

Consortium Agreement



HARMONY

Hazard Assessment of Marine Mixtures and New Pollutant Synergies

Version 2.0 – 25/06/2026

(Based on DESC A – Model Consortium Agreement for Horizon Europe, Version AP 2.0)

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CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

THIS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT is based upon Regulation (EU) No 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027), laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (hereinafter referred to as “Horizon Europe Regulation”), and on the European Commission’s Lump Sum Grant Agreement and its Annexes, and is made on 1st September 2026, hereinafter referred to as the Effective Date

BETWEEN:

1. **UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)**, PIC 999866689, established in Piazza Roma 22, ANCONA 60121, Italy, the Coordinator, duly represented by the Rector Enrico Quagliarini
2. **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA (UNISI)**, PIC 999898020, established in Via Banchi di Sotto 55, Siena 53100, Italy, duly represented by Prof. Riccardo Paoletti, Director of Department of Physical Sciences, Earth and Environment (DSFTA)
3. **UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUNA (UDC)**, PIC 999629718, established in Calle de La Maestranza 9, La Coruna 15001, Spain, duly represented by Prof. Jerónimo Puertas Agudo, Vice-Rector of Research and Knowledge Transfer
4. **UNIVERSITETET I STAVANGER (UiS)**, PIC 998023689, established in Kjell Arholms Gate 41, Stavanger 4021, Norway, duly represented by the dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology Helge Bøvik Larsen
5. **INTERNATIONAL IBERIAN NANOTECHNOLOGY LABORATORY (INL)**, PIC 988145985, established in Avenida Mestre Jose Veiga, Braga 4715-330, Portugal, duly represented by Prof. Dr Clivia M. Sotomayor Torres.
6. **KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (KCL)**, PIC 999981052, established in Strand, London Wc2r 2ls, United Kingdom, duly represented by Senior Research Funding Associate Caroline Barbour
7. **UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT (UU)**, PIC 999985805, established in Heidelberglaan 8, Utrecht 3584 CS, Netherlands, for the benefit of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, duly represented by prof. dr. A.D.C. Jaarsma, Dean of the Faculty
8. **FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN EV** Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei (**FVB-IGB**), PIC 999927120, established in Rudower Chaussee 17, Berlin 12489, Germany, jointly represented by Prof. Sonja Jähnig, director IGB and Martin Böhnke, managing director FVB.
9. **ALTERTOx (altertox)**, PIC 947568751, established in Alphonse De Witte 11, Bruxelles 1050, Belgium, duly represented by Francois Busquet

hereinafter jointly referred to as “Beneficiaries”
1. **Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (ICAR-CSSRI)**, PIC 892140720, Zarifa Farm, Kachawa Road, Karnal, 132001, India **duly represented by**
2. **ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE)**, PIC 870927984, Panch Marg, Yari Road, Versova, Andheri West, Mumbai, 400061, India, **duly represented by**

3. **INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY (IITB)**, PIC 999629427, Mumbai, 400076, India, **duly represented by**
4. **Central University of Kerala (CUKerala)**, PIC 873685015, Kasargod, Kerala, 671325, India, **duly represented by**
5. **Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K)**, PIC 870930215, Srinagar Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, 190025, India, **duly represented by**
6. **ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management (ICAR-NIASM)**, PIC 870633783, Baramati, Pune, 413115, India, **duly represented by**

hereinafter jointly referred to as "Associated Partners",

hereinafter Beneficiaries and Associated Partner(s), jointly or individually, referred to as "Parties" or "Party"

relating to the Action entitled

Hazard Assessment of Marine Mixtures and New Pollutant Synergies

in short

HARMONY

hereinafter referred to as "Project"

WHEREAS:

The Parties, having considerable experience in the field concerned, have submitted a proposal for the Project to the Granting Authority as part of Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027).

The Parties wish to specify or supplement binding commitments among themselves in addition to the provisions of the specific Grant Agreement to be signed by the Beneficiaries and the Granting Authority (hereinafter "Grant Agreement").

The Parties are aware that this Consortium Agreement is based upon the [DESCA model consortium agreement](#).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1 Definitions

1.1 Definitions

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the meaning defined either herein or in the Horizon Europe Regulation or in the Grant Agreement including its Annexes.

1.2 Additional Definitions

“Access rights”

Access rights shall have the same meaning as defined in Annex 5 Article 16 of the Grant Agreement.

“Consortium Body”

Consortium Body means any management body described in Section 6.1 of this Consortium Agreement.

“Consortium Plan”

Consortium Plan means the Description of the Action (Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement) and estimated budget (Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement) as defined and reallocated according to the amendments to the Grant Agreement

“Defaulting Party”

Defaulting Party means a Party which the General Assembly has declared to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement and/or the Grant Agreement as specified in Section 4.3 of this Consortium Agreement.

“Granting Authority”

Granting Authority means the body awarding the grant for the Project.

“Internal Progress Report”

Internal Progress Report means a written report issued by each Party for each work package providing information to enable the monitoring of the status of completion of a work package.

“Lump Sum Contribution”

Lump Sum Contribution means the amount allocated to each Beneficiary per work package as stated in Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement.

“Needed”

Needed means:

For the implementation of the Project:

Access rights are Needed if, without the grant of such Access rights, carrying out the tasks assigned to the recipient Party would be technically or legally impossible, significantly delayed, such that completion of associated tasks under the Consortium Plan would not be reasonably possible within the anticipated duration of the Project, or require significant additional financial or human resources not foreseen in the Consortium Plan.

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For Exploitation of own Results:

Access rights are Needed if, without the grant of such Access rights, the Exploitation of own Results would be technically or legally impossible.

“Results”

Results mean any (tangible or intangible) output of the action such as data, knowledge or information —whatever its form or nature, whether it can be protected or not —that is generated in the action, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

“Software”

Software means sequences of instructions to carry out a process in, or convertible into, a form executable by a computer and fixed in any tangible medium of expression.

“Work Package Leader”

Work Package Leader means a representative of the Party appointed to lead a work package according to Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement, who shall coordinate the completion of activities for the tasks in the relevant work package.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this Consortium Agreement is to specify with respect to the Project the relationship among the Parties, in particular concerning the organisation of the work between the Parties, the management of the Project and the rights and obligations of the Parties concerning inter alia liability, Access rights and dispute resolution.

3 Entry into force, duration and termination

3.1 Entry into force

An entity becomes a Party to this Consortium Agreement upon signature of this Consortium Agreement by a duly authorised representative or duly authorised representatives.

This Consortium Agreement shall have effect from the Effective Date identified at the beginning of this Consortium Agreement.

An entity becomes a new Party to the Consortium Agreement upon signature of the accession document (Attachment 2) by the new Party and the Coordinator. Such accession shall have effect from the date identified in the accession document.

