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting a report on the distribution of payments to the beneficiaries within 30 days of receiving notification and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received) and the coordinator has submitted the report on the distribution of payments, it will calculate the **share of the debt per beneficiary**, by:

- (a) identifying the beneficiaries for which the amount calculated as follows is negative:

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\{\text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ &\text{divided by} \end{aligned}$$

total accepted EU contribution for the action}
 multiplied by
 final grant amount for the action},
 minus
 {prefinancing and interim payments received by the beneficiary (if any)} }

and

(b) dividing the debt:

{amount calculated according to point (a) for the beneficiary concerned
 divided by
 the sum of the amounts calculated according to point (a) for all the beneficiaries identified according to
 point (a)}
 multiplied by
 the amount to be recovered}.

and confirm the amount to be recovered from each beneficiary concerned (**confirmation letter**), together with **debit notes** with the terms and date for payment.

The debit notes for beneficiaries will include the amounts calculated for their affiliated entities (if any).

If the coordinator has not submitted the report on the distribution of payments, the granting authority will **recover** the full amount from the coordinator (**confirmation letter** and **debit note** with the terms and date for payment).

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘revised accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary, by calculating the ‘revised accepted costs’ and ‘revised accepted contributions’.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting ‘revised total accepted EU contribution’ is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary's final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the action} \end{array} \right\} \times \text{final grant amount for the action}.$$

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

- (a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary's consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) financial guarantee(s): not applicable
- (c) joint and several liability of beneficiaries: not applicable
- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If the Mutual Insurance Mechanism was called on by the granting authority to intervene, recovery will be continued in the name of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism. If two debit notes were sent, the second one (in the name of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism) will be considered to replace the first one (in the name of the granting authority). Where the MIM intervened, offsetting, enforceable decisions or any other of the above-mentioned forms of enforced recovery may be used *mutatis mutandis*.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366¹⁸ applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

22.5.1 If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

22.5.2 If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

¹⁸ Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

Not applicable

ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)

Not applicable

24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC¹⁹ (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)

Not applicable

24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)

Beneficiaries which:

- use unit, flat rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to documented (i.e. formally approved and in writing) usual costs accounting practices (if any) or
- have formalised documentation on the systems and processes for calculating their costs and contributions (i.e. formally approved and in writing), have participated in at least 150 actions under Horizon 2020 or the Euratom Research and Training Programme (2014-2018 or

¹⁹ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

2019-2020) and participate in at least 3 ongoing actions under Horizon Europe or the Euratom Research and Training Programme (2021-2025 or 2026-2027)

may apply to the granting authority for a systems and process audit (SPA).

This audit will be carried out as follows:

Step 1 – Application by the beneficiary.

Step 2 – If the application is accepted, the granting authority will carry out the systems and process audit, complemented by an audit of transactions (on a sample of the beneficiary's Horizon Europe or the Euratom Research and Training Programme financial statements).

Step 3 – The audit result will take the form of a risk assessment classification for the beneficiary: low, medium or high.

Low-risk beneficiaries will benefit from less (or less in-depth) ex-post audits (see Article 25) and a higher threshold for submitting certificates on the financial statements (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

24.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013²⁰ and No 2185/96²¹
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

²⁰ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

²¹ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:
 - (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
 - (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION

ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

27.1 Conditions

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

27.2 Procedure

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or

beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

27.3 Effects

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION

28.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including

improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant
- (c) other:
 - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
 - (ii) the action has lost its scientific or technological relevance, for EIC Accelerator actions: the action has lost its economic relevance, for challenge-based EIC Pathfinder actions and Horizon Europe Missions: the action has lost its relevance as part of the Portfolio for which it has been initially selected

31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until

termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)

- (iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination

32.3.1 Conditions

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into



question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)

- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or

(m) other:

- (i) linked action issues: not applicable
- (ii) the action has lost its scientific or technological relevance, for EIC Accelerator actions: the action has lost its economic relevance, for challenge-based EIC Pathfinder actions and Horizon Europe Missions: the action has lost its relevance as part of the Portfolio for which it has been initially selected

32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; ‘termination date’).

32.3.3 Effects

(a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority’s right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95²²).

SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE

ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

²² Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (‘Portal’).

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a ‘legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)’. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

36.2 Date of communication

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

36.3 Addresses for communication

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71²³, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS

39.1 Conditions

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and

²³ Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

43.1 Applicable law

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

43.2 Dispute settlement

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against

offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

SIGNATURES

For the coordinator

For the granting authority



ANNEX 1



Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Description of the action (DoA)

Part A

Part B

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)

COVER PAGE

Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.

PROJECT	
Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.	
Project number:	101112736
Project name:	Restoration of wetland complexes as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin
Project acronym:	Restore4Life
Call:	HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01
Topic:	HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-02
Type of action:	HORIZON-IA
Service:	CINEA/C/01
Project starting date:	first day of the month following the entry into force date
Project duration:	48 months

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List of milestones (outputs/outcomes)	29
List of critical risks	32
Project reviews	34

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary

Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.

Use the project summary from your proposal.

Restore4Life demonstrates the multiple socio-economic benefits generated by a holistic and transdisciplinary approach for the restoration of freshwater and coastal wetlands in the Danube basin that will contribute to new blue-green infrastructure supporting regional climate change resilience and mitigation. Restore4Life engages in 4 demonstration sites and 6 monitoring sites all across the Danube basin to make evident that increased delivery of key ecosystem services, as water and pollutant retention, carbon sequestration and tourism opportunities as well as improved resilience of water-dependent habitats will produce multiple socio-economic synergies that also provide opportunities for sustainable businesses and investments.

Implementation of activities basically aiming to restore lateral connectivity in riverine corridors will be supported by a Restore4Life long term wetland restoration service/ Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator that combines timely integrative wetland management with a novel level of societal engagement. The Accelerator will provide tested indicators, monitoring approaches and decision support to identify adapted and future-oriented restoration goals, techniques and holistic road maps. Citizens and stakeholders will be empowered to engage in the co-design of projects by establishing stakeholder communities of practice, by twinning of similar projects at different realization stage, citizen science, thematic mobile apps and the use of multiple communication channels with special focus on visual, hands-on interactive information flow that promotes emotional links to water shaped environment. The various tools generated by Restore4Life also including handbooks for business audiences and targeted restoration roadmaps will secure the efficient replication of restoration activities in associated regions. In collaboration with similar mission activities, Restore4Life thus efficiently supports integrative social and economic transitions

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	UB	UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI	RO	999603916
2	BEN	BOKU	UNIVERSITAET FUER BODENKULTUR WIEN	AT	999987357
3	BEN	GEOECOMAR	INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE PENTRU GEOLOGIE SI GEOECOLOGIE MARINA-GEOECOMAR	RO	999461617
4	BEN	UGAL	UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI	RO	999879784
5	BEN	UNSFA	UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU, POLJOPRIVREDNI FAKULTET NOVI SAD	RS	986994013
6	BEN	UNSPMF	University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences	RS	997718624
7	BEN	UNIOS	SVEUCILISTE JOSIPA JURJA STROSSMAYERA U OSIJEKU	HR	973870204
8	BEN	FSM	PRIRODNO MATEMATICKI FAKULTET	RS	999808392

**PARTICIPANTS***Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.*

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
9	BEN	ANM	ADMINISTRATIA NATIONALA DE METEOROLOGIE R.A.	RO	999628457
10	BEN	KUEI	KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITAT EICHSTATT-INGOLSTADT	DE	997154666
11	BEN	WWF Romania	ASOCIATIA WWF ROMANIA	RO	959320495
12	BEN	KÖTIVIZIG	KOZEP-TISZA-VIDEKEI VIZUGYI IGAZGATORSAG	HU	891679582
13	BEN	ILESAS	INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, public research institution	SK	999903937
14	BEN	NIGGG BAS	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS GEODESY AND GEOGRAPHY - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	BG	974642324
15	BEN	PZZP	POKRAJINSKI ZAVOD ZA ZASTITU PRIRODE	RS	925666345
16	BEN	F6S	F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED	IE	900885658
17	BEN	ÉMIVIZIG	ESZAK-MAGYARORSZAGI VIZUGYI IGAZGATOSAG	HU	885594481
18	BEN	UNISOFIA	SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI	BG	999887641
19	BEN	UPS	NEMZETI KOSSZOLGALATI EGYETEM	HU	943340812
20	BEN	UOM	JAVNA USTANOVA UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE PODGORICA	ME	999836328
21	BEN	UNSA	UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU	BA	995549995
22	BEN	CNDD	FUNDATIA CENTRUL NATIONAL PENTRU DEZVOLTARE DURABILA	RO	968018291
23	BEN	CSIC	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES	999991722
24	BEN	FVB-IGB	FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN EV	DE	999927120
25	BEN	BROZ	BRATISLAVSKE REGIONALNE OCHRANARSKEZDRUZENIE	SK	893396773
26	BEN	IZVRS	INSTITUT ZA VODE REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE	SI	997225185
27	BEN	UFZ	HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FUR UMWELTFORSCHUNG GMBH - UFZ	DE	999994632
28	BEN	INCDDD	INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE DELTA DUNARII	RO	972472240
29	BEN	VIA DONAU	VIA DONAU OSTERREICHISCHE WASSERSTRASSEN GESELLSCHAFT MBH	AT	997972764
30	BEN	MMAP	MINISTERUL MEDIULUI, APELOR SI PADURILOR	RO	891929939
31	BEN	AIMC	ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITOUTO THALASSIAS PROSTASIAS	EL	946984326

LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

Work packages <i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP1	Develop a long term wetland restoration service	1 - UB	161.00	1	46	D1.1 – D1.1 Wetland Restoration Wiki D1.2 – D1.2 Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System D1.3 – D1.3. Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator D1.4 – D1.4. Framework for road maps and plans for wetland restoration
WP2	Empower stakeholders and the local community	24 - FVB-IGB	127.50	1	45	D2.1 – D2.1 Mission statement for floodplain management D2.2 – D2.2 Citizen Science Toolbox D2.3 – D2.3 Wetland educational program D2.4 – D2.4 Capacity building
WP3	Demonstrate holistic wetland restoration approaches	2 - BOKU	289.00	1	45	D3.1 – D3.1. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M6 D3.2 – D3.2. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M18 D3.3 – D3.3. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M30 D3.4 – D3.4. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M45 D3.5 – D3.5 Assessment Indicator Toolbox D3.6 – D3.6 Manual for carbon sequestration monitoring D3.7 – D3.7 Restoration effects on wetlands and provided ES

Work packages <i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP4	Stimulating local enterprises to adopt nature-based solutions derived from restored wetlands	22 - CNDD	131.00	1	45	D4.1 – D4.1 Regional capacity reviews D4.2 – D4.2 Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance D4.3 – D4.3 NbS business support framework D4.4 – D4.4 NbS business modules
WP5	Road maps and restoration action plans for the associated regions	10 - KUEI	128.00	3	45	D5.1 – D5.1 Identified and selected associated regions D5.2 – D5.2. Roadmaps and plans for 5 associated regions D5.3 – D5.3. Validation of applicability of developed tools (WP1-4)
WP6	Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation	16 - F6S	90.00	1	48	D6.1 – D6.1. Local stakeholder analysis D6.2 – D6.2 EU-wide stakeholder engagement D6.3 – D6.3 Project dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy D6.4 – D6.4 Dissemination, exploitation and communication report
WP7	Project Management	1 - UB	85.50	1	48	D7.1 – D7.1. Data Management Plan D7.2 – D7.2. Exchange platform D7.3 – D7.3. Sharing best practices D7.4 – D7.4 Indicators for project evaluation

Work package WP1 – Develop a long term wetland restoration service

Work Package Number	WP1	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Work Package Name	Develop a long term wetland restoration service		
Start Month	1	End Month	46

Objectives

- Create a Wetland Restoration Wiki on approaches, techniques and success factors derived from literature as well as from Demonstration Sites (WP2, WP3, WP4) and associated sites (WP5) serving as a clearinghouse for locally adapted best wetland restoration.
- It will additionally be used as a database for the modelling of necessary adaptations of restoration approaches to climate change.
- Collect and integrate available and newly developed tools and techniques to build the Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System enabling optimum, holistic, directly applicable restoration solutions following a transdisciplinary approach by connecting scientific community, practitioners, decision makers, stakeholders and citizens at large.
- Build links with other platforms dedicated to wetland restoration implementation
- Co-create and develop a holistic, multi-language online Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator acting as a Wetland Ecosystem Restoration Decision Support System and integrating a knowledge marketplace
- Develop holistic approaches for road maps and actions plans on wetland restoration

Description**Task 1.1 Success factors and climate adaptation of wetland restoration (Lead:WWF Romania)**

The task will review restoration success stories from scientific and grey literature, past and ongoing projects and elaborate a catalogue of wetland restoration success factors (considering human pressures, socio-economic framework, stakeholders involved, legally based targets, governances, ES improvement,...) with respect to their goals, multifunctionality, governance, stakeholder involvement, types of measures, success monitoring, communication, business support. This will be achieved through a comprehensive review of scientific and grey literature, past and ongoing projects results that will be used to analyse the relevant factors for wetland restoration. After complementing this catalogue by a set of key climate co-variables (i.e. air temperature, precipitation) and related climate extreme indicators (i.e. heat wave duration, wet and dry spell duration, frequency and amount of heavy precipitation events), hydrological variables and biodiversity related variables derived from in situ measurements (demonstration sites) and reanalysis datasets (e.g. ERA5-Land - ECMWF/COPERNICUS) will be correlated in order to assess the direct and indirect impact of climate change. and management on the carbon sink capacity of the wetlands. Reviewed data and modelling results will be made available through a searchable, crowd-sourced Wetland Restoration Wiki serving as a clearinghouse for wetland restoration scientists, businesses, consultants, students etc, enabling knowledge exchange and experience sharing across Europe. The objectives of this task will be achieved in compliance with the Data Management Plan (WP7) and by considering the IPR and DGPR regulations established within the consortium, FAIR guiding principles, EU standards and INSPIRE Directive principles. . D1.1. Wetland Restoration Wiki

Task 1.2. Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System (Lead: CSIC)

The Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System (DSS) will consist of an online platform that will combine existing and newly developed tools for wetland status assessment and identification of restoration options, The DSS wiki integrate those tools into a continuous open and developing decision support system (DSS) that will provide aid to management and restoration actions. The DSS will additionally facilitate the co-design and co-creation of road maps and action plans through integration of wetlands monitoring, citizen science, ecosystems status condition assessment, and restoration actions prioritisation. Designing the DSS will be supported by links with other European projects or projects selected for funding under the Mission call ensuring exchange of approaches and experiences creating synergies . The DSS will provide in-depth information (based on Task 1.1) about the various challenges and benefits of restoration based on ESs and monitoring tools, incl. satellite based and in-situ measurements DSS elaboration will include: i) the development of a conceptual frameworks for restoration and upscaling, promoting the multifunctional use of wetlands; ii) development of a toolbox to provide guidance and recommendations, essentially derived from WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6 outputs, to support the decision-making assessments for wetland restoration (prioritisation of actions, choice of alternatives, economic efficiency analysis); (iii) an overview of monitoring methods and indicators to assess the biodiversity, carbon sequestration and GHG reduction potential, flood protection, mitigation of drought impacts, and pollution reduction of restored wetlands (input from WP3 and Interreg project IDES deliverables); The toolbox will

integrate different types of API (Application Programming Interface) (Wetland4Life web, Solution4Life); but also tools to involve stakeholders and actors including local businesses into restoration work; tools for holistic wetland restoration; toolbox for assessing the integrity and resilience of wetland habitats; integrate climate extreme indicators; co-assessing existing toolboxes and environmental education; Blue-green space 4 Life game; Experiential learning school wetlands - Wetland goes local'). Based on results from task 1.1, the DSS will include a guidance of promising wetland restoration approaches created to restore wetlands' functions and ES, that will enable identification of the options, risks and actions needed to start and perform successful wetland restoration projects. D1.2. Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System

Task 1.3. Building links with other platforms for restoration implementation (Lead; UB)

This task will develop, maintain and enhance the links with existing platforms dealing with restoration in general and with wetland restoration in special. This will allow us to work synergically towards learning from other experiences but also contributing efficiently to the existing international initiatives and projects. In the same time, this task will build links with other mission activities and projects to maximise synergies and include research and innovation developed in the frame of related projects. For this, we will a) map the landscape of projects, networks and platforms from research infrastructures (like ICOS- Integrated Carbon Observation System, ICOS; LifeWatch- e-Science Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research or eLTER Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological research) to Society for Ecological Restoration (<https://www.ser.org/>) and their platform for projects; Wetlands International (<https://www.wetlands.org/>) or global wetland project (<https://globalwetlandsproject.org/>) and initiatives like GEO-Wetlands; b) analyse existing coherence and work towards establishing links and synergies that will allow better functionalities and improve, in the end, the decision-making process and communication with stakeholders. D1.3. Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator

Task 1.4. Holistic approaches for road maps and actions plans (Lead: KUEI)

This task will assist authorities and practitioners developing road maps and action plans aiming to implement targets of the EU Nature Restoration Law, the BDS 2030 and the LULUCF Regulation with a holistic approach. These visions for large spatial-temporal scales will be translated into the needs and options at local scales. The framework will encompass both active and passive restoration practices and be based on ES approach. Roadmaps will be co-designed through strong interaction with stakeholders groups taking into consideration interlinkages of targets and timelines from different policy streams (links to National Restoration Plans, annual GHG inventories, National Climate & Energy Plans, National Adaptation Plans) related to carbon storage, flood risk reduction, biodiversity improvements etc. The task will thus offer blueprints for restoration and upscaling according to the concept of ES and promoting the multifunctional use of wetlands in order to deliver bundles of ES to different stakeholders to support sustainable development. D1.4. Framework for road maps and plans for wetland restoration

Work package WP2 – Empower stakeholders and the local community

Work Package Number	WP2	Lead Beneficiary	24. FVB-IGB
Work Package Name	Empower stakeholders and the local community		
Start Month	1	End Month	45

Objectives

- Enhance the understanding of society (including authorities, business and citizens) of the benefits to be obtained from wetland restoration
- Initiate public mobilisation and engagement
- Train communities of practice that support inclusive action by authorities, local communities, and citizens, facilitating local ownership and co-creating adequate wetland restoration solutions
- Activities will then be selected concerning their upscaling potential and adapted to conditions in associate regions where WP2 will again support empowering local communities for actions aiming at social and economic transitions towards sustainable inclusive and long-term management of the restored ecosystems

Description

Task 2.1. Stakeholder mapping and initiation of Communities of Practice (CoP) (Lead FVB.IGB)

Task 2.1 will map stakeholders from the groups identified by Task 6.1 related to demonstration sites, potential and selected associated regions and create among them several CoP, thus facilitating networking and engaging stakeholders

in workshops, to which specific content on scientific and technical management aspects will be contributed by WPs1, 3-5. Specifically, relevant stakeholders will be identified and mapped in order to (i) identify existing gaps and needs in decision-making for wetland biodiversity conservation and effective wetland restoration actions in sensitive habitats exposed to climate change, extreme weather events and human pressure stressors and (ii) to develop CoPs based on shared interest, competences and knowledge in wetland ecosystem management that can contribute to the co-creation and co-design processes carried out in WPs 3-5. D2.1. Mission statement for floodplain management

Task 2.2. Co-create a citizen science framework for public engagement in wetland restoration (Lead AIMC)

Citizens, including members of local associations, are encouraged and prepared to become active observers who may contribute with their local perspective and ownership to project goals. Citizens engaged in CoPs established in Task 2.1 will thus contribute to subsequent work in WPs1, 3-5. Specifically this task will i) map citizen science projects for biodiversity and the impact on it (pollution fragmentation land use change) (eu.citizen.science; cs.observatories) (ii) collect information about existing CS and educational initiatives in the demonstration sites; (iii) develop the Wetland4Life web app for CS for providing data about wetlands and rating their status based on CS observations and Remote Sensing algorithms; (iv) develop the Solution4Life app for stakeholder that will allow solutions identification and negotiation for wetland restoration, and (v) propose innovative or improved CS approaches for the support of WPs1,3-5 that are tailored to the specific needs, culture, history, and environment of specific regions. This task will also assess the transfer and upscaling potential to other regions off all the above mentioned tools and measures.

D2.2. Citizen Science Tool Box

Task 2.3. Co-develop and improve tools for water literacy and environmental education (Lead FVB.IGB)

Co-development and implementation of targeted approaches for the involvement of different stakeholder groups from demonstration sites with upscaling potential to associated regions. (i) Collect, co-implement, and co-assess existing toolboxes for water literacy and environmental education considering regional culture, age, gender, and education level of people together with local stakeholders; (ii) Adjust and optimise selected effective literacy and education tools, such as e.g. physical and online game 'Blue-green space 4 all', workshops, wetland educational programs that include frameworks for experiential learning as small "school wetlands - 'Wetland goes local' ", comparison of historic maps with present field conditions. D2.3. Wetland educational program

Task 2.4 Capacity building on holistic restoration roadmaps and implementation (Lead: FVB.IGB)

The necessary human resources capacities needed in WPs 1, 3-5 are built up based on knowledge and experience from WPs1, 3-5 by establishing various regional stakeholder groups from the twinning demonstration sites and the associated regions that will be involved to co-develop roadmaps for holistic wetland restoration and implement them. Hence, capacity building will be performed in the fields of a) legal basics, action needs and strategy, b) communication and organisation, c) project management, d) ecology and ecosystem services, e) restoration implementation and ef) business option. through direct knowledge transfer from demo sites to associated regions. Practitioners in associated regions and beyond will receive an online training on the use and application of the Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator developed in WP1.

Wetland educators from associated regions (e.g. teachers, ecotourism entrepreneurs, local associations members) will be trained as multipliers. Five (5) short videos on success stories of the restoration project implementation in the monitoring sites will be realised. D2.4. Capacity building

Work package WP3 – Demonstrate holistic wetland restoration approaches

Work Package Number	WP3	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Work Package Name	Demonstrate holistic wetland restoration approaches		
Start Month	1	End Month	45

Objectives

- To implement and demonstrate large-scale holistic wetland restoration approaches in the Danube basin
- To assess the improvement of restored wetland habitats and ES as well as their resilience to climate change
- To adjust, test, and optimise transferable assessment indicators for ES provided by restored wetlands
- To provide multi-functional measures and approaches for upscaling holistic restoration activities to 5 data associated regions in Europe

Description
<p>Task 3.1. Implement demonstration activities for holistic wetland restoration (Lead BOKU) In four implementation sites in the Upper, Middle, and Lower Danube basin, restoration activities will be implemented, focusing on the improved lateral connectivity of wetlands, biodiversity, carbon sequestration potential, and the delivery of provisioning, regulating, and cultural ES including pollution reduction, coastal protection and flood protection. The following concrete restoration activities will be implemented during the project: Removal of bank and channel stabilization, restoration of bank structures, riparian areas, and meanders, increasing lateral connectivity (IS1-4); removal of invasive plants (IS3); mitigation of flood and drought impacts (IS1-4).</p> <p>D3.1. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M6 (M6) D3.2. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M18 D3.3. Integrated monitoring restoration report at M 30 D3.4. Integration monitoring restoration report at M45</p> <p>For each deliverable D3.1; D3.2; D3.3; D3.4 the following structure will be used:</p> <p>.a. Implement wetland restoration activities in IS1- March-Thaya floodplains (lead Via Donau, Ben 29) with a short description of activities that will be performed: .a.1 Expert study and technical documentation (including description of the starting baseline); .a.2. Passive actions: i) renaturation of the shoreline including removal of bank stabilization, lowering and opening of bank structures; at km 65.6- km 66.1 is planned to reestablish natural riparian areas and increase the connectivity between the river and the floodplain; .a.3. Active actions: i) installation of woody debris or short growings to improve the habitat heterogeneity; .a.4. Monitoring activities (monitoring of natural habitats, presence of invasive species; physical-chemical quality parameters)</p> <p>.b. Implement wetland restoration activities in IS2 - Rudava (lead BROZ, Ben 25) with the following description of activities: .b.1 Expert study and technical documentation; .b.2. Active actions: i) restoration of natural river bed and meanders with impact on 560 ha; ii) digging and dredging; vi) construction works- sluice gates; .b.3. Monitoring activities (monitoring of natural habitats, presence of invasive species; physical-chemical quality parameters)</p> <p>.c. Implement wetland restoration activities in IS3- Vlasina (lead FSM, Ben 8) with the following description of activities: .c.1 Expert study and technical documentation; .c.2. Passive actions: i) removal of invasive tree species from bogs; ii) removal of invasive species with aquatic weed cleaner machine; iii) control of invasive species by manual selections and other available tools; .c.3. Active actions i) afforestation of riparian buffer zone with autochthonous tree species; ii) restoration of riparian areas focusing on aquatic and semi-aquatic systems with impact on 1600 hectares; iii) restoration of natural river meanders; iv) construction of new bank structures to increase and stabilize the water table; .c.4. Monitoring activities (monitoring of natural habitats, presence of invasive species; physical -chemical quality parameters)</p> <p>.d. Implement wetland restoration activities in IS4- Enisala (lead INCDD, Ben 28) with the following description of activities: .d.1 Expert study and technical documentation; .d.2. Active actions: i) reconstruction work by improving the connectivity and water circulation with impact on 2370 hectares; ii) restoration of the riparian areas; iii) .d.3. Monitoring activities (monitoring of natural habitats, presence of invasive species; physical -chemical quality parameters).</p> <p>Task 3.2. Compile, test, and optimise indicators for assessing the resilience of restored wetland habitats (Lead BOKU) Existing assessment indicators and methods (see 1.2. for examples) will be tested and optimised in both the 4 implementation (IS) and the 6 monitoring sites (MS) regarding their suitability for upscaling and implementation by stakeholders and CS using the approach developed in WP2. Task 3.2. will combine indicators for assessing the lateral floodplain connectivity and the floodplain habitat distribution and resilience via remote sensing combining Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite imagery (via SWOS, “Satellite-based Wetland Observation System) and UAV photogrammetry (using drones). Open access tools will be used to create a user-friendly and cost-effective workflow. This task will also integrate climate extreme indicators for assessing the exposure of local communities and wetland ecosystems to climate change and to high-impact weather extreme events such as drought, floods, storms (input from WP1). Multi-model ensembles of global (CMIP5-CMIP6) and regional climate simulations (EUROCORDEX) will be used to evaluate the climate mitigation potential and resilience of restored wetland habitats to future climate change and subsequent variations in the duration, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, under different climate scenarios (RCPs and SSPs) and time-horizon perspectives (2030, 2050). The uncertainty associated with climate projections will be accounted for by each multi-model ensemble. Results of T3.2. will be input for WP5 and the wetland restoration service in WP1. D3.5. Assessment indicator toolbox.</p> <p>Task 3.3. Carbon sequestration capacity through wetland restoration (Lead UFZ) Task 3.3 will assess the carbon sequestration capacity of dominant vegetation and (organic) soils of restored wetland habitats in both the 4 IS and the 6 MS depending on the lateral connectivity and hydrodynamics, based on existing and newly generated data via monitoring by CS (see 1.2. for details) based on T3.2 (remote sensing). We will define a minimum and range of habitat and vegetation attributes (e.g., lateral connectivity, cover and types of vegetation, revegetation time, extent of invasive plants) needed for wetlands to become net C sinks. We will further estimate</p>

the resilience of the carbon sequestration capacity of the restored wetlands to climate change (present-day and future), weather extreme events (e.g. drought, floods, storms) and human pressures, based on habitat distribution and observational/analysis-based assessments of Task 3.2. Together with CS identified in WP2, we will implement, test and improve existing carbon sequestration monitoring methods and develop transferable assessment indicators for upscaling to associated regions as input for WP5 and the wetland restoration service in WP1. Furthermore, the overall carbon sequestration per demonstration site will be balanced (link to WP4). D3.6. Manual for carbon sequestration monitoring

