

# WATERCARE Project – Minutes of the IV° Steering Committee Meeting

On-line via Microsoft Teams | 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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| <b>Title</b>      | <b>Minutes of the IV° Steering Committee of WATERCARE Project</b>   |
| <b>Date/Time:</b> | <b>27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - Time 10:00 AM</b>   |
| <b>Place:</b>     | On-line Meeting via Microsoft Teams   |
| <b>Subjects:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site visit</li> <li>- Welcome &amp; Registration</li> <li>- WPs presentation</li> <li>- Parallel section: Sampling technical instrumentation</li> <li>- Conclusions</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Attendees:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LP – CNR-IRBIM (IT): Mauro Marini, Federica Grilli, Elena Manini, Alessandra Campanelli, Elisa Baldrighi, Pierluigi Penna, Fabrizio Moro, Christian Ferrarin, Elia Rosetti (External Assistance – SINERGIA);</li> <li>- PP1 – ASET Spa (IT): Gloria Giacomini, Enrico Esposto Renzoni, Andrea Marinelli;</li> <li>- PP2 – Marche Region (IT): Luigi Bolognini, Sara Giorgetti, Federica Gabrielloni, Ilaria Montoni (External Assistance);</li> <li>- PP3 – Abruzzo Region (IT): Luca Iagnemma, Giovanna Marrama, Roberto Ricci;</li> <li>- PP4 – University of Urbino (IT): Antonella Penna, Silvia Casabianca, Samuela Cappellacci, Fabio Ricci;</li> <li>- PP5 – Split-Dalmatia County (HR): Martin Bucan, Katarina Suta, Josip Matas, Igor Ujevic;</li> <li>- PP6 – Dubrovnik-Neretva Region (HR): Ivo Duracic, Ivana Kristovic;</li> <li>- PP7 – University of Split (HR): Maja Krzelj, Marin Ordulj, Tea Pezo, Bozena Tokic;</li> <li>- PP9 – Croatian Waters (HR): Marija Sikoronja, Ivana Cagalj;</li> </ul> |
| <b>Absences</b>   | /////   |

IV° Steering Committee Meeting of WATERCARE Project was held on-line on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and not in Split (as it was initially foreseen) due to the COVID-19 emergency and the interdiction of travelling abroad for many partners, if not strictly necessary.

The “attendance list” of the meeting was filled-in by the Lead partner both at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions and can be found in the file attached named “IV STC On-line Meeting Attendance list\_WATERCARE\_27052020”. The entire STC Meeting was also recorded so the verification of who was participating at the on-line conference can be made listening those records. Representatives from all partners joined the IV STC meeting and there were no absences.

All the presentations prepared by WP Leaders and partners (which are mentioned beneath) shall be considered attachments to this document too. (Also, PPTs and Minutes will be uploaded in WATERCARE cloud).

## Welcome & Project Overview

As WATERCARE project manager, Mr. Mauro Marini started its speech with an overall project overview and highlighting first project achievements, in particular related to the Equipment installation done at Rasa River by PP8-METRIS (Ms. Vedrana Špada will took the floor after his introduction and will provide more details).

Up to now COVID-19 emergency partially affected the on-going technical project implementation as the storage tank construction works in Fano were blocked for more than 2 months (from March to May) exactly when main and most important construction works were foreseen. Concerning other scientific/technical activities, they were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during past months. On the other side, the emergency impacted hardly by the administrative point of view, in fact some tender procedures aimed at awarding external services and purchasing equipment (essential for the realization of technical activities in Croatian side)

were blocked as well as the installation of equipment already purchased and ready to be put into operation.

Then, Mr. Marini focused on the importance of this 4th STC On-line Meeting as the project is at a crucial point and it was the right moment to clarify any doubt and/or agree on joint solutions, in fact, during the next summer season (2020) first samplings, to be made by PPs that are able/ready to do them, are foreseen in WATERCARE target sites (Arzilla Stream in Fano, Raša River in Istria and maybe Neretva Delta in Dubrovnik-Neretva County), while samplings at remaining two target sites (Pescara River in Pescara and Cetina River in Split) will be probably performed during the Summer 2021.

Also, Mr. Marini informed that due to the delays registered during the first phase of the storage tank construction works, become worse because of the COVID-19, and the need to perform samplings in all WATERCARE sites during summer seasons, it shall may need a project duration extension of 6 months.