3.2 Duration and termination

This Consortium Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until complete fulfilment of all obligations undertaken by the Parties under the Grant Agreement and under this Consortium Agreement.

However, this Consortium Agreement or the participation of one or more Parties to it may be terminated in accordance with the terms of this Consortium Agreement.

If

- the Grant Agreement is not signed by the Granting Authority or a Beneficiary, or
- the Grant Agreement is terminated, or
- a Beneficiary's participation in the Grant Agreement is terminated,

this Consortium Agreement shall automatically terminate in respect of the Party/ies concerned, subject to the provisions surviving the expiration or termination under Section 3.3 of this Consortium Agreement.

If an Associated Partner's participation in the Project is terminated, its participation in this Consortium Agreement shall be terminated subject to the provisions surviving the expiration or termination under this Consortium Agreement (Section 4.2 and Section 3.3).

3.3 Survival of rights and obligations

The provisions relating to Access rights, Dissemination and confidentiality, for the time period mentioned therein, as well as for liability, applicable law and settlement of disputes shall survive the expiration or termination of this Consortium Agreement.

Termination shall not affect any rights or obligations of a Party leaving the Project incurred prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed between the General Assembly and the leaving Party. This includes the obligation to provide all necessary input, deliverables and documents for the period of its participation.

4 Responsibilities of Parties

4.1 General principles

Each Party undertakes to take part in the efficient implementation of the Project, and to cooperate, perform and fulfil, promptly and on time, all of the obligations under the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement as may be reasonably required from it and in a manner of good faith as prescribed by Belgian law.

Each Party undertakes to notify promptly the Granting Authority and the other Parties, in accordance with the governance structure of the Project, of any significant information, fact, problem or delay likely to affect the Project.

Each Party shall promptly provide all information reasonably required by a Consortium Body or by a Work Package Leader to carry out its tasks. Beneficiaries shall responsibly manage the access of their employees to the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

Each Party shall take reasonable measures to ensure the accuracy of any information or materials it supplies to the other Parties and shall not knowingly make available to other Parties any information or materials where such provision violates third party rights.

4.2 Specific responsibilities for Associated Partner(s)

For the avoidance of doubt, the Associated Partner(s) do(es) not sign the Grant Agreement and do(es) not receive funding from the Granting Authority and therefore do(es) not have a right to charge costs or claim contributions from the Granting Authority. The Associated Partner(s) must ensure its/their own

funding for the implementation of the Project. However, certain terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and its Annexes are applicable to the Associated Partner(s). The Coordinator will share a copy of the signed Grant Agreement and information on any amendments with the Associated Partner(s).

The Associated Partner(s) hereby commit(s) to implement the Project tasks attributed to it/them in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement and to respect the call conditions and Annex 5 of the Grant Agreement.

In addition, the Associated Partner(s) hereby commit(s) especially to the following articles of the Grant Agreement and related regulations of Annex 5:

- Proper implementation of the action (Article 11)
- Conflicts of interest (Article 12)
- Confidentiality and security (Article 13)
- Ethics and values (Article 14)
- Visibility (Article 17.2)
- Specific rules for carrying out the action (Article 18)
- Information obligations (Article 19)
- Record-keeping (Article 20)

The Associated Partner(s) support(s) the Beneficiaries regarding their Exploitation, Dissemination and Open Science obligations and commit(s) to contribute to the internal, technical and continuous reporting during and after the implementation of the Project.

The Associated Partner(s) contribute(s) with complete, reliable and true information to the reporting requirements regarding the completion of work packages and proper implementation. Moreover, adequate records and supporting must be kept and provided documents by the Associated Partner(s) concerned upon request of the Granting Authority in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

Furthermore, the Associated Partner(s) hereby explicitly agree to cooperate with and grant access to bodies according to Article 25 of the Grant Agreement (the Granting Authority, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Court of Auditors (ECA)), so that these bodies can carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations also towards the Associated Partner(s).

Any Associated Partner from a non-EU country undertakes to comply additionally with any other obligation arising from Art. 10.1 of the Grant Agreement.

In case of termination or being declared a Defaulting Party, an Associated Partner shall, within the limits specified in section 5.2 of this Consortium Agreement, bear any reasonable and justifiable costs occurring to the other Parties for performing this Associated Partners tasks and the costs for additional efforts necessary to complete the respective work packages.

Moreover, an Associated Partner is obliged to compensate the other Parties for any claim of the Granting Authority against them, caused by this Associated Partner's actions or omissions during Grant

Agreement preparation, Project implementation or after Project end. Regarding such claims, the Associated Partner's special liability is limited to once its budget.

Should an Associated Partner be obliged to sign a separate agreement concerning its funding for the Project, it is the responsibility of this Associated Partner to ensure such agreement is not in conflict with this Consortium Agreement.

4.3 Breach

In the event that the General Assembly identifies a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement (e.g. improper implementation of the Project), the Coordinator or, if the Coordinator is in breach of its obligations, the Party appointed by the General Assembly, will give formal notice to such Party requiring that such breach will be remedied within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the written notice by the Party.

If such breach is substantial and is not remedied within that period or is not capable of remedy, the General Assembly may decide to declare the Party to be a Defaulting Party and to decide on the consequences thereof which may include termination of its participation.

4.4 Involvement of third parties

A Party that enters into a subcontract or otherwise involves third parties (including but not limited to Affiliated Entities or other Participants) in the Project remains responsible for carrying out its relevant part of the Project and for such third party's compliance with the provisions of this Consortium Agreement and of the Grant Agreement. Such Party has to ensure that the involvement of third parties does not affect the rights and obligations of the other Parties under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement.

4.5 Specific responsibilities regarding data protection

Where necessary, the Parties shall cooperate in order to enable one another to fulfil legal obligations arising under applicable data protection laws (the *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 relevant national data protection law applicable to said Party) within the scope of the performance and administration of the Project and of this Consortium Agreement.

In particular, the Parties shall, where necessary, conclude a separate data processing, data sharing and/or joint controller agreement before any data processing or data sharing takes place.

4.6 Specific responsibilities regarding reporting and implementation

4.6.1 Internal Progress Reports

The Parties commit to continuously provide information on the progress of the implementation of the work packages. In particular, they shall issue an Internal Progress Report to the Work Package Leader upon request 14 days ahead of the relevant meeting of the Work Package Leaders Group. The Internal Progress Report provided should allow for an assessment of the status or completion of each work package in order to enable monitoring, e.g. through certain performance indicators as defined in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement, if any.

4.6.2 Proper implementation

Each Party shall perform its tasks in accordance with the Consortium Plan and contribute to the completion of the work package.

If a work package cannot be completed, the Parties must collaborate to propose an amendment of the Grant Agreement for that work package via an alternative solution.

