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EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

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

GRANT AGREEMENT

Project 101112859 — NATALIE

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':

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU), PIC 997494069, established in RUE DE MADRID 21, PARIS 75008, France,

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

2. **KWR WATER BV (KWR)**, PIC 998279769, established in GRONINGENHAVEN 7, NIEUWEGEIN 3433 PE, Netherlands,

3. **FUNDACIO EURECAT (EUT)**, PIC 928030235, established in AVENIDA UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA 23, CERDANYOLA DEL VALLES (BARCELONA) 08290, Spain,

4. **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP SRL (BDG)**, PIC 964360324, established in STRADA PLANTELOR 80 AP 2, BUCURESTI 023973, Romania,

5. **ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION (NTUA)**, PIC 999978142, established in HEROON POLYTECHNIOU 9 ZOGRAPHOU CAMPUS, ATHINA 157 80, Greece,

6. **AQUATEC PROYECTOS PARA EL SECTOR DEL AGUA SA (AQUA)**, PIC 972702033, established in CALLE SANTA LEONOR 39, MADRID 28037, Spain,

7. **PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS (UTH)**, PIC 986152150, established in ARGONAFTON FILELLINON, VOLOS 38221, Greece,

8. **I-CATALIST SL (ICA)**, PIC 937459605, established in CALLE BORNI 20, LAS ROZAS DE MADRID 28232, Spain,

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9. **UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA (ULL)**, PIC 999825270, established in PADRE HERRERA S/N, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA 38200, Spain,

10. **BALTIJAS VIDES FORUMS (BEF)**, PIC 999533106, established in ANTONIJAS IELA 3-8, RIGA LV-1010, Latvia,

11. **ASOCIATIA PARCUL NATURAL VACARESTI (VNPA)**, PIC 901323613, established in SECTOR 3 STR GH. PETRASCU 53 BL PM 53 SC A ET 5 AP 67, BUCHAREST 031592, Romania,

12. **FONDS NATURE 2050 (NAT2050)**, PIC 885509218, established in AVENUE DE CLICHY 141, PARIS 75017, France,

13. **AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (CSIC)**, PIC 999991722, established in CALLE SERRANO 117, MADRID 28006, Spain,

14. **UNIVERSITETET I TROMSOE - NORGES ARKTISKE UNIVERSITET (UiT)**, PIC 999874643, established in HANSINE HANSENS VEG 14, TROMSO 9019, Norway,

15. **LATVIJAS BIOZINATNU UN TEHNOLOGIJU UNIVERSITATE (LLU)**, PIC 999933328, established in LIELA IELA 2, JELGAVA LV-3001, Latvia,

16. **ZEMGALES PLANOSANAS REGIONS (ZPR)**, PIC 950629877, established in KATOLU IELA 2B, JELGAVA 3001, Latvia,

17. **WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS FORDEVELOPMENT SL (WE&B)**, PIC 929744807, established in PLAZA SANT JAUME 10 PLANTA 2 PUERTA 2, SANT QUIRZE DEL VALLES 08192, Spain,

18. **ADVIESBUREAU INZAKE GRONDWATERTECHNIEKEN (AGT)**, PIC 883398692, established in PRINS BOUDEWIJNLAAN 7, KONTICH 2550, Belgium,

19. **AQUAFIN NV (AQUAFIN)**, PIC 999514773, established in DIJKSTRAAT 8, AARTSELAAR 2630, Belgium,

20. **VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB)**, PIC 999902094, established in PLEINLAAN 2, BRUSSEL 1050, Belgium,

21. **VLAAMSE MAATSCHAPPIJ VOOR WATERVOORZIENING (DeWater)**, PIC 975471965, established in VOORUITGANGSTRAAT 189, BRUSSEL 1030, Belgium,

22. **ENTIDAD PUBLICA EMPRESARIAL CONSEJO INSULAR DE LA ENERGIA DE GRAN CANARIA (CIEGC)**, PIC 906559770, established in AVDA DE LA FERIA 1, LAS PALMAS 35012, Spain,

23. **AYUNTAMIENTO DE SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA (AyLL)**, PIC 883215653, established in CALLE OBISPO REY REDONDO, 1, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA 38201, Spain,

24. **CANARAGUA CONCESIONES SA (CAN)**, PIC 887693852, established in AVDA MANUEL HERMOSO ROJAS 4 1 - OFI, TENERIFE 38003, Spain,

25. **UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS (UIB)**, PIC 999846707, established in CARRETERA DE VALLDEMOSSA KM 7.5, PALMA DE MALLORCA 07122, Spain,

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26. **SYNDICAT MIXTE D'AMENAGEMENT ET DE GESTION DU PARC NATUREL REGIONAL DE MILLEVACHES EN LIMOUSIN (PNR)**, PIC 885143237, established in MAISON DU PARC 7 ROUTE D'AUBUSSON, MILLEVACHES 19290, France,

27. **SYNDICAT D AMENAGEMENT DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE (SABV)**, PIC 885149445, established in 38 AVENUE DU PRESIDENT WILSON, AIXE SUR VIENNE 87700, France,

28. **ETABLISSEMENT PUBLIC TERRITORIAL DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE (EPTBV)**, PIC 885264875, established in PARC ESTER TECHNOPOLE 20 RUE ATLANTIS, LIMOGES 87280, France,

29. **CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA ACQUE RISORGIVE (CBAR)**, PIC 926527414, established in VIA ROVERETO 12, VENEZIA 30132, Italy,

30. **THETIS SPA (THETIS)**, PIC 997579235, established in SESTIERE CASTELLO 2737F, VENEZIA 30122, Italy,

31. **BIRZU RAJONO SAVIVALDYBES ADMINISTRACIJA (BIRZAI)**, PIC 941221265, established in VYTAUTO G 38, BIRZAI 41143, Lithuania,

32. **MATIS OHF (MATIS)**, PIC 999766100, established in VINLANDSLEID 12, REYKJAVIK 113, Iceland,

33. **SECTORUL 4 AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCURESTI (MS4)**, PIC 883394715, established in BLD GEORGE COSBUC 6-16, BUCURESTI 040532, Romania,

34. **FIELD FACTORS BV (FF)**, PIC 920747766, established in VAN DER BURGHWEG 1, DELFT 2628 CS, Netherlands,

35. **WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE GREECE (WWFGreece)**, PIC 972382418, established in LEMPESI 21, Athens 11743, Greece,

36. **DIMOS CHALKIDEON (CHALKIS)**, PIC 930610629, established in FARMAKIDOU 15, CHALKIDA 341 00, Greece,

37. **UNIVERSITA IUAV DI VENEZIA (IUAV)**, PIC 998948293, established in SANTA CROCE TOLENTINI 191, VENEZIA 30135, Italy,

38. **PERIFEREIA STEREAS ELLADAS (PSTE)**, PIC 929489794, established in YPSILANDI 1, LAMIA 35131, 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.

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The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

Annex 1	Description of the action[1]
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.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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DATA SHEET

1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
NATALIE addresses the risks posed by climate change and its impacts and proposes to advance the concepts of "ecosystem-based adaptation" in Europe combined with climate resilient development pathways, as the means for impact driven Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), to accelerate and mainstreaming the adoption of NBS for resilience to climate change, which is also the cornerstone identified in the recent IPCC AR6 WGII Report. NATALIE will deliver innovative and practical innovations in co-creation of solutions and stakeholder engagement, modelling, testing, monitoring and validation mechanisms that will support regions and municipalities to plan and develop adaptation actions bringing along valuable knowledge and experience as actionable knowledge for adaptation and impact-driven NBS. To achieve this goal, NATALIE will develop a transformative NBS booster pack of 25 solutions (innovative actions that address the key six levers for transformative change: (1) socially acceptable, smart and financial innovative solutions; (2) societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement; (3) larger systemic solutions at regional level; 4) monitoring, evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of solutions; 5) pre-feasibility study; 6) evidence-based outcomes and recommendations). The main goal is to accelerate and foster the mainstreaming of NBS, by forming an ecosystem based adaptation for regional resilience. The booster Innovation Package includes innovative technical, modelling and IT solutions (including an innovative NBS knowledge booster and digital twin), governance, policy recommendations at EU and regional level, financing and public engagement transformative solutions. 18 NBS measures will be demonstrated at 8 case studies, in different biogeographical regions of Europe in Greece, Romania, Latvia, Canary Islands, Belgium (Flanders), France, Norway and Italy (Veneto region), as well as five follower regions in Iceland, the Balearic Islands, Romania, France and Lithuania).

Keywords:

- Climate change adaptation
- Biodiversity conservation
- Environment, Pollution & Climate
- Integrated management of water
- Sustainable development and nature protection
- Nature-based solutions
- Green financing; Digital Twins; Artificial Intelligence; Resilience assessment; Co-creation and stakeholder engagement; Citizen science

Project number: 101112859

Project name: Accelerating and mainstreaming transformative NATure-bAsed solutions to enhance resiLIEence to climate change for diverse bio-geographical European regions

Project acronym: NATALIE

Call: HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01

Topic: HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01-06

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: fixed date: 1 September 2023

Project end date: 31 August 2028

Project duration: 60 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

2. Participants

List of participants:

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N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	OIEAU	OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU	FR	997494069	1 528 062.50	1 528 062.50
2	BEN	KWR	KWR WATER BV	NL	998279769	870 000.00	870 000.00
3	BEN	EUT	FUNDACIO EURECAT	ES	928030235	595 875.00	595 875.00
4	BEN	BDG	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP SRL	RO	964360324	349 700.00	244 790.00
5	BEN	NTUA	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	EL	999978142	691 875.00	691 875.00
6	BEN	AQUA	AQUATEC PROYECTOS PARA EL SECTOR DEL AGUA SA	ES	972702033	934 175.00	653 922.50
7	BEN	UTH	PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS	EL	986152150	719 375.00	719 375.00
8	BEN	ICA	I-CATALIST SL	ES	937459605	566 750.00	396 725.00
9	BEN	ULL	UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA	ES	999825270	382 500.00	382 500.00
10	BEN	BEF	BALTIJAS VIDES FORUMS	LV	999533106	296 250.00	296 250.00
11	BEN	VNPA	ASOCIATIA PARCUL NATURAL VACARESTI	RO	901323613	828 125.00	828 125.00
12	BEN	NAT2050	FONDS NATURE 2050	FR	885509218	380 075.25	380 075.25
13	BEN	CSIC	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES	999991722	417 390.00	417 390.00
14	BEN	UiT	UNIVERSITETET I TROMSOE - NORGES ARKTISKE UNIVERSITET	NO	999874643	878 750.00	878 750.00
15	BEN	LLU	LATVIJAS BIOZINATNU UN TEHNOLOGIJU UNIVERSITATE	LV	999933328	234 125.00	234 125.00
16	BEN	ZPR	ZEMGALES PLANOSANAS REGIONS	LV	950629877	172 500.00	172 500.00
17	BEN	WE&B	WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS FORDEVELOPMENT SL	ES	929744807	449 875.00	314 912.50
18	BEN	AGT	ADVIESBUREAU INZAKE GRONDWATERTECHNIEKEN	BE	883398692	148 437.50	103 906.25
19	BEN	AQUAFIN	AQUAFIN NV	BE	999514773	139 930.00	97 951.00
20	BEN	VUB	VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL	BE	999902094	183 125.00	183 125.00
21	BEN	DeWater	VLAAMSE MAATSCHAPPIJ VOOR WATERVOORZIENING	BE	975471965	555 937.50	389 156.25
22	BEN	CIEGC	ENTIDAD PUBLICA EMPRESARIAL CONSEJO INSULAR DE LA ENERGIA DE GRAN CANARIA	ES	906559770	150 825.00	150 825.00
23	BEN	AyLL	AYUNTAMIENTO DE SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA	ES	883215653	100 250.00	100 250.00
24	BEN	CAN	CANARAGUA CONCESIONES SA	ES	887693852	357 250.00	250 075.00
25	BEN	UIB	UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS	ES	999846707	305 850.00	305 850.00
26	BEN	PNR	SYNDICAT MIXTE D'AMENAGEMENT ET DE GESTION DU PARC NATUREL REGIONAL DE MILLEVACHES EN LIMOUSIN	FR	885143237	352 500.00	352 500.00
27	BEN	SABV	SYNDICAT D AMENAGEMENT DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE	FR	885149445	145 000.00	145 000.00
28	BEN	EPTBV	ETABLISSEMENT PUBLIC TERRITORIAL DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE	FR	885264875	727 500.00	727 500.00
29	BEN	CBAR	CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA ACQUE RISORGIVE	IT	926527414	498 062.50	498 062.50
30	BEN	THETIS	THETIS SPA	IT	997579235	348 500.00	243 950.00
31	BEN	BIRZAI	BIRZU RAJONO SAVIVALDYBES ADMINISTRACIJA	LT	941221265	244 375.00	244 375.00
32	BEN	MATIS	MATIS OHF	IS	999766100	347 687.50	347 687.50
33	BEN	MS4	SECTORUL 4 AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCURESTI	RO	883394715	223 000.00	223 000.00
34	BEN	FF	FIELD FACTORS BV	NL	920747766	407 975.00	285 582.50
35	BEN	WWFGreece	WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE GREECE	EL	972382418	350 312.50	350 312.50
36	BEN	CHALKIS	DIMOS CHALKIDEON	EL	930610629	100 000.00	100 000.00
37	BEN	IUAV	UNIVERSITA IUAV DI VENEZIA	IT	998948293	207 250.00	207 250.00

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38	BEN	PSTE	PERIFEREIA STEREAS ELLADAS	EL	929489794	121 875.00	121 875.00
39	AP	GIB	STIFTUNG GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE BASEL	CH	920286919	0.00	0.00
40	AP	IISD-Europe	International Institute for Sustainable Development - Europe	CH	942602060	0.00	0.00
41	AP	UNEXE	THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	UK	999864555	0.00	0.00
42	AP	EARTHWATCH	CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRUST	UK	929081133	0.00	0.00
Total						16 311 045.25	15 033 486.25

Coordinator:

– OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU)

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)
16 311 045.25	70, 100	15 033 486.25	15 033 486.25

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.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:

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- Travel: Actual costs
- Accommodation: Actual costs
- Subsistence: Actual costs

- Equipment: depreciation only

- 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
1	1	12	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
2	13	24	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
3	25	42	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
4	43	60	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Prefinancing payment	
Type	Amount
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	6 013 394.50

Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): Yes

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MIM contribution: 5% of the maximum grant amount (751 674.31), 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 condititions (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:

FR7610558045071254110020044

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 ≥ EUR 430 000.00

Special threshold for beneficiaries with a systems and process audit(see Article 24): financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs ≥ 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)

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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)

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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 2018/1046[4] 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".

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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 2017/1371[5] and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995[6], 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 2988/95[7].

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 **101112859 — NATALIE** ('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 grant[8] 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".

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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 entities[9] 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.

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- 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)

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(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:

<u>Direct costs</u>

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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-

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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 enterprises[11] 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.

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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.

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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.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.

<u>Indirect costs</u>

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).

<u>Contributions</u>

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:

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(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 grant[12] 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.

[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".

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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 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.

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(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)

[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."

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- 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

The following entities which cooperate with a beneficiary will participate in the action as 'associated partners':

- **STIFTUNG GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE BASEL (GIB)**, PIC 920286919
- **International Institute for Sustainable Development - Europe (IISD-Europe)**, PIC 942602060
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER (UNEXE)**, PIC 999864555
- **CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRUST (EARTHWATCH)**, PIC 929081133

Associated partners must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 in accordance with Article 11. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for their tasks are not eligible.

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interests), 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 associated partners.

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 associated partners.

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.

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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/EC[14]
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations

[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).

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(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).

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

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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)

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- 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

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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:

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(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 2015/444[15] 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

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

[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).

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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 2018/1725[16].

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 2016/679[17]).

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.

[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).

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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:

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(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.

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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

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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.

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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

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(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

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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).

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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

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- 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:

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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:

{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

minus

{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)}}.

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

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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:

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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:

{final grant amount

minus

{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)}}.

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,

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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:

{{{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

divided by

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.

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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:

{{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

divided by

total accepted EU contribution for the action}

multiplied by

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.

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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 2015/2366[18] 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

[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).

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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

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:

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(a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC[19] (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 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).

[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).

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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.

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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:

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- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013[20] and No 2185/96[21]

- 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).

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

[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).

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(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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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,

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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).

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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.)

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(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:

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- 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

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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.

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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 2988/95[22]).

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.

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

[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).

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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.

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ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71[23], 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
- 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.

[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).

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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

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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.

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SIGNATURES

For the coordinator

Stephanie Laronde with ECAS id n0031t16 signed in the Participant Portal on 22/05/2023 at 09:32:32 (transaction id SigId-55036-L6UwgyVrzLjJIjOKY1aKczNdzZb8wwvZt7zRszo2jg34nfuPwunpju82LHwcgb9qlmfPMqmZuKDzPzfk8wC9JawO-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-GYcGSq2HvFm07ti6j4t6NU7ie8sjnx6e9o4aIX8VNbdJ7Fiq0GZbXsIJcB7NMuIzPNTUfj1bKIreFu3pdhzsDI). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.22 09:32:37 CEST

For the granting authority

Signed by Tereza BUDNAKOVA with ECAS id koudete as an authorised representative on 22-05-2023 22:48:21 (transaction id SigId-67062-q2cOjSJzYdbQqZFJ2HJMibzTbe9RwzJPU9eh8PMHtF9uQd14mhU08EDqx2F8Py6kK6EZMitzn5wA6MM4nfUQBzd-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-YpPJZJR2ItN0eWV3zhZoNd67LMaGks9MmVxiXWms51TazxeHOe8oeyi2r5zLWGcTCwu7gcZaewM1nizuFbgKF1i)
2023.05.22 22:49:05 CEST

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ANNEX 1

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Description of the action (DoA)

Part A

Part B

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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:	101112859
Project name:	Accelerating and mainstreaming transformative NATure-bAsed solutions to enhance resiLIEence to climate change for diverse bio-geographical European regions
Project acronym:	NATALIE
Call:	HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01
Topic:	HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01-06
Type of action:	HORIZON-IA
Service:	CINEA/C/01
Project starting date:	fixed date: 1 September 2023
Project duration:	60 months

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List of participants 3
List of work packages 6
Staff effort 26
List of deliverables 29
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes) 47
List of critical risks 48
Project reviews 52

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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.

NATALIE addresses the risks posed by climate change and its impacts and proposes to advance the concepts of "ecosystem-based adaptation" in Europe combined with climate resilient development pathways, as the means for impact driven Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), to accelerate and mainstreaming the adoption of NBS for resilience to climate change, which is also the cornerstone identified in the recent IPCC AR6 WGII Report. NATALIE will deliver innovative and practical innovations in co-creation of solutions and stakeholder engagement, modelling, testing, monitoring and validation mechanisms that will support regions and municipalities to plan and develop adaptation actions bringing along valuable knowledge and experience as actionable knowledge for adaptation and impact-driven NBS.
To achieve this goal, NATALIE will develop a transformative NBS booster pack of 25 solutions (innovative actions that address the key six levers for transformative change: (1) socially acceptable, smart and financial innovative solutions; (2) societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement; (3) larger systemic solutions at regional level; 4) monitoring, evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of solutions; 5) pre-feasibility study; 6) evidence-based outcomes and recommendations). The main goal is to accelerate and foster the mainstreaming of NBS, by forming an ecosystem based adaptation for regional resilience. The booster Innovation Package includes innovative technical, modelling and IT solutions (including an innovative NBS knowledge booster and digital twin), governance, policy recommendations at EU and regional level, financing and public engagement transformative solutions. 18 NBS measures will be demonstrated at 8 case studies, in different biogeographical regions of Europe in Greece, Romania, Latvia, Canary Islands, Belgium (Flanders), France, Norway and Italy (Veneto region), as well as five follower regions in Iceland, the Balearic Islands, Romania, France and Lithuania).

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	OIEAU	OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU	FR	997494069
2	BEN	KWR	KWR WATER BV	NL	998279769
3	BEN	EUT	FUNDACIO EURECAT	ES	928030235
4	BEN	BDG	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP SRL	RO	964360324
5	BEN	NTUA	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	EL	999978142
6	BEN	AQUA	AQUATEC PROYECTOS PARA EL SECTOR DEL AGUA SA	ES	972702033
7	BEN	UTH	PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS	EL	986152150
8	BEN	ICA	I-CATALIST SL	ES	937459605
9	BEN	ULL	UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA	ES	999825270
10	BEN	BEF	BALTIJAS VIDES FORUMS	LV	999533106
11	BEN	VNPA	ASOCIATIA PARCUL NATURAL VACARESTI	RO	901323613
12	BEN	NAT2050	FONDS NATURE 2050	FR	885509218

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PARTICIPANTS

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
13	BEN	CSIC	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES	999991722
14	BEN	UiT	UNIVERSITETET I TROMSOE - NORGES ARKTISKE UNIVERSITET	NO	999874643
15	BEN	LLU	LATVIJAS BIOZINATNU UN TEHNOLOGIJU UNIVERSITATE	LV	999933328
16	BEN	ZPR	ZEMGALES PLANOSANAS REGIONS	LV	950629877
17	BEN	WE&B	WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS FORDEVELOPMENT SL	ES	929744807
18	BEN	AGT	ADVIESBUREAU INZAKE GRONDWATERTECHNIEKEN	BE	883398692
19	BEN	AQUAFIN	AQUAFIN NV	BE	999514773
20	BEN	VUB	VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL	BE	999902094
21	BEN	DeWater	VLAAMSE MAATSCHAPPIJ VOOR WATERVOORZIENING	BE	975471965
22	BEN	CIEGC	ENTIDAD PUBLICA EMPRESARIAL CONSEJO INSULAR DE LA ENERGIA DE GRAN CANARIA	ES	906559770
23	BEN	AyLL	AYUNTAMIENTO DE SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA	ES	883215653
24	BEN	CAN	CANARAGUA CONCESIONES SA	ES	887693852
25	BEN	UIB	UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS	ES	999846707
26	BEN	PNR	SYNDICAT MIXTE D'AMENAGEMENT ET DE GESTION DU PARC NATUREL REGIONAL DE MILLEVACHES EN LIMOUSIN	FR	885143237
27	BEN	SABV	SYNDICAT D AMENAGEMENT DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE	FR	885149445
28	BEN	EPTBV	ETABLISSEMENT PUBLIC TERRITORIAL DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE	FR	885264875
29	BEN	CBAR	CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA ACQUE RISORGIVE	IT	926527414
30	BEN	THETIS	THETIS SPA	IT	997579235
31	BEN	BIRZAI	BIRZU RAJONO SAVIVALDYBES ADMINISTRACIJA	LT	941221265
32	BEN	MATIS	MATIS OHF	IS	999766100
33	BEN	MS4	SECTORUL 4 AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCURESTI	RO	883394715
34	BEN	FF	FIELD FACTORS BV	NL	920747766
35	BEN	WWFGreece	WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE GREECE	EL	972382418
36	BEN	CHALKIS	DIMOS CHALKIDEON	EL	930610629
37	BEN	IUAV	UNIVERSITA IUAV DI VENEZIA	IT	998948293

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Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
38	BEN	PSTE	PERIFEREIA STEREAS ELLADAS	EL	929489794
39	AP	GIB	STIFTUNG GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE BASEL	CH	920286919
40	AP	IISD-Europe	International Institute for Sustainable Development - Europe	CH	942602060
41	AP	UNEXE	THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	UK	999864555
42	AP	EARTHWATCH	CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRUST	UK	929081133

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LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

Work packages *Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.*						
Work Package No	**Work Package name**	**Lead Beneficiary**	**Effort (Person-Months)**	**Start Month**	**End Month**	**Deliverables**
WP1	Project Management	1 - OIEAU	125.00	1	60	D1.1 – Info-pack for internal communication (tools/procedure, eg. internal collaboration platform) D1.2 – Quality Assurance, Risk management and Impact monitoring D1.3 – Initial Data Management Plan D1.4 – Privacy, ethics and security requirements D1.5 – Intermediate Data Management Plan D1.6 – Final Data Management Plan
WP2	Co-creation of transformative solutions and mainstreaming of NBSs	7 - UTH	258.50	1	60	D2.1 – Initial stakeholder profiling and mapping D2.2 – Stakeholder profiling and mapping: visual and interactive maps D2.3 – Analysing current NDC practices and defining pathways for incorporating NBS targets in countries D2.4 – Citizen science as a tool for engagement - V1 D2.5 – Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning midterm version D2.6 – Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning final version D2.7 – Citizen science as a tool for engagement final version

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Work packages

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Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP3	Methodologies, models, resilience assessment tools	6 - AQUA	165.00	1	60	D3.1 – Regional climate and socio-economic scenarios D3.2 – NATALIE tools to assess NbS performance and climate resilience D3.3 – Co-creation tools and metrics for NBS deployment pathways D3.4 – Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs. D3.5 – Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs - final version
WP4	NBS Knowledge Booster: A digital twin for the implementation and monitoring of NBS	3 - EUT	165.00	1	60	D4.1 – NBS open Data space D4.2 – Small data empowerment and hybrid modelling for the design and monitoring of NBS D4.3 – NBS knowledge booster deployment and validation D4.4 – NBS KPI monitoring and assesment tool
WP5	Case studies: Coordination, Implementation, Testing, Monitoring and Validation activities	2 - KWR	659.00	1	60	D5.1 – Initial Roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies D5.2 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies - update 1 D5.3 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #2 D5.4 – Report on the validation of the

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Work packages

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Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
						solutions for all the Demonstration Sites and recommendations at EU level for best practices D5.5 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #3 D5.6 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies Final version
WP6	Investing in Ecosystem based adaptation for Climate Resilient Development	8 - ICA	458.00	1	60	D6.1 – Ecosystem based adaptation Investment Bundle D6.2 – Recommendations and key takeaways for the Funding and Finance Community of Practice D6.3 – Exploitation Roadmap
WP7	Building NBS communication and dissemination ecosystem	1 - OIEAU	171.50	1	60	D7.1 – NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring D7.2 – First policy brief D7.3 – First social innovation factsheet D7.4 – NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues D7.5 – NATALIE Liaison strategy D7.6 – NATALIE Liaison strategy - Final version D7.7 – NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues Final version D7.8 – Second social innovation factsheet D7.9 – NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Midterm update

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Work packages

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Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
						D7.10 – NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Final version D7.11 – Second policy brief D7.12 – Third policy brief D7.13 – Fourth policy brief

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Work package WP1 – Project Management

Work Package Number	WP1	Lead Beneficiary	1. OIEAU
Work Package Name	Project Management		
Start Month	1	End Month	60

Objectives
WP1 main objectives include the: (i) realization of all activities related to the integrated project management approach, including risk management and quality assurance, (ii) identification and management of privacy, security, ethics issues.

Description
Leader: Sonia Siauve (OiEau), Co-Lead: Lydia Vamvakeridou-Lyroudia (KWR) Task 1.1 Project day to day management Lead: OiEau, Participants: all, (M1-M60) OiEau, as Project Coordinator, will be in charge of the administration of the project, in accordance with the Grant Agreement (GA) and the Consortium Agreement (CA) (incl. decision-making procedure) agreed by all Consortium partners, which will be signed before the project starts. It will consist of: i) Setting-up internal communication tools and procedures, including consortium mailing list, info-pack with internal communication mechanisms, guidelines for meetings agendas, standard templates for deliverables' reporting and for communication actions to be used by all partners (D1.1); ii) Selection of experts for the External Advisory Board (EAB) which represents MS1and that will be reported in D1.1 (M3); iii) Continuous monitoring of the progress of the project and corrective actions where required; iv) Monthly online management meetings between the Coordinator and WP Leaders, Bi-annual project management meetings to review progress of each Task; v) Organisation of bi-monthly online meeting for each WP and plenary teleconferences (web-based meetings) for communication with the consortium partners, as needed. Vi) Legal management, including maintenance of GA and CA, as described in the management part, and corresponding legal issues, including monitoring of IPR; vii) Preparation and consolidation of project periodic reports; vii) Financial management (control of expenses, planning and execution of payments, financial reporting); viii) Guiding partners, questions and answers (partners helpdesk); ix) Timely communication with the EC; x) Organisation and post-processing of project meetings. 6 project meetings are planned for the duration of the project (kick-off, final event and annual consortium meetings in-between), hosted by different partners. WP meetings and events with stakeholders or public events will be done at the same occasion (as back-to-back as possible); xi) Project management will be facilitated through the use of digital tools, apps and shared folders. In addition, partners meetings online and in presence will be facilitated by key experts, to make the meetings more effective and strategic. The last event will consist of the final conference (MS13). Task 1.2 Quality assurance, risk management, project and impacts monitoring (KPI) Lead: KWR/OiEau, Participants: all, (M1-M60) This task includes the following actions: i) A Scientific Quality Assurance Plan and a digital Monitoring Toolkit will be developed to help the project satisfy the relevant quality standards. The Plan (D1.2) will define quality management processes and will include mechanisms to review the project deliverables. It will include templates, guidelines and requirements for the partners; ii) Monitoring of each consortium partner's effort and results, with preparation of internal progress report every 6 months; iii) Scientific and technical coordination and monitoring of WPs, with a focus on their interlinkages and interaction; iv) Supervision of the project progress from the scientific and technical side, monitoring KPIs; v) Risk management and adaptation of the contingency plan, implementation of risk mitigation measures (an updated risk management report will be part of each periodic report), including resources, budget, time, technical, scientific and competence risks; vi) Quality control of milestones and deliverables; realisation of their timely achievement and submission according to the DoA. There will be a Deliverable in M6 (D1.2), while subsequent updates will be included in the general reporting for WP1 at the reporting periods. Task 1.3 Privacy, security, ethics & data management Lead: OiEau/EUT, Participants: all, (M1-M60) Privacy and security will be constantly monitored during the project execution following the guidelines of the EU legislation (2009) on electronic data processing and transmission over networks, and any changes in the legislation that could occur during the project, and which may influence it. Furthermore, this task will specifically provide guidelines and methodologies (D1.4) to ensure that privacy legislations are not infringed (such as the Directive 95/46/EC and the GDPR) on the protection of individuals, with regards to the processing of personal data. Finally, all the ethical issues

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related to the specific aim of the project will be extensively analysed in this Task. In case that specific threats related to privacy, ethics and/ or security will appear during the project, countermeasures will be suggested to overcome them. A Data Management Plan (DMP), aimed to make research data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (commonly known as the 'FAIR' principle, as reported in EC guidelines) will be released to provide guidelines to other WPs that are compliant with the FAIR principles. The DMP updates (D1.5 and D1.6) will be produced in M30 and M60 respectively.

Work package WP2 – Co-creation of transformative solutions and mainstreaming of NBSs

Work Package Number	WP2	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Work Package Name	Co-creation of transformative solutions and mainstreaming of NBSs		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	60

Objectives

WP2 aims to:
(i) design, test in DSs and consolidate an analytical, methodological and practical co-creation framework for transformative solutions towards urban, peri-urban, rural and regional resilience that fosters a paradigm shift towards NBSs integration, including maturing of NBSs ecosystems, assessment and increase of management readiness level, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and co-creation of solutions;
(ii) record and understand the landscape, identify local, regional and national stakeholders and collect views, conflicting interests, synergies and knowledge through qualitative modelling and analysis;
(iii) engage multi-scale decision-makers in the co-design of NBS interventions and increase management readiness level towards building resilient partnerships;
(iv) advance twinning activities between DS and FLs to boost local capabilities;
(v) establish the governance arrangement and policy considerations needed to implement NBSs and overcome barriers through a participatory approach

Description

Leader: Prof. Chrysi Laspidou (UTH), Co-Lead: David Smith (WE&B)

Task 2.1: Mapping the stakeholder landscape and institutional profile of actors for all relevant DS hazards through Social Network Analysis (SNA)
Lead: UTH; Co-Lead WE&B, Participants: WWFGreece, CHALKIS, PSTE, VNPA, BEF, BDG, ULL, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, THETIS, MATIS, MS4, UIB, BIRZAI, NAT2050, GIB (M01–M54)
In this task, local, regional, national and EU stakeholders will be identified and mapped to build the relevant ecosystems specific to each DS, recognised hazards and transformative solutions (MS4, D2.1 and D2.2, its update). The mapping will be inclusive of the whole Quadruple helix, i.e. academia, policy-makers, private sector and civil society, while nature-engaged citizens are also brought in the helix through citizen science (Task 2.3) to approach a more extended Quintuple scheme that also includes the citizen perspective of Nature. A side output of this task will be the institutional mapping, to illustrate where power resides and how decision-making works is a prerequisite for designing roadmaps of governance system reforms. This task will use feedback from WP6, as a reference for the relevant hazards and bio-physical systems. Moreover, the spheres of responsibilities and the stakeholder relationships, conflicting interests, synergies, potential for collaboration will be identified. Extending on this analysis, NATALIE will use Social Network Analysis (SNA) to uncover which organisations have the information, which organisations are the bridges, and which are the bottlenecks to knowledge and information flow and exchange on NBS within various scales—local, regional, national and European. The structural patterns that we uncover within the SNA will be used to compare products or results between the different relationships within the whole European NBS network. SNA will be implemented through a series of yearly questionnaires, following a snowballing process to the identification of stakeholders and their connections. These questionnaires (linked to task 2.3) are targeted to the identified organisations and follow a bottom-up process, with NATALIE partners being the starting point. Visual and interactive stakeholder maps (MS6) will be produced, intended to be not only project outputs, but also decision-guidance tools for cross-walking NBS pathways with NBS actions within NATALIE. The results of the stakeholder identification will be gathered in a stakeholder database that will list all the actors found together with details regarding their background. For the inclusion of stakeholders, special attention will be paid to the role of vulnerable groups, inclusion of women and marginalized groups in the communication and knowledge exchange. The analysis will be implemented at all 8 DS, national and European levels.

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Task 2.2: Nature-based actions in legal and institutional frameworks at regional/national/EU scales
Lead: UTH, Co-Lead: ICA, Participants: OiEau, Earthwatch, WWFGreece, CHALKIS, PSTE, VNPA, BEF, BDG, ULL, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, THETIS, MATIS, MS4, UIB, BIRZAI, NAT2050, GIB (M01–M36)
NATALIE will review Nationally Determinde Contributions (NDC) documents and National Communications to the UNFCCC, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) to the UNFCCC, National climate change policies and laws, REDD+ strategies, International commitments, such as the Bonn Challenge and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans(NBSAPs) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Regulations on carbon markets, Low-carbon development strategies, Land-use planning approaches and Protected area plans. In this Task, towards mainstreaming NBSs in the systemic transformation, we analyse them for their potential to deliver cost-effective CO2 mitigation by incorporating NBS targets in countries' NDCs. To achieve this objective, we map nature-based related policies, legal frameworks at the EU, national and/or regional level (e.g., Flood Risk / Fire Management Plans), identify and review existing ongoing multi-scale actions, initiatives and strategic plans, spotting possible conflicts or synergies. Next, we establish an understanding of the national greenhouse gas accounting context and identify and review nature-based actions in the current NDC (D2.3). Task 3.4 feed into this Task to obtain quantified results on the adaptation and mitigation potential of the NBS, so that the frameworks are reviewed by a more critical and informed view.

Task 2.3: Citizen engagement and monitoring of societal benefits of NBS through Citizen Science
Lead: Earthwatch, Participants: OiEau, EUT, WWFGreece, CHALKIS, PSTE, VNPA, BEF, BDG, ULL, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, THETIS, MATIS, MS4, UIB, BIRZAI, NAT2050, GIB, ICA (M01-M60)
Citizen science is a tool to involve citizens (schoolchildren, inhabitants, visitors, employees, etc.) in NBS implementation and operation, and to monitor benefits of NBS. Raising public engagement is a vital success factor in citizen science. That is why providing users with a powerful, personalised and highly-usable tool becomes crucial. NATALIE will make use of existing platforms (hosted by Earthwatch Europe) to facilitate citizens and organisations to measure on water quality, soil health, biodiversity, carbon capture and heat reduction (citizen science platforms of Fresh Water Watch, Soil Health Kit and Tiny Forest). These citizen science campaigns will be mass participation events where broad groups of citizens are mobilised to participate. The project will roll out two citizen science campaigns per site, at 4 DSs (DS#2, 4, 6 and 8 are envisaged). This will generate more social engagement and impact than one citizen science campaign per site only. Through questionnaires the difference of social impact within the DSs with and without citizen science will be studied (linked to the questionnaires of T2.1). Information dissemination is the first step to activate public interest and provide the necessary background to the project for potential participants. Info days will be designed to foster the activation of citizen scientists and other stakeholders in the field of community-based environmental observation and motivate them to contribute to and participate in the observation process. Community-monitoring training and practice in using sensor technologies and applications developed will be organised via field and online seminars, focusing on hands-on science training. These will be attended by the public, contacted through the demonstrator leaders and other activities involving Consortium partners. Data collected by citizen scientists, like all data, will have an associated error, and so they will need to be analysed and validated. This information, in turn, will be used to inform citizen scientists on: (1) the benefit supply of their NBS, (2) understanding and awareness of their ecological and hydrological surroundings, which would increase citizen ownership of the NBS. These actions will be aligned with WP7. D2.4 and D2.7 (final update) will demonstrate that Citizen Science is a very efficient tool to engage people around NBS and adaptation to climate change.