Lastly, Mr. Marini highlighted that some PPs have a low level of expenditure and it is also necessary to cover this type of delay in order to avoid to be considered “under risk” by the Italy-Croatia Managing Authority and run into de-commitment.

As written above, METRIS (PP8) was invited by LP to make a short presentation as METRIS already purchased and installed all necessary equipment at Raša River Pilot site. A short presentation was given with photos from installation of the equipment and first data received by Pierluigi (LP-CNR) from Grafana software multiparameter sond and meteorological station were analysed. All partners were introduced with progress of Raša river site WQIS implementation.

In report was mentioned that Perfect (better and new) location on the river with all necessary infrastructure chosen: CRPNA STANICA ŠTALIJE which is under jurisdiction of Croatian Waters partner, and it has: electricity, it is next to the river, it has space for accommodate equipment in secure environment (under roof and surveillance). Equipment was purchased according to LP specifications and instructions and planned budget so FLC certified costs for equipment within activity report for PR2.

Equipment was installed according to LP specifications and instructions. METRIS was afraid that project WATERCARE and news about the equipment installed on pilot site will not be published as much in the COVID-19 pandemic but news about WQIS were published in 3 paper editions, 17 web portals and on METRIS web site. That was huge success. Probably press needed some positive news in this hectic period. Press clips were shown and they were also sent to Ivana (WP2 Leader) to be integrated in project communication report. Raša pilot site is ready for start of monitoring and sampling in bathing season of 2020.

## WPs presentations

### **Work Package 1 - Project management and coordination of activities**

*WATERCARE\_IV STC On-line Meeting\_WP1*

Elia Rosetti (CNR-IRBIM external assistance) started his presentation with a brief summary of WP1 activities and what was already realized within the end of Reporting Period 2 (December 2019).

In the framework of Act. 1.2 – Day to day management, it was inserted the discussion on the project duration extension. Both options were exposed to the partnership: the first is the one already foreseen by the Programme regulations, namely up to 6 months of project duration extension; while the second is the one offered by the IT-HR MA, namely up to 12 months of project duration extension if strictly related to COVID-19 impact on the project implementation. In both cases some restrictions apply, such as the date by which the request should be sent to the IT-HR MA and the maximum project duration.

Also, thanks to the COVID survey requested by the JS PM, LP was already informed on PPs' will, indicatively and the partnership expressed the preference for a 6 months of project duration extension. However, during the conference the issue was discussed and at the end it was asked

to each project partner the confirmation for a 6 months of project duration extension. Approvals were provided in a written way through the chat of the meeting by all partners and it will be considered as proof of PPs' acknowledgement (*see pictures at the end of the Minutes\**).

Mr. Rosetti also said that it will be possible to add other requests for modification in the same administrative procedure by which we will ask for a duration extension, such as the revision of target groups and (if necessary) major budget modifications. We will proceed with the request after the submission of Progress Report 3 (Autumn 2020), this will let us have a clearer project implementation level both on technical and financial point of views.

Concerning Act. 1.3 – Steering and Monitoring, it was reminded that Minutes (and all annexes) of previous STC Meetings have been uploaded in the WATERCARE cloud. Then, following the approval by the IT-HR Authorities of our request of project duration extension, we would revise the number and the schedule of next STC Meetings, in other words, we would postpone by six months the original STC Meeting foreseen in AF, so the current will be considered the 4<sup>th</sup> STC (On-line) Meeting, the 5<sup>th</sup> should be organized by PP5-SDC in Split in the second half of 2020, the 6<sup>th</sup> should be organized by the LP-CNR-IRBIM in Ancona in the first half of 2021 and new one (the 7<sup>th</sup>) should be organized by PP6-DNR in Dubrovnik at the (new) end of the project and probably jointly with the project final conference.

In the framework of Act. 1.4 – Financial Management different points were treated. First of all, PPs were informed of the final submission of Progress Report 2 with just one round of clarifications, while we were still waiting for JS instructions about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Application for reimbursement.

Following what above, in case the request of project duration extension would be approved, an additional reporting period of 6 months should be added and it would be the n.°6 from July to December 2021.

Then, Mr. Rosetti showed the amount certified per each PP within the PR1 and already transferred to them in February 2020. The rule for the recovery of advance payment is still valid and it foresees that the Advance payment will be recovered starting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report,

as a consequence, the amount that will be transferred to PPs in relation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reporting Period will correspond to the amount certified in the same period (only ERDF fund for Croatian PPs).