4.6.3 Termination reports

A leaving Beneficiary shall issue a termination report to the Work Package Leaders Group in accordance with Article 32 of the Grant Agreement on the activities implemented by it and completion of its work share in the work packages it is involved in for the period until its termination takes effect.

A leaving Associated Partner shall issue a termination report to the Work Package Leaders Group on the activities implemented by it and completion of its work share in the work packages it is involved in for the period until its termination takes effect.

4.6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

Improper reporting or implementation of the Project may lead to a breach procedure and termination of a Party's participation according to Section 4.3 of this Consortium Agreement. The Parties are aware that their implementation may affect the completion of tasks or work packages by other Parties and that improper implementation or reporting can lead to liability in accordance with Section 5 of this Consortium Agreement, e.g. in case of reduction or recovery of funding by the Granting Authority.

5 Liability towards each other

5.1 No warranties

In respect of any information or materials (incl. Results and Background) supplied by one Party to another under the Project, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given or implied as to the sufficiency or fitness for purpose nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties.

Therefore,

- the recipient Party shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and
- no Party granting Access rights shall be liable in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from any other Party (or its entities under the same control) exercising its Access rights except in cases of intent or gross negligence.

5.2 Limitations of contractual liability

No Party shall be responsible to any other Party for any indirect or consequential loss or similar damage such as, but not limited to, loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts. A Party's general aggregate liability towards the other Parties collectively shall in case of Beneficiaries be limited to once the Beneficiary's share of the total costs of the Project as identified in Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement and in case of Associated Partners to once its budget.

A Party's liability shall not be limited under either of the two foregoing paragraphs to the extent such damage was caused by a wilful act or gross negligence or to the extent that such limitation is not permitted by law.

The terms of this Agreement shall not be construed to amend or limit any Party's statutory liability.

5.3 Claims

No Party shall assert any claim for damages caused in connection with the performance or non-performance of an obligation under this Consortium Agreement against representatives, staff or other auxiliary persons of another Party. This shall however not exclude claims against auxiliary persons to the extent that the damage was caused by their wilful act or to the extent that such exclusion is not permitted by law.

5.4 Damage caused to third parties

Each Party shall be solely liable for any loss, damage or injury to third parties resulting from the performance of the said Party's obligations by it or on its behalf under this Consortium Agreement or from its use of Results or Background.

5.5 Force Majeure

No Party shall be considered to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement if it is prevented from fulfilling its obligations under the Consortium Agreement by Force Majeure.

Each Party will notify the General Assembly of any Force Majeure without undue delay. If the consequences of Force Majeure for the Project are not overcome within 6 weeks after such notice, the transfer of tasks - if any - shall be decided by the General Assembly.

5.6 Export control

No Party shall be considered to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement if it is prevented from fulfilling its obligations under the Consortium Agreement due to a restriction resulting from import or export laws and regulations and/or any delay of the granting or extension of the import or export license or any other governmental authorisation, provided that the Party has used its reasonable efforts to fulfil its tasks and to apply for any necessary license or authorisation properly and in time.

Each Party will notify the General Assembly of any such restriction without undue delay. If the consequences of such restriction for the Project are not overcome within 6 weeks after such notice, the transfer of tasks - if any - shall be decided by the General Assembly.

Any notification or communication to a relevant UK government department, body or agency under the UK National Security and Investment Act 2021, or in relation to UK export control laws and regulations, shall not be a breach of confidentiality. Each Party undertakes that it will not export, or re-export, transfer, licence or assign any materials, know-how, intellectual property or data to which it has access under this Agreement other than in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations and guidance.

6 Governance structure

6.1 General structure

The organisational structure of the consortium shall comprise the following Consortium Bodies:

The **General Assembly** is the decision-making body of the consortium.

The **Coordinator** is the legal entity acting as the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority. The Coordinator shall, in addition to its responsibilities as a Party, perform the tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement.

The **Work Package Leaders Group** is an assessment group of the Consortium without formal decision making power. It shall assess the individual and overall implementation of the Project.

6.2 Members of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall consist of one representative of each Party (hereinafter referred to as "Member").

Each Member shall be deemed to be duly authorised to deliberate, negotiate and decide on all matters listed in Section 6.3.7 of this Consortium Agreement.

The Coordinator shall chair all meetings of the General Assembly, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

The Parties agree to abide by all decisions of the General Assembly.

This does not prevent the Parties from exercising their veto rights, according to Section 6.3.5, or from submitting a dispute for resolution in accordance with the provisions of settlement of disputes in Section 11.8 of this Consortium Agreement.

The Associated Partner(s) is/are excluded from voting on and vetoing the following decisions of the General Assembly (6.3.7) and therefore are not counted towards any respective quorum:

- Distribution of the EU contribution among the Beneficiaries
- Financial changes to the Consortium Plan
- Proposals for changes to Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement to be agreed by the Granting Authority
- Decisions related to Section 7.1.4 of this Consortium Agreement

Regarding unanimity or majority decisions, only Members with voting rights regarding the item are taken into account (e.g. Section 6.3.2.5).

6.3 Operational procedures for the General Assembly:

6.3.1 Representation in meetings

Any Member:

- should be present or represented at any meeting;
- may appoint a substitute or a proxy to attend and vote at any meeting;
- and shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings:

6.3.2 Preparation and organisation of meetings

6.3.2.1 Convening meetings

The chairperson shall convene ordinary meetings of the General Assembly at least once every six months and shall also convene extraordinary meetings at any time upon written request of any Member.

6.3.2.2 Notice of a meeting

The chairperson shall give written notice of a meeting to each Member as soon as possible and no later than 14 calendar days preceding an ordinary meeting and 7 calendar days preceding an extraordinary meeting.

6.3.2.3 Sending the agenda

The chairperson shall prepare and send each Member an agenda no later than 14 calendar days preceding the meeting, or 7 calendar days before an extraordinary meeting. Any agenda item requiring a decision by the Members must be identified as such on the agenda.

6.3.2.4 Adding agenda items

Any Member may add an item to the original agenda by written notice to all of the other Members no later than 7 calendar days preceding the meeting and 2 days preceding an extraordinary meeting.

6.3.2.5

During a meeting of the General Assembly the Members present or represented can unanimously agree to add a new item to the original agenda.

6.3.2.6

Meetings of the General Assembly may also be held by tele- or videoconference or other telecommunication means.

6.3.2.7

Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted according to Section 6.3.6.2.

6.3.3 Decisions without a meeting

Any decision may also be taken without a meeting if

- a) the Coordinator circulates to all Members of the General Assembly a suggested decision with a deadline for responses of at least 10 calendar days after receipt by a Party and
- b) the decision is agreed by 51 % of all Parties.

The Coordinator shall inform all the Members of the outcome of the vote.

A veto according to Section 6.3.5 may be submitted up to 15 calendar days after receipt of this information.