Task 2.4: Knowledge needs, identification of barriers and setup of TLs for stakeholder engagement and co-creation of solutions
Lead: WE&B, Co-Lead: UTH, Participants: OiEau, ICA, Earthwatch, WWFGreece, CHALKIS, PSTE, VNPA, BEF, BDG, ULL, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, THETIS, MATIS, MS4, UIB, BIRZAI, NAT2050, GIB (M01–M36)
With the relevant stakeholders identified (Task 2.1), Task 2.4 will develop a matchmaking practice for complexity analysis to understand the knowledge needs and barriers of the stakeholders, in terms of their acceptance for the current NBS practices. This task will bring together the previous task through an FCM exercise. Engaging with stakeholders we will co-design the FCM relying on the input from the stakeholders where the common themes related to NBS projects will be included. FCM will be used in this regard with the wide variety of stakeholder groups, as it is a simple and easy-to-understand process, which opens up the possibility for involving lay audiences together with all other stakeholder groups. A series of focus groups at all the DS level will address a participatory intervention to start drafting and delineating together this FCM that will further be developed with the project consortium and feed back into the NBS designs. The groups will also co-design the interactive dashboard, developed in T4.5, to ensure the information presented in the DT can be effectively used in decision-making. A final engagement session, following a participatory intervention with selected influential stakeholders based on the SNA exercise, will aid in describing the interconnection between stakeholders and concepts (themes, projects, initiatives) with an if-then rule that infers a fuzzy linguistic variable. This will allow the WP2 partners to determine the grade of connection between the concepts and thus obtaining analytical metrics to aid in identifying communication points and decision-making processes. These processes and results will be used to set up the TLs. To foster a deeper level of dialogue and inclusivity, a combination of in-person interviews, dialogues, workshops

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for raising awareness and maturing stakeholder engagement will be conducted. Qualitative analysis is performed through suitable methods, such as grounded theory, template analysis, Braun-Clarke thematic analysis etc. in order to create the framework theory for identifying the optimal stakeholder engagement strategy and use for NBS co-creation of innovative tools.

Task 2.5: Creation of Competency Groups and TL twinning
Lead: UTH, Co-Lead: Earthwatch, Participants: KWR, WWFGreece, CHALKIS, PSTE, VNPA, BEF, BDG, ULL, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, THETIS, MATIS, MS4, UIB, BIRZAI, NAT2050 (M06–M60)
Competency groups (CGs) will be created (by each DS, under the guidance of UTH) with the objective to bring together the competencies gathered across the different TLs of the project (linking the 4 FLs with DSs). The CGs will also ensure that results, lessons learnt and best practices across the different TLs are shared. The CGs also help to provide practical advice to the TLs to ensure that technological implementations are well defined. This task will therefore organise, arrange, and implement the twinning activities between the demonstrators and FLs, through the CGs. It will regulate the transformation lab processes, specifications and sequence to implement the comparison of infrastructure, bio-geological attributes, socio-economic context, and managerial maturity and to smoothly achieve the capacity transfer. This Task will also conduct analysis regarding the suitability and feasibility of hard and soft measures of the demonstrators to the FLs. It will also aim at establishing a sustainable relationship between the stakeholder ecosystems to enhance a more integrated horizontal policy implementation regime. The activities carried out in both Tasks 2.5 and 2.6 will be described in deliverables D2.5 and D2.6.

Task 2.6: Mainstreaming NBSs in the systemic transformation
Lead: UTH, Participants: ICA, OiEau, KWR, Earthwatch, NTUA, EUT, AQUA, UNEXE, GIB (M13-M60)
This task will use feedback from all WP2 tasks to integrate knowledge and practice towards the mainstreaming of the NBSs at demonstrator level, but also create a paradigm for guidance beyond NATALIE. T2.6 will crosswalk co-created transformative solution pathways with existing measurable nature-based actions and identify opportunities for enhancing NCSs using modelling outputs and citizen science evidence. This task will integrate measurable nature-based actions into the NDC, using automate NBS assessment tools. This step focuses on setting quantifiable indicators, crucial for tracking progress toward achieving the NDC goals and convincing to the stakeholder's ecosystem in the TLs. Ideally, all NBSs should have, at least, one measurable indicator that can be evaluated using the tools created in T3.2 and T3.3 and visualized in the DT from T4.5. Finally, it will improve or create the enabling conditions to widening NBS adoptions in NDC. This step entails the identification of main enabling conditions needed to support NBS enhancement or integration into the NDC. Mainstreaming of NBSs will be tracked through a four-dimension readiness level assessment. The Symbiosis Readiness Level is a composite metric that takes into account Technology, Business, Ecology, and Management. Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is ranked from 1—initial idea to 9—commercialisation, Business Readiness from 1—develop concept to 8—business case continuously controlled, reported and shared, Ecology Readiness from 1—rough estimate to 8—sustainability benefits proven and Management Readiness from 1—potential partners identified to 8—resilient partnership. NATALIE will increase readiness levels through all these 4 dimensions and will create transformative solutions that will have a high score in the SRL (Societal Readiness Level) to better guarantee the mainstreaming process. This task, in addition to WP2 tasks, will also get feedback from T4.5, T5.2, and T6.2.

Work package WP3 – Methodologies, models, resilience assessment tools

Work Package Number	WP3	**Lead Beneficiary**	6. AQUA
Work Package Name	Methodologies, models, resilience assessment tools		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	60

Objectives
The main objective of WP3 is to develop streamlined assessment tools to evaluate the performance of NBS that support the planning and implementation of interventions for enhancing climate resilience of regions and communities from our 8 DS, 5 FLs and beyond, thanks to the CGs and TB. To this effect, WP3 develops, adapts and deploys cutting edge and tailored methodologies and tools including modelling frameworks, cost benefit analysis and participatory multi-criteria decision approaches. Of particular importance is the development of co-creation frameworks ensuring the engagement of local regional/communities' partners in the development and testing of a broad spectrum of NBS to better manage climate related hazards under a wide range of climatic and socio-economic scenarios.

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Description
Leader: Beniamino Russo (AQUA), Co-lead: Albert Chen (UNEXE) Task 3.1: Leveraging regional climate and socio-economic scenarios Lead: AQUA, Participants: ICA, NTUA, UNEXE (M01–M12) This task will produce up-to-date information on climate-related hazards from regional downscaled climate change projections determining future variations in the main climate variables, and special focus on extreme events frequency and intensity (e.g., temperature, precipitation, wind speed, sea level rise). Downscaling will be achieved combining dynamical and statistical approaches depending on data and availability and the expertise of local partners. This means that regionalized/downscaled climate projections will hence be obtained from the outputs of CMIP6 simulations and that downscaled approaches (statistical or dynamical) will be decided depending on data availability and expertise of local partners or other collaborations.The downscaled parameters will be applied to drive hazard and multi-hazard modelling in T3.2 (flooding, droughts, heatwaves, cold snaps, storm surge, gusts, erosions, salination, wildfires, etc.). Furthermore, socio-economic pathways (urbanization, population growth, economic trends) will be also considered. A particular focus on extreme event modelling, including compound events, the use of earth observations, environmental sensing data and their combination will ensure progress beyond the state of the art (NTUA). All the scenarios produced will be presented in D3.1. Task 3.2. NBS performance assessment tools Lead: NTUA, Co-lead: AQUA, Participants: WE&B, UNEXE, NTUA, KWR (M03–M54) This task develops a set of tailored tools (incl. hydrological and water quality modelling, geohazards simulations, urban subsurface analysis, noise and atmospheric pollution, temperature regulation, biodiversity, ecosystem and social system analysis, wellbeing, economic benefits assessment) for evaluating the impacts of climate/weather hazards on urban, peri-urban and rural environment and assessing the performance of NBS. The tools (Table 1.2.1.3 of annex 1 – part B) will simulate not only the consequences of individual hazards, but also their combinations (compound events) and the cascading effects under the scenarios defined in T3.1. An interdisciplinary approach is foreseen to analyse the interaction between infrastructure, surface water and groundwater, erosions and landslides, geomorphology, air and water quality, chemical pollution of the shallow subsurface, and hydrological, physico-chemical, biological and geotechnical processes, socioeconomic, physical and mental health, and well-beings. The economic effects, including damage and losses reduction, business and job opportunities, reduced healthcare costs and financial feasibility, will also be modelled (and provided to WP6) thanks to impacts models and tools for selection of optimum adaptation strategies issued from other projects (like H2020 RESCCUE project or HE on-going ICARIA project) which will be used to assess tangible and intangible damages and evaluate financial and technical feasibility through CBA and MCA. The assessment tools developed will be early presented to selected stakeholders in M24 (MS7) and then in-depth presented in D3.2 (M54). Task 3.3: NBS Resilience Assessment Layer for DTs Lead: NTUA, Participants: UNEXE, EUT (M21–M54) This task will utilise the guidelines in the EU NBS Handbook to create an integrated resilience assessment layer that will be deployable as part of the NBS DT Infrastructure (developed in WP4) for long-term NBS planning. Here the tools developed in T3.2 will be used to examine the performance of those NBS in a long-term, resilience-based, multi-hazard risk management approach in the context of innovative, NBS-based climate resilience solutions, and provide a quantitative resilience assessment to assess and stress-test the integration of the project's solutions to regional adaptation plans. T3.3 builds on resilience assessment methods developed for complex systems, as well as work on adaption pathway design and stress testing from the IMPETUS project, enhanced to specifically account for NBS and their interplay with structural and non-structural measures and policies under multiple uncertainties inherent in climate change stresses, but also exploits and operationalize relevant concepts, such as anti-fragility. Multi-system simulation and evaluation technologies (such as, ABM, SD and hybrid modelling), informed by domain specific modelling (from T3.2) when needed, will underpin the computational elements of the framework to allow for multiple quantitative evaluations under uncertainty. This task will allow system resilience to be assessed both before and after NBS solutions deployment allowing a quantification of the improvement in resilience from the application of climate adaptation measures. The results of this task will be presented on D3.3. Task 3.4: Co-creation tools for NBS-enabled mitigation and adaptation pathways Lead: UTH; Participants: OiEau, KWR, EUT, BDG, AQUA, ICA, ULL, BEF, VNPA, CSIC, LLU, ZPR, CAN, UIB, EPTBV, BIRZAI, MATIS, MS4, GIB (M13–M54) This task will develop tools needed to engage DS, FL and CG stakeholders in the co-creation of specific NBS deployment pathways (sequences of actions and interventions in time) for the solutions stress-tested in T3.3, using tools built in T3.2. These pathways will be dynamic in nature, constrained by the specificities of the situation at hand, but will leverage emerging opportunities depending on ecosystem type, geography and country and match them to the country's NDCs (coming from T2.2) to enhance the mitigation and adaptation potential of NBSs. An outcome of this task will be a method

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and tools to allow multi-stakeholders engagement in the design of these pathways to be applied to all cases through WP5. Once the NBS-NCS pathways are identified, NATALIE will compile the datasets necessary to calculate the mitigation potential of each NCS pathway. T3.4 will exploit established toolkits, such as the Accelerating Climate Ambition and Impact: Toolkit for Mainstreaming NBS into NDC. Global, national, and local data will be used. This phase will be iterative, as the scope of the analysis may need to be adjusted as new information is integrated and the co-creation tools will be early presented to selected stakeholders in M 36 (MS10). For NCS to count as climate change mitigation, the actions must capture more carbon, or reduce more GHG emissions, compared to a baseline scenario, coming from T3.1. This baseline quantifies what emissions and/or sequestration would look like if no additional mitigation actions are taken. Once the baseline is established, the task will quantify NCS mitigation actions including the extent of opportunity (i.e. the land area where implementation can occur). In addition to extent, it is also important to estimate how NCS changes the transfer, or "flux," of GHGs between the land and the atmosphere. GHGs relevant to NCS include carbon dioxide (CO2), nitrogen gases (primarily N2O), and methane (CH4). Depending on the pathway, one of or all these gases may be relevant. Typically, flux is estimated by compiling the best available estimates from the literature. To enable comparisons across pathways, all GHGs will be converted into carbon dioxide equivalents (CO2e). The results of this task will be presented in D3.4 (M24) and its update D3.5 (M54).

Work package WP4 – NBS Knowledge Booster: A digital twin for the implementation and monitoring of NBS

Work Package Number	WP4	**Lead Beneficiary**	3. EUT
Work Package Name	NBS Knowledge Booster: A digital twin for the implementation and monitoring of NBS		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	60

Objectives

WP4 is mainly devoted to set-up and upscale an online tool called "NBS Knowledge Booster" that will establish virtual and digital laboratories for fuelling the generation of ideas, sharing research experience, elaboration of pathways and promotion of data quality and knowledge exchange (that will serve to the CoP of WP6). This digital ecosystem will be materialised as an operational data space to:
(i) Increase the understanding of NBS and their impact on the elaboration of adaptation and mitigation climate pathways. This will be performed through a high visualization engine that allow the interaction between physical and digital worlds;
(ii) Put in practice tools to support the co-creation and social innovations strategies to empower the regional communities;
(iii) Empowerment of small data catalogues through models and AI to ensure data/knowledge confidence and fuse information at cross-domain;
(iv) Application of novel modelling, including surrogate models and AI tools, to support NBS design and monitoring in the different regions;
(v) Enable a development and monitoring of KPIs to measure the impact of the NBS in the different regions according to climate related hazards;
(vi) Adoption of a federated strategy to ensure knowledge sharing at fine-grained scale across different regions.

Description

Leader: Xavier Domingo (EUT)/Co-lead: Christos Makropoulos (NTUA)

Task 4.1: Design of the NBS Knowledge Booster
Lead: NTUA, Participants: OiEau, EUT, KWR, UNEXE, THETIS, UTH, WWFGreece, BDG, VNPA, BEF, ULL, AQUA, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, NAT250 (M06–M18)
This task is mainly devoted to design the digital toolkit and also the selection of relevant small data and open data from the DSs. At the first step, and in collaboration with the regional authorities and relevant stakeholders, we will create an accessible catalogue of the knowledge including small data and open data, NBS reports and implemented solutions, as well as strategies and community systems impacted by climate change, among others. The next step is on the creation of an accessible catalogue of regional models and other available tools for data processing and interpretation based on advanced data analytics and, in collaboration with WP3, specific models that are available in such regions. Thus, this guarantees to the outcomes of the open data space processing to be reliable, accurate and efficient. This initial task will be complemented by data and modelling tools generated under WP3 including public libraries and services (Copernicus,

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GEOSS, EMODNet, etc.), as well as data acquired by private and public entities that are relevant for the DSs and FLs sites (e.g. ESA Data Cube, Climate ADAPT, etc.). The latter step is the elaboration of the requirements (functional and non-functional) of the open data space by considering reference digital architectures like FIWARE, IDSA, GAIA-X and SIMPL. Also, we will consider, as an income, initial designed architectures coming from EU Green Deal projects, such as IMPETUS or ARSINOE. As a result, this task will report the initial open space requirements, architecture, data and models to be introduced in the space, as well as an initial mock-up of the solution (as a part of D4.1).

Task 4.2: Open data space for enabling knowledge sharing
Lead: EUT, Participants: NTUA, UNEXE, KWR, THETIS, WWFGreece, BDG, VNPA, BEF, ULL, AQUA, DeWater, EPTBV, UIT, NAT250 (M08–M48)
This task is focused on building a digital tool (context-broker) to integrate information from multiple sources and also, enable federated data sharing across different regions and key community systems. This context broker will be based on existing standards (ETSI-CIM, IDSA, SIMPL) and adaptation of previous experiences, such as IMPETUS and ARSINOE. To operationalise this tool, this task will initially elaborate the corresponding data models based on the identified data sources coming from Task 4.1. This data model elaboration will serve to expose the collected data under an open API (northbound API). Following the generation of the northbound API, the data injection into the model will be performed by the elaboration of corresponding interfaces (called “plugins” or “agents”). The elaboration of such interfaces comprises two steps: (1) adaptation of existing agents from FIWARE or similar initiatives to capture regional data (from FTP, CSV/XLS, CoaP, Web Services, MQTT); and (2) the elaboration of agents to capture third party information, from public data (Climate ADAPT, ESA Data Cubes, Copernicus, etc.). The operational agents with Copernicus, Climate-ADAPT, EEA, ESA-Data Cubes data sources will be defined as the project progresses, according to the actual needs of each one and the way it will be developed and applied at the DSs and FLs. Details will be included in D4.1. Additionally, the core of the context-broker will be composed by a knowledge graph (e.g., MongoDB, Neo4j, Jena) to interlink the information and time series database (e.g., PostgreSQL, TimeseriesDB) to store the information from modelling and the different sources. As an outcome, an open data space compatible with EU initiatives will permit to share data and experiences across regions (D4.1).

Task 4.3: Small data empowerment, reliability and trustworthy
Lead: UNEXE, Participants: KWR, EUT, UiT, NTUA - (M13–M54)
This Task focuses on ensuring data quality and trustworthy for the elaboration and application of data-driven and AI algorithms (T4.4). Considering the (small) data acquired and identified in T4.1, this initial task will consider interlinking NBS metrics and KPIs with regional information using metadata to contextualise the information and facilitate data understanding. This interlink will be materialised as a knowledge graphs (e.g. using StarDog, Neo4j, etc.) and will permit to query the information using standard protocols (e.g. SPARQL, Cipher). This data contextualization will enable to apply explainable AI to understand physical interrelation and connections between regional impacts and the implementation of the NBS. Explainability will be achieved through the application of hybrid data models that will combine knowledge-graph reasoning with deep learning algorithms. Indeed, self-supervised learning and transformers for identifying patterns and correlations between variables and then, support the understanding the impact of spatiotemporal variables in the climatic events. Data quality and trustworthy over small data will be materialised by the implementation of data cleansing techniques to automatically remove outliers (e.g. local outlier factor, robust covariance, IQR score, etc.), reduce noise from the data (exponential smoothing, low-pass filters, etc.) and also, remove data blanks (e.g. strip leading techniques). To ensure correct distribution of the information and remove informational bias, data balancing algorithms (e.g. Tomek links, ENN, ADASYN, SMOTE, random over/under sampling, etc.) and discrimination algorithms will be also applied. Complementary to these actions, surrogate models will be researched to accelerate simulations elaborated in WP3 and then, support the design and impact assessment of NBS. As a result of this task, a set of algorithms will be elaborated to maximise the benefits of small data towards data understanding and the generation of trustworthy and FAIR open datasets (D4.2).

Task 4.4: Ecosystems data fusion, monitoring and impact assessment
Lead: EUT, Participants: WE&B, KWR, EUT, UNEXE, UiT, NTUA - (M16–M48)
This task aims at applying AI and machine learning techniques to fuse data and facilitate visual data analytics and data interaction to monitor impact assessment of the NBS. This task will use modelling tools elaborated under T3.2 and T3.3, climate and socio-economic pathways from T3.1, and data integrated under T4.1, T4.2 and T4.3. These data will be used to train and validate computational intelligence models able to identify patterns and correlation between variables and then, support the generation of the downscaling models from T3.1 and give insights about the regions to design NBS. Indeed, we will analyse the application of hybrid modelling and deep learning for geographical parameters estimations. Also, we will analyse causal analytics and models to understand and interpret patterns, cause and effects on diverse datasets, including satellite, social media and socio-economic data. As a result of this task, a set of AI and causal models will serve to link climatic events with the NBS design and monitoring (D4.2).

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Task 4.5 Development and monitoring of KPIs and assessment of the NBS
Lead: NTUA, Participants: KWR, EUT, UNEXE, THETIS, UTH - (M13-M48)
This task will develop a set of KPIs that spans the technological, environmental and socio-economic domains and capture the performance of NBS and trace their trajectory in the short, medium and long run. These KPIs will permit stakeholders to understand the processes and systems behaviour and get advice on specific re-configurations of the systems and solutions to improve their (expected) performance (e.g. estimate and improve efficiency and eco-efficiency to natural hazards, financial sustainability, social impacts, improve pre-conditions for their exploitation and impact, using information entropy concepts to develop profitability curves, increase profits, increase eco-services) – using the tools and approaches developed in T4.2, T4.3 and T4.4. Specifically, in "current state" mode they will reveal efficiencies attained with current conditions, while in "simulation/scenario" mode they will allow the assessment of foreseen efficiencies for a proposed change - calculated through T4.4. Importantly, the KPIs will be designed to also be useful in NBS performance "assessment" mode, once the technologies and soft measures are implemented to allow actual gains to be quantified (also linked to investments – see T6.3). An online tool will be developed to operationalize these KPIs (for current state and post- implementation assessment modes) and will be demonstrated in selected cases (T5.2). This tool, which will be compatible with the knowledge booster (T4.1) and the data sharing space (T4.2), will become a long-term provider of critical information on the impact and efficiency of NBS interventions within an Internet of Things (IoT) rationale. The tool will be able to combine multi-sourced online data coming from earth observation databases (Copernicus, EEA), satellite databases (Sentinel), statistical databases (EuroStat, etc.) and specific location data (provided by case specific monitoring from T4.4). The information processed will be presented using KPIs elaborated at different levels: local, regional, national and transboundary. Importantly these KPI will consider the inter-relation between different key community systems (sectors) and the interrelations between different scales and as such support the elaboration of win-win strategies at different scales. The assessment outcomes will be visualised via a user-friendly interactive dashboard, co-designed through stakeholder engagement in T2.4, to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the performance of NBS, both spatially and temporally, and compare the KPIs of different adaptation strategies to support decision making to enhance climate resilience. It will be powered by FIWARE (as T4.2) and thus interoperable with a large number of systems operating at different locations – making this compatible to DT technologies. Results from this task, will be reported in D4.4.

Task 4.6: Strategy for replication and upscaling of the NBS Knowledge Booster
Lead: EUT, Participants: NTUA, UNEXE, ICA, GIB, UiT, GIB - (M45–M60)
This task will be devoted to elaborating technical strategies for upscaling and replicating the open data space in different regions. In this regard, this task will comprise the federation of the digital ecosystem across different regions starting from the NATALIE case-studies. This federation will be performed through the Open-APIs and the analysis of trustworthy data exchange networks (e.g. ledger technology) to enable the distributed scale up, data trustworthy and immutability. For that, federation networks from current EU trends and standards will be analysed, selected and implemented. Replicability and transferability to other FLs cases and regions will be performed in coordination with the WP6. As an outcome, the open data spaces will be federated under a sovereignty network in which all regions conform a trust network for data sharing. The strategy to deploy the NBS booster will be detailed in D4.3 and will follow several steps: MS5 'design' (M18), MS12 'deployment' (M48) and MS14 'federation' (M58).

Work package WP5 – Case studies: Coordination, Implementation, Testing, Monitoring and Validation activities

Work Package Number	WP5	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Work Package Name	Case studies: Coordination, Implementation, Testing, Monitoring and Validation activities		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	60

Objectives
There are 13 diverse and complementary CS in NATALIE (§1.2.1.2 – annex 1 – Part B), involving 8 DSs and 5 FLs. A number of activities and actions need to take place, implemented specifically for each of them, but also horizontally across them. The objectives of this WP are to: (i) develop a roadmap of actions for all the DSs and FLs; (ii) coordinate the activities and actions in all the DSs and FLs and the interactions with the other WPs;

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(iii) guide and monitor the implementation of the aforementioned actions, i.e., testing and monitoring actions, installations of sensoring equipment, data collection, stakeholder engagement etc.
(iv) assess the impact of NBS solutions (including technical, social, economic and cultural aspects);
(v) develop and coordinate the validation procedures (by the stakeholders) for the solutions in all the DSs and FLs;
(vi) provide evidence-based knowledge, lessons learned and recommendations at EU level (horizontally from all the DS and FLs).

Description

Leader: Lydia Vamvakeridou-Lyroudia (KWR)/Co-lead: Ingrida Bremere (BEF)

Task 5.1 Development of a roadmap for the implementation, testing and monitoring of actions in all the CSs
Lead: KWR, Participants: All CS partners. (M1-M60)
This task will develop a roadmap to foster and guide collaboration and coordination of activities for each of the 13 CS for the implementation of the transformative solutions for both DS and FLs. The goal is to facilitate collaboration, knowledge exchange, as well as the preparation for the implementation of the activities related to all the WPs linked to the CSs, mapping all necessary activities and timeline for implementation. The initial roadmap will be developed in the first 6 months of the project (D5.1) considering the particularities of each CS and the needs and objectives of each WP. It will particularly focus on: (a) the stakeholder engagement activities (workshops, interviews, etc.) that will contribute to particular WPs (especially WP2); (b) organisation of preparatory actions for the implementation of modelling activities (WP3, WP4), i.e. monitoring mechanisms and equipment installation (as needed), testing etc.; (c) organisation, coordination and reporting of specific KPIs developed in T4.5. This task will also develop an overall monitoring plan for all these activities. In particular this task will report to WP1 (T1.2), for potential amendment actions (e.g. for delayed work, lack of data, pandemic related issues, unforeseen emergencies etc.). The roadmap and monitoring plan will be an internal live document, which will be updated continually throughout the project, through a dedicated stakeholder feedback process to account for the project's development and achievement and emerging issues. The first version of the roadmap will be submitted in M6 (D5.1) to be updated in M12 to coincide with the 1st reporting period (D5.2), in M24 to coincide with the 2nd reporting period (D5.3) and in M42 to coincide with the 3rd reporting period (D5.5). The final version will be submitted at the end of the project (D5.6, M60).

Task 5.2 Implementation and testing of actions at all the CS.
Lead: KWR, Participants: CS partners, detailed for each Subtask below (M4-M57).
All the Subtasks will run in parallel.

Subtask 5.2.1: "DS#1 - Lelantine plain – GR" in Evia (Lead: WWFGreece, Participants: UTH, NTUA, CHALKIS, GIB, PSTE).
This subtask will implement the activities for DS#1. There is no FL linked to it. The main goal is to mitigate flood and fire risk in Lilas river basin (DS#1), which has suffered from wildfires and flooding. The activities include: Mapping and analysis (Mapping stakeholders that have a stake in improving flood and fire risk; Mapping policies, legal framework, roles and responsibilities for flood and fire institutional arrangements against best practice principles); Dialogues and LLs (Organisation of interviews, workshops & dialogues with key local stakeholders to collect local views and knowledge); Capacity building (Delivery of NBS training and co-design workshop to develop capacities and capabilities on how to plan, implement and maintain NBS projects at local level; Evaluation of data, delivery and demonstration of suitable NBS solutions and measures, with the appropriate monitoring plan and activities; Validation of the solutions; Linking to investment opportunities in collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks (e.g. EIB) and insurance products to de-risk such investments. The NBS to be studied are: River restoration (widening of the river, removal of gabions, connection with floodplains), Riparian forest restoration, Floodplain restorations and management, Wetland restorations and management, Traditional stone weirs in Lilas's tributaries (in mountainous areas), Management of forest (forest fuel management, selective forest restoration in upper parts, fire management plan, capacity building of local volunteer teams). Testing/Implementation: Minimum of 50 classic stone weirs will be constructed in a tributary of the Lilas River in an attempt to retain water volume during extreme weather occurrences. A pre- and post-monitoring system will be developed to demonstrate the efficacy of these hybrid NBS measures in mitigating flood risk and boosting biodiversity. WWF Greece has already implemented a similar action on the island of Paros.

Subtask 5.2.2: "DS#2 - Vacaresti Natural Park – RO": Urban regeneration based on nature-based solutions and sustainability and "FL#2 – Bucharest Children World – RO". (Lead: VNPA, Participants: BDG, MS4, FF).
This subtask will implement all the activities related to DS#2 and FL#2. The main goal is wetlands restoration and the specific biodiversity conservation in a natural park (urban area). The intervention will have a positive result on the nature-protected area's biodiversity and will help mitigate climate change impacts of flooding and heat stress, while raising local community awareness and enhancing water availability. The region for DS#2 is a nature protected area (VIUCN) within

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Bucharest. The activities to be implemented are: seasonal rainwater collection and storage (inside and outside the national park); bio-filtration;, designing and building a network of temporary ponds (filled both by rainwater collected locally and from outside the natural park); restoring wetland zones of VNP lost in the last years due to aridization; developing a strategy for connecting the VNP to the green blue infrastructure of the city (interconnected activities within FL#2 (Children's World Park-CWP); consistent actions and innovative social engagement together with regional communities and selected stakeholders in order to improve knowledge on the NBSs and responsibility for the environment activities; development of 2 Tiers of stakeholders within the project (including Danube River stakeholders and expanding the Local Water Forum network in the Lower Danube River Basin). For the FL#2: CWP park it is envisaged to study the transformation of the park as a catchment area for the rainwater that floods the streets after the heavy rains to become an area with high biodiversity and specific landscape needed for climate resilience. The presence of the local community (children with families visiting the CWP) has the potential to transform the area into a space for stakeholders' engagement and awareness in the neighbourhood to train young generations and promote green solutions for diminishing the climate change effects.

Subtask 5.2.3: "DS#3 – Zemgale Region – LV": Constructed wetlands in the Zemgale region and "FL#4 – Lithuania". (Lead: BEF, Participants: LLU, ZPR, BIRZAI).
This subtask will implement all the activities linked to both DS#3 and FL#4. The main goal of this DS is the promotion and mainstreaming of constructed wetlands (NBS) in Latvia (boreal region) and transferring the knowledge also to FL#4 in Lithuania (BIRZAI). FL#4 is interested in discovering new methods, technologies and possible NBS to mitigate the impacts of draughts and better manage water flooding by applying green infrastructure to reduce the vulnerability to water related risks (eutrophication due to nitrogen and phosphorus losses to water bodies from agricultural land, urban areas and livestock facilities). The focus in DS3 and FL#4 is on Green infrastructure –constructed wetlands applying surface and subsurface water flow demonstrated in applications for treatment of diffuse pollution from agricultural fields, point-source pollution from livestock facilities and wastewater treatment plants from small settlements. The activities include: Stakeholder engagement (Mapping of stakeholders, creating and implementing the dialogue and collaboration approaches with stakeholders, e.g., Regional LL); Technological aspects in operational demo cases (baseline assessment of NBS application in the region, testing of operational conditions, i.e., vegetation, treatment processes, water flow, clogging disturbance, monitoring, i.e., water sampling using a grab sampling approach and continuous measurements of water discharge and quality using multi-parameter sondes, accounting of species of flora and fauna from a biodiversity perspective); Lessons learned (estimating effects and results, i.e., improved biodiversity, reduced water pollution (N, P, sediments); Estimation of potential for constructed wetlands (mapping of potential pollution sources - diffuse pollution from agricultural fields, point-source pollution from livestock facilities and wastewater treatment plants from small settlements in the region, baseline assessment of NBS application including randomized selection of water sampling sites (5 counties) from the rural area where NBS can be applied); design of constructed wetland and application for livestock facilities; design of constructed wetland and application for small settlement; Knowledge base (capacity building, providing knowledge and evidence of the effects to stakeholders and to FL#4), as systemic and targeted planning, i.e., estimation of the areas in the Zemgale region, where are problems & lack of technologies with storm water and/or wastewater (e.g., from livestock facilities, small villages) (geographical scope and locations), demonstrating the process for NBS implementation, pre-feasibility study for (potential) financing the application of constructed wetland in different locations within the region.

Subtask 5.2.4: "DS#4 – Canary Islands – SP": Multiple NBS for climate change adaptation across three islands of the Canary Islands archipelago) and "FL#3 – Baleares – SP". (Lead: AQUA/ULL, Participants: CAN, CSIC, EUT, ICA, CIEGC, AyLL, UIB
This subtask includes all the activities related to DS#4 and FL#3. This task will implement activities in the Canary Islands (DS4) as follows: (a) Gran Canaria: Proposal of a series of NBS and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to retain water runoff and the related pollutant load upstream Maspalomas ravine. The activities include carrying out a monitoring and modelling system for the hydrological characteristics of the area, which also includes biodiversity parameters, with the aim of having sufficient, contrasted and adequate information for the design of a comprehensive solution, and thus constructing and testing several NBS to retain water runoff and the related pollutant load upstream Maspalomas ravine. (b) Tenerife (La Laguna): The activities target a flood-prone park in La Laguna. This is a quite advanced case and is being managed through the La Laguna City Council, with the support of Teidagua, a joint venture owned by Canaragua. This is an NBS to manage runoff water that would prevent flooding in the area and the need to build traditional and more expensive solutions for the construction of new drainage systems. The activities include: Monitoring, modelling and testing activities to guarantee the successful implementation and operation of the flood-prone park ensuring hydraulic, social and environmental benefits. A hydrological study of this aquifer would be carried out and modelled to evaluate future climate change events, such as irregular rainfall patterns and torrential rainfall regimes. The lessons learned from this modelling will be useful for the Balearic islands (FL#3, UIB) which have similar conditions and challenges. (c) Fuerteventura: Implementation of natural treatment systems to remove nitrogen and other pollutants and use of regenerated water to restore degraded wetlands. The regenerated water obtained through these

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purification processes will be used to feed an existing degraded wetland to improve biodiversity with special focus on birds (Fuerteventura is a very important area for migratory birds) the environmental evolution of the wetland will be monitored during the project). Part of these recovered water resources will be used to build a test site for Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). The activities include: Implementation of natural treatment systems to feed an existing wetland restoring its degraded ecosystem. Creation of artificial aquifer recharge (MAR) pilot. Improved knowledge of groundwater through the creation of a hydrogeological model to test MAR efficiency, guarantee groundwater quality standards associated to actions made in the aquifer, and predict the aquifer response to different climate change scenarios, including its interaction with retention and infiltration capacity of traditional agricultural and rainwater storage systems ("gavias"). The FL#3 will focus on the island of Minorca, specifically the southern area with numerous streams and wetlands over three groundwater bodies (Migjorn). The interest is in applying new methods and possible NBS to groundwater recharge (treated water, infiltration from streams), impacts of droughts and floods on streams and aquifers in the island of Minorca and management of groundwater bodies under future climate change scenarios, i.e., managed aquifer recharge and creation of artificial aquifer recharge (use of treated water).

Subtask 5.2.5: "DS#5 - Blue Horizon Limburg – BE". (Lead: DeWater, Participants: VUB, KWR, AGT, AQUAFIN).
This subtask will implement activities in DS#5 (no follower) as follows: Stage 1a: preparation of indirect reuse at WWTP Sint-Truiden (AGT, AQUAFIN, DeWater): Identification of environmental permits (AGT), Preparation of water monitoring campaign (DeWater), Water quality monitoring from reused wastewater (DeWater,), Test plan for the ASR (location of sites, equipment, monitoring, auxiliaries (chemicals, waste, electricity etc., AGT). Stage 1b: modelling for direct injection in the saturation zone (ASR as NBS) VUB: Existing projects, hydrogeological modelling (regional model, seasonal impact on storage and recovery), spatial distribution, scenario modelling (injection/storage/recovery), environmental impact of injection/extraction (piezometric levels), changes in hydrochemistry (precipitation and clogging risks, leaching etc.), geo-technical stability. Stage 1c: Direct vs indirect reuse – opportunities and threats (KWR, DeWater), Climate robustness (KWR), opportunities and alternatives for the wider area, leverage of ASR technology for replication – first criteria, Impact of reuse on the region (shift in demand/use on natural resources), threats for this technology (e.g. illegal or additional extraction because of replenishing). Stage 2: Preparation of the demo site (AGT, AQUAFIN, DeWater): Well drilling, well testing, well monitoring (AGT,), Environmental permits for injection and extraction (AGT), Tenders for above (AGT, DeWater, AQUAFIN) and contract for exploitation at the site (DeWater, AQUAFIN), Final test plan based on 1a and 1b outcomes (AGT, AQUAFIN, DeWater). Stage 3: Demonstration of the ASR (AGT, VUB, DeWater): Demonstration of injection and extraction on site (AGT), Water quality monitoring campaign and results (DeWater), Evaluation of the demo with respect to volumes, qualities and costs (AGT), Data analysis of monitoring data for calibration and refinement of the groundwater model and improvement of environmental impact (VUB). Stage 4a: Large scale (>= 100 m3/h) feasibility study for indirect wastewater reuse based on demo outcomes (AGT, DeWater, AQUAFIN, KWR). Stage 4b (KWR): Identification of defined technical and economical screening criteria for replication sites, identification of possible replication sites in Flanders based on screening criteria.

Subtask 5.2.6: "DS#6 – Vienne River – FR": Implementation of NBS in the upstream Vienne River basin and "FL#5-Grand Est – FR". (Lead: EPTBV, Participants: PNR, SABV, OiEau, NAT2050).
This subtask includes activities to be implemented in DS#6 and FL#5. Specifically, this subtask will implement activities for the restoration of degraded wetlands, removal of ponds and restoration of riparian forest at river basin level as follows: (a) Removal of water bodies: creation of a settling basin to receive all the sludge-laden drainage water, siphoning of the water to partially empty the pond, fishing for fish, gradual lowering of the height of the dam, complete opening to drain the silt into the settling pond, respecting a period of re-draining of the silt, re-meddling/ re-swamping of the watercourse if necessary, and restoration of the site with re-sludging of the silt, seeding and planting of riparian vegetation if necessary; (b) Hydraulic restoration of drained wetlands. For each restored site, scientific monitoring will be set up, which may include, depending on the characteristics of the sites including the installation of piezometer transects to monitor the behaviour of the underground water table, the installation of a flowmeter at the wetland outlet to monitor changes in the flow rate, and the implementation of botanical and faunal monitoring protocols to assess the functionality of the wetland; (c) Restoration and replanting of riparian vegetation on stretches of watercourse where the riparian vegetation is absent or seriously degraded. The activities for FL#5 include: Identification of specific issues and challenges in the regional area and of stakeholders (climate and environmental issues, financial, project owners, etc.); Identification of global engagement community (project leaders, territorial authorities, economic actors, technical and financial partners); Mobilization of private funding from local economic actors; Identification of potential project leaders, to implement NBS in the FL site and implementation of the monitoring methodology and evaluation strategy for the new NBS projects (FL#5).