3<sup>rd</sup> PR was also subject of the presentation as main dates and main steps to respect for a proper reporting activity of period 3 were shared, in particular the deadline for submitting the own Partner Report to the FLC is the 10<sup>th</sup> July for Croatian PPs and the 31<sup>st</sup> July for Italian ones, while the common deadline that FLCs should respect for the provision of certifications is the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Like previous times, at the end of the reporting period 3, the template to use for drafting the Activity report 3 will be sent by the LP, in this case Mr. Rosetti reminded to all PPs to be very precise when they report target groups as double counting of TGs between partners and among reporting periods must be avoided. The same is for proofs demonstrating to have actually reached TGs, in this case has been showed a list of proofs already sent to all PPs in November 2019.

Then, it was also recommended to constantly check IT-HR website as new useful factsheets and information can be published by Programme Authorities (i.e. new version of Factsheet 6 and useful communication for FLCs).

Concerning the level of expenditures, certified expenditures (PR1+PR2) and RP3 foreseen expenditures were also analyzed at project level (it has been reached the 45% in comparison with the spending forecast) and at PP level highlighting large differences between partners from those ones that are respecting the spending forecast foreseen in AF to those ones that did not report expenditures within December 2019. Also, like during the 3<sup>rd</sup> STC Meeting, it was explained the De-commitment rule by which it is required to each PP to spend at least the 80% of the own budget in order to not be considered “Under risk” and that it should apply per each Reporting period.

During the weeks before the IV STC Meeting LP managed minor budget modification proposals that each PP sent in order to align the own budget to the actual needs. The final result at project level was showed and it was confirmed that the overall minor budget modification proposal was respecting the budget flexibility rule. It was already sent to the JS PM for his approval but at the date of the IV STC Meeting it still was under evaluation. However, PPs’ budget in SIU will be updated as soon as PR3 will be opened (first days of July 2020).

At the end two documents were shared. First one was the new Deliverable template, it has been updated in order to respect all minimum requirements on Communication & Dissemination and because the LP adopted a new official logo. The second document was the template to fill-in in case PPs have to purchase equipment that is not foreseen or mentioned in the project AF. LP will collect all PPs' needs and will send the request to the JS PM in order to obtain his approval and let those equipments be eligible and reportable in the framework of WATERCARE project.

### **Work Package 2 - Communication activities**

*WATERCARE\_III STC On-line Meeting\_WP2*

Ivana Kristović (PP6-Dubrovnik-Neretva Region), as a leader of WP2 presented activities done within Work package 2 as well as other obligations needed to be done by each partner.

First of all, WATERCARE labelling within project infrastructure, equipment (project and office) was explained in details – First three PPT slides were detailed about labelling rules within Interreg IT-HR Programme – Small infrastructure below 500.000EUR, big infrastructure above 500.000EUR. It was cleared that PPs who have infrastructure should, for now, print and place a temporary billboard on it (in the meanwhile a WATERCARE poster can be placed), and after replace it with a permanent plaque (no longer than three months after complete infrastructure). PP6-DNR will provide billboard design for PPs to use.

Also, it was again reminded that all equipment, promotional material, gadgets etc. should be marked with a label of the project and all other Programme visibility parts as well as ERDF reference.

After clarification of rules of labelling, rules of publications were discussed. PP6 explained that any radio/audio spots should be marked and indicate that they are co-financed by the European Union (radio/tv). Also, PP6 again mentioned that all project publications, including brochures, newsletters, studies, articles and others must include the project logo and the reference to the

EU co-financing. When this is not possible, for example, in articles, conference proceedings or other publications, projects should explicitly mention the contribution from the EU co-financing and the Interreg Italy-Croatia CBC Programme.

Then, achievements by now were shown in ways of: Target groups and remaining value to be achieved (Also, it was stated that even if we achieved target value for some of those groups, it doesn't mean we shouldn't include them further in the project lifetime, on the contrary we should include all target groups by the end of the project). Then, it was agreed that 10 million TV for TG General public as written in AF is clearly too much and we should ask JS for modification on that specific TV.

Afterwards, all accomplished and remaining deliverables within WP2 were shown and explained. PP6 highlighted that it was important to have at least 1 publication in media and as well 1 publication in selected journals by each PP.

Also, second newsletter as well as leaflets will be done by PP6 after all PPs installation of equipment and it was agreed that activity for Public events will be asked by Ivana Kristović and Elisa Baldrihi to Tea Ivanišević from JS to be revised (meaning WATERCARE partnership agreed we should insert more activities including Public events in our project to achieve larger visibility).