The decision will be binding after the Coordinator sends a notification to all Members. The Coordinator will keep records of the votes and make them available to the Parties on request.

6.3.4 Voting rules and quorum

6.3.4.1

The General Assembly shall not deliberate and decide validly in meetings unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum).

If the quorum is not reached, the chairperson of the General Assembly shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is not reached once more, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be entitled to decide even if less than the quorum of Members is present or represented.

6.3.4.2

Each Member present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote. Associated Partners are excluded from certain decisions of the General Assembly according to Section 6.2.

A Party which the General Assembly has declared according to Section 4.3 to be a Defaulting Party may not vote or participate in any further Consortium Body decision-making following the declaration of default.

6.3.4.3

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast except in the case of approving the entry of a new entity to the Project which requires the unanimous vote of the General Assembly.

6.3.5 Veto rights

6.3.5.1

A Party which can show that its own work, time for performance, costs, liabilities, intellectual property rights or other legitimate interests would be severely affected by a decision of the General Assembly may exercise a veto with respect to the corresponding decision or relevant part of the decision.

6.3.5.2

When the decision is foreseen on the original agenda, a Party may only veto such a decision during the meeting.

6.3.5.3

When a decision has been taken on a new item added to the agenda before or during the meeting, a Party may veto such decision during the meeting or within 15 calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

6.3.5.4

When a decision has been taken without a meeting, a Party may veto such decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the written notice by the chairperson of the outcome of the vote.

6.3.5.5

In case of exercise of veto, the Parties shall make every reasonable effort to resolve the matter which occasioned the veto to the general satisfaction of all Parties.

6.3.5.6

A Party may neither veto decisions relating to its identification to be in breach of its obligations nor to its identification as a Defaulting Party. The Defaulting Party may not veto decisions relating to its participation and termination in the consortium or the consequences of them.

6.3.5.7

A Party requesting to leave the consortium may not veto decisions relating thereto.

6.3.6 Minutes of meetings

6.3.6.1

The chairperson shall be responsible for taking minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. He/she shall send draft minutes to all Members within 10 calendar days of the meeting.

6.3.6.2

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no Party has sent an objection to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes by written notice.

6.3.6.3

The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the Members, and to the Coordinator, who shall retain copies of them.

6.3.7 Decisions of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be free to act on its own initiative to formulate proposals and take decisions in accordance with the procedures set out herein.

The following decisions shall be taken by the General Assembly:

Content, finances and intellectual property rights

- Proposals for changes to Annexes 1 and 2 of the Grant Agreement to be agreed by the Granting Authority such as changes resulting from suggested reallocation of tasks and budget by the Work Package Leaders Group
- The percentage of work package completion per work package as well as per Party to be reported to the Granting Authority based on the assessment by the Work Package Leaders Group regarding the individual performance of single Parties in case of non-completion of work packages
- Modifications or withdrawal of Background in Attachment 1 (Background Included)
- Additions to Attachment 3 (List of Third Parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)

Evolution of the consortium

- Entry of a new Party to the Project and approval of the settlement on the conditions of the accession of such a new Party
- Withdrawal of a Party from the Project and the approval of the settlement on the conditions of the withdrawal
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for a change of the Coordinator
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for suspension of all or part of the Project
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for termination of the Project and the Consortium Agreement

Breach, defaulting party status and litigation

- Identification of a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement
- Declaration of a Party to be a Defaulting Party
- Remedies to be performed by a Defaulting Party
- Termination of a Defaulting Party's participation in the consortium and measures relating thereto
- Steps to be taken for litigation purposes and the coverage of litigation costs in case of joint claims of the parties of the consortium against a Party (Sections 4.2, 7.1.4)

Appointments

On the basis of the Grant Agreement, the appointment, if necessary, of:

- External Expert Advisory Board Members

In the case of abolished tasks as a result of a decision of the General Assembly, Members shall rearrange the tasks of the Parties concerned. Such rearrangement shall take into consideration any prior legitimate commitments which cannot be cancelled.

6.4 Coordinator

6.4.1

The Coordinator shall be the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority and shall perform all tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and in this Consortium Agreement.

6.4.2

In particular, the Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- monitoring compliance by the Parties with their obligations under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement
- keeping the address list of Members and other contact persons updated and available
- collecting, reviewing to verify consistency and submitting reports, other deliverables and specific requested documents to the Granting Authority
- preparing the meetings, proposing decisions and preparing the agenda of General Assembly meetings, chairing the meetings, preparing the minutes of the meetings and monitoring the implementation of decisions taken at meetings
- preparing the meetings and preparing the agenda of Work Package Leaders Group meetings
- transmitting promptly documents and information connected with the Project to any other Party concerned
- administering the financial contribution of the Granting Authority and fulfilling the financial tasks described in Section 7.2
- providing, upon request, the Parties with official copies or originals of documents that are in the sole possession of the Coordinator when such copies or originals are necessary for the Parties to present claims
- providing a copy of the signed Grant Agreement, its Annexes and information on any amendments to the Associated Partner(s).

If one or more of the Parties is late in submission of any Project deliverable, the Coordinator may nevertheless submit the other Parties' Project deliverables and all other documents required by the Grant Agreement to the Granting Authority in time.

6.4.3

If the Coordinator fails in its coordination tasks, the General Assembly may propose to the Granting Authority to change the Coordinator.

6.4.4

The Coordinator shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement.

6.4.5

The Coordinator shall not enlarge its role beyond the tasks specified in this Consortium Agreement and in the Grant Agreement.

6.5 Work Package Leaders Group

6.5.1. Members of the Work Package Leaders Group acts as the Steering Committee of the Project indicated in the Grant Agreement section "Description of Action".

The Work Package Leaders Group shall consist of the Coordinator and Work Package Leaders.

6.5.2. Meetings

The Coordinator shall chair all meetings of the Work Package Leaders Group, unless decided otherwise by a majority of the Work Package Leaders Group.

The chairperson shall convene ordinary meetings of the Work Package Leaders Group every six months and shall also convene extraordinary meetings (upon proposal of one member) at any time if needed for Project implementation.

Meetings of the Work Package Leaders Group are usually held by tele- or videoconference or other telecommunication means.

The chairperson of the Work Package Leaders Group meetings shall be responsible for taking minutes of each meeting. The chairperson shall send draft minutes to all members within 10 calendar days of the meeting.

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no member has sent an objection to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes by written notice.

Minutes of Work Package Leaders Group meetings, once accepted, shall be sent by the Coordinator to the General Assembly Members for information.