Subtask 5.2.7: "DS#7 - Arctic –NO" and "FL#1-Iceland". (Lead: UIT, Participants: TFFK, MATIS).
This subtask includes all the activities related to DS#7 (Troms & Finnmark region in Norway) and FL#1 (Iceland).
The coast and the marine environment have been the backbone of the coastal communities of North Norway for many thousands of years, the DS#7 will have a specific focus on integrating traditional and indigenous knowledge in

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diagnosing, designing and testing of NBS solutions for coastal protection and the aquaculture industry, in connection with Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the region. The aquaculture industry collects increasing amounts of fish manure, popularly called sludge, from both land- and sea-based facilities, and this development is expected to continue. The fish manure consists of faeces from the fish and waste feed, and contains valuable nutrients. This currently goes mainly to biogas and fertilizer production. For farmers, the disposal of sludge still represents a cost, linked to processing and drying sludge at facilities and shipping for further utilization. It is therefore important to investigate the use of fish manure as feed raw material in a biosafe way. This action will require to identify knowledge gaps in fish manure, so to uncover the risk of the foreign substances being included throughout the process and transferred to the feed ingredients. This involves the following types of activities: (a) Encourage the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and communities to achieve nature- and tradition-based solutions for coastal protection, hence facilitating the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders in the region to foster community support, co-create the solutions, test and validate them; (b) Implementation of a digital platform for: identification of areas at risk for sea level rise and harmful algae blooms; Quantification of vulnerabilities in the region; Multi-criteria (e.g., pursuit of biodiversity conservation, human well-being, water management, economic development and job creation) analysis for cost-benefit assessment; (c) design of NBS solutions for coastal protection in selected sites in Troms and Finnmark, considering integration of NBS solutions within existing planning frameworks, complementarity with conventional grey infrastructure solutions and, quantification of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed solutions; (d) implementation of NBS solutions for aquaculture in selected sites in Troms and Finnmark, considering: integration of nature-based solutions within existing fish feed raw material production frameworks, complementarity with conventional harvesting techniques, quantification of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed solutions; (e) design of a toolbox to identify critical factors inhibiting the region to reach the full NBS potential, and assist planners in overcoming these issues and to foster decision-making criteria that are more holistic in nature, also considering the goals of policy sectors such as nature protection, recreation, public health, climate change mitigation, spatial planning or the development of the housing sector. Actions will be adapted, and knowledge transferred for FL#1 (Iceland, P33/MATIS).

Subtask 5.2.8: “DS#8 – Venice – IT”. (Lead: THETIS, Participants: IUAV, CBAR).
This subtask will implement the actions and activities for river restoration and sustainable Lagoon of Venice’s drainage basin management (DS8). There is no FL linked to this DS. The Lagoon of Venice drainage basin is approximately 2,000 km2 wide, the case study consists of a pilot that could represent an important transition to a sustainable management of river ecosystems in the drainage basin network. A sustainable approach for river management is proposed and NBS for river restoration will be implemented. Raising social awareness and capacity building related activities are foreseen along the case study implementation. The pilot study will be implemented in the Municipality of Salzano (Venice province). The Proposed actions/interventions involve: (a) Sustainable river bed management. Shift from a grey, "rigid", banks' management to a green management. Enlargement of the canal bed, shaping less steep banks. Revegetation for consolidating; (b) River buffers. Restoration and revegetation; (c) Ecological corridors. Designing ecological connections with nearby wetland Oasi Lycaea (SAC IT3250008); (d) Capacity building. Development of new skills and formation of qualified workers; (e) Social awareness. Dialogue with citizens and land owners; (f) Monitoring (definition of indicators through appropriate co-design, morphology, land biodiversity, water biodiversity, social acceptance). During the project, 1km of the river will be restored and demonstrated, with a high scale-up potential.

Task 5.3 Validation of solutions for each CS, evidence-based knowledge and recommendations at EU level.
Lead: NTUA, Participants: KWR, all CS Leaders (M37-M60)
In this task, the transformative and NBS developed and implemented at the CS (DSs and FLs) will be validated by the stakeholders, using specifically designed questionnaires and tools, while experiences from the work in the CSs from T5.2 will be synthesised and based on T5.1 and T5.2, general lessons learnt, and best practices (evidence-based) will be identified to structure and support recommendations for developing, implementing and mainstreaming transformative NBS in a multidisciplinary process of co-creation with stakeholders for European regions (D5.4, M60). The approach aims at improving the resilience to climate change at regional level through transformative solutions. The recommendations will cover gaps, inconsistencies and ambiguities related to co-creation, barriers and obstacles, resilience assessment, financial instruments for the solutions, impact assessment and, in particular, with regards to the SDGs. The evidence-based recommendations will also include a strategy for upscaling the project approach to more regions in Europe, to achieve wide (on a massive scale) community resilience at EU level, based on the evidence-based knowledge, synergies across the CSs, exchange of knowledge between DSs and FLs and lessons learned (D5.4).

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Work package WP6 – Investing in Ecosystem based adaptation for Climate Resilient Development

Work Package Number	WP6	**Lead Beneficiary**	8. ICA
Work Package Name	Investing in Ecosystem based adaptation for Climate Resilient Development		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	60

Objectives
WP6 aims to: (i) To identify main funding and financing streams to help leverage funding for speeding-up and scaling-up adaptation instruments (LIFE programme, investEU and its integrated, ERDF programmes, etc.); (ii) To apply our bundle of tried and tested methodologies and tools like the Nature Investment Launchramp, the Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi) tool or the Natural Assurance Business Canvas (NABC) to catalyse NBS projects starting in the early pre-feasibility stage of project origination process, accelerate their bankability and help leverage private investment into nature; (iii) To document the impact from these processes, projects and investment by making them easily accessible and replicable to others; (iv)To ensure legacy of the project´s tools and methods through a strong exploitation strategy and pathway to impact. This WP will work under the concept of the Mission of CoP and the concept of CoI (specifically geared for SMEs working on NBS for climate change adaptation), to help replicate and scale-up. With the CoP and CoI we will develop a beta funding platform for NBS. We will ensure the legacy establishing operational links with the Climate-ADAPT platform (run by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the future MACC Implementation Platform. Furthermore, we will actively participate in the EU Mission Community of practice facilitated by the Mission Platform, and also in the EU Mission Forums.

Description
Leader: Elena LOPEZ (ICA)/Co-lead: Juraj JURIK (GIB) Task 6.1. Nature Investment Launchramp – an early-stage origination process for NBS projects. Lead: GIB, Co leads: ICA, IISD. Participants: OiEau, KWR, EUT, BDG, AQUA, UTH, ULL, BEF, VNPN, All CSs (M01-M60) The Nature Investment Launchramp (NIL) is a structured, guided method that can help generate bankable NBS projects as a pre-feasibility method that has just been tested under the auspices of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The methodology is made up of four components, which come as a guide, a workbook and with two real DSs of application. The NIL is primarily designed to be used by investors, public sector stakeholders and local communities, to support them in the creation from scratch of new NBS portfolio tailored to address a wider variety of water security challenges such as floods, water availability (droughts) and water quality. The NIL process seeks to identify innovative financing models, which are locally feasible and deployable (e.g. blended finance, payments for ecosystems services, payments for avoided damages etc.). It results in regional-scale pre-feasibility NBS interventions that align stakeholder interests (e.g. flood risk, biodiversity, tourism) whilst restoring and creating habitats and ecosystems. The NIL will be initiated in the 4 DS in M 24 (MS8) and D6.1 (M32) will detail all the activities linked to T6.1. Task 6.2 Feasibility Natural assurance schemes Business Canvas - Technical support to deliver solutions for CC adaptation. Lead: ICA, Participants: GIB, IISD, OiEau, KWR, EUT, BDG, AQUA, UTH, ULL, BEF, VNPN, All CSs (M13-M60) Task 6.2 is mainly devoted to the economic analysis and business models to support decisions-making, in particular in relation on investments balance between reducing risks through building climate resilience and improving climate risk preparedness and climate emergency management by using the Natural Assurance Business Canvas tool (developed and tested under the H2020 NAIAD project). Thus, we will provide tailored technical assistance to Regions and Local Authorities to, depending on our CSs, either a) help them replicate/upscale tried and tested solutions or b) for our FLs regions identifying appropriate climate adaptation demonstration projects and accessing funding and financing (whether EU funding, EIB, EBRD funding, national, regional, local, other public funding or private or market funding) for their climate adaptation demonstration projects. This assistance will be in line with the national adaptation strategy/plan and the climate adaption pathway/plan of the region/city, whereby priority shall be given to NBS. Moreover, this task aim nurturing the private sectors (SMEs, solutions providers) to deliver and encourage them to invest in solutions for CC adaptation. D6.1 (M32) will detail all the activities linked to T6.2.

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Task 6.3. Financing NBS – Sustainable Asset Valuation
Lead IISD – Participants: UTH, ICA, GIB, OiEau, KWR, EUT, BDG, AQUA, ULL, BEF, VNPN, All CSs (M03-M60)
The Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi) is an assessment methodology that provides policy-makers and investors with a comprehensive and customized analysis to assess the lifecycle costs and benefits of projects. T6.3 is devoted to the use of SAVi methodology to identify, measure, and value economic, social and environmental externalities for NBS. SAVi will help demonstrate how these externalities impact the financial performance of NBS compared to other alternatives. The SAVi assessment will use a combination of different types of modelling, including spatial, system dynamics and financial modelling. In addition, the assessment is customised with the participation of local stakeholders. The SAVi methodology has been applied to more than 30 projects. T6.3 will link to T2.2 and T3.4 to take information on the mitigation potential of NBS so as to investigate to what extend they can also be financed as mitigation actions. D6.1 (M32) will detail all the activities linked to T6.3.

Task 6.4. Communities of Practice for Scalability and Replicability:
Lead: IISD, Participants: NTUA, BEF, WE&B, NAT2050 (M01-M60)
Task 6.4 will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices on climate adaptation, and facilitate coordination and collaboration between regions, local authorities and communities actively involved in this project, to allow for an effective implementation of the EU MACC, and particularly as it relates to funding and investment into NBS. The approach aims at strengthening inter-regional cooperation and development, for e.g. in the context of the inter-regional climate resilience demonstration projects, and knowledge transfer between the regions and local authorities. This will also provide a frame for the monitoring, support and visualisation of the progress of our DSs as Mission European Regions, helping to feed their results to the Climate-ADAPT and EEA assessments. Communities of innovation will also be supported giving special attention to SMEs working on NBS in the climate adaptation space. We will create a series of Story Boards and coaching sessions for our FLs to be able to learn from our frontrunner DSs (storyboards produced in beta format in M14, MS3 and final storyboards detailed in D6.3, M54). Pilot on a funding platform for NBS for climate change adaptation in one of our DSs. This task will collaborate closely with T2.5 on competency building and on twinning. The uptake of the Seal of Excellence in Structural Funds programmes will be explored in the context of reinforcing synergies between the research and innovation framework programmes and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), especially as it relates to in the funding and finance opportunities for the four DS Community of practice.

Task 6.5. Exploitation Roadmap for Climate Resilient Development: Catalogue and User guide on innovative Ecosystem based solutions
Lead: ICA: Participants: OiEau, All (M25-60)
This task will develop a Roadmap for our exploitable results (both commercial and non- commercial) as well as ways to create innovation packages for regions to address specific issues (i.e. problem based) (D3.6, M54). This task complements and has synergies with D7.4 in the joint production of a Catalogue of KER. The potential of the Seal of excellence for NATALIE innovations will be explored in the Exploitation roadmap.

Work package WP7 – Building NBS communication and dissemination ecosystem

Work Package Number	WP7	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Work Package Name	Building NBS communication and dissemination ecosystem		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	60

Objectives
The overall objective of WP7 is to maximise the impact of NATALIE activities by ensuring that all the project's progress and results are brought to the attention of the various targeted audiences and beyond by benefiting from the multiplier effect of the networks' activities and training at local level. Doing so WP7 will contribute to the promotion of NBS as a central element of transformation towards climate resilience, to deliver smarter adaptation and to the comprehensive collection of climate adaptation data through regions and communities.

Description
Leader: Dr Natacha AMORSI (OiEau) Task 7.1: Communication & dissemination for NBS mainstreaming Lead: OiEau, Participants: All (M1–M60)

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Task 7.1 aims at setting the framework for the communication and dissemination (C&D) activities from day one until the end of the project. Related activities and resources will be presented in D7.1, addressing the following five key questions and components: Why? Setting the C&D objectives of NATALIE to ensure the strategy is organisationally driven according to the project's ambitions, progress and results/outcomes. What? The key messages for each targeted audience with a flow chart highlighting all NATALIE deliverables that can be used for C&D will be detailed. Targeted audiences will be delivered messages through tailored media: documents' templates for partners to prepare their own communication, ppt presentation of the project, poster, leaflet, social innovation factsheets (D7.3 and D7.8), policy briefs, project's updates and social media posts, audio-visual products. For who? In order to provide well-tailored messages and knowledge, NATALIE stakeholders and influencers mapping (in close relation with WP2) will be presented in D7.1 (updated in D7.9 and D7.10). Their persona will be set and detailed thanks to a desk analysis and series of interviews. More than a list, the mapping will also highlight their respective level of knowledge, challenges and influence. When? To provide a detailed planning both of relevant external events for NATALIE partners, and for the organisation of NATALIE events. The latter will be planned accordingly to the delivery of key C&D materials (i.e. webinars including round table to highlight replication opportunities (WP6), present and promote each policy brief). How? The C&D strategy will ensure C&D materials are disseminated through the most appropriate channels: NATALIE website, social media (both launched in M4, MS2) and press, scientific articles, events including co-development, training, promotional webinars and workshops tailored to each targeted audience. An overall planning (of actions) will be set. At the end of the project, a series of 4 monthly webinars will be organised to present NATALIE final results. Each of them will focus on a specific dimension (i.e. NBS challenges, NATALIE technical solutions, NATALIE non-technical solutions and How NATALIE contributes to regional and EU policies). In addition, guiding principles for partners will be prepared to support their C&D activities on behalf of their organisation and towards their own networks. A monitoring process of C&D activities will be also put into place. The KPIs presented in §2.2 of annex 1 - part B will be used. To harmonize and coordinate the C&D of all the WPs, the 8 DSs and 5 FLs and support partners during the entire duration of the project; a workforce will be set, composed of the communication officer of each organization.

Task 7.2: Regional and Policy recommendations
Lead: OiEau Participants: WP/tasks Leaders (M13–M60)
This task will produce 4 policy briefs, one per year from year 2 (D7.2, D7.11, D7.12 and D7.13), to synthesize relevant findings from the project that are targeted to policy-makers with a specific focus on the regional scale. Each brief will be accompanied by a webinar or workshop to present and discuss recommendations with the targeted audiences. The subject of each brief will be discussed during the project implementation to potentially adapt towards EU agenda. The Policy briefs will be an illustrative 2 pages documents. Indicative topics are: (i) NATALIE NBS and EU directives, (ii) NATALIE NBS and the Mission on Climate change adaptation, (iii) NATALIE NBS and Sustainable Development Goals, (iv) Mainstreaming regional NBS policies. The policy brief will support authorities in the CSs regions to find policy relevant applications of the tools and models developed in WPs 3, 4 and 6. Overall, the policy briefs will provide recommendations for policy-makers at all levels to foster social innovation and effective citizen engagement strategies, (based upon the results of WP2 and WP5). The final brief will synthesize policy relevant learnings from the entire project at the international level. It will provide targeted policy and regulatory recommendations for improvements and innovations in NBS mainstreaming.

Task 7.3: NBS and KER catalogues
Lead: EUT, Participants: All Case Study Leaders (M13–M60)
Based on WPs 3 and 4 delivering NBS related IT tools, feedbacks from WP5, WP6's economic and exploitation layer of knowledge, T7.3 will gather NBS implementing by NATALIE DS and FLs in the NWRM.eu platform to ensure a friendly access to their description. The NBS and transformative solutions will be classified with the main categories (urban, forestry, agricultural and water) and described with the different fields used in the NWRM sheet (Name, type of surface for the implementation, Costs, scale, Conception, Biophysical impact, Ecosystemic services and Contribution to policy). Each NBS will be illustrated by the context of their implementation at the DS and FLs levels. A similar approach will be deployed to present NATALIE KERs (complete catalogue presented in D74 and its final update D7.7). All of them will be described in as specific sheet with the following fields: Description, Contact, Target, Dimension (technological, non-technological or both), EU type: (policy related result, scientific or technological R&I result including ICT Hardware, ICT software digital solution, other intangible results, services and other), NATALIE type (product or service). NBS type, Readiness Levels (TRL, SRL, and Institutional Readiness), Resources: (NATALIE references). In both cases, the aim is to provide a tailored description to the different targets, which provides relevant information to understand the issues related to NBS mainstreaming, and how the transformative solutions provided by NATALIE can help them to reach their own objectives.

Task 7.4: Social innovation exchange and capacity building
Lead: OiEau, co-lead: ICA Participants: WP leaders (M40–M60)
The main scope of T7.4 is to ensure the knowledge exchange and transfer of the KER developed by NATALIE. WP

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Leaders will be in charge of developing and implementing the Training Plan under the coordination of OiEau, comprising the elaboration of suitable material for training and solutions transfer and the organization of the specific sessions, simultaneously to the project meetings. The training plan will be launched in M40 (MS11). Complementarily, a version of the training material excluding confidential information, will be made available online to ensure training opportunities are widely available for all stakeholders. In addition, in line with WP5 (T5.5) and the Liaison strategy (T7.5), a training package is envisioned as part of the empowering plan aiming to capacitate stakeholders to make informed decisions and take responsibility for decision-making. Different events (see §1.2.2 – annex 1 – part B) will serve to present the main results and expected gains of NATALIE methodology deployment to mainstream NBS and provide effective solutions at the regional scale and support policies to embrace climate change adaptation.

Task 7.5 Multiplier effect: Networking and liaison with other initiatives
Lead: KWR, co-lead: UTH, Participants: All (M1–M60)
T7.5 is aimed at developing and implementing a liaison strategy to increase NATALIE impact of on regional strategies and support European policies related to climate change adaptation. Support will be provided for partners to proactively liaise with relevant regional and NBS initiatives. This task will develop an overview and an analysis of current existing networks, EU projects and organisations dealing with NBS. An insight in the objectives of the other initiatives, and the activities and organisations involved will be provided. Links are planned with Water Europe (KWR in the VLT Team and in the Board), with the ICT4WATER cluster (KWR coordinating the Action Groups) and through the knowledge Exchange and Collaboration network Watershare (coordinated by KWR). Then, a good grasp will be set on which other initiatives might be interesting and what the interest of those initiatives might be in the NATALIE activities. In particular, NATALIE will participate and contribute to the MISSION Implementation Platform networking activities and to the MISSION governance activities. At the moment it is not yet clear what type(s) of activities will be relevant for this, because they are still under development by the EC, so no specific details can be given. More details, as with the other liaison activities will be presented in the analysis of the NATALIE liaison strategy (D7.5, updated finally in D7.6). This analysis will highlight the prioritisation of relevant networks and activities, how to get and keep in touch with them, and ensure the information exchange flows. The implementation of the liaison strategy will develop different types of relations (MoU, development of joint events, training, webinars, workshops etc.). The strategy will be closely aligned with the development of NATALIE Community of practice (WP2). All the partners participate in WP7 and enough resources have been assigned for this type of activities.

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STAFF EFFORT

Staff effort per participant

Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.

Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	Total Person-Months
1 - OIEAU	43.00	17.00	5.00	4.00	23.00	21.00	41.00	154.00
2 - KWR	3.00	2.00	22.00	15.00	30.00	2.00	2.00	76.00
3 - EUT	2.00	16.00	10.00	40.00	25.00	3.00	3.00	99.00
4 - BDG	5.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	7.00	10.00	5.00	43.00
5 - NTUA	1.00	4.00	36.00	36.00	8.00	8.00	2.00	95.00
6 - AQUA	3.00	10.00	36.00	10.00	27.00	13.00	5.00	104.00
7 - UTH	1.00	50.00	11.00	6.00	8.00	12.00	6.00	94.00
8 - ICA	2.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	8.00	30.00	5.00	65.00
9 - ULL	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	32.00	15.00	5.00	60.00
10 - BEF	2.00	10.00	2.00	3.00	18.00	6.00	5.00	46.00
11 - VNPA	5.00	12.00	6.00	4.00	20.00	17.00	6.00	70.00
12 - NAT2050	2.00	13.00	1.00	1.00	8.00	6.00	3.00	34.00
13 - CSIC	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	62.00	15.00	7.00	90.00
14 - UiT	5.00	2.00		5.00	46.00	18.00	5.00	81.00
15 - LLU	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	7.00	4.00	39.00
16 - ZPR	2.00	6.00	2.00	2.00	24.00	6.00	6.00	48.00
17 - WE&B	5.00	32.00		8.00	2.00	9.00	2.00	58.00
18 - AGT	1.00				6.00	6.00	0.50	13.50
19 - AQUAFIN	1.00	2.50			4.00	4.00	1.00	12.50

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Staff effort per participant

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Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	Total Person-Months
20 - VUB	1.00				12.00	10.00	0.50	23.50
21 - DeWater	1.00	1.00		1.00	8.00	2.00	0.50	13.50
22 - CIEGC	4.00	1.00			6.00	2.00	10.00	23.00
23 - AyLL	1.00				2.00	3.00	4.00	10.00
24 - CAN	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	25.00	15.00	2.00	47.00
25 - UIB	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	12.00	30.00	2.00	52.00
26 - PNR	1.00				15.00	3.00	1.00	20.00
27 - SABV	1.00				6.00	2.00	1.00	10.00
28 - EPTBV	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	42.00	16.00	1.00	66.00
29 - CBAR	2.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	19.00	6.00	2.00	38.00
30 - THETIS	1.00	4.00		6.00	22.00	10.00	1.00	44.00
31 - BIRZAI	3.00	10.00	2.00	2.00	12.00	16.00	10.00	55.00
32 - MATIS	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	9.00	2.00	25.00
33 - MS4	2.00	11.00	6.00	3.00	16.00	5.00	7.00	50.00
34 - FF	1.00				10.00	10.00	1.00	22.00
35 - WWFGreece	1.00	3.00		1.00	20.00	15.00	1.00	41.00
36 - CHALKIS	1.00	1.00			7.00	7.00	2.00	18.00
37 - IUAV	1.00				15.00	10.00	2.00	28.00
38 - PSTE	1.00	3.00			9.00	6.00	4.00	23.00
39 - GIB	1.00	13.00	3.00		15.00	33.00	2.00	67.00
40 - IISD-Europe	2.00					40.00	2.00	44.00

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Staff effort per participant

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Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	Total Person-Months
Total Person-Months	125.00	258.50	165.00	165.00	659.00	458.00	171.50	2002.00

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LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverables

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D1.1	Info-pack for internal communication (tools/procedure, eg. internal collaboration platform)	WP1	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	3
D1.2	Quality Assurance, Risk management and Impact monitoring	WP1	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D1.3	Initial Data Management Plan	WP1	3 - EUT	R — Document, report	PU - Public	6
D1.4	Privacy, ethics and security requirements	WP1	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	4
D1.5	Intermediate Data Management Plan	WP1	3 - EUT	R — Document, report	PU - Public	30
D1.6	Final Data Management Plan	WP1	3 - EUT	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D2.1	Initial stakeholder profiling and mapping	WP2	7 - UTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D2.2	Stakeholder profiling and mapping: visual and interactive maps	WP2	7 - UTH	OTHER	PU - Public	54
D2.3	Analysing current NDC practices and defining pathways for incorporating NBS targets in countries	WP2	7 - UTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D2.4	Citizen science as a tool for engagement - V1	WP2	42 - EARTHWATCH	OTHER	PU - Public	36

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D2.5	Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning midterm version	WP2	17 - WE&B	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D2.6	Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning final version	WP2	17 - WE&B	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D2.7	Citizen science as a tool for engagement final version	WP2	42 - EARTHWATCH	OTHER	PU - Public	60
D3.1	Regional climate and socio-economic scenarios	WP3	6 - AQUA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D3.2	NATALIE tools to assess NbS performance and climate resilience	WP3	5 - NTUA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54
D3.3	Co-creation tools and metrics for NBS deployment pathways	WP3	7 - UTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54
D3.4	Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs.	WP3	7 - UTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D3.5	Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs - final version	WP3	7 - UTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54
D4.1	NBS open Data space	WP4	5 - NTUA	OTHER	PU - Public	48
D4.2	Small data empowerment and hybrid	WP4	41 - UNEXE	OTHER	PU - Public	54

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
	modelling for the design and monitoring of NBS					
D4.3	NBS knowledge booster deployment and validation	WP4	3 - EUT	OTHER	PU - Public	57
D4.4	NBS KPI monitoring and assesment tool	WP4	5 - NTUA	OTHER	PU - Public	48
D5.1	Initial Roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies	WP5	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	6
D5.2	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies - update 1	WP5	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D5.3	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #2	WP5	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D5.4	Report on the validation of the solutions for all the Demonstration Sites and recommendations at EU level for best practices	WP5	5 - NTUA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D5.5	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #3	WP5	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	42
D5.6	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies Final version	WP5	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D6.1	Ecosystem based adaptation Investment Bundle	WP6	39 - GIB	R — Document, report	PU - Public	32
D6.2	Recommendations and key takeaways for the Funding and Finance Community of Practice	WP6	8 - ICA	OTHER	PU - Public	32
D6.3	Exploitation Roadmap	WP6	40 - IISD-Europe	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54
D7.1	NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	6
D7.2	First policy brief	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D7.3	First social innovation factsheet	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	44
D7.4	NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	40
D7.5	NATALIE Liaison strategy	WP7	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D7.6	NATALIE Liaison strategy - Final version	WP7	2 - KWR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	58
D7.7	NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues Final version	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D7.8	Second social innovation factsheet	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54
D7.9	NATALIE communication and	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	42

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
	dissemination strategy and monitoring Midterm update					
D7.10	NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Final version	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D7.11	Second policy brief	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D7.12	Third policy brief	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D7.13	Fourth policy brief	WP7	1 - OIEAU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	58

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Deliverable D1.1 – Info-pack for internal communication (tools/procedure, eg. internal collaboration platform)

Deliverable Number	D1.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	Info-pack for internal communication (tools/procedure, eg. internal collaboration platform)		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	3	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
Setting-up internal communication tools and procedures, including consortium mailing lists, info-pack with internal communication mechanisms, gidelines for meetings agendas, standard templates for deliverables' reporting and for communication actions to be used by all partners. This deliverable is linked to task T1.1.

Deliverable D1.2 – Quality Assurance, Risk management and Impact monitoring

Deliverable Number	D1.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	Quality Assurance, Risk management and Impact monitoring		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
This deliverable will include procedures and monitoring tools that all the partners will have to closely implement and follow all along project life: - Scientific Quality Assurance (SQA plan) - Risk Management (RMP) - Project Impact, via Key Performance Indicators (dashboard of KPI) This report will serve as a guide for the whole consortium, during the 5 years of the project. Regular updates of the SQA plan, the RMP and the KPI dashboard will be reported in the periodic technical reports (M12, M24, M42 and M60). This deliverable is linked to task T1.2.

Deliverable D1.3 – Initial Data Management Plan

Deliverable Number	D1.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	3. EUT
Deliverable Name	Initial Data Management Plan		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
In this deliverable, we define the types of data that are either used or produced in the project. A plan is presented on how the data will be managed. Also, online version of the DMP will be available. D1.3 is the initial version of the Data Management plan. It will updated twice. This deliverable is linked to task T1.3.

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Deliverable D1.4 – Privacy, ethics and security requirements

Deliverable Number	D1.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	Privacy, ethics and security requirements		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	4	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
Report describing the privacy, ethics and security rules to be followed all along the project by all the partners. In this report, the EU legislation (2009) on elecronic data processing and transmission will notably be reminded. Rules on how to ensure that privacy legislations are not infranged will aslo be given, especially concerning the protection of individuals and their personal data. This deliverable is linked to task T1.3.

Deliverable D1.5 – Intermediate Data Management Plan

Deliverable Number	D1.5	**Lead Beneficiary**	3. EUT
Deliverable Name	Intermediate Data Management Plan		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	30	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
This is an update of D1.3 (initial Data Management Plan). This deliverable is linked to task T1.3.

Deliverable D1.6 – Final Data Management Plan

Deliverable Number	D1.6	**Lead Beneficiary**	3. EUT
Deliverable Name	Final Data Management Plan		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
This is an update of D1.5 (intermediate Data Management Plan). This deliverable is linked to task T1.3.

Deliverable D2.1 – Initial stakeholder profiling and mapping

Deliverable Number	D2.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Deliverable Name	Initial stakeholder profiling and mapping		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	**Work Package No**	WP2

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Description
Initial identification of stakeholders and visual mapping of the stakeholders for the case-studies. This deliverable is linked to task T2.1.

Deliverable D2.2 – Stakeholder profiling and mapping: visual and interactive maps

Deliverable Number	D2.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Deliverable Name	Stakeholder profiling and mapping: visual and interactive maps		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
Online tool with identification of stakeholders and visual mapping of the stakeholders for the case-studies. This deliverable is linked to task T2.1 (update of D2.1).

Deliverable D2.3 – Analysing current NDC practices and defining pathways for incorporating NBS targets in countries

Deliverable Number	D2.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Deliverable Name	Analysing current NDC practices and defining pathways for incorporating NBS targets in countries		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
Analysis of policies and NDC practices to distil specific demo-site policy needs. Also, the deliverable will include potential actions and interests to be empowered in the demo-cases as a result from stakeholders' interaction. This deliverable is linked to task T2.2.

Deliverable D2.4 – Citizen science as a tool for engagement - V1

Deliverable Number	D2.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	42. EARTHWATCH
Deliverable Name	Citizen science as a tool for engagement - V1		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
Description of the setup and results community events in 4 NATALIE case studies. Local heroes and partners have been trained in engaging the local community and additional stakeholders and have organised impact events for the community connected to the installed NBS of NATALIE. The communities themselves have measured the impact(s) of the NBS regarding climate adaptation and biodiversity. All 8 NATALIE case studies will be investigated through questionnaires resulting in a comparison of engagement levels with and without impact events (citizen science). This deliverable will describe short-term (1-2 years) developments in the engagement level of local communities. This deliverable is linked to task T2.3.

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Deliverable D2.5 – Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning midterm version

Deliverable Number	D2.5	**Lead Beneficiary**	17. WE&B
Deliverable Name	Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning midterm version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
The deliverable will provide the details of the methods used to set up each of the transformation lab, the countries and communities they are set-up in, the composition of the stakeholders engaged in the lab, the activities of each lab for twinning DSs and FLs and the impacts that each transformation lab has achieved. The first deliverable is provided in M36 which provides an opportunity to gauge the progress of the labs and rectify any lessons learnt before the final deliverable is provided in M60 on the achievements of each lab in their twinning activities. This deliverable is linked to tasks T2.4 and T2.5.

Deliverable D2.6 – Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning final version

Deliverable Number	D2.6	**Lead Beneficiary**	17. WE&B
Deliverable Name	Report on Transformation Lab activities and DS/FL twinning final version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
This is an update of mid-term version This deliverable is linked to tasks T2.4 and T2.5.

Deliverable D2.7 – Citizen science as a tool for engagement final version

Deliverable Number	D2.7	**Lead Beneficiary**	42. EARTHWATCH
Deliverable Name	Citizen science as a tool for engagement final version		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
Description of the setup and results of prolonged community events in 4 NATALIE case studies (see D2.4). All 8 NATALIE case studies will be investigated through questionnaires resulting in a comparison of engagement levels with and without impact events (citizen science). This deliverable will describe long-term (3-4 years) developments in the engagement level of local communities. Also it will include a strategy for using citizen science as a local engagement accelerator with the implementation of urban NBS, using the results of NATALIE and additional citizen science projects on urban NBS (Tiny Forest & Naturehood). This deliverable is linked to task T2.3.

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Deliverable D3.1 – Regional climate and socio-economic scenarios

Deliverable Number	D3.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	6. AQUA
Deliverable Name	Regional climate and socio-economic scenarios		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	12	**Work Package No**	WP3

Description
The report will define tailored scenarios for NATALIE CS# in terms of climate-related hazards and socio-economic pathways. This deliverable is linked to task T3.1.

Deliverable D3.2 – NATALIE tools to assess NbS performance and climate resilience

Deliverable Number	D3.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	5. NTUA
Deliverable Name	NATALIE tools to assess NbS performance and climate resilience		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP3

Description
NATALIE tools to assess NbS performance and climate resilience. A preliminary version will be provided in M36 as a milestone for validation during a workshop with stakehholders. This deliverable is linked to task T3.2.

Deliverable D3.3 – Co-creation tools and metrics for NBS deployment pathways

Deliverable Number	D3.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Deliverable Name	Co-creation tools and metrics for NBS deployment pathways		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP3

Description
This deliverable describes the different tools and metrics that are a result of a co-creation and co-design process with stakeholders in order to develop NBS implementation and deployment strategic pathways that will make them operational. This deliverable is linked to task T3.3.

Deliverable D3.4 – Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs.

Deliverable Number	D3.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Deliverable Name	Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs.		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	**Work Package No**	WP3

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Description
This deliverable focuses on quantifying the mitigation potential of Nature Based Solutions in the Demonstration Sites when considering their functionality as Natural Climate Solutions, thus reducing GHG emissions. This deliverable is linked to task T3.4.

Deliverable D3.5 – Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs - final version

Deliverable Number	D3.5	**Lead Beneficiary**	7. UTH
Deliverable Name	Report and maps on the mitigation potential of implemented NBSs-NCSs at the DSs - final version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP3

Description
This is an update of version delivered in M24 This deliverable is linked to task T3.4.

Deliverable D4.1 – NBS open Data space

Deliverable Number	D4.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	5. NTUA
Deliverable Name	NBS open Data space		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	48	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
A digital toolkit with the selection of the relevant small data and open data from the CSs will be designed. The initial NBS open space requirements, architecture, data and models as well as an initial mock-up of the solution will be compiled and presented in the report. This deliverable is linked to task T4.2

Deliverable D4.2 – Small data empowerment and hybrid modelling for the design and monitoring of NBS

Deliverable Number	D4.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	41. UNEXE
Deliverable Name	Small data empowerment and hybrid modelling for the design and monitoring of NBS		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
Identification, selection and integration into the open platform small data from case-studies. This deliverable will also include initial modelling tools combined to IA to determine NBS pathways (policy actions) balanced at cross-sectorial level in the selected case-studies. This deliverable is linked to tasks T4.3 and T4.4.

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Deliverable D4.3 – NBS knowledge booster deployment and validation

Deliverable Number	D4.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	3. EUT
Deliverable Name	NBS knowledge booster deployment and validation		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	57	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
Details regarding the knowledge boosters (online platform) and related digital technologies deployment and validation, considering technology requirements and those specified for each involved DS. This deliverable is linked to task T4.6

Deliverable D4.4 – NBS KPI monitoring and assesment tool

Deliverable Number	D4.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	5. NTUA
Deliverable Name	NBS KPI monitoring and assesment tool		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	48	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
An online platform that will permit to assess different pathways and policy-actions in an interactive manner. It will include data harmonization and the hybrid-modelling results elaborated under the WP4 tasks. This deliverable is linked to task T4.5

Deliverable D5.1 – Initial Roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies

Deliverable Number	D5.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	Initial Roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description
This deliverable will include a detailed description of the Case Studies and the activities planned until M18, together with a specific monitoring plan. This deliverable is linked to task T5.1

Deliverable D5.2 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies - update 1

Deliverable Number	D5.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies - update 1		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public

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Due Date (month)	12	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description
This Deliverable consists of an updated version delivered on M6. The subsequent versions will include the activities already performed, as well as the updated plans for the activities at the DS level (next steps). This deliverable is linked to task T5.1.

Deliverable D5.3 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #2

Deliverable Number	D5.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #2		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description
This Deliverable consists of an updated version delivered in M12. The subsequent versions will include the activities already performed, as well as the updated plans for the activities at the DSs (next steps). This deliverable is linked to task T5.1.

Deliverable D5.4 – Report on the validation of the solutions for all the Demonstration Sites and recommendations at EU level for best practices

Deliverable Number	D5.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	5. NTUA
Deliverable Name	Report on the validation of the solutions for all the Demonstration Sites and recommendations at EU level for best practices		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description
A synthesis report on the NBS developed and implemented at the CSs will be compiled, identifying general lessons learnt, best practices and recommendations, validated by the stakeholders. This deliverable is linked to task T5.3.

Deliverable D5.5 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #3

Deliverable Number	D5.5	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies #3		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	42	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description

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This Deliverable consists of an updated version delivered in M24. The subsequent versions will include the activities already performed, as well as the updated plans for the activities at the DSs (next steps).
This deliverable is linked to task T5.1.

Deliverable D5.6 – Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies Final version

Deliverable Number	D5.6	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	Updated Roadmap and implementation and monitoring of actions at the Case Studies Final version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description
This Deliverable consists of an updated version delivered in M42 with final results achieved at DSs level. This deliverable is linked to task T5.1.

Deliverable D6.1 – Ecosystem based adaptation Investment Bundle

Deliverable Number	D6.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	39. GIB
Deliverable Name	Ecosystem based adaptation Investment Bundle		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	32	**Work Package No**	WP6

Description
A toolkit for stakeholder engagement to i) originate co-design nature investment launch ramp, ii) a coaching programme on the Natural assurance Business Canvas and iii) guidelines for Financing NBS Sustainable Asset Valuation. This deliverable is linked to tasks T6.1, T6.2 and T6.3.

Deliverable D6.2 – Recommendations and key takeaways for the Funding and Finance Community of Practice

Deliverable Number	D6.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	8. ICA
Deliverable Name	Recommendations and key takeaways for the Funding and Finance Community of Practice		
Type	OTHER	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	32	**Work Package No**	WP6

Description
Assessment of the financing structures and solutions used for selected case studies, providing takeaways and recommendations to scale up financing to NBS. This deliverable is linked to task T6.4.

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Deliverable D6.3 – Exploitation Roadmap

Deliverable Number	D6.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	40. IISD-Europe
Deliverable Name	Exploitation Roadmap		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP6

Description
Exploitation Roadmap of NATALIE solutions, condisdering KER identified in WP7 and financing mechanism from WP6. This deliverable is linked to task T6.5.

Deliverable D7.1 – NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring

Deliverable Number	D7.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
The strategy plan will focus on how NATALIE outcomes promotion will be implemented to reach out the targeted groups, based on a stakeholders and influencers mapping. Their persona will be set and detailed thanks to a desk analysis and series of interviews.In this report, will also be detailed the key messages for each targeted audience with a flow chart highlighting all NATALIE deliverabes usable for C&D purposes. This deliverable is linked to task T7.1.

Deliverable D7.2 – First policy brief

Deliverable Number	D7.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	First policy brief		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
A series of 4 policy briefs (one per year from year 2) will be produced in order to synthetize NATALIE relevant findings that are targetting policy makers with a specific focus on the regional scale. The policy briefs will be an illustrative 2-pages document. This is the first policy brief. Its envisaged topic is: NATALIE NBS and EU directives. This deliverable is linked to task T7.2.

Deliverable D7.3 – First social innovation factsheet

Deliverable Number	D7.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	First social innovation factsheet		

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Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	44	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
Synthesis of social innovation from DS and FL. This deliverable is linked to task T7.1.