Task 3.4. Demonstrate improved delivery of ES (Lead: BOKU)

We will compile, implement, test, and adjust existing indicators for ES delivery (e.g., IDES Ecosystem Service Delivery Index, RESI River Ecosystem Service Index) in order to develop a widely applicable Danube ES Delivery Index (DESI), including, amongst others, the potential for water quality improvement, carbon sequestration (data from Task 3.3), and flood protection under climate change challenges. Via these indicators, we will demonstrate the potential of wetland restoration for an improved delivery of multiple ES, with special focus on biodiversity, flood protection, and mitigation of water pollution. Together with WP5, we will identify transferable assessment indicators for the ES provided by restored wetlands as a policy-tailored decision support. Through the analyses of ES synergies, we can demonstrate the multifunctionality of restoration measures on wetlands (input for WP2 and WP6). D3.7. Restoration effects on wetlands and ES

Work package WP4 – Stimulating local enterprises to adopt nature-based solutions derived from restored wetlands

Work Package Number	WP4	Lead Beneficiary	22. CNDD
Work Package Name	Stimulating local enterprises to adopt nature-based solutions derived from restored wetlands		
Start Month	1	End Month	45

Objectives

- Explore regional framework settings, development options, comparative advantages and limitations of local sustainable use of restored wetlands
- To increase the share of / support for ecologically sustainable business activities in restored wetland ecosystems that adopt nature-based solutions for economic diversification, increased labour skills and long-term local revenue generation
- To support increased labour skills and long-term local revenue generation
- To contribute business related modules to the Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator

Description

Task 4.1 Regional capacity and marketing research for sustainable business (Lead CNDD)

Wetlands provide opportunities to conduct ecologically sustainable business due to their outstanding aquatic and terrestrial biomass and food production, capacity for carbon sequestration, habitat quality and diversity, and potential for tourism. At the outset, the business owners and entrepreneurs present in each of the demonstration sites will be contacted during the stakeholder mapping analysis (WP2), and formed as a distinct wetland entrepreneur group. With them, a PESTLE analysis (an assessment of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal factors) will be conducted for the respective region to discover limitations of and comparative advantages and further development options for local sustainable use of restored wetlands in a series of focus group meetings in implementation sites, monitoring sites and associated regions. Particular emphasis will be laid on exploring market demands, needed investments and financing instruments for market access. The results will review the availability within the region of essential business capacity and support infrastructures such as energy supply, transport, storage, trading houses, communications and finance offices, and also enable exchange of experiences among regions. D4.1. Regional capacity reviews

Task 4.2 Economic and business options based on NbS (Lead FVB.IGB)

Leading on from Task 4.1, and in close coordination with WP 2, we will engage with the business community (especially MSMEs) to raise their awareness of the existing and potential economic benefits from implementing NbS in restored wetlands in demonstration sites, monitoring sites and associated regions. In a participatory approach surveys on socio-economic needs and opportunities will be performed. Critical success factors will be identified by regional SWOT analyses of the respective socio-economic situation. Activities will include the exploration of business options related

with the booming river cruise ship tourism, in case excursion activities into riparian wetlands can be designed in both sustainable and locally beneficial ways. We will compile site-specific catalogues of applicable business-related NbS (drawing also on the work in WP 2 and 3) to share with all stakeholders. We will also combine the results from all the demonstration sites to formulate a matrix of new economic benefits, value chains and business options with growth potential generated by the implementation of wetland NbS, showing the transformative potential of NbS for economic diversification and social wellbeing. Results will be summarized and published as a Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance for MSMEs. D4.2. Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance

Task 4.3 Business support framework embedding wetland restoration into the local economy (Lead CNDD)

This Task builds on the previous two by analysing the information collected in relation to accepted business support frameworks related to restored wetland NbS. Activities comprise: (a) development of a rapid assessment approach for estimating local economic benefits from biodiversity based on existing methodologies for measuring and valuing biodiversity in order to establish a harmonised approach most applicable for restored wetlands; (b) assessing the potential for aggregating businesses within societal support structures such as chambers of commerce, clusters, land trusts, cooperatives, foundations and associations; (c) investigating with local authorities the establishment of regional marketing organisations to brand and promote local products and services resulting from wetland site restoration, as well as serving as an innovation hub to incubate and assemble new business investment pipelines; (d) engaging with financial institutions looking for targeted green investments (e.g. microfinance, crowdsourcing, green bonds, carbon, ecosystem service payments, grants and concessions) to understand their requirements and potential interest in supporting businesses in the demonstration areas. D4.3. NbS business support framework

Task 4.4 Modules for business policy design contributing to the Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator (Lead CNDD)

This Task provides a general overview of the site-based outcomes from the previous Tasks, combined with those from WPs 2, 3 and 5, with a focus on measuring and rebuilding natural capital in restored wetlands while generating new sources of employment and revenue through forming inter-linked sustainable nature-based businesses and activities with strong links to research and development organisations and EU innovation bodies. The Task will contribute four modules to the online Wetland restoration Accelerator elaborated in WP1: (1) a handbook for policy makers on supporting business activities based on NbS in restored wetland ecosystems; (2) a Restore4Life floodplain NbS business potential index (based on PESTLE and market analyses from Task 4.1, matrix of new economic benefits from Task 4.2, societal and financial support structures from task 4.3), that will help users (whether entrepreneurs, policy makers or investors) evaluate the NbS readiness of and benefits from particular restored wetland sites; (3) a sustainability check tool, that aims to analyse all dimensions of sustainability using machine learning algorithms and multi-criteria analysis based on important predictors for characterising the status of the implementation areas to enhance local entrepreneurs' predictivity skills; and (4) wetland-specific tutorials to help local entrepreneurs (whether start-ups or mature companies looking to update their business operations) in business planning, cost benefit analysis, investment pitches, financial management and good environment, sustainability and governance practices as set out in ISO 37000. D4.4. NbS business modules

Work package WP5 – Road maps and restoration action plans for the associated regions

Work Package Number	WP5	Lead Beneficiary	10. KUEI
Work Package Name	Road maps and restoration action plans for the associated regions		
Start Month	3	End Month	45

Objectives

- To provide support to the associated regions in implementing wetland restoration solutions and transfer the knowledge from WP1-2 and 4 and demonstrator sites (WP3) into suitable sites in associated regions both inside and outside of the Danube region
- To select and engage appropriate associated regions for replication using the evaluation approaches developed in WP1 and 3
- To develop roadmaps for the associated regions based on success stories of the demonstration sites
- To validate the upscaling of holistic wetland restoration solutions from the Demonstration Sites to other areas in the Danube basin and to other European basins

Description

Task 5.1 Identify and select regions with upscaling potential for wetland restoration (Lead: KUEI)

Task 5.1 will include: i) Mapping and identification of regions with upscaling potential” according to the rules developed in WP3 ii) selection of at least 5 associated regions from the CoP established in WP 2, suitable for upscaling and replication of targeted restoration activities conducted in demonstration sites (the selection will be based on a fair and transparent procedure) ; iii) at least two info-days to inform stakeholders of the CoP of associated regions about the following call; iv) setting up criteria based on 1. expected improved benefit, 2.existing knowledge in the area, 3. feasibility and opening the call for restoration activities on at least 5 sites (each from different associated regions); v) at least one interactive workshop during the call is open to inform and support stakeholders in application procedure. Associated regions will be areas in the Danube basin, but also in other comparable European regions (e.g. Odra, Dniester, Vistula, and/or Vjosa River Basin), with high potential to upscale the socio-economical, ecological and hydrological restoration framework developed within the WP1-4. Activities from each demonstrator site (WP3) will be replicated in at least 1-2 associated regions. D5.1. Identified and selected associated regions

Task 5.2. Develop a dedicated technical service for wetland restoration roadmaps (Lead: UNSPMF)

Task 5.2 will enable transfer/exchange of WP 1-4 knowledge and experience between the twinning demonstration site actors and the associated regions during workshops, complementing the training included in WP 2. This will include i) setting up the holistic wetland restoration goals for selected sites in associated regions; ii) identification of implementation obstacles (e.g. land ownership, knowledge gaps, unclear competences, funding, natural conditions), as well as opportunities of wetland restoration; iii) consideration and discussion of potential restoration options; iv) development of execution plans for each associated-region site, as replication of the demonstration sites. Target groups of workshops (local, regional and national stakeholders from associated regions) will be supplied by science-based technical planning, social advisory services, and general workflow templates for development of restoration roadmaps. The roadmaps will be co-created by relevant stakeholders and the Restore4Life WP 5 team. D5.2. Roadmaps and plans for 5 associated regions

Task 5.3 Validate the upscaling of wetland restoration (Lead: FSM)

In this task, the applicability of WP 1-4 tools and indicators will be validated for use in associated regions. Validation will be performed using existing monitoring and rapid observed monitoring data of passively and actively restored wetlands in the associated regions. This will showcase the feasibility, replicability and up-scaling of the solutions developed within the demonstrator sites. The results of WP5 will be integrated into the WP1 and the DSS. D5.3. Validation of applicability of developed tools

Work package WP6 – Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation

Work Package Number	WP6	Lead Beneficiary	16. F6S
Work Package Name	Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation		
Start Month	1	End Month	48

Objectives

- assist in the communication with relevant stakeholders, entrepreneurs and local administrations in demonstration sites and associated regions ensure dissemination and communication of Restore4Life’s activities and results to the scientific community and the general public
- raise awareness for the multiple benefits of floodplain restoration in various target groups
- support potential future exploitation of the results
- deliver policy recommendations to relevant mission-related EU bodies, other initiatives and policy
- ensure clustering and coordination with other related EU or national initiatives.

Description**T6.1 Stakeholder identification and communication strategy (Lead: F6S)**

Systematic analyses of several stakeholder groups will be performed in the demonstration sites and associated regions, thus assisting WPs 2-5 in their transdisciplinary work and training to ensure optimal impact. Analyses will be supported by consortium members from the respective region in order to identify interested citizens, NGOs, traditional businesses, entrepreneurs, local communities, public authorities, policy actors with actual or potential interest in floodplain management as well as transnational networks. Thus, will also include cruise ship companies in order to explore options

to optimise land excursions of cruise ship passengers for more sustainable benefit for local communities on the Danube. The task will also coordinate communication with those stakeholders, develop a strategy on communication tools to use with them, and assist in the organisation (jointly with WPs2,3,4) of various types of stakeholder events, such as meetings, workshops, training courses, festivities, online meetings and webinars. D6.1. Local stakeholder analyses

T6.2 EU-wide stakeholder engagement (lead: UNSA)

Targeted audiences for the EU-wide stakeholder engagement strategy include the following referring to the quadruple Helix (Civil society, Industry, Academia, Government): Target Group I: The public Target Group II and III: the specific target group for the outputs related to the sector and importantly policy making actors more related to the post project exploitation of results. Each partner organisation identifies the relevant target groups that will be involved to foment a cross-border (open) innovation ecosystem. Preparatory work shall be undertaken to facilitate engagement and to what extent the relationship should be established (monitoring their information, attending meetings, establishing formal liaisons, organising joint events, etc.), to capture their inputs as stakeholders as a swift and laser focused dissemination pathways where Restore4Life will be showcased as a shining example of best practice. D6.2. EU-wide stakeholder engagement

T6.3 Project dissemination strategy (Lead F6S)

A robust multi-channel dissemination, exploitation and communication plan (PDEC) will be elaborated based on experiences from previous projects that involve all relevant stakeholder groups and the scientific community through in person and online events as well as various offline and online communication channels. For that, a common corporate design will be elaborated, thus establishing Restore4Life as a tangible brand recognised by the EU. Dissemination activities will mobilise stakeholders' interests and secure their engagement, and raise awareness with pilots and to promote uptake after the end of the project (see sect. 2.2). The task based will disseminate the brand and non-confidential information, communication and promotional materials - leaflets, posters, newsletters and promotional materials. In detail, dissemination activities will encompass the following online channels: website (with links for users to all Restore4Life tools), social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), videos (success stories from demonstration sites and associated regions, interviews) on our own YouTube channel. D6.3. Project dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy (PDEC)

T6.4 Project results exploitation (Lead F6S)

As part of the dissemination, exploitation and communication plan (PDEC, D5.1.), Task 6.1. will promote the exploitation and uptake of project results and products after the end of the project, thus generating long-term impacts even beyond project duration by collaborating e.g. with ICPDR, Sava Commission or European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUCDR) which could mirror Restore4Lifes' dissemination activities on their websites, and promote them e.g. on the Danube Day and other Danube-related events, thus maximising project impact and ensuring its legacy. In addition, two Policy Briefs will be elaborated on the floodplain restoration success stories and on the upscaling potential in Europe in response to climate change. D6.4. Dissemination, exploitation and communication report (DEC report)

Work package WP7 – Project Management

Work Package Number	WP7	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Work Package Name	Project Management		
Start Month	1	End Month	48

Objectives

- Efficient coordination and management of all the technical and administrative aspects, provide financial, and administrative management;
- Maintain and facilitate an information and communication flow among the consortium partners, European Commission and the Steering Committee;
- Ensure optimal implementation and integration of the reporting, ensure high-quality progress reporting, respecting the allocated budget;
- Ensure guiding principles for data management (FAIR principle, data security and ethical aspects)
- Monitoring project impact

Description

T7.1 Administrative, legal and financial management, reporting to the EC (UB)

The administrative and financial management and reporting to the EC will be under the direct supervision of the Project Management Unit (PMU), based at UB. The Project Coordinator is responsible for day to day administration and coordination, assisted by an administrator and a financial officer. The PMU will prepare and implement a Project Management Plan (PMP) outlining the steps and procedures to ensure the timely delivery and the quality of the project outputs (from the administrative and financial procedures to the submission of the project deliverables). The Management Plan will be developed during the first 6 months of the project and will be discussed at the kick-off meeting.

The PMU will also draw up the Data Management Plan (DMP). This document will include data management regulations in compliance with the IPR and DGPR and consortium agreements on the integrated OS practices and accessibility of FAIR data catalogues during the project implementation period and beyond it. The DMP will be updated constantly during the project and will include instructions for accessing open data that will be submitted to WP1. D7.1. Data Management Plan

T7.2 Coordination of consortium partners (UB)

The PMU will keep in continuous communication with all the partners acting as a central contact point for administrative and financial aspects of the project. For the exchange of information, data, materials, etc., an internal exchange platform will be created. The PMU will also support the Steering Committee (Project Coordinator and WP leaders) meetings that will be organised twice per year (8 times in total) using online means to decrease the carbon footprint of the project. Meeting minutes will be shared to all project partners promptly. The PMU, in consultation with the Steering Committee, will also organise meetings of the Consortium which gathers together representatives from all the partners. It will meet 5 times, wholly online: kick-off, 3 interim annual meetings, and a final meeting. Steering Committee meetings will be held back to back with Consortium meetings. D7.2. Exchange platform

T7.3 Coordination with other relevant EU projects and other initiatives; monitoring and maximising impacts (UB)

The coordination with other relevant EU projects (ongoing) or other Mission projects will be ensured by the Steering Committee and also by an Advisory Committee. The latter will comprise 5 high level international experts, respecting gender and geographical balance, that will provide advice to the Steering Committee. In particular, the Advisory Committee will play an independent role in the preparation of criteria and the process for selection of project sites and associated regions, and also ensure the relevance of the results and linkage with existing policy instruments to maximise the impact of the project. The Advisory Committee will meet with the Steering Committee back to back with the Consortium meetings.

The PMU will also seek opportunities to organise meetings and interactions with different relevant projects in an effort to enhance cooperation and collaboration. As a minimum, 4 interactions with other restoration case studies will be held to identify best cases for wetland restoration. Each case study (demonstration site) doing restoration activities will be required to organise an exchange and learning event with other relevant EU projects and Research Infrastructures. Four reports on the interactions with other restoration case studies will be prepared. D7.3. Sharing best practices

T7.4 Monitoring implementation risk, data policy, IPR, gender representation and ethics issues (UB)

The Restore4Life project involves different interactions with participants like surveys, interviews and workshops hosted by WPs during the entire project duration. This task will ensure that the participants will be involved based on their professional experience and relevance to the project. Different tools will be used to recruit them, from using existing networks of the partners up to other means (e.g. direct invitations, newsletter etc). All the interactions with the stakeholders will be voluntary. All the project partners are committed to processing personal data in accordance with the principles of EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The task will develop a set of indicators for project evaluation on: product quality, risk management, impact, engagement social learning and conflict resolution, gender and equality.

D7.4. Indicators for project evaluation

STAFF EFFORT

Staff effort per participant <i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>								
Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	Total Person-Months
1 - UB	18.00	9.00	19.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	36.00	98.00
2 - BOKU	4.00	4.00	34.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	5.00	56.00
3 - GEOECOMAR	3.00	5.50	3.00	2.50	3.50	1.50	1.00	20.00
4 - UGAL	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.00		2.00	1.00	16.00
5 - UNSFA	4.00	6.00	8.00	12.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	36.00
6 - UNSPMF	4.00	1.00	28.00	1.00	11.00	2.00	1.00	48.00
7 - UNIOS	4.00	2.00	5.00		4.00		1.00	16.00
8 - FSM	6.00	2.00	23.00	1.00	10.00		1.00	43.00
9 - ANM	14.00	3.00	8.00		4.00	5.00	2.00	36.00
10 - KUEI	7.00	4.00	13.00		30.00	2.00	2.00	58.00
11 - WWF Romania	8.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	36.00
12 - KÖTIVIZIG	2.00	1.00	9.00	14.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	31.00
13 - ILESAS	3.00	1.00	20.00		2.00		1.00	27.00
14 - NIGGG BAS	2.00		8.00		4.00		2.00	16.00
15 - PZZP	6.00		7.00			1.00	2.00	16.00
16 - F6S	8.00	6.00				45.00	3.00	62.00
17 - ÉMVIZIG		1.00	6.00	6.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	16.00
18 - UNISOFIA	13.00						3.00	16.00
19 - UPS	2.00	1.00	8.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	16.00

Staff effort per participant <i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>								
Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	Total Person-Months
20 - UOM		2.00	5.00	2.00	6.00		1.00	16.00
21 - UNSA	5.00	5.00	12.00	7.00	3.00	6.50	1.50	40.00
22 - CNDD	4.00	4.00	4.00	42.00	4.00	4.00	2.00	64.00
23 - CSIC	20.00	3.00	6.00		6.00		1.00	36.00
24 - FVB-IGB	3.00	23.00	4.00	17.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	53.00
25 - BROZ	2.00		14.00		3.00	1.00	2.00	22.00
26 - IZVRS	8.00	3.00			3.00	1.00	1.00	16.00
27 - UFZ	5.00		21.00		7.00		1.00	34.00
28 - INCDDD	2.00	10.00	14.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	38.00
30 - MMAP	1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		2.00	8.00
31 - AIMC		20.00		0.50	0.50		1.00	22.00
Total Person-Months	161.00	127.50	289.00	131.00	128.00	90.00	85.50	1012.00

LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverables <i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i> <i>The labels used mean:</i> <i>Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)</i> <i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i> <i>EU classified —RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444</i>						
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D1.1	D1.1 Wetland Restoration Wiki	WP1	11 - WWF Romania	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D1.2	D1.2 Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System	WP1	23 - CSIC	OTHER	PU - Public	36
D1.3	D1.3. Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator	WP1	1 - UB	DEC —Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	46
D1.4	D1.4.Framework for road maps and plans for wetland restoration	WP1	10 - KUEI	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	PU - Public	12
D2.1	D2.1 Mission statement for floodplain management	WP2	24 - FVB-IGB	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	45
D2.2	D2.2 Citizen Science Toolbox	WP2	31 - AIMC	DEC —Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	24
D2.3	D2.3Wetland educational program	WP2	24 - FVB-IGB	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	PU - Public	27
D2.4	D2.4 Capacity building	WP2	24 - FVB-IGB	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	40
D3.1	D3.1.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M6	WP3	2 - BOKU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D3.2	D3.2.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M18	WP3	2 - BOKU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	18

Deliverables <i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i> <i>The labels used mean:</i> <i>Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)</i> <i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i> <i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444</i>							
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)	
D3.3	D3.3.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M30	WP3	2 - BOKU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	30	
D3.4	D3.4.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M45	WP3	2 - BOKU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	45	
D3.5	D3.5 Assessment Indicator Toolbox	WP3	2 - BOKU	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	PU - Public	24	
D3.6	D3.6 Manual for carbon sequestration monitoring	WP3	2 - BOKU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36	
D3.7	D3.7 Restoration effects on wetlands and provided ES	WP3	2 - BOKU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	45	
D4.1	D4.1Regional capacity reviews	WP4	22 - CNDD	R — Document, report	PU - Public	6	
D4.2	D4.2Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance	WP4	24 - FVB-IGB	R — Document, report	PU - Public	35	
D4.3	D4.3 NbS business support framework	WP4	22 - CNDD	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	PU - Public	26	
D4.4	D4.4 NbS business modules	WP4	22 - CNDD	DEC —Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	45	
D5.1	D5.1 Identified and selected associated regions	WP5	10 - KUEI	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	18	

Deliverables

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D5.2	D5.2. Roadmaps and plans for 5 associated regions	WP5	6 - UNSPMF	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	SEN - Sensitive	32
D5.3	D5.3.Validation of applicability of developed tools (WP1-4)	WP5	8 - FSM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	45
D6.1	D6.1. Local stakeholder analysis	WP6	16 - F6S	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D6.2	D6.2 EU-wide stakeholder engagement	WP6	21 - UNSA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	18
D6.3	D.6.3 Project dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy	WP6	16 - F6S	R — Document, report	PU - Public	6
D6.4	D6.4 Dissemination, exploitation and communication report	WP6	16 - F6S	R — Document, report	PU - Public	46
D7.1	D7.1.Data Management Plan	WP7	1 - UB	R — Document, report	PU - Public	40
D7.2	D7.2. Exchange platform	WP7	1 - UB	OTHER	SEN - Sensitive	6
D7.3	D7.3.Sharing best practices	WP7	1 - UB	R — Document, report	PU - Public	46
D7.4	D7.4 Indicators for project evaluation	WP7	1 - UB	R — Document, report	PU - Public	42

Deliverable D1.1 – D1.1 Wetland Restoration Wiki

Deliverable Number	D1.1	Lead Beneficiary	11. WWF Romania
Deliverable Name	D1.1 Wetland Restoration Wiki		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	12	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Database of wetland restoration projects in Europe

Deliverable D1.2 – D1.2 Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System

Deliverable Number	D1.2	Lead Beneficiary	23. CSIC
Deliverable Name	D1.2 Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System		
Type	OTHER	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Integration of tools and techniques for optimum, holistic, restoration solutions following a transdisciplinary approach

Deliverable D1.3 – D1.3. Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator

Deliverable Number	D1.3	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Deliverable Name	D1.3. Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator		
Type	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	46	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Co-create and develop a holistic, multi-language online knowledge marketplace

Deliverable D1.4 – D1.4. Framework for road maps and plans for wetland restoration

Deliverable Number	D1.4	Lead Beneficiary	10. KUEI
Deliverable Name	D1.4. Framework for road maps and plans for wetland restoration		
Type	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	12	Work Package No	WP1