6.5.3. Responsibilities

The Work Package Leaders Group shall be responsible for:

- Keeping track of the effective and efficient implementation of the Project, based on the Consortium Plan, particularly regarding the completion of the work package activities in tasks and deliverables of each Party (see Section 4.6);
- Evaluating suggestions of the Work Package Leaders for the reallocation of tasks and budget in work packages;
- Making suggestions for amendments to Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement to the General Assembly, especially if restructuring is required to enable the finalisation of non-completed work packages or in case of termination of a Party;
- Assessing reports presented by each Work Package Leader, which have been compiled by the Work Package Leader based on the Internal Progress Reports;
- Assessing the status or completion of each work package and preparing the periodic reporting for the work packages together with the Coordinator;

- Jointly proposing payment instalments to the Coordinator according to the outcomes of these assessments (see Section 7.2.2).
- Supporting the Coordinator in preparing meetings with the Granting Authority and in preparing related information and deliverables;
- Supporting the Coordinator in the collection of information regarding the termination report and amendment procedures in case of termination of a Party's participation;
- Suggesting performance indicators for the determination of proper completion of work packages to the General Assembly.

6.6 External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB)

An External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB) might be appointed and steered by the General Assembly. The EEAB shall assist and facilitate the decisions made by the General Assembly.

The Coordinator will ensure that a non-disclosure agreement is executed between all Parties and each EEAB member, after the condition that all the partners have reviewed and agreed on the NDA. If necessary, a partner can also sign the NDA independently, alongside the Coordinator and a member of the EEAB.

Its terms shall be not less stringent than those stipulated in this Consortium Agreement, and it shall be concluded no later than 30 days after their nomination or before any confidential information will be exchanged/disclosed, whichever date is earlier.

The Coordinator shall write the minutes of the EEAB meetings and submit them to the General Assembly. The EEAB members shall be allowed to participate in General Assembly meetings upon invitation but do not have any voting rights.

7 Financial provisions

Section 7 of the Consortium Agreement does not apply to Associated Partners.

7.1 General Principles

7.1.1 Distribution of Financial Contribution

The financial contribution of the Granting Authority to the Project shall be distributed by the Coordinator according to:

- the Consortium Plan
- the approval of reports by the Granting Authority, and
- the provisions of payment in Section 7.2.

A Beneficiary shall be funded only for its tasks carried out in accordance with the Consortium Plan.

7.1.2 Justifying Lump Sum Contributions

Each Beneficiary contributes with complete, reliable and true information to all reporting requirements regarding the completion of work packages and proper implementation. Moreover, adequate records

and supporting documents must be provided by the Beneficiaries concerned upon request of the Granting Authority in accordance with the Grant Agreement. Each Beneficiary is solely liable for justifying its Lump Sum Contribution or share.

7.1.3 Funding Principles

Each Beneficiary is entitled to its Lump Sum Contribution as approved by the Granting Authority after completion of the respective work package. For work packages not completed at the end of the Project, the Coordinator distributes to each Beneficiary only the share of Lump Sum Contribution as approved by the Granting Authority at final payment

7.1.4 Excess payments

A Beneficiary has received excess payment

- a) if the payment received from the Coordinator exceeds the amount declared or
- b) if the Work Package Leaders Group assessed that the performance of a Beneficiary regarding the completion of one or several work packages is significantly lower than foreseen in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement and that the Beneficiary received more funding than approved by the Granting Authority.

In case a Beneficiary has received excess payment, the Work Package Leaders Group has to inform the Coordinator and the Beneficiary has to return the relevant amount to the Coordinator without undue delay. In case no refund takes place within 30 days upon request for return of excess payment from the Coordinator, the Beneficiary is in substantial breach of the Consortium Agreement. The General Assembly decides on any action on funds due to the Granting Authority, including legal actions to be taken against the breaching Beneficiary according to Section 6.3.7.

7.1.5 Financial Consequences of the termination of the participation of a Beneficiary

A Beneficiary leaving the consortium shall refund to the Coordinator any payments it has received except the amount of Lump Sum Contributions accepted by the Granting Authority at termination.

After termination, this Beneficiary is entitled to receive its Lump Sum Contribution as foreseen in Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement and approved by the Granting Authority at interim or final payment. The Coordinator will inform this Beneficiary accordingly upon payment of the final amount by the Granting Authority and distribute the amount due to the terminated Beneficiary.

In addition, a Beneficiary declared to be a Defaulting Party shall, within the limits specified in Section 5.2 of this Consortium Agreement, bear any reasonable and justifiable additional costs occurring to the other Parties in order to perform the leaving Beneficiary's tasks as well as for additional efforts necessary to complete the respective work packages. The General Assembly should agree on a procedure regarding additional costs which are not covered by the Beneficiary declared to be a Defaulting Party or the Mutual Insurance Mechanism.

7.2 Payments

7.2.1 Payments to Beneficiaries are the exclusive task of the Coordinator

In particular, the Coordinator shall:

- notify the Beneficiary concerned promptly of the date and composition of the amount transferred to its bank account, giving the relevant references
- perform diligently its tasks in the proper administration of any funds and in maintaining financial accounts
- undertake to keep the Granting Authority's financial contribution to the Project separated from its normal business accounts, its own assets and property, except if the Coordinator is a public body or is not entitled to do so due to statutory legislation.

With reference to Article 22 of the Grant Agreement, no Beneficiary shall before the end of the Project receive more than its allocated share of the maximum grant amount less the amounts retained by the Granting Authority for the Mutual Insurance Mechanism and for the final payment.

7.2.2 Payment mode

The Coordinator will transfer payments in accordance with Art. 7 and 22.1 of the Grant Agreement following this payment scheme. The initial prefinancing will be set in the instalment table (see below) at a fixed percentage and paid accordingly. Further prefinancing instalments will be paid by the Coordinator upon positive performance assessment of internal progress reports by the Work Package Leaders Group.

Prefinancing will be paid by the Coordinator to the Beneficiaries after receipt of payment from the Granting Authority in separate instalments as agreed below:

50% of prefinancing	initial prefinancing on receipt of prefinancing by coordinator	without undue delay after receipt of prefinancing by Coordinator
20% of prefinancing	interim payment	12 months after starting date of the project upon verification of activities (approval of report, D2.3) at M12 by the Authority)
20% of prefinancing	interim payment	18 months after starting date of the project upon verification of activities (approval of interim report review at M18 by the Authority)
10% of prefinancing	final payment	30 days from receiving final payment by Coordinator

As interim payments, the Beneficiaries will receive, upon receipt of the interim payment by the Coordinator, the difference between the further prefinancing instalments already received and the Lump Sum Contributions approved by the Granting Authority. The initial prefinancing will not be taken into account for this calculation and remains as a float.

The Coordinator is entitled to withhold any payments due to a Beneficiary identified by the General Assembly to be in breach of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement or to a Beneficiary which has not yet signed this Consortium Agreement.