Deliverable D7.4 – NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues

Deliverable Number	D7.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	40	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
This report will consist of a collection of all the NBS implemented in NATALIE demo cases and replication sites. It will detail how these NBS are fed into the nwrm.eu existing platform. Each NBS will hence be classified in 4 main categories (urban, forestry, agricultural and water) and will described in a friendly manner (costs, scale, conception...). Moreover, a catalogue of NATALIE key exploitable results (KER) will also be developped and updated all along the projcet life. This deliverable is linked to task T7.3.

Deliverable D7.5 – NATALIE Liaison strategy

Deliverable Number	D7.5	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	NATALIE Liaison strategy		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	12	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
This report will detail the strategy deployed to increase NATALIE impact on regional strategies and to support European policies related to climate change adaptation. This deliverable is linked to task T7.5.

Deliverable D7.6 – NATALIE Liaison strategy - Final version

Deliverable Number	D7.6	**Lead Beneficiary**	2. KWR
Deliverable Name	NATALIE Liaison strategy - Final version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	58	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
Update of the strategy and activities undertaken. This deliverable is linked to task T7.5.

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Deliverable D7.7 – NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues Final version

Deliverable Number	D7.7	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	NATALIE NBS and Key Exploitable Results catalogues Final version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
This is an update of the catalogues of NBS and KER. This deliverable is linked to task T7.3.

Deliverable D7.8 – Second social innovation factsheet

Deliverable Number	D7.8	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	Second social innovation factsheet		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
Final version of factsheets providing a synthesis of social innovation from DS and FL. This deliverable is linked to task T7.1.

Deliverable D7.9 – NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Midterm update

Deliverable Number	D7.9	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Midterm update		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	42	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
Mid term update. This deliverable is linked to task T7.1.

Deliverable D7.10 – NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Final version

Deliverable Number	D7.10	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	NATALIE communication and dissemination strategy and monitoring Final version		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description

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Final version. This deliverable is linked to task T7.1.

Deliverable D7.11 – Second policy brief

Deliverable Number	D7.11	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	Second policy brief		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
A series of 4 policy briefs (one per year from year 2) will be produced in order to synthetize NATALIE relevant findings that are targetting policy makers with a specific focus on the regional scale. The policy briefs will be an illustrative 2-pages document. This is the second policy brief. Its envisaged topic is: NATALIE NBS and the mission on Climat Change Adaptation. This deliverable is linked to task T7.2.

Deliverable D7.12 – Third policy brief

Deliverable Number	D7.12	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	Third policy brief		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	48	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
A series of 4 policy briefs (one per year from year 2) will be produced in order to synthetize NATALIE relevant findings that are targetting policy makers with a specific focus on the regional scale. The policy briefs will be an illustrative 2-pages document. This is the third policy brief. Its envisaged topic is: NATALIE NBS and sustainbale development goals. This deliverable is linked to task T7.2.

Deliverable D7.13 – Fourth policy brief

Deliverable Number	D7.13	**Lead Beneficiary**	1. OIEAU
Deliverable Name	Fourth policy brief		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	58	**Work Package No**	WP7

Description
A series of 4 policy briefs (one per year from year 2) will be produced in order to synthetize NATALIE relevant findings that are targetting policy makers with a specific focus on the regional scale. The policy briefs will be an illustrative 2-pages document. This is the fourth policy brief. Its envisaged topic is: Mainstreaming regional NBS policies. This deliverable is linked to task T7.2.

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LIST OF MILESTONES

Milestones

Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.

Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
1	External Advisory board nominated	WP1	1-OIEAU	List of members published on the website (Task T1.1)	3
2	Launch of NATALIE social media and website	WP7	1-OIEAU	Online material ((Task T7.1)	4
3	Storyboards available in beta form	WP6	8-ICA	Report (Task T6.4)	14
4	Existing NBS actions in current NDCs completed	WP2	7-UTH	Report (Task T2.1)	18
5	Design of the NBS Booster and data integration	WP4	3-EUT	Mockup (Task T4.6)	18
6	Stakeholder maps submitted for all DSs	WP2	7-UTH	Report (Task T2.1)	24
7	Early release of NATALIE tools to assess NbS performance and climate resilience Urban water balance – sustainability	WP3	6-AQUA	Workshop with stakeholders (Task T3.2) and notes of the workshop.	24
8	Launchramp applied in 4 DS	WP6	8-ICA	Report (Task T6.1)	24
9	Beta version of the funding platform launched	WP6	8-ICA	Platform online (Task T6.2)	28
10	Early release of co-creation tools for NBS-enabled mitigation and adaptation pathways	WP3	6-AQUA	Workshop with stakeholders (Task T3.4) and notes of the workshop.	36
11	NATALIE launch of the training plan	WP7	1-OIEAU	Report (Task T7.4)	40
12	Deployment of the NBS boosters in DS regions	WP4	3-EUT	Online booster (Task T4.6)	48
13	Final conference announced and agenda circulated	WP1	1-OIEAU	Promotion of the final conference on the project Website, 3 months in advance (Task T1.1). A	58

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Milestones *Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.*					
Milestone No	**Milestone Name**	**Work Package No**	**Lead Beneficiary**	**Means of Verification**	**Due Date (month)**
				summary of the presentations, of the exchanges and of the perspectives raised will be published on the website at the latest 1 month after the conference.	
14	Federation and recommendations about NBS boosters plan	WP4	3-EUT	Report (Task T4.6)	58

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	Project execution failure, technical problems and delays (key milestones or deliverables delayed), especially the technical Deliverables	WP6, WP2, WP3, WP4	Likelihood: Medium - Severity: High. PM: PC and PMT will conduct strict monitoring of tasks against the allocated time and monitor progress closely. Milestones and deliverables with a critical a critical path will be handled with special attention. CA: Progress and issues will be discussed regularly within the consortium and necessary schedule adjustments made. In the event of technical problems and time delays, we will produce a priority list working with the Project Officer (PO) and the end-users to adjust the project to achievable timescales and objectives.
2	Limited coordination and communication among partners	WP1	Likelihood: Low - Severity: High.

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Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
			PM: The Coordinator and all the WP Leaders/Co-Leaders have considerable experience in coordinating/ leading cooperative projects and will ensure continuous support of project developments. Regular meetings using known communication methods will facilitate the processes. CA: Effective coordination will be fostered by the proper management structure set for the project. Regular online meetings will facilitate the processes. PMT will timely intercept problems and discuss individually with concerned partners.
3	Low commitment of the partners to the project plan and deadlines	WP5, WP6, WP7, WP2, WP3, WP1, WP4	Likelihood: Low - Severity: Medium. PM: All partners of the consortium are familiar with this type of project activities from previous similar projects. Clear responsibilities are allocated for every task in the WPs. CA: When needed, WP leaders directly address the lack of commitment by specific partners. If unsuccessful, the STC will contact the relevant partner and, if necessary, re-allocate tasks and resources.
4	Administrative delays in start-up of case studies (e.g., stakeholder activation, access to data, admin issues)	WP5, WP2	Likelihood: Medium - Severity: Medium. PM: Project activities revolve around well-defined CSs, involving known local partners and already identified stakeholder groups. Preliminary investigation about data existence has already been carried out. CA: Liaise with local partners to speed-up the administrative processes. In case of delays, the timeline and activities planning at CSs will adapted in a way that still ensures reaching the projects targets.
5	Inadequate coordination of activities at case study level	WP5	Likelihood: Medium - Severity: High. PM: The responsible partner for the deliverables will at an early stage communicate an overview of the deliverable so that any disagreements are identified early. Local staff (i.e., at each CS) will be involved in day-to-day management, to keep communication lines short, and interact directly with local stakeholders not part of the consortium. Moreover, NATALIE has already obtained LoS from national/regional organisations for all the CS and the Leader and Co-Leader in WP5 are very experienced.

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Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
			CA: Coordination will be ensured by proper management structure, including a CS WP (co-)Leader (WP5) focusing on monitoring/management of cases in collaboration with all CS leaders.
6	Loss of key staff	WP5, WP6, WP7, WP2, WP3, WP1, WP4	Likelihood: Medium - Severity: Low. PM: There is no critical task that is dependent on a specific individual. It will be policy to spread knowledge throughout the team. CA: Most of the partners are large organisations and will be able to replace staff as needed. If necessary, tasks will be reassigned by the STC.
7	Loss of key partner	WP5, WP6, WP7, WP2, WP3, WP1, WP4	Likelihood: Low - Severity: High. PM: Effective management procedures to timely intercept problems, and/or reallocate partners. The CA will govern the policies behind this. CA: If needed, replace with new partners with suitable skills and profiles in collaboration with the PO. In the eventuality that the partner loss will also mean a CS cannot be performed, the PMT together with the STC and PAB will look for another case in the same region and of a similar nature using our networks and present alternatives to the PO for decision making.
8	Disputes over the ownership of IPR among partners	WP1	Likelihood: Low - Severity: Medium. PM: IPR and access right clauses will be integrated in the consortium agreement (DESCA based). The documents will be signed before the start to avoid potential disputes. CA: Legal procedures will be followed, but the PSB will try to resolve the matter first internally with help from the EAB. The significant experience of several partners in IPR management (KWR, UTH) will also be very valuable in this context.
9	Non availability of data, of models or of skills within the demo cases to produce regional climatic projections (task 3.1)	WP3	Likelihood: Medium - Severity: Low. PM: a questionnaire will be prepared before the start of the project to identify potential lacks, in each demo case. CA: If expertise is missing, the use of a specialist consultancy firm will be considered as an external service. If banked data or robust models are missing to allow regional downscaling, the available data at a largest geographic level will be considered. If land use or licence

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Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
			issues arise, related to a specific location, where NATALIE activities are being planned, and if those licences are hard to obtain, then the project will seek alternatives (i.e., other specific locations, close to the originally planned, or a modification of the planned activities, based on a case-by-case review of the situation.
10	Difficulty in obatining a national funding for the 4 associated partners	WP1	Likelihood: Low - Severity: High. PM: A dedicate section (§ 3.1.4 of partB of the GA) has been added, at the request of the associated partners to prove their involvement in the NATALIE project. The procedures of requesting national funds will be initiated several months before the start of the project). CA: In case of failure to obtain national funds, OiEau as coordinator will support the 4 associated partners to look for alternative fundings.

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PROJECT REVIEWS

Project Reviews

Grant Preparation (Reviews screen) — Enter the info.

Review No	**Timing** (month)	**Location**	**Comments**
RV1	15	Brussels	TBC
RV2	27	Brussels	TBC
RV3	45	Brussels	TBC
RV4	60	Brussels	TBC

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Accelerating and mainstreaming transformative NATure-bAsed solutions to enhance resilience to climate change for diverse bio-geographical European regions

Acronym: **NATALIE**

Duration: 60 months

HISTORY OF CHANGES

Date	Section	Changes
07/02/2023	Part A	Completion online with the information contained in the proposal.
	Part B	Revision and completion as a conform version of the proposal
02/03/2023	Part A	Completion of the different sections based on evaluation comments and requirements for GAP, in sections: Beneficiaries, Researchers, Critical Risks, Deliverables and Milestones. Revision of Financial Information Adjustment of reporting periods and reviews
	Part B	General editing and formatting revision of the text, figures and tables Comments from ESR were addressed along the text List of abbreviations revised List of partners removed (as included in part A) Tables 3.1g and 3.1h revised to include further details and be consistent with annex 2
17/03/20023	Part A	Modification of sections: Beneficiaries (UNEWE and EARTHWATCH, the 2 UK partners were put as associated partners) – change of partners numbering, Revision of WPs description to include references to deliverables Revision of Financial Information (corrections in Annexe 2), Update of Deliverables and Milestones (to align with the reporting periods decided, and addition of clear references on tasks description). Revision of description of deliverables to include references to Tasks
	Part B	Completion of Abbreviations list Tables 3.1a - 3.1f removed (as included in part A). Overall editing and formatting along the text (e.g. harmonisation of terms like CS, DS and FL)

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		Revision of content of tables 3.1g and 3. Associated with document ref. Ares(2023)3520023 - 22/05/2023
28/03/2023	Part A	Modification of sections: Beneficiaries (removal of TFFK and transfer of the corresponding budget to OiEau, as coordinator) – change of partners numbering, Revision of Financial Information (corrections in Annexe 2), Update of Milestones (to better define the means of verification) and Deliverables (modification of the level of dissemination). Revision of description of critical risks to include 2 new risks and to add for all risks the levels of likelihood and of severity.
	Part B	Removal of the table of Critical risks (as included in part A) Overall editing and formatting along the text (e.g. harmonisation of terms) Improvement of the financial explanations in Tables 3.1.g and 3.1.h

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	
ABM	Account Based Marketing
AI	Artificial intelligence
API	Application Programming Interface
AR6	Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC
ASR	Automatic Speech Recognition
CA	Consortium Agreement
CC	Creative Commons
CDE	Common Data Environment
CG	Competency Groups
CH_4	Methane
CoI	Communities of Innovation
CoP	Communities of Practices (see WP2)
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CO_2e	Equivalent Carbon dioxide
CRDP	Climate Resilient Development Pathways
CRISP-DM	CRoss Industry Standard Process for Data Mining
CS	Case Study
C&D	Communication and Dissemination
CS	Case study, as the generic term used for both DS and FL (13 CS in NATALIE)
DG CLIMA	Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action
DG ENV	Commission's Directorate-General for Environment
DG REGIO	Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
DG RTD	Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
DG SANTE	Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
DMP	Data Management Plan
DS	"Demonstration Site" or "Demonstrator" (8 DS in NATALIE)
DT	Digital Twin
Di.ii	Deliverable i.ii
EAB	External Advisory Board
EBA	Ecosystem-based adaptation
EC	Electrical Conductivity (Salinity)
ECF	European Cohesion Fund
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMODNet	European Marine Observation and Data Network
EO	Expected Outcomes **or** Earth Observation
ePD	ePrivacy Directive
ER	Expected Results
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ERA	European Research Arena
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESA	European Space Agency
EU	European Union
FAIR	The FAIR Data Principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)
FCM	Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping
FL	Follower site, a case study location working as replication site (5 FL in NATALIE)
FTO	Freedom-to-Operate

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GA	Grant Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GEOSS	Group on Earth Observations
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
HE	Horizon Europe
HHA	Harvest to Harvest Approach
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMPETUS project	Intelligent Management of Processes, Ethics and Technology for Urban Safety
IoT	Internet of Things
IP	Intellectual Property
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IQR	Interquartile Range
IR	Intellectual Rights
IT	Information Technology
KER	Key Exploitable Results
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LCC	Life Cycle Costing
LI	expected Long-term Impacts
LL	Living Lab
Mi	Month i
MACC	EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change
MAR	managed aquifer recharge (WP5)
MFA	Material Flow Analysis
ML	Machine learning
MS	Member States
MPS	(WP5)
MSi	Milestone i
N	Nitrogen
NAS	Natural Assurance Schemes
NABC	Natural Assurance Business Canvas
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NATALIE	NATure-bAsed solutions to enhance resilience to climate change for diverse bio-geographical European regions
NATURE4CITIES project	Nature Based Solutions knowledge diffusion and assessment platform for re-naturing cities
NBSs	Nature-based Solutions
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
NCS	Natural Climate Solutions
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NIL	Nature Investment Launchramp
N_2O	Nitrogen Oxide
OA	Open Access
OD	Open Data
OS	Open Science
P	Partner
RAL	Resilience Assessment Layer
RIS3	Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation
RKBs	Resilience Knowledge Boosters

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RMP	Risk Management Plan
ROL	Result Ownership List
RRP's	national Recovery and Resilience Plans
R&I	Research and Innovation
SAVi	Sustainable Asset Valuation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDM	Shared Decision Making
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SNA	Social Network Analysis
SO	Specific Objective of the project
SOTA	State-of-the-art
SRL	Societal Readiness Level
TL	Transformation Lab (see WP2)
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
Ti.ii	Task i.ii
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UVP	Unique Value Proposition
WEFE	Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems
WGII	Working Group II (of the IPCC) which focus on "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"
WP	Work Package

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1. EXCELLENCE

According to the "European Union (EU) Adaptation Strategy", the progress on innovative local solution is slow and therefore, there is an urgent need to **empower local communities and regionalities to adopt and share adaptation solutions across EU, specifically from less to most vulnerable ones**. This empowerment will permit to **reduce the adaptation finance-gap** [1] towards the **elaboration of newer policy interventions** but also, to **reduce the public finance dependency** by adopting newer economic frameworks, such as ESIF (European Structural and Investment funds) or the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Despite the fact that climate change is affecting our communities, we are in a transformative process that requires consensus and social participation to not worsen social inequalities, support accountability and put at risk our future cultural heritage.

The "*Accelerating and mainstreaming transformative NATure-bAsed solutions to enhance resilience to climate change for diverse bio-geographical European regions"* (**NATALIE**) project will strengthen the collaboration and knowledge sharing among flagship and most vulnerable regions in the acceleration of transformative solutions, economy, citizens and social empowerment towards the co-design and establish consensus in the elaboration of climate resilient development pathways (CRDPs). NATALIE will engage local communities in the adoption of adaptation solutions including methodological, technological (including digital), governance, awareness, behavioural, economic and financial components. Specifically, NATALIE will focus the transformative solutions in the demonstration of nature-based-solutions (NBS) as an "*Innovation Package*" centred on ecosystem based adaptation, to address the multiple-hazards and cascading and compounded risks from climate change [2]. Thus, these solutions will have an impact on the ecological connectivity, restoration of ecosystem services, testing newer business models, protecting food services and water allocation. All in the pursuit of more resilient regions and communities. The strength of NATALIE lies in the fact that transformative solutions have to be: **(i)** co-designed and co-created with quintuple helix[1] stakeholders at multiple governance levels; **(ii)** "low-regret" and scalable, depending on the evolution of climate change and other drivers; and **(iii)** cost-effective and environmentally, economic and socially sustainable and **(iv)** up scaled and replicated from advanced to most vulnerable regions;

NATALIE addresses the risks posed by climate change and its impacts and proposes to advance the concepts of "ecosystem-based adaptation" (EBA) in Europe combined with climate resilient development pathways, as the means for impact driven NBS, to accelerate and mainstreaming the adoption of NBS for resilience to climate change, which is also the cornerstone identified in the recent IPCC AR6 WGII Report [33]. NATALIE will deliver innovative and practical innovations in co-creation of solutions and stakeholder engagement, modelling, testing, monitoring and validation mechanisms that will support regions and municipalities to develop adaptation actions bringing along valuable knowledge and experience as actionable knowledge for adaptation and impact-driven NBS.

To achieve this goal, NATALIE will develop a transformative NBS **Booster Pack of 25 solutions** (social innovation solutions) that address the 6 key levers for transformative change: 1) socially acceptable, smart and financial innovative solutions; 2) societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement; 3) larger systemic solutions at regional level; 4) monitoring, evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of solutions; 5) pre-feasibility study; 6) evidence-based outcomes and recommendations. The main goal is to accelerate and foster the mainstreaming of NBS, by forming an ecosystem based adaptation for regional resilience. This Innovation Package includes innovative technical, modelling and IT solutions (including an innovative 'NBS Knowledge Booster' and digital twin (DT)), governance, policy recommendations at EU and regional level, financing and public engagement transformative solutions. It will be demonstrated at 8 demo sites (DS), in different bio-climatic regions of Europe in Greece, Romania, Latvia, Canary Islands, Belgium (Flanders), France, Norway and Italy (Veneto region), as well as 5 follower regions (Follower sites - FL) in Iceland, the Balearic Islands (Spain), Romania, France and Lithuania.

1.1 Objectives and ambition

1.1.1. Objectives

Aligned with the challenges and opportunities of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change [3] (MACC), NATALIE's objectives cover three main axis: "**(i)** be **prepared** for inevitable changes and extreme events, **(ii) share** experience and solutions and **(iii) prevent** multi dimensions losses" (i.e. economic and environmental). All the **specific objectives** (**SOs**) described in Table 1.1.1 are components of the "NBS Booster Pack".

[1] The Triple Helix innovation model focuses on university-industry-government relations. The Quadruple Helix embeds the Triple Helix by adding as a fourth helix the 'media-based and culture-based public' and 'civil society'. The **Quintuple Helix** innovation model is even broader and more comprehensive by contextualizing the Quadruple Helix and by additionally adding the helix (and perspective) of the 'natural environments of society'. The **Quintuple Helix** supports hence the formation of a win-win situation between ecology, knowledge and innovation, creating synergies between economy, society, and democracy.

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Table 1.1.1: *NATALIE Specific objectives (ER# - Expected Results, EO# - Associated Outcomes o[illegible] Impacts in the Topic Call text).*

Specific Objective (SO)	Quantifiable Targets	ER	EO/LI	WP/Task
SO1: Develop and test transformative solutions spanning socio-economic, environmental, ecological and financial systems that will trigger exponential change in promoting resilience to climate change at the regional and/or community level through a participatory co-creation / co-design / inclusive process	> 5 tools for evaluating the impacts of climate hazards on urban, peri-urban and rural environment and assessing the performance of NBS. > 18 types of NBS developed and tested in 8 DS and 5 FL	#3 #5	EO#1, EO#2 LI#1, LI#2, LI#3	WP2, WP3 (T3.2), WP4, WP5 (T5.2), WP6
SO2: Scrutinize & identify gaps of current regulatory framework, i.e. EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Green Deal Policies, country-specific recommendations derived from the European Commission (EC) Semester Process, the Cohesion Policy, national Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP's), Regional Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) & develop recommendations for mainstreaming NBS for climate resilience and emerging opportunities challenges arising from Fitfor55 / RepowerEU.	> 3 gaps identified at each DS at National or regional level (Total 24 gaps) > 8 Recommendation sets specified (1 per DS) for mainstreaming NBS in the EU Fitfor55 Package and Long-term Strategy	#1	EO#1 LI#1	WP2 (T2.2 and T2.7)
SO3: Explore mainstreaming of NBS at multiple levels, namely European, national and regional through capacity-building of major actors at regional and/or community level.	> 5 implementations of NBS Resilience Assessment Layer (RAL) for Digital Twins > 5 co-developed NBS deployment pathways	#4, #5	EO#1 LI#2	WP3 (T3.3, T3.4), WP4
SO4: Identify, collect and upscale real-time territorial data, small data, qualitative and quantitative knowledge, assessment information necessary for robust and dynamic adaptation and resilience planning of the NBS.	> 10 integration of regional datasets > 10 integration of small datasets related with NBS > 15 smart data models	#2	EO#1, EO#2 LI#2	WP4 (T4.1, T4.2, T4.3)
SO5: Increase data availability and knowledge sharing on NBS through the combination of modelling tools, explainability, advanced data analytics and high visualizations. This will serve to create a platform for understanding NBS and their benefits in accordance with climate change adaptation and urban circularity across regions to achieve open data space.	< 3 modelling tools for planning elaborated = 1 risk assessment tool > 5 artificial intelligence (AI) tools integrated and elaborated > 5 deployments of the NBS Knowledge Booster	#2	EO#1, EO#2 LI#2	WP3, WP4 (T4.3, T4.4, T4.5, T4.6)
SO6: Facilitate knowledge transfer, capacity building and exploitation for start-ups and SMEs, trigger industry-academy-SME collaborations and eventually enable the establishment of an Ecosystem based Adaptation innovation ecosystem by implementing highly replicable solutions to facilitate investments through a bundle of services to launch New green project across our regions, and the creation of communities of practice and Innovation to test replicability of solutions in a leader-follower scheme in case studies.	8 adaptation projects supported through the project development cycle thanks to Nature Investment Launchramp.(NIL) 8 applications of SAVi methodology on NBS financing 8 DSs "coached" with Natural Assurance Business Canvas (NABC) for ecosystem based adaptation 1 Community of practice (CoP) created on NBS, involving 150 SMEs including some investment companies 1 beta platform developed for funding NBS projects	#6,#8	EO#2 LI#1, LI#2	WP6
SO7: Support the European policy implementation through best practices / lessons learnt from the project (including the EU MACC)	> 8 Policy recommendations (at least 1 per Case Study, i.e., involving the DS and/or the related FL) 4 Policy briefs targeting regional decision-makers	#7	EO#2 LI#1	WP5 (T5.3), WP7 (T7.2)

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Table 1.1.2 Expected Results (ERs)

ER	Description
#1	Mainstreaming NBS in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Mapping of Nature-based policies and legal frameworks, identification and review of existing and ongoing multi-scale actions are identified and reviewed, including the integration of nature-based solutions in the current NDC at country level.
#2	NBS resilience **Knowledge Booster** as a FIWARE [4] compatible platform powered by stakeholder's engagement and empowerment NBS planning and monitoring strategies combined by all available knowledge data, modelling tools, AI and visualization techniques to facilitate scenario building, decision-making, social participation, knowledge sharing and transparency. This digital tool will have operational links with Copernicus, Climate-ADAPT, EEA, ESA-Data Cubes, etc. Advanced assessment methodologies and tools will be used to plan the regional NBS and also, elaboration of regional adaptation pathways. A federation of the platform will be used to scale-up and facilitate replicability in other front-runners and followers' sites.
#3	NBS performance modelling and assessment tools (off-line): NBS performance assessment tools for evaluating the impacts of climate/weather hazards on urban, peri-urban and rural environment and assessing the performance of NBS.
#4	NBS resilience assessment layer for Digital Twin (real time-online): Resilience assessment layer that will be deployable as part of the NBS Digital Twin Infrastructure within WP4. This is in line with the EU initiative about local Digital Twins.
#5	NBS deployment pathways for the **solutions stress-tested** in T3.3 (Task 3.4) through WP5 (Task 5.2). At least 18 different NBS will be tested (detailed in §1.2.2 and T5.2) for: (1) River restoration and management, (2) Floodplain restorations and management, (3) Wetland/constructed wetland restorations and management, (4) Retention ponds in mountainous areas, (5) Forest management/restoration of riparian forest, (6) Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), (7) Urban Park sustainable restoration, (8) Construction and testing of natural water treatment systems in rural areas, (9) Creation of artificial managed aquifer recharge, (10) Confined aquifer system for treated waste water, (11) Rainfall harvesting, (12) Green-Blue corridor creation, (13) Sustainable harvesting of seafood from fisheries and aquaculture, (14) Coastal erosion.
#6	Investment bundle applied to the 8 Case Studies (DS or FL) in T6.1 to T6.3, as detailed in WP6.
#7	Recommendations for best practices for validated NBS at EU level (T5.3) and 4 policy briefs (T7.2)
#8	NATALIE NBS and key exploitable results (KER) catalogues.

1.1.2 Ambition

Topic: Hybrid data driven models and small data AI to understand climatic effects and impacts in the elaboration of pathways and innovation actions
State-of-the-art (SOTA). Climate and Hydro-meteorological assessment methods and models rely on the application of qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitative approaches [5, 6] are mainly focused on examination or observation-based methods based on specific legislation or standards. Current innovations in qualitative risk assessment applied to hydro-meteorological risks and NBS modelling are focused on the elaboration of social and environmental indicators [7]. Quantitative risk assessment models commonly rely on the application of statistical methods [8], Fuzzy Logic [9] with climatic models and downscaling climatic models [10, 11]. However, the main challenges can be summarised in [12, 13]: (i) risk reduction methods and the implication of NBS at long-term considering cost-efficiency; (ii) Accurate risk assessment models and climate risk predictions and projections by the understanding the impact of subsequent cross-domain variables in the climate models results.
Going beyond SOTA. Application of small data AI to increase data understanding to create detailed insights about climatic events that help policy-makers to understand regional climatic extreme events and subsequently elaborate climatic pathways. To face this, NATALIE will research on explainable AI and knowledge graphs [14, 15] to make understandable the correlation of variables in climatic projections. Moreover, we will also research on surrogate models [16] to reduce simulation consumption times in terms of data interpretability from regional and national scales.
Topic: Novel digital tools and framework to empower small data for reducing data uncertainty and increase governance and policy-based decision-making
SOTA. Common decision-making tools applied in NBS lifecycle (panning, design, implementation, communication and assessment) are focused on social-media and web-based platforms that include databases, simulations, AI (e.g. agent-based optimization, optimization tools), statistical models (e.g. multi-criteria analysis) and participatory environments [17]. Recent research studies [18, 19, 20] highlight the limited research on: (i) the application of assessment models (LCA, LCC, CBA, MFA, HHA) to elaborate circular decision-making procedures; (ii) need for solid knowledge-base and datasets to elaborate more suitable policies and regulations; and (iii) validation of decision-making tools due to the uncertainties associated with NBS.

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Going beyond SOTA. The NBS Knowledge Boosters as a web platform (constructed on the basis of IMPETUS and NATURE4CITIES EU projects) will empower the use of small data to support quintuple stakeholders to integrate circular economy and climate friendly pathways considering NBS. Indeed, small data will be combined with novel AI techniques (knowledge graphs, deep learning, explainable AI) to suitable determine NBS placements according to climate (and hydro-meteorological risks), modelling tools for risk assessment, KPI tools to provide novel insights to governance and policy-makers regarding NBS and circularity, Earth Observation analysis and novel monitoring techniques.
Topic: Social Network Analysis based decision support tool for improved mainstreaming of NBSs throughout the stakeholder ecosystems
SOTA. Social Network Analysis (SNA) is used to uncover patterns of social structures [21], based on graph theory, where the so-called nodes (the NBS organisations) and ties (their connections to each other) are used to identify and analyse the characteristics of social connections within social structures and networks [22].
Going beyond SOTA: NATALIE will systematise the NBS relevant stakeholder ecosystems at multiple levels, following the SNA. The approach will start from the project partners and will expand to include all relevant stakeholders, spotting the bridges and bottlenecks of knowledge flow, capacity building and NBSs mainstreaming. The analysis will be visualised on dynamic maps that will include the stakeholder ecosystems and the connections to guide decision for mainstreaming NBS pathways.
Topic: Simulation and quantification of the mitigation potential of NBSs
SOTA. A Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) analysis can be conducted to identify what land management actions have the greatest mitigation potential at any scale and in any landscape. NCSs are a subset of NBSs. The term NCS is used to refer to a specific greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting framework for nature-based climate mitigation. The NCS handbook by the Nature Conservancy [23] supports that Cost-effective levels of NCS implementation can provide a third of the solution to meeting Paris Agreement goals, while it provides specific pathways for the assessment of the mitigation potential of different NBSs types.
Going beyond SOTA: NATALIE will exploit SOTA modelling approaches to conduct the assessment of the mitigation potential of NBS applied at the different CSs to provide quantification tools that can support cost effective planning and designing of the solutions at different scales, as well as provide a stepping stone for the more precise evaluation of the multiple services and roles that NBSs can offer.
Topic: Use of Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCM) in the TLs to model knowledge needs and identify barriers for transformation
SOTA. Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping methodology is a symbolic representation for the description and modelling of complex systems. FCMs describe different aspects of the behaviour of a complex system in terms of its concepts. Each concept represents a state or a characteristic of the system and interacts with each other showing the dynamics of the system.
Going beyond SOTA: Engaging with the stakeholders, NATALIE will co-design the FCM relying on the input from the stakeholders and will integrate specific quantification methods, such as grounded theory, template analysis, Braun-Clarke thematic analysis to systematize and hierarchize the input by stakeholders.
Topic: Automate holistic NBS performance and resilience analysis for decision-making
SOTA. EU NBS handbook for practitioners [24] has provided guidance for NBS applications. It also suggests indicators and summarises methods developed in various EU projects (e.g. RECONECT) for evaluating the performance of NBS. Nevertheless, the focus in the handbook is for urban NBS, without addressing non-urban environments.
Going beyond SOTA: NATALIE will expand the methodologies in the EU NBS handbook to peri-urban and rural areas. Automatic NBS performance analysis tools will be developed and integrated for digital twin applications to provide easy to use and efficient assessment services for supporting the planning, implementation and monitoring of NBS.

1.1.3 TRL analysis

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are a method for understanding the technical maturity of a technology during its acquisition phase. The score of TRL varies from TRL1 “basic principles observed” to TRL9 “actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing).

	Technology: Description and partner involved	TRL start - end	WP and Task
#1	Resilience Knowledge Boosters (RKBs) as a data platform to store, manage and share risk, hazards and climate related data, which is an important part of the innovative digital tools developed in NATALIE. [EUT, UiT, KWR, NTUA]	5-7	WP4-T4.1, T4.2, T4.3.
#2	Small Data AI and climate AI models to understand climate event causalities in the projections considering different times and scales. This includes anthropogenic factors analysis [UiT], causal analysis and deep learning for patterns extraction [EUT] and small data AI [KWR].	5-7	WP4-T4.3, T4.4

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#3	KPI Tool to understand and communicate benefits of NBS considering climate related hazards and risks [NTUA].	4-6	WP4-T4.5
#4	RKBs federation using FIWARE compatible architecture [EUT].	4-6	WP4-T4.6
#5	Integrated modelling and assessment tools to provide rapid evaluations of NBS performance for addressing climate and environmental challenges within a catchment to support the mainstreaming of NBS [AQUA, WE&B, UNEXE, NTUA, KWR].	6-8	WP3-T3.2
#6	NBS resilience assessment layer [NTUA, UNEXE, AQUA].	4-6	WP3-T3.3
#7	Nature Investment Bundle [GIB, ICA, IISD].	4-6	WP6- T6.1

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 Concept and methodology

Resilience to climate change creates challenges at urban and regional level. The increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events (e.g., floods, heat and cold waves, storms), as well as other associated events (e.g., forest fires) and slow-onset trends (e.g., sea-level rise, glacier melt, droughts), result in compounded and cascading risks. These will impact regions across Europe (and other areas across the world), especially those that are most vulnerable either because of their location or because of their socioeconomic characteristics. Thus, the necessity for adaptation and mitigation solutions and responses, needs to incorporate nature as one of the key solutions as ecosystem-based adaptation towards systemic solutions. It can be boosted when supported by (smart) technological innovations, and also faster thanks to societal and economic/financial solutions to ensure climate resilient development across our regions and local communities.

NBS are solutions inspired by nature that are proven to be increasingly efficient in alleviating the impacts from climate-related hazards, and are singled out in the EU adaptation strategy as a key component of systemic adaptation, although the suitable types of NBS vary, according to the challenges faced in each bio-geographical region. NATALIE aims to transform, implement, and test 18 NBS among the 8 DSs (WP5). Table 1.2.1a lists the multiple dimensions of the NBS considered in NATALIE, considering the use of the European NWRM platform categories to classify them (in relation with D7.4).

Table 1.2.1.1: *NATALIE multi-dimensions NBS*

			NATALIE Multidimensional NBS			
NBS #	**Name**	**Related DS**	Water	Forestry	Urban	Agri
NBS1	River restoration	DS#1, DS#8				
NBS2	Riparian forest recreation	DS#1				
NBS3	Floodplain restorations and management	DS#1, DS#8				
NBS4	Wetland restorations and management	DS#1, DS#6				
NBS5	Retention ponds in mountainous areas	DS#1				
NBS6	Forest management , restoration of riparian forest	DS#1				
NBS7	Constructed wetlands	DS#3				
NBS8	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)	DS#2, DS#4				
NBS9	Flood-prone park	DS#2, DS#4				
NBS10	Construction and testing of natural water treatment systems in rural areas	DS#4				
NBS11	Creation of artificial aquifer recharge	DS#4				
NBS12	Managed aquifer recharge	DS#4				
NBS13	Confined aquifer system	DS#5				
NBS14	Removal of ponds	DS#6				
NBS15	Catching, retaining and harvesting rainfall	DS#2				
NBS16	Green-blue corridor	DS#2, DS#8				
NBS17	Coastal protection against sea level rise	DS#7				
NBS18	Sustainable harvesting of seafood from fisheries and aquaculture	DS#7				

There is a *wealth of applications and cases* in recent years, all over the world, but also within the EU, as they are increasingly constructed, applied and implemented for the protection of urban and rural areas.

For these different reasons, **NATALIE'S CONCEPT** is based on **6 pillars** (see Figure 1.2.1a):

Social innovation: as systemic solutions are needed at urban and regional levels. The solutions, need to include proactive and reactive actions, involving hard (technologies) and soft (socio-economic, governance, capacity building) measures, under the wider aspect of enhancing resilience and adaptation to climate change. This pillar also guarantees a multi targets transfer of knowledge gathering solutions combining technological and non-technological dimensions, as presented in the Booster Pack (see Table 1.2.1.2).

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Transdisciplinary research and competencies: to tackle the multi-pre dimensions and benefits of NBS, a wide range of sciences is needed to ensure all the competencies are at stake. NATALIE, as explained in §2.2.1, is composed of environmental, technological, political, digital, socio-economics and communication sciences. This pillar allows to establish the scientific SOTA at the beginning of the project, to support the DS and FL in their development, test and replications activities while basing all the process on social and citizen engagement & co-creation and design of NATALIE NBS.

***Figure 1.2.1a**: NATALIE Pillars*

Social and citizen engagement: the political and scientific interest in using citizen science is often driven by a desire for positive environmental impact, and the expectation that citizen science can deliver it by engaging the public and simultaneously collecting environmental data [34] articulating 6 key pathways through which citizen science can create positive environmental change: **(1)** environmental management; **(2)** evidence for policy; **(3)** behaviour change; **(4)** social network championing; **(5)** political advocacy; and **(6)** community action. The interplay of these pathways initiated a widely accepted framework that articulates four types of citizen science approaches that create environmental impact in different ways: i) place-based community action; ii) interest group investigation; iii) captive learning research; and iv) mass participation census. NATALIE will make use of the place-based community action and mass participation census approaches to reach a community-wide social impact while connected to their own surroundings and environment.

Co-creation and design: Urban and rural areas are in an extreme state of flux, with systemic change and transformation occurring on many fronts. Against the backdrop of continued urbanization at a global scale, pressing sustainability challenges are rising that require responses: From climate adaptation, renaturation and decarbonisation to economic restructuring, digitalization – the range of demands for deep change is wide. Over the last decade, Living Labs (LLs) have emerged as a new type of intervention format for leveraging systemic change. Mostly linked to the pursuit of sustainability goals, LLs are recognized as substantive in local governance and planning, and interaction between science and society, especially considering co-creation, reflexivity and learning. NATALIE aims to build on some of the most significant experiences and lessons from analysing the 'LL 1.0' phase (WP2), in order to identify and outline the contours and likely directions for a forthcoming Transformation Lab (TL) model and way of working towards transformative solutions that will facilitate the mainstreaming of NBSs.