Description
To assist authorities and practitioners in developing road maps and action plans

Deliverable D2.1 – D2.1 Mission statement for floodplain management

Deliverable Number	D2.1	Lead Beneficiary	24. FVB-IGB
Deliverable Name	D2.1 Mission statement for floodplain management		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	45	Work Package No	WP2

Description
Outcome from five stakeholder co-creation and knowledge transfer workshops

Deliverable D2.2 – D2.2 Citizen Science Toolbox

Deliverable Number	D2.2	Lead Beneficiary	31. AIMC
Deliverable Name	D2.2 Citizen Science Toolbox		
Type	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	Work Package No	WP2

Description
Including a Wetland4Life web application for CS and a Solution4all application for stakeholders

Deliverable D2.3 – D2.3Wetland educational program

Deliverable Number	D2.3	Lead Beneficiary	24. FVB-IGB
Deliverable Name	D2.3Wetland educational program		
Type	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	27	Work Package No	WP2

Description
Including online game, training workshops and experiential learning station (Wetland goes school)

Deliverable D2.4 – D2.4 Capacity building

Deliverable Number	D2.4	Lead Beneficiary	24. FVB-IGB
Deliverable Name	D2.4 Capacity building		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	40	Work Package No	WP2

Description
Capacity building for 50 stakeholders incl. entrepreneurs plus 15 wetland educators per demo sites and associated regions

Deliverable D3.1 – D3.1.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M6

Deliverable Number	D3.1	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.1.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M6		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Interim report on restoration activities implemented in each of the IS at month 6

Deliverable D3.2 – D3.2.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M18

Deliverable Number	D3.2	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.2.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M18		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	18	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Interim report on restoration activities implemented in each of the IS at month 18

Deliverable D3.3 – D3.3.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M30

Deliverable Number	D3.3	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.3.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M30		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	30	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Interim report on restoration activities implemented in each of the IS at month 30

Deliverable D3.4 – D3.4.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M45

Deliverable Number	D3.4	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.4.Integrated monitoring restoration report at M45		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	45	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Report on restoration activities implemented in each of the IS at month 45

Deliverable D3.5 – D3.5 Assessment Indicator Toolbox

Deliverable Number	D3.5	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.5 Assessment Indicator Toolbox		
Type	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Toolbox of easily applicable, low-cost assessment indicators

Deliverable D3.6 – D3.6 Manual for carbon sequestration monitoring

Deliverable Number	D3.6	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.6 Manual for carbon sequestration monitoring		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Guideline for an improved, widely applicable, CS-suitable monitoring scheme for carbon sequestration

Deliverable D3.7 – D3.7 Restoration effects on wetlands and provided ES

Deliverable Number	D3.7	Lead Beneficiary	2. BOKU
Deliverable Name	D3.7 Restoration effects on wetlands and provided ES		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	45	Work Package No	WP3

Description
Report on the effects of the restoration activities in demonstration sites on the wetlands' state and delivery of ES

Deliverable D4.1 – D4.1Regional capacity reviews

Deliverable Number	D4.1	Lead Beneficiary	22. CNDD
Deliverable Name	D4.1Regional capacity reviews		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP4

Description
Reports on developing site-based NbS businesses based on local PESTLE analyses

Deliverable D4.2 – D4.2Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance

Deliverable Number	D4.2	Lead Beneficiary	24. FVB-IGB
Deliverable Name	D4.2Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	35	Work Package No	WP4

Description
Guidance MSMEs

Deliverable D4.3 – D4.3 NbS business support framework

Deliverable Number	D4.3	Lead Beneficiary	22. CNDD
Deliverable Name	D4.3 NbS business support framework		
Type	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	26	Work Package No	WP4

Description
Assessment and development of NsB business support frameworks

Deliverable D4.4 – D4.4 NbS business modules

Deliverable Number	D4.4	Lead Beneficiary	22. CNDD
Deliverable Name	D4.4 NbS business modules		
Type	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	45	Work Package No	WP4

Description
4 NbS business modules for the Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator

Deliverable D5.1 – D5.1 Identified and selected associated regions

Deliverable Number	D5.1	Lead Beneficiary	10. KUEI
Deliverable Name	D5.1 Identified and selected associated regions		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	18	Work Package No	WP5

Description
Report on upscaling potential of the identified and selected associated regions

Deliverable D5.2 – D5.2. Roadmaps and plans for 5 associated regions

Deliverable Number	D5.2	Lead Beneficiary	6. UNSPMF
Deliverable Name	D5.2. Roadmaps and plans for 5 associated regions		
Type	DEM — Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	32	Work Package No	WP5

Description
Roadmaps and plans for 5 associated regions

Deliverable D5.3 – D5.3.Validation of applicability of developed tools (WP1-4)

Deliverable Number	D5.3	Lead Beneficiary	8. FSM
Deliverable Name	D5.3.Validation of applicability of developed tools (WP1-4)		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	45	Work Package No	WP5

Description
Report on the validation of applicability of WP1-4 in the associated regions

Deliverable D6.1 – D6.1. Local stakeholder analysis

Deliverable Number	D6.1	Lead Beneficiary	16. F6S
Deliverable Name	D6.1. Local stakeholder analysis		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	48	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Report about stakeholder analysis and identification of communication tool.

Deliverable D6.2 – D6.2 EU-wide stakeholder engagement

Deliverable Number	D6.2	Lead Beneficiary	21. UNSA
Deliverable Name	D6.2 EU-wide stakeholder engagement		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	18	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Report on EU wide stakeholder engagement strategies

Deliverable D6.3 – D.6.3 Project dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy

Deliverable Number	D6.3	Lead Beneficiary	16. F6S
Deliverable Name	D.6.3 Project dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Dissemination, exploitation and communication report

Deliverable D6.4 – D6.4 Dissemination, exploitation and communication report

Deliverable Number	D6.4	Lead Beneficiary	16. F6S
Deliverable Name	D6.4 Dissemination, exploitation and communication report		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	46	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Final report on communication, dissemination and exploitation activities

Deliverable D7.1 – D7.1.Data Management Plan

Deliverable Number	D7.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Deliverable Name	D7.1.Data Management Plan		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	40	Work Package No	WP7

Description
Addressing the use of data after the project end

Deliverable D7.2 – D7.2. Exchange platform

Deliverable Number	D7.2	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Deliverable Name	D7.2. Exchange platform		
Type	OTHER	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP7

Description
Establishment of a platform for the exchange of information, data and materials among partners

Deliverable D7.3 – D7.3.Sharing best practices

Deliverable Number	D7.3	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Deliverable Name	D7.3.Sharing best practices		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	46	Work Package No	WP7

Description
Report on interactions with other restoration case studies

Deliverable D7.4 – D7.4 Indicators for project evaluation

Deliverable Number	D7.4	Lead Beneficiary	1. UB
Deliverable Name	D7.4 Indicators for project evaluation		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	42	Work Package No	WP7

Description
Set of indicators for product quality, risk management, impact, social learning

LIST OF MILESTONES

Milestones <i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
1	M1.1	WP4, WP3, WP2	23-CSIC	Structure and function of the platform agreed among the WP leaders	18
2	M1.2 Validation of the first report on links with other restoration platforms	WP2	1-UB	Informative communication with other platforms established	28
3	M2.1 Identification and characterization of Communities of Practice in implementation sites and associated regions	WP4, WP6, WP5, WP3	24-FVB-IGB	Communities of Practice established	27
4	M2.2 Informative workshops for stakeholders from implementation sites	WP4, WP6, WP5, WP3	22-CNDD	4 informative workshops for stakeholders from implementations sites realised	4
5	M2.3 Concluding twinning workshops for stakeholders from implementation sites and associated regions	WP4, WP6, WP5, WP3	8-FSM	5 concluding twinning workshops realised	43
6	M2.4 Compilation of existing Citizen Science initiatives related to wetlands	WP3	2-BOKU	Database with Citizen Science initiatives related to wetlands elaborated	8
7	M2.5.Compilation of existing educational activities related to wetlands	WP3	24-FVB-IGB	Database with existing educational activities related to wetlands elaborated	10
8	M2.6.Twinning capacity building courses for stakeholders and educators from implementation sites and associated regions	WP4, WP6, WP5, WP3	22-CNDD	5 twinning training workshops and 1 online training on use and application of the Restore 4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator realised	38
9	M2.7.Knowledge transfer and best practice examples from monitoring sites	WP6, WP5, WP3	2-BOKU	5 short videos realised on success stories of restoration project implementation in the monitoring sites	20
10	M3.1.Compilation of monitoring methods and assessment indicators	WP3	2-BOKU	Suitable monitoring methods and assessment indicators selected	4

Milestones <i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
11	M3.2. Tested and optimised CS monitoring scheme	WP1, WP5	31-AIMC	Optimised CS monitoring scheme for holistic wetland restoration available	12
12	M3.3. Improved monitoring for carbon sequestration capacity	WP1, WP5	27-UFZ	Improved monitoring for carbon sequestration potential available	16
13	M3.4. Restoration effects on ecosystems and ES	WP1	23-CSIC	Monitoring data acquired from all demonstration sites	30
14	M3.5. Optimization of indicators for lateral connectivity, habitat distribution, carbon sequestration capacity, and ES	WP1, WP5	2-BOKU	Indicator assessment analysed and optimised	32
15	M3.6 Implementation of restoration activities	WP3	2-BOKU	Restoration activities successfully implemented at IS	45
16	M4.1. Overview report on site-based PESTLE analyses	WP4	22-CNDD	Participation in local workshops and report released	8
17	M4.2 Site-specific catalogues of applicable business-related NbS in wetlands	WP4	24-FVB-IGB	Catalogues compiled and released	14
18	M4.3. Formulation of a general matrix of benefits, production chains and business options generated by wetland NbS	WP4	22-CNDD	Matrix assembled and released	16
19	M4.4 Review of existing methodologies for measuring and valuing biodiversity	WP4	22-CNDD	Review report released	18
20	M4.5. Assessment of site-based NbS business support frameworks in four implementation sites and potential for green investments	WP4	22-CNDD	Participation in local workshops and report released	26
21	M4.6. Tested WRA modules on a floodplain NbS business potential index, wetland-	WP4	22-CNDD	Modules released as documents and apps within the Wetland Restoration Accelerator	42

Milestones					
Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
	specific NbS business tutorials and tools for economic sustainability				
22	M4.7.Handbook for policy makers on supporting wetland NbS business activities	WP4	11-WWF Romania	Handbook released	44
23	M5.1.Criteria for selection of associated regions	WP5	2-BOKU	Social, ecological, economic criteria of open call are clearly defined	12
24	M5.2.Priority list and map of areas for wetland restoration	WP5	24-FVB-IGB	Priority list and map of areas with upscaling potential defined	15
25	M5.3.Workshops with stakeholders in each associated region	WP5	22-CNDD	1 Workshop with stakeholders in each associated region (in total 5 workshops) to identify goals, obstacles, restrictions and chances carried out	26
26	M5.4.Roadmaps co-created	WP5	6-UNSPMF	5 roadmaps (1 per associated region) for successful wetland restoration	32
27	M7.1.Project Management Plan (PMP)	WP7	1-UB	Project Management Plan	6
28	M7.2.Draft Data Management Plan (DMP)	WP7	1-UB	Data Management Plan drafted	6
29	M7.3.Minutes of the Steering Committee	WP7	1-UB	Minutes released	48
30	M7.4.Data Management Plan (DMP)	WP7	1-UB	Data Management Plan	47

LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

Critical risks & risk management strategy			
Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.			
Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
1	Insufficient stakeholder engagement (i) Low; ii) Medium	WP4, WP1, WP5, WP3, WP2	Stakeholders will be involved from the first stages of the project and will be kept motivated throughout the project's implementation period by engagement workshops, bilateral meetings and round table discussions for the co-design of the project's decision-making tool. The stakeholders will be kept updated regularly with the essential outcomes of the research through the dissemination activities following a clear consultation calendar (as stipulated in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan - WP6). The new possible pandemic outbreaks (e.g. COVID-19) will be overcome with virtual and hybrid engagement meetings
2	Failure to establish the needed information flow and linkages between WPs i) Low; ii) Medium	WP4, WP6, WP5, WP3, WP2, WP7	The organisation of activities and the management structure of RESTORE4LIFE is designed to foster collaboration and synergies among WPs and partners. Many of the partners have successfully collaborated previously, and actively wrote the proposal together. In every SC meeting, WP interactions and interdependencies will be used at maximum to best exploit possible synergies and ensure information flow will be reviewed.
3	Data collected through in-field campaigns and data products obtained by remote sensing techniques are insufficient or have different quality as well as different spatial and temporal resolutions and cannot be easily integrated in the models (likelihood medium, severity medium)	WP4, WP1, WP5, WP3	Partners in WP1, WP3, WP4, WP5 have expertise in data analysis and in numerical and statistical techniques that can be applied for gap filling, sensitivity analysis and simulations to compensate for additional sources of uncertainty
4	Uncertainties associated with the project outcomes (i) Low; ii) Low	WP1, WP3	The uncertainty associated with different sources (e.g. datasets, modelling process, spatial resolution) will be analysed in WP1 and WP3 and will be considered when disseminating project results to stakeholders and other end users. To account for the climate modelling uncertainty, Restore4Life uses multi-model ensembles which are part of large modelling experiments and projects such as EURO-CORDEX and CMIP5/CMIP6
5	Delay in restoration implementation at IS (i) Low; (ii) Medium	WP5, WP3	IS were selected based on the premise that concrete plans for restoration implementation are already existing and the legal and financial base for the implementation is clarified. The planned actions are part of larger restoration efforts at all sites, thus ensuring political support and social acceptance and reducing the risks of delay. However, in the worst case of delayed

Critical risks & risk management strategy <i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
			implementation at one site, monitoring data from already implemented actions from all 10 demonstrators will give sufficient information for the successful completion of WP3 and input for WP1 and 5
6	Delay in implementation of tasks and interdependence between actions and outputs (i) Low; (ii) Low	WP4, WP6, WP1, WP5, WP3, WP2, WP7	The fulfilment of tasks and deliverables follows a cascade workflow, under a strict timing control and monitoring (e.g. milestones), which will be the result of the research activities of the whole consortium. This will ensure the detection of any emerging critical paths and potential bottlenecks in the timeline schedule

PROJECT REVIEWS

Project Reviews			
Grant Preparation (Reviews screen) — Enter the info.			
Review No	Timing (month)	Location	Comments
RV1	18	Brussels	tbc
RV2	36	Brussels	tbc
RV3	48	Brussels	tbc

RESTORATION OF WETLAND COMPLEXES AS LIFE SUPPORTING SYSTEMS IN THE DANUBE BASIN - RESTORE4LIFE

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1	January 2023	Template changed; removal of tables from 3.1 section
2	March 13, 2023	
		Removal of Ben 19 (University of Debrecen; Debreceni Egyetem)),
		renumbering of Ben from 20 to 32; Ben 20 changed to 19 UPS; Ben 21 changed to 20 UOM; Ben 22 to 21 UNSA Ben 23 to 22 CNDD Ben 24 to 23 CSIS Ben 25 to 24 FVB.ING Ben 26 to 25 BROZ Ben 27 to 26 IZVRS Ben 28 to 27 UFZ Ben 29 to 28 INCDDD Ben 30 to 29 Via Donau Ben 31 to 30 MMAP Ben 32 to 31 AIMC
		Change INCVP acronym into PZZP for Ben. 15
		Replaced Gannt chart
		Delete “Two of the participants are affiliated entities”
		Changed UNISO acronym with UNISOFIA
		Changes in Table 3.1.a (corrections)
		Changes at WP 1 Task description, added name of deliverables
		WP 2 – added name for each deliverable
		WP 3 Task 3.1 modified; added subtasks; developed a common structure for all demo sites; added new deliverable with multiple reporting periods: M6, M 18, M39, M45; Task 3.2 – corrected lead from UNISPMF to BOKU to keep the same with table 3.1.c list o deliverables Added Del 3.3, 3.4
		WP 4 – Added Del 4.1, 4.2 Task 4.3 – Changed lead for UNSFA (Ben 5) to CNDD (Ben 23) Added Del 4.4
		WP 5 – Added Del 5.1, 5.2, 5.3
		WP 6 – Added Del 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4
		WP 7 – Added Del 7.1, 7.2, 7.3


		Task 7.4 – Changed lead from ANM to UB
		 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023 Table 3.1.c Links with tasks have been established for each of the deliverables Adjusting the Deliverables of WP 7, including a new deliverable D7.2 Exchange platform Adjusting deadlines for all deliverables Adjusting the dissemination levels
		Changes in table 3.1.f Summary of effort (deleted Ben 19 UD (University of Debrecen); transferred the PM to partner 12 Kotivizig; one PM was not transferred; total PM for Kotivizig increased from 16 to 31; Activities in WP 3 especially link with T3.2. Compile, test, and optimise indicators for assessing the resilience of restored wetland habitats (9PM) are very well suited for Kotivizig experience as the institution implementing other 2 projects relevant for this task (Danube Floodplain and IDES); Other PM were transferred from WP1 (2PM from UD to Kotivizig to Task 1.2. Restoration decision support tool and T2.3. Co-develop and improve tools for water literacy and environmental education (1 PM) based also on the extensive knowledge that Kotivizig has gained in both Danube Floodplain project and in IDES.
		Tables 3.1.g & h updated
		Please note that the chapter 4 was added based on the comments received in January 2023
		Support to third parties added
		Cost for Ben 19 UD were transferred as follows: Personnel costs: 15 PM (34500 euro) from the total of 16 PM transferred to ben 12 (Kotivizig); Activities that supposed to be performed by UD were transferred to Kotivizig that has extensive experience in working at different spatial and temporal scales and with different actors; 1PM was not transferred as it was not needed anymore (WP7); Travel costs: Not transferred. As a consequence the total costs for Kotivizig increased from 103500 euro to 146625 euro; Per total the cost of the project decreased from a total cost of: 8,525,328.75 euro to 8,499,953.75 Euro and the Total EU contribution decreased from 8,326,016.25 Euro to 8,300,641.25 Euro.
		For Ben 22 (CNDD) we made a correction in the number of total PM (from 58 to 64) as this was also the correct number in the budget. Changes were also made in table 3.1.f. (from 58 to 64).
3	March 28 th , 2023	Tables 3.1.g and 3.1.h updated.

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1. Excellence

1.1 Objectives and ambition

More than 80% of the Danube floodplains and wetlands have been converted to farmland, industrial areas, fish polders and transport corridors. As a consequence, we face a **multitude of challenges** across the Danube basin, such as biodiversity loss, eutrophication and water quality deterioration, oversimplification of food webs, reduced fish production rates in natural systems, reduced water retention and flood attenuation, and a significant reduction in the provision of ecosystem services (ES) (Vadineanu, 2009). It is acknowledged that this chain of changes is actually pushing the entire complex of ecosystems and their dependent social-ecological systems towards collapse (Renauld et al, 2013). Challenges arise specifically from complex and poorly understood ecological, economic and social interactions (Angelstam, 2019), the lack of agreement between stakeholders, and the absence of a clear end point. Bearing this in mind, **Restore4Life** will address the crises in the European wetland sphere through the development of a **Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System** at Danube Basin level. The service will be based on a **shared vision for wetland restoration** including co-creation and co-development of tools that will allow **local stakeholders and actors to be actively involved in restoration works** and will help local businesses to adopt new activities through nature-based solutions (NbS) supported by new generation 4.0 data analysis tools (Goriup *et al.* 2022). Crucially, Restore4Life will **build on and complement recent and ongoing European efforts**, such as, e.g., the H2020 projects Merlin, SWOS, Eco-Potential, Rest-Coast, Ponderful; the Life project W4C Wetland 4Climate; Interreg project IDES; Ocean-Mission (Horizon-Europe); Digital Twin (Iliad (H2020); and Editto Model Lab (HE) as well as **European Environmental Infrastructures** (Lifewatch, eLTER, ICOS, DANUBIUS, JERICO, REXDAN). Restore4Life also recognises that existing wetland restoration efforts are being modulated by **multiple policies at different scales**, including the European Green Deal, the Paris Agreement, UN Sustainable Goals, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, LULUCF Regulation and many more. The role of Restore4Life will be to deliver cross-disciplinary services that will foster cooperation for the restoration of wetland landscapes facilitating the transition to sustainability. In particular, Restore4Life will (1) foster a **digital water knowledge system** to better understand, monitor, and forecast the health of the hydrosphere, based on existing and planned European infrastructures and services; (2) stimulate EU-wide, large-scale **holistic restoration** of Danube wetlands, floodplains and coastal wetlands to reconstitute their ecosystem functions services; and (3) promote a **participatory governance system** based on the mobilisation and engagement of the public, civic and private sectors.

1.1.1. Objectives of Restore4life

Restore4Life's **Overall Objective** is to develop an online **Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System** that will allow **large-scale holistic wetland restoration** activities in the Danube basin and Europe through **extensive dialogue and co-creation with multiple actors** (knowledge holders, policy actors, citizens) as part of the Danube basin lighthouse of the Mission "Restore our ocean and waters by 2030".

To this end, Restore4Life is framed within the **five impact-driven SMART objectives**: (1) Specific (S) by addressing the wetland restoration workflow; (2) Measurable (M) through well-established indicators, including both Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Societal Readiness Level (SRL); (3) Achievable (A) through the development of eco-engineering solutions; (4) Realistic (R) through the co-development of solutions by involving communities (research community, industry and business, government and citizens) in real-world scenarios; and (5) Time-bound (T) through the technology transfer within the lifespan of the project objectives:

The overall objective of Restore4Life will be achieved by the successful delivery of the following **Specific**

SO1: Develop a Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System that is adaptable and applicable to the Danube basin and large rivers in Europe as life supporting systems, and fosters EU-wide large-scale holistic wetland restoration through the **provision of tested and optimised transferable solutions**.

At present, large disparities exist in Europe and the Danube Basin specifically regarding the knowledge, expertise, and tools for holistic wetland restoration, impeding their transferability to and implementation in other regions. Thus, there is an urgent need for a long-term decision support platform for knowledge, tools, and expertise to facilitate implementation and boost wetland restoration in Europe, as a preparatory step for Phase 2 of the EU mission.

This wetland restoration service will connect experts, stakeholders, citizens, and policy actors based on a transdisciplinary approach, where each can bring in their expertise, experience and products to share. It will therefore act as a knowledge platform and allow a workflow that leads to the identification of optimal solutions tailored for specific cases. Ultimately, this objective will achieve the long-term integration of all WPs including a financial mechanism to support this service beyond the project duration for the implementation phase of the Danube basin lighthouse. This will facilitate the development of a robust enabling environment for transformative change towards large-scale wetland landscape restoration actions, empowering decision makers to take equitable and informed decisions for restoration of biodiversity, ES and carbon sequestration in a manner that minimises region specific trade-offs and maximises synergies among ES. The objective is supported by WP1.

SO2: Empower stakeholders and the community by establishing an extensive network of stakeholders and communities to support wetland restoration

The inclusion of stakeholders and Citizen Science (CS) in the planning, implementation, and success monitoring of restoration activities are key to the successful long-term restoration and protection of wetlands as life-supporting systems providing a multitude of ES. The CS approaches will be tailored to regional needs, culture, history, and environmental conditions.

Restore4Life will build an **extensive network of empowered stakeholders and local communities** linked to wetland restoration projects in the demonstration sites and the associated regions. The network will ensure active participation and co-creation by citizens in several countries during the project's implementation and beyond. The Communities of Practice (CoP) network approach will be employed in which stakeholders are formed into interest groups in order to discuss, agree and pursue both individual and group goals. Through the CoPs, Restore4Life will (i) ensure the co-building of respective regional wetland restoration activities by involving them in planning, implementation, and knowledge transfer; (ii) raise awareness for the significance of restoration of wetlands as life-supporting systems through water literacy, environmental education and environmental training; and (iii) contribute to the monitoring of wetland restoration progress in terms of wetland protection, biodiversity, climate neutrality, and improved ESS. This objective is supported by WP2 and provides input to SO1, SO3, and SO5.

SO3: Demonstrate and evaluate a holistic wetland restoration approach and compile, test and **optimise ecosystems' and ES assessment indicators** to enable their applicability in associated regions and their integration into the wetland restoration service (SO1)

The restoration of wetlands as life-supporting involves monitoring numerous indicators for their ecological state. However, applying monitoring indicators and methods for wetland ES delivery in regions which lack the knowledge and necessary infrastructure for their implementation, as well as their suitability for CS, has hardly been explored. Moreover, a common set of EU assessment indicators for wetlands, equivalent to those of the WFD for river systems, is still lacking but urgently needed. As a result, a trans-European scheme for wetland monitoring, necessary for Phase 2 of the EU Mission "Restore our ocean and waters by 2030", is not available at present.

