

D.1.2.3: Mid term

Factsheet on the state of play

Introduction

As also foreseen in the approved Application Form, in this document the Lead Partner provides an useful update and state of the art concerning the main project progresses achieved so far, and the delivery of the foreseen outputs/deliverables, according to the planned timeline and also in relation to some deviations occurred during the implementation, that has already reached the 50% in the scheduled time plan.

Always in the framework of this introductory part, it has to be underlined that the original project closure was initially expected for 30.06.2021.

After the COVID-19 pandemic crisis spread in February/March 2020, the partnership has agreed and proposed, according to the M.A. provisions, a project prolongation request for additional 12 months (internal Steering Committee on Major Change, May 21), in order to accomplish the related partners' activities (mostly on-field pilot actions) which had a significant delay. So, the new expected project closure is foreseen for 30.06.2022, as already decided by the Monitoring Committee and communicated to the LP by the Managing Authority, in September 2020.

Furthermore, always during the Steering Committee in May 2020, the partnership has forwarded a first draft of budget change proposal to the JS. According to the new indications provided by the MA in October 2020, the additional Major Change proposals will be processed starting from January 2021.

This Report has been presented and discussed during the Partnership Thematic Meeting (Steering Committee) held by PP1 Ca' Foscari – UNIVE on December 4th 2020.

Overview and description of the Reported activities

1st Progress Report (April 2019 – December 2019), registered in SIU on 25.05.2020

After having organized and attended the **Kick Off Meeting** (Trieste, 10-11 April 2019 hosted by the Lead Partner ERPAC), the main partnership achievements have been reached in the period October-December 2019, given that the Consortium had to adapt to a relevant change or deviation occurred in the end of April 2019: Marco Polo System GEIE withdrawal. The second part of the above-mentioned period has been essential in order to re-start and pave the way for 2020. In particular, from the administrative point of view: **Subsidy Contract** has been signed on 29.10.2019 and a new **partnership agreement** has been signed on 26.11.2019.

From October to December 2019 the internal meetings and online exchanges within the partners intensified and an updated Action Plan/GANTT has been elaborated by the Lead Partner in order to make a new state of the art and prepare the partnership to meet the planned deadlines in 2020.

Relating to the most preliminary deliverables, this reporting period has included the delivery of the **Start-up activities** for **WP 1** and **WP 2** (D.1.1.1 to D.1.1.4 and from D.2.1.1 to D.2.1.4). Moreover, **in late 2019** (November-December) the partnership started to search specific thematic **stakeholders** for each involved territory. As a consequence of this **research**, mostly devoted to implement **WP 3**, several types of Cultural and Touristic stakeholders could emerge as potential actors to which address a diversified touristic offer. This, also on the basis of the **status quo analysis**, realized in relation of the represented territorial needs (through demand surveys and Gap analysis).

2nd Progress Report (January 2020 – June 2020), registered in SIU on 29.10.2020

January has been opened by the Thematic Meeting held in Kastela (14-15), where the partnership has taken the chance to proceed with project activities in the framework of the workplan and within the revised GANTT. It has to be underlined that the second day of the meeting has been devoted to the involvement of the Croatian Stakeholders in the field of Blue Economy who have been sensitized about the project. As February has been characterized by ordinary day-to day project management (the **Advance Payment** Request has been forwarded to the Managing Authority), March 2020 has represented a critical month in the overall context, due to the sanitary crisis spread all over Europe.

Nevertheless, the consortium has respected the fixed deadline for the **delivery of most 3.2 activity by March 30 and 3.1 activity by June 30**.

D.3.2.1 includes different stakeholders for each region/macro-region (FVG area, Veneto, Puglia Region, Split- Dalmatia county). A variety of interested and sensitized actors came out, as different professional profiles have emerged through the research: diving centers, cultural providers, local authorities, NGOs, enterprises (SMEs).

Starting from this evidence, PP1 Ca' Foscari, on the basis of the overall contribution, has drafted the following thematic reports. The first one, **D.3.2.2** "Status quo Analysis Report" illustrates the state of the art of Underwater Cultural heritage in the Adriatic Region also through data collection feedback.

From the document, a need of an integrated, diversified, as far as possible de-seasonalized tourism offer emerges, leveraging forms of slow mobility and full sustainability.

The pilot projects foreseen in UnderwaterMuse Project could be the privileged scenarios to launch modalities of joint management and to design with the same stakeholders, sustainable forms of tourism use, boosting all the potential synergies and relationships.

Concerning **D.3.2.3**, the quality check report mainly emphasizes the responses given by all partners.

Other relevant issues to be mentioned have been: an increased nr. of **online internal meetings** (D.1.2.1), held monthly, an improved digital visibility on FB/website (A.2.3), the 1st P.R. closure (May 2020), **Major Change requests** (budget change + time extension) in May 2020, decided through a shared **Steering Committee** (D.1.3.2) on Project prolongation and Budget change (21st May).

Main hints for the 3rd Progress Report (July 2020 – December 2020)

Concerning the Budget change proposal, it has been discussed together with Mr Miletic and the whole partnership, leading to a frequent re-elaboration of the **Financial Plan** (D.1.4.1). The last agreed draft has been transmitted to the Programme Bodies in July 2020.

In the meanwhile, a crucial deliverable has been provided by the LP in collaboration with the other PPs: **D.4.1.1. The Report on thematic coordination related to pilot action implementation**. Collects and re-elaborates the joint methodology which paves the way to implement the pilot interventions in the archaeological sites in 2021 in Grado, Torre S.Sabina and Resnik/Siculi.

In September 2020 the partnership has been asked to re-present a specific submission for the **project prolongation proposal, which has been finally approved by the Monitoring Committee** in the same month.

In the end of 2020 **two relevant Thematic Meetings and Stakeholder events** (relevant documentation will be provided) have been held on 26-28 October (by LP ERPAC/Informest) and 3-4 December (by PP1 Ca' Foscari – UNIVE).

During the event held in October, the first day has been devoted to the internal partnership State of the art as well as to prepare the pilot actions in the archaeological sites of Grado, Torre S.Sabina and Resnik/Siculi (Croatia). The second day has been dedicated and focused on the local Stakeholders' involvement in FVG Region. A definitely interesting and stimulating feedback coming from the participating hosts has been provided. In particular, the most relevant actors taking part at the event are active in the fields of Culture, Tourism, Blue Economy and they are transversally belonging to Public Bodies, Cultural Heritage Agencies, Cultural and creative SMEs, archaeology professionals, communication operators.

Also the Thematic Meeting and Stakeholder Meeting organized by PP1 Ca' Foscari (in December) have witnessed the permanent engagement of the partnership, through the Mid-term Steering and Technical Committee (December 4). While, the opportunity of a specific roundtable with Veneto Region stakeholders has characterized the previous day (December 3), with a list of points discussed and related inputs coming from the community.

Finally, two fundamental deliverables to start implementing also WP 5 are expected to be delivered by PP4 Puglia Region in the following weeks, thanks to the Consortium contribution: **D.5.1.1 Report on thematic coordination linked to action planning**, summarising tool



development and action planning at the four sites, together with **D.5.1.2** *Draft action plans* on the valorisation of underwater archaeological sites, and the increased accessibility.