The Coordinator is entitled to recover any payments already paid to a Beneficiary declared to be a Defaulting Party except its Lump Sum Contributions already accepted by the Granting Authority. The Coordinator is equally entitled to withhold payments to a Beneficiary when this is suggested by or agreed with the Granting Authority.

8 Results

8.1 Ownership of Results

Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

8.2 Joint ownership

Joint ownership is governed by Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Ownership of results, with the following additions:

Unless otherwise agreed:

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to use their jointly owned Results for non-commercial research and teaching activities on a royalty-free basis, and without requiring the prior consent of the other joint owner(s).
- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise Exploit the jointly owned Results and to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given: (a) at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and (b) fair and reasonable compensation.

The joint owners shall agree on all protection measures and the division of related cost in advance.

8.3 Transfer of Results

8.3.1

Each Party may transfer ownership of its own Results, including its share in jointly owned Results, following the procedures of the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, section Transfer and licensing of results, sub-section "Transfer of ownership".

8.3.2

Each Party may identify specific third parties it intends to transfer the ownership of its Results to in Attachment (3) of this Consortium Agreement. The other Parties hereby waive their right to prior notice and their right to object to such a transfer to listed third parties according to the Grant Agreement Article

16.4 and its Annex 3, section Transfer of licensing of results, sub-section "Transfer of ownership", 3rd paragraph.

8.3.3

The transferring Party shall, however, at the time of the transfer, inform the other Parties of such transfer and shall ensure that the rights of the other Parties under the Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement will not be affected by such transfer. Any addition to Attachment (3) after signature of this Consortium Agreement requires a decision of the General Assembly.

8.3.4

The Parties recognise that in the framework of a merger or an acquisition of an important part of its assets, it may be impossible under applicable EU and national laws on mergers and acquisitions for a Party to give at least 45 calendar days prior notice for the transfer as foreseen in the Grant Agreement.

8.3.5

The obligations above apply only for as long as other Parties still have - or still may request - Access rights to the Results.

8.4 Dissemination

8.4.1

For the avoidance of doubt, the confidentiality obligations set out in Section 10 apply to all dissemination activities described in this Section 8.4 as far as Confidential Information is involved.

8.4.2 Dissemination of own (including jointly owned) Results

8.4.2.1

During the Project and for a period of 1 year after the end of the Project, the dissemination of own Results by one or several Parties including but not restricted to publications and presentations, shall be governed by the procedure of Article 17.4 of the Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section Dissemination, subject to the following provisions.

Prior notice of any planned publication shall be given to the other Parties at least 45 calendar days before the publication. Any objection to the planned publication shall be made in accordance with the Grant Agreement by written notice to the Coordinator and to the Party or Parties proposing the dissemination within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice. If no objection is made within the time limit stated above, the publication is permitted.

8.4.2.2

An objection is justified if

- a) the protection of the objecting Party's Results or Background would be adversely affected, or
- b) the objecting Party's legitimate interests in relation to its Results or Background would be significantly harmed, or

- c) the proposed publication includes Confidential Information of the objecting Party.

The objection has to include a precise request for necessary modifications.

8.4.2.3

If an objection has been raised, the involved Parties shall discuss how to overcome the justified grounds for the objection on a timely basis (for example by amendment to the planned publication and/or by protecting information before publication) and the objecting Party shall not unreasonably continue the opposition if appropriate measures are taken following the discussion.

8.4.2.4

The objecting Party can request a publication delay of not more than 90 calendar days from the time it raises such an objection. After 90 calendar days the publication is permitted, provided that the objections of the objecting Party have been addressed.

8.4.3 Dissemination of another Party's unpublished Results or Background

A Party shall not include in any dissemination activity another Party's Results or Background without obtaining the owning Party's prior written approval, unless they are already published.

8.4.4 Cooperation obligations

The Parties undertake to cooperate to allow the timely submission, examination, publication and defence of any dissertation or thesis for a degree that includes their Results or Background subject to the confidentiality and publication provisions agreed in this Consortium Agreement.

In accordance with scientific customs, a Party's contributions will be expressly reflected in all written or oral public disclosures concerning Results by acknowledgment or co-authorship, as appropriate. An appropriate reference to the EC support must be included in all such disclosures and publications in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

8.4.5 Use of names, logos or trademarks

Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be construed as conferring rights to use in advertising, publicity or otherwise the name of the Parties or any of their logos or trademarks without their prior written approval.

9 Access rights

9.1 Background included

9.1.1

In Attachment 1, the Parties have identified and agreed on the Background for the Project and have also, where relevant, informed each other that Access to specific Background is subject to legal restrictions or limits.

Anything not identified in Attachment 1 shall not be the object of Access Right obligations regarding Background.

9.1.2

Any Party may add additional Background to Attachment 1 during the Project provided they give written notice to the other Parties. However, approval of the General Assembly is needed should a Party wish to modify or withdraw its Background in Attachment 1. Under no circumstances should the withdrawal of any Background impair the implementation of the Project.

9.2 General Principles

9.2.1

Each Party shall implement its tasks in accordance with the Consortium Plan and shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its acts within the Project do not knowingly infringe third party property rights.

9.2.2

Any Access rights granted exclude any rights to sublicense unless expressly stated otherwise.

9.2.3

Access rights shall be free of any administrative transfer costs.

9.2.4

Access rights are granted on a non-exclusive basis if not otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties concerned.

9.2.5

Results and Background shall be used only for the purposes for which Access rights to it have been granted.

9.2.6

All requests for Access rights shall be made in writing. The granting of Access rights may be made conditional on the acceptance of specific conditions aimed at ensuring that these rights will be used only for the intended purpose and that appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place.

9.2.7

The requesting Party must show that the Access rights are Needed.

9.3 Access rights for implementation

Access rights to Results and Background Needed for the performance of the own work of a Party under the Project shall be granted on a royalty-free basis, unless otherwise agreed for Background in Attachment 1.

9.4 Access rights for Exploitation

9.4.1 Access rights to Results

Access rights to Results if Needed for Exploitation of a Party's own Results shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions and upon written bilateral agreement..

Access rights to Results for internal non-commercial research and for teaching activities shall be granted on a royalty-free basis provided that no Results shall be accessed by or transferred or licensed to any third party without the owning Party's consent.

9.4.2

Access rights to Background if Needed for Exploitation of a Party's own Results, shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions.

9.4.3

A request for Access rights may be made up to 12 months after the end of the Project or, in the case of Section 9.7.2.1.2, after the termination of the requesting Party's participation in the Project.

9.5 Access rights for entities under the same control

Entities under the same control have Access rights under the conditions of the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for entities under the same control".

Such Access rights must be requested by the entity under the same control from the Party that holds the Background or Results. Alternatively, the Party granting the Access rights may individually agree with the Party requesting the Access rights to have the Access rights include the right to sublicense to the latter's entity under the same control. Access rights to an entity under the same control shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions and upon written bilateral agreement.