Restore4Life will **demonstrate large-scale holistic approaches for the restoration** of riverine wetlands, floodplains, and coastal wetlands as life-supporting systems by (i) implementing wetland restoration activities in demonstration sites in the Upper, Middle, and Lower Danube basin; and (ii) monitoring and assessing the effects of restoration on ecosystem integrity and delivery of ES, such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood protection, mitigation of droughts and pollution reduction. Together with empowered stakeholders and the local community (SO2), existing **assessment indicators** and monitoring methods will be tested and optimised to improve their transferability to associated (SO4) and other regions in the DB/Europe and their applicability in CS approaches (SO2). The resilience of the restored wetland habitats and ES to high-impact extreme events (e.g. drought, floods)

will be assessed and a suite of sustainable measures and approaches will be provided for transfer to the associated regions and elsewhere in Europe. This objective is supported by WP3 and provides input to SO1, SO2, and SO5. Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023

SO4: Support local revenue and business activities in restored ecosystems

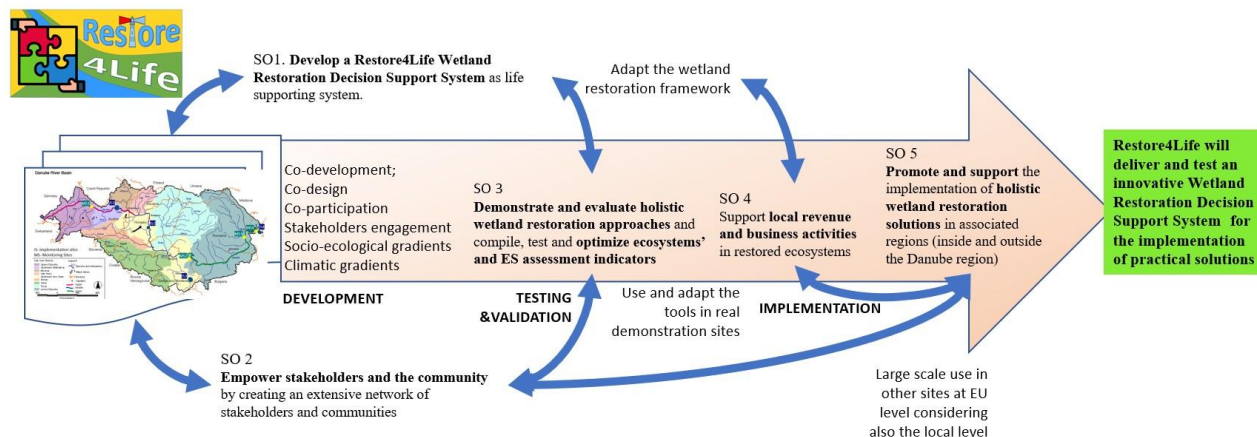
There is ample evidence that drainage of inland and coastal wetlands and associated land use intensification in Europe, and not least in the Danube River basin, has run its course. Almost 70% of the floodplain wetlands and the remaining areas are subject to heavy modification. The hydrological regulation services they once provided are hardly available today and are being further undermined as shown by the incidence of extreme floods and droughts caused by climate change. The communities that depend on the drained lands, predominantly farmers and tourism providers, are seeing their economic resilience vanish. Moreover, recent EU-funded research in the tourism sector in the Lower Danube (Goriup *et al.* 2022) has shown that local authorities and businesses are poorly prepared to embrace vital new technologies such as information management, data analytics, and online financial tools.

In line with the triple helix approach for local development and innovation, Restore4Life aims to **support existing local business activities** (especially MSMEs) in and around restored wetlands and to stimulate these and new enterprises to innovate in ways that improve the local environment and provide sustainable livelihoods. It will integrate actions to support the **social and economic transitions towards sustainable, inclusive and long-term management of restored and protected wetland ecosystems**, including natural, social, economic and cultural elements. It will include a strong element of data collection and digitisation as well as employing nature-based solutions. The data will be used in order to elaborate analytical frameworks based on prediction and forecasting models, which will assist the process of elaborating specific business models for the studied area. The experience and lessons learned from case studies in the demonstration sites (SO3) will be amalgamated and used as one of the components of the **Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator**. This objective is supported by WP4 and provides input to SO1, SO3, and SO5.

SO5: Promote and support the implementation of holistic wetland restoration solutions in associated regions (inside and outside the Danube region)

There is a notable lack of coordination among restoration action plans and little overall vision for addressing the increasing demand for wetland restoration across the river basins. This is mainly due to the complexity of restoration activities that have different spatial and temporal scales, involving multiple ecological processes, and in many cases with unknown effectiveness in the long term. In addition, restoration has to involve governmental structures, national and international regulations, local conditions and interests and land managers, which often have overlapping and usually conflicting interests. In many cases the lack of knowledge and interest to overcome all of these potential barriers prevents progress.

Restore4Life will offer **wetland restoration blueprints** (road maps and action plans) based on harnessing the capacity of landscape scale actions to deliver multiple ESS to different actors, and by codifying proven solutions to overcoming the barriers mentioned above. In doing so, we will draw on the best practices and solutions emerging from other EU-funded LIFE and H2020 projects such as OpenNESS, ECOPOTENTIAL and MAIA. In addition, the restoration activities in the selected sites will demonstrate how synergies with previous EU-funded projects can be developed to foster the magnification of best practices. This objective is supported by WP5 and provides input to SO1 and SO2.



1.1.2. Specific objectives (SO) with associated key performance indicators (KPI) and means of verification (MoV)

SO	KPI	MoV
SO1	Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System (long-term online platform)	T1.1-1.4 , T3.2-3.4, T4.4 (D 1.2, D1.3)
SO1	Framework for road maps and plans for wetland restoration	T1.4., T5.2 (D1.4.)
SO1	Decision support system integrated in wetland restoration service	T1.2 (D1.2)
SO2	Toolbox including a Wetland4Life web application for CS and a Solution4all application for stakeholders	T2.2, T2.3, T3.2-3.4 , T5.2, T5.3 (D2.2, D2.3, D3.3)

SO2	Capacity building for 50 stakeholders incl. entrepreneurs plus 15 wetland educators per demo sites and associated regions	T2.4., T3.2-3.4, T5.2 (D2.4)
SO3	Wetland restoration activities implemented at 4 demonstration sites	T3.1. (D3.3)
SO3	Wetland monitoring activities implemented at 10 sites	T3.2, T3.3 (D3.3)
SO3	List of easily applicable, low-cost ecosystem and ES assessment indicators for replication in other regions	T3.2, T3.3, T3.4., T5.3 (D3.1., D3.2, D5.2)
SO4	Restore4Life NbS Economic Options Guidance for MSME	T4.2, T3.1 (D4.2)
SO4	Assessment and development of NbS business support frameworks	T4.3. (D4.3)
SO4	4 NbS business modules for the Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator	T4.4. (D4.4)
SO5	Roadmaps and plans for wetland restoration in 5 associated regions	T5.1, T5.2 (D5.1.)

1.1.3. Ambition

Restore4Life recognizes the ambitious challenges of the call and meets them with equal ambition starting with the formulation of aims, setting specific objectives and then following through with a comprehensive methodology designed to reach them. The overall conceptual underpinning of Restore4Life is the **integration of wetland restoration as a part of the sustainability transformation** required by the European Green Deal and the EU BDS2030. The project surpasses the state of the art by using a landscape scale trans-disciplinary approach to mainstream the multiple ES benefits provided by the wetlands into the public discourse, policy frameworks and economic activities. Wetland restoration is a complex and also a complicated process, taking place over various spatial and temporal scales, involving multiple stakeholders and many decisions along a long and time-consuming

process. The result of this process depends also on other factors such as governmental policies and regulations, land management, societal transformations or environmental and economic changes as a result of global climate change. Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023

A new and innovative online Restore4Life platform will take account of these complexities to provide a decision support system based on best practices for wetland restoration, including citizen science and participatory tools, that will be supported long after the project ends. **New and simplified metrics for monitoring features ranging from C sequestration to resilience in restored wetlands will be integrated into a user-friendly toolbox** to help decision makers as well as the business community ensure the sustainability of wetland restoration activities. The creation of a Community of Practice bringing together knowhow (scientists) the business community, other types of stakeholders and also different decision makers will allow the identification of the best solutions for restoration activities and will foster stakeholder engagement including co-design of scenarios for restoration and co-design of management measures. This approach will enable the identification of NbS sectors for innovation; provide professional support to unlock their potential; provide tools to assist and test their decisions within different scenarios; and enhance the exploitation of knowledge through constructive exchange between scientists, entrepreneurs, policy makers and other stakeholders. In particular, Restore4Life will engage with MSMEs, investors and other business stakeholders to design **locally appropriate and viable business models** for generating revenue from the nature-based benefits emerging from wetlands (e.g. fisheries, meat and dairy produce, fibres, raw biomass), as well as upstream and derived goods (construction materials, honey, medicinal and aromatic herbs, cosmetics, crafts, algae) and services such as soil organic carbon accumulation, water regulation, rural ecotourism and renewable energy.

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1. Overall methodology

Restore4Life will build **pathways for the sustainability of long-term restoration efforts and improvement of people's quality of life through sustainable ES supply**, climate change adaptation, improvement of biodiversity and environmental conditions, and innovative economic mechanisms (WP1). The project will run for 48 months and is a partnership of 31 organisations including 5 local and national authorities, 21 academic and research institutions, 3 NGOs and 2 SMEs. The activities planned within Restore4Life will **demonstrate scalable holistic approaches** for the restoration of floodplains, wetlands, and marshes/transitional waters aiming at improving the ecosystems' state and enhancing the delivery of multiple ES from restored wetlands, such as, e.g., biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood protection, mitigation of water pollution, and local economic activities (WP3, WP4). Restore4Life will **compile, test, and improve existing monitoring methods and assessment indicators** for the ecosystem's state and ES provision to optimise both their potential for replicating and upscaling to other European regions (WP 5) and their applicability within CS approaches (WP2). Restoration will be based on the **principles of ES**, the principles of **Ramsar convention** (Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration, 2002), and on an **inventory and analysis of best practices from previous restoration projects** in combination with principles of restoration ecology. Outcomes of the ecosystems' and restorations' assessment will be input for innovative **multiscale modelling** to evaluate potential improvements in ES after restoration, and to identify further areas where similar **restoration can be upscaled**, based on their vulnerability and potential for cost-effective improvement.

Restoration approaches, assessment indicators, and business models will be applied in **five associated regions** (WP4, WP5) to **analyse their feasibility and applicability**, based on the outcomes of the ecosystems' assessments (WP3) and in close consultation with stakeholders through a **Community of Practice (CoP)**, which will be formed specifically for **Restore4Life** and private-public partnerships (WP2, WP4).

Project Management

The management structure of Restore4Life comprises of

- (i) the Consortium, a body consisting of representatives from all project partners which will meet at least annually during the implementation period to review progress and recommend steps to address any deficiencies;
- (ii) the Steering Committee (Project Coordinator and WP leaders plus all the demonstrator case studies representatives) that will supervise project implementation through six monthly meetings and ensure continuous collaboration and engagement with key EU partners (e.g. International Association for Danube research, ICPDR, RamsarSecretariat);
- (iii) the Advisory Committee with key stakeholders and relevant experts which will communicate online to review deliverables and provide external support for the Restore4Life aims and objectives; and

(iv) the Project Management Unit where daily management will be conducted as described in WP7 by the Applicant's Project Coordinator who will be supported by administrative staff in a project office. Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023

Cross-cutting mechanisms

Restore4Life will ensure horizontal integration across all the WPs in three ways (Figure 1.2).

A) Evidence-based online Wiki for restoration of wetlands

The Restore4Life web platform for evidence-based knowledge will be co-designed and co-developed with policy makers and stakeholders to cover all relevant aspects. The platform will enable a holistic approach, acting as a decision support system for wetland restoration in the Danube Basin (cooperation between WP1 & all WPs).

A) Wetland Restoration Accelerator (WRA)

The WRA is an online set of tools (explained in detail in WP4) embedded into the Restore4Life web platform that will help entrepreneurs unlock their innovation potential to design locally appropriate and viable business models for generating revenue from the nature-based benefits emerging from restored wetlands (WP4 & cooperation of all WP)

B) Stakeholder engagement, knowledge transfer, training and co-creation

A Community of Practice will be built upon existing infrastructures but will also aim at developing new partnerships and cooperation between the different stakeholders and citizens at large on science and policy to promote co-creation and co-development, as well as to share best practice and knowledge for wetland restoration. This CoP will build capacity to address impacts by engaging stakeholders from the beginning of the project in order to develop and sustain mutually beneficial collaboration (cooperation between WP2, WP4, WP5 & WP6)

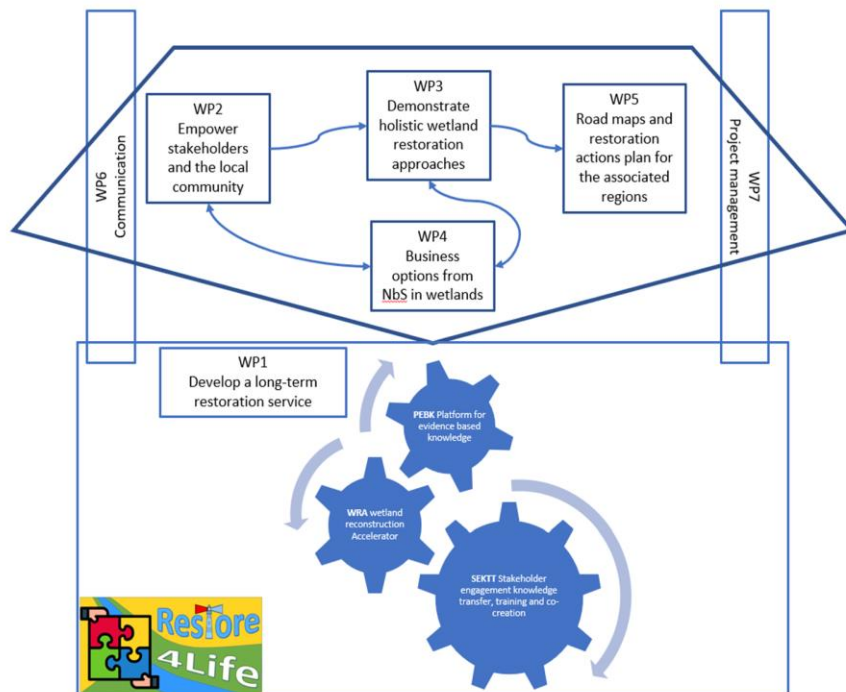


Fig. 1.2. Work packages and cross-cutting mechanisms of the Restore4Life project

Wetland restoration site demonstrators in the Danube basin

Restore4Life will set up 10 restoration demonstrators (RD) (Fig.1.3.) for exploring the research and knowledge pathways to effective restoration of wetlands as life-supporting systems. The 10 RDs consist of **4 Implementation sites (IS)**, where wetland restoration activities will be implemented and monitored during the project, and a further **6 Monitoring sites (MS)**, where wetland restoration activities have already been implemented and their effects on the ecosystem's state and provision of ES will just be monitored and evaluated. IS were selected based on the premise that concrete plans for restoration implementation already exist and the legal and financial base for the implementation is clarified. IS and MS were further selected to represent a variety of different large- scale wetland systems along the DB.

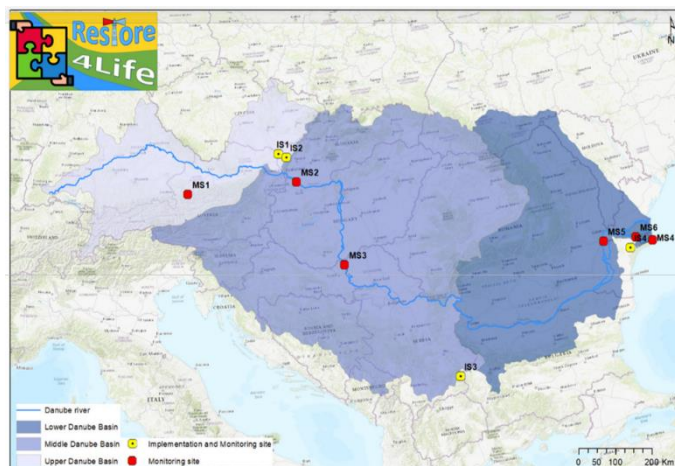


Fig.1.3 Location of the Demonstration sites
(IM- Implementation sites and MS – Monitoring sites)
in the Danube Basin

Code	Site name, country	DB reach	Features	Existing / protection	Main project actions planned
IMPLEMENTATION SITES					
IS1	March-Thaya Floodplains, AT/SK	Upper	River-floodplain systems with various side arms and backwaters, floodplain forests; 54,000 ha; Bi(Tri)lateral Ramsar site, EU Natura 2000 site	Life+ project "Restoration of the Lower Morava Floodplains" (2011, 2019); INTERREG Project Thaya 2020; ETZ Project Polder Soutok (2010-14) Re-connection of side arms, transformation of arable land back into floodplain areas for flood protection	Removal of channel and bank regulations for restoration of pristine conditions, biodiversity, and flood protection Lead: BOKU, Partner viaDonau
IS2	Rudava, SK	Upper	Tributary of March river; river-floodplain with oxbow lakes; 560 ha; Ramsar site	Restoration of meanders LIFE project "Restoration of Wetlands at Zahorie Lowland" (2005-2008), INTERREG Project "Alpine-Carpathian River Corridor" (AT-SK, 2018-2021)	Restoration of natural riverbed and meanders in canalised section of the river Lead: BROZ, Partner: ILE SAS
IS3	Vlasina, SRB	Middle	River-floodplain with wet meadows; 1,600 ha; Ramsar site	Ecological Monitoring of Landscape of Outstanding Features 'Vlasina' (2015-2022)	Removal of invasive tree species from bogs, restoration of riparian areas and biodiversity Lead: FSM, Partner: UNSPMF
IS4	Enisala Channel, RO	Delta	Part of the Razim-Sinoe lagoon complex, key spawning area for <i>Sander lucioperca</i> ; 2.7 km x 30m; inside Ramsar site	BSB-884 - ECOMONITORING (2020 - 2022) Monitoring natural habitats, presence of invasive species, physico-chemical quality parameters, air quality and threats to biodiversity	Restoring/improving water circulation and connectivity of some secondary channels and the Babadag lake at low water levels Lead: INCDD, Partner: UGAL

MONITORING SITES

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023

MS1	Lower Salzach Floodplains , DE/AT	Upper	Alpine river floodplain, regulated since about 1860, with high hydrological and morphological dynamic potential; 7,000 ha; Ramsar and Natura2000 site	Reactivating morphological processes in the floodplain, improving connectivity by rewetting former channels and lowering the floodplain terrain, LIFE 14 NAT/AT/000496	Monitoring of existing / previous actions Lead: KUEI, Partner: BOKU, IGB
MS2	Dunajské luhy, SK	Middle	Network of tributaries, oxbow lakes, sand banks, floodplains, floodplain forest; 14,488 ha; Ramsar site	Restoration of water dynamics, lateral connectivity, removal of invasive species, restoration of wetland habitats through DANUBE parks, CONNECTED and many LIFE projects	Monitoring of existing / previous actions Lead: ILE SAS, partner BROZ
MS3	Gornje Podunavlje , SRB	Middle	Mosaic of pristine aquatic and marsh habitats; 20 000 ha; Ramsar site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Restoration of two islands and improving conservation status of priority alluvial forest habitats 91E0*; WILDisland – (LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063); INTERREG project IDES (DTP3-389-2.1 - IDES); EU-funded EXtremeClimTwin	Monitoring of existing / previous actions Lead: UNSPMF, Partner: FSM, UNIOS
MS4	Danube Delta Coast, RO	Delta coast	Black Sea coastal zone of non-tidal shell sand beach and dunes; 33 km length; Ramsar site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage	Monitoring the effects of erosion processes amplified by human intervention	Monitoring of existing / previous actions Lead: Geocomar, Partner: INCDD
MS5	Braila island, RO	Lower	Floodplain wetlands, riparian forests; 20000 ha; Ramsar site	Restoration of hydrological connectivity and biodiversity, Management plan for the "Small Island of Braila" LIFE99NAT/RO/006400, LIFE06 NAT/RO/000172	Monitoring of existing / previous actions Lead: UB, Partner: WWF Romania, UGAL
MS6	Danube Delta, Carasuhat area, RO	Lower	Delta area; existing habitats of great natural value obtained by rewetting of non-productive agricultural area; 924 ha; Ramsar site	Restoration of hydrological connectivity and biodiversity, ecological restoration of public lands within Danube Delta Regional Operational Program 2007-2013	Monitoring of existing / previous actions INCDD, partner WWF, GeoEcoMar, NIS, UGAL

WP1 Develop a long-term wetland restoration service

WP1 will elaborate Restore4Life's key tools supporting the acceleration and upscaling of wetland restoration, which will integrate all the tools and instruments developed in WP2-WP6. For that, WP1 will first create a **Wetland Restoration Wiki** on approaches, techniques and success factors derived from literature as well as from Demonstration Sites (WP2, WP3, WP4) and associated sites (WP5) serving as a clearinghouse for locally adapted best wetland restoration.

The **Wetland Restoration Wiki** will additionally be used as a database for the modelling of necessary adaptations of restoration approaches to climate change. This collection of information on restoration projects will additionally be utilised to feed into a decision support system (DSS) for restoration projects. The DSS will be built by collecting and **integrating available and newly developed tools and techniques that will be integrated into the Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System**. This will provide aid to management and restoration actions and will maintain the mitigation and adaptation capacity of wetlands and restored wetlands to store C and be resilient to climate change. **The DSS will thus enable optimum**, holistic, and directly applicable restoration solutions following a transdisciplinary approach by the connecting scientific community, practitioners, decision makers, stakeholders and citizens at large. The elaboration of the DSS will build links with other platforms dedicated to wetland restoration implementation also seeking for decision support. As a final Restore4Life product, WP1 will develop and co-create with stakeholders a holistic, multi-language online **Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator** acting as a Wetland Ecosystem Restoration Decision Support System and integrating a knowledge marketplace. This Accelerator will then be applied on demonstration sites and associated regions in order to develop holistic approaches for road maps and actions plans on wetland restoration. Ultimately, WP1 (as an integration WP) will allow multiple aims from co-creation and stakeholder engagement, working with networks and identifying policies supporting restoration activities, understanding the current state of knowledge and providing support for understanding future trends, including the possible impact of climate change on C sequestration, up to working towards an inclusive and functional wetland restoration service. We will use different geospatial data sources to create the online environment needed to support the DSS, from wetland geomorphic type to wetland polygons, aerial and satellite photos, mapped indices (e.g. NDWI, NDVI etc), land cover types, potential ES mapping, and scenario tools (including wetland restoration and climate change impact). The platform will integrate the results of different Citizen Apps (developed in WP2) and outputs of different models like iCLUE, QUICKScan, FCM (Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping), Climsave/Impressions, BBN (Bayesian Belief Network), InVest, SCHISM, and XBeach in which the consortium has great experience.

WP2 Empower stakeholders and the local community

Relevant stakeholders in demonstration sites and associated regions will be identified and **CoP** will be created to contribute to the co-creation and co-design of holistic wetland restoration approaches. Four **informative workshops** and five **concluding twinning workshops** will be held for knowledge transfer between twinning demonstration sites and associated regions. Innovative CS approaches for the support of WPs 1, 3, 4, 5 will be developed by (i) collecting information about existing CS (eu.citizen.science; cs.observatories) and educational initiatives (e.g. by schools, museums, nature parks, associations); (ii) developing the **Wetland4Life web app** to enable citizens to map wetlands (using satellite maps); rate their status (e.g. by checking the water level) and add additional positive (e.g. presence of typical species) and negative (e.g. plastic pollution) characteristics; (iii) developing the **Solution4Life app** for co-design stakeholder engagement that will allow solutions identification and negotiation for wetland restoration. CS approaches will be tailored to the specific needs, culture, history, and environment of the respective regions. WP2 will also co-develop and improve **tools for water literacy** by (i) adapting existing toolboxes and environmental education approaches considering culture, age, gender, and education level of target groups members and (ii) optimising effective literacy and education tools such as e.g. physical and online game '**Blue-green Space4all**', and wetland educational programs including frameworks for experiential learning as small "**School Wetlands - 'Wetland Goes Local'**". These educational materials, including the developed Apps, will represent the training materials for **5 workshops to train wetland educators** as multipliers in local communities from demo & monitoring sites and associated regions. Based on outcomes, an **online training course** on the use and application of the Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator will be developed and will aim to present innovative and sustainable nature-based businesses solutions for practitioners in associated regions, monitoring sites and beyond. Five short **Wetland Restoration Success Story Videos** on monitoring sites will be realised.

WP3 Demonstrate holistic wetland restoration approaches

We will use, test, and optimise existing **indicators** for assessing (1) the lateral **floodplain connectivity** (e.g., Index

of Floodplain Connectivity IFC; Index of Floodplain Connectivity Potential IFCP), (2) hydrology (e.g. Normalised Difference Water Index NDWI), (3) floodplain **habitat distribution and resilience** (e.g., Forest Health and Vegetation Index; EUNIS Habitat Classification; Habitats for Biodiversity Index HBI; Detection of Invasive Species), (4) the **carbon sequestration capacity** (e.g., carbon sequestration index CSI; carbon sequestration potential index CSPI), (5) **Ecosystems and their ES** (e.g., Integrated Ecosystem Assessments IEA (Levin et al, 2014); Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services MAES; RESI (River Ecosystem Service Index), and various tools developed in other projects such as Danube Floodplain, IDES (Ecosystem Service Delivery Index), AMBER, DanubeSediment, lifelineMDD, MEASURES, Ecopotential, Oppla, Esmeralda. We will use **remote sensing techniques** combining Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite imagery (via SWOS, “Satellite-based Wetland Observation System) and UAV photogrammetry (using drones) as well as **CS field campaigns** for estimation of above- and below-ground carbon, and C fluxes along hydrological gradients. Upscaling of information obtained from field data to satellite images, using segments from the UAV multispectral orthomosaic, will be carried out for calibration of remote sensing data according to Díaz-Delgado et al. (2018). While UAV-photogrammetry workflows will allow high resolution monitoring, satellite images with upscaled ecological indicators will be suitable for long-term monitoring of wetland mosaics. We will define a minimum and range values of habitat and vegetation attributes (e.g. lateral connectivity, cover/types of vegetation, revegetation periods, invasive plant stands) needed to ensure that the wetland becomes a net C sink. This WP will also integrate climate extreme indicators (from WP1) for assessing the exposure of local communities and wetlands to climate change and weather extremes, such as drought and floods, that could affect the carbon sequestration capacity of restored wetlands. Multi-model ensembles of global (CMIP5-CMIP6) and regional climate simulations (EUROCORDEX) will be used to evaluate the climate mitigation potential and resilience of restored wetland habitats to future climate change and subsequent variations in the duration, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events under different climate scenarios (RCPs) and time-horizon perspectives (2030, 2050).