Later on, some of the publication made in this period were shown until the end of PPT.

### **Work Package 3 - Implementation and monitoring of the WATERCARE Water Quality Integrated System (WQIS)**

*WATERCARE\_III STC On-line Meeting\_WP3*

*WATERCARE\_III STC On-line Meeting\_WP3\_PP7-UNIST*

*WATERCARE\_III STC On-line Meeting\_WP3\_PP9-CW*

Antonella Penna (UNIURB) illustrated again the activities that have to be carried out in the WP3 this summer 2020; at the end of this period it will be the closure of the Activity 3.2. In Fano, at

Arzilla sampling site, it will be the monitoring activity in two sites: at new site located before the discharge point, and the other site localized at after the discharge. The floodway sampling frequency will be determined by raining events during the bathing summer season; the rain event will be sampled with high frequency following intervals of 6h -12h – 24h. The sampling activity in the seawater will be done following the rain events with daily frequency. A comparison of parameters to be sampled has been done. The difference between Italian and Croatian parameter sampling is on a wider coverage of parameters determined in seawater by Italian partners. Further, it was deeply discussed the sampling plan and sampling stations with Croatian Waters partner. The discussion was also based on the sampling scheme adopted by Italian partners.

Pierluigi Penna (CNR-IRBIM) listed the activities carried out starting from the last WATERCARE meeting in Pescara. In particular, the maintenance and parametrize of the datalogger firmware, which must be operational in all the project sites. In addition, the second station of the Fano pilot site is in the laboratory testing phase. Remote support was provided for the tests and implementation of the Rasa river site managed by the Croatian partner METRIS. Another activity carried out was to create a web page that acts as a single-entry point to access the various web functions of the WQIS, including the data presentation, the remote site management and the script for entering the analysis data. The new site management function was subsequently illustrated in which the authorized operator of each Watercare partner can remotely manage the start of the automatic sampling phase and view the progress of the entire operating cycle.

Christian Ferrarin (CNR-ISMAR) illustrated the state of the art of the FOM modelling system. The numerical model has been implemented in the Fano, Rasa and Cetina sites, where bathymetry, coastline and forcing data are available. First numerical tests have been carried out to check the numerical model set-up. First numerical results have been presented. Further numerical experiments (for years 2018 and 2019) will be soon carried out to calibrate the site-specific parameters in the numerical model algorithms. A prototype version of the forecasting system for the three mentioned sites has been implemented and it will be further developed once the data flow from the monitoring network will be activated. Actually, there are not enough data to

implement the numerical model at the Neretva (lack of detailed bathymetric data) and Pescara (lack of coastline, bathymetric and forcing data) sites.

Then, Marin Ordulj (University of Split) said that while caring for the microbiological quality of marine water is the goal of the Watercare project, we are also focusing on the health of bathers. University Department of Marine studies will be monitoring the microbiological quality of marine waters at 11 sampling sites every 14 days, or do it once a month if a rain event happens during the bathing season. To "catch" the rain event, the sampling will be done from April till October. In the case of a rain event, the selected stations will be monitored right after the event stops, 24 hours, and 72 hours later to assess the changes in the concentration of E. coli and enterococci. Since the sampling site characteristics are different from the Italian sites, and the source of the microbial pollution too, we will be targeting sites that could potentially show problems after the rain events due to illegal discharges of household sewage waters.

The COVID-19 pandemic slowed our sampling schedule since we are still missing some equipment and laboratory materials, but most of the equipment is installed and tested, and the first sampling could be executed in the second week of June if the rest of necessary laboratory equipment will arrive on time.

Marija Šikoronja, representative of PP9-CW, presented pilot sites with all existing monitoring (hydrological, bacteriological, ecological status), as well as the monitoring plan for the WATERCARE project, with sampling parameters and draft sampling plan. Discussion was held on the sampling of seawater samples, their timing and frequency, and finally it was concluded that seawater samples must be sampled when the rain starts, in the morning hours and during several days in case of heavy long-lasting rain events. Since this conclusion led to necessary changes in Croatian proposal, it was agreed that CW (Marija Šikoronja) will make necessary changes in the number of stations into the sea (number of stations must be decreased) and the sampling plan (number of samplings must be increased) to fit the existing budget. After Italian partners received completed new proposal, they will make final review and approval. Also, CW were asked by Christian Ferrarin to complete the hydrological data with real time information that CW collects.