Multi-dimensional scales: the scales correspond to **2 main axis**:

Axis 1: The organization of stakeholders from the local level to the replication and capacity building through CoP: each of the 8 DSs (WP5) will create an effective engagement environment with the relevant identified stakeholders, involving a multilevel and co-design approach (WP6). As such, CoP will bring together relevant stakeholders to foster a common understanding of the application of NBS, to ensure innovative solutions that are co-created, supported and finally recognized by all parties. CoP are formed by individuals and/or organisations, who voluntarily share the same interest or passion, interact regularly, exchange knowledge, seek to sustain the community and share learning. Social scientists have used versions of the concept of CoP for a variety of purposes and applications, although the origin and use of the concept is anchored in learning theory.

Axis 2: The choice made by NATALIE is to address 6 biogeographical regions (see figure 1.2.2.1), all sharing common environmental challenges today or in a near future due to the impact climate change (see §1.2.2). The aim is to clearly support the exchange of knowledge, solutions and development of climate adaptation plans integrating NBS based on their different time scale impact. The FLs will benefit from this first round of experimentation (steps 1 and 2 of NATALIE method, see figure 1.2.1b), while building upon the impact assessment of the 18 NBS implemented within NATALIE (see Table 1.2.1.1).

Transfer of knowledge & transformative 'full-package' NBS: The CoP will bring together the relevant stakeholders to foster a common understanding of the application of NBS, to ensure innovative solutions that are co-created, supported, and finally recognized by all parties. Through WP6, the CoP will be the main vector from the dissemination of NBS innovative (as developed by WPs 3 and 4) to their upscaling combining technological (including digital), governance, capacity building and economics incentives – the so-called the full-package. NATALIE intends not only to raise awareness and train local stakeholders (through WP7), but also to emulate stakeholders outside the direct scope of NATALIE within the competency groups and Transformation Lab (WP2). One key added-value of NATALIE is also to support the transformation of NBS via the capacity building process, benefiting from all the IT tools and digital solutions that will be developed (see §2.3). In addition, NATALIE includes 8 DSs (in regions with advanced/applied NBS) and 5 FLs, i.e., regions with less advanced NBS, with a clear pathway for "knowledge transfer" from the demonstrators to the followers, that could then be scaled to other regions and communities in the EU MACC's 150 regions.

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METHOD TO IMPLEMENT NATALIE CONCEPT

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As NBS are increasingly implemented (and financed), evidence has already shown that several emerging issues need close attention to unleash full potential of ecosystem-based adaptation and make NBS more effective (and equitable) in enhancing the resilience to climate change. To name a few of these issues:

- NBS need to be accompanied with **societal, smart and financial innovative solutions**;
- **societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement** is often the key to the long-term success and sustainability of NBS, while approaches and methodologies for long-term engagement of stakeholders and (chiefly) citizens are not always successful and need improvement;
- the constructions of NBS are often small scale and "isolated", i.e. in most cases, they are not part of a **larger planning and systemic solution at regional level**;
- their continuous **monitoring and evaluation** (in terms of effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis) are still an open issue,
- NBS need to be considered in early stages of urban or regional planning and project design (i.e., **pre-feasibility stage**) and compared to conventional grey solutions, using credible tools and approaches; and
- More **evidence is needed** in terms of the effectiveness in terms of impacts now and in the future in terms of resilience in view of climate change at both urban and regional levels.

Thus, in NATALIE these become the **"6 Levers" for systemic impact** driven ecosystem-based adaptation for climate resilient development, where we have targeted an Innovation Package for regions spanning most of the bio-geological regions in the EU.

Integration of local knowledge for the co-creation of solutions adapted to each DS is conducted in the transformation labs (T2.4, T3.4 and T5.2). This is the purpose of these labs, i.e. to mobilize local knowledge and involve all local actors in a co-creation process. Solutions that are co-created and co-designed have the best chances of being implemented in the field and being embraced by all stakeholders, which is the only way to bring about transformative change and contribute towards a just transition and climate resilience.

NATALIE brings an "ecosystem adaptation" **Booster Pack of 25 solutions** to help mainstream the adoption of NBS for climate change adaptation at regional or community level, with a three-step concept:

Step 1: NBS on the ground: biophysical and socio-economic context

First, NATALIE has the benefit of 8 DSs and 5 FLs, serving as our testing sites, to speed up the development of our Booster Pack of 25 solutions. All DSs and FLs are exposed and vulnerable to key climate change hazards like floods, droughts, heatwaves, world spells, storm surges and wildfires. This will ensure the value added to other EU regions from our findings. Here we will bring nature into the innovation helix, with academia, industry, SMEs, government, and society in an innovation ecosystem focused on Innovation Packages for the regions with concrete NBS measures boosted with our 25 solution In line with the focus of Horizon Europe (HE) and the EU Climate Pact, we will give a special attention to citizen science and the engagement of citizens and communities in our innovation ecosystem, to really understand the socioeconomic impacts of our solutions, particularly when considering current pressures from urbanization, population and economic trends (likely to accelerate in view of the current geopolitical crisis that is turning into a socioeconomic challenge).

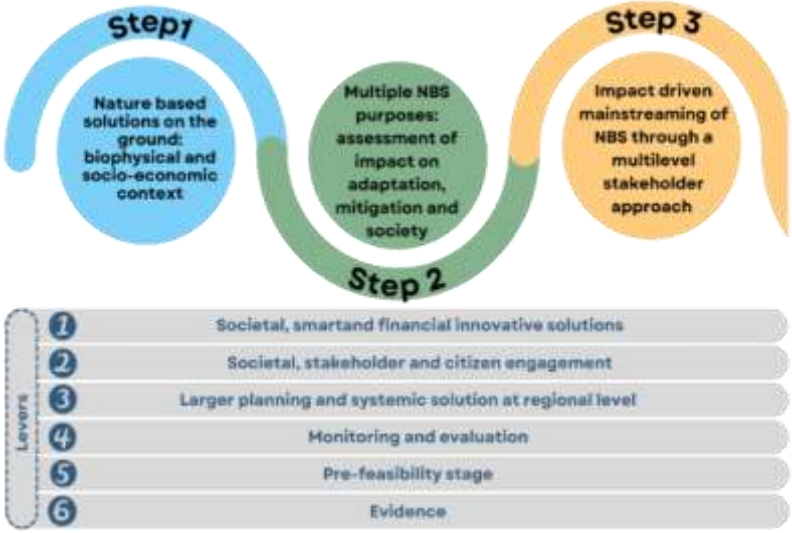

Figure 1.2.1b: NATALIE 3 steps method.

Step 2: Multiple NBS purposes: assessment of impact on adaptation, mitigation and society

Second, we will bring our 6 Levers into action, to take these risks into opportunities for deep transformative solutions, through ecosystem based adaptation. Our transformation labs are grounded on stakeholder engagement and co-creation of solutions, at the pre-feasibility stage, but also on the clear monitoring and modelling of the impacts from NBS on adaptation and mitigation, while we keep on track with climate resilient development in our 13 CS (DS and FL) regions. Here we will put value in nature with adequate financing asset valuation tools, and strong social engagement to monitor societal impact. We will be especially mindful of the commitments for effort sharing in our 13 CS (DS and FL) towards meeting the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 °C, and of how nature is critical to meet this objective.

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Step 3: Impact driven mainstreaming of NBS through a multilevel stakeholder approach for system level transformation through ecosystem-based adaptation

Third, the challenge will be to mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation, as a key to systemic transformation. Building particularly on the financial, technical and social spheres with our DSs and FLs, and common spaces through our CoP (and communities of innovation (CoI) for SMEs in the regions concerned).

OVERALL HOLISTIC APPROACH BASED ON NATALIE BOOSTER PACK OF 25 SOLUTIONS

Impact driven ecosystem-based adaptation actions and related levers of innovation. We will focus on our 6 Levers, 25 actions (i.e. innovative solutions) and 8 DSs to mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation. This Booster Pack is flexible and modular enough to be adaptable (and thus adoptable) across the great diversity of European biogeographical regions. Adaptation is a local affair, which has to be grounded and find resilience in the regions with strong differences in climate, morphology, exposure to climate hazards and vulnerability. In addition, there are also differences in terms of resource availability and adaptation capacity. The project aims to reach a significant number of regions as CS (DS + FL), to then - based on the main concept of mutual learning - scale-up and replicate best practices regarding NBS (design, modelling, monitoring, operation, maintenance, funding mechanisms, etc.) to other regions and communities with common characteristics.

The solutions that make up the NATALIE Booster Pack will be tested in our 8 DSs, to further advance our knowledge and practical testing in-situ of innovation packages in our regions, to mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation, as a mean to increase resilience and set our regions on a climate resilient development path, while meeting climate-neutrality targets by 2050.

Details about the 25 Booster solutions are included in the WP descriptions (WP2, WP3, WP4, WP6 and WP7) (annex 1 – part A).

Table 1.2.1.2: *NATALIE's Booster Pack of 25 solutions for innovative NBS*

		Levers of Innovation in NATALIE					
	Impact-driven ecosystem based adaptation solutions in NATALIE	*i) societal, smart, and financial innovative solutions*	*ii) societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement*	*iii) larger systemic solution at regional level*	*iv) monitoring and evaluation and cost-benefit analysis)*	*v) pre-feasibility*	*vi) evidence*
1	*Diverse CSs addressing multiple bio- geographical and socio-economic contents:*		■	■			■
2	*Multilevel Stakeholder approach, from CSs to Communities of Practice: E*		■				
3	*Stakeholder mapping through Social Network Analysis:*	■	■				
4	*Citizen Science for community engagement:*		■				
5	*Transformation Labs for co-creating transformative solutions:*		■				
6	*Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping of Knowledge needs and barriers and quantification:*	■				■	
7	*Simulation and assessment of climate related hazards in the DSs:*	■				■	
8	*Implementation of NBSs on the ground:*				■		■
9	*NBSs performance assessment tools for the multiple purposes of NBSs:*				■		■
10	*Citizen Science for assessing societal impact of NBSs:*		■				
11	*Assessment of the mitigation potential of NBSs and their role as Natural Climate Solutions:*			■	■	■	
12	*Cost Benefit Analysis of NBSs:*					■	
13	*Technological and Societal readiness level of NBSs:*	■					
14	*The NBS Knowledge Booster (NBSKB):*	■			■		■
15	*Developing and monitoring KPIs to measure impact with a digital tool*				■		■
16	*Validation of solutions:*				■		■
17	*Evidence based recommendations and lessons-learned*						
18	*Pre-feasibility Nature Launchramp:*	■				■	■
19	*Natural Assurance Business Canvas:*	■				■	■
20	*The Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi)*	■				■	■
21	*NBS Crowdfunding platform*		■			■	
22	*Capacity building*		■	■			
23	*Twinning transformation solutions from frontrunners to followers: competency group...*		■	■			
24	*Knowledge transfer towards Communities of Practice:*		■				
25	*Policy Recommendations at EU level*			■			

Table 1.2.1.3 presents the approaches that will be analysed and taken into account for the evaluation of NBS. This is relevant and further elaborated in WP3.

Table 1.2.1.3: *Approaches for the evaluation of NBS*

NBS performance indicators	Potential Benefits	Analysing approach for evaluating NBS effectiveness and benefits
Water quantity	Flood volume and peak discharge reduction Water reuse/drought Water storage	Hydrological and hydraulic modelling to analyse spatiotemporal distribution of surface runoff under various hydro-meteorological conditions, evaluate the capacity of surface and groundwater storage and strategy for water reuse during dry seasons/drought.

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Water Quality	Organic and non-organic pollutants and pathogens in surface water and groundwater	Water quality modelling and statistical modelling to estimate the change of pollutants in water bodies, considering the seasonal variations and human activities. Measurements of reduced pollutant types, peak concentration, total loads, etc. Monitoring of flow discharge and water level.
Geohazards management	Soil/coastal erosion, landslides, debris flow Sediment in river, drainage Soil organic content and nutrient	Hydraulic and geomorphology modelling to evaluate coastal erosion, surface soils erosion, landslides, debris flows, and transportation of sediment in drainage systems and water bodies. Evaluate the effectiveness of NBS in soil conservation and sediment management. Monitoring of soil organic carbon content and nitrogen.
Environmental quality	Temperature regulation Air pollution Noise Carbon footprint	Empirical equations and/or physically-based modelling to analyse the changes in summer/winter temperature, performance of tree planting in air filtering, noise reduction, carbon storage via tree planting.
Ecosystem	Biodiversity Habitats connectivity Resilience species	Modelling to estimate the growth of habitats and species under various climate and environmental conditions. Measurements of increased habitat areas, species, and population of species. Analysis of the connectivity between habitats.
Amenity	Traffic calming Recreation spaces Education Health and well-beings	Traffic modelling and analysis of records of reduced traffic accidents and casualties. Estimation of increased recreation areas for public access. Analysis based on existing experience of NBS applications and interviews or survey with the residents regarding increased outdoor activities. Interview with educators regarding education opportunities for school pupils. Analysis of health services data to estimate the reduced cases of diseases.
Economic	Reduced hazard losses Job opportunities and local economic Financial feasibility	Assess the direct damages and economic losses due to hydrometeorological hazards before and after NBS interventions. Analysis of new business activities or jobs created due to NBS implementation. Estimation of reduced costs for treatment of diseases due to improved environmental quality by NBS. Evaluation of financial costs and benefits for long-term NBS adaptions.

1.2.2 Case Studies: Demonstrators and Followers

NATALIE comprises a selection of ***8 Demonstration Sites (DS)s*** and ***5 Follower Sites (FL)s*** (in total 13 Sites, called "Case studies") from all European biogeographical regions, as shown in Figure 1.2.2.1, to take into account the EEA's specific bio-geographical priorities (related to climate change) and differences in climatic and socio-economic conditions. Two types of sites are considered:

Type A: Demonstrators - DS#. This category includes **8 DSs** (DS#1 to DS#8), where transformative NBS initiatives have started and/or are already advanced, based on prior activities, projects or funding. Specifically, such activities are relevant for DS#1 (previous study by WWFGreece), DS#2 (Activities have already started at the National Park), DS#5 (already initiated activities with prior funding from other sources). Within NATALIE, the demonstrators will further develop, demonstrate, test and validate these solutions. The procedures to be followed and the outcomes will serve as guidelines for other similar regions. **DSs have been selected to cover a range of local conditions and bio-geographic characteristics**, based on the **following criteria**: **(1)** Climatic and bio-geographic conditions, **(2)** Type of climate change challenges related to NBS, **(3)** Social, cultural contexts, vulnerability, and **(4)** Governance structures. Furthermore, **their excellence (in terms of implemented or envisaged NBS) has been taken into account through the following sub-criteria**: **(A)** degree of maturity (maturity and funding) and implemented NBS technologies, including a range from hybrid or innovative technologies to region specific solutions; **(B)** willingness to share knowledge and experience to demonstrate, test and validate NBS; and **(C)** innovation, upscaling and mainstreaming potential.

Type B: Followers (FL) – FL#. This category includes **5 FLs** – less advanced cases (FL#1 to FL#5) – with conditions and issues similar to a CS, to which they are twinned. They have been selected in accordance to their potential and readiness to assimilate and make use of the lessons learned from demonstrators and turn such knowledge into more tangible outputs (i.e., capacity building, preliminary plans related to the demonstrators), which will be reflected in watershed strategies for NBS solutions, mainstreaming, replicability methodologies and upscaling. The upscaling process will be further pursued by the activities in WP6. All sites (DS and FL), which are located in EU countries (Table 1.2.1.4), are (a) within regions

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eligible for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), (b) in Member States (MS) eligible for the 2021-2027 European Cohesion Fund (EC[illegible]).

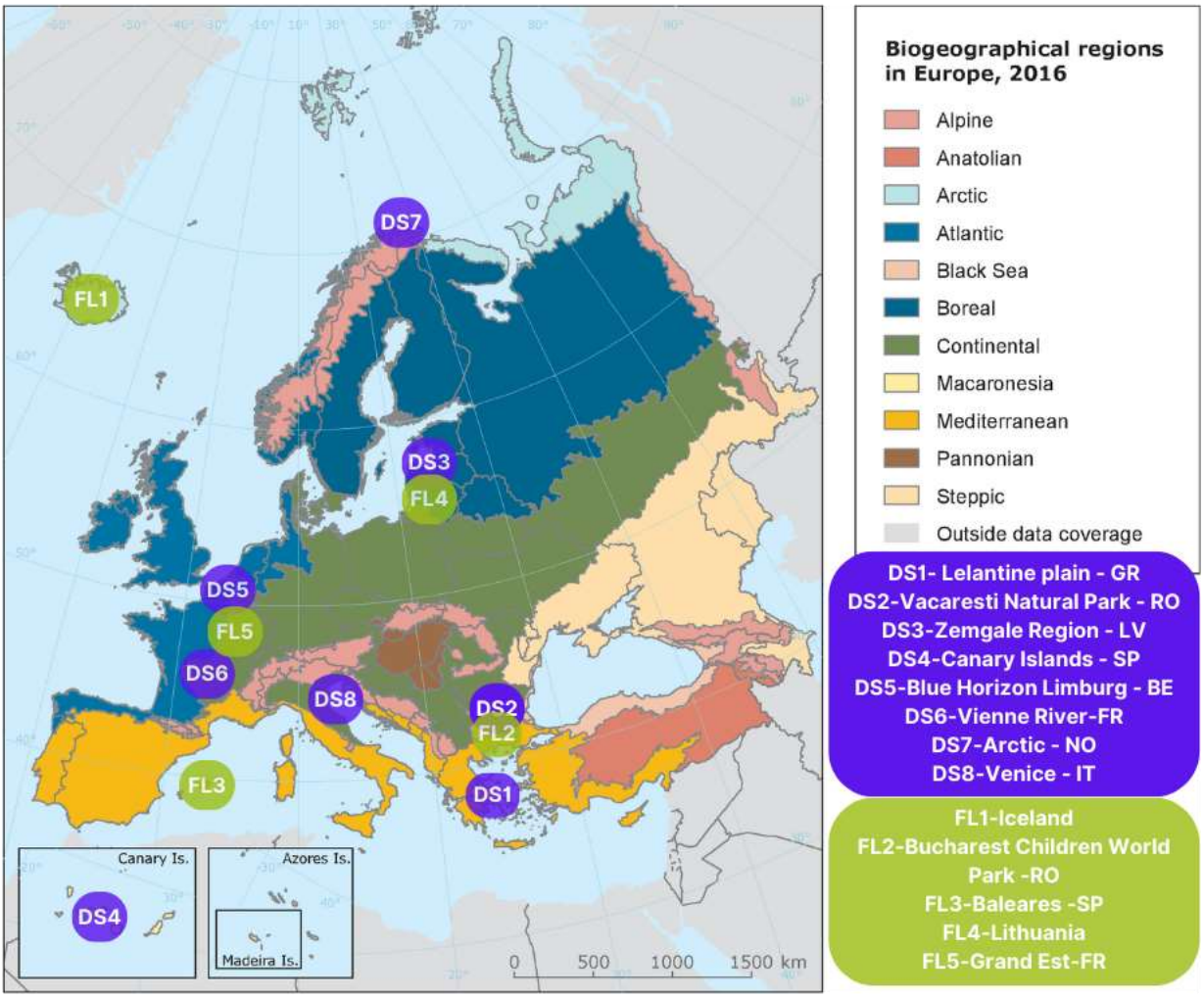

***Figure 1.2.2.1**: Locations of DSs and FLs in NATALIE*

***Table 1.2.1.4:** Regions eligible for funding from ERDF and ESF+ [26]*

Regions eligible for funding from the ERDF and ESF+ under the less developed regions category	DS#1 (EL64), DS#3 (LV00), FL#3 (LT02)
Regions eligible for funding from the ERDF and the ESF+ under the transition regions category	DS#5 (BE22), DS#4 (ES70), DS#6 (FR12), FL#3 (ES53), FL#5 (FRF1, FRF2, FRF3)
Regions eligible for funding from the ERDF and the ESF+ under the more developed regions category	DS#8 (ITH3), DS#2 (RO32), FL#2 (RO32)

Only DS#7 ("Arctic – NO") and FL#1 ("Iceland") are not included in the categories listed in Table 1.2.1.4, because they are in non-EU countries. In NATALIE there are **3 "less developed regions"** (Table 1.2.1.4), fulfilling the call's requirement of inclusion of (at least) 1 region **under the less developed category**. Also, several of the DSs and FLs are situated in regions, which are among the first 118 that signed to participate in the EU MACC (July 2022), notably: DS#4 (Canary Islands region), DS#5 (Flanders region), DS#6 (Nouvelle Aquitaine region), DS#7 (Troms&Finnmark region), DS#8 (Veneto region), FL#3 (Balearic Islands region). Actually, DS#7 has been selected for two reasons: **(a)** it is one of the (very) few regions outside the EU that signed to participate in the EU MACC (among the 118); and **(b)** it is a fully arctic region, in terms of bio-geographical diversity (and the only fully arctic region that signed to participate in the EU Mission). The FLs and regions (FL#), twinned with the DSs (DS#) are interested and planning the different activities listed in Table 1.2.1.5.

Detailed activities for all (DSs and FLs) are given in WP5 (Task 5.2).

Relevance of the DSs and FLs to the specific requirements of the call:

In terms of solutions and systems addressed, DS and FL are diverse and cover ***all*** the types of systems and solutions listed in the Topic Call text and the EU MACC objectives, as follows:

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- restoration of ecosystems (DS#2, FL#2, DS#3, FL#3, DS#7, FL#1) and the establishment of ecological corridors (DS#2, FL#2, DS#8), taking into account also the benefits and trade-offs for biodiversity (DS#2, FL#2), especially in relation to soil and coastal erosion (DS#7, FL#1, DS#8);
- solutions to better manage water scarcity (DS#4, FL#3, DS#6, FL#5) and mitigate the impacts of droughts (DS#4, FL#3, DS#6, FL#5) or to better manage water flooding (DS#1, DS#2, DS#3, DS#8, FL#5), such as greening of infrastructures, tree planting (DS#1), increasing of permeable green surfaces, or river deculverting in cities (DS#2, FL#2), peatland, wetland (DS#2, DS#6) and floodplain restoration (DS#6, DS#8);
- solutions for a more climate resilient agriculture (DS#3, DS#4), fisheries (DS#7, FL#1), aquaculture (DS#7, FL#1) and forestry (DS#1), as well as climate resilient food systems (DS#2, DS#7, FL#1), such as culture rotation, silvo-pasture and other agroecology approaches in farmland (DS#2, FL#5), in particular in relation to droughts and water multi-usage and management (DS#4);
- solutions for building and/or managing new critical infrastructure (DS#5, DS#4, FL#3) and/or upgrading existing ones through green/blue/hybrid infrastructure (DS#5, DS#4, FL#3), in particular in relation to climate-proofing it towards extreme events (DS#5);
- climate-proofing the development of incentive schemes fostering efficient use and allocation of water and solutions to reduce the vulnerability to water-related risks (Relevant for all the DS and FL CS);
- regeneration of public spaces (DS#2, FL#2) to create climate resilient neighbourhoods, in particular in relation to heat-waves (DS#1, DS#2, FL#2, FL#5) and flooding events (DS#1, DS#2, FL#2, DS#8) and their potential risks for human health and well-being (DS#1, DS#8);
- inclusion of digital solutions and services to better predict, monitor and report on climate events (relevant for all the CS-Dedicated WP4), in particular towards vulnerable populations (DS#1, DS#3, FL#4, DS#2, FL#2);
- economic analysis and business models to support decisions making, in particular in relation on investments balance between reducing risks through building climate resilience and improving climate risk preparedness and climate emergency management (relevant for all the CS-Dedicated WP6).

Table 1.2.1.5: *Selected activities of interest for the Followers (FL). (The DSs will perform all the activities)*

		FL#1 "Iceland"	**FL#2** "Bucharest Children World Park - RO"	**FL#3** "Baleares - SP"	**FL#4** "Lithuania"	**FL#5** "Grand-Est - FR"
	DS related	***DS#7*** *"Arctic - NO"*	***DS#2*** *"Vacaresti Natural Park - RO"*	***DS#4*** *"Canary Islands - SP"*	***DS#3*** *"Zemgale region - LV"*	***DS#6*** *"Vienne river - FR"*
Social acceptance	*Raising awareness*	■	■	■	■	
	Citizen engagement		■		■	
Governance (policy and regulation framework)	*Identification of specific issues (i.e. roadmap setting)*	■		■	■	■
	Mobilization of territorial collectivities to reinforce the support of local NBS projects		■			■
	Fostering links between science and policy decisions	■	■	■	■	
	Planification		■	■	■	■
Capacity building	*Share good practice & strategy & tool (i.e. on the creation and running of a financial tool dedicated to NBS implementation)*	■		■	■	■
	Training for public and private public and private decision-makers and technical teams of local and regional local and regional authorities.	■	■		■	
Economic and financial	*Supporting economic sectors particularly exposed to climate change*	■	■			
	Mobilisation of private funding from local economic actors	■	■	■		■
Standardisation/Protocols	*Integrate NBS into normative frameworks*					■
Replicability	*Identification of projects owners ready to replicate and implement NBS locally*	■		■	■	■
	Implement actions		■			
Monitoring/evaluation	*Monitoring and evaluation strategy for the new NBS projects locally*	■			■	■

Tables 1.2.1.5 and 1.2.1.6 summarise the characteristics of each of the 8 DS, while the details of the activities are included in WP5, T5.2).

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DSs/FLs	Bio-geo.region/Type /Area	Topic and Main challenges related to Climate change	Types of activities (summary-details in Task 5.2)	Main goal(s)
DS#1: **"Lelantine plain – GR", Evia island (Greece)**	Mediterranean, Rural/ Agricultural Area: 275 km^2	Mitigating flood and fire risk in Lilas river basin through NBS Interventions. Challenges: Risks from wildfires and flooding	River restoration, Riparian forest recreation, wetlands restorations and management, retention ponds in mountainous areas (stone constructions), forest management (fuel management, selective forest restoration in upper parts, fire management plan, capacity building)	Linking NBS projects to investment opportunities in collaboration with Multilateral Development Banks (e.g. EIB) and insurance products to de-risk such investments.
DS#2: "Vacaresti Natural Park-RO" (Romania) ***Follower**: FL#2 "Bucharest Children World" (Romania)*	Continental, Nature protected area (VIUCN) in urban region. Area: 183 ha (urban park)	Wetland management improvement and protecting biodiversity in natural park (urban). Challenges: Change of precipitation patterns, Fires, Increase of annual temperatures (heatwaves), loss of biodiversity	Collecting, treating and maintaining rainwater (rainfall harvesting) inside the nature protected area (VNP) for better wetlands management. Creating a network of temporary ponds in the VNP, supplied by rainwater drained inside.	NBSs in urban areas and parks, with consistent and replicable actions. Development of a strategy for connecting the parks to the green-blue infrastructure of the city (interconnected activities Bucharest FL#2 , ''Children World'' Park)
DS#3: "Zemgale region – LV" (Latvia) ***Follower:** FL#4 "Lithuania"*	Boreal, Rural/ Agricultural Area: 10,742 km^2 (16.6 % of Latvia)	Promotion of constructed wetlands (surface and subsurface). Challenges: Floods, local droughts, eutrophication, loss of biodiversity	Green infrastructure – focus on constructed wetlands applying surface and subsurface water flow demonstrated in applications for treatment of diffuse pollution from agricultural fields, point-source pollution from livestock facilities & waste water treatment plants from small settlements.	Systemic and targeted planning; for the Zemgale region and in FL#4; Feasibility study for financing and investment for constructed wetland in the region.
DS#4: "Canary Islands – SP" (Spain) ***Follower**: FL#3 ("Baleares – SP")*	Macaronesia, Island region (archipelago). Urban, rural, agricultural Area: Multiple, referring to 3 islands in the Archipelago (Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura)	Applying NBS as transformative solutions across the islands (Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura). Challenges: Increments of extreme rainfall intensities (floods); Uncontrolled runoff; Water quality deterioration due to sewer overflows; Desertification; Groundwater bodies management under future climate change scenarios	*Gran Canaria*: series of NBS and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) (Maspalomas ravine). *Tenerife (La Laguna):* NBS for runoff water preventing flooding in the area with less expensive solutions for the construction of new drainage systems (advanced case). *Fuerteventura*: Implementation of natural treatment systems to remove nitrogen/pollutants; use of regenerated water to restore degraded wetlands. Monitoring retention/infiltration capacity of traditional agricultural and rainwater storage systems ("gavias").	Systemic and varied implementation of NBS for resilience to climate change for an island archipelago. Replication of the procedure to the Balearic archipelago (FL#3)
DS#5: "Blue Horizon Limburg – BE" (Flanders - Belgium)	Atlantic, Urban Area: 2,427 km^2	Improving drinking water security in South Limburg. Challenges: prolonged droughts, water table issues, underground instability, cracks in houses, difficult permit procedures for renewal of drinking water production volumes,	The use of a confined aquifer system to act as a seasonal buffer and a decentralised step to enable indirect reuse of wastewater treatment effluent, origination from the waste water treatment plant of Sint-Truiden.	Demonstration at pilot scale (10 m^3/h) during the project, resulting in an operational decision for scaling up (100 m^3/h)
DS#6: "Vienne River-FR" (France) ***Follower**: FL#5 (« Grand Est – FR »)*	Atlantic/Continental, Rural Total area of relevant part of river basin: 2,000 km^2	Implementation of NBS in the upstream Vienne river basin. Challenges: Heat waves/drought, Decrease in river flow, Impact of water shortage on economic activities (breeding, agriculture, forestry management, tourism.)	NBS implementation for the restoration of degraded wetlands, removal of ponds and restoration of riparian forest (groundwater, wetlands, vegetation).	Mainstreaming a variety of NBS solutions to a river basin with increased replication potential, also applicable for FL#5 (Grand-Est). Continuation and integration to the ongoing: "Sources en Action" programme.
DS#7- "Arctic – NO" (Norway) ***Follower:** FL#1 ("Iceland")*	Arctic, Rural/Coastal Area: 70,000 km^2	NBS for marine ecosystems: Sustainable Seafood harvesting from fisheries. Challenges: higher average temperatures, increased rainfall intensity, increased runoff, fewer days with snow, sea level rise.	*NBS as effective restoration strategies* restoration of habitat-forming species that can act as 'climate rescuers'; *NBS as effective conservation strategies*: coastal protection and sustainable seafood production habitat suitability for flora and fauna; *NBS for sustainable harvesting of seafood* from fisheries and aquaculture.	Holistic validated framework to promote and plan the integration of the proposed NBS solutions (flexible, adaptive, managed on ecosystem basis) in the marine spatial planning of the Troms and Finnmark region, replicated also for Iceland (FL#1)
DS#8: "Venice – IT"(Italy)	Continental/ River drainage basin Area of Lagoon river basin: ~2,000 km^2	NBS River restoration and sustainable management of Venice Lagoon drainage basin; NBS for river restoration and river buffers management. Challenges: Flood risk, Biodiversity loss, Water demand for agriculture.	Shift from a grey/"rigid", banks' management to green management. Enlarging the river bed; shaping less steep banks. Revegetation consolidating. River buffers- Ecological corridors. Designing ecological connections with nearby wetland (Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation)	Feasibility of the approach demonstrated, Biodiversity increased, social perception of the value of natural assets increased, new skilled workers trained. 1 km of the river restored in NATALIE; -upscaling potential

Table 1.2.1.6: *Summary of characteristics, challenges and activities and main goals for the 8 DS.*

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1.2.3 Related national and international activities and projects

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Project	Funding	How is it related to NATALIE	Partners involved
IMPETUS	H2020-Green Deal	The Resilience Knowledge Boosters (RKBs) as a data space to share data and also knowledge about risks and adaptation and mitigation strategies to face climate change (including NBS) will be extended in NATALIE with newer AI driven models. Also, the KPI Tool will be partly based on work in the HIPS platform developed in IMPETUS (Hot-spot Identification and Prioritization Service).	EUT, KWR, NTUA, UiT, BEF, ZPR, THETIS
SIM4NEXUS	H2020	The AI-Driven models and the simulation models will serve to define the proposed data space and also, to propose accurate risk assessment modelling for design and monitoring NBS.	EUT, BEF, UNEXE, UTH, KWR,
NEXOGENESIS	H2020	The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) AI driven models and modelling tools will be incorporated in NATALIE to measure the impact of NBS in alignment with the WEFE.	EUT, KWR, UTH, NTUA, BEF, BDG
ARSINOE	H2020-Green Deal	ARSINOE's Climate Innovation Window entries that are relevant to NBSs will be exploited, as well as relevant modelling approaches and systems analyses developed through SDM or other tools, and experience taken out of the LLs regarding the stakeholders' mentalities upon adaptation planning and solutions.	UTH, KWR, UNEXE, ICA (via BRIGAIDCONNECT)
MAGO	PRIMA	NBSs relevant solutions modelled and adopted by MAGO and their specifications designed for the agriculture in the Mediterranean region will be exploited. Special focus will be given to circular economy solutions.	UTH
NEXUSNET	COST ACTION	Theoretical knowledge on the integration of ecosystems into the WEF approach, as well as tools, methodologies and successful nexus applications that address NBSs	UTH, KWR, UNEXE, NTUA, BDG
RECONECT	H2020	Knowledge on the ecosystem-based framework, modelling and assessment tools for NBS, created in RECONECT, to evaluate the performance of NBS interventions	UNEXE
RESCCUE	H2020	Toolkits to analyse the interrelations between different sectors and simulate the interconnectivity performance with various climate and socio-economic scenarios	UNEXE, AQUA
EU-CIRCLE	H2020	Methodologies from EU-CIRCLE in analysing cascading effect and evaluating the benefits of NBS on critical infrastructure and services	UNEXE
NATURE4CITIES	H2020	Data models and subsequent toolkit architecture for the elaboration of the web-based platform for NBS.	EUT
OPTAIN	H2020	Natural Water Retention Measures database and the experience from NBS applied for small agricultural catchments.	OiEau
LIFE-Water&Climate	LIFE	Climate change adaptation plan developed for 14 river basins in France, will be used to assess the deployment of NATALIE	OiEau, EPTBV
NAIAD	H2020	The work undertaken in NAIAD will be continued in NATALIE with the consideration of NBS risk mitigation	ICA, BDG, FF
MERLIN	H2020	Large-scale restoration of freshwater ecosystems. The work will feed into NATALIE in the understanding on how sectors, like e.g. insurance, can engage with NBS.	ICA
Nature For Catchment Launchramp	MAVA Foundation	Tools developed in the project in order to catalyse NBS implementation process through early stages development.	GIB, ICA
ThinkNature	H2020	Stakeholder's network that was established in Think Nature, mainly for the exploitation and dissemination work.	GIB
ACT on NBS	EIT Climate KIC	Activated Cities through integrated NBS (ACT on NBS) tested innovation with 20+ European cities. Network mainly for the dissemination work.	ICA
BRIGAID	H2020	Experience of Climate Innovation Window (web-based platform developed in the framework of the project) to develop similar and additional links of NBS RKBs platform with Climate-ADAPT.	THETIS, ICA
euPOLIS	H2020	euPOLIS improves Public Health in cities by introducing NBS into urban planning practices. Related methods and tools will be part of the toolkit assembled in WP3 and knowledge about the interface between engineering and urban planning will inform work in WPs 2 and 5.	NTUA
ULTIMATE	H2020	Water Smart Industrial Symbiosis. The KPI Tool will be partly based on a NESSIE based system for KPI-driven performance assessment of circular water solutions for Industrial Symbiosis developed for ULTIMATE.	KWR, NTUA, EUT, UNEXE
ARTISAN	LIFE integrated	Knowledge on demonstrating and enhancing the potential of NBS for Climate adaptation, raising awareness and increasing the skills of stakeholders in France. Lessons for deployment.	NAT2050

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1.2.4 Interdisciplinary research

The research approach in NATALIE is interdisciplinary, as it is detailed in the Concept (§1.1.5). The structure of planned activities, the Work Packages (WPs), the Expected Results, but also the tools to be developed, texted and implemented are interdisciplinary. To deliver the objectives and ERs of the project we brought together a wide range of expertise needed to develop, apply, test and validate the **Booster Pack of 25 solutions**, as well as to communicate, disseminate and exploit the innovations produced to ensure real and lasting impact for the project. Specifically, NATALIE brings together experts with the scientific knowledge for NBS (KWR, UTH), in particular: modelling (AQUA, UNEXE, NTUA, UTH, ULL), policy (OiEau, UTH), citizen science and citizen engagement (W&E), business/Green financing (ICA, GIB, BDG), data analytics/AI (incl. Machine Learning - ML)/ IT integration, (EUT, NTUA, UNEXE), stakeholder engagement and co-creation (incl. LLs) (UTH, BEF,), communication/dissemination (OiEau), Open Science Practices (EUT, NTUA), as well as public authorities, utilities, local authorities, NGOs and local partners involved in the DSs and FLs.

1.2.5 Role of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

NATALIE acknowledges the crucial role of the analysis of the socio-economic context of each case study in the ultimate performance of climate adaptation solutions and, in specific, in the adoption of NBSs. The solutions developed and applied by NATALIE need to be an outcome of co-creation processes and take into account the social acceptance and readiness, the business and management background, the synergetic and conflicting views and mentalities of the very complex systems of stakeholders and the cultural values, including aesthetics, religious and other parameters. To address these NATALIE will map, analyse and engage stakeholders coming from the whole quintuple helix, including academia, policy-makers, civil society, industry, NGOs, private and public sectors. It will record and systematise their views using a Social Network Analysis approach and spotting bottlenecks and catalysts towards the adoption of NBSs (WP2).
The implementation plan of NATALIE oversees a thorough communication between the biophysical analysis and socio-economic and policy analysis (WP7). The modelling approach (WPs 3 and 4) of solutions will be induced by feedback coming from established transformation labs built around the stakeholder network of each CS. The Labs will be represented by their members covering the following sectors: academia, authorities, water managers etc. Through a participatory modelling approach, it can be assured that the bio-physical analysis will involve all critical subsystems that can be crucial for the performance of solutions, firstly by co-defining the system boundaries, secondly, by spotting the main sources of uncertainty linked to the integration of solutions, and thirdly by inserting all involved multiple purposes of the introduced solutions, as well as their beneficial roles upon multiple socio-economic subsystems.