WP4 Stimulating local enterprises to adopt nature-based solutions derived from restored wetlands

The stakeholder mapping analysis (WP2) will identify business owners and entrepreneurs present in each of the implementation sites, as well as local authorities and business support bodies (banks, cooperatives, chambers of commerce). These stakeholders will be contacted during visits to each site by the local partner and WP leader in order to form a **business working group** to support the WP4 activities. The first meeting (in M5-6) of the working group will be used to conduct a **PESTLE analysis** (an assessment of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal factors) for each region to discover limitations of and comparative advantages for local sustainable use of restored wetlands. During subsequent correspondence and online meetings, **site-specific catalogues of business-related NbS** applicable to wetlands will be compiled (drawing also on the work in WP 2 and 3). We will combine the results from all implementation sites to formulate a **matrix of new economic benefits, production chains and business options** generated by the implementation of wetland NbS. The site-specific catalogues and overall matrix of opportunities will be circulated to all the working groups and uploaded to the Restore4Life wetland restoration service.

Furthermore, a **framework for NbS business investment and development** will be developed. A comparative review of existing methodologies for measuring and valuing biodiversity published by academic, governmental and private sector bodies will be undertaken. At the same time, financial institutions (e.g. microfinance, crowdsourcing, green bonds, carbon, ecosystem service payments, grants and concessions) will be approached to understand their requirements and potential interest in supporting businesses in the implementation sites. These reviews will aim to extract and harmonise a common approach that is most applicable for restored Danube wetlands as a baseline for **valuing both tangible and intangible returns from nature positive investments**. A second round of business stakeholder working group meetings will be held in M25-26 to assess the **potential for aggregating businesses within support structures** such as chambers of commerce, clusters, land trusts, cooperatives, foundations and associations. In addition, discussions will be held with local authorities concerning the **establishment of regional marketing organisations** to brand and promote local products and services resulting from wetland site restoration, as well as serving as **innovation hubs to incubate and assemble new business pipelines**.

A general overview of the site-based outcomes from the previous Tasks, combined with those from other WPs, will be made and codified within a **handbook for policy makers on supporting business activities based on NbS in restored wetland ecosystems**. The handbook will focus on measuring and rebuilding natural capital in restored wetlands while generating new sources of employment and revenue through forming inter-linked sustainable nature-based businesses and activities with strong links to research and development organisations and EU innovation bodies. Furthermore, three interactive applications will be developed and tested to support the online Wetland restoration Accelerator (WP1), namely (1) a **handbook for policy makers on supporting business activities** based on NbS in restored wetland ecosystems; (2) a **Restore4Life floodplain NbS business potential index** (based on the

PESTLE and market analyses) that will help users evaluate the NbS readiness of and benefits from particular restored wetland sites; (3) an **NbS business sustainability check tool** that will employ machine learning algorithms and multi-criteria analysis based on multiple important predictors for characterising the status of the implementation areas, thus offering support during the operational decision process; and (4) **wetland-specific tutorials** to help local entrepreneurs (whether start-ups or mature companies looking to update their business operations) in business planning, cost benefit analysis, investment pitches, financial management and good environment, sustainability and governance practices as set out in ISO 37000.

WP5 Road maps and restoration action plans for the associated regions

Building on the **results and tools of WP1-4** and on the successful restoration activities in the **demonstrator sites**, areas in the Danube basin and in other comparable European regions (e.g. Odra, Dniester, Vistula or Vjosa River Basin), will be screened and analysed against the identified indicators to upscale the socio-economical, ecological and hydrological framework conditions of demonstrator sites for successful restoration of wetlands. Using **GIS, remote sensing** techniques combining Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite imagery, the **upscaling rules** of WP3 and **spatial information** (e.g. Riparian Zone data set, flood risk...) publicly available or provided by WP 1, identified regions with evaluated **upscaling potential** will be described and mapped. Based on this list and on the members of the CoP established in WP2, at least 5 appropriate associated regions for replication of targeted restoration activities conducted in demonstration sites will be selected and engaged. To achieve this, **open calls** will be formulated for restoration activities in associated regions in countries not part of the Restore4Life-consortium. **Clear criteria for the selection process** (social, nature, business indicators) as well as feasibility, state authority commitment, and financing will be defined and verified by the Advisory Committee (WP7). Criteria will be transparent, objective, and fair. Criteria will be based on 1. expected improved **benefit**, 2. existing **knowledge** in the area, 3. **feasibility** (this includes work already done, institutional background etc.). **One online-workshop** to inform stakeholders from the selected regions about the upcoming call will be carried out, and at least **one interactive workshop** will be organised during the period when the call is open to inform and support stakeholders in the application procedure. All applications will be assessed and finally 5 Restore4Life associated regions will be selected by an evaluation board including external members and validated by the Advisory Committee.

Local capacities for wetland restoration will be much improved in the selected associated regions by Restore4Life. Associated regions whose socio-ecological settings fit at least to one demonstrator site will be trained during linked interactive workshops, optionally field trips in the demonstrator sites will be organised. Not all demonstrators have to be transferred to all associated regions, but groups/pairs of single demonstrators and selected associated regions will be formed as a **platform for twinning activities** for knowledge transfer. Roadmaps and plans as replication will be co-created for each of the 5 associated regions based on a common replication framework. To achieve this, there will be targeted training events in Associated Regions on the tools and upscaling procedures tested in the demonstrator sites. **One workshop in each associated region** on the planning (pre-restoration) tools of Restore4Life will be performed together with the relevant stakeholders followed by the specific application of the planning tools (setting goals, identifying obstacles and opportunities, discussion of restoration options, and execution plans) and the co-development of roadmaps based on a common replication framework. Beside the workshop with training material, Restore4Life will provide advisory service to the associated regions. Finally, in **5 associated regions**, activities of demonstrator sites will be **replicated** supported by the maximum of 100.000 €.

Applicability and validation of WP1-4 tools for use in Associated regions will be tested within WP5. This will be carried out using **existing monitoring and rapid observed monitoring data** of passively and actively restored wetlands in the associated regions. **Applicability of the following tools** will be analysed: (i) Decision Support System (D 1.2.), (ii) Restore4Life web platform (D 1.3.), (iii) Framework for road maps and plan for wetland restoration (D 1.4.), (iv) Citizen Science Toolbox (D.2.2), (v) Toolbox of easily applicable, low-cost assessment indicators (D3.1), (vi) Restore4Life Wetland restoration Accelerator (D4.4). Results of the **validation of the monitoring and assessment tools** (incl. CS) will be summarised at a workshop which will include stakeholders from at least five associated regions. This will allow **regional and cross-regional validation** of WP 1-4 tools which will be given as feedback to the WP1-4. The results of WP5 will be integrated into the WP1-4 and the DSS.

Restore4Life Tools and Apps Overview

WP/Topic	Current state	Contribution of Restore4Life	TRL
WP1/Online integrative platform	Several platforms (e.g. https://geowetlands.org/ or https://restor.eco/) available online but need to be designed to assist decision makers, business community or citizens regarding wetland restoration solutions	Development of a long term exchange platform for knowledge, tools, and expertise, integrating all apps and tools developed in WP2-WP4; facilitates the co-creation of road maps and action plans, offers a DSS, builds links with other EU projects, and provides data, information and synthesis to different stakeholders. Online space for Wetland restoration Accelerator (WP4), Stakeholder engagement, Knowledge Transfer Training and co-creation (WP6, 2 and 4).	4→7
WP2/Citizen science	Citizens usually not involved in monitoring	Wetland4Life web app to enable citizens to map and monitor wetlands, tailored to specific needs, culture, history, and environment	5→7
WP2/Stakeholder engagement	No existing tool for inclusive stakeholder engagement	Solution4Life app for stakeholder engagement that will allow identification and negotiation for wetland restoration.	5→7
WP2/Tools for water literacy	Limited public awareness and understanding of the significance of wetlands	a)Toolboxes and environmental education approaches considering culture, age, gender, and education level b)Blue-green space 4 Life game c)Learning school wetlands - 'Wetland goes local' "	5→7 3→8 NA
WP3/Toolbox of easily applicable assessment indicators	Indicators for ecosystems and ES assessments available, knowledge not evenly distributed across EU, CS-suitability not tested	Offers tested and optimised CS suitable indicators for ecosystem and ES assessment, tailored to the specific knowledge, infrastructure, and conditions, showing the change in Scenarios,	3→7
WP4/Floodplain NbS business potential index	On EU level, no agreed consensus about the use of NbS by local business	Tool to support users (entrepreneurs, policy makers, investors) in evaluating the NbS readiness of and benefits from particular restored wetland sites	2 → 7
WP4/NbS business decision assistance tools	Existing tools do not take account of NbS and these will be adapted for businesses working in restored wetlands	Multi-criteria assessment and prediction models, which can maximise local entrepreneurs' economic sustainability	2→7
WP4/Wetland NbS business tutorials	Entrepreneurs around restored wetlands need specific guidance on how to build business plans based on NbS; these are currently lacking.	Short guidance and links to further information on wetland NbS topics to help local entrepreneurs to update their business operations	NA

1.2.3. National or international research and innovation activities

Partners of the consortium contributed to the development and implementation of the following examples of national and international research and innovation activities with high relevance for the Restore4Life proposal.

- **EU-Interreg project IDES** (2019-2022) links attempts to improve flood retention, water quality, and restoration focusing on the development of integrative floodplain management based on ES (KUEI, IGB, BOKU, WWF Romania, KÖTIVIZIG, UB, IZVRS, UNSFA).
- **Horizon 2020 ECOPOTENTIAL** focuses on a targeted set of internationally recognized Protected Areas, blending Earth Observations from remote sensing and field measurements, data analysis, and modelling of current and future ecosystem conditions and services (UB, CSIC, UFZ)
- **ESMERALDA** (Enhancing ecoSysteM sERVICES mApping for poLicy and Decision mAKing) addresses the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and ES and delivered a methodology to provide the building blocks for pan-European and regional ES assessments. A part of the methodology is used in Restore4Life (NIGGG BAS, UB)
- **MERLIN H2020 project** (2021 – 2025) supports transformative freshwater restoration to foster greener, more sustainable European societies and economies, aiming to restore rivers, peat- and wetlands within 17 areas from Finland to Israel. The effects of the measures are analysed economically and ecologically (BOKU, viadonau, GeoEcoMar, WWF Romania).
- **Interreg DanubeFloodplain project** (Reducing the flood risk through floodplain restoration along the Danube River and tributaries) with a floodplain restoration manual addressed mainly to practitioners and a Sustainable Floodplain management Guidance available to Restore4Life (KUEI, WWF Romania, KÖTIVIZIG, BOKU)
- **Rufford project** (No 28388-1) Toward Cost-Effective UAV-Assisted Multimetric System for Detection of Freshwater Patches of High Conservation Value within the Danube Floodplain in Serbia (UNSPMF, FSM and UNIOS with support of KUEI).
- **ERASMUS+ CBHE project ECOBIAS** (609967-EPP-1-2019-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) aims at developing research capacities and establishing laboratories at higher education institutions in the Western Balkan Region for the monitoring of aquatic and wetland habitats (UNSPMF as coordinator, FSM and UNSA Faculty of Sciences).
- **The Dans Project**, 4/2018 (2018 – 2019) aimed at supporting activities in Romania to coordinate the development of DANUBIUS-RI (www.danubius-ri.eu) and to participate in the construction of infrastructure; (UGAL, INCDD, GEOECOMAR)
- “Restoration of wetlands in the Middle Danube” (Wetland restore 2020) INTERREG-IPA CBC (Croatia-Serbia) aimed at developing a system for monitoring the condition of wetland ecosystems and the revitalization of wetland habitats in the cross-border area in Croatia - Serbia, creating a revitalization plan for the Special Nature Reserve Zastavica, Bara Trskovača and Jegrička Nature Park in Serbia and Biljski rit, Čarna and Zmajevački Dunavac in Croatia (UNIOS - field work cooperation with one of the leading partners Association for nature and environment protection Green Osijek; lead partner: Pokret gorana Sremske Mitrovice).
- **ERDF project “DREAM - Danube River Research and Management in Slovakia and Austria”** (01/2016-12/2022) aims at establishing joint research facilities to enhance knowledge transfer (hydraulic engineering labs, lab of geoinformatics and advanced river remote sensing) and developing innovative monitoring and modelling tools concerning hydrodynamics, sediment transport, morphodynamics, ecological parameters in river and wetland science in the SK-AT border region. Partners: BOKU, ILE SAS.
- **FP7 project SOLUTIONS** The consortium brings together world-leading personnel and key groups with long-standing expertise on the topic, and also well experienced in the coordination and accomplishment of related projects of several Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development of the European Commission (coordinator UFZ, UNSPMF).
- **Interreg DTP project MEASURES** (2017 –2021) aimed at developing a harmonised strategy for reestablishment of vital ecological corridors within the DRB (led by BOKU, WWF Romania).

1.2.4. Interdisciplinarity

Restore4Life is a multidisciplinary partnership encompassing knowledge and competences related to Life and Earth Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and IT. The interaction between academia, water managers, government officers, entrepreneurs and civil society, sharing knowledge and expertise, will build an improved understanding of the emergent challenges for the restoration of wetlands as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin. The cross-sectoral approach is embedded in all the WPs.

1.2.5. Integration of social sciences and humanities

Wetland restoration involves a fundamental understanding of the complex interaction between the environment and the social systems. The project will work with stakeholders from the outset to develop and support the CoP around wetland restoration focusing on halting biodiversity loss, enhancing the supply of ES, and developing nature-based businesses, Restore4Life will build a process of engagement and capacity building to enable diverse types of actors and stakeholders to become actively involved. The inclusion of socio-economic indicators in the models and apps will contribute towards implementation of the European Green Deal as well the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing; SDG 4 Quality education; SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation for all; SDG 11

1.2.6. Gender dimension of Restore4Life activities

The Restore4Life consortium is aware of and committed to adhering to the European Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and aligning to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 5 – Gender Equality). The proposal will further support Article 141(3) of the EC Treaty in exercising the inherent right to motherhood, fatherhood or the combination of professional and family lives. The project and its activities will address all stakeholders and end users regardless of their gender and will consider different gender realities and needs. It will ensure gender balance across the project structures in the individual teams and at all management levels through equal opportunities (WP7), maintaining inclusive participation at any stakeholder engagement events (e.g. Workshops in WP2 and WP5) and co-designed processes (WP1-WP5). Particular attention will be paid to an equal representation of participants from the general public (in terms of gender, age, socio-economic background and digital literacy) during workshops and when gathering data from stakeholder participation and citizen science. Restore4Life will integrate gender specific data and knowledge throughout its research and innovation and across all seven work packages to ensure diversity. Restore4Life will improve the so far unequal engagement of inhabitants and local communities in wetland restoration projects by establishing a basin-wide citizen science engagement regardless of gender. The research and innovation products, the communication tools as well as the dissemination and exploitation actions will use gender sensitive language and pictograms.

1.2.7. Integrated open science practices

The Restore4Life project will contribute and promote open science practices foreseen within the Horizon Europe Programme and Open AIRE guidelines. All scientific knowledge and resources (i.e. registered reports, publications, data, tools, algorithms, workflows) collected or generated by the project will be shared with the relevant stakeholders, end users, civil society and citizens. The main open science (OS) practices adopted within the project are: i) *Open science to the peer-reviewed scientific publications* - the project's published results freely available as soon as possible; ii) *Research data management (RDM)* will ensure the upholding of the project's research outputs integrity and reproducibility by implementing protocols for using and accessing the digital research data generated or collected and associated metadata; iii) *Other open science practices* implemented within the project are related to the open collaboration by actively enrolling citizens, users and other relevant knowledge actors in the co-design of the Restore4Life decision support tools and early and open sharing of data. Rest4Life will implement OS practices in compliance with the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and General Data Protection Regulations (DGPR) regulated by the Consortium Agreement.

1.2.8. Data management and management of other research outputs

The management of data and research outputs in the Restore4Life project will be regulated within the DMP (WP7). The coordinator (UB) will draft the DMP following the guidelines on FAIR data management in Horizon Europe. In the **Data Management Plan (DMP)** (delivered in month 6 and updated at the end of each reporting period) the partners will determine in detail the management life cycle of the data collected, processed and/or generated by the project or by other previous projects/initiatives. The data will be gathered using established practices in the field and deposited in commonly used / non-proprietary formats and with sufficient information about data generation and processing to ensure **interoperability and reusability of data**. The re-use of outputs, such as publications and data, will be promoted by publishing them under the Creative Common licence CC-BY and thus retaining the sufficient IP rights also for the authors/creators. **The peer-reviewed articles** will be published in channels with **immediate open access**. In addition, to ensure permanent access, the latest possible peer-reviewed versions will be deposited immediately upon publication in a trusted repository/archive. **Publications** such as reports and recommendations will be published in Zenodo/CESSDA. **Other outputs** will be openly available to all or open to a specific audience (training programmes). **Early open sharing** will be applied, for example, when publishing registered reports and pre-prints.

2. Impact

2.1 Project's pathways towards impact

2.1.1. Unique contribution of Restore4Life towards the expected outcomes (EO)

EO1: Contribute to the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and the Water Framework Directive as well as other EU instruments and policies that concern freshwater ecosystem protection

- By synergising knowledge, skills and experience in holistic wetland restoration into a publicly accessible online wetland restoration service (WP1), we will help halt and reverse biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to the objectives of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy which is a core part of the EU Green Deal. *Significance: Creation of a publicly accessible online wetland restoration service*
- Restore4Life will also contribute to the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy by (a) restoring river floodplain wetland systems (IS1, IS2); (b) removal of invasive plants, planting trees, reintroduction of species (IS1, IS3); and (c) promoting wetlands as NbS for flood and drought protection (which are crucial components of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030) as well as a source of sustainable livelihoods (IS1-IS4). *Significance: Ecosystem restoration and mitigation of weather extremes in restoration activities in 4 implementation sites*
- Restore4Life will develop and test assessment schemes for the ecological state of wetlands that can complement those under the EU WFD for whole river systems and State of Environment reports. *Significance: Improved and standardised wetland assessments.*

EO2: Contribute to the implementation of the protection and restoration of wetlands, flood plains and coastal wetlands and salt marshes under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

- All Restore4Life implementation sites are Ramsar sites with a total area of some 57,000 hectares in which actions will be taken to rehabilitate natural channels, riparian structures, and floodplain habitats. *Significance: Landscape scale ecosystem restoration activities in four Ramsar sites.*
- Moreover, most monitoring sites are also Ramsar sites, thus improving data on restoration effects and supporting the Ramsar's Strategic Plan. *Significance: 1-2 years monitoring data from 10 Ramsar sites aiming at ecosystem state, delivery of ES and resilience to climate change.*


EO3: Reverse the deterioration of the state of wetlands, floodplains coastal wetlands and salt marshes in the Danube river basin and in the adjacent Black Sea area, including developing solutions to restore lateral connectivity of rivers with their associated floodplains and wetlands

- The Restore4Life implementation sites are situated in the Upper, Middle, and Lower reaches of the Danube basin. Actions in them will improve lateral connectivity (all sites), the restoration of channel and bank structures (IS1, IS2), the restoration of riparian areas (IS3, IS4), the removal of invasive plants (IS3), and the mitigation of extreme events (all sites). *Significance: More than 57,000 ha of wetland ecosystems in better ecological state.*
- Restore4Life will build a toolbox of easily applicable, low-cost assessment indicators and methods for replication and upscaling restoration approaches to associated regions. It will also foster EU-wide wetland restoration efforts in regions currently lacking the knowledge and infrastructure. *Significance: Stimulation of EU-wide implementation of wetland restoration.*
- The development and implementation of an online wetland restoration service will allow access for experts, stakeholders, communities, and SMEs, to information, tools, and expertise on wetland restoration, ES, and business options; *Significance: long term online wetland restoration service*

EO4: Improve protection of local communities and ecosystems from extreme events (flood, droughts, storms) in the Danube river basin and its delta, in particular with nature based solutions linked to wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes

- Restoration activities will improve protection of local communities and ecosystems from extreme events through ES such as slowing flows, storing water, increasing vegetation cover and improving the microclimate. *Significance: Protection from extreme events as a demonstrable result of restoration activities at four implementation sites and through road maps for five associated regions*
- The online wetland restoration decision support system will empower wetland managers to devise effective ecosystem restoration options through NbS including increasing the resilience of local communities facing the impacts of extreme weather events. *Significance: Provision of knowledge on the use of restored wetlands as NbS*

for protection from extreme events in the DSS.

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- The use of Citizen Science tools in the 10 demonstration sites and the 5 associated regions will strengthen and multiply links between local communities undertaking river restoration activities. *Significance: CS tools tailored for 10 demonstrators and 5 associated regions, publicly available.*

EO5: Improved monitoring of carbon sequestration capacity of wetlands and coastal wetlands and salt marshes and about the impacts of the changing climate system and different management methods on the capacity of these ecosystems to sequester carbon

- We will apply, test, and optimise indicators for monitoring the carbon sequestration capacity of wetlands in both the demonstration sites and in the associated regions, leading to a robust and widely applicable wetland carbon sequestration monitoring scheme. *Significance: the evaluation of impacts of climate change and restoration measures on the capacity of wetlands to sequester carbon will be enhanced.*

EO6: Support the scaling up of wetlands, flood plains and coastal wetlands and salt marshes ecosystems and biodiversity restoration in the ‘associated regions’

- Restore4Life will provide scientific and technical advisory support for developing wetland restoration roadmaps in 5 associated regions through a dedicated technical service that will be transferred to the online platform as part of the DSS. Workshops for the direct transfer/exchange of knowledge and experience between the twinning demonstration site actors and the associated regions, complementing the training, will be offered. *Significance: technical advisory support and in person training for each of the 5 associated regions on wetland restoration experience in demonstrator sites and on developing roadmaps.*

EO7: Increased share of local revenue and business activities from the restored and protected wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes ecosystems in the overall local economic activities.

- Restore4Life will stimulate and measure the uplift of local revenue and business activities from the ten demonstration sites and associated regions in the overall local economy taking account of the maturity of the wetland restoration sites, the site size and the mosaic of habitats available for NbS businesses. The outcomes from these activities will feed into the design of four modules to assist NbS business development which form the main part of a Wetland Restoration Accelerator within the online DSS. *Significance: data driven business support for land users (farmers, fishermen, water management bodies), local entrepreneurs and MSMEs (tour operators, accommodation providers, hospitality sector), local and national authorities, financial institutions, civil society organisations and environmental research organisations.*
- Within the 4 implementation sites, restoration of some 57,000 ha of wetlands could realistically mean at least 10 t / ha of carbon will be accumulated (or loss avoided) per year which will potentially be worth €1.2 to 3.0 million per year to the local economies of these sites. Fisheries, livestock rearing and tourism alone could easily lift that figure by a factor of ten. *Significance: proven sustainable generation of revenue from NbS in restored wetlands.*

2.1.2. Unique contribution of Restore4Life towards the wider impact (WI) of the call

WI1: Build links with other Mission activities and other relevant activities within the lighthouse and its area to maximise synergies, as well as with the European Blue Parks, other Mission lighthouses and their activities;

Restore4Life will closely cooperate with other Mission projects, such as Danube4all, DALIA, MERLIN and IDES to share knowledge and experience on the implementation and assessment of wetland restoration (WP1,3), including provision of ES (WP3), local business plans (WP4), and the involvement of CS (WP2).

WI2: Build links with the Mission implementation monitoring system that will be part of the Mission Implementation Support Platform and with the Danube river basin lighthouse support facility and platform

Restore4Life will develop a set of wetland assessment indicators to keep track of future progress of wetland ecosystem restoration in the Danube river basin and its delta, focusing on the Mission Lighthouse objectives of restoring and protecting freshwater ecosystems in the EU by 2030 and meeting upcoming EU nature restoration targets for freshwater and coastal habitats and ecosystems. These indicators will not only be provided via the Restore4Life DSS but will be linked to and integrated into the Mission implementation monitoring system.

WI3: Support the Ocean and water knowledge system, in particular by contributing to biodiversity monitoring, modelling and knowledge creation and data.

Restore4Life activities will be closely related to Copernicus, providing digital data and information of human

activities and environmental conditions on certain areas of interest using satellite data monitoring combined with *in situ* monitoring results (WP3). Restore4Life will support the Ocean and water knowledge system by providing improved, easily applicable approaches for monitoring carbon sequestration capacity, habitat distribution and resilience, and related ES, including biodiversity.