#### **Work Package 4 - WATERCARE Pilot realization**

*WATERCARE\_III STC On-line Meeting\_WP4*

Mr. Enrico Esposto Renzoni presented the update of the Project Flow-Chart after the Covid 19 sanitary emergency on behalf of ASET Spa. The current state of the art is the following: the execution works has been stopped (from the half of February to the end of April 2020) and consequently the execution plan has to be postponed. ASET will try to recover a part of the delay by working during the bathing season while it was planned to stop the execution works.

In addition, ASET showed the physical progress of the works providing also the detailed plan of the foreseen remaining activities.

As last point, ASET provided the framework of the guideline to carry out feasibility studies in WATERCARE sites (Activity 4.3 - Feasibility studies to implement innovative solutions in the WATERCARE sites) and relevant preliminary recommendation.

#### **Work Package 5 - Smart system to support governance decision processes in Water Management of Adriatic basin**

*WATERCARE\_III STC On-line Meeting\_WP5*

Martin Bucan from SDC started his presentation with an overview of WP5 objective and goals. After that, Bucan introduced activities needed to create smart system to support governance decision processes in Water Management of Adriatic basin. Dependency of WP5 on work of other activities, primarily Activity 3.2 - Sampling of WATERCARE sites, Activity 3.3 - Implementation of WATERCARE WQIS and WP4 - WATERCARE Pilot realization, was discussed. It was stressed that real-time Alert system is dependent on database which will be filled with data collected during previous activities. Bucan also talked about responsibilities for the implementation of WP 5 activities, how is responsibility split between SDC, CNR, UNIURB and MARCHE, and timeline for activities.

Afterwards, working of Alert Tool was described. When a trigger threshold of the Real-time Water Monitoring system is triggered, the Alert Tool is activated. CNR is working on the development of the centralized Water Monitoring System database which will contain all collected data. That data will be used by The Forecast Operational Model. The Alert Tool will be validated with simulations that force the crossing of the threshold limits to verify that the correct response was produced. Martin Bucan also talked about current state of implementation and showed example of web page that will be developed for Alert Tool.

For Activity 5.3 Bucan gave overview of EU legislation with respect to Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive and stressed the need for governance guidelines in order achieve better management of water treatment and water courses. This activity is primarily responsibility of MARCHE.

Last point presented was cost structure of WP 5 activities. Overview was given for staff and office costs, travel and accommodation costs, external expertise and services costs and equipment expenditure.

After presentation, costs and possible additional budget modifications were discussed. After September 2020 there will be greater clarity about needs of project and of each partner. It was agreed that online meetings will be held regularly (every 2 weeks or every month) to discuss WP5.

## Final conclusions and next steps

At the end of the IV STC On-line Meeting, WATERCARE Project Manager Mr. Marini underlined that it has been a very important meeting, where collaboration among Italian and Croatian partners is becoming stronger and more fruitful and that is significant to do not make errors during this implementation phase that could prejudice or affect next steps negatively.

Project Partnership agreed on scheduling next STC Meeting in the second half of October 2020 in Split as it will be hosted by PP5-Split-Dalmatia County (if COVID-19 and Italian Organizations' restrictions will let people travel abroad).

**\*PROJECT DURATION EXTENSION: PPs' Acknowledgment**

**WATERCARE - IV STC Online Meeting** Chat Partecipa 57

27/05 10:40  
Do you agree on a project duration extension up to 6 months?

- vedrana.spada (Ospite) 27/05 10:40  
PP8 METRIS we agree!
- ivo.duracic (Ospite) 27/05 10:41  
DNR AGREES
- Maja Krželj 27/05 10:41  
UNIST SOSM AGREES
- Marija.Sikoronja (Ospite) 27/05 10:41  
PP9 Croatian Water agrees.
- martin bučan 27/05 10:41  
SDC AGREES
- Luca Iagnemma Abruzzo Region 27/05 10:42  
Abruzzo Region agree
- Antonella 27/05 10:42  
yes UNIURB

**WATERCARE - IV STC Online Meeting** Chat Partecipa 57

- Gloria 27/05 10:42  
yes
- Sara Giorgetti (Ospite) 27/05 10:42  
You should ask Luigi or Stefania  
We don't have anydirection
- MAURO MARINI 27/05 10:43  
CNR agree
- Sara Giorgetti (Ospite) 27/05 10:43  
I try to ask Luigi  
Ok I'm writing  
to him  
Marche Region agree on a project extension up to 6 months