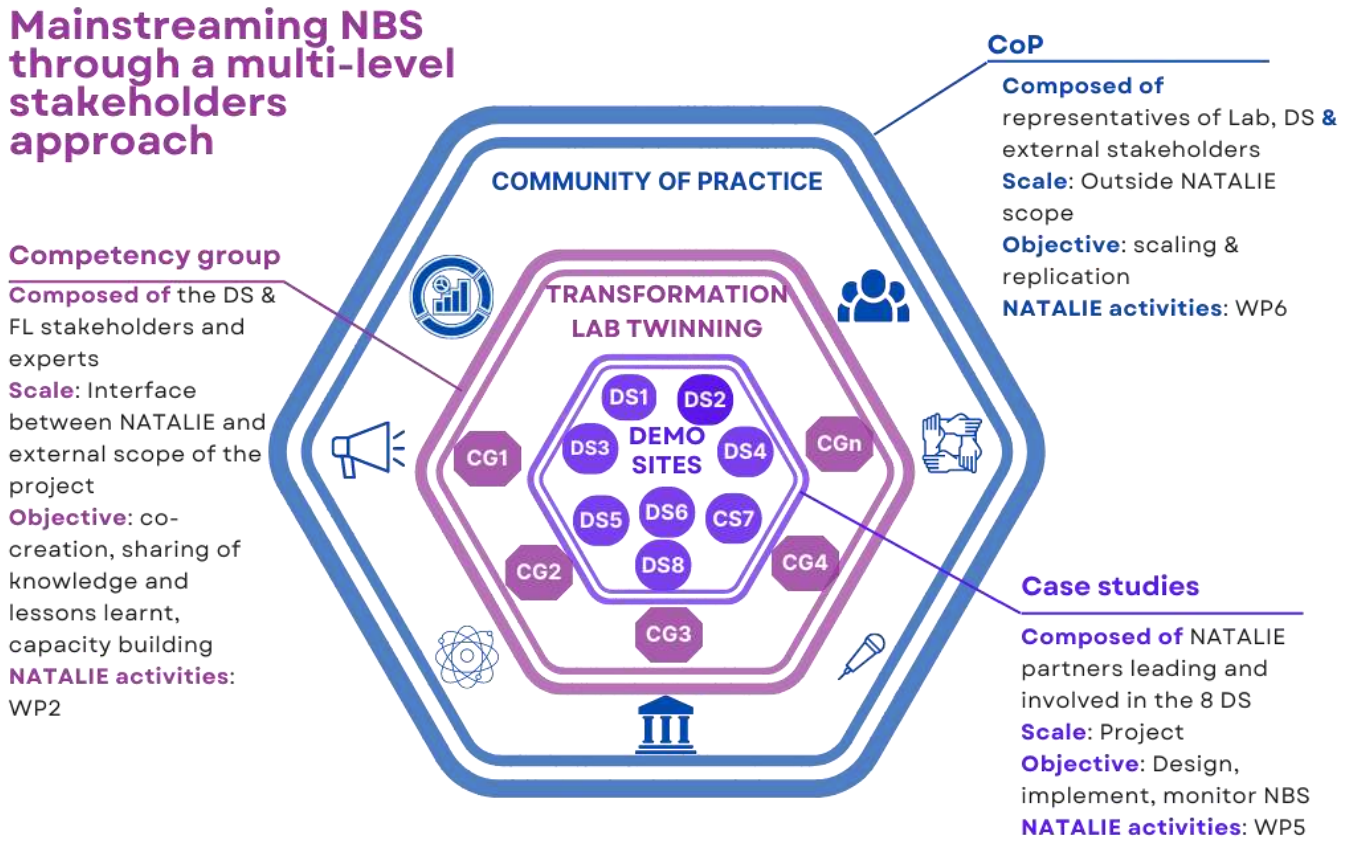

Figure 1.2.5: *NATALIE Social and Stakeholder engagement*

The twinning activities of NATALIE from the DS to FL, insert an extra dimension of the importance of social analyses, since the replication of solutions needs to be guided under compatible socio-economic contents (figure 1.2.5). For this reason, the transformation labs' mentality maps will be compared, and potential similarities and differences will be spotted.

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The differences will drive the adjustment of solutions in the FL. Comparative analysis for the policy context will be implemented as well. The comparative analysis between the couples of DS and FL (demonstrators and followers) will be systematically developed in four pillars: the technology, business, ecology and management readiness that will be combined into an overall symbiosis readiness index integrating socio-economic and bio-physical aspects (Fig 1.1.2.1).

1.2.6. Gender dimension

With the core ambitions of the project rooted in the SDGs, gender issues (SDG 5) will be seriously taken into account in NATALIE, both within the context of the research, as well as the research team. Its work will address the needs of both female and male stakeholders and will consider gender-specific ways of dealing with technological tools, knowledge and information products in the development of these. The project will also seek to engage women from marginalised groups, such as climate refugees, in the implementation of the identified solutions.

NATALIE will support Article 141(3) of the EC Treaty giving importance to protect male and female members of this Consortium exercising the rights inherent in fatherhood, motherhood or the combination of professional and family lives. Participation of women during the course of the project is ensured by providing equal access and opportunities. With regards to gender balance, NATALIE will comply with all recommendations, directives rules and initiatives of the European Parliament on reconciling professional and family life, primarily the EP Resolution on Reconciling professional, family and private lives 2003/2129(INI) and other Directives, such as: 92/85/EEC; 96/34/EC; and Articles 136, 137(1), and 141(3) of the Treaty). Finally, in the NATALIE team, the majority of WP leaders are women.

With respect to gender safeguards and the impacts of the project on gender issues, there is no exhaustive and finite list of possible risks, and identifying and combating them requires the participatory analysis of the sociocultural and institutional context in which NATALIE is being carried out. Thus, during the first stakeholder engagement sessions we work together with the stakeholders to identify the gender specific risks in each of the DS (WP2). Nevertheless, based on the project partners previous experience acquired in implementing similar projects, it is possible to outline three main risk areas that most often arise as well as their mitigation.

- First, in the construction of NBS solutions in the DSs within the project, the use of external contracts to the project consortium may generate a risk for gender issues. To mitigate potential gender impacts, the implementation of codes of conduct in the construction companies, community information and awareness campaigns, are all measures that have been effective in mitigating these gender threats.
- Second, although the project has a focus to develop and test different types of NBS solutions through transformative solutions there could be risks to gender equality in the building of new infrastructure and improve urban surroundings that may result in a change to community life. Although this change could affect all family members, women may be at a disadvantage. The requirements for accessing stakeholders' relationship to the new solutions will be gathered during the engagement sessions. However, to ensure that any future risk is mitigated, any new assets will ensure to create a legal balance between males and females of all assets.
- Third, the obstacles that women face in accessing jobs created by the projects, particularly in infrastructure construction works, which almost exclusively employ male manual labour, constitute another threat to gender equality. For this reason, NATALIE will promote among contractors human resource policies and practices that, in the very least, guarantee the principles of non-discrimination, egalitarian treatment and equal pay for equal work.

1.2.7 Open Science Practices

NATALIE consortium considers that Open Science and Open Data (OD) is a mechanism to bring society a return of investment from our research. Thus, NATALIE will be devoted to identify, propose and publish **Gold Open Access (OA) solutions** and **OD** for both, the implementation of the NBS, social engagement and deliberation methodologies, as well as digital tools (including curated data, environmental projections, risk assessment tools, modelling tools and AI driven tools), to cover the design, comprehension, selection and monitoring of NBS in the different methodologies. **Open Data** will cover the publication of research data coming from the monitoring, data from the regionalities (case-studies) and results from monitoring and AI driven tools in public platforms, such as Zenodo and OpenAire. Specific AI-driven algorithms, monitoring tools and the core code for the digital platform will be published through *code repositories with open access* (Github, Gitlab or Bitbucket). Also, NATALIE will also be encouraged to upload generated datasets into the data.europa.eu platform. In relation to **Gold Open Access solutions**, NATALIE consortium will be devoted to identifying and proposing gold open access solutions for the scientific papers that will be produced. Pre-print diffusion will be the default approach for all peer-reviewed publications. When it is not possible to have a gold open access standard, the consortium will define with the authors of the paper a good scientific journal that will allow the highest visibility possible (D7.1). Furthermore, the consortium will be engaged to use the green open access standard, in order to have an online repository of the manuscripts. A specific procedure for scientific publications will be defined within the consortium agreement to avoid any conflict between partners with announcement at least one month ahead any manuscript submission. Data sets supporting scientific papers will be published together with the manuscript to allow future data reuse (e.g. benchmarking with other approaches). Open-source development will be favoured if there is no conflict with potential business exploitation. Complementing these aspects, the envisioned NBS Knowledge Booster (digital platform) will expose the data through Open API (REST APIs) and SPARQL endpoints to facilitate data sharing across EU. Open Science practices will also

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cover NATALIE case studies and stakeholders. All DS and FL in the project will be invited to participate in development and test of innovative governance mechanisms, via the co-creation activities, review of results and even participation in knowledge development. Citizens and water stakeholders will be able to contribute to innovative governance across sectors, which will contribute to awareness and educational support. Therefore, NATALIE will be encouraged to publish project results under Open Research Europe and the European Open Research Cloud. Hence, the data and publication strategy will be aligned with the policy and recommendations on "Reproducibility of scientific results in the EU". Finally, NATALIE envisions to empower open science research skills of consortium participants through our educational and training actions.

1.2.8 Data management and management of other research outputs

NATALIE will continuously elaborate and implement a Data Management Plan (DMP), which will be the responsibility of EUT to maintain and update as necessary. The FAIR Data Management guidelines are adhered to, as are the Guidelines to the Rules on the Open Access to Scientific Publications and Open Data Access to Research Data in H2020 and the guidelines established for data management in Horizon Europe. The DMP will address: (a) dataset reference and name (unique identifier for the data produced), (b) dataset description (description, origin, nature, scale, reuse, integration, publish ability, etc.), (c) Confidentiality (by dataset, to enable successful exploitation), (d) standards and metadata (reference to standards, how metadata will be created, etc.), (e) data dissemination and policies for data sharing and public access (policies and provisions for re-use, re- distribution and production of derivatives, access procedures, data sharing practices etc.), (f) plans for archiving and preservation (including storage/backup), (g) a comprehensive data-protection policy; and (h) intellectual property (IP) protection roadmap, including the selection of data streams for external publication, to avoid conflicts with IP protection. The envisioned DMP will be elaborated under an open access web tool such as ARGOS or DMPOnline. NATALIE will also consider publishing the DMP in specialized journals like RIO. A large amount of data will be generated throughout its whole duration. A number of best practices and guidelines for working with Open Data are available, and will be taken into account (open data foundation; open knowledge foundation; open government standards). The EU Inspire Directive and the OAIS-Open Archival Information System [ISO 14721:2012] will be used as reference models. Also, digital standards coming from ETSI and ISO, as well as associations recommendations and guidelines (AIOTI, BDVA, IDSA, GAIA-X) to be aligned with EU data strategy and trustworthy AI guidelines. Concerning data security and privacy issues, the DMP will consider the EU directives related to both users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services, to the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector. The key EU directives are the 2002/58/EC, otherwise known as ePrivacy Directive (ePD), and the (EU) 2016/679, also known as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any change in the legislation will influence the ongoing research/project, regardless of the date of the legislation compared with the starting date of the research. Based on these premises, the Table 1.2.8.1 summarizes high-level categories of data. Partners are well experienced in FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) data principles and will further elaborate on these aspects in the appropriate deliverables and NATALIE reports.

***Table 1.2.8.1** – Types of Data relevant for NATALIE (F: findable, A: accessible, I: interoperable, R: reusable)*

Climate and Risk Observational Data
F. Data will be findable across relevant publications and also, in OpenAire/Zenodo. Data representation will follow standard formats, such as JSON/JSON-LD/CSV, following the rules of NATALIE knowledge-graph. **A**. OpenAire/Zenodo and also, from NBS Knowledge Booster (REST API+SPARQL endpoint). **I**. Machine readable formats (JSON/JSON-LD/CSV) and human readable copies (PDF, DOCX). **R**. Open Licences by default (attribution, non-commercial use). **Curation & Costs**. Research results will be maintained in the repositories considering 0.15 PM/year. **Responsible partners** will be NTUA, EUT, KWR.
Semantic Models for DT & brokerage (NBS Knowledge Booster)
F. Using web crawlers or direct access through URLs/URI. **A**. Represented data will be available using human web graphics and machine-readable REST-APIs or SPARQL endpoints. **I**. Exposed data will follow JSON/JSON-LD based on ontology vocabulary and standards. **R**. Software will follow Open Licenses and corresponding Open Data principles. **Curation & Costs**. Corresponding repositories maintenance will cost 0.15PM/year. **Responsible partner** will be EUT.
AI driven for Small Data and Explainability elaborated under NATALIE (Deep Learning, Explainable AI, Small Data AI, etc.)
F. Using web crawlers or direct access through URLs/URI. **A**. Represented data will be available using human web graphics and machine-readable REST-APIs or SPARQL endpoints. **I**. Exposed data will follow JSON/JSON-LD based on ontology vocabulary and standards. **R**. Software will follow Open Licenses and corresponding Open Data principles. **Curation & Costs**. Repositories maintenance will cost 0.15 PM/year. **Responsible partner** will be EUT, NTUA, UTH, KWR.
Modelling and Risk Assessment Tools
F. Using web crawlers or direct access through URLs/URI. **A**. Represented data will be available using human web graphics and machine-readable REST-APIs or SPARQL endpoints. **I**. Exposed data will follow JSON/JSON-LD based on ontology vocabulary and standards. **R**. Software will follow Open Licenses and corresponding Open Data principles. **Curation & Costs**. Corresponding repositories maintenance will cost 0.15 PM/year. **Responsible partner** will be NTUA, UTH, KWR.

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NBS Monitoring tools and Satellite based Information
F. Using web crawlers or direct access through URLs/URI. **A**. Represented data will be available using human web graphics and machine-readable REST-APIs. **I**. Exposed data will follow JSON/JSON-LD based on ontology vocabulary and standards. **R**. Software will follow Open Licenses and corresponding Open Data principles. **Curation & Costs**. Corresponding repositories maintenance will cost 0.15 PM/year. **Responsible partner** will be EUT, NTUA, UTH, KWR.
Documents & Dissemination Material
F. Self-archive on website, and/or green scientific publications + OPENAIRE repositories. **A**. Open Access by default policy, subject to exception (e.g., confidential deliverables). **I**. Common text, image or video formats (.pdf, .docx, .jpeg, .mov, .avi, etc.). **R**. Open Licences by default (attribution, non-commercial use). **Curation & Costs**. Corresponding repositories maintenance will cost 0.10 PM/year. **Responsible partner** will be OiEau.

1.2.9 Ethics

Responsible Use of AI and Digital Tools:

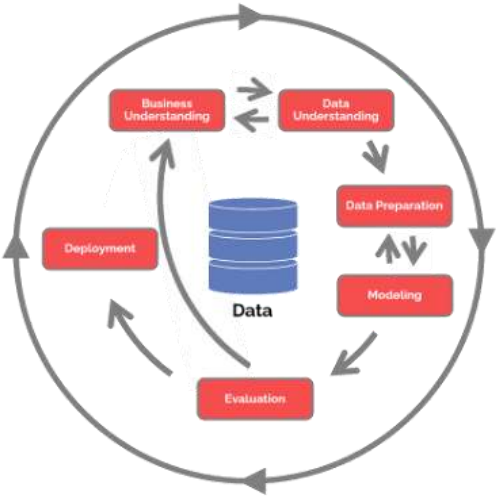

Figure 1.2.9.1- Data related actions

The use of Artificial Intelligence inside NATALIE is devoted to the elaboration of a digital ecosystem (Digital Twin) for the design, deliberation and selection of suitable NBS for the different regionalities according to their climate change risks. Thus, this Digital Twin will include Small Data AI, Explainable AI, Satellite/EO data (from Copernicus services), modelling tools, Risk Assessment Tools, and KPI Tools among others. The result covers the elaboration of win-win strategies under a non-discriminatory framework to avoid negative effects and impacts over the WEFE and the climate of the different regionalities.

The adopted methodology to the construction of the AI framework is based on the CRoss Industry Standard Process for Data Mining (CRISP-DM) methodology. In general, this methodology is based on 6 main stages that covers the agile construction of AI algorithms. Summarized, these phases are devoted to (Figure 1.2.9.1): (1) *Data Understanding*. This phase covers the data collection and the data understanding using statistical methods (covariances matrix, correlation studies). The main insight is to analyse the dependency and independency of the variables. (2) *Data Preparation*. Application of data cleaning and Ethics AI techniques to reduce data noise, outliers and also, reduce data bias in the data to promote the generation of non-discriminatory decisions. (3) *Modelling*. This part refers to the elaboration of the reinforcement learning algorithms and also, the supportive data mining and machine learning tools. (4) *Evaluation*. Application of AI validation techniques such as cross-validation or k-fold validation among others. (5) *Deployment*. Publication of the algorithms in different services for their use and application.

Based on this methodology and objective, the impact of the application of AI in NATALIE is not devoted to cause directly or indirectly any damage on the environment, health or infrastructures. The impact of NATALIE is to offer to the quintuple helix stakeholders a digital framework (DT) to cohesively elaborate future pathways to adopt adaptation and mitigation actions in different vulnerable regionalities to forefront climate change effects.

Do No Significant Harm: All ethical and technology issues will be handled to ensure compliance with the do no significant harm principle: The project 1) does not lead to GHG emissions; 2) does not harm climate change adaptation goals; 3) does not use water and marine source to the detriment of those sources; 4) does not use materials inefficiently; 5) does not lead to pollution and 6) does not harm biodiversity and natural habitats. In fact, NATALIE is positively contributing to the objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation and, in particular, to: Climate change adaptation, Sustainable use and protection of water resources, Pollution prevention and control

2. IMPACT

2.1 Project's pathways towards impact

2.1.1 Contribution to the expected outcomes and wider impacts

Stakeholders and target groups: One key element of impact maximisation will be the categorization and identification of the project stakeholders and target groups, including their interests, relevance and roles. This stakeholder's analysis will help identify optimal communication and dissemination (C&D) activities. A preliminary list of stakeholders and target groups is presented in Table 2.1.1. This list will be updated within the project in Task 2.1.

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Table 2.1.1 – List of stakeholders and target groups identified before the project start.

I. Local & Regional authorities and managers **(**directly involved in NBS management/planning and in implementing/applying NATALIE solutions in the DS and FL regions and beyond, water utilities etc.). **II. Decision- & policy-makers, regulators** with focus on water management, disaster management, **environmental agencies** (having the power to influence or determine policies & practices on EU, national, regional/local level; e.g. DG RTD, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG REGIO, DG SANTE, as well as the Water/Public Works Departments and Ministries of Environment at national level). **III. Citizens/Public** (users of water, but also possible contributors to improving quality/reducing pollution in water bodies, wetlands, ecosystems etc. Also schools, tourists, journalists)**.**	**IV. Technology developers and providers** (SMEs developing water/water quality technologies, sensors, IT solutions etc.). **V. Scientific community & Academic Institutions** related to NATALIE activities (e.g. Water and Environmental Management and Water Quality, Eco-hydrology, ICT, Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Chemistry, Aquacultures, Social/Political sciences). **VI. International, European & national networks, clusters and multipliers** (Associations related to innovative NBS technologies and applications, water use, environmental platforms and citizen science/observatory organisations), e.g. Water Europe and the Watershare network (through KWR). **VII. Investors, entrepreneurs, banks** (facilitating TRL-upgrading of developed solutions, financing and continuity of activities beyond the end of the project).

With regards to the Expected outcomes (EO#) and wider impacts (LI#), NATALIE will contribute as follows:

EO#1: Regions and communities have been involved in development and testing of a whole range of transformative solutions
NATALIE develops and implements transformative NBS solutions for climate change resilience in 13 regions of Europe. The selected regions are very diverse, covering all the bio-geographical types in Europe (as detailed in §1.2.1.2.) structured in 8 more advanced demonstrators (DS#1 to DS#8) and 5 followers (FL#1 to FL#5). In each case, regional authorities, utilities, government organisations are participating either as full partners in the consortium, or as stakeholders (T2.1), while citizen science, with the involvement of general public, is also a methodology to be applied (T2.3). The development, testing and validation of the solutions will take place in a **co-creation process**, through the activities in WP2 (T2.1, T2.3). Further involvement and knowledge transfer among the regions takes place with the creation of competency groups and transformation Lab Twinning (T2.5) and capacity building (WP7) while the Nature Investment Launchramp (WP6-Task 6.1-6.3) will be used, in order to ensure the involvement of these stakeholders for defining finance models after the end of the project. These ensure the active involvement of the regions and communities in the planning, implementation and continuity of the NBS solutions, during and after the project, with specific recommendations and links with NDCs (ER#1), deployment pathways (ER#5), finance models (ER#6) and specific recommendations for best practices (ER#7). In terms of range, transformative solutions cover ***all*** the types specified in the Topic Call and the EU MACC objectives (as detailed in §1.2.2). In total, 18 Types of NBS will be demonstrated, stress-tested and validated within the project, in different regions, as detailed in ER#5. In addition, some of the solutions are unique and fully innovative, chiefly the innovations proposed for DS#5 for managed aquifer recharge for drinking water purposes. All the CSs (DSs and FLs), which are located in EU countries, are included in the list of regions eligible for RDF and ESF+ funding and of Member States eligible for the European Cohesion Fund (2021-2027), while 3 (DS#1-Greece, DS#3-Latvia and FL#3-Lithuania) are included in the less developed category. Additionally, the regions involved in 6 of them (DS#4, DS#5, DS#6, DS#7, DS#8, FL#3 and DS#7) are among the first 118 that signed the EU MACC (July 2022).
Directly benefiting target groups: I, II, III, V, VI
Scale and Significance: We include 8 DSs (in regions with advanced/applied NBS) and 5 FLs, i.e. regions with less advanced NBS, envisaging also "knowledge transfer" from the DSs to the FLs, less developed regions, regions that have already signed the EU MACC declaration, but also others that have not (so as to motivate them). We are covering all types of NBS and some of the regions and technologies involved are at a large-scale (e.g. DS#3, DS#7) and unique in complexity and significance (e.g. DS#8).
KPIs (baseline and targets): 1. DS#1: At least 3 other regions in the Mediterranean will have applied the approach for combined/wild fire resilience in NATALIE. **2.** DS#2: The development of the green-blue infrastructure in urban parks, by developing connections both between habitats and between residential areas and nature will be adopted in, at least, 2 other urban parks in Europe. **3.** DS#3: At the end of the project, 2 demo cases for constructed wetlands (livestock facility and small village) will be constructed in the region. In 5 years' time the demonstration of effects and results from operating constructed wetlands in the region will lead to, at least, 5 more cases in Latvia and Lithuania (FL case of Latvia, FL#4).

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4. DS#4 (and FL#3): (i) Increase of water authority confidence in Managed Aquifer Recharge infrastructures and inclusion of the project results in licensing procedures of such water systems and replication in, at least, 2 other Cases; (ii) Understanding of synergistic effects: Saltwater intrusion-Climate change-GW overexploitation-Sea level rise and replication in, at least, 3 other cases; (iii) Improved management of volcanic aquifers and efficiency in the use of water resources, as well as their interaction with surface water and agricultural activity for island regions and replication in, at least, 3 other cases; (iv) Integration of natural water purification systems in integrated water management for the Canary and the Balearic Islands; (vi) Medium-term demonstration of the performance of systems NBS for the improvement of urban water drainage on European islands and replication in, at least, 3 other cases.
5. DS#5: the realisation of a 100 m^3/h installation on site, therefore contributing 50 – 80 % to a regional solution for drinking water production in the South-Limburg region and the replication in other locations, like Aalst, Landen or abroad (at least, 2 more cases)
6. DS#6: The NBS for Restoration of degraded wetlands, Removal of ponds and Restoration or riparian forest to be replicated in, at least, 10 other cases or regions in Europe (including FL#5).
7. DS#7: Institutionalization of NBS for coastal protection and aquaculture industry by the Troms and Finnmark region and Iceland (FL#1).
8. DS#8: 50% of the hydrographic network around Venice sustainably managed. The case of Venice is unique. At the end of the project, the approach will be demonstrated in 1 km of the network and is expected to be replicated for other communities and parts of the network in the Veneto region.
9. At least, 10 scientific publications related to NATALIE technologies/approaches, after the end of the project.

EO#2: Climate resilience solutions have been developed, tested and brought closer to the market

NATALIE will provide the means and ways to deploy an impact-oriented approach, grounded on the best research and innovation (R&I) policy and tools, as a key implementation vector of the 2021 EU Adaptation Strategy in line with the EU MACC to help bring innovative NBS close to market. These solutions, when fully exploited, will contribute to increasing resilience to climate change, while helping to create societal and environmental value in our regions and communities. The implementation of 25 solutions within NATALIE across the 6 levers of innovation (detailed in Table 1.2.1) ensures also the holistic approach adopted and the impact potential of the project. Additionally, the project will support large investors, primarily development finance institutions (DFIs), in sourcing a pipeline of bankable projects and to enable capital seekers (e.g., public decision-makers) to better access catalytic capital to develop impactful infrastructure projects

Directly benefiting target groups: I, II, IV, IV, VII

Scale and Significance: We will be working at both regional and EU scales, by trying to stimulate both regional and EU markets on NBS for ecosystem based adaptation. This is significant because it can help channelling many of the funds that will be available to meet adaptation targets (both in Paris and in the EU climate law).

KPIs (baseline and targets) :

1. Tools developed in NATALIE (which includes three separate tools that can be used separately) will be adopted by, at least, 20 additional regions and cases.
2. The innovation system (Table 1.2.1) will be followed by, at least, 15 additional regions, 8 innovation ecosystems created to test our tools with our case studies.
3. Business and Exploitation roadmap for all of the NATALIE developed tools (with user guidelines), 1 beta version funding platform for both NBS projects and tools will be adopted in, at least, 20 additional cases in Europe.

Long-term impact (LI) towards the destination and mission targets (relevant to NATALIE)

Reference in the direct call of the destination/mission:

The general EU MACC objectives require (*text in italics*): "*…The intention is to ask front-runners European regions in research performance and on climate adaptation to share their experience and accompany them in finding solutions adapted to their own climatic situation and economy…".* NATALIE is directly relevant to the above, by adopting a demonstrator/follower approach, including cases from the less developed regions of Europe (as detailed under EO#1).

Moreover it requires: "*…the establishment of ecological corridors or other large scale NBS" (*relevant for NATALIE for DS#2 and DS#6*); "technological solutions at scale" (*relevant for DS#1, DS#3, DS#5, DS#6 and DS#7 and inherent in the methodology followed with the Booster Pack - Table 1.1.2*); "… the deployment of incentive schemes fostering efficient use and allocation of water and the building of structures to reduce the vulnerability to water-related risks" (*all the DS and FLs in NATALIE contribute to this wider goal); "*large scale deployment of a more climate resilient agriculture, forestry, and food value chains"* (forestry is directly relevant at large scale for DS#1 and DS#6, agriculture for DS#4, while a transformative NBS related to the food value chain is implements for DS#7); "*… the climate-proofing of critical infrastructure and the regeneration of public spaces for climate resilient neighbourhoods"* (the regeneration of public spaces and urban parks is directly relevant for DS#2.

LI#1: Provide general support to European regions and communities to better understand, prepare for and manage climate risks and opportunities

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NATALIE develops a holistic, integrated approach and activities, as already mentioned in §1.1.2 (Table 1.1.2.1) and above. This specifically targets the understanding of climate risks for the regions, as well as the management of them. Additionally the exploitation and business plans and roadmap introduced in NATALIE will help the regions in realising the opportunities arising from this impact-driven NBS approach.

LI#2: Accelerate transformations to climate resilience: cooperate with at least 150 regions and communities to accelerate their transformation to a climate resilient future, supporting them in the co-creation of innovation pathways and the testing of solutions.

Co-creation of innovative solutions is in the core of NATALIE, supported by multiple activities (as already detailed under EO#1). Consequently, the project offers support and a roadmap of actions, as well as policy recommendations for the support of the regions in developing, testing and implementing NBS for resilience to climate change hazards (see Table 1.2.1.1).

LI#3: Demonstrate systemic transformations to climate resilience: deliver at least 75 large-scale demonstrations of systemic transformations to climate resilience across European regions and communities

NATALIE includes the demonstration of a variety of transformative solutions across 8 DSs and 5 FLs. The variety, but also the replication roadmap in NATALIE, ensure that this approach, in terms of technologies, but also in terms of social innovation and business roadmap, will be relevant and replicated by more regions, covering the whole bio-geographical range of Europe. Consequently, with the project DSs and FLs, but also with the replication potential, NATALIE will contribute to the 75 large scale demonstration in Europe (although, obviously, it is impossible for any single project to deliver *all* of them).

Directly benefiting target groups: All

Scale and Significance: As NBS are increasingly applied (and financed), there remain several issues that need to be further researched and investigated, so as to make them more efficient in enhancing the resilience to climate change. They are:

1. NBS need to be accompanied with societal and financial innovative solutions to be more effective.
2. Societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement is often key to the long-term success and sustainability of NBS, while approaches and methodologies for long-term engagement of stakeholders and (chiefly) citizens are not always successful and need improvement.
3. The construction of NBS is often small scale and "isolated", i.e. in most cases, they are not part of a larger planning and systemic solution at regional level.
4. Their continuous monitoring and evaluation (effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis) is still an open issue.
5. NBS need to be considered in early stages of project planning and design (i.e. pre-feasibility stage) and compare to conventional grey solutions, using credible tools and approaches.
6. More evidence is needed in terms of effectiveness in terms of impacts now and in the future in terms of resilience in view of climate change at urban and regional level.

In NATALIE, we are investigating systemic "impact-driven" NBS, at regional level, taking into account all the factors and components involved (technological, environmental and socio-economic), so as to enhance resilience to climate change challenges for the regions of Europe, as part of the European MACC. The activities, (detailed in Table 1.2.1), along all the 6 topics above and the levers of innovation involved, are covering all the biogeological regions in the EU. We include 8 DSs (in regions with advanced/applied NBS) and 5 FLs, i.e. regions with less advanced NBS, envisaging also "knowledge transfer" from the demonstrators to the followers, less developed regions, regions that have already signed the EU MACC declaration, but also others that have not (so as to motivate them). We are covering all types of NBS and some of the regions and technologies involved are at a large scale (e.g. DS#3, DS#7) and unique in complexity and significance (e.g. DS#8). The DSs will work as paradigms for the others and the use of FLs, with twinning activities and knowledge transfer ensures that NATALIE will create an ecosystem for nature-based transformative solutions that will guide other and foster the successful application of NBS across Europe, with lasting effects and impacts.

KPIs (baseline and targets)-Time line 10 years

1. At least, 50 regions in Europe (beyond the project) will have adopted the NBS transformative approach introduced in NATALIE and the societal-economic approach of the project.
2. At least, 12 technological transformative solutions (out of the 18 demonstrated in the project) will have become mainstream across Europe, based on the NATALIE approach.
3. At least, 50 regions in Europe will have adopted the business and exploitation roadmap introduced in NATALIE.
4. Scientific target: at least, 10 publications will refer to technologies/solutions introduced in NATALIE.

Wider Impact on Resilience to Climate Change for Europe through transformative solutions (and NBS)

1. Technological impact: At least, 18 different technologies for NBS related to climate change resilience will be developed, applied, tested, validated and replicated in, at least, 50 other regions in Europe, leading to the mainstreaming of NBS for the protection of European regions.
2. Societal impact: Stakeholder engagement and acceptance of impact-driven NBS will be adopted and enhanced by local authorities in Europe.
3. Economic impact: Sustainable investment and financing instruments for NBS will be established, leasing to the mainstreaming of the impact-driven NBS.

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2.1.2 Scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts

The expected scale and significance of NATALIE contributions are defined in Table (§2.1.1) to facilitate the link between expected outcomes and wider impacts, scale and key performance indicators.

2.1.3 Barriers and obstacles

Barrier#1: NBS fail to address societal challenges
Description: In order to ensure that NBSs are created as proper solutions to societal concerns that have been prioritised by individuals who are or will be directly impacted by the challenges, NBSs need to fully address all relevant societal challenges. Every stakeholder must be involved in the decision-making process used to determine the top challenges, including rights-holders and NBSs beneficiaries. **Preventive Measures:** The NBS interventions will address clearly specified challenges that have significant and demonstrable impacts on society. NATALIE will identify the most pressing societal challenges by following a transparent and inclusive consultation process. Moreover, NATALIE will establish a clear understanding and rationale of the challenges to be addressed by ensuring these are well-documented, under the context of establishing future accountability and optimisation of the proper strategies that will contribute to human well-being. Human well-being outcomes arising from the NBSs will be identified, benchmarked and periodically assessed, via specific, measurable attainable and realistic targets that will foster accountability and informed adaptive management.
Barrier#2: NBS are not economically viable
Description: The return of investment, the efficiency and effectiveness of the intervention, and equity in the distribution of benefits and costs are key determinants of success of an NBS. In order to be sustainable, there must be strong consideration of the economic aspect as, most likely, long-term gains must be balanced against short-term costs, with short-term actions developed within the context of long-term goals and plans. If the economic feasibility is not adequately addressed, NBS run the risk of being short-term projects, where, after closing, the solution and benefits provided cease to exist, potentially leaving the landscape and communities worse off than before. **Preventive Measures:** NATALIE will assess the economic feasibility of the interventions over time, by identifying and documenting the main benefits derived, including their direct and indirect financial and non-financial elements. This information will be differentiated according to who receives the benefits and who bears the costs. Additionally, the project will provide a cost-effectiveness study to support the choice of NBS, including the likely impact of any relevant regulations and subsidies. The effectiveness of the NBS design will be justified against available alternative solutions, considering any associated externalities. Finally, the design of NBS will consider a portfolio of resourcing options, such as market-based, public sector, voluntary commitments, and actions to support regulatory compliance.
Barrier#3: NBS are not based on inclusive, transparent, and empowering governance processes
Description: The assurance that the proposed NBS acknowledge, involve, and respond to the concerns of a variety of stakeholders, especially rights stakeholders, is of crucial importance. Inadequate governance provision for otherwise well-intended actions can adversely affect the legitimacy of benefit and cost sharing arrangements. At a minimum, NBS must adhere to and align with the prevailing legal and regulatory provisions, being clear on where legal responsibilities and liabilities lie. However, as often is the case with natural resources, basic compliance will need to be complemented with ancillary mechanisms that actively engage and empower local communities and other affected stakeholders. **Preventive Measures:** NATALIE will provide a defined and fully agreed upon feedback and grievance resolution mechanism to all stakeholders before an NBS intervention is initiated.
Barrier#4: Lack of transversal policy and strategy
Description: owner of potential constructed wetland site object to allocation of land for construction (e.g., losses of agricultural land). **Preventive measures**: We will apply strategic and targeted approach for awareness raising activities to educate landowners, include measures to demonstrate applicability of the solution and highlight additional benefits (e.g., water storage and flood prevention). **Additional advantage**: NATALIE will recommend governance and engagement approaches, including incentives to develop transversal and strategic policies to ensure the availability of lands for NBS implementation.
Barrier#5: Further development of (some of the) NATALIE solutions is needed to reach the market/commercial exploitation
Description: Oftentimes many climate change adaptation solutions struggle to reach the market since these often deal with a) public goods and b) due to the finance adaptation gap. **Preventive Measures**: In order to do so, we have a specific "bundle" of investment solutions that will help to address both challenges, first, by helping to valorise climate change adaptation and all its resilience dividends and second, by helping to leverage investments from public, private and blended finance. **Additional advantages:** We will use our case study regions (frontrunner and followers) as a test bed to demonstrate the value of adaptation through ecosystem based approaches.

2.2 Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication

The overall objective of NATALIE measures to maximise impact is to ensure that all the project's progress and results are brought to the attention of the various targeted audiences (see Table 2.1.1) and beyond by benefiting from the multiplier

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effect of the networks' activities. By doing so, NATALIE will contribute (i) to the promotion of NBS as a central element of transformation towards climate resilience (ii) to deliver smarter adaptation (iii) to the comprehensive extension of climate adaptation data through regions and communities.

2.2.1 Dissemination: plan and measures to maximise impact

To maximise the impact of the project, a strategy for NATALIE communication and dissemination (D7.1) and a business & exploitation roadmap (D6.3) will be elaborated in collaboration with all the consortium partners. The general aim is to share NATALIE story during the life span of the project, engage and co-create with stakeholders (WP2, WP5) to determine which NATALIE results can deliver the best outcomes for end-users (WP6). Each scenario will be combined with the best paths to reach the different targets (see Fig. 2.2.1a). The impact of NATALIE is considered through different dimensions of social innovation (Fig. 2.2.1.a); not only will the economic dimension be explored, but also the technological dimension of NATALIE KERs along with the capacity development and governance/institutional schemes.