WI4: Contribute to the possible extension of the LULUCF Regulation to marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Restore4Life will significantly support the extension of the LULUCF regulation to river, floodplain and coastal ecosystems by i) raising awareness for the carbon sequestration capacity of these ecosystems (the so-called ‘teal carbon’ and ‘blue carbon’); ii) establishing robust scientific standard methodologies to assess actual carbon release/accumulation rates of wetlands at a certain state of degradation or restoration; iii) demonstrating the technical and socio-economic feasibility and the multiple benefits of wetland restoration; and iv) raising the pace of landscape scale wetland restoration across the whole of Europe.

WI5: Contribute to achieving the Mission’s objectives, in line with the timeframe of the Mission phases, i.e.: by 2025 for the ‘development and piloting’ phase and 2030 for the ‘deployment and upscaling phase’.

Restore4Life will significantly broaden the knowledge base on holistic wetland restoration EU-wide through the provision of an online wetland restoration service, supporting the societal transition towards climate neutrality and a resilient society and economy. In particular, the evaluation of restoration approaches, existing monitoring methods and wetland and ES assessment indicators will contribute to the development and piloting phase by 2030 and will form a solid base for the deployment and upscaling by 2050. In addition, the proven uplift of local revenue and business activities from the restored wetlands in the overall local economy will support the shift towards sustainability in related economic sectors and businesses (in line with the Missions aim to make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral).

Requirements and potential barriers

In order to determine to what extent the expected impacts will be achieved, this consortium conducted a thorough analysis of potential barriers and obstacles based on the PESTLE methodology:

Political factors: Political will is a crucial factor in successfully restoring wetlands, and a project with a four-year duration could be impacted by changes in governance at various levels as a result of elections (and the electoral cycle itself can be a reason for delays in decision taking). Accordingly, care has been taken to select demonstration sites that have a high degree of political stability and engagement.

Economic context: All of Europe is facing an economic crisis from the effects of COVID-19, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and extreme weather events. It has been recognised that such a combination of impacts can only be addressed by adopting new approaches to economic activities that reduce environmental stress, adopt more efficient and zero carbon energy production and use, and protect biodiversity. Restoring ecosystem functions and services through implementing nature-based solutions such as rewetting floodplains is a vital element of achieving sustainable livelihoods in future.

Social factors: Along with political will, social factors are the greatest barrier to progress. Most of Europe’s wetlands have been drained or reshaped over centuries for agriculture, urban development and transport. Communities have long become accustomed to this situation and display inertia towards change. There is an urgent need to provide positive examples of how restoring wetlands can benefit local economies and minimise if not avoid disruptions in living conditions. Thus, involving stakeholders at all levels will be a high priority for this project.

Technological factors: In principle, the technologies and tools needed for restoring wetlands are already available. What is lacking is combining them across multiple disciplines (e.g. ecology, engineering, sociology, economics) in a consistent way and prompting their widespread adoption. The consortium will bring together a variety of so far independently used approaches, technologies and applications and integrate them. It will ensure that the results will be transferred so that all relevant stakeholders will benefit to the best possible extent.

Legal factors: The legal framework that applies to and encourages wetland restoration is already highly developed. It covers international treaties on conserving wetlands (Ramsar), biological diversity (Washington), migratory species (Bonn) and European wildlife (Berne). These treaties have been incorporated in a wide range of EU Directives and national legislation that apply across the Danube basin. The lack of application of legal provisions is more related to environmentally perverse incentives for land use than legal obstacles and this project will show how this approach can and must be adapted for present and future needs.

Environmental factors: The climate crisis and biodiversity emergency are starting to significantly affect the lives of all European citizens as seen in the cost of living increases, stressed health services and the economic losses from floods, droughts and fires across the continent. Only by addressing the need for restoring functional ecosystems such as wetlands can these impacts on humans be solved.

In conclusion, while there are certain factors (mainly political and social) that may impede the achievement of the expected impacts and benefits of the project it is also clear that other factors (economic, legal and environmental) strongly support its implementation. The chief obstacles have been identified and addressed in the design of the project, which will have a significant positive effect on both social and economic conditions that will prevail far beyond the lifecycle of the project. The main uncertainty concerns the potential resurgence of COVID-19 which would have a negative and perhaps limiting impact on the organisation of the planned events (i.e. Workshops, dialogues, and validation, etc) where the consortium plans to engage stakeholders in person. However, our strong experience from other projects showed that instead of physical meetings online workshops can be organised effectively.

2.2 Measures to maximise impact - dissemination, exploitation and communication

In order to maximise the impact of Restore4Life, we have already developed a first version of our **Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Plan** for dissemination, exploitation and communication and identified a range of target groups and communication tools. We will present a more detailed plan for the elaboration and implementation of these activities within the first six months of the project and we will regularly review our activities in our monthly Project Management meetings. A **communication working group (CWG)** will be established with a delegated person from each member of the consortium and coordinated by F6S. This CWG will have periodical meetings to evaluate and adapt the communication strategy. The CWG coordinator will provide an intranet tool or platform with all the documents necessary: general common guidelines, visual identity elements (logos and disclaimers) to be used in communication tasks and corresponding templates, and tools to ensure an adequate external communication.

Target groups referring to the quadruple Helix (Civil society, Industry, Academia, Government):

Civil Society: General public, Citizen scientists, media groups, different associations, NGOs; European Volunteer Corps and Mission Citizen Assemblies, youth organisations, Higher Education Institutes (Schools and Colleges)

Industry: Private sector (Innovators, fisheries, tourism, farmers, financial investors, business associations), Public Sector: Water utilities, Energy utilities, Spatial Planning, Resource Management

Academia: Scientific community; European structures supporting research and innovation (SRIA, ESFRI, Horizon Europe, INTERREG, ESA), European and International Initiatives (LIFE, Water4All Partnership, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, JPIs, Future Earth, IPCC, UNEP, WWQA, FAO), other Lighthouse and relevant EU projects, Research Infrastructures on the ESFRI roadmap (e.g. DANUBIUS-RI)

Government: Policymakers from local and regional authorities, Policy implementers at European and national agencies, Policy makers from the European Commission Groups

Communication tools and channels

Our communication plan will involve a number of communication tools, which will be selected based on the targeted audience and the purpose of the communication, including: Creation of visual identity, project website, Social Media Campaign, Webinars, Workshops, Leaflets, organisation of one high level international Conference with policymakers, industry, academics and international institutions, etc. Materials will be mainly in English, with relevant materials being translated in local languages where required.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact of the communication and dissemination activities

Qualitative and quantitative performance indicators will be established to measure the outreach of our strategy and the impact on different target groups. These indicators will be related to the project's objectives and will allow an analysis of the impact of our communication measures. Quantitative indicators are e.g. number of communication actions, number of newsletters & press releases, number of publications edited, number of visits on the website, number of people interacting on social media, number of people attending the communication events. The qualitative indicators reflect the quality of the interaction with the population, based on questionnaires online to the visitors of the website, questionnaires to the participants of communication events, and feedback from general audience and specific target groups.

Exploitation of results

Planning for exploitation: 1) **Initial awareness phase (M1-6):** includes establishment of the project website, identification of communication and dissemination opportunities, creation of basic tools incl. graphical identity (i.e. logo, templates for documents and presentations), consolidation of a stakeholder database to optimise targeted

communication and dissemination. 2) **Targeted dissemination phase** (M6-36): the consortium will enrich the website, issue the first press release and attend selected events. Preliminary project results will be presented to the target audiences through (scientific) publications and conferences, and workshops will be organised. Impact assessment is crucial at this stage to monitor and re-orientate the strategy if necessary. 3) **Presentation of results** (M36-48): This represents the period closely before the end of the project when the project reaches its most significant outputs. This phase will be focused on informing the target audience for the exploitation. **Exploitation:** Restore4Life exploitation plan will include 1) an attractive knowledge portfolio to continue enhancing the innovations after the project end; 2) a description of the steps to promote the Wetland Restoration Accelerator and the Online Platform. The methodology is based on a step-wise approach: i) preliminary identification by the consortium of expected exploitable results; ii) assessment of the innovation and market potential of key exploitable results (identification of those with a high potential); iii) creating tailor-made business models built in accordance with the nature of the result and the profile of the owner; iv) prioritisation of the main applicable standards in the sector; v) generating joint and individual exploitation plans;

The visibility of some key emerging technologies through new products and services will be demonstrated to motivate replicators, encourage community uptake, and progress tracking indicators beyond the project's duration. The uptake of the deliverables by as many stakeholders as possible will represent a key success factor of Restore4Life. Besides this, project results will receive high awareness and will be directly used in the framework of the expansion of LULUCF regulations to freshwater and coastal ecosystems, for which Restore4Life will provide a standard assessment methodology.

List of dissemination channels, metrics, and key performance indicators (KPIs)

Channel		Metrics and KPIs
Website	Video	> 10.000 visits to the website
	Blog	> 5 videos > 500 views per video
	Virtual consulting room	> 10 queries per month; > 3 podcasts per year
Newsletter	Paper	At least 2 newsletters per year
	Email	> 200 subscriptions > 100 printed newsletters per publication
Social media	Twitter	> 1000 followers per project's profile in these four selected social media
	YouTube	> 4 publications per year
	LinkedIn	> 20 interactions per publication
	Instagram	
Workshops and webinars	Workshops	> 9 workshops per year (8 for several Communities of Practice - CoP groups and 1 for consortium partners)
	Webinars	>2 online or back to back workshops per year (1 for stakeholders and 1 for consortium partners) - 1 webinar for practitioners in associated regions and beyond > 15 attendees per event
Publications	Scientific papers Presentations	> 6 scientific manuscripts; > 10 scientific presentations in congresses
Press releases	Press releases	At least 4 press releases per year >5 newspapers per press release

2.2.2. Strategy for the management of intellectual property

The Lead Partner will be responsible for IP management. Restore4Life will generate a range of R&D results, documents, publications and outputs such as data, tools and knowledge, collated in a platform. Restore4Life's outputs

will adhere to open science principles and the consortium will ensure that any knowledge generated through this project is managed and appropriately protected consistent with the EU Intellectual Property Action Plan [COM(2020) 760 final]. Management of data and knowledge will be in accordance with the Commission's contractual rules and will follow the DESCA 2020 model Consortium agreement (CA). The major principle in the CA for management of knowledge, signed by all partners, is that knowledge developed under Restore4Life (IPR, data etc.) shall be open and available for all project partners. The CA will address the confidentiality of the information disclosed by Partners during the project, as well as ownership of the results from the execution of the project. If needed, specific agreements shall be made between partners in respect of ownership aspects.



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2.3 Summary

KEY ELEMENT OF THE IMPACT SECTION

SPECIFIC NEEDS	EXPECTED RESULTS	D & E & C MEASURES
<p>N1: Online service to support various national, regional, and local stakeholders across the EU in developing and implementing holistic wetland restorations</p> <p>N2: Increased involvement of society in wetland protection and restoration</p> <p>N3: Improved understanding of society including authorities, business and citizens regarding the benefits to be obtained from wetland restoration.</p> <p>N4: Comprehensive framework for a basin wide wetland monitoring, assessment and restoration based on implementation of sustainable local activities to support restored ecosystems and ensure socio-economic benefits to local communities</p> <p>N5: Evaluation and adaptation of existing assessment indicators for wetland ecosystems and their ES regarding the potential for an EU-wide replication, upscaling and applicability</p>	<p>R1: long term online wetland restoration service, connecting various stakeholders, experts, citizens, etc., and offering knowledge and various validated tools for dealing with challenges in wetland restoration</p> <p>R2: Suite of optimised, and transferable low-cost wetland assessment indicators for EU-wide, easy application in holistic wetland restoration, including CS involvement</p> <p>R3: Citizen science tools tailored to regional needs, culture, history, and environmental conditions to empower local communities</p> <p>R4: Implemented wetland restoration approaches in 4 demonstration sites</p> <p>R5: Developed road maps for wetland restoration in 5 associated regions</p> <p>R6: Improved method for carbon sequestration capacity</p> <p>R7: NbS Economic Options Guidance for MSMEs and NbS business support frameworks</p> <p>R8: Increased awareness of the significance of wetlands as life-supporting systems, offering a multitude of ES</p>	<p>Civil Society: Active engagement in CS wetland restoration activities, Educational tools such as ‘Blue-green space 4 all’, workshops, wetland educational programs, school wetlands ‘Wetland goes local’, Restore4Life newsletter, website and social media channels</p> <p>Industry: Wide dissemination of all public reports and publications, including on the Mission tools; Final event to disseminate key outcomes to stakeholders; Newsletter to inform stakeholders of the latest project outcomes, workshops, webinars, virtual consulting room</p> <p>Academia: Participation in scientific conferences, publications in open access journals and online repositories; joint dissemination events and clustering activities with other European projects to maximise the reach;</p> <p>Government: Wide dissemination of all public reports and publications, including on the Mission tools; Press releases, newsletters</p>

TARGET GROUPS	OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
<p>Civil Society (C): Citizens, Communities, European Volunteer Corps and Mission Citizen Assemblies, Higher Education Institutes (Schools and Colleges), NGOs</p> <p>Industry (I): Land owner/Land user; Environmental and Engineering Consultancies; Private sector (SMEs and MNCs): tourism, water, finance and investors, insurance, start-ups, entrepreneurs; Public Sector: Water utilities, Landscape Planning</p> <p>Academia (A): Scientists, researchers and innovators in engineering, scientific, environmental and modelling disciplines - such as wetland restoration, wetland management, research, modelling. European structures that support research and innovation; European and International Initiatives; Lighthouse and other relevant EU projects; research infrastructures</p> <p>Government (G): Public Authorities (local, regional, and EU bodies, primarily Mission related bodies); Policy makers with a role in the management, sustainable development, and protection of water resources and climate mitigation; National and European organisations that provide/use datasets for hydrological climate change assessment; ICPDR.</p>	<p>O1: EU-wide stimulation of holistic wetland restoration by using the Restore4Life wetland restoration service and the offered tools (G, I, A)</p> <p>O2: Increased involvement of CS in wetland restoration activities (G, C)</p> <p>O3: Increased acceptance and interest in wetland restoration by various actors, including local communities, stakeholder, policy maker, etc. (C, I, G, A)</p> <p>O4: Increased awareness of the significance of the restoration of wetlands as life-supporting systems, including both the ecosystem and the ES delivery (C, G, I)</p> <p>O5: Increased awareness of the significance of wetlands for carbon sequestration fostering transition towards climate-neutrality (G, I)</p> <p>O6: Increased share of local business in wetland restoration and use of wetlands as NbS (I, G)</p> <p>O7: Stimulation of integrative inter-/transdisciplinary wetland research (A, C)</p>	<p>Scientific:</p> <p>I1: Links established with other Mission activities and other relevant EU projects including the European Blue Parks and other Mission Lighthouses</p> <p>I2: Contribution of improved wetland assessment indicators and carbon sequestration monitoring for the Mission implementation monitoring system (Mission Implementation Support Platform) and the Danube River Basin Lighthouse support facility and platform</p> <p>I3: Contribution to the Ocean and water knowledge system by providing improved approaches for monitoring carbon sequestration capacity, habitat distribution and resilience, and connected ES, including biodiversity, using remote sensing data</p> <p>Economic</p> <p>I4: Improved pathways for partnership between industry, governmental authorities, and science; support of the economic and social transition towards inclusive and long-term ecosystem management</p> <p>Societal:</p> <p>I5: Increased stewardship of citizens for holistic wetland restoration</p> <p>Political:</p> <p>I6: Elaboration of a standard to assess the carbon budget of freshwaters, wetlands, and coastal areas, as well as strategies to increase carbon sequestration rate, urgently needed for the currently planned expansion of LULUCF regulations</p>

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

3.1 Work plan and resources

The entire workflow for the implementation of Restore4Life is presented in figure 3.1. The project begins by encouraging the stakeholders and citizens at large to become involved and participate in the co-design and co-development of almost all of the tasks and activities in the project under the coordination of WP2. Each of the demonstrators sites (monitoring or/and implementation sites) has local partners for implementation ensuring high quality and efficiency of the activities. WP3 will define both the monitoring framework and will implement the demonstration activities; WP4 will design the business support framework identifying NbS based investment options and improve the overall private sector support for wetland restoration; WP5 will develop upscaling approaches working in close connection with all WPs; WP 6 will ensure that the results of the project will reach all the target groups as well as the wider public and EU officials. WP1 will coordinate inputs and design the online platform and tools as part of the DSS as well as ensure that the platform will be active long after the project ends. All of the WPs will actually contribute in different degrees to the creation of the Wetland Restoration Accelerator. Finally WP7 will ensure efficient management of the project.

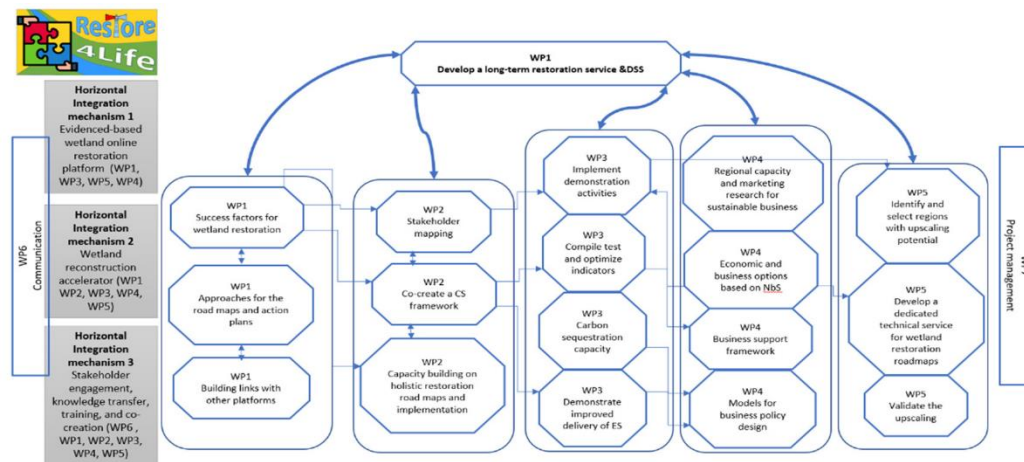


Figure 3.1:
Restore4Life
workflow

The different and complementary roles of the partners within WPs are reflected throughout the proposal (see Table 3.1f). The project budget is distributed as follows: 53% as personnel costs; 23.35% as restoration activities (including decision support systems; Wetland Restoration Accelerator; and upscaling); 7.27% as travel expenses (including travel for monitoring activities) and 0.44 % for equipment.

		WP/Task names	WP/Task leads	start/end	Year 1												Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				05/2023																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Restore4Life consortium is composed of **32 partners**, including several public entities, from **14 European countries**: Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Slovenia, Greece, and Slovakia.

The proposal is **coordinated by the University of Bucharest (UB)** /Research Centre in Systems Ecology and Sustainability (RCSES/UB), primarily initiated by a **core team from UB, BOKU, FVB.IGB and KUEI** with expertise in carbon sequestration monitoring, wetland ecosystems and ES monitoring and assessment incl. stakeholder involvement, and management practices for restored wetlands in relation to climate change in Danube Basin, subsequently fully supported by the network of institutions, most of them have previously successfully cooperated on the subject. The Restore4Life consortium is ideally placed to develop a long-term wetland restoration service, which has an evidence-based, functional, and inclusive governance structure.

Each partner is bringing their unique expertise to the consortium to reach its objectives:

SO1: Develop a long-term online wetland restoration service for the restoration of wetlands as life-supporting systems

- Expertise in developing DSS and online platforms, e.g. UB, BAS, BOKU, ANM, UNISOFIA, UFZ, UNSFA
- Providing the business instrument for long term survival of the online wetland restoration service: e.g. UB, FVB.IGB, UNSPMF
- Expertise in stakeholder engagement: e.g. UNSFA, FSM, ILE SAS
- Expertise in dissemination, accelerator platform: e.g. F6S, FVB.IGB, all other partners
- Involvement in Research Infrastructures: e.g. Geocomar, BOKU, UNIOS, FVB.IGB

SO2: Empower stakeholders and the community by creating an extensive network of stakeholders and communities to support wetland restoration

- Expertise in transdisciplinary approaches and CS cooperation: e.g. BOKU, UB, FVB.IGB, UFZ, WWF Romania, ILE SAS, AIMC
- Development of policy tools for protecting biodiversity: e.g. INCSD, Geocomar, UB, UNSPMF, UNSA WWF Romania, NCSD, BOKU, BROZ, ILE SAS, FVB.IGB
- Expertise in developing educational tools: e.g. BROZ, BOKU, UNIOS, FVB.IGB
- Training stakeholder: e.g. UPS, FVB.IGB

SO3: Demonstrate and evaluate holistic wetland restoration approaches and compile, test, and optimise ecosystems' and ES assessment indicators AND

- Expertise in implementation of holistic wetland restoration: e.g. viaDonau, WWF Romania, BROZ, UB
- Expertise in integrative monitoring of wetland restoration: e.g. WWF Romania, UB, BOKU, FVB.IGB, KUEI, UGAL, AIMC, INCDD, UFZ, UOM, UNISOFIA, UNSFA, UNSPMF, FSM, UNIOS, ILE SAS, PZZP
- Expertise in integrative ecosystem and ES assessment: e.g. UNSPMF, BOKU, FVB.IGB, KUEI, UNSA, UOM, UNISOFIA, UNSFA, ILE SAS
- Expertise in carbon sequestration: e.g. BOKU, UFZ, UNSPMF
- Expertise in biodiversity assessment: e.g. UNSPMF, UNSA, INCSD, Geocomar, UB, WWF Romania, NCSD, BOKU, UGAL, KUEI, AIMC, INCDD, UFZ, UNIOS, BROZ, UOM, UNSFA, ILE SAS
- Climate change modelling: e.g. UNSA, UNSPMF, ANM, UNISOFIA
- Remote sensing, GIS, mapping: e.g. UNSA, BOKU, KUEI, UNSFA, UNSPMF, PZZP, ILE SAS
- Expertise in developing road maps: e.g. KUEI, UB, BAS, BOKU, ANM, UNISOFIA, ILE SAS

SO4: Support local revenue and business activities in restored ecosystems


- Expertise in stakeholder engagement: see above
- Expertise in business planning and development based on NbS: CNDD, FVB.IGB, BOKU
- Expertise in data management, modelling, machine learning and app development: UGAL, UNFSA, UNSPMF, FSM, KÖTIVIZIG, UNSA

Tables for section 3.1

Table 3.1g: 'Subcontracting costs' items

4 UGAL		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	60.000	Costs for 3 web-development apps and a web-development platform, as follows: Wetland4Life (addressed to citizen science) – WP 2, Solutions4Life (addressed to stakeholders engagement) – WP 2, BlueGreen space4all (a serious game for educative purposes on wetland restoration scenarios) – WP 2 and 1 merging platform.
8 FSM		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	250000	WP3; Reconstruction work IS3 Vlasina, Landscape of Outstanding Features 1. WP3, Task 3.1, Subtask 3.1.c Mitigation of drought effects (50.000€). – Afforestation of riparian buffer zone with autochthonous tree species 2. WP3, Task 3.1 Subtask 3.1.c Removal of invasive and tree species from bogs (50.000€). – Removal of invasive species using aquatic weed cleaner machine. – Control of invasive species by manual selection and other available tools 3. WP3, Subtask 3.1.c Restoration of riparian areas; focus on aquatic and semi-aquatic systems; impact on over 1600ha; (150.000€) – Separation and recultivation of stranded peat islands from mainland – Restoration of natural river meanders – Construction of new bank structures to increase and stabilize the water table
11 WWF		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	50.000	WP 2 - Development of school wetlands - wetlands go local
12 KÖTIVIZIG		

	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023
Subcontracting	35.000	<p>WP 5 Development of a cost-benefit analysis tool</p> <p>In the Interreg DTP Danube Floodplain project the methodology of conducting a cost-benefit analysis (CBA analysis) with extension to ecosystem service benefits were developed. The case studies of Fokorú puszta and the Tiszaföldvár-Cibakháza floodplain sites were analyzed by this methodology. These studies also revealed some elements that need to be further elaborated. The ecosystem services extended CBA was embedded in a decision support frame, that tackled conditions that the CBA analysis excluded. The key element of further development is specifying the connection of the ecosystem service capital stock and the performance of the water related vegetation indexes of the area analysed. The research work – development of a cost-benefit analysis tool wants to focus on this relationship and will be incorporated into WP4. The development of the tool is carried out by our KÖTIVIZIG's experts with external experts as well</p>
24 FVB.IGB		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	50000	WP 4 reviews and counselling on market options of paludiculture products and CO2 emission certificates (50 k€);
25 BROZ		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	10 000	WP 3 Expert study
	15 000	WP 3 Technical documentation for the works
	5 000	WP 3 Engineering of the construction, geodetical services
	220 000	<p>WP 3 Reconstruction work IS2 Rudava Restoration of natural riverbed and meanders in canalised section of the river; impact on 560 ha;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digging (120 000) - Construction works – river embankment in necessary sections (crossing with roads, energetical lines etc.), (60 000) - Deposition of material, transport (40 000)
28 INCDD		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification


Subcontracting	210000	<p>Costs under WP 3:  Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023</p> <p>Reconstruction work Danube Delta lake, marshland, Ramsar site, 2370 ha; Restoration activities implemented during project: Improve connectivity and water circulation; monitoring nutrient status; Restoration of riparian areas; focus on aquatic and semi-aquatic system</p> <p>Justification</p> <p>In order to achieve the objective of the project, the reconstruction works require a series of activities that will be carried out by commercial companies with experience in excavations below the water level.</p> <p>The realization of these works requires 2 main categories of expenses as follows:</p> <p>1. Expenses for supporting documentation</p> <p>This category of expenses includes the costs for the supporting documentation for obtaining approvals, agreements and authorizations, the technical quality check of the technical project and execution details, includes expenses for site management.</p> <p>2. Costs for the basic work</p> <p>This category of expenses includes the costs for the execution of constructions and installations, the installation of machinery, technological and functional equipment, machinery and technological and functional equipment that requires or does not require assembly, transport equipment.</p> <p>In order to assess the subcontracting costs, an estimate of the quantities to be excavated from the key points of the targeted area was made in the first stage. The estimate was made by INCDD experts and resulted in a volume between 16 000 and 20 000 cubic meters.</p> <p>Stage 2 included consulting the prices from the electronic public procurement system, which resulted in a price in the range of 10 - 12 euros/cubic meter. In this context, the result was a total between 160 000 euros and 240 000 euros. Taking into account the accessibility of the area, which has a significant influence on the final price, a total budget of 210 000 was estimated.</p>
29 Via donau		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	210.000	WP3; Reconstruction work IS1 March-Thaya floodplain: removal of bank regulations
	10.000	WP3; improvement of lateral connectivity ha
	30.000	WP3; Reconstruction work IS1 March-Thaya floodplain: introduction of groins and woody debris to increase habitat heterogeneity
31 AIMC		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting	15.000	1 App (Solution4Life app) (WP 2 / task 2.2); costs for the technical platform for the Solutions4Life app, database development, interactive interactions, feedback mechanisms and design.