Entities under the same control which obtain Access rights in return fulfil all confidentiality obligations accepted by the Parties under the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement as if such entities were Parties.

Access rights may be refused to entities under the same control if such granting is contrary to the legitimate interests of the Party which owns the Background or the Results.

Access rights granted to any entity under the same control are subject to the continuation of the Access rights of the Party with whom it is under the same control, and shall automatically terminate upon termination of the Access rights granted to such Party y.

Upon cessation of the status as an entity under the same control, any Access rights granted to such former entity under the same control shall lapse.

Further arrangements with entities under the same control may be negotiated in separate agreements.

9.6 Additional Access rights

For the avoidance of doubt any grant of Access rights not covered by the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement shall be at the absolute discretion of the owning Party and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the owning and receiving Parties.

9.7 Access rights for Parties entering or leaving the consortium

9.7.1 New Parties entering the consortium

As regards Results developed before the accession of the new Party, the new Party will be granted Access rights on the conditions applying for Access rights to Background.

9.7.2 Parties leaving the consortium

9.7.2.1 Access rights granted to a leaving Party

9.7.2.1.1 Defaulting Party

Access rights granted to a Defaulting Party and such Party's right to request Access rights shall cease immediately upon receipt by the Defaulting Party of the formal notice of the decision of the General Assembly to terminate its participation in the consortium.

9.7.2.1.2 Non-defaulting Party

A non-defaulting Party leaving voluntarily and with the other Parties' consent shall have Access rights to the Results developed until the date of the termination of its participation.

It may request Access rights within the period of time specified in Section 9.4.3.

9.7.2.2 Access rights to be granted by any leaving Party

Any Party leaving the Project shall continue to grant Access rights pursuant to the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement as if it had remained a Party for the whole duration of the Project.

9.8 Specific Provisions for Access rights to Software

For the avoidance of doubt, the general provisions for Access rights provided for in this Section 9 are applicable also to Software.

Parties' Access rights to Software do not include any right to receive source code or object code ported to a certain hardware platform or any right to receive respective Software documentation in any particular form or detail, but only as available from the Party granting the Access rights.

10 Non-disclosure of information

10.1

All information in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Party (the "Disclosing Party") to any other Party (the "Recipient") in connection with the Project during its implementation and which has been explicitly marked as "confidential" or "sensitive" at the time of disclosure, or when disclosed orally has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within 15 calendar days from oral disclosure at the latest as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is "Confidential Information".

10.2

The Recipient hereby undertakes in addition and without prejudice to any commitment on non-disclosure under the Grant Agreement, for a period of 5 years after the completion of the Project:

- not to use Confidential Information otherwise than for the purpose for which it was disclosed;
- not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party;
- to ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis; and
- to return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on request all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipient including all copies thereof and to delete all information stored in a machine-readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipient may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient complies with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy.

10.3

The Recipient shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of its employees or third parties involved in the Project and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end of the Project and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party.

10.4

The above shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- the Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations;
- the Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential;
- the Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party;
- the disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement;

- the Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party;
- the Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure, or
- the Recipient is required to disclose the Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, subject to the provision Section 10.7 hereunder.

10.5

The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care with regard to the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the Project as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care.

10.6

Each Recipient shall promptly inform the relevant Disclosing Party by written notice of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.

10.7

If any Recipient becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order or - in the case of an Associated Partner - with a reporting requirement from its national funding authority, it shall, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so, prior to any such disclosure.

- notify the Disclosing Party, and
- comply with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

11 Miscellaneous

11.1 Attachments, inconsistencies and severability

This Consortium Agreement consists of this core text and:

- Attachment 1 (Background included)
- Attachment 2 (Accession document)
- Attachment 3 (List of third parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)

In case the terms of this Consortium Agreement are in conflict with the terms of the Grant Agreement, the terms of the latter shall prevail. In case of conflicts between the attachments and the core text of this Consortium Agreement, the latter shall prevail.

Should any provision of this Consortium Agreement become invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Consortium Agreement. In such a case, the Parties concerned shall be entitled to request that a valid and practicable provision be negotiated that fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

11.2 No representation, partnership or agency

Except as otherwise provided in Section 6.4.4, no Party shall be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium. Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

11.3 Formal and written notices

Any notice to be given under this Consortium Agreement shall be addressed to the recipients as listed in the most current address list kept by the Coordinator.

Any change of persons or contact details shall be immediately communicated to the Coordinator by written notice. The address list shall be accessible to all Parties.

Formal notices:

If it is required in this Consortium Agreement (Sections 4.3, 9.7.2.1.1, and 11.4) that a formal notice, consent or approval shall be given, such notice shall be signed by an authorised representative of a Party and shall either be served personally or sent by mail with recorded delivery with acknowledgement of receipt.

Written notice:

Where written notice is required by this Consortium Agreement, this is fulfilled also by other means of communication such as e-mail

11.4 Assignment and amendments

Except as set out in Section 8.3, no rights or obligations of the Parties arising from this Consortium Agreement may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, to any third party without the other Parties' prior formal approval.

Amendments and modifications to the text of this Consortium Agreement not explicitly listed in Section 6.3.7 require a separate written agreement to be signed between all Parties.

11.5 Mandatory national law

Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be deemed to require a Party to breach any mandatory statutory law under which the Party is operating.

11.6 Language

This Consortium Agreement is drawn up in English, which language shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, arbitral proceedings and processes relative thereto.

11.7 Applicable law

This Consortium Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium excluding its conflict of law provisions.

11.8 Settlement of disputes

The Parties shall endeavour to settle their disputes amicably.

All disputes arising out of or in connection with this Consortium Agreement, which cannot be solved amicably, shall be finally settled by the courts of Brussels.

12 Signatures

AS WITNESS:

The Parties have caused this Consortium Agreement to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives in separate signature pages the day and year first above written.

UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)

Signature(s)

Prof. Enrico Quagliarini

Rector of the University

Date

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA (UNISI)

Signature(s)

Prof. Riccardo Paoletti

Director of Department of Physical Sciences, Earth and Environment (DSFTA)

Date:

UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUNA (UDC)

Signature(s)

Prof. Jerónimo Puertas Agudo

Vice-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer

Date

UNIVERSITETET I STAVANGER (UiS)

Signature

Prof. Helge Bøvik Larsen

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology

Date

INTERNATIONAL IBERIAN NANOTECHNOLOGY LABORATORY (INL)

Signature(s)

Prof. Dr Clivia M. Sotomayor Torres

Director-General of INL

Date

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (KCL)

Signature(s)

Prof. Caroline Barbour

Senior Research Funding Associate

Date

UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT (UU), for the benefit of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Signature(s)

Prof.dr. A.C.M. Jaarsma

Dean of the Faculty

Date

**FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN EV, Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei
(FVB-IGB)**

Signature(s)

Prof. Sonja Jähnig

Director IGB

Date

Signature(s)

Martin Böhnke

Managing Director FVB

Date

ALERTOX (alertox)

Signature(s)

Francois BUSQUET

Role(s) CEO

Date

Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (ICAR-CSSRI)

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Role(s)

Date

ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE)

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Role(s)

Date

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY (IITB)

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Role(s)

Date

Central University of Kerala (CUKerala)

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Role(s)

Date

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K)

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Role(s)

Date

ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management (ICAR-NIASM)

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Role(s)

Date

Attachment 1: Background included

According to the Grant Agreement (Article 16.1) Background is defined as “data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible) – including any rights such as intellectual property rights – the application for which has been filled before their accession to this Agreement and that is needed to implement the Action or exploit the results”. Because of this need, Access rights have to be granted in principle, but Parties must identify and agree amongst them on the Background for the Project. This is the purpose of this attachment.

PARTY 1

As to **UNIVERSITA' POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge,

No data, know-how or information of **UNIVERSITA' POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)** is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 2

As to **UNIVERSITA' DI SIENA (UNISI)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge,

No data, know-how or information of **UNIVERSITA' DI SIENA (UNISI)** is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 3

As to **UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA (UDC)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge,

No data, know-how or information of **UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA (UDC)** is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 4

As to **UNIVERSITETET I STAVANGER (UiS)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge no data, know-how or information of **UNIVERSITETET I STAVANGER (UiS)** is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section

Commentato [FR1]: As above. Each partner can choose Option 1 or Option 2. If you choose Option 1, complete the table below. If you choose Option 2 (as UNIVPM did), simply adapt the text provided for UNIVPM by replacing your institution name as appropriate.

"Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results"). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 5

As to **LABORATORIO IBÉRICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNOLOGÍA (INL)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge, the following Background is hereby identified and agreed upon for the Project. Specific limitations and/or conditions shall be as mentioned here under:

This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

Describe Background	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the Action")	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for Exploitation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results")
Know-how on marine microalgal culture and imaging. Know-how on marine biotoxins' analysis by standard methods (LC-MS, LC-FL, LC-UVvis, ELISA) and alternative biochemical methods. Know-how on electrochemical sensors development: chip fabrication, surface modification, electrochemical measurements, surface characterization, integration in portable and automated systems including analysis firmware. Know-how on nanoparticles synthesis, characterization and extraction from environmental and biological	<u>Access rights for other Parties are not needed and therefore LABORATORIO IBÉRICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNOLOGÍA (INL) will not automatically grant access to Background here declared.</u> <u>INL shall not be obliged to grant Access Rights (i) to Background not owned by INL and/ or (ii) to Background for which INL is not able to grant Access Rights, due to third party rights and/ or (iii) to Background for which INL is not able to grant Access Rights without paying compensation to third parties and/ or (iv) to information that was not held by INL before they acceded to the Grant Agreement</u>	LABORATORIO IBÉRICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNOLOGÍA (INL) will use the acquired know-how to advance the general knowledge on interactions between contaminants and their impact on aquatic organisms and humans as well as to develop new effect-based sensors for marine biotoxins and other co-occurring contaminants. This will allow new commissioned research projects, public procurement or demonstration projects to be funded. LABORATORIO IBÉRICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNOLOGÍA (INL), shall grant access to

<i>matrix, including micro- and nanoplastics.</i> <i>Know-how on contaminants' bioconcentration tests in aquatic organisms (particularly marine filter-feeding mollusks and seaweed).</i> <i>Know-how on effect-based sensors for marine biotoxins using organisms and receptors.</i> <i>Know-how on lab-on-a-chip systems for water monitoring integrating microfluidics.</i> <i>Know-how on aquatic toxicity tests based on test guidelines by ISO, OECD, CEN and adapted standard operating procedures for nanomaterials and biotoxins.</i>		<i>Background needed to use the Results of the Project under fair and reasonable conditions to be agreed with the Party or Parties that Need access to use the Results of the Project.</i> <i>INL shall not be obliged to grant Access Rights (i) to Background not owned by INL and/ or (ii) to Background for which INL is not able to grant Access Rights, due to third party rights and/ or (iii) to Background for which INL is not able to grant Access Rights without paying compensation to third parties and/or (iv) to information that was not held by INL before they acceded to the Grant Agreement</i>
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PARTY 6

As to **King's College London (KCL)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge, the following Background is hereby identified and agreed upon for the Project. Specific limitations and/or conditions, shall be as mentioned hereunder:

Describe Background	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the Action")	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for Exploitation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results")
Species sensitivity database and associated ecotoxicological datasets developed through previous research projects, including	Access granted solely for implementation of the Project.	Exploitation outside the Project subject to prior written agreement with KCL.

large-scale multi-species toxicity data for environmental contaminants.		
Computational methods and workflows for species sensitivity prediction, toxicity driver identification, mechanistic network modelling, and mixture prioritisation.	Access granted solely for implementation of the Project.	Commercial exploitation subject to separate agreement with KCL.
Artificial intelligence and machine-learning methodologies, including literature-mining workflows, predictive modelling approaches, and associated know-how relevant to environmental toxicology and mixture assessment.	Access granted solely for implementation of the Project.	Commercial exploitation subject to separate agreement with KCL.
AI-agent architectures, knowledge extraction frameworks, and data integration pipelines developed in previous projects.	Access granted solely for implementation of the Project.	Commercial exploitation subject to separate agreement with KCL.

This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 7

As to **UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT (UU)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge. No data, know-how or information of **UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT (UU)** is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results"). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 8

As to **Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V., Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei (FVB-IGB)**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge. No data, know-how or

information of **Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V., Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei (FVB-IGB)** is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results"). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 9

As to **ALERTOX**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge, No data, know-how or information of ALERTOX is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results"). This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

Attachment 2: Accession document template

ACCESSION

of a new Party to HARMONY Consortium Agreement, version [...], YYYY-MM-DD]

[OFFICIAL NAME OF THE NEW PARTY AS IDENTIFIED IN THE Grant Agreement]

hereby consents to become a Party to the Consortium Agreement identified above and accepts all the rights and obligations of a Party starting [date].

[OFFICIAL NAME OF THE COORDINATOR AS IDENTIFIED IN THE Grant Agreement]

hereby certifies that the consortium has accepted in the meeting held on [date] the accession of [the name of the new Party] to the consortium starting [date].

This Accession document has been done in 2 originals to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives.

[Date and Place]

[INSERT NAME OF THE NEW PARTY]

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Title(s)

[Date and Place]

Prof. Francesco Regoli

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Title(s)

Attachment 3: List of third parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2.

Not applicable at the date of CA signature