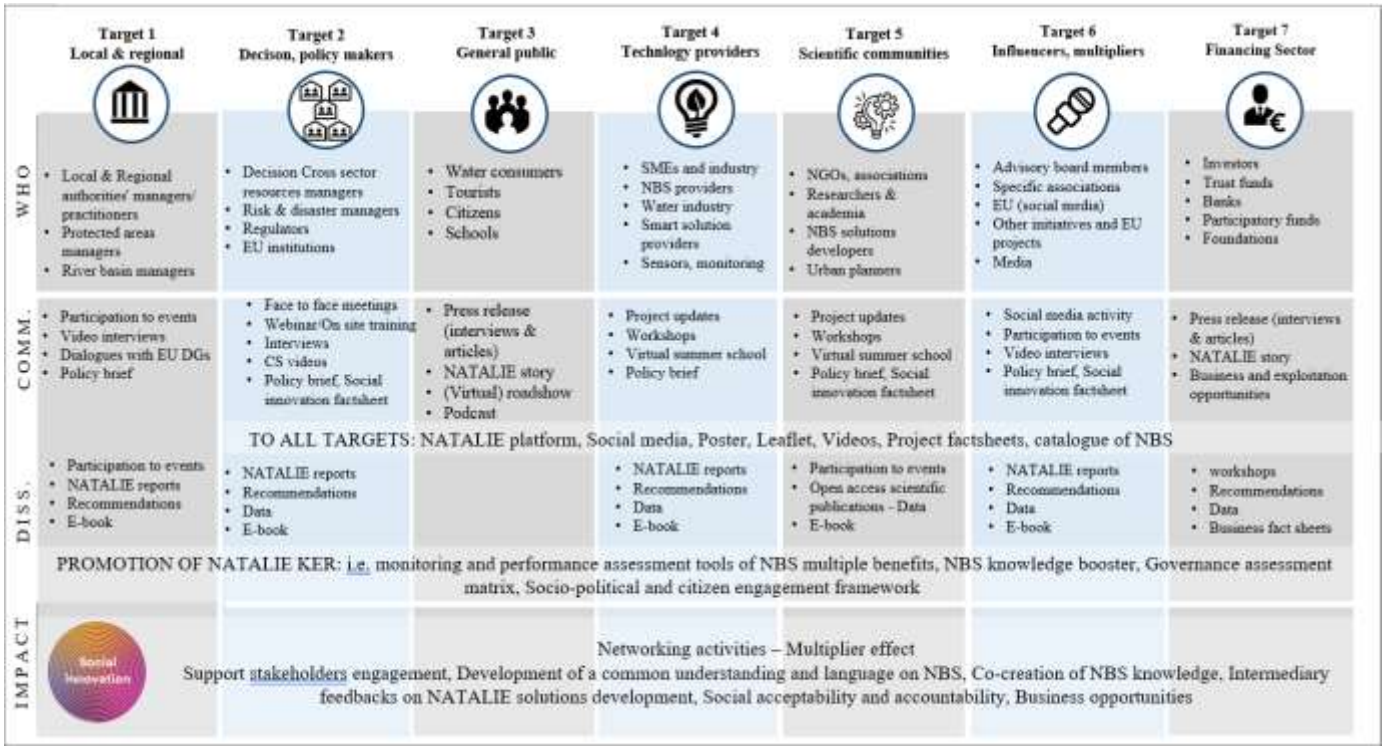

Figure 2.2.1a: *NATALIE preliminary C&D plan*

A holistic approach based on…

The communication, dissemination and exploitation (CDE) activities are strongly interconnected. The related activities will run alongside through NATALIE duration and beyond. Schematically, NATALIE proposes a three main steps approach (Figure 1.1.2) to ensure NATALIE outreach through its technological and non-technological results.

As reminded by the EC, the aim of the communication is to inform and reach out to society, show the activities performed and the use and benefits of NATALIE will have on citizens. The dissemination activities will bring NATALIE one step further towards public disclosure of the project results and outcomes. Dissemination will be ensured by making all the results of the project easily accessible to support the knowledge transfer and support KER accountability in the end. Finally, the exploitation will envisage all the scenarios for NATALIE results to be effectively used at the scale of the DSs and FLs (WPs 2-5) and outside the scope of the project thanks to the CoP (WP6). The additional layer of NATALIE is to benefit from the C&D activities to also engage and set a bi-directional communication with NATALIE targeted audiences. The co-creation of knowledge and solutions is an essential dimension of NATALIE to ensure NBS are mainstreamed through a systemic transformation (WP2).

…transversal indicators

The particularity of NATALIE is to use different series of readiness levels to describe NBS and DS-FLs, in order to provide the best-tailored analysis and content to each targeted audience. In addition to the TRL, Societal readiness level (SRL) and Institutional Readiness (IR) will be used as grid of analysis in the Policy Brief (D7.2), Social Innovation Factsheet (D7.3), NATALIE Business and Exploitation Roadmap (D6.5) and KERs catalogue and NBS catalogue (D7.4). To provide a tailored description of the NATALIE solutions and potential scalping and replicability.

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2.2.2 Communication: main instruments and activities

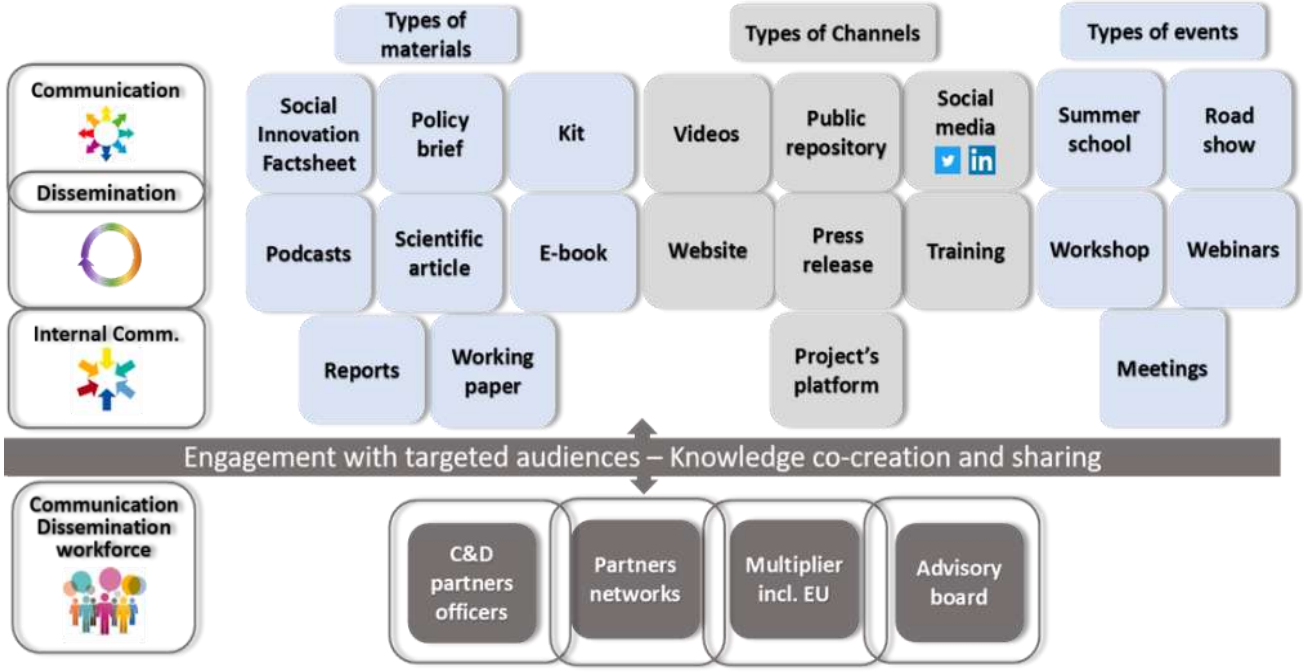

Figure 2.2.1b: *NATALIE key C&D materials*

The objectives of the C&D strategy and plan are to: **(a)** communicate and disseminate NATALIE progress, results and outcomes; **(b)** bridge the path towards the capacity building: from raising awareness to the transfer of NATALIE results and outcomes; **(c)** Support the DSs and FLs, TL and CoP groups; **(d)** provide tailored recommendations to the different targeted audiences (Fig 2.2.1.b); and **(e)** networking by engaging other initiatives and EU-projects. The planning will highlight the activities with the associated key channels. The overall mojo is to "**think, plan and act strategically**". The core approach is to deliver tailored messages, with C&D materials well balanced in terms of expert and non-expert content. Overall, meaningful information, NBS knowledge embracing the mainstreaming' challenges will be issued to reach out the everyday life of the targeted audiences. The starting point will be to develop the stakeholder and influencers mapping (in close relation with WP2, Task 2.1) based on a personal profile for each target detailing their relations, 'weight' and influence according to the climate change challenges they are facing and their respective competences on NBS.

NATALIE C&D materials. Altogether, the materials will provide NATALIE story. Once the graphical design has been set, the following materials will be prepared:

C&D Kit including

- Branding: Logo & Templates: Word, PowerPoint, etiquettes for on-line events, invitation cards for events, project's update (M4)
- General Presentation of the project (PowerPoint), leaflet (M4)
- CS and FL leaflets written in English and native language (M12)
- Guiding principles for partners to boost their communication on the projects (M6)

C&D key supports

- Videos-Interviews with partners and DSs and FLs representatives to provide testimony (starting from M10)
- Policy briefs to gather recommendations and support EU, regional policies and regulation (M24, M36, M45, M58)
- Social innovation factsheets to present NATALIE NBS challenges and solutions through the economic, technological, capacity building and governance-Institutional dimensions (M34, M44, M54)
- NATALIE E-book that will present the current state of NBS, related issues and present NATALIE solutions (M58)

C&D key channels

The preliminary channels that have been identified to promote NATALIE progress, activities and results are:

- The project website: the first on-line version will be launched at M4. The menu will propose different sections, such as, News, About, DSs and FLs, KERs and Media centre. The website will work as a show window of NATALIE progress. All the live news and updates will be communicated via the social media;
- NATALIE social media: twitter and LinkedIn are considered. News will be posted, at least, once a week. To ensure the diversity of content, a planning for partners to write short updates on their activities related to the project, will be set in D7.1. In addition, an active social media management will help to engage with existing projects and initiatives to make NATALIE more visible, notably thanks a social media campaign that will start at M4;
- (on-line) Events: Workshop and webinars will be regularly organised over the life span of the project (twice a year). The first objective is to raise awareness on NBS. Progressively, the themes will deal with NATALIE progress and

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innovation. The ambition is to progressively engage with the targeted audiences and gather their feedbacks on the solutions developed by the project, as well as providing training support to use NATALIE KERs;

- At least 1 (on-line) summer school to target the future generation of NBS and cross sector resources management in the context of climate change adaptation, discuss NATALIE solutions;
- 1 (on-line) roadshow will be organised during the last year of the project the showcase NATALIE KER.

2.2.3 Communication/Dissemination KPIs and Targets

Monitoring is the key tool to "reconsider and adjust" C&D activities. The monitoring will ensure NATALIE C&D strategy and plan remain accurate during the whole life span of the project. The effectiveness of the C&D will be followed at different levels: targets (who), reason to communicate (why), appropriateness of the message (what), as well as way they are delivered (What and How). The monitoring will also be used to assess the follow-up. The aim is also to create an engagement process to be reactive to any request of information. The KPIs listed in Table 2.2.3.1 will be used:

***Table 2.2.3.1** – List of NATALIE C&D KPIs.*

KPI number	C&D activities	Threshold
KPI-C&D-1	Organisation of workshop/webinar	>= 2 per year
KPI-C&D-2	(On-line) roadshow	1
KPI-C&D-3	Press release	>= 2 per year
KPI-C&D-4	Non-scientific and non-peer reviewed publications	20
KPI-C&D-4	Scientific and reviewed publications	>= 15
KPI-C&D-5	Training	>= 1 summer school; 1 dedicated webinar per DS
KPI-C&D-6	Social media (LinkedIn + Twitter)	Post once a week
KPI-C&D-7	Website	2 updates per month, Visits up to 500 per month
KPI-C&D-8	Press campaign	>=1 per year
KPI-C&D-9	Social media campaign	>=2 per year
KPI-C&D-10	Participation to event	Conference>=13, workshop >=13, webinar>=13,
KPI-C&D-11	Video-Interviews	>=50
KPI-C&D-12	Social media followers	LinkedIn>=400, Twitter >=400
KPI-C&D-13	Participation in joint activities with other HE projects	>10

2.2.4 EU policy recommendations

The European Green Deal [27], passed in 2021, provides a range of policies where nature provides the potential to transform our regions through ecosystem based adaptation. First, the EU soil strategy for 2030 [28] sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils, and ensure that they are used sustainably. It sets a vision and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050, with concrete actions by 2030. It also announces a new Soil Health Law by 2023 to ensure a level playing field and a high-level of environmental and health protection. Second, the Biodiversity Strategy [29] (and draft Restoration law) and third, the EU Farm to fork Strategy [30] (and its target of sustainable production). The EU has it Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities [31], to which NATALIE will link to, and we will also bring another aspects to complement EC's long-term vision for rural areas: supporting drought management, sustainable production, vibrant rural communities, ecosystem protection and carbon neutrality for greater resilience to natural hazards and economic crises. Finally, the zero pollution vision for 2050 [32] for a "Healthy Planet for All" looks at how air, water and soil pollution is reduced to levels that are not harmful to health and natural ecosystems for a toxic-free environment, which complements the EU Action Plan on the circular economy that includes an Integrated Nutrient Management Plan, with a view to ensuring more sustainable application of nutrients and stimulating the markets for recovered nutrients. The main contribution from NATALIE though will be to the systemic elements of the EU Adaptation strategy and their focus on NBS, by not only providing the data and evidence but actually mobilising regions along the pathway towards climate resilient development while gathering key insights to speed up the value of nature for adaptation and resilience. Thus contributing the European MACC Implementation Platform.

2.2.5 Exploitation activities

NATALIE Joint Exploitation Strategy: An Exploitation and Sustainability Plan will be delivered and will provide information on the strategy and actions required to maximise the sustainability of the project's solutions for societal, scientific, and economic purposes. The NATALIE exploitation strategy will ensure the optimal use of the KERs of the

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project presented in Table 2.2.6, with a preliminary list of ownership. This is foreseen to speed up the KERs uptake by targeted stakeholders, ensuring a wide use and maximum impact to the society, science and technology, through formulating and communicating their Unique Value Proposition (UVP).

Table 2.2.6: *NATALIE preliminary list of Key Exploitable Results (KERs).*

KER 1: Ecosystem based adaptation Investment Bundle
UVP: A modular tool kit including Nature Investment Launchramp, Natural Assurance Business Canvas and Savi Methodology, allowing the generation of new ecosystem-based adaptation projects. **Customers:** regions, local authorities, vulnerable sectors that want to invest in resilience **Partners:** ICA, GIB, IISD
KER 2: Catalogue of Ecosystem based adaptation solutions and User Guide
UVP: All in one-stop-shop for the NATALIE solutions in a friendly usable format. **Customers:** all our regions and vulnerable communities and sectors **Partners:** OiEau, ICA and all NATALIE solution developers
KER 3: NBS RKB and AI solutions to support design, planning and monitoring of NBS.
UVP: A tool to explore climate and environmental information for a better understanding of NBS planning according to regional and national needs. **Customers:** policy-makers, scientists, all our regions, vulnerable communities and key community systems (sectors) **Partners:** EUT, KWR, NTUA, UNEXE, UiT, THETIS
KER 4: NBS resilience assessment layer for Digital Twin
UVP: A planning and monitoring tool of NBS for the different regionalities to forefront climate change. **Customers:** policy-makers, scientists, all our regions, vulnerable communities and key community systems (sectors) **Partners:** EUT, KWR, NTUA, UNEXE, UiT, THETIS
KER 5: Upscaling Plans
UVP: Upscaling plans to mainstream NBS in adaptation pathways will be elaborated in each DS. **Customers:** Regions, local authorities **Partners:** KWR, BIRZAI, EPTBV, AyLL, CBAR, MS4, *OiEau*, CHALKIS, PSTE

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned KERs, all Consortium partners have developed initial individual exploitation plans. **SME** partners will use NATALIE's KERs to improve and broaden their current portfolios of commercial services in the domain of NBS for climate change adaptation, capacity development projects, training and education activities and creating products and services to acquire new customers. **R&I** partners will disseminate the results among the scientific community via their research and/or, international cooperation activities, highlighting advances made in mainstreaming NBS, sustaining analytical tools as part of their work. **REGION** partners will use NATALIE's solutions to strengthen climate change adaptation policy, public sector engagement in ecosystem based adaptation and better targeted use of public funding and finance, strengthening governance through technological and methodological tools.

To facilitate the impact and exploitation of the project's outputs, in addition to our C&D activities we will undertake a specific set of IMPACT activities and measures. To ensure the legacy of the project beyond the projects lifecycle, we will develop a NATALIE Project Exploitation roadmap for all of our developed tools with user guidelines, as a Catalogue of NATALIE solutions that will be made available through the Climate-ADAPT platform and in the ARSINOE Climate innovation window.

2.2.6 Strategy for the management of intellectual property right (IPR)

As NATALIE will produce significant research results and technological innovations, defining and correctly handling all the intellectual property (IP) matters is of high importance. A strategy dedicated to this task will be developed together with the Business and Exploitation Roadmap and catalogue of Solutions in Task 6.5, to create an encouraging environment for further exploitation of the generated products, discoveries and knowledge. All information regarding the IPR handling will be clearly defined in the 'Consortium Agreement' (CA). Throughout, our strategy for the management of IP will follow conventional guidelines on authorship (using the guidance provided by the IPR Helpdesk) and standard forms of copyright for academic publications, including green and gold routes for open access, while making other project outputs open access using Creative Commons (CC) licensing.

The commercial exploitation of R&I generated in NATALIE will be significant. Private and research partners have previous proven experience of generating commercial products and services, as well as developing alongside data, resources and tools that are freely available. This mix of public and private contributions will generate a balanced, inclusive and resilient development, while ensuring that products and services are affordable and accessible to all. We will maximise opportunities to develop both for profit and not-for-profit exploitation of our research and outputs. We will follow conventional approaches that recognise protection measures (e.g. patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc.) for the management of IP. The mechanisms to handle IP management will be based on a three-level approach:

1. Proposal phase IPR: All partners' background assets (i.e., scientific studies, methods, tools) and potential intellectual property rights (IPR) attached to them (i.e., patent, copyright) likely to be needed for the implementation of the project and/or for the use of the expected results that can be subject to IPR, have been already taken under consideration during

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the proposal preparation. In addition, the consortium has carried out a prior SOTA analysis in order to refrain from using similar characteristics to an IPR. Specifically, preliminary searches were performed, using open resources (Google Patents, Patent Lens) and tools provided by EUIPO (Espacenet, eSearch plus), EUIPN (TMview) and WIPO (Global Brand Database). The analysis revealed that there are no trademarks on NATALIE's acronym, logo and its full title.

2. IPR during the project: The Horizon IP Scan service will be utilised at the project's Grant preparation phase to carry out a preliminary assessment of intangible assets with the aim to identify any IP issues that the consortium will potentially encounter. During the project, the newly generated knowledge and IP will be recorded, recognised, captured and assessed. Protective and supportive measures, such as the obligation to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements, will be undertaken by the consortium to create confidence to the involved participants, ensuring a transparent allocation of IPR. In addition, the consortium plans to openly publish the overall project results and all publications will be stored in trusted repositories (e.g., Zenodo). A Result Ownership List (ROL) will be defined among partners and provided with the final report.

3. Post-project IPR: Confidentiality obligations, transfer of results, obligations to protect results capable of commercial exploitation will also be considered after the end of the project. A Freedom-to-Operate (FTO) analysis has been carried out which resulted in no barriers, and therefore NATALIE's pre-identified and newly generated IPRs can and will be protected. Results non-exploited by owners within one year after the end of the project will be published on Horizon Results Platform for potential exploitation by another legal entity (e.g. through transfer or licensing).

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2.3 Summary

SPECIFIC NEEDS	EXPECTED RESULTS	D & E & C MEASURES
- NBS need to be accompanied with societal and financial innovative solutions to be more effective. - Societal, stakeholder and citizen engagement is often key to the long-term success and sustainability of NBS, while approaches and methodologies for long-term engagement of stakeholders and (chiefly) citizens are not always successful and need improvement. - The construction of NBS is often small scale and "isolated", i.e. in most cases, not part of a larger planning and systemic solution at regional level. - Their continuous monitoring and evaluation (in terms of effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis) is still an open issue. - NBS need to be considered in early stages of project planning and design (i.e. pre-feasibility stage) and compare to conventional grey solutions, using credible tools and approaches. - More evidence is needed in terms of effectiveness in terms of impacts now and in the future in terms of resilience in view of climate change at urban and regional level - Lack of coherent policy plan (regional and local).	- **Mainstreaming NBS in NDCs**: Mapping of Nature-based policies and legal frameworks, including the integration of nature-based solutions in the current NDC at country level. - **NBS resilience Knowledge Booster** as a FIWARE compatible platform. - **NBS performance modelling and assessment tools** (off-line): NBS performance assessment tools for evaluating the impacts of climate/weather hazards on urban, peri-urban and rural environment and assessing the performance of NBS. - **NBS resilience assessment layer for Digital Twin** (real time-online): Resilience assessment layer that will be deployable as part of the NBS Digital Twin Infrastructure - **NBS deployment pathways for the solutions stress-tested** - **18 different and diverse NBS to be applied, tested and validated** in 8 DSs and 5 FLs - **Investment bundle** (Nature Investment Launchramp, the Natural Assurance Business Canvas and the Savi Method.) applied to 8 DSs) - **Recommendations for best practices for validated NBS** at EU level, policy recommendations and 4 policy briefs - **NATALIE NBS & KER catalogues**	- Branding: Logo & Templates - Project leaflet and DS leaflets - Guide to boost communication - Videos and interviews with partners, DSs and FLs - 4 Policy briefs - Social innovation factsheets - NATALIE-E-book - Project website - Social media accounts (Twitter and LinkedIn) - Participation in Events and Conferences - At least 15 scientific publications to journals and international conferences during the project lifetime - Links with other projects and networks (e.g, Water Europe, Watershare, ICT4WATER, Mission platform) and clustering actions with them - Business plan and exploitation of at least 5 KERs - Network, liaison activities and multiplier effects - At least 10 project and external scientific publications per year will refer to technologies/solutions introduced in NATALIE after the end of the project
TARGET GROUPS	**OUTCOMES**	**IMPACTS**
I. Local & Regional authorities and managers II. Decision & policy makers, regulators and environment agencies III. Citizens/Public IV. Technology developers and providers V. Scientific community and Academic Institutions VI. International, European and national networks, clusters and multipliers VII. Investors, entrepreneurs, banks	- Technological specific targets for each technology related to the DS achieved (detailed under KPIs for EOs (§2.1.1.) - At least 20 regions in Europe (beyond the project-midterm) will have adopted the NBS transformative approach introduced in NATALIE and the societal-economic approach of the project and/or the business and exploitation roadmap for NBS - At least 12 technological transformative solutions (out of the 18 demonstrated in the project) will have become mainstream across Europe and implemented in at least 20 regions (following the NATALIE business plan) (mid-term- 2-5 years after the end of the project) - NATALIE NBC CoP carrying after the end of the project	- **Technological/ Environmental**: At least 18 different technologies for NBS related to climate change resilience developed, applied, tested, validated and replicated in at least 50 other regions (long term-10 years) - **Societal**: Stakeholder engagement and acceptance of impact-driven NBS will be adopted and enhanced by local authorities in Europe - **Economic**: Sustainable investment and financing instruments for NBS will be established - **Political**: NBS based adaptation integrated into regional strategies - **Legal**: land access facilitated for NBS implementation

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3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Work plan

3.1.1. Overall structure of the work plan and pert chart

The project is structured in 7 interlinked work packages (WPs): **WP1** refers to Project Management, **WP2** includes all the co-creation activities, WP3 includes all the modelling and resilience assessment tools (off-line tools), **WP4** includes the on-line tools (mainly the NBS Knowledge Booster), **WP5** comprises all the activities to be implemented at the CSs (DS and FL), **WP6** refers to the investment and financial mechanisms and tools, while **WP7** includes all the dissemination/communication, capacity building, networking and clustering activities (see Figure 3.1.1a).

The duration of the project is 60 months (5 years), with activities planned at Task level (see Figure 3.1.1b).

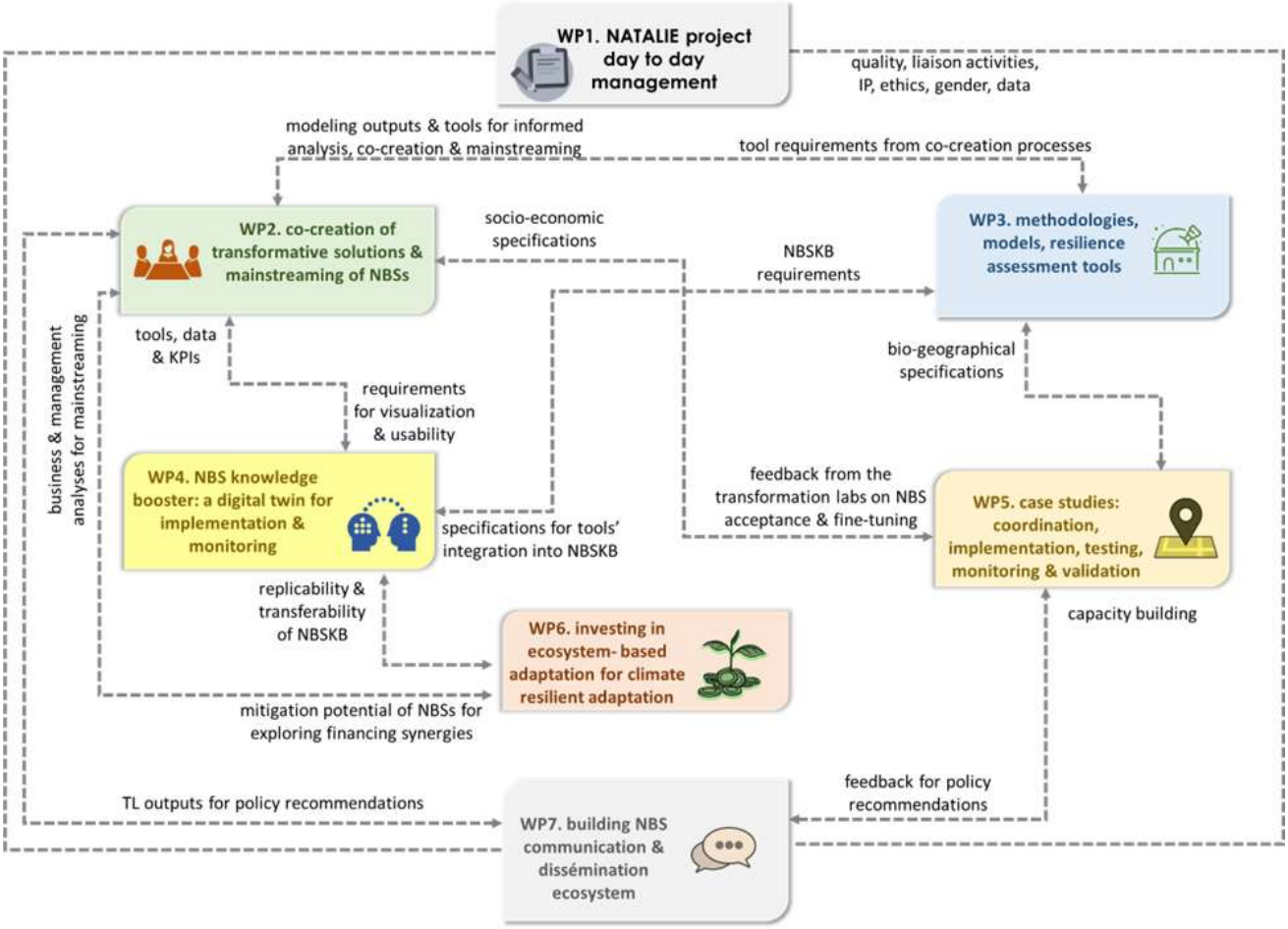

***Figure 3.1.1a** – Structure and interactions between NATALIE work packages.*

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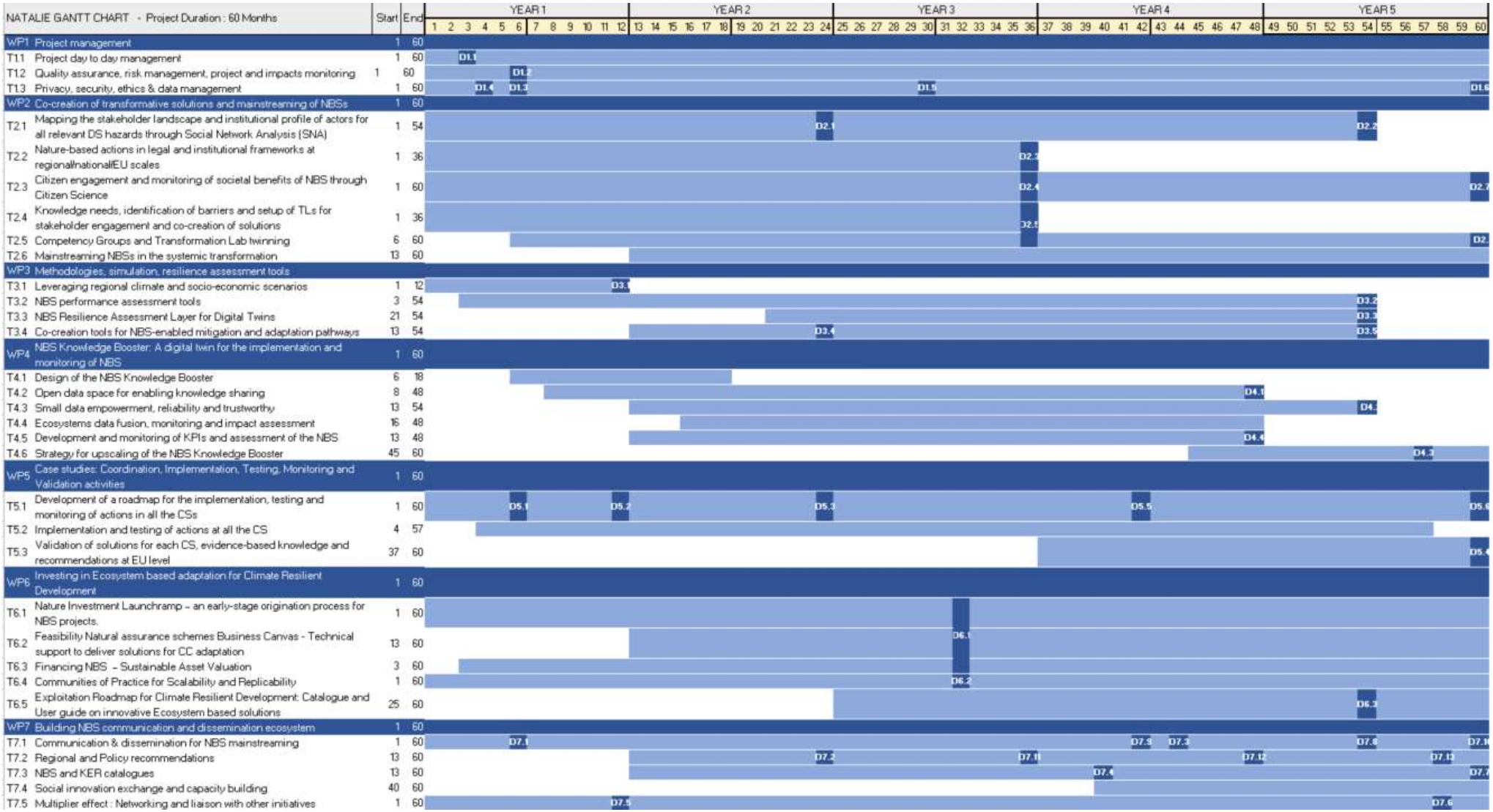
***Figure 3.1.1b** – NATALIE Gantt chart*



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3.1.2. Costs justification (subcontracting and purchase)

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Table 3.1g *Subcontracting items*

Partner subcontracting	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
8. ICA	50 000	**WP6 - Task 6.1** Support for the development of immersive experiences as part of the design of NAS canvas in D6.1, to help visualise the costs and benefits of NBS (35k€) Development and programming of the funding platform (beta version developed for funding NBS projects - SO6, p8) (15k€)
11.VNPA	370 500	**WP5 - Task 5.2 – DS#2** Local expert of NBS to conduct: geological, hydrological and landscape study in order to identify the best locations to implement NBS and to apply for the right environmental permits (55.5k€). Technology supplier to design and implement a 1st NBS in DS#2 - rainwater retention: deep excavation, tanks installation for rainwater collection and storage, filtration systems, pipes and pump system (160k€) Technology supplier to design and implement a 2nd NBS in DS#2 - network of temporary ponds: landscaping, waterproofing, constructions works excavator (of small dimensions), compactor, tipper, electricity generator and transport (155k€). The objective of these 2 NBS is to guarantee nature restoration and conservation in the Vacaresti Natural Parc (DS#2 - Romania).
12. NAT2050	14 000.25	**WP2 - Task 2.5** Professional graphic designer for all the actions of FL#5 : promotion of events and development of a MOOC (9000.25€) Press Agency for all the events to be organised in FL#5 (1500k€) Activities dedicated to the action "Share Nature 2050's work on NBS monitoring and evaluation methodology" in WP5 Demo Sites: videast (1500€), translator (1000€), external expert to develop specific indicators (1000€)
21. DeWater	355 000	**WP5 - Task 5.2 – DS#5** Drilling of injection well (100 k€) - capacity of 100 m^3/h Equipping the well with sensors (50 k€), Drilling of extraction well (100 k€), Drilling of monitoring well, small diameter (50 k€), Connection material between purification unit (not budgeted here) and injection well (piping, pumps etc. (50 k€), External analyses (private laboratory) of PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances): 5 k€
24. CAN	50 000	**WP5 - Task 5.2** Creation of a series of NBS and sustainable urban drainage systems to retain water runoff in DS#4: Earthworks, concrete structures, landscaping, hydraulic pipes,..
31. BIRZAI	35 000	**WP2: Tasks 2.3., 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 – DS#3** Expert(s) to help with initiation of changes in law basis in order to make implementation of the selected NBS in DS#3; to help in communication with local farmers/inhabitants explaining them the possible benefits of NBS **WP5: Tasks 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3** Expert(s) to estimate of suitable locations for implementation of constructed wetlands in Biržai district (DS#3); for adaptation of the guidelines prepared by ZPR for planning, design, and implementation of constructed wetlands for water treatment at livestock facilities and small villages.
33. MS4	20 000	**WP5: Task 5.2** Experts to study the technical, economic, legal and social feasibility to implement NBS, once selected thanks to WP2 activities (twinning transformative labs), in FL#2 (Bucharest)
34.FF	42 500	**WP5: Task 5.2** Local expert to support data processing and analysis of geohydrological studies in FL2 (Bucharest) (30k€), Local engineering company to develop the civil project for FL#2 (Bucharest) implementation (adaptation to local regulations) (12.5k€)
35. WWFGreece	76 250	**WP5: Tasks 5.1 and 5.2 – DS#1** Studying, applying for the relevant environmental permits and implementing of the NBS interventions (traditional stone weirs) in a tributary of the Lilantas river (DS#1): Preparation of a geological study; Technical study about the location of the dams. The study will be submitted to the relevant authorities for the environmental permits; Construction of 75 traditional stone weirs to reduce flood Risk

Table 3.1h *'Purchase costs' items (travel and subsistence, equipment and other goods, works and services)*

9-ULL	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	17 600	**WP1, WP2 and WP7** Travels (x8) for 2 pp to participate to 4 project meetings (2000€/travel/person) Travel (x2) for 2 pp to participate to 1 competency group (WP2) (800€/travel/person)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	36 400	-
Total	54 000	

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11-VNPA	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel and subsistence	23 000	**WP1, WP2 and WP7** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (950 €/travel/person) Travels (x8) of 2pp for 4 dissemination events (800 €/travel/person) Travels (x20) of 2pp for 10 visits to demonstrator and follower sites (450 €/travel/person).
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	42 800	-
Total	65 800	
12- NAT2050	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	27 000	**WP1, WP2 and WP7** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (900 €/travel/person) Travels (x8) of 2pp for 4 dissemination events (1100 €/travel/person) Travels (x22) of 2pp to participate to 11 competency groups/twinning labs (500€/travel/person).
Other goods, works and services	24 000	**WP2 – FL#5** Organisation and holding of 2 events (related to task2.3) gathering project partners, territorial collectivities, economic actors, technical and financial actors in FL#5, including : room rental, catering, communication (12k€ for each event)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	24 000	-
Total	75 000	
21- DeWater	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Other goods, works and services	30 000	**WP5: Task 5.2 – DS#5** Measurement of water quality throughout the demo case to monitor the improvement of water quality before and after the implementation of the NBS. Analysis by an accredited laboratory of several drinking water parameters (list not finalised) such as pH, T°, DOB etc. (30 k€)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	16 000	-
Total	46 000	
22-GIEGC	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	7 600	**WP1** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (950 €/travel/person)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	11 400	-
Total	19 000	
23-AyLL	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	10 600	**WP1 and WP2** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (950 €/travel/person) Travels (x6) of 2pp to participate to 3 competency groups/twinning labs (500€/travel/person).
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	8 400	-
Total	19 000	
24-CAN	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	10 600	**WP1 and WP5** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (950 €/travel/person) Travels (x6) of 2pp for 3 visit to follow demo site works (500€/travel/person).
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	28 400	-
Total	39 000	
25- UIB	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	20 000	**WP1, WP2, WP5 and WP7** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (800 €/travel/person) Travels (x9) of 3pp to participate to 3 competency groups/twinning labs (500€/travel/person) Travels (x10) of 2pp for 5 visits to demo site from Mallorca to Minorca (500€/travel/person) Travel (x4) of 2pp for 2 dissemination events (1025 €/travel/person)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	25 000	-
Total	45 000	
26 - PNR	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Other goods, works and services	197 000	**WP5: Task 5.2 – DS#6** Tree removal (resinous fir) on wetland, 8.5ha in total (96k€) Pond removal (10ha) for the wetland restoration (66k€) Riparian forest wetland restoration with natives species and restoration artificial drainage (200m, 35k€)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	5 000	-
Total	202 000	

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27 - SABV	Cost (€)	Justification
Other goods, works and services	71 000	**WP5: Task 5.2 – DS#6** Restoration of a wetland by acquisition, removal of dikes and drains and removal of an obstacle not far from its confluence with Vienne River (15k€); Resin removal and restoration of wetlands on 2 stretches (total 56k€)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	5 000	-
Total	76 000	
28 - EBTPV	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Other goods, works and services	305 000	Hydromorphological and riparian forest restoration on 200m of a watercourse and its riparian forest as well as adjacent land in order to limit the drainage effect of the surrounding environments (125k€). Removal of a pond (high Fayes stream and Chantegrolle) (180k€)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	6 000	-
Total	311 000	
29 - CBAR	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Equipment	102 000	**WP5: Task 5.2 – DS#8** Purchase of a remote control vehicle for maintenance operations once the NBS will have been implemented (used to cut the herbaceous vegetation that will have grown on the canal bank) (52.5k€) NBS performance assessments: GNSS rover + smart antenna (15.75k€), Drone (4.5k€), Flowmeter (24k€), Level sensor and installation for physical and biological surveys and measurement of hydraulic parameters (5.25k€)
Other goods, works and services	60 000	**WP5: Task 5.2 – DS#8** NBS implementation: Plants purchase from nursery (30k€). NBS performance assessment: monitoring services (macroinvertebretes (3 times; 3.000 €/each), vegetation (3 times; 3.000 €/each), fauna (3 times; 4.000 €/each)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	12 000	-
Total	174 000	
31 - BIRZAI	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	9 400	**WP1 and WP2** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (800 €/travel/person) Travels (x6) of 2pp to participate to 3 competency groups/twinning labs (500€/travel/person)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	20 600	-
Total	30 000	
32-MATIS	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	11 200	**WP1 and WP5** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (1 400 €/travel/person)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	29 450	-
Total	40 650	
34 - FF	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Equipment	125 000	**WP5: Task 5.2 – DS#2** Biofiltration system allowing for a multi-stage, nature-based rainwater treatment unit: composed of hydraulically connected compartments (40€), edges (35€), and peripheral devices (50€) including an automated control system, pumps, valves, and hydraulic and water quality sensors that moderate its operation and are customized to the site specific application. This prototype will be installed in the Vacaresti Natural Park, in Romania (DS#2)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	19 980	-
Total	144 980	
35 – WWFGreece	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	5 000	**WP7** Travel (x4) of 2pp for 2 dissemination event (1 250 €/travel/person)
Other goods, works and services	80 000	**WP2: Tasks 2.1 and 2.4** Preparation of a fire prevention plan for at least one municipality, based on the information acquired during the living labs and the extensive communication with the local stakeholders. (15k€) **WP5: Tasks 5.1 and 5.2** Preparation of a baseline-prefeasibility assessment, i.e. analysis of the current condition of the river basin of Lilantas (10k€) Analysing and testing an innovative action included in the fire prevention plan "Prescribed burning" (15k€) Pre and post monitoring of the NBS implemented (traditional stone weirs): development of a plan with indicators to monitor the impact on biodiversity, aquifers and reduction of flood risk (40k€)

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Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	17 400	-
Total	102 400	
36-CHALKIS	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	7 900	**WP1 and WP5** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (800 €/travel/person) Travels (x3) of 1pp for 3 visits to follow NBS implementation in DS#1 (500€/travel/person).
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	9 100	-
Total	17 000	
37 – IUAV	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	10 400	**WP1 and WP7** Travels (x8) of 2pp to participate to 4 project meetings (1 000€/travel/person) Travels (x2) of 2pp for the participation to 1 scientific conference (1 200€/travel/person).
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	19 600	-
Total	30 000	
38-PSTE	**Cost (€)**	**Justification**
Travel and subsistence	6 400	**WP1 and WP2** Travels (x4) of 1pp to participate to 4 project meetings (1 000 €/travel/person) Travels (x6) of 2pp to participate to 3 competency groups/twinning labs (400€/travel/person)
Remaining purchase costs (<15% of pers. costs)	10 600	-
Total	17 000	

3.1.3. Associated Partners and other sources of funding

Total eligible costs for associated partners from CH, respectively 833 250 € for P39/GIB and 690 000€ for P40/IISD are to be funded from the national resources as envisaged in the provided financial guarantee letter for funding Swiss participants in Horizon Europe.