1 UB		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	30000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (11 meetings *2 pers*800 euro/pers); participation to internal field meeting 3000 euro (500 euro per travel *6 field visits)
Other goods, works and services	83000	15000 Euro for open access fees for 5 articles; 5000 Euro -consumables; 8000 Euro – audit; 55000 Euro for organizing 5 consortium meetings under WP7 (approx. 11000 Euro/ meeting): conference rooms rental – plenary meeting and WPs parallel sessions; travel site visits; catering.
Total	113000	
3 GEOECOMAR		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
4 UGAL		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Other goods, works and services	2000	Consumables for monitoring activities (this will include the acquisition of several consumables which will be used for monitoring activities, associated to UGAL, within IS4, MS5 and MS6).
Total	20000	
5 UNSFSA		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
6 UNSPMF		
	Cost (€)	Justification

Travel and subsistence	23000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*1060 euro/pers); participation to internal field meeting 3000 euro (500 euro per travel *6 field visits)
Equipment	10000	Equipment for monitoring <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DJI MAVIC 3M (drone with multispectral camera) ...6000 EUR...amount (1 piece)...total price: 6000 EUR -depreciation costs 100% 2. Qbox20 GNSS with topoXpress software (device that supports high-precision positioning, network transmission of positioning information) ...1800 EUR... amount (1 piece) ...total price 1800 EUR -depreciation costs 100% 3. GNSS handheld data collector ...200 EUR ...(1 piece)...total price: 2200 EUR -depreciation costs 100%
Other goods, works and services	5000	Consumables for monitoring activities
Total	38000	
7 UNIOS		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
8 FSM		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Other goods, works and services	5000	Consumables and chemicals for fieldwork
Total	23000	
10 KUEI		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	23000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*1060 euro/pers); participation to internal field meeting 3000 euro (500 euro per travel *6 field visits)

Equipment	10000	Equipment for monitoring: - UAV DJI Mavic 3E 5.700 €; - DJI D-RTK 2 Mobile Station GNSS-Reference station 3.700 €; - assurance: 600 €
Other goods, works and services	40000	external audit: 4.000 €, consumables for monitoring: 1.000 €; Meetings (room, Catering, invitations, field trips) in the associated regions: 35.000; 1 meeting in every associated regions 5 x 7.000
Total	73000	
12 KÖTIVIZIG		
	Cost (€)	Justification

Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
13 ILESAS		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	23000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*1060 euro/pers); participation to internal field meeting 3000 euro (500 euro per travel *6 field visits)
Equipment	5000	Equipment for monitoring
Other goods, works and services	5000	Consumables for monitoring activities
Total	33000	
14 BAS		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
15 PZZP		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
17 EMVIZIG		
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
18 UNISOFIA		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);

Total	18000	 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023
19 UPS		

	Cost (€)	Justification  Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
20 UOM		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
21 UNSA		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	23000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*1060 euro/pers); participation to internal field meeting 3000 euro (500 euro per travel *6 field visits)
Equipment	10000	Equipment for monitoring: 1. GNSS Controller (1 piece around 6000 (€) 2. GIS Tablet (1 piece around 4000 €)
Other goods, works and services	5000	Consumables for monitoring activities
Total	38000	
22 CNDD		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	28000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*1060 euro/pers); participation to internal meetings for WP4 communication purposes 8000 euro (1000 euro per travel *8 visits)
Other goods, works and services	60000	5 movies (success stories) in 5 countries (5000 euro per movie duration 7-10 min each) – 25000k euro Participation in WP4 meetings 8 meetings related to WP4 (4 meetings to the implementation sites for establish working groups (M5-M6); 4 business stakeholder working group meetings (M25-26) – costs for organization of the meeting (venue, stakeholders,) – 3500 euro/meeting; total WP4 meetings: 28000 euro external audit – 7000 euro
Total	88000	

24 FVB.IGB.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2023)3469424 - 17/05/2023

	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Other goods, works and services	115000	Consumables for monitoring activities; organizational support for 19 stakeholder workshops at demo and monitoring sites held in the respective language (WP2; 50 k€); advanced GIS data preparation and analytics services (60 k€); external audit (5k€)
Total	133000	

25 BROZ

	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);

Other goods, works and services	5000	Consumables for the office, administrative fees for realization of the restoration works, costs for propagation and demonstration activities
Total	23000	
26 IZVRS		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
30 MMAP		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	
31 AIMC		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	18000	Participation to project meetings (5*2*940 euro/pers); participation to WP meetings and workshops (10 meetings *1 pers*860 euro/pers);
Total	18000	

4. Ethics self-assessment

Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact

The project involves conducting interviews, surveys and workshops, this involved human participants. The participants will be selected based on their professional experience and relevance to the project and also recruited to participate via the consortium's existing networks as well as other means, such as invitations to participate in relevant newsletters. The activities do not involve vulnerable groups. Free, prior and informed consent will be sought from all participants. Participants are clearly informed that the participation is completely voluntary and that they can withdraw at any stage. They are also informed about the aims of the activities, methods used, implications of the results, storage and accessibility of the data. The project is committed to data minimization principle; therefore, data is only collected when necessary. The project activities will comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable international, EU and national law. All project partners are committed to processing personal data in accordance with the principles of EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Under these rules, personal data will be processed in accordance with certain principles and conditions that aim to limit the negative impact on the persons concerned and ensure fairness, transparency and accountability of the data processing, data quality and confidentiality. Personal data will be collected only to the degree that is necessary for the implementation of the project and will not include

any sensitive data. Data processing will be subject to appropriate safeguards: data will be processed in anonymised or pseudonymised form where relevant. We will create a privacy notice translated to all relevant languages that will inform the participants how their personal data will be processed. The personal data will be stored in secure workspaces by the partner organization collecting the data as long as is required: until the end of the project, and for 5 years from the moment of data collection in the case of data collected for research purposes.

Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations

Restore4Life has given full consideration to the ethical implications of all proposed research when compiling all WP tasks and deliverables, especially regarding the interaction and communication with stakeholders and citizen scientists, and the use of and access to data. The project will not raise sensitive ethical questions related to human beings, human or biological samples, personal data, genetic information. Any work involving animals will adhere to the EU Regulation on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes [Directive 2010/63/EU], and national legislation and licencing requirements, to ensure that the high standards of animal welfare and scientific research. Participation in planned workshops, events, online information exchange, and videos will be inclusive and on a voluntary basis only and participants will not be coerced. Questions during in-person interviews will not be of a sensitive nature and are not foreseen to cause harm or duress to participants and any personal data will be collected and handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation [GDPR - Regulation (EU) 2016/679]. Our consortium will ensure that outputs are tailored to the needs of all stakeholders and that no gender, ethnic, age and/or any other social group from across the Danube Basin, the Demonstration Sites and the Associated Regions will be disadvantaged by being excluded from participatory consideration and/or from accessing and engaging with the project. Restore4Life will comply with the agreements for personal data protection applicable in Europe: the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). We will collect only the most essential (personal) data: name, affiliation, organisation, professional contact data and, if relevant, memberships of and positions in projects/networks/... and areas of expertise. As announced in section 'human participants', Restore4Life will require informed consent of research participants. According to the GDPR, each participant will be informed of their rights to (i) access personal data, (ii) change personal data in the database, (iii) erase personal data from the database and (iv) restrict processing of personal data for certain purposes. The data management procedures related to the POPD will be described in the Data Management Plan, which will be delivered in Month 6 of the project and updated frequently. A Data Manager will be responsible for the Data Management in the project.

5. “Financial Support to Third Parties – FSTP”

5.1. Objectives of the call

Restore4Life and especially WP 5 intends to provide financial support to associated regions in implementing wetland restoration solutions and transfer the knowledge from WP1-2 and 4 and demonstrator sites (WP3) into suitable sites in associated regions both inside and outside of the Danube region. These associated regions are the here mentioned third parties. Via an open call appropriate associated regions will be selected and engaged to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scale up of the demonstration activities. Restore4Life will provide scientific and technical advisory support to the 5 associated regions conducting workshops for the direct transfer/exchange of knowledge and experience between the twinning demonstration site actors and the associated regions. In the end, WP 5 will have developed roadmaps for the selected associated regions (D 5.1) based on the success stories of the demonstration sites. Work on these tasks will involve the scientific consortium of Restore4Life, but also all relevant stakeholders from twinning Demonstrations sites (Monitoring sites) and selected associated regions.

The main objectives of the call, linked to the **Restore4Life's specific objective S05**, is *Promote and support the implementation of holistic wetland restoration solutions in associated regions (inside and outside the Danube region)*. The call has two main goals:

1. To enlarge the number of sites by five appropriate associated regions, which will support the implementation of Ocean Water Mission.
2. To deploy increasing numbers of small-scale pilots that demonstrate the transferability of the Restore4Life results.

5.2. Associated regions and activities to be funded

'Associated regions' as third parties are understood as areas with similar ecosystems (e.g. neighbouring regions

and/or regions in a different river basin) and/or less-developed regions, with the view to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions to restore freshwater ecosystems) and abiotic, biotic and socio-economic conditions to at least one demonstrator site, both inside and outside the Danube river basin. Only applicants legally established and working in EU Member States/Associated countries other than those that are part of the Restore4Life project consortium will be eligible. Third parties from the following countries are therefore excluded (listed in alphabetical order): Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

Eligible beneficiaries of this call may only be local and/or regional authorities from an ‘associated region’. The open call will be open to any type of third parties according to the Horizon Europe conditions. Applicants may apply as one single organisation or as a team of up to three partner organisations from one or multiple eligible countries as described above. In case of team submission, one organisation will act as lead organisation.

Types of activities, that can receive financial support in the associated regions tested in the demonstrator sites:

- Removal of channel and bank regulations for restoration of pristine conditions, biodiversity, and flood protection
- Restoration of natural riverbed and meanders in canalised section of the river
- Removal of invasive tree species from bogs
- Restoration of riparian areas and biodiversity
- Restoring/improving water circulation and connectivity of secondary channels and lakes at low water levels
- Monitoring of existing / previous actions
- Nature based solutions in rivers and floodplains
- River dynamics improvement
- Citizen involvement

5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call

To select at least five associated region, Restore4Life will launch a call within the first nine month of the project. The call will have a clear European dimension and will remain open for at least two months. It will be launched via the European Funding & Tenders portal and on the beneficiaries’ website.

All partners will be invited to promote the Open Call in events and marketing channels in order to gather the maximum number of proposals. Applicants that went through earlier calls (e.g. Danube4all, DALIA), will be invited to support the promotion of this call on a peer-to-peer approach. **One online-workshop** to inform stakeholders from the selected regions about the upcoming call will be carried out, and at least **one interactive workshop** will be organised during the period when the call is open to inform and support stakeholders in the application procedure. The Restore4Life consortium will keep the Project Officer (PO) informed about the open call and their progress. A draft of the call text will be submitted to the PO via the portal one month before its publication date. At the same time, it will inform the European Commission about where the competitive call was published.

Further, the following criteria will be met:

- if submission deadlines are changed, this must be announced immediately and registered applicants must be informed of the change;
- EU restrictive measures are also applicable for financial support to third parties ([EU Sanctions Map](#))
- An online submission form indicated in the open call will be dedicated to proposal submission. Submissions received by any other channel will be automatically discarded.
- English will be the official language for the open call.
- Proposals will be submitted as PDF documents using a provided template including the proposal form, declaration of honour and ethics self-assessment.
- Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, also known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

5.4 Selection process

The open call will be carried out in the light of the same basic principles which govern the Horizon Europe calls:

1. Excellence: The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call;
2. Transparency: Funding decisions must be based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants

should receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals;

3. Objectivity and fairness: All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants;

4. Confidentiality: All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence;

5. Efficiency and speed: Evaluation of proposals and award of the financial support should be as rapid as possible, commensurate with maintaining the quality of the evaluation, and respecting the legal framework.

The selection of associated regions will be made by an evaluation board consisting of the Steering Committee, and the external Advisory Committee. Recognised experts and decision makers from European (e.g. EEA), basin-wide (e.g. ICPDR, EUSDR, Danube Commission, IAD), national (ministries, stakeholders, NGOs) organisations and if possible from the demonstrator sites will be invited to join the advisory board. The selected experts will sign a declaration of confidentiality concerning the contents of the proposals they read and they should also confirm the absence of any conflict of interest. The assessment will be made on the criteria, scores and minimum thresholds precisely described in the guidelines for applicants which will be prepared as part of Restore4Life Task 5.1 (D 5.1).

Preliminary criteria include:

1. Relevance to Restore4Life and its principles
2. Expected benefit/estimated impact
2. Existing knowledge in the area/local network
3. Feasibility and resources (this includes work already done, institutional background etc.).

Furthermore, the representativeness of different river related challenges and the geographical coverage will also be considered.

The outcome of the evaluation will be a ranked list of all proposals, based on the scores obtained by each proposal. In case multiple proposals are ranked with the same score, a consensus meeting will be convened in order to select the ones for funding. After the evaluation of the proposals, proposals proposed for funding will be contacted. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed including the evaluation summary report.

The outcome of the calls will be published without delay, including a description of third-party projects, the date of the award, the duration, and the legal name and country (D 5.1).

5.5. Maximum grant and financial rules

The financial support will be provided to third parties (recipients) only in form of grants and under the same eligibility conditions and rules as of the Horizon Europe Programme. Contractual obligations of the beneficiaries of Restore4Life under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (recordkeeping) of the grant agreement also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients). The maximum amount of financial support to each third party will be limited to 100,000 EUR. Restore4Life expects to fund at least five different regions. The total amount of financial support to third parties is 500,000 EUR. Only one proposal will be accepted for funding per applicant or team members in case of team submission.

Selected recipients (in case of a team submission it's the lead organisation) will sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the Restore4Life project coordinator. The team will be required to sign a consortium declaration which will be attached to the sub-grant agreement. Recipients will need to ensure the right of control for the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditor and the right for the Commission to make an evaluation of the impact of the action.

The exact amount of financial support will be assessed based on the evaluation procedure (to be included in D 5.1) and estimations of the applicants made during the proposal submission. Costs are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out. Only actual costs incurred by the recipients when implementing the supported activities will be reimbursed by WP 5 leader Ben 10 KUEI.

Each beneficiary commits to a proper use of the funding received, for the purposes of carrying out the project in compliance with the defined milestones and expected deliverables. At the end of the project funded by the open call, a financial statement will be submitted by each beneficiary to the Restore4Life project coordinator for assessment.

Applicants shall present the funded project at Restore4Life project meetings and shall, thus, allocate a budget for

travel expenses to at least one of the Restore4Life project meetings.

Compliance with conditions for Financial Support to Third Parties (Annex B HE General Annexes, Articles 6.2 & 9.4 of the Grant Agreement and topic HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-02)	
<p>A clear description of the objectives and the expected results from providing the financial support to third parties.</p> <p>Topic HORIZON-MISS-2022-01-02 foresees “The projects should continuously share their outcomes and knowledge with those ‘associated regions’ and provide them with technical assistance to build capacity and to implement wetlands, flood plains coastal wetlands such as salt marshes restoration and protection solutions in their territory that contribute to achieving the Mission objectives..”</p>	<p><i>Description of the objectives and the expected results are presented in 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.1 Objectives of the call and in SO 5 of the chapter 1.1.1 Objectives of Restore4Life of Annex 1 Part B</i></p>
<p>A fixed and exhaustive list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support</p> <p>Topic 2022-OCEAN-01-02 foresees that the financial support will be given “to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scale up of the solutions developed within the project in the “associated region”. Moreover, the topic foresees that “The projects should continuously share their outcomes and knowledge with the ‘associated regions’ and provide them with technical assistance to build capacity and to implement wetlands, flood plains coastal wetlands such as salt marshes restoration and protection solutions in their territory that contribute to achieving the Mission objectives.”...“The technical assistance to the ‘associated regions’ should include the provision of technical advisory services necessary to the prepare roadmaps, plans and projects to restore and protect wetlands, flood plains and/or coastal wetlands such as salt marshes, including a reduction of human pressures on these ecosystems and pollution in the associated regions restoring the continuity, natural free-flow and hydro morphology of the river by addressing possible barriers and showing the feasibility of implementing innovative solutions.”</p>	<p><i>This point is implemented in 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.2. Associated regions and activities to be funded of the Annex 1 Part B.</i></p>
<p>The definition of recipients of financial support to third parties (persons or categories of persons that may receive financial support)</p> <p>Topic 2022-OCEAN-01-02 foresees that FSTP may only be awarded to local and/or regional authorities from an ‘associated region’.</p>	<p><i>This point is implemented in 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.2. Associated regions and activities to be funded of the Annex 1 Part B</i></p>
<p>EU restrictive measures also applicable for financial support to third parties EU Sanctions Map</p>	<p><i>This point is implemented in 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call of the Annex 1 Part B</i></p>

Form and maximum amount of financial support for each third party Topic 2022-OCEAN-01-02 foresees that FSTP can only be provided in the form of grants and the maximum amount to be granted to each 'associated region' is 100,000.	<i>This point is implemented in 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.5. Maximum grant and financial rules of the Annex 1 Part B</i>
Criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support	<i>This point is implemented in 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.5. Maximum grant and financial rules of the Annex 1 Part B</i>
The procedure and criteria for giving the financial support Topic 2022-OCEAN-01-02 foresees that: - Each "associated region" shall benefit from the Financial Support to Third Parties provided under this topic within the duration of the project only once. - Work with and engage at least 5 'associated regions'. - The associated regions are located in Member States/Associated countries other than those that are part of the project consortium.	<i>These points are implemented in Annex 1 Part B under 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.5. Maximum grant and financial rules (point 1 and 2) and 5.2. Associated regions and activities to be funded (3 point)</i>
The procedure should reflect all the following requirements from the HE General Annexes: 1) projects must publish their open calls widely and adhere to EU standards of transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality; 2) all calls for third parties and all calls that are implemented by third parties must be published on the Funding & Tenders Portal, and on the beneficiaries' websites; 3) the calls must remain open for at least 2 months; 4) if submission deadlines are changed, this must immediately be announced and registered applicants must be informed of the change; 5) projects must publish the outcome of the calls without delay, including a description of third-party projects, the date of the award, the duration, and the legal name and country; 6) the calls must have a clear European dimension.	<i>These points are implemented in Annex 1 Part B under 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES as follows:</i> <i>1) 5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call, 5.4 Selection process</i> <i>2) 5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call</i> <i>3) 5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call</i> <i>4) 5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call</i> <i>5) 5.4 Selection process</i> <i>6) 5.3 Launch and Dissemination of the call</i>
The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (recordkeeping) of the grant agreement also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).	<i>Both points are implemented in Annex 1 Part B under 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES, Chapter 5.5. Maximum grant and financial rules</i>

<p>The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.</p>	
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ANNEX 2

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

	Estimated eligible ¹ costs (per budget category)											Estimated EU contribution ²			
	Direct costs									Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum grant amount ⁶
	A. Personnel costs		B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories		E. Indirect costs ³	Funding rate % ⁴		Maximum EU contribution ⁵	Requested EU contribution		
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)	A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs						
	A.2 Natural persons under direct contract														
A.3 Seconded persons															
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs ⁷	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs ⁸		U	g = f * U%	h	m
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1	d2	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + c1 + c2 + c3)	f = a + b + c + d + e				
1 - UB	490 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30 000.00	0.00	83 000.00	0.00	0.00	150 750.00	753 750.00	100	753 750.00	753 750.00	753 750.00
2 - BOKU	375 200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	5 000.00	10 000.00	0.00	0.00	102 050.00	510 250.00	100	510 250.00	510 250.00	510 250.00
3 - GEOECOMAR	94 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28 000.00	140 000.00	100	140 000.00	140 000.00	140 000.00
4 - UGAL	106 672.00	0.00	0.00	60 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	2 000.00	0.00	0.00	31 668.00	218 340.00	100	218 340.00	218 340.00	218 340.00
5 - UNSFA	90 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27 000.00	135 000.00	100	135 000.00	135 000.00	135 000.00
6 - UNSPMF	114 864.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23 000.00	10 000.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	38 216.00	191 080.00	100	191 080.00	191 080.00	191 080.00
7 - UNIOS	39 200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14 300.00	71 500.00	100	71 500.00	71 500.00	71 500.00
8 - FSM	96 019.00	0.00	0.00	250 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	29 754.75	398 773.75	100	398 773.75	398 773.75	398 773.75
9 - ANM	162 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45 000.00	225 000.00	100	225 000.00	225 000.00	225 000.00
10 - KUEI	385 700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23 000.00	10 000.00	40 000.00	500 000.00	0.00	114 675.00	1 073 375.00	100	1 073 375.00	1 073 375.00	1 073 375.00
11 - WWF Romania	124 200.00	0.00	0.00	50 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35 550.00	227 750.00	100	227 750.00	227 750.00	227 750.00
12 - KÖTIVIZIG	71 300.00	0.00	0.00	35 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22 325.00	146 625.00	100	146 625.00	146 625.00	146 625.00
13 - ILESAS	94 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23 000.00	5 000.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	31 875.00	159 375.00	100	159 375.00	159 375.00	159 375.00
14 - NIGGG BAS	51 200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17 300.00	86 500.00	100	86 500.00	86 500.00	86 500.00
15 - PZZP	28 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11 700.00	58 500.00	100	58 500.00	58 500.00	58 500.00
16 - F6S	294 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23 000.00	0.00	9 000.00	0.00	0.00	81 625.00	408 125.00	70	285 687.50	285 687.50	285 687.50
17 - ÉMVIZIG	36 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13 700.00	68 500.00	100	68 500.00	68 500.00	68 500.00
18 - UNISOFIA	56 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 500.00	92 500.00	100	92 500.00	92 500.00	92 500.00
19 - UPS	36 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13 700.00	68 500.00	100	68 500.00	68 500.00	68 500.00
20 - UOM	32 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12 500.00	62 500.00	100	62 500.00	62 500.00	62 500.00
21 - UNSA	120 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23 000.00	10 000.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	39 500.00	197 500.00	100	197 500.00	197 500.00	197 500.00
22 - CNDD	320 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28 000.00	0.00	60 000.00	0.00	0.00	102 000.00	510 000.00	100	510 000.00	510 000.00	510 000.00
23 - CSIC	126 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36 000.00	180 000.00	100	180 000.00	180 000.00	180 000.00
24 - FVB-IGB	429 300.00	0.00	0.00	50 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	115 000.00	0.00	0.00	140 575.00	752 875.00	100	752 875.00	752 875.00	752 875.00
25 - BROZ	70 400.00	0.00	0.00	250 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	23 350.00	366 750.00	100	366 750.00	366 750.00	366 750.00
26 - IZVRS	80 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24 500.00	122 500.00	100	122 500.00	122 500.00	122 500.00
27 - UFZ	255 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68 250.00	341 250.00	100	341 250.00	341 250.00	341 250.00
28 - INCDDD	212 800.00	0.00	0.00	210 000.00	23 000.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	60 200.00	511 000.00	100	511 000.00	511 000.00	511 000.00
29 - VIA DONAU	0.00	0.00	0.00	250 000.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1 250.00	256 250.00	70	179 375.00	179 375.00	179 375.00
30 - MMAP	18 400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9 100.00	45 500.00	100	45 500.00	45 500.00	45 500.00

	Estimated eligible ¹ costs (per budget category)											Estimated EU contribution ²			
	Direct costs									Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum grant amount ⁶
	A. Personnel costs		B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories		E. Indirect costs ³	Funding rate % ⁴		Maximum EU contribution ⁵	Requested EU contribution		
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)		A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs					
	A.2 Natural persons under direct contract														
A.3 Seconded persons															
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs ⁷	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs ⁸					
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1	d2	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + c1 + c2 + c3)	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m
31 - AIMC	66 308.00	0.00	0.00	15 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21 077.00	120 385.00	100	120 385.00	120 385.00	120 385.00
Σ consortium	4 477 963.00	0.00	0.00	1 170 000.00	597 000.00	40 000.00	349 000.00	500 000.00	0.00	1 365 990.75	8 499 953.75		8 300 641.25	8 300 641.25	8 300 641.25

¹ See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

² The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement; see Article 7).

³ Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s)/reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

⁴ See Data Sheet for the funding rate(s).

⁵ This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.

⁶ The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

⁷ See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

⁸ See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 2a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary (Decision C(2020) 7115¹)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}
multiplied by
{country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see [Portal Reference Documents](#)).

HE and Euratom Research Infrastructure actions²

Type: unit costs

Units³: see (for each access provider and installation) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

Amount per unit^{*}: see (for each access provider and installation) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

* Amount calculated as follows:

For trans-national access:

$$\frac{\text{average annual total trans-national access costs to the installation (over past two years}^4\text{)}}{\text{average annual total quantity of trans-national access to the installation (over past two years}^5\text{)}}$$

For virtual access:

$$\frac{\text{total virtual access costs to the installation (over the last year}^6\text{)}}{\text{total quantity of virtual access to the installation (over the last year}^7\text{)}}$$

Euratom staff mobility costs⁸

Monthly living allowance

Type: unit costs

¹ Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

² [Decision](#) of 19 April 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for the costs of providing trans-national and virtual access in Research Infrastructure actions under the Horizon Europe Programme (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025).

³ Unit of access (e.g. beam hours, weeks of access, sample analysis) fixed by the access provider in proposal.

⁴ In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

⁵ In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

⁶ In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

⁷ In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

⁸ [Decision](#) of 15 March 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for mobility in co-fund actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025).

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit*: see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

* Amount calculated as follows from 1 January 2021:


{**EUR 4 300** multiplied by
country-specific correction coefficient** of the country where the staff member is seconded}⁹

**Country-specific correction coefficients as from 1 January 2021¹⁰

EU-Member States¹¹

Country / Place	Coefficient (%)
Bulgaria	59,1
Czech Rep.	85,2
Denmark	131,3
Germany	101,9
Bonn	95,8
Karlsruhe	98
Munich	113,9
Estonia	82,3
Ireland	129
Greece	81,4
Spain	94,2
France	120,5
Croatia	75,8
Italy	95
Varese	90,7
Cyprus	78,2
Latvia	77,5
Lithuania	76,6
Hungary	71,9
Malta	94,7
Netherlands	113,9
Austria	107,9
Poland	70,9
Portugal	91,1
Romania	66,6
Slovenia	86,1

⁹ Unit costs for living allowances are calculated by using a method of calculation similar to that applied for the secondment to the European Commission of seconded national experts (SNEs).

¹⁰  For the financial statements, the amount must be adjusted according to the actual place of secondment. The revised coefficients were adopted in the Decision authorising the use of unit costs for the Fusion Programme co-fund action under the Research and training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community 2021-2025. They are based on the 2020 Annual update of the remuneration and pensions of the officials and other servants of the European Union and the correction coefficients applied thereto (OJ C 428, 11.12.2020) to ensure purchasing power parity. The revised coefficient are applied as from 1 January 2021 through an amendment to the grant agreement.

¹¹ No correction coefficient shall be applicable in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Slovakia	80,6
Finland	118,4
Sweden	124,3

Third countries

Country/place	Coefficient (%)
China	82,2
India	72,3
Japan	111,8
Russia	92,7
South Korea	92,3
Switzerland	129,2
Ukraine	82,3
United Kingdom	97,6
United States	101,4 (New-York) 90,5 (Washington)

Mobility allowance

Type: Unit costs

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit: **EUR 600** per person-month; see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

Family allowance

Type: unit costs

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit: **EUR 660** per person-month; see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

Education allowance

Type: Unit costs

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit*: see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

*Amount calculated as follows from 1 January 2021:
{**EUR 283.82** x number of dependent children¹²}

¹² For the estimated budget (Annex 2): an average should be used. (⚠ For the financial statements, the number of children (and months) must be adjusted according to the actual family status at the moment the secondment starts.)

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERSITAET FUER BODENKULTUR WIEN (BOKU), PIC 999987357, established in GREGOR MENDEL STRASSE 33, WIEN 1180, Austria,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE PENTRU GEOLOGIE SI GEOECOLOGIE MARINA-GEOECOMAR (GEOECOMAR), PIC 999461617, established in DIMITRIE ONCIUL STREET 23-25, BUCHAREST 024053, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI (UGAL), PIC 999879784, established in Strada DOMNEASCA nr. 47, GALATI 800008, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU, POLJOPRIVREDNI FAKULTET NOVI SAD (UNSF),
PIC 986994013, established in TRG DOSITEJA OBRADOVICA 8, NOVI SAD 21000, Serbia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences (UNSPMF), PIC 997718624, established in Trg Dositeja Obradovica 3, Novi Sad 21000, Serbia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

SVEUCILISTE JOSIPA JURJA STROSSMAYERA U OSIJEKU (UNIOS), PIC 973870204,
established in TRG SVETOG TROJSTVA 3, OSIJEK 31000, Croatia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

PRIRODNO MATEMATICKI FAKULTET (FSM), PIC 999808392, established in
VISEGRADSKA 33, NIS 18 000, Serbia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ADMINISTRATIA NATIONALA DE METEOROLOGIE R.A. (ANM), PIC 999628457,
established in SOS. BUCURESTI-PLOIESTI 97, BUCURESTI SECTORUL 1 013686, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITÄT EICHSTÄTT-INGOLSTADT (KUEI), PIC 997154666,
established in Ostenstrasse 26-28, Eichstätt 85072, Germany,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ASOCIATIA WWF ROMANIA (WWF Romania), PIC 959320495, established in BD. TUDOR VLADIMIRESCU 29 SECTOR 5, BUCURESTI 050881, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

KOZEP-TISZA-VIDEKI VIZUGYI IGAZGATORSAG (KÖTIVIZIG), PIC 891679582,
established in BOLDOG SANDOR ISTVAN KRT 4, SZOLNOK 5000, Hungary,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, public research institution (ILESAS), PIC 999903937, established in Stefanikova 3, BRATISLAVA 814 99, Slovakia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS GEODESY AND GEOGRAPHY - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (NIGGG BAS), PIC 974642324, established in UL. ACAD G BONCHEV BL 3, SOFIA 1113, Bulgaria,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

POKRAJINSKI ZAVOD ZA ZASTITU PRIRODE (PZZP), PIC 925666345, established in RADNICKA 20A, NOVI SAD 21000, Serbia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED (F6S), PIC 900885658, established in 39 FITZWILLIAM PLACE, DUBLIN D02 ND61, Ireland,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ESZAK-MAGYARORSZAGI VIZUGYI IGAZGATOSAG (ÉMVIZIG), PIC 885594481,
established in VOROSMARTY MIHALY UTCA 77 PF 3, MISKOLC 3501, Hungary,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI (UNISOFIA), PIC 999887641, established in
BUL TZAR OSVOBODITEL 15, SOFIA 1504, Bulgaria,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

NEMZETI KOZSZOLGALATI EGYETEM (UPS), PIC 943340812, established in LUDOVIKATER 2, BUDAPEST 1083, Hungary,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

JAVNA USTANOVA UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE PODGORICA (UOM), PIC 999836328,
established in CETINJSKA 2, PODGORICA 81000, Montenegro,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU (UNSA), PIC 995549995, established in OBALA KULINA BANA 7, SARAJEVO 71000, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

FUNDATIA CENTRUL NATIONAL PENTRU DEZVOLTARE DURABILA (CNDD), PIC 968018291, established in STR HATMANUL ARBORE NR 21 ET 3 APT 6, BUCHAREST 011601, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (CSIC), PIC 999991722, established in CALLE SERRANO 117, MADRID 28006, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN EV (FVB-IGB), PIC 999927120, established in RUDOWER CHAUSSEE 17, BERLIN 12489, Germany,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

BRATISLAVSKE REGIONALNE OCHRANARSKEZDRUZENIE (BROZ), PIC 893396773,
established in NA RIVIERE 7/A, BRATISLAVA 841 04, Slovakia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

INSTITUT ZA VODE REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE (IZVRS), PIC 997225185, established in
EINSPIELERJEVA ULICA 6, LJUBLJANA 1000, Slovenia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FÜR UMWELTFORSCHUNG GMBH - UFZ (UFZ), PIC 999994632, established in PERMOSERSTRASSE 15, LEIPZIG 04318, Germany,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE DELTA DUNARII (INCDDD),
PIC 972472240, established in BABADAG ST 165, TULCEA 820112, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

VIA DONAU OSTERREICHISCHE WASSERSTRASSEN GESELLSCHAFT MBH (VIA DONAU), PIC 997972764, established in DONAU CITY STRASSE 1, WIEN 1220, Austria,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

MINISTERUL MEDIULUI, APELOR SI PADURILOR (MMAP), PIC 891929939, established in BULEVARDUL LIBERTATII 12, BUCURESTI 040129, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITOUTO THALASSIAS PROSTASIAS (AIMC), PIC 946984326,
established in POTAMI MESOKAMPOU MYTILINIOI 42, SAMOS 83103, Greece,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112736 — Restore4Life ('the Agreement')

between UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCURESTI (UB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'),
under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 4 HORIZON EUROPE MGA — MULTI + MONO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

	Eligible ¹ costs (per budget category)															EU contribution ²				Revenues			
	Direct costs															Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Total requested EU contribution	Income generated by the action	
	A. Personnel costs		B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories							E. Indirect costs ²	Funding rate % ³	Maximum EU contribution ⁴		Requested EU contribution					
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)		A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 Transnational access to research infrastructure unit costs	D.4 Virtual access to research infrastructure unit costs	[OPTION for HE PCP/PPPI: D.5 PCP/PPPI procurement costs]	[OPTION for Euratom Programme Cofund Actions: D.6 Euratom Cofund staff mobility costs]	[OPTION for HE ERC Grants: D.7 ERC additional funding]	[OPTION for HE ERC Grants: D.8 ERC additional funding (subcontracting, FSTP and internally invoiced goods and services)]	E. Indirect costs							
A.2 Natural persons under direct contract																							
A.3 Seconded persons																							
Forms of funding		Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs ⁵	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	/ Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	/ Unit costs ⁵	/ Unit costs ⁵	/ Actual costs	/ Unit costs ⁵	/ Actual costs	/ Actual costs	Flat-rate costs ⁶						
		a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	/ d1a	d2	/ d3	/ d4	/ d5	/ d6	/ d7	/ d8	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 +a+b+ c1 +c2 + c3 +d1a+d2+d3 +d4 +d5)+d6+ / +d7 / +d8)	f = a+b+c+d+e	U	g = f*U%	h	m	n
XX – [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]																							

The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:

The information provided is complete, reliable and true.

The costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).

The costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 19, 20 and 25).

For the last reporting period: that all the revenues have been declared (see Article 22).

① Please declare all eligible costs and contributions, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Only amounts that were declared in your individual financial statements can be taken into account lateron, in order to replace costs/contributions that are found to be ineligible.

¹ See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

² If you have also received an EU operating grant during this reporting period, you cannot claim indirect costs - unless you can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please contact us immediately via the Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

³ See Data Sheet for the reimbursement rate(s).

⁴ This is the *theoretical* amount of EU contribution to costs that the system calculates automatically (by multiplying the reimbursement rates by the costs declared). The amount you request (in the column 'requested EU contribution') may be less.

⁵ See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

⁶ See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 5

SPECIFIC RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)

Sensitive information with security recommendation

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

EU classified information

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444¹ and its implementing rules — until it is declassified.

Deliverables which contain EU classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving EU classified information may be subcontracted only with prior explicit written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission).

EU classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

ETHICS (— ARTICLE 14)

Ethics and research integrity

The beneficiaries must carry out the action in compliance with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity)

¹ Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

and

- applicable EU, international and national law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

No funding can be granted, within or outside the EU, for activities that are prohibited in all Member States. No funding can be granted in a Member State for an activity which is forbidden in that Member State.

The beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of persons, the right to non-discrimination, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the activities under the action have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the activities under the action do not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such modifications heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed)
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer, or
- lead to the destruction of human embryos (for example, for obtaining stem cells).

Activities involving research on human embryos or human embryonic stem cells may be carried out only if:

- they are set out in Annex 1 or
- the coordinator has obtained explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

In addition, the beneficiaries must respect the fundamental principle of research integrity — as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity².

This implies compliance with the following principles:

- reliability in ensuring the quality of research reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources
- honesty in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair and unbiased way

² European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies).

- respect for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment
- accountability for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts

and means that beneficiaries must ensure that persons carrying out research tasks follow the good research practices including ensuring, where possible, openness, reproducibility and traceability and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the Code.

Activities raising ethical issues must comply with the additional requirements formulated by the ethics panels (including after checks, reviews or audits; see Article 25).

Before starting an action task raising ethical issues, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities.

The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary, which shows that the documents cover the action tasks in question and includes the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned (if any).

VALUES (— ARTICLE 14)

Gender mainstreaming

The beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)

Definitions

Access rights — Rights to use results or background.

Dissemination — The public disclosure of the results by appropriate means, other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results, including by scientific publications in any medium.

Exploit(ation) — The use of results in further research and innovation activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including among other things, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities.

Fair and reasonable conditions — Appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for access, for example the actual or potential value of the results or background to which access is requested and/or the scope, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.

FAIR principles — ‘findability’, ‘accessibility’, ‘interoperability’ and ‘reusability’.

Open access — Online access to research outputs provided free of charge to the end-user.

Open science — An approach to the scientific process based on open cooperative work, tools and diffusing knowledge.

Research data management — The process within the research lifecycle that includes the organisation, storage, preservation, security, quality assurance, allocation of persistent identifiers (PIDs) and rules and procedures for sharing of data including licensing.

Research outputs — Results to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered results and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols, models, workflows and electronic notebooks.

Scope of the obligations

For this section, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ do not include affiliated entities (if any).

Agreement on background

The beneficiaries must identify in a written agreement the background as needed for implementing the action or for exploiting its results.

Where the call conditions restrict control due to strategic interests reasons, background that is subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions and that impact the exploitation of the results (i.e. would make the exploitation of the results subject to control or restrictions) must not be used and must be explicitly excluded from it in the agreement on background — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

Ownership of results

Results are owned by the beneficiaries that generate them.

However, two or more beneficiaries own results jointly if:

- they have jointly generated them and
- it is not possible to:
 - establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary, or
 - separate them for the purpose of applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection.

The joint owners must agree — in writing — on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership (**‘joint ownership agreement’**), to ensure compliance with their obligations under this Agreement.

Unless otherwise agreed in the joint ownership agreement or consortium agreement, each joint owner may grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly-owned results (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:

- at least 45 days advance notice and
- fair and reasonable compensation.

The joint owners may agree — in writing — to apply another regime than joint ownership.

If third parties (including employees and other personnel) may claim rights to the results, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that those rights can be exercised in a manner compatible with its obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must indicate the owner(s) of the results (results ownership list) in the final periodic report.

Protection of results

Beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must adequately protect their results — for an appropriate period and with appropriate territorial coverage — if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation, the legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries and any other legitimate interests.

Exploitation of results

Beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — use their best efforts to exploit their results directly or to have them exploited indirectly by another entity, in particular through transfer or licensing.

If, despite a beneficiary's best efforts, the results are not exploited within one year after the end of the action, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the granting authority) use the Horizon Results Platform to find interested parties to exploit the results.

If results are incorporated in a standard, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority or unless it is impossible) ask the standardisation body to include the funding statement (see Article 17) in (information related to) the standard.

Additional exploitation obligations

Where the call conditions impose additional exploitation obligations (including obligations linked to the restriction of participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons), the beneficiaries must comply with them — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Where the call conditions impose additional exploitation obligations in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must (if requested by the granting authority) grant for a limited period of time specified in the request, non-exclusive licences — under fair and reasonable conditions — to their results to legal entities that need the results to address the public emergency and commit to rapidly and broadly exploit the resulting products and services at fair and reasonable conditions. This provision applies up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Additional information obligation relating to standards

Where the call conditions impose additional information obligations relating to possible standardisation, the beneficiaries must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — inform the granting authority, if the results could reasonably be expected to contribute to European or international standards.

Transfer and licensing of results

Transfer of ownership

The beneficiaries may transfer ownership of their results, provided this does not affect compliance with their obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their obligations under the Agreement regarding their results are passed on to the new owner and that this new owner has the obligation to pass them on in any subsequent transfer.

Moreover, they must inform the other beneficiaries with access rights of the transfer at least 45 days in advance (or less if agreed in writing), unless agreed otherwise in writing for specifically identified third parties including affiliated entities or unless impossible under the applicable law. This notification must include sufficient information on the new owner to enable the beneficiaries concerned to assess the effects on their access rights. The beneficiaries may object within 30 days of receiving notification (or less if agreed in writing), if they can show that the transfer would adversely affect their access rights. In this case, the transfer may not take place until agreement has been reached between the beneficiaries concerned.

Granting licences

The beneficiaries may grant licences to their results (or otherwise give the right to exploit them), including on an exclusive basis, provided this does not affect compliance with their obligations.

Exclusive licences for results may be granted only if all the other beneficiaries concerned have waived their access rights.

Granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing — Horizon Europe actions

Where the call conditions in Horizon Europe actions provide for the right to object to transfers or licensing, the granting authority may — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — object to a transfer of ownership or the exclusive licensing of results, if:

- the beneficiaries which generated the results have received funding under the grant
- it is to a legal entity established in a non-EU country not associated with Horizon Europe, and
- the granting authority considers that the transfer or licence is not in line with EU interests.

Beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant an exclusive licence must formally notify the granting authority before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner or licensee and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or licence on EU interests, in particular regarding competitiveness as well as consistency with ethical principles and security considerations.

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the granting authority decides to object to a transfer or exclusive licence, it must formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information it has requested).

No transfer or licensing may take place in the following cases:

- pending the granting authority decision, within the period set out above
- if the granting authority objects
- until the conditions are complied with, if the granting authority objection comes with conditions.

A beneficiary may formally notify a request to waive the right to object regarding intended transfers or grants to a specifically identified third party, if measures safeguarding EU interests are in place. If the granting authority agrees, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

Granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing — Euratom actions

Where the call conditions in Euratom actions provide for the right to object to transfers or licensing, the granting authority may — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — object to a transfer of ownership or the exclusive or non-exclusive licensing of results, if:

- the beneficiaries which generated the results have received funding under the grant
- it is to a legal entity established in a non-EU country not associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2021-2025 and
- the granting authority considers that the transfer or licence is not in line with the EU interests.

Beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant a licence must formally notify the granting authority before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the results, the new owner or licensee and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or licence on EU interests, in particular regarding competitiveness as well as consistency with

ethical principles and security considerations (including the defence interests of the EU Member States under Article 24 of the Euratom Treaty).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the granting authority decides to object to a transfer or licence, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

No transfer or licensing may take place in the following cases:

- pending the granting authority decision, within the period set out above
- if the granting authority objects
- until the conditions are complied with, if the granting authority objection comes with conditions.

A beneficiary may formally notify a request to waive the right to object regarding intended transfers or grants to a specifically identified third party, if measures safeguarding EU interests are in place. If the granting authority agrees, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

Limitations to transfers and licensing due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons of the EU and its Member States

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons, the beneficiaries may not transfer ownership of their results or grant licences to third parties which are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless they have requested and received prior approval by the granting authority.

The request must:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or license on the strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States.

The granting authority may request additional information.

Access rights to results and background

Exercise of access rights — Waiving of access rights — No sub-licensing

Requests to exercise access rights and the waiver of access rights must be in writing.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing with the beneficiary granting access, access rights do not include the right to sub-license.

If a beneficiary is no longer involved in the action, this does not affect its obligations to grant access.

If a beneficiary defaults on its obligations, the beneficiaries may agree that that beneficiary no longer has access rights.

Access rights for implementing the action

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — on a royalty-free basis — to background needed to implement their own tasks under the action, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement —:

- informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions, or
- agreed with the other beneficiaries that access would not be on a royalty-free basis.

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — on a royalty-free basis — to results needed for implementing their own tasks under the action.

Access rights for exploiting the results

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — under fair and reasonable conditions — to results needed for exploiting their results.

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — under fair and reasonable conditions — to background needed for exploiting their results, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement — informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions.

Requests for access must be made — unless agreed otherwise in writing — up to one year after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Access rights for entities under the same control

Unless agreed otherwise in writing by the beneficiaries, access to results and, subject to the restrictions referred to above (if any), background must also be granted — under fair and reasonable conditions — to entities that:

- are established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country
- are under the direct or indirect control of another beneficiary, or under the same direct or indirect control as that beneficiary, or directly or indirectly controlling that beneficiary and
- need the access to exploit the results of that beneficiary.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing, such requests for access must be made by the entity directly to the beneficiary concerned.

Requests for access must be made — unless agreed otherwise in writing — up to one year after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Access rights for the granting authority, EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies and national authorities to results for policy purposes — Horizon Europe actions

In Horizon Europe actions, the beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for developing, implementing and monitoring EU policies or programmes. Such access rights do not extend to beneficiaries' background.

Such access rights are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

For actions under the cluster 'Civil Security for Society', such access rights also extend to national authorities of EU Member States for developing, implementing and monitoring their policies or programmes in this area. In this case, access is subject to a bilateral agreement to define specific conditions ensuring that:

- the access rights will be used only for the intended purpose and
- appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place.

Moreover, the requesting national authority or EU institution, body, office or agency (including the granting authority) must inform all other national authorities of such a request.

Access rights for the granting authority, Euratom institutions, funding bodies or the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy — Euratom actions

In Euratom actions, the beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, Euratom institutions, funding bodies or the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy for developing, implementing and monitoring Euratom policies and programmes or for compliance with obligations assumed through international cooperation with non-EU countries and international organisations.

Such access rights include the right to authorise third parties to use the results in public procurement and the right to sub-license and are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

Additional access rights

Where the call conditions impose additional access rights, the beneficiaries must comply with them.

**COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION, OPEN SCIENCE AND VISIBILITY (—
ARTICLE 17)**

Dissemination

Dissemination of results

The beneficiaries must disseminate their results as soon as feasible, in a publicly available format, subject to any restrictions due to the protection of intellectual property, security rules or legitimate interests.

A beneficiary that intends to disseminate its results must give at least 15 days advance notice to the other beneficiaries (unless agreed otherwise), together with sufficient information on the results it will disseminate.

Any other beneficiary may object within (unless agreed otherwise) 15 days of receiving notification, if it can show that its legitimate interests in relation to the results or background would be significantly harmed. In such cases, the results may not be disseminated unless appropriate steps are taken to safeguard those interests.

Additional dissemination obligations

Where the call conditions impose additional dissemination obligations, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

Open Science

Open science: open access to scientific publications

The beneficiaries must ensure open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to their results. In particular, they must ensure that:

- at the latest at the time of publication, a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication, is deposited in a trusted repository for scientific publications
- immediate open access is provided to the deposited publication via the repository, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) or a licence with equivalent rights; for monographs and other long-text formats, the licence may exclude commercial uses and derivative works (e.g. CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND) and
- information is given via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the scientific publication.

Beneficiaries (or authors) must retain sufficient intellectual property rights to comply with the open access requirements.

Metadata of deposited publications must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent, in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: publication (author(s), title, date of publication, publication venue); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the publication, the authors involved in the action and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the publication.

Only publication fees in full open access venues for peer-reviewed scientific publications are eligible for reimbursement.

Open science: research data management

The beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly, in line with the FAIR principles and by taking all of the following actions:

- establish a data management plan ('DMP') (and regularly update it)

- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, deposit the data in a trusted repository; if required in the call conditions, this repository must be federated in the EOSC in compliance with EOSC requirements
- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, ensure open access — via the repository — to the deposited data, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public License (CC BY) or Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or a licence with equivalent rights, following the principle ‘as open as possible as closed as necessary’, unless providing open access would in particular:
 - be against the beneficiary’s legitimate interests, including regarding commercial exploitation, or
 - be contrary to any other constraints, in particular the EU competitive interests or the beneficiary’s obligations under this Agreement; if open access is not provided (to some or all data), this must be justified in the DMP
- provide information via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data.

Metadata of deposited data must be open under a Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent (to the extent legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded), in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: datasets (description, date of deposit, author(s), venue and embargo); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the dataset, the authors involved in the action, and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for related publications and other research outputs.

Open science: additional practices

Where the call conditions impose additional obligations regarding open science practices, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

Where the call conditions impose additional obligations regarding the validation of scientific publications, the beneficiaries must provide (digital or physical) access to data or other results needed for validation of the conclusions of scientific publications, to the extent that their legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded (and unless they already provided the (open) access at publication).

Where the call conditions impose additional open science obligations in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must (if requested by the granting authority) immediately deposit any research output in a repository and provide open access to it under a CC BY licence, a Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent. As an exception, if the access would be against the beneficiaries’ legitimate interests, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses — under fair and reasonable conditions — to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency and commit to rapidly and broadly exploit the resulting products and services at fair and reasonable conditions. This provision applies up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities

Unless excluded by the call conditions, the beneficiaries must provide and regularly update a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities.

SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)

Implementation in case of restrictions due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, the beneficiaries must ensure that none of the entities that participate as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

The beneficiaries must moreover ensure that any cooperation with entities established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) does not affect the strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States.

Recruitment and working conditions for researchers

The beneficiaries must take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers³, in particular regarding:

- working conditions
- transparent recruitment processes based on merit, and
- career development.

The beneficiaries must ensure that researchers and all participants involved in the action are aware of them.

³ Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).



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