The budget of UK partners P41/UNEXE and P42/Earthwatch, respectively 849 843.75 € and 488 125€, will be provided by UK government UKRI HE guarantee funding.

The following detail of the costs for the **4 Associated Partners** is provided for reference:

	Personal Costs	Subcontracting	Travel and subsistence	Equipment	Other Goods, works and services	Indirect costs	Total costs
P39/GIB (CH)	656 600€		10 000€			166 650€	**833 250€**
P40/IISD (CH)	285 000€	245 000€	10 000€		12 000€	138 000€	**690 000€**
P41/UNEXE (UK)	585 200€	10 000€	34 650€		52 025€	167 968.75€	**849 843.75€**
P42/Earthwatch (UK)	357 500€		16 000€	12 000€	5 000€	97 625€	**488 215€**

3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

NATALIE consortium combines **multidisciplinary competences and resources from 43 partners from 9 EU countries** (BE, ES, FR, GR, IT, LT, LV, NL, RO) and 3 associated countries (NO, IS, CH) and UK. The members of consortium have been chosen carefully for their excellent expertise, innovation skills and track records. It is composed of 12 Research and Technology Organisations (KWR, EUT, NTUA, UTH, ULL, CSIC, UIT, LLU, VUB, UIB, IUAV, UNEXE), 8 SMEs (ICA, WE&B, AGT, AQUAFIN, CAN, THETIS, FF), 2 Industrial entities (AQUA, DeWater), 7 associations with local and national competencies (WWF-GR, NAT2050, VNPA) or international coverages (OiEau, GIB, IISD, Earthwatch) and 14 public entities representing end-users, procurers of NBS (BEF, ZPR, CIEGC, AyLL, PNR, SABV, EPTBV, CBAR, BIRZAI, *OiEau*, MATIS, MS4, CHALKIS, PSTE). The consortium members have excellent complementary expertise and skills required to reach the objectives of the project. The consortium expertise is well balanced to achieve the planned activities of NATALIE. UTH and WE&B together with Earthwatch and ICA focus on co-creation, citizen engagement and mainstreaming NBS for climate resilience. AQUA and UNEXE, NTUA bring the expertise on climate scenarios, NBS performance assessment modelling and Digital Twins. The expertise of EUT and NTUA on digital tools for knowledge management will serve the development of NATALIE NBS Knowledge Booster. The knowledge of ICA, GIB, IISD and NAT2050 on valuing NBS and financing mechanisms (including funding and PPP) will ensure the preparation of successful exploitation by partners and third parties.

KWR's know-how on coordinating large demonstrators around EU. Each CS will be implemented by local authorities or communities with the ability to deploy the solutions at a larger scale in their respective region. They will be supported by R&I and industrial or SMEs partners. DS#1 (GR): PSTE (region), CHALKIS (municipality) and WWFGreece supported by UTH and NTUA; DS#2 (RO): VNP (natural park), MS4 (municipality) supported by BDG and FF; DS#3: BEF, ZPR supported by LLU; DS#4 (ES): AyLL (municipality) and CIEGC together with CAN (water utility) supported by ULL

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and CSIC; DS#5 'BE): DeWater, AGT and AQUAFIN supported by VUB and K[illegible] regional, provincial and local authorities in Vienne river basin), PNR (natural par[illegible] *OiEau* (region) supported by UIT; DS#8 (IT): CBAR supported by THETIS (SME) and IAUV.

Replication activities will be carried out at regional scale in ES (FL#3 by UIB), FR (FL#5 by NAT2050), LT (FL#4 by BIRZAI) and IS (FL#1 by MATIS) and at municipal level in RO (FL#2 by MS4).

For DS and FL, when regional authorities are not involved as partner, preliminary exchanges have been taking place for the proposal preparation in order to associate them in an extended EAB to ensure a broad exploitation. We plan to have at least 5 members in the EAB, with more to added later, as needed, so as to cover the wide variety of topics and locations that NATALIE is addressing. In addition to regional and national authorities, international organisations have been approached to join the EAB considering their important expertise in NBS and climate change resilience to guide NATALIE development, as well as foster dissemination and exploitation, in particular: The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, as well as the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), coordinating the LIFE ARTISAN integrated project and currently preparing a National Strategy on NBS for climate adaptation. OiEau has proven experience in coordinating large R&I projects and leading Communication and Dissemination in EU and international projects with success. OiEau is also managing the permanent technical secretariat of the International Network of Basins Organisations (INBO) whose EU branch focus on the implementation of EU water directives and coordinating the Water4All science-policy component. INBO will serve as lever for NATALIE dissemination and getting commitment of river district authorities (EU-WFD).

Most consortium partners have, often jointly, participated in European and international research and innovation projects and initiatives, including roles as project coordinator or WP leader. A balanced gender representation among the principal investigators, key experts and young professionals will ensure equal opportunities and the consideration of the gender dimension in all R&I aspects of the project. Through the active participation in the European Research Arena (ERA), the consortium has excellent connected to recent R&I projects related to this topic and has the capacity and expertise to bring recent developments and innovations forward to the next technology readiness levels. The consortium has excellent connections with major EU and international organisations and networks, such as UNECE, UNFCCC, UNEP. Through these connections the consortium will be able to promote further upscaling and uptake of the NATALIE innovations.

4. ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

4.1 Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact

NATALIE project does not foreseen an ethical issue in its implementation. The natural solutions planned in the project will have a positive impact on the environment while improving human well-being and limiting the adverse impact of climate change. An ethical assessment report will be prepared in early phase of the project, based on the "Ethics self-assessment" procedure established in the documents called "How to complete your Ethics self-assessment" that follows the EU rules for H2020 and Horizon Europe proposals established in the EU regulation 2021/695 entitled as "Horizon Europe — the framework programme for research and innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination" and the Article 14 inside the Model Grant Agreement of HORIZON EUROPE programme.

In NATALIE project there is envisioned a participatory and co-creation methodology to involve multiple regional stakeholders on the design of the NBS but also, on the elaboration of the regional solutions and digital ecosystem. Mentioned human participation are envisioned to be elaborated under the WP2 (led by UTH and WE&B). In detail, the activities will include the following activities:

- Stakeholder mapping at multi-scale level for including the Quadruple/Quintuple Helix considering the academia, policymakers, key community systems (different sectors), civil society and environmentalists.
- Analysis and review of current regional, national and EU based regulations, policies in terms of environmental protections and hazards
- Citizen engagement methodologies through the elaboration of specific events and citizen science campaigns (participatory living labs).
- Elaboration of questionnaires in the different regionalises to identify the motivation of the participants.
- Compilation and elaboration of recommendations to the regionalities in terms of NBS planning and design.
- Implementation of competency groups to discuss about results, best practices and recommendations across transformation living labs.

4.2 Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations

NATALIE consortium also agrees to follow up the rules and guidelines of the GDPR EU regulation adhered to the data privacy and security of personal information across their digital and non-digital developments. Partners from non EU countries involved in the project (UK, CH, NO, IS) will follow the same rules that will be enforced by the consortium agreement, even if they have similar legislation in their country.

In addition, processes and methodologies will not involve the collection or processing of the following types of data:

- Research involving sensitive topics - for example participants' sexual behaviour, their illegal or political behaviour, their experience of violence, their abuse or exploitation, their mental health, or their gender or ethnic status;

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- Research involving groups where permission of a gatekeeper is normally required for access to members of the group, for example, ethnic or cultural groups, native peoples or indigenous communities;
- Research involving deception, or which is conducted without participants' full and informed consent at the time the study is carried out;
- Research involving access to records of personal or confidential information, including genetic or other biological information, concerning identifiable individuals;
- Research which would induce psychological stress, anxiety or humiliation or cause more than minimal pain;
- Research involving intrusive interventions - for example, the administration of drugs or other substances, vigorous physical exercise, or techniques such as hypnotherapy. Participants would not encounter such interventions, which may cause them to reveal information, which causes concern, in the course of their everyday life;
- Research involving the tracking or observation of participants (e.g. surveillance or localization data, and Wide Areas Network -WAN-data, such as IP address, MACs, etc.). However, 'cookies' will used in the website and the graphic user interface to help analyse how users behave while interact with the project platform.
- A privacy statement will be put on the website regarding the use of external services like Google Analytical (or similar) to track and get statistics from users in the use and interaction with the website. A similar privacy statement will be put on the graphical user interface with similar purposes. Moreover, it is important to notice that none of the data collected by the project requires a notification or authorisation for the collection and/or processing of the personal data to authorities or other responsible entities.

Moreover, NATALIE will provide the opportunity to all stakeholders to test and validate the NATALIE solutions and services. In this regards, this will be driven through the living labs and co-creation workshops that will be planed under NATALIE.

All stakeholder engagement and co-creation workshops will serve to provide insights to EU commission and the upcoming directives and regulations. Specifically, the insights acquired in NATALIE will initially serve the regionalities to inform them about their critical risks and the subsequent mechanism to adapt to climate change. At higher level (national and pan-EU), NATALIE will offer specific recommendations to the Climate Mission, Biodiversity directive, Flood risk directive, Water framework directive, etc.

Indeed, a good ethical practices and guidelines will ensure fair an equal power relationships between researchers and participants. In this regards, the consortium agrees to comply with the principles laid down in the European Code of Conduct for Research integrity published by the European Science Foundation [1]. These principles mainly highlight:

- honesty in communication of the research's goals and intentions, in reporting methods and procedures and in conveying interpretations;
- reliability in performing research;
- objectivity, which requires facts capable of proof, and transparency in the handling of information;
- impartiality and independence;
- openness and accessibility;
- duty of care - all researchers have a duty of care for the humans, animals, the environment or the objects that they study;
- fairness in providing references and giving credit for the work of others;
- responsibility for the scientists and researchers of the future;
- care will be taken to minimize the potential collection of personal data, e.g. while taking photos and/or videos during events.

In NATALIE, the co-creation framework and the stakeholder engagement methodologies are devoted to be inclusive to all target groups. Under this include procedures, the proposed solutions are devoted to be beneficial to all society pillars, including vulnerable groups (considering people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minutes, homeless people, isolated older, ex-prisoners and people with several problems).

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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.2 Natural persons under direct contract A.3 Seconded persons		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.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs					
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs[7]	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs[8]					
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d2	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + c1 + c2 + c3)	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m
1 - OIEAU	1 084 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	92 950.00	0.00	45 000.00	0.00	305 612.50	1 528 062.50	100	1 528 062.50	1 528 062.50	1 528 062.50
2 - KWR	646 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30 000.00	0.00	20 000.00	0.00	174 000.00	870 000.00	100	870 000.00	870 000.00	870 000.00
3 - EUT	425 700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30 000.00	6 000.00	15 000.00	0.00	119 175.00	595 875.00	100	595 875.00	595 875.00	595 875.00
4 - BDG	245 960.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28 800.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	69 940.00	349 700.00	70	244 790.00	244 790.00	244 790.00
5 - NTUA	522 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20 000.00	3 000.00	8 000.00	0.00	138 375.00	691 875.00	100	691 875.00	691 875.00	691 875.00
6 - AQUA	671 840.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28 800.00	0.00	46 700.00	0.00	186 835.00	934 175.00	70	653 922.50	653 922.50	653 922.50
7 - UTH	517 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30 000.00	10 000.00	18 500.00	0.00	143 875.00	719 375.00	100	719 375.00	719 375.00	719 375.00
8 - ICA	361 400.00	0.00	0.00	50 000.00	5 000.00	3 000.00	44 000.00	0.00	103 350.00	566 750.00	70	396 725.00	396 725.00	396 725.00
9 - ULL	252 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38 000.00	16 000.00	0.00	0.00	76 500.00	382 500.00	100	382 500.00	382 500.00	382 500.00
10 - BEF	207 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	59 250.00	296 250.00	100	296 250.00	296 250.00	296 250.00
11 - VNPA	300 300.00	0.00	0.00	370 500.00	28 800.00	15 000.00	22 000.00	0.00	91 525.00	828 125.00	100	828 125.00	828 125.00	828 125.00
12 - NAT2050	217 860.00	0.00	0.00	14 000.25	27 000.00	0.00	48 000.00	0.00	73 215.00	380 075.25	100	380 075.25	380 075.25	380 075.25
13 - CSIC	290 912.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32 000.00	11 000.00	0.00	0.00	83 478.00	417 390.00	100	417 390.00	417 390.00	417 390.00
14 - UiT	648 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50 000.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	175 750.00	878 750.00	100	878 750.00	878 750.00	878 750.00
15 - LLU	163 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12 500.00	5 000.00	6 000.00	0.00	46 825.00	234 125.00	100	234 125.00	234 125.00	234 125.00
16 - ZPR	120 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	3 000.00	0.00	34 500.00	172 500.00	100	172 500.00	172 500.00	172 500.00
17 - WE&B	336 400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13 500.00	10 000.00	0.00	0.00	89 975.00	449 875.00	70	314 912.50	314 912.50	314 912.50
18 - AGT	44 195.00	0.00	70 555.00	0.00	4 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29 687.50	148 437.50	70	103 906.25	103 906.25	103 906.25
19 - AQUAFIN	103 750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3 194.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	27 986.00	139 930.00	70	97 951.00	97 951.00	97 951.00
20 - VUB	141 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	36 625.00	183 125.00	100	183 125.00	183 125.00	183 125.00
21 - DeWater	114 750.00	0.00	0.00	355 000.00	6 000.00	0.00	40 000.00	0.00	40 187.50	555 937.50	70	389 156.25	389 156.25	389 156.25
22 - CIEGC	101 660.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30 165.00	150 825.00	100	150 825.00	150 825.00	150 825.00
23 - AyLL	61 200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20 050.00	100 250.00	100	100 250.00	100 250.00	100 250.00
24 - CAN	206 800.00	0.00	0.00	50 000.00	19 000.00	20 000.00	0.00	0.00	61 450.00	357 250.00	70	250 075.00	250 075.00	250 075.00
25 - UIB	199 680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20 000.00	10 000.00	15 000.00	0.00	61 170.00	305 850.00	100	305 850.00	305 850.00	305 850.00
26 - PNR	80 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	197 000.00	0.00	70 500.00	352 500.00	100	352 500.00	352 500.00	352 500.00
27 - SABV	40 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	71 000.00	0.00	29 000.00	145 000.00	100	145 000.00	145 000.00	145 000.00
28 - EPTBV	271 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6 000.00	0.00	305 000.00	0.00	145 500.00	727 500.00	100	727 500.00	727 500.00	727 500.00
29 - CBAR	224 450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12 000.00	102 000.00	60 000.00	0.00	99 612.50	498 062.50	100	498 062.50	498 062.50	498 062.50
30 - THETIS	261 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	2 000.00	0.00	69 700.00	348 500.00	70	243 950.00	243 950.00	243 950.00
31 - BIRZAI	137 500.00	0.00	0.00	35 000.00	20 000.00	0.00	10 000.00	0.00	41 875.00	244 375.00	100	244 375.00	244 375.00	244 375.00
32 - MATIS	237 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40 650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69 537.50	347 687.50	100	347 687.50	347 687.50	347 687.50

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	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.2 Natural persons under direct contract A.3 Seconded persons		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.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs					
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs[7]	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs[8]					
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d2	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + c1 + c2 + c3)	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m
33 - MS4	143 000.00	0.00	0.00	20 000.00	14 400.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	40 600.00	223 000.00	100	223 000.00	223 000.00	223 000.00
34 - FF	147 400.00	0.00	0.00	42 500.00	19 980.00	125 000.00	0.00	0.00	73 095.00	407 975.00	70	285 582.50	285 582.50	285 582.50
35 - WWFGreece	116 850.00	0.00	0.00	76 250.00	22 400.00	0.00	80 000.00	0.00	54 812.50	350 312.50	100	350 312.50	350 312.50	350 312.50
36 - CHALKIS	63 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12 000.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	20 000.00	100 000.00	100	100 000.00	100 000.00	100 000.00
37 - IUAV	135 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	41 450.00	207 250.00	100	207 250.00	207 250.00	207 250.00
38 - PSTE	80 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12 000.00	0.00	5 000.00	0.00	24 375.00	121 875.00	100	121 875.00	121 875.00	121 875.00
39 - GIB														
40 - IISD-Europe														
41 - UNEXE														
42 - EARTHWATCH														
Σ consortium	9 923 007.00	0.00	70 555.00	1 013 250.25	787 474.00	336 000.00	1 121 200.00	0.00	3 059 559.00	16 311 045.25		15 033 486.25	15 033 486.25	15 033 486.25

[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.

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ANNEX 2a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary (Decision C(2020) 7115[1])

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 actions[2]

Type: unit costs

Units[3]: 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:

$$\frac{\text{average annual total trans-national access costs to the installation (over past two years[4])}}{\text{average annual total quantity of trans-national access to the installation (over past two years[5])}}$$

For virtual access:

$$\frac{\text{total virtual access costs to the installation (over the last year[6])}}{\text{total quantity of virtual access to the installation (over the last year[7])}}$$

Euratom staff mobility costs[8]

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).

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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 2021[10]

EU-Member States[11]

Country / Place	Coefficient (%)
Bulgaria	59,1
Czech Rep.	85,2
Denmark	131,3
Germany Bonn Karlsruhe Munich	101,9 95,8 98 113,9
Estonia	82,3
Ireland	129
Greece	81,4
Spain	94,2
France	120,5
Croatia	75,8
Italy Varese	95 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.

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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 children[12]**}**

[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.)

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

KWR WATER BV (KWR), PIC 998279769, established in GRONINGENHAVEN 7, NIEUWEGEIN 3433 PE, Netherlands,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

FUNDACIO EURECAT (EUT), PIC 928030235, established in AVENIDA UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA 23, CERDANYOLA DEL VALLES (BARCELONA) 08290, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP SRL (BDG), PIC 964360324, established in STRADA PLANTELOR 80 AP 2, BUCURESTI 023973, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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’),

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For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION (NTUA), PIC 999978142, established in HEROON POLYTECHNIOU 9 ZOGRAPHOU CAMPUS, ATHINA 157 80, Greece,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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’),

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

AQUATEC PROYECTOS PARA EL SECTOR DEL AGUA SA (AQUA), PIC 972702033, established in CALLE SANTA LEONOR 39, MADRID 28037, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE ('the Agreement')

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Angel Villanueva with ECAS id n002pg24 signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 09:39:01 (transaction id SigId-69792-oMFH4ZR7kTqRYy1IkBGEGYBNQi1AA9uTKW3uRHnxoP9BBHBSKdUehr0xbiwWZBHfL67zQsXXj6DHkoH6mHTuGS-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-ch7JPWZLmbGNjWYkTJFApjh6j83o7xoeKIh3KwmXE1DIve4lxu0TYRLVkzy9TVnFuQznav5MaGzyZJeq5MeNPMW). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 09:39:08 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS (UTH), PIC 986152150, established in ARGONAFTON FILELLINON, VOLOS 38221, Greece,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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’),

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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

Ioanna Laliotou with ECAS id n002d498 signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 12:25:28 (transaction id SigId-73793-xWJyzuW3cqBxCearkzzzGXCUI96PfyLNzpjzzUe0KK1LWT8MbRL6El05OoHgrTmWR8YuUsnzzGbMLP8Vg8lEV1IKW-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-cEkdzJXqNhDOTPn8p4VVlGQIh9O7WUOlV0Uxwsf10YhF4X02drGaZfFDSrbU0gL2suWPlPfbYzOYUddNHo4PjB). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 12:25:35 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

I-CATALIST SL (ICA), PIC 937459605, established in CALLE BORNI 20, LAS ROZAS DE MADRID 28232, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE ('the Agreement')

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Elena LOPEZ-GUNN with ECAS id nloezgel signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 09:06:48 (transaction id SigId-69141-tZTTy9hve8rvpfmU7Hf06I24f0Nk6qTSWWL6fOTzgYbYI62nynPudXVUv2I7BtcbrrE9Ksanf3OprsCkdyqPrW-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-6w3PVC2qDqiTYaPJcWDzSvAUXvj5uQkcUYRrRfpId6k14cxmHIrie1TDovwzXdtpABxDi1BUKisLerlG8Si9Lj). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 09:06:52 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA (ULL), PIC 999825270, established in PADRE HERRERA S/N, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA 38200, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

BALTIJAS VIDES FORUMS (BEF), PIC 999533106, established in ANTONIJAS IELA 3-8, RIGA LV-1010, Latvia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ASOCIATIA PARCUL NATURAL VACARESTI (VNPA), PIC 901323613, established in SECTOR 3 STR GH. PETRASCU 53 BL PM 53 SC A ET 5 AP 67, BUCHAREST 031592, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Dan BARBULESCU with ECAS id nbarbuld signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 09:45:00 (transaction id SigId-69944-xhot04LispqHse4itv2XRBzPVBMqOvAry3yzkVSdIq0qSzilY1ASTSyAPWKiwXzS2gfJRzuC2oCQQ1u7nzzfsGE8-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-T6s1PtU1G1XIb0g0YAyqR37rxqPzqUZzexEUNTtR63v1qaQuYLKaiWuATxvTQKB1TAzhzQ77MBBTgxxGwfXWzjk). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 09:45:07 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

FONDS NATURE 2050 (NAT2050), PIC 885509218, established in AVENUE DE CLICHY 141, PARIS 75017, France,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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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 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Francisco Javier Moreno Fuentes with ECAS id n002mz0g signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 15:43:51 (transaction id SigId-78018-HPl1cXj83m05ZgzHHHrAKLmNXzwVHFywVdygIwe8wdVWOzxEYbYLlhqm1631VR7T2wfDeRzOBZ5ctq4Fo41sof4-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-TJaaCzJniG7zqWcklfnozjps2L4PolvAWiB9B3oxLI8ntkXx6JgGjeKTJbwTnGzZTl6H77guczH7KF3V5Clw5yF). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 15:43:59 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERSITETET I TROMSOE - NORGES ARKTISKE UNIVERSITET (UiT), PIC 999874643, established in HANSINE HANSENS VEG 14, TROMSO 9019, Norway,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

LATVIJAS BIOZINATNU UN TEHNOLOGIJU UNIVERSITATE (LLU), PIC 999933328, established in LIELA IELA 2, JELGAVA LV-3001, Latvia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Irina ARHIPOVA with ECAS id narhiiri signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 07:59:10 (transaction id SigId-68342-cZxsQ8vRisUjgBabvw0a0IwMGFwcxxa6mOLdsOX9dDAN46zrYTsJbC5iKN00j4pQZktiIzIlvdsjBTBHJzgmJoG-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-tF9mL23cX14MpywWizWMS83GiOJuf8aoWiAqqEG5Y4ing8zIq0bB7ggsdEVudsRDPQglwVyFzRKUpyYAjiYCjZW). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 07:59:19 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ZEMGALES PLANOSANAS REGIONS (ZPR), PIC 950629877, established in KATOLU IELA 2B, JELGAVA 3001, Latvia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS FORDEVELOPMENT SL (WE&B), PIC 929744807, established in PLAZA SANT JAUME 10 PLANTA 2 PUERTA 2, SANT QUIRZE DEL VALLES 08192, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ADVIESBUREAU INZAKE GRONDWATERTECHNIEKEN (AGT), PIC 883398692, established in PRINS BOUDEWIJNLAAN 7, KONTICH 2550, Belgium,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Jozef Van Steenwinkel with ECAS id n0023mpl signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 11:40:57 (transaction id SigId-72737-UMcOEKuwonqmpq8GUHNuLqlEp9YSOjkfSoC6dwpFcsMX7IQovF0jcSHzpgxUTrwfvZ0R5muFjQ8Up6MCMDxzPJ-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-oJ3YuGLuQ9GM7WI57CPlQnPdIYaFkTTZETUC6IZSgdMSg5vtmfC7NczK5TeszVgznBzHRwisevEsU5XNS37ljUC). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 11:41:02 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

AQUAFIN NV (AQUAFIN), PIC 999514773, established in DIJKSTRAAT 8, AARTSELAAR 2630, Belgium,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE ('the Agreement')

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB), PIC 999902094, established in PLEINLAAN 2, BRUSSEL 1050, Belgium,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE ('the Agreement')

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Sonja Haesen with ECAS id n002k29d signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 09:54:54 (transaction id SigId-70165-GGa7bpqZ7AWm6tM4W1WYdrXtXDy2U3kX02mGdjZJKS6bGs906eUJ3ta64V0LylDIxzQgmvx2qr5xetOtmZQBve-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-DQzwwfTNOHinudVXXNPmq2G75aA1g9hSdwnFD3XWs3WzfPijK670Hk0YSxryifvlUww3N0JHrTFdTzLrCXFvzIa). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 09:54:58 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

VLAAMSE MAATSCHAPPIJ VOOR WATERVOORZIENING (DeWater), PIC 975471965, established in VOORUITGANGSTRAAT 189, BRUSSEL 1030, Belgium,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ENTIDAD PUBLICA EMPRESARIAL CONSEJO INSULAR DE LA ENERGIA DE GRAN CANARIA (CIEGC), PIC 906559770, established in AVDA DE LA FERIA 1, LAS PALMAS 35012, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Alexis Lozano with ECAS id n0030va0 signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 08:57:35 (transaction id SigId-68959-ZzqoAeuzTwXUzXEealDUm720lZxjL5V8ylzu8aOYgPiJwtms2pmPcjJPMLvgCP6MUj5wrbQzsYqMeozfTaoEEcmW-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-aoK95rhBA1gJEu7J0TeSRYENoHa0evOYckmYE07Tl5BwbQzg34wkDAUWp9kJztoC7T4bpkwzHf6RllyDzUpX0Tm). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 08:57:42 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

AYUNTAMIENTO DE SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA (AyLL), PIC 883215653, established in CALLE OBISPO REY REDONDO, 1, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LA LAGUNA 38201, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Susana Reyes Rodriguez with ECAS id n00cedxq signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 15:13:53 (transaction id SigId-77249-NzhUOEj2FK044xcBk90hE7CqrHX10BkyzzyzzkJXBArzoMfdzVBLscnqCoVlzae5XWHlQECrMOGMCN0Nh6RwDbG6-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-zHQFPME51IOFymug3J9x8n7V6HjSgViB99B1zpUKJFeTnh4NtQyEwPSrkktzKsoplePSzVYoWlmqojfZKavl55m). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 15:13:57 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

CANARAGUA CONCESIONES SA (CAN), PIC 887693852, established in AVDA MANUEL HERMOSO ROJAS 4 1 - OFI, TENERIFE 38003, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Rafael Herrera Checa with ECAS id n008xweu signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 14:50:44 (transaction id SigId-76638-oeMFCps9U3mXBVavIMzlBcZanJqCloLtjDkTIqW6HIwIoCICvkMkHALaHFRx7CGJzMSMeYctTC4LLYZzk0oW0PG-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-fEN0BjZ9Z38hO23PlNueb1NqK1HMlVYutDNtzIGHzzyHoXtCzuQzt64QOHTvLIza7jZ78Q1mfTuZ7sbcZnQlNKC0). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 14:50:54 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS (UIB), PIC 999846707, established in CARRETERA DE VALLDEMOSSA KM 7.5, PALMA DE MALLORCA 07122, Spain,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Víctor Homar Santaner with ECAS id n008onk2 signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 08:29:21 (transaction id SigId-68588-Q09cGh3GBHB9lvxgqx9Y26PQzaFzb4eJIMxtAy8V6SKzmSitaLJ3aKK57EYKzfnyUBHdaw2zNIL4T0FRSipAGvu-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-gakwTURVgAzUIWtm0kTWJoLuCxxA3XnKJ5cF2eDqld37TpZJvZJocPIwFbtWQOllapASLHCrlvYA3WsEQdKLg8). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 08:29:28 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

SYNDICAT MIXTE D'AMENAGEMENT ET DE GESTION DU PARC NATUREL REGIONAL DE MILLEVACHES EN LIMOUSIN (PNR), PIC 885143237, established in MAISON DU PARC 7 ROUTE D'AUBUSSON, MILLEVACHES 19290, France,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Philippe BRUGERE with ECAS id n00c8rr5 signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 15:59:26 (transaction id SigId-78405-B9Z0buzg4wOwIq1zKmawO8whbPZGKu30EXIRkI3mRZTIHr0LzwPtakOF3IOrWDFmdJ5OIJ9cWZAePHT101Hth2m-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-Ew6GYUYXGfcdLP8kByyhJzdDf2lVYmXch6lcHFptW2C7rP4FhIDRosAYwFA5cJtcrIj3LLRufOEbAQdt7pLvhS). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 15:59:32 CEST

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Publié le 03/03/2026
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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

SYNDICAT D AMENAGEMENT DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE (SABV), PIC 885149445, established in 38 AVENUE DU PRESIDENT WILSON, AIXE SUR VIENNE 87700, France,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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’),

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

ETABLISSEMENT PUBLIC TERRITORIAL DU BASSIN DE LA VIENNE (EPTBV), PIC 885264875, established in PARC ESTER TECHNOPOLE 20 RUE ATLANTIS, LIMOGES 87280, France,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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’),

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Stéphane LORIOT with ECAS id n00ankk1 signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 08:22:27 (transaction id SigId-68511-m8qymESUct3boRXUi8r6yTJ4EPL4vpItzi9LpOzUdiCx68AG80TrhQs7gTfir2qclfIjLyPkfP5zaLH1X7AtU1G-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-f3pMUD63qazvrAU54DgKVXEbzoGUNzzezG8KHSj1CqFNPXEzOMWjZymXhTzbYdfLjJKZrtpzxUAkKFySulHeLer1). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 08:22:35 CEST

Envoyé en préfecture le 03/03/2026
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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA ACQUE RISORGIVE (CBAR), PIC 926527414, established in VIA ROVERETO 12, VENEZIA 30132, Italy,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

THETIS SPA (THETIS), PIC 997579235, established in SESTIERE CASTELLO 2737F, VENEZIA 30122, Italy,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Manuela MANFREDI with ECAS id ndoardbe signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 14:07:31 (transaction id SigId-75507-nNYFPzHkMONgNcUcU9zr8X4Q22apMoggitIgjk7Zx5S9Ct3S6D4tnV0g5mmy4EerWHFhsx6AMzQbcd426cLvRbm-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-BN6UKZ03JcJe308ConZZfSHJ4Gf6zqbI5ZztELdbQA2OM9IRUV0aOL1PUdBhWFXeYQ1QLp4av4L4pRwzbFIUhoG). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 14:07:36 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

BIRZU RAJONO SAVIVALDYBES ADMINISTRACIJA (BIRZAI), PIC 941221265, established in VYTAUTO G 38, BIRZAI 41143, Lithuania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Jurga BAGAMOLOVIENE with ECAS id nbagamju signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 07:09:11 (transaction id SigId-68059-NvzjvGJLH6xFGd8mjFilZxghPWzv1BZOS0q7Tn6OtoZ2TDMNolbLcizLOoieCD9tTPSegv9fZnCMlRrIAei2SSG-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-2bH2zwDrElcylYAWQXGf8Sqvai5dkgSPsQhdqUchX0imRx74ldxC9GPzxzu3gtzHgR8ydnzNwDrtpAvpzMbwFbk0). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 07:09:17 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

MATIS OHF (MATIS), PIC 999766100, established in VINLANDSLEID 12, REYKJAVIK 113, Iceland,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE ('the Agreement')

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

SECTORUL 4 AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCURESTI (MS4), PIC 883394715, established in BLD GEORGE COSBUC 6-16, BUCURESTI 040532, Romania,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE ('the Agreement')

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Daniel Baluta with ECAS id n00252sv signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 10:45:27 (transaction id SigId-71421-FqVqEJiwx7lZpzehDHGW32B0zzcnuNjgBl82vRNFUpFUzfYo0TMV9OzRDo2vZoFbzzP3EzkDJMc2MlndAsqiirEL-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-DftKkPo5BW4eKu09ysflUogcqSeHJ3Q5ITAP0oaibNj75jRIc3MVXwmZAmqjptoKm5LNPrv2rNkwJ6LuLJjzGe). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 10:46:16 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

FIELD FACTORS BV (FF), PIC 920747766, established in VAN DER BURGHWEG 1, DELFT 2628 CS, Netherlands,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE GREECE (WWFGreece), PIC 972382418, established in LEMPESI 21, Athens 11743, Greece,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Demetres KARAVELLAS with ECAS id nkaravde signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 14:58:22 (transaction id SigId-76830-ENwHE7lUB1qW31i985njeEWljsRRut7CvzxBHcckeibfI7newhIBhabYKyyOFGHTjVq76KcPO9AbdPEe0NXHzv-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-gzmgiaBUm54NNrPU6S5lqAzJkzySiyC5zNsTEf7qV3HE75nzHh0uRLQLNwHr730j3aWlmKXCoo6yX7U16cYErSzm). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 14:58:28 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

DIMOS CHALKIDEON (CHALKIS), PIC 930610629, established in FARMAKIDOU 15, CHALKIDA 341 00, Greece,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERSITA IUAV DI VENEZIA (IUAV), PIC 998948293, established in SANTA CROCE TOLENTINI 191, VENEZIA 30135, Italy,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

Benno ALBRECHT with ECAS id nrestuam signed in the Participant Portal on 23/05/2023 at 12:49:19 (transaction id SigId-74227-6zzbRiXidzTZWxzzfMNw3OzRztc4TGQzR572GuGPA0HQE4JzhgPCSH9aA3UlDDX14EvQazn9jj9KrAV1lfXIbkjZ4-yntOf97TTHqJXwStD2tm9a-XnNXpaVmX0sw3cR5vShnBh4Bkc8pQaK8AvU2BwYf2t6WFoAnTunhH0zzsYW4hSzZjkmSbzNfKedNKWy2zehyuI5). Timestamp by third party at 2023.05.23 12:49:24 CEST

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ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

PERIFEREIA STEREAS ELLADAS (PSTE), PIC 929489794, established in YPSILANDI 1, LAMIA 35131, Greece,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101112859 — NATALIE (‘the Agreement’)

between OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'EAU (OIEAU) **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

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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.2 Natural persons under direct contract A.3 Seconded persons		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/PPI:* D.5 PCP/PPI 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						
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 ~~+ 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).

ⓘ 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.

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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 2015/444[1] 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).

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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 Integrity[2].

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).

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- 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.

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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.

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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).

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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:

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- 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

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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.

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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

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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.

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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)

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- 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 Common 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

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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 Researchers[3